

## NEWS FROM GLASGOW, SCOTLAND - MAJ SUDAN DEWAN

This year, and like every year before, the Glasgow Gurkha personnel (serving and retired) with families gathered to celebrate the Nepali New Year 2074 *Bikram Sambat*. The *bhela* was simple but enjoyable 'gharelu' (homely) party, superbly organized again by WO2 Sunil Rai, who is the most senior Gurkha Warrant Officer 2 currently serving in Army Personnel Centre (APC), Infantry Division, Glasgow.

At the gathering, I took a chance and asked, "So what of the old Brigade of Gurkhas Manning and Record Office (BGMRO) that moved from Gun Club Hill Barracks (HKG) to the Army Personnel Centre (APC) in Glasgow nearly two decades ago?" WO2 Sunil supplied the answer, albeit briefly.

It is worth remembering that almost sixteen years ago the APC opened its door in a bold move that saw the relocation of all the old manning, record and pay offices, which had been spread throughout the UK, under one roof in Glasgow. In July 1997, the Gurkha Records Office moved to become part of the Infantry Manning and



Career Management Division of the APC Glasgow where the Gurkha staff fully were integrated within the relevant departments of the Centre, and not as a separate Wing /Office. All offices are located in Kentigern House which is a huge five story brown bricked building situated right in the heart of the City. The Gurkha Manning and Records then came under the aegis of Soldier Wing, Infantry MCM Division. The pay section was transferred to the tri-Service personnel administration agency, known as AFPAA (Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency), but still located within the Kentigern House. The number of Gurkha military staff at the time consisted of a British Major, four QGOs, three SNCOs and four JNCOs, supplemented by a total of 28 civilians doing the Gurkha work.

Well, a lot has changed since then. In 2012, the administration was decentralized, and as a result, 1 RGR and 2 RGR came under Infantry Division, QGS under R SIGNALS, QGE under RE and QOGLR under RLC. Each branch has Lt Col SO1 and Branch Col. The post of SO2 Gurkha (formally known as OIC G Wing) does not exist anymore. The Head Clerk has since become known as Detachment Commander and his primary responsibilities are to manage the 'Detachment' in conjunction with the RAO on the subject matter of manning, training, personnel and professional development, career courses, MS and Welfare. He also deputizes for and assists the RAO in carrying out management checks that includes funds auditing and managing the quality assurance of personnel administration. [Note: there are only three GSPS Det Comd across the BG: 1 RGR, 2 RGR and 2 Sig Regt. The rest of the Det Comds are from AGC [SPS]. The old Gurkha WO1 post is downgraded to a WO2 (a post Sunil currently holds). Apart from being the Comd Sp Focal point for all Gurkha MS/G1 matters he also works for SO2s R SIGNALS, SPS, CAMUS, Mgt Acct and AWS respectively. There are only five Gurkha military staff currently working in

APC Glasgow – one Captain (SO3 DCMO), three WO/SNCO and a Corporal, all married accompanied with their families in Glasgow. Because of the new TACOS which came to effect from 1 Oct 06 there is no pay difference and all Gurkhas and British have the same system (JPA) Joint Personnel Administration.

It has been very fruitful since the decentralization because Gurkhas are getting opportunities more than ever before. Most of the policies are in line with their respective MCM branches (1 RGR/2 RGR following Infantry policy, QGS following R SIGNALS, and so on) with a few exceptions of Gurkha policy.

“But, despite all the happenings and reorganization, nothing has changed the Gurkha family atmosphere ever since we first arrived here, we are still the same close-knit community we always have been and I hope it continues” he added, to accentuate the importance of carrying on with social ‘*kaida*’ and cultural traditions. Our sincere wishes to you all from the far flung corners of Glasgow, Scotland.



Nepali New Year 2074 *Bikram Sambat* Celebration gathering in Glasgow.  
*Burohs* (centre, standing) flanked by serving *Jawans* with *Didi Bahinis* taking their front row seats.

There is a small but vibrant community of Gurkha ex-servicemen and their families in Edinburgh whereas Maj Sudan Dewan BEM **2GR/RGR**, Capt Kamal Gurung MBE **QGS/RGR** and Capt Dilbahadur Gurung **6GR/RGR** are the only three ex-*Burohs* (and their family) living in Glasgow - **SD**

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