



पर्वते PARBATE

Vol 74 No 2: March/April 2022



The Magazine for Gurkha Soldiers and their Families
www.gurkhabde.com/publication



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GURKHA MUSEUM

Book tickets at www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/whats-on/



12th May 2022 - £40

LECTURE AND CURRY LUNCH A SHORT HISTORY OF TIBET

The roof of the world, the mountain kingdom, the lost world, the forbidden kingdom. Until the Chinese invasion of 1950 nobody knew very much about Tibet. Hardly anybody went there and those who did often didn't come back. Herodotus in the 5th Century BC, and Ptolemy in the 1st Century AD wrote about 'a mysterious country somewhere beyond the mountains'. The population today is around two million; they suffer from high rates of infant mortality and disease, they still practise polyandry but also celibacy because of the monasteries, which despite Chinese efforts to eliminate them still struggle on. The Younghusband expedition conquered Tibet in 1904, but even then the British accepted Chinese suzerainty over Tibet, although agreeing Tibetan autonomy. This talk traces the history and the politics of Tibet from ancient times to the present day.



31st May 2022 - Free

KIDS CURRY & CRAFT JUBILEE SPECIAL

Our curry craft days are back!

Join us here at the Museum to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with authentic Nepalese curry tasting and craft activities including medal and khukuri making! Oh and did we mention that it's all completely free of charge?



August 2022 - Free

GHARMA SUNNU SUMMER EXHIBITION



3rd November 2022 - £40

LECTURE AND CURRY LUNCH THE ART OF WAR

Next to religion and portraiture probably more artistic effort has been expended on warfare – battles, campaigns, commanders – than on any other subject. Were these depictions intended as a historical record? As inspiration? As motivation? As propaganda? Or as just something to hang on your wall? This talk looks at military art from the Bayeux Tapestry to the Second World War and asks: what does it all mean?

पर्वते PARBATE

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Welcome to the second edition
of Parbate for 2022. Another
packed edition with activity
at the start of the year being focused on
Gurkha Recruit Intake 22. In this edition
our Unit Focus is on British Gurkhas
Pokhara and you can read about the
selection and the attestation parade in this
edition. This year 218 were selected to join
the Brigade of Gurkhas at Central Selection
in Pokhara, Nepal. Those individuals have
now moved to the UK and are settling
into the training programme with Gurkha
Company Catterick. We will be tracking
their training over the next 39 weeks in
Parbate and on the GBA website.

As always with the Brigade of Gurkhas
there is a wide range of activity taking place
around the world. You can read about the
recent Drill course, cultural days, sport,
charity work, exercises and training.



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The Gurkha Brigade Association



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[youtube.com/c/
GurkhaBrigadeAssociation](https://youtube.com/c/GurkhaBrigadeAssociation)

The 2022 Gurkha photographic
competition is now live for entries. We
encourage you to get involved by submitting
your images and videos. The details how to
do this are on the website: www.gurkhabde.com/photocomp22. So, start planning now
and whether it be with a professional camera
or a mobile phone you are all capable of
capturing some great Gurkha activities. We
welcome content from Exercises, Operations
(if cleared for publication), sport, social
events, charity work, time with friends at
home, or on your travels - the key is the
media must show some form of Gurkha
activity, serving, family or veterans.

The GBA website and Brigade level social
media has exceptional reach and audience
engagement, but we need to use it to tell
our story. If you have a key story or activity,
we want to hear from you.

Mick Latter

HQBG Head of Communications

*You can find out more about the Gurkhas and
see some of the things they do on Facebook,
Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn Alternatively,
visit our website: www.gurkhabde.com*



Search for:
Gurkha Brigade Association



@gurkha_brigade_association

Front Cover: 75th Queen's Gurkha Engineers
Training Party Attestation Parade..

Below: B Company, The Second Battalion, The
Royal Gurkha Rifles during their seven-day live fire
tactical training exercise on Exercise Gallipoli Star 2



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27. Exercise TIGER WALES WALK - *Gurkha Field Squadron*
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40. Changes to Settlement Fees for Non-UK Service Personnel
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42. The Infantry Training Centre has some new Gurkha recruits! Have you noticed them?
44. Afno Bichar





Intake 21 of the Queen's Gurkha Signals on their Attestation Parade at Altcar Training Camp in Liverpool.

Technical requirements for images in Parbate:

- Images must be JPEGs at least 1MB in file size minimum or 3MB for full page cover or double page spread.
- You need to capture the images on your device at the highest file size it allows. Using image software to increase image size is not the answer, most images will become blurred and pixilated.
- You must have permission to use the photographs you submit to this office.
- Images with children with their faces in clear view - you must hold permission from the parental guardians for us to print those images.
- Operational images and text must be cleared for use by your unit Intelligence Officer or Permanent Joint Headquarters Operations Centre (PJHQ).
- Images must be clear - no out of focus images will be used on any media output.
- No collages will be printed (combined multi images into one image).
- For each article aim to send at least three images. No more than six images - unless requested to send more by this office.
- Do not embed to an email send as attachments. If large files you can send using DropBox, Google Drive or Wetransfer.com - make sure we have permission to open them files when you send them. You can submit images of disk or memory stick as well but we will not be able to return the items.
- Asking this team to download the images from your unit social media is not acceptable. The images are often compressed and thus not usable in print formats
- All images sent to us for Parbate will be stored on the GBA hard drives and or secure cloud storage and we reserve the right to use those images on any external and internal media output and delete the images if no longer required.



Field Marshal Sir John Lyon Chapple, GCB, CBE

27th May 1931 - 25th March 2022

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB, CBE died peacefully at home on 25th March 2022 after a short illness. Sir John had a most distinguished military career culminating in his appointment in 1988 as Chief of the General Staff. The Field Marshal was 90.

Educated at Haileybury and Trinity College Cambridge, John Chapple was commissioned into The 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles in 1954. He commanded the First Battalion of his Regiment in the early 70's

and went on to fulfil a number of important command and staff appointments including Commander British Forces Hong Kong coupled with that of Major General Brigade of Gurkhas, Director of Military Operations at the Ministry of Defence and Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces.

Early in his military career he saw action during the Malayan Emergency and again during the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation and later in his career he provided advice to the British Government during the Gulf War.

His last appointment was as Chief of the General Staff from 10th September 1988.

He served in this post, in which he provided military advice to the British Government on the conduct of the Gulf War, until he retired with promotion to field marshal on 13th February 1992.

The Field Marshal was a committed regimental officer and a strong supporter of the Gurkha soldier, his welfare and heritage and his homeland of Nepal. He was Colonel of his Regiment 1986-1994. The Field Marshal is survived by his wife, Annabel and their four children, David, Rachel, Kate and Sasha.





UNIT FOCUS

British Gurkhas Pokhara

By Captain Hannah Karas, British Gurkhas Pokhara

Led by a Major from The Royal Gurkha Rifles, British Gurkhas Pokhara's (BGP) mission is to deliver Gurkha recruitment, provide local support to the soldier and ex-servicemen, to maintain disaster resilience within resources in order to support Firm Base activity in Nepal in accordance with UK Defence Strategy. When it comes to Gurkha recruit selection, we are 'free, fair and transparent' in everything we do. We plan for British Army (BA) and Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force (GCSPF) recruit selection to enable a safe environment that will set conditions for a successful selection.

The Quartermaster provides the logistical support to enable all phases of selection including the movement of successful trainee riflemen to Kathmandu for their new life in the UK. The Recruit Cell, made up of retired late-entry Gurkha Officers, delivers selection assessments that are in line with the testing standards laid out by the BA and GCSPF, and adapt to ever-changing environments with control measures that are well communicated and clear.

BGP is constantly developing as a team physically, conceptually and morally, ensuring that we can sustain outputs while maintaining morale through a cleverly integrated sports, adventurous training (AT), and a social calendar in line within the Government of Nepal and MOD's direction.

Our physical development sees the training progression in accordance with Project THOR whilst our leadership programme has a specific focus on mission command and empowerment. Our Operations Coordination Officer leads with incident reaction, including tabletop exercises, integrating with the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT)'s operations to optimise disaster resilience. Further to this, as a third of "Team Gurkha", we provide routine support to the GWT and the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association's activity.

BGP's AT plan includes procurement and innovation that is possible within restrictions at the time and we conduct sport on a regular basis whilst maintaining core military skills and MATTs. The Second-in-Command's wider community integration focuses on the combined mess, mandir, and continuous improvement of facilities, support to functions, and critical communication of opportunities to serving personnel and families.



Independent Assurance Team

The mantra for Gurkha recruiting is *nisulka, nispakchha, ani paradarsi* (free, fair and, transparent).

The role of the independent assurance team is to ensure this is adhered to. It is imperative that the assurance team is diligent in its duties and is seen to be so across all aspects of recruiting and selection activity.



British Gurkhas Nepal Deputy Commander, Major Simon Townsend with the Civilian Secretary, Mr Kerry Burrow, lead the assurance team and are responsible for direction and

management of all their outputs and the integration with recruiting procedures. Their deputy is responsible for intimate oversight of recruiting activities whilst the Master Recorder is primarily responsible for the protection of recruiting data and oversight of use of the recording system. As a team, they check through every education result, physical assessment timing, and even observe the interviews to ensure no errors are made and each potential recruit has the fairest chance to succeed.

British Gurkhas Pokhara Recruiting Personnel

Chief Recruiting Officer

Colonel Paul Smith, Commander British Gurkha Nepal (BGN), is appointed Chief Recruiting Officer and directs all BGN recruiting activities through the Deputy Recruiting Officer.

He was commissioned into the Royal Logistic Corps in 1993 having previously gained a degree in International Relations. His early years were spent at Regimental Duty where he completed four assignments with 10 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, now 10 Queens Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment. He also Commanded 6 Close Support Squadron in 12 Logistic Support Regiment.

He completed logistic and training staff appointments and spent significant periods deployed to Canada, Kenya, Germany, and Oman. During these years he also completed eight operational tours from Northern Ireland, Balkans, Sierra Leone and multiple Iraq and Afghanistan deployments and visits.



Following promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he was posted as the British Liaison Officer for Capability to the United States Department for the Army G8 Branch, the Pentagon, Washington DC. He then became the Commanding Officer 152 (North Irish) Regiment an Army Reserve Regiment based in Belfast & Londonderry, Northern Ireland. In addition to commanding BGN, Colonel Smith also holds the roles of Defence Attaché Kathmandu, and Director of the Gurkha Welfare Trust (Nepal).

The Gurkha Recruit Cell



Captain Ganesh Rai BEM, Captain Tirtha Gurung, Captain Ashok Sen, Captain Hari Rai, work around the year with their clerk Suraj Rai to plan and deliver Gurkhas Selection. Known as Area Recruiting Officers, they are ex-Gurkha Officers often recruited from Welfare Trust Area Welfare Officers because of the excellent local knowledge that is gained during that employment.

They all have experience at sub-unit second in command enabling them to generate recruiting related staff work and ability to command Senior Recruiting Assistants (SRAs).

Captain Ganesh Rai BEM is the Senior Area Recruiting Officer (ARO) who works directly to the Deputy Recruiting Officer, a

serving Royal Gurkha Rifles Major and Officer Commanding British Gurkhas Pokhara, and tasks the remaining AROs. The SRAs, formerly known as Galla Wallahs, are ex-servicemen, still resident in their recruiting area or with residual family connections who have expert local knowledge of their districts. Their local knowledge is key to their value added in the recruiting process.



Non-Commissioned Officers are preferred but high calibre Riflemen are also employed, and they are actively engaged in their recruiting areas during the recruit advertising phase.

During Phase 1 (Registration) and Phase 2 (Regional Selection) they will be present to assist during assessments as directed by Staff Officer Lever Two Recruitment and SRO. At Central Selection the most senior SRAs will take command of a Company of potential recruits whilst the remainder to assist with the assessments.





The Gurkha Selection Process 2022

By Gaurav Chandra Gurung, Communications Officer HQ British Gurkhas Nepal

After a tough selection process, 218 new recruits joined the Brigade of Gurkhas as part of Recruit Intake 2022. They took the oath and swore allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen on the Attestation Parade held on 23rd February 2022 at British Gurkhas Pokhara in Nepal.

Her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal Her Excellency Nicola Pollitt, Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, Brigadier The Rt Hon the Lord Lancaster TD VR, Deputy Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, Colonel Paul Smith Commander BGN and Colonel David Robinson, Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas took the Attestation of the new Recruits. Brigadier General Sudarshan Silwal of the Nepal Army and of the Deputy Inspector General Dibesh Lohani of Armed Police Force were among the main guests who witnessed the overall inspection.

Central Selection. Between the 18th of January and the 23rd of February, British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP) delivered Central Selection to select the next generation of soldiers into the Brigade of Gurkhas. The Recruit Cell worked throughout the year to continuously deliver a "free, fair, and transparent" cycle of recruiting. With a team of 83 support staff (civilian, military, and veterans), they provided rigorous planning, and enhanced force health protection measures, to successfully select individuals suitable for employment as soldiers in the British Army.

Arrival. The process this year was delivered by calling forward 35 potential recruits (PRs) daily for a four-day selection programme. On arrival, PRs were greeted by Sergeant Rajkumar Yakha who coordinated lateral flow tests. Anyone that showed positive for COVID-19 was unable to enter and sent home to isolate.





Playing our part in the Gurkha Selection Process

By Lance Corporal Sujan Ghale, British Gurkhas Nepal

British Gurkha Selection is one of the toughest selections in the British Army (BA). The success of the selection process is dependent on the combined outcome from both military and civilian staff in British Gurkha Nepal (BGN).

Different departments with specific roles provide support to deliver a safe selection

process. Staff from other units of the British Army, BGN and British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP) combine to work together to deliver the selection process.

The camp security and the risk of COVID-19 were concerns for the team. The Guard Section had the responsibility to carry out Lateral Flow Tests for each PR before they entered the BGP camp.

The Master Chef was responsible for providing food to all the candidates and support staff. Concurrently, the Military Transport Wing provided vehicles, constantly adapting to the complex movement plans, and assisting daily in the "Doko Run" with safety vehicles. Nepal Signal Troop was specifically given the role to provide smooth communications and support to media operations and set up briefing and presentations as and when required.

(cont) These PRs were given another opportunity to attend, following a 10-day isolation period. The PRs were then checked to ensure they had no prohibited items before their identity documentation check was conducted and their candidate number issued. Once the platoon had all received their numbers, the DRO delivered his speech, congratulating them for make the standard to be one for the 420 from the initial 10,000 that registered.

Medical. PRs must be fully fit for their initial infantry training and for a career in the military. They must be at least 158cm tall, have a healthy BMI between 18-28, have good eyesight for the heightened situational awareness required by a soldier, and they must not have more than two dental faults.

Education. English speaking and listening and an English written test are delivered by a team from the British Army Educational Training Services. It is important to make sure that the PRs can communicate widely across within the British Army, understand orders, and express themselves correctly.

Character. To ensure PRs are motivated, aligned with the British Army's values and standards, and are robust enough for service life they complete the infamous Doko race and a final interview. The Doko race is a run of 5.8km uphill, with a Nepalese basket weighing 15kg. The PRs must show grit and determination to be successful at this stage; it is not for the feint hearted. Following the Doko race, the final stage is their interview. This is conducted by three officers serving, retired, late and direct entry to maximise the diversity of the interviewing board.

Results. Following the announcement of results, the responsibility of the trainees is passed to the staff from Gurkha Company, Infantry Training Centre Catterick (ITC) who have travelled to Nepal, to prepare for their attestation parade. It is a great achievement for the PRs to make it through to the final stage of Gurkha selection and attend Central Selection and all PRs deserve great respect for giving their best. Congratulations to the final 218 trainee Riflemen that competitively placed above their peers to be selected. They now face their 39-week training period in Catterick and we wish them the very best of luck.





Annual report presented to the President of Nepal

*By Mr Gaurav Chandra Gurung,
Communications Officer
British Gurkhas Nepal*



Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, (Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas) has submitted the Brigade of Gurkhas Annual Report to the Right Honourable President of Nepal Mrs Bidhya Devi Bhandari. The report incorporates an overview of the activities undertaken by the Brigade of Gurkhas throughout the year.

Also in attendance was Her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal Her Excellency Nicola Pollitt, Brigadier Mark Lancaster TD VR PC (Deputy Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas), Colonel Paul Smith (Defence Attaché and Commander British Gurkhas Nepal) and Colonel David Robinson (Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas).

The Ambassador and the visiting team also paid courtesy calls to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba, the Honourable Foreign Minister of Nepal Dr Narayan Khadka, and General Prabhu Ram Sharma Chief of Army Staff Nepal Army.





Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas hosts the Ambassador of Nepal to the United Kingdom 22nd March 2022

On the 22nd of March, Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas (HQB) hosted His Excellency Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the United Kingdom. Also attending was the Nepal Defence Attaché, Colonel Ratna Kumar Godhar. The purpose of the visit was to welcome the new Ambassador and enhance an existing strong working relationship between the Embassy of Nepal and the HQBG.

Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE (Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas) and Colonel David Robinson (Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas) greeted the Ambassador on his arrival outside Robertson House, the home of HQBG. An honour guard was on parade from across the Brigade capbadges, with the parade commander duties assigned to Captain Tom Sachs (Brigade of Gurkhas Adjutant). The Ambassador was invited to inspect and meet the Gurkhas on parade and was escorted around the honour guard. Music was supplied by a Bagpiper from the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR).



Once the parade was completed the Ambassador was invited into the building and signed the HQBG visitors book before he was given a brief about the Brigade from the HQBG staff including; Major Daniel O'Connor (Chief of Staff), Major Gary Power (Deputy Chief of Staff), Major Jit Jamal (Officer Commanding Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support) and Major Mani Rai MBE (Brigade Secretary). This was followed with a one-to-one discussion between the Ambassador and Lieutenant General Wardlaw.

On completion of the briefs and discussions, the Ambassador had the opportunity to meet more Gurkhas, who were arranged in the corridors of HQBG in groups relating to their capbadges. The Ambassador was intrigued to know which district in Nepal each of the Gurkhas came from and was pleased to find several from his own district. He was also keen to know what roles they had in the British Army and about some of the places they had deployed. An excellent Nepalese style lunch was produced by two chefs from QOGLR for the guests and served downstairs in Robertson House, allowing more informal discussions to take place with the Ambassador and various senior Gurkhas, including the Gurkha Majors.





After lunch, the Ambassador was driven to Aldershot to visit the Gurkha temple located at the home of QOGLR. Here he had the opportunity to talk with the two pundits assigned to support the Brigade to understand how the British Army has allocated support to the religious and cultural side of our Brigade, a key part of the moral component and support to not only serving Gurkhas but their families as well.



Team Bonding activity Go Karting with Gurkha Company (Sittang)

गोर्खाली समाचार



Gurkha Company (Sittang) took to the go karting race circuit in Reading as a 'Team Bonding' activity. Lance Corporal Alan planned and led an indoor Go Karting for the Gurkha Company

(Sittang) at Reading. 900m course, superb atmosphere, perfect for all age groups and a real challenge. Rifleman Bijay Moktan just managed to pull off the win in front of the Company Sergeant Major and stood as champion of the day.



Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans visits our Headquarters

By Captain Tom Sachs, Brigade of Gurkhas Adjutant



On the 3rd of March Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas (HQB) hosted Mr Leo Docherty MP, Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans, at Robertson House at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The purpose of the visit was to give the Minister an update on the recent activities of the serving Brigade and for him to have an opportunity to speak to current Gurkha soldiers from several of the Brigade's cap badges.

The visit began with a presentation from the Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas (Colonel David Robinson), the Chief of Staff (Major Dan O'Connor) and Deputy Chief of Staff

(Major Gary Power) on the current state of the Brigade, it's key recent activities and the role of HQBG. This was then followed by a series of stands by serving members of the Brigade. Firstly, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) presented on their recent deployments which included Operation ALLIED SOLSTICE; supporting Afghan refugees fleeing their home country. This was followed by soldiers from the Queens Gurkha Signals (QG Signals) who gave a capability brief and demonstrated equipment held by 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron. Lunch, which was expertly cooked by chefs from the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR), was served in an informal setting allowing the Minister to speak with soldiers from the RGR, QG SIGNALS, QOGLR and Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support (GSPS).

The visit highlighted the diversity of the Brigade and the importance of its contribution to wider Defence. Before leaving the Minister addressed all present to say how impressed he is with the what the Brigade has achieved both historically and in recent times and would seize the opportunity to be invited to future Brigade of Gurkhas events.





Champion Company Competition

with The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

*By Rifleman Subash Basnet,
The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles*

The Champion Company competition is a major annual event within The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. Every company gives their best to try and gain the title and earn the pride that comes with being the best in the Battalion. The competition includes the Robert's Cup for shooting, Bullock Trophy for military skills, Wallace Memorial Trophy for sports and Afghan Trophy for fitness.

The competition has not taken place for two years due to ongoing restrictions and operational commitments, so the battalion was eager for this year's event to take place. The competition got off to a roaring start with the Robert's Cup and the volleyball tournament. Starting as we meant to go on, B (Sari Bair) Company put forward a strong team, with top shots Captain Bhakta Sherchan and Warrant Officer Class Two Som Chhantel leading the shooting team to victory. A nail-biting final saw both C and A Company on the edge of their seats, and C Company eventually claiming the title of volleyball champions. What we lacked on the volleyball court, we made up for on the basketball court. Under the leadership of Corporal Prasanta, the team dribbled their way to the top of the tournament, taking another victory for B Company.



For the military skills competition (Bullock Trophy) Officer Commanding B Company, Major Tim Cummings, stepped up to lead one of the patrols, with Sergeant Chitraraj leading the other. Both patrols performed excellently, with Sergeant Chitra's patrol solving a command task that no other patrol managed, and B Company taking home the trophy.

I took part in two events, one of which was football, which unfortunately did not go as planned. We had a very good team, but maybe it just wasn't our day, and we ended up in 4th position, with Headquarters Company pulling off a convincing victory.

The final event was the Afghan Trophy which would decide our fate. I was in the B Company team, and we came out of the first phase, a log race, behind the rest of the Battalion. Pulling together as a team, and with the rest of our Company shouting encouragement we picked up the pace, overtaking all the other teams and crossing the finishing line first. At the end of the day the Champion Company flag was handed to us. We were all dancing and shouting, parading the trophies around the barracks.

The Gurkha Photography and Video Competition 2022

Entry is now open for the Gurkha Photography Competition 2022. In 2021 we saw some great entries in both the photography and video sections, and we encourage more of the serving, Brigade, family members and veterans to get involved. This is an opportunity to show us and our audiences your skills behind the lens of a camera, video camera and even your mobile phone.



What are we looking for?

- Images and video that will enhance the Gurkha Brand and Community.
- People-focused.
- Military Exercises.
- Military Operational images - noting these will need clearance through the relevant chain of command.
- Military Training.
- Sport and Physical activity (Individual and groups).
- Adventurous Training.
- Family activity, at home out and about or with friends.
- Hobbies and things you do in your own time.
- Locational and travel.



Criteria to take part

- To take part, you must be a serving member of the Brigade of Gurkhas, family member or Gurkha veteran at the time the entry process ends on 31st October 2022.
- Personal submission details must be correct.
- HQBG will not respond to email entries unless necessary.
- The top 3 photographs and the best video will receive prizes. You will be informed by email if you were in the top 6.
- HQBG will not be liable for any costs of capturing and sending the images.
- Images can be captured on any device.
- Image files must meet the minimum image size of 3MB file size to allow for enlarged printing.
- The images must have been taken in a period from 1st November 2021 - 31st October 2022. Metadata attached to any image will verify this.
- No collages - multiple images pasted together in software.
- You may use software to enhance the photograph. Noting that simple images are often better.
- Images can be portrait or landscape.
- Images that do not fulfil the criteria will be discounted.

What you can win!

Prizes will be online vouchers and not exchangeable for cash.

Photographic entries

Prizes will be online vouchers and not exchangeable for cash.

- First place £150.00 voucher
- Second place £75.00 voucher
- Third Place £25.00 voucher

The top six winning entries will appear in PARBATE, on the GBA website and on social media and will be displayed in the Gurkha Museum for a period post competition.



Video entries

Single prize £150.00

- The video will feature on the GBA and Amy website if suitable.
- If will feature on the HQBG YouTube channel.
- All good videos suitable for public viewing will be uploaded to the HQBG Facebook page.

Copyright considerations

- You must have taken the image(s). This will be verified by opensource software for copyright infringements.
- If the images show children under the age of 16, entrants must have parental permission in place to take and use that image for this competition.

How to submit your media

- You can send up to 3 photographs or 3 videos by digital delivery. (Email or Wetransfer.com).
- You may enter both parts of the competition
- Application forms must be completed in full.
- HQBG will retain all images for possible use on HQBG and or GBA business outputs.
- No reference to the photographer can be guaranteed if the images are used post the competition.

The application form is available on the website.

www.gurkhabde.com/photocomp22



गोर्खाली समाचार

Saraswati Puja with Gurkha Company (Sittang)

On Sunday the 6th of February 2022, all Gurkha Company (Sittang) (GC(S)) serving personnel, and available family members gathered at GC(S) temple to celebrate Basanta Panchami also known as Sarwaswati Puja.

The ritual is about enlighten with knowledge and dedicated to Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge. The children were invited to watch a short video illustrating the significance of the day and then completed the ritual with great pride along with other family members.



10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment parade for the Jubilee in Winchester

By Mick Latter - Head of Communications, Brigade of Gurkhas

10 soldiers, the Commander and the Gurkha Major from 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment were on parade for Hampshire's The Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on Thursday 10th February in Winchester.

The event included unveiling of a life-sized bronze statue of 'Licoricia of Winchester' a prominent medieval Jewish woman and her son, which now resides outside The Arc Winchester on Jewry Street, the historic centre of the city's Jewish community, and where Licoricia was known to have lived. 'Licoricia of Winchester' commemorates the history of Winchester's medieval Jewish community and their

royal connections - inspiring women, young people and promoting tolerance and diversity today. The statue is an important symbol of tolerance and diversity, a message echoed by all faiths, and marked the start of Hampshire's special Platinum Jubilee year.

The statue was unveiled by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq on behalf of His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales who was unable to attend.

The statue unveiling was followed by a civic reception in the Great Hall, Winchester where led by Sergeant Min Gurung, the Gurkhas provided a Guard of Honour and Royal Salute.





Memorial Gates Ceremony 14th March 2022

By Mick Latter, Head of Communications, Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas



The Memorial Gates, Constitution Hill, London, annual ceremony took place on the 14th of March 2022. The ceremony is held to pay respect for the immense contribution and sacrifice made by the five million men and women of the Commonwealth and Nepal during World War one and World War Two.

The Memorial Gates were inaugurated by Her Majesty The Queen on the 6th of November 2002. The Memorial commemorates the armed forces of the British Empire from five regions of the Indian subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka), as well as Africa and the Caribbean, who served for Britain in the First and Second World Wars.

The event is managed by the Memorial Gates Committee, in Partnership with The Royal British Legion. With the Brigade of Gurkhas Secretary, Major Mani Rai MBE DL playing a key part in organising and delivering the event.

The ceremony was opened by Major Mani Rai, who then invited the chief guest Sir Lindsay Hoyle (The Speaker of the House of Commons) to say a few words. Sir Lindsay spoke of how important it was to remember the past with our friends from across the Commonwealth, but also time to reflect on the current situation with the Ukraine Crisis and the human suffering. He additionally spoke about how the House of Commons had focused days on the work of the military and veterans. Prayers and sermon were delivered by Lord Richard Chartres GCVO, ChStJ, PC, FSA, FBS - former Bishop of London and who now sits in the House of Lords. Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE, DL, FCA (Chairman of the Memorial Gates Council) then spoke, thanking all those in attendance and those who could not attend in person today. He talked about the importance of

the memorial, and the personal connection he had with through family members who have served in the Indian Army when he was growing up.

A lament was performed by a bagpiper followed by the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' by a bugler. The event was supported with music from the Band of the Coldstream Guards and a Fijian choir. The Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers were also in attendance standing proudly by the sides of the memorial during the ceremony. Colonel David Robinson (Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas) laid a wreath on behalf of the Brigade of Gurkhas. A wreath was also laid by Colonel (Retd) Mike Kefford OBE FRGS on behalf of the Gurkha Brigade Association and for the Sirmoor Rifles by Brigadier (Retd) Ian Rigden OBE. All the representatives for the countries and organisations represented in turn laid their own wreaths.





Earthquake resistant house in Nepal for the son of Gurkha Veteran

By Mr Gaurav Chandra Gurung, Communications Officer British Gurkhas Nepal

On his recent trip to Nepal Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, acting in his role as the Chairman of the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT), handed over a newly built earthquake resistant house to Mr Kalu Gurung (age 71) at Bansar village in the Lamjung district. Kalu is the son of late Rifleman Padam Bahadur Gurung of 4/2 Gurkha Rifles who joined the British Indian Army in 1940 and was discharged on demobilization in 1946.

Late Padam Bahadur was one of the nearly four thousand beneficiaries (veterans or widows) who receive a monthly welfare pension from the GWT to be able to live their lives with dignity. After the death of both of parents the GWT continues to support Kalu by providing a monthly Disability Support Grant. Kalu Gurung suffers from lack of hearing and ability to speak. The new earthquake resistant home was built for Kalu Gurung to replace a house which was unsafe and vulnerable to natural disasters such as flood, landslides and earthquakes.

Colonel The Royal Gurkha Rifles visit to Gurkha Company (Tavoleto)



Company (Tavoleto) (GC(T)) was pleased to host the Colonel The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR), Major General Gerald Mark Strickland, DSO, MBE. The primary purpose of the visit was a strategic meeting in Warminster; however, despite the busy schedule, he managed to spend some precious time with GC(T) members.

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Officer Commanding GC(T), Major Bikulman Rai introduced our members and provided a general description of the platoons and our responsibilities. We managed to share our joys, happiness, and current responsibilities within our Company.

On the 9th of March 2022, 15 students (of whom 8 were Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support (GSPS)) graduated after completing their Service Initial Personnel Administration Course (SIPAC) and Phase 2 training at Personnel Administration Training Wing, Worthy Down. The newly qualified and enthusiastic young Gurkhas performed extremely well and won all the prizes.

They will now join the Field Army and deliver personnel administration support capability to their units in support of their day-to-day outputs and operational missions around the world. The GSPS is an integral part of the Brigade of Gurkhas excellent operational capability.

Private Prashish Gurung won the best SIPAC and top GSPS student awards, adding to his best GSPS trainee award at Infantry Training Centre Award. Private James Thebe Limbu won the Captain Peter Taylor Award (best academic) and Private Yashasvee Rai won the best Physical Training Award.



Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support Graduation - March 2022

By Major Jit Jamal, Officer Commanding Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support



गोर्खाली समाचार

Gurkha Company (Sittang) Day 2022



The 22nd of February 2022, saw Gurkha Company (Sittang) (GC(S)) personnel and families gathered to commemorate the battle of Sittang, to remember and pay tribute to our forebears who fought and sacrificed their lives 80 years ago during the Burma Campaign, 19th – 23rd February 1942.



The Commanding Officer Sandhurst Support Unit (SSU), Lieutenant Colonel Samantha Hull and Officer Commanding GC(S), Major Shureshkumar Thapa MVO laid the wreaths at the memorial of those fallen heroes. Second In Command GC(S) Captain Binod Kerung delivered a speech about the Battle of Sittang, and later delivered a presentation on the Sittang Battle for wider education of those in the Company.



Falklands 40 Commemorative event 14th June 2022

Thousands of veterans, civilians, and bereaved families will be invited to attend an event at the National Memorial Arboretum on Tuesday 14th June to mark 40 years since the end of the conflict. The commemorations will focus on the broad range of military and civilian involvement in all aspects of the Falklands campaign, which was unprecedented in modern times.

The Falklands Conflict started on 2nd of April 1982 and was the first military action since the Second World War that utilised all elements of the Armed Forces. The conflict lasted 74 days, during which seven ships were lost to enemy action, nine aircraft were shot down, and 255 British personnel lost their lives. Their names are all inscribed on the Armed Forces Memorial at the Arboretum.

Commemorations will take place around the country from April 2022 and culminate in the Royal British Legion's Falklands 40 Commemorative Event on 14th June at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

On the morning of the event there will be an opportunity for unit associations to conduct intimate commemorations at their respective memorials within the Arboretum. In the afternoon, the Royal British Legion will hold a special, commemorative event centred around the Armed Forces Memorial. This will feature veteran testimonies from key moments in the conflict as well as the Act of Remembrance.

This event will bring together the experiences of veterans of the conflict from across all three of the Armed Services, as well as those Merchant Mariners and other civilians that played a pivotal role in supporting the Task Force.

Attendees/Eligibility

The Falklands 40 commemorative event is open to veterans of the Falklands Conflict and their spouses/partners, as well as members of civilian organisations that supported the Task Force.

Registration

Those wishing to attend the event on 14th of June 2022 are asked to contact their respective Regimental or Service Association to register their interest.

For any other queries, please contact falklands@britishlegion.org.uk





Exercise Gallipoli Star 2 preparing for Australia - 2 RGR

*By Second Lieutenant Samuel Williams,
The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles*

B (Gallipoli) Company, The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (2 RGR) have just completed Exercise Gallipoli Star 2. The seven-day live fire tactical training exercise was in preparation for the Company Group's deployment to Australia on Exercise PACIFIC KHUKURI 22 (EX PK 22).

B Company built up from individual fire and manoeuvre to section attack and defence, both by day and night. The opportunity to hone skills before deploying to EX PK 22 will

enable B Company Group to hit the ground running on an arduous exercise. Not only an essential week of training for experienced soldiers, this series of ranges was also the first live fire training conducted by the new recruit intake 21 since arriving at Battalion.

B Company, supported by elements from Recce, Antitank, Machine Gun, Sniper, Mortar and Pioneer Platoons, have now deployed to Australia on EX PK 22, the largest overseas exercise 2 RGR has deployed on since 1919.





1. The squash team of The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles won the Infantry Inter Unit squash competition for the third consecutive year.
2. Colonel David Robinson (Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas) made his first visit to Gurkha Company Sittang (GC(S)) on Tuesday 8th of March 2022. It was a great opportunity for all of GC(S) members to interact with him
3. Sapper Madan Limbu from 70 Gurkha Field Squadron received his Carpenters' Company Premier Carpenter of the Year Award for 2022 from The Worshipful Company of Carpenters in London.
4. Corporal Subin Rai, 69 Gurkha Field Squadron was awarded a British Army Sergeant Major's Coin in recognition of his outstanding contribution as part of the Military Aid to the Civil Authorities task in support of NHS as a General Duties Vaccinator.
5. Sergeant Rajen Bura from the Queen's Gurkha Signals has been awarded the Royal Signals Apprentice Champion of the year 2021. The Royal Signals Apprentice Champion of the Year is an award sponsored by the Colleges Partnership, presented to the individual who has consistently gone above and beyond the expected levels of support in order to get the very best out of each and every apprentice, encouraging and mentoring individuals to develop fully and realise their true potential.
6. The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles Martial Arts Team took part in the Army Martial Arts Open Championship 2022 and secured 4 Gold, 4 Silver and 7 Bronze medals in various categories.
7. Corporal Suraj Ale from ATR (Winchester) was awarded accolade Top Student on his recent Army Leadership Development Programme course.
8. Congratulations to (left to right) Sergeant (Sgt) Roshan Gurung, Sgt Robin Gurung, Sgt Gaurab Gurung (ex 1 RGR, but currently RDG, Top Student of the Cadre), Sgt Sul Pun and Sgt Sunil Galami who have successfully passed the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Instructor Selection Cadre 22.
9. Warrant Officer Class Two (Squadron Sergeant Major) Eka Bahadur Rai from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers has been awarded the Fishmongers' Gold Medal Award 2021. He received the medal for his contribution to the NHS and the Gurkha Welfare Trust for raising thousands of pounds. The award ceremony took place on the 10th of March 2022 at the Fishmongers' Company Hall, Central London. Each year the Company awards the Fishmongers' Medal to candidates from the service affiliations with the award to an individual for outstanding achievement, a single act of high significance, or remarkable individual endeavour.





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Photo News

चित्र समाचार



Mission Ready Training Centre Gurkha Cultural Day

Personnel from the Headquarters Mission Ready Training Centre (MRTC) visited the Gurkha Museum in Winchester. The activity aimed to promote the cultural heritage of the Brigade of Gurkhas and enhance team cohesion.

There are currently 15 Gurkhas serving at MRTC, with nine families residing in SFA on Basingbourn Barracks. After we had travelled from Basingbourn to Winchester, MRTC met up with other Gurkhas at the Gurkha's Inn restaurant in Winchester where we were treated to an excellent authentic Nepalese meal. Well-fed, the party made our way to the Gurkha Museum just a short walk away.

*By Colour Sergeant Ravin Rai,
Headquarters Mission Ready Training Centre*

Fearing that the large amount of Dahl-Bhat and MoMos consumed at lunch may have hampered the audiences' ability to concentrate, we took our seats in the Gurkha Museum ready for a lecture on the Gurkha history covering the last 207 years. The Director of the Museum, Mr Daren Bowyer, the Collection Officer, Mr Doug Henderson, proceeded to deliver an enthralling account of the Brigade's history, without any notes. Following a thank you from Captain Binod Saheb the party then took time to enjoy the rest of the Museum's displays.

Armed Forces Parliamentary Team visits to the Infantry Battle School

By Corporal Suraj Basnet, Gurkha Wing (Mandalay)

Gurkha Wing Mandalay (GW(M)), recently hosted four members of the Armed Forces Parliamentary team (MPs) at the Infantry Battle School (IBS) in Brecon. Officer Commanding GW(M) Major Prem Bahadur Gurung MBE saw the visit as an opportunity to inform and educate the guests from Government on Gurkha history and culture.

With the assistance of Corporal Hemanta Rai and Corporal Bidhan Rai they delivered a short presentation on our history and culture. The MPs were very keen to understand and learn more. During the presentation Rifleman Mahesh and Rifleman Buddha marched into the hall and performed Close Quarter Combat with a Khukuri. Corporal Bidhan quickly

demonstrated the safe handling of the Khukuri and invited the MPs to pick up the different Khukuris displayed on the table.

The MPs were shown the Doko basket with the exact weight as in Central selection during recruitment. We were then joined by other members of the Training Support Division and further discussions then took place. The MPs stated the visit was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Gurkhas and they would leave having a far greater understanding.





Gurkhas and the Burma Campaign of the Second World War

22nd March 2022

The campaigns of British and Commonwealth forces against Japan in the Far East during the Second World War have long been one of the most important parts of the history of Gurkha service to Britain.

Tens of thousands of Gurkhas fought in the region between the first chaotic retreats of 1941 and the final surrender of Japan in 1945. Prior to the war, British possessions in the Far East had often been under-resourced and lightly garrisoned. This left them prime targets for the lightning-quick Japanese invasions of Malaya and Burma. Malaya and the fortress of Singapore fell quickly, and much of the British forces in Burma faced total collapse as they withdrew north towards the relative safety of India.

Despite the danger, British, Indian and Gurkha units in Burma were kept from disintegrating by the then-little-known General William 'Bill' Slim, newly appointed to command the Burma Corps. Through skill and a long-held appreciation for the abilities

of his Indian and Gurkha soldiers, Slim kept his army together and brought many of them safely back to India. These troops then became the core of Slim's new 14th Army, drilled and trained rapidly with the objective of reversing these losses and retaking Burma.

By 1943 certain elements of the 14th Army were ready to start taking the offensive. Most well-known of these were the Long-Range Penetration 'Chindit' Groups. Columns of thousands of trained jungle fighters from India, Britain, Nepal and West Africa, were marched or flown deep behind Japanese lines in Burma to cause as much disruption and havoc as possible. Two Chindit operations occurred in 1943 and 1944, and though casualty rates amongst their members were high, they fulfilled their role as long-range raiders.

Meanwhile, by 1944, Slim's main forces were preparing for a full-scale invasion of their own. This long-awaited strikeback was pre-empted however by a massive Japanese offensive aiming to capture the towns of Imphal and Kohima before pushing

on into India. Despite some early Japanese successes, the 14th Army managed to hold on at these crucial strongpoints week after week, until the Japanese, decimated by starvation and sickness, were forced to withdraw back into Burma.

Following this success, Slim launched his own invasion and by early 1945 the 14th Army was barreling south towards the hot and dry central Burma plains. Hoping to catch the Japanese by surprise, Slim split his forces and sent troops to flank the Japanese at the city of Meiktila, masterfully wrecking their supply lines and ensuring the fall of the key city of Mandalay shortly afterwards. This proved to be the final nail in the coffin of Japanese defence in Burma and by May the Burmese capital of Rangoon had been recaptured. Throughout the campaign Gurkha soldiers had been at the forefront of battle, from an initial desperate retreat to determined defence and eager advance. If you are interested or wish to hear more detail about the role of Gurkha soldiers in the Burma campaign, the Gurkha Museum's podcast series, *Gharma Sunnu*, will be releasing episodes on three of its key stages in the near future. Further details can be found on the Museum's website.





Make Healthy Living a Lifestyle Health Fair 22 held in Kathmandu

By Geetanjali Pata Magar, Practice Manager, Medical Centre British Gurkhas Nepal

After waiting for nearly two years due to COVID-19 restrictions, British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) Medical Centre, with core support from Regimental Sergeant Major BGN Warrant Officer Class One Basantjang Gurung, finally convened the BGN Health Fair '22. It involved a weeklong preparation and delivery by the Kathmandu wing of the Medical Centre held under the banner "Make healthy living a lifestyle".

The aim of the Fair was to provide basic health and wellness information including health screening to all staff of BGN, Kathmandu including serving personnel, families and civilian staff.

The fair comprised of stands hosted by health professionals giving free consultations on different health topics and conducting primary health tests. Colonel Bruce Baker Senior Medical Officer (SMO) BGN

and Senior Medical Centre Attendant (SMCA) BGN Mr. Bir Bahadur Thapa led the smoking cessation session where the carbon monoxide level of participants was measured. Staff Sergeant Ram Chandra Limbu Master Chef BGN, with support from the Mess staff, demonstrated the nutritional aspects of food and eating habits. The Fair also included road safety brief led by Sergeant Maheshkumar Wanem, the military transport Sergeant BGN. A vital support to the success of the event was the participation of medical institutions from outside BGN. Representatives from Medicit Hospital, Smile Weavers Dental Clinic, The British School, People's Dental Lab and Kinesiology Physiotherapy ran health stalls on Men's/Women's Health, Dental Health, Mental Health and BP/Glucose Monitoring amongst others.



Saraswati Puja Celebrations with 69 Squadron Queen's Gurkha Engineers

By Lance Corporal Dikendra Limbu, Queen's Gurkha Engineers

Saraswati Puja, also known as Vasant Panchami, holds a significant place in Nepalese culture. It marks the arrival of the season of Spring. As the season depicts new beginning, the spiritual significance indicates the end of the days of ignorance and a new beginning. Saraswati is regarded as the goddess of knowledge, language, music, and arts. She is the epitome of wisdom.

69 Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers observed Saraswati Puja on the 7th of February 2022, in the presence of Pandit Ji. The session included the observation of Saraswati Puja and its spiritual significance. Pandit Ji explained the importance of knowledge and how it impacts our everyday life. Knowledge is that subtle weapon which can't be destroyed by any means and rather proliferates when shared. Hence, knowledge is crucial in human life.



This day glorifies the relationship between students and teachers and details how they are intertwined. The notion that this day offers is greatly applicable to the military as it advocates pursuing knowledge and skills, it encourages every commander to learn and pass on that knowledge to their subordinates which eventually creates a skilled organisation and makes it operationally effective.



The serene ambiance of the temple and spiritual lessons from Pandit Ji were enlightening which improved the spiritual well-being of everyone observing the puja ceremony. The session was concluded with everyone singing a prayer and seeking blessing from goddess Saraswati.



Members of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron went to Capel Curig Training Camp in Wales for an adventurous training exercise (AT), led by Staff Sergeant Prakash Gurung. The objective of this exercise was to allow team bonding whilst increasing confidence by pushing participants out of their comfort zones.

On the first day in Wales our plan was to climb Y Gran and Glyder Fawr Peak. We started walking from Owgen Car Park to the top of Y Garn before we quickly descended to Llyn Cwn Lake prior to heading back uphill for Glyder Fawr peak. Then we took on a scrambling route to Llyn Idwel via an area of the mountain known as the Devil's Kitchen. We had been undertaking guard shifts for more than three months including on Christmas leave back in barracks and this exercise and adventure is what my body and mind needed. I felt like I was rejuvenated when I was experiencing the mountains of Wales.

Exercise TIGER WALES WALK 69 Gurkha Field Squadron

By Sapper Sujan Tamang, Queen's Gurkha Engineers



Next day we climbed Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales. We started our journey from Pen-y-Pass Car Park to Summit Snowdon via Pyg Track and returned via the Miners Track. The following day we went to Llyn Elsi Lake and navigated the Gwydir Forest Park. Since it

was our last day we finished it up with a dinner night of Indian food at a local restaurant.

The exercise package has helped build our confidence and it has increased our resilience in the face of fear, pushing us out of our comfort zones.

Adjutant General's Corps Cross Country Championship 2022 गोर्खाली समाचार



Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support members from various units across the UK took part in the recent Adjutant General's Corps Cross Country Championship which was held at Worthy Down in February.

Private Saroj Tamang and Private Ramraja Ghale both currently serving in Regimental Administration Office Detachment in 36 Engineer Regiment came first and second respectively in the Under 23 category.



Queen's Gurkha Signals Intake 21 Attestation and Commissioning Parade

By Corporal Sagar Thapa Magar, Queen's Gurkha Signals

72 new trainees for the Queen's Gurkha Signals took the oath of allegiance to the Regiment, at Altcar Training Camp, High Town, Liverpool, in the presence of the Regimental Headquarters Command Team on the 3rd of March 2022. Spectators from the local community and Army veterans who were closely associated with the Royal Signals and QG SIGNALS.

The parade also witnessed the commissioning ceremony for six officers, who were waiting to be officially commissioned into the regiment since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspecting officer on the parade was the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General JJ Cole CB OBE.

Warrant Officer Class One (Regimental Sergeant Major) Pandu Tamang commenced the parade before he handed over to the parade commander Captain Sureshkumar Limbu, Adjutant QG SIGNALS. The Colonel of the Regiment stepped onto the parade dais and received the report from the parade commander. The chief guest then inspected the front row of the trainees, whilst Commander QG SIGNALS and Gurkha Major inspected the centre and rear ranks.

The trainees then took the oath in English and Nepali collectively, following word by word from the Commander and Gurkha Major respectively. Then in groups of three the trainees marched up to physically take the oath of allegiance to the regiment by touching the regimental flag in front of the Colonel of the Regiment, Commander and Gurkha Major.



During the parade the champion section and the champion trainee were announced. It was 2 Platoon, 4 Section, who won the champion section accolade this year, and Signaller Praveen Singh Rana won the champion trainee's trophy, performing exceptionally on all the tests carried out during the induction training.

This year, the QG SIGNALS saw 42 Network Engineers, 20 Information Services Engineers and 10 Power Engineers join the Regiment, and all trainees were glad to know that they found their first if not second preference of trade choice.

Captain Robin Rai, Captain Sekendra Gurung, Captain Sanjeev Rai, Captain Raj Gurung, Captain Pramod Gurung and Captain Ashok Pun were then officially commissioned into the regiment by the Colonel of the Regiment flanked by the commander and Gurkha Major.

The final event of the day was a charity curry lunch for both serving members and civilian spectators in aid of the QG SIGNALS Trust. It was exciting to find out that just over £2000 was raised for charity from the curry lunch and a Kothimara Khukuri auction.

With the completion of an academically demanding three months induction training, the trainees have now moved to 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment, Blandford, where they will undertake their initial trade training.





Gurkha Company (Sittang) Operational Shooting Competition 2022

By Sergeant Ranjib Limbu, Gurkha Company (Sittang)

Gurkha Company Sittang (GC(S)) organised a range package which comprised of the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test, Advance to Contact and Rural Contact Assessment. This assessment is also a part of the team selection and ultimately road to the Defence Operational Shooting Competition held at Bisley each year.

Sergeant Ranjib Limbu planned, led and executed the competition with the aim to promote a winning mentality, enhance operational effectiveness, marksmanship and identify the best shot and best section. The competition was designed to replicate situations likely to

be encountered on operations and to assess individuals and sections shooting preceded by rapid development of Quick Reaction Force to engage on advance to contact shoot.

Captain Binod Kerung, Second In Charge GC(S) presented the awards to the winners.

- **Individual Best Shot** - Rifleman Devendra Gurung (2 Platoon)
- **First Runner Up** - Captain Padam Gurung (2 Platoon Commander)
- **Second Runner Up** - Corporal Birhang Limbu (2 Platoon)





Land Training Fleet Sennelager, 1 Squadron Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

By Lance Corporal Yam Gharti Magar, Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

Sergeant Sovit Baniya and Lance Corporal Yam from 1 Squadron, 10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment have been deployed as temporary duty staff for four months to the Land Training Fleet Sennelager, Germany.

The journey for the deployment was challenging due to a rise of COVID-19 cases and foreign travel policies. They will be working in the Custodian Account (CA) Storehouse and in charge of the Storehouse and Receipt/Issue stores. The storehouse is the Regional Logistic Hub for the British Army in Europe providing equipment support to deployed forces in Germany, Estonia, Poland, Latvia. Their key role is to support and provide equipment spares to two Warrior Company fleets, one Squadron of Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance and an Armoured

Infantry Battle Group Headquarters fleet, in support of training. Other additional tasks include holding and accounting of forward repairable equipment support materials to deployed fleets across Europe.

This deployment is demanding as they must at times provide 24hr support to the battle group in location during exercise periods. But it has provided the individuals a fantastic opportunity to work alongside wider military organisations and gain extensive knowledge on supply trade with highly experienced retired Divisional Ordnance Warrant Officers.





Gurkhas Plant a Tree in Nepal in support of The Queen's Green Canopy

As part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen's 70th anniversary of the accession on the 6th of February 1952, Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, Brigadier The Rt Hon Lord Mark Lancaster TD VR, Deputy Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, Colonel Paul Smith, Commander BGN and Colonel David Robinson, Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas and the Nicola Pollitt, British Ambassador to Nepal, planted a sapling at British Gurkhas Pokhara, Nepal.

British Gurkhas Nepal will be celebrating The Queen's reign over the coming year and will parade in honour of The Queen as part of official celebrations around the globe. All those with qualifying service will also be honoured with the presentation of The Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal.





Royal Engineers' Badminton Championship 2022

By Staff Sergeant Joseph Subba, Queen's Gurkha Engineers

The Royal Engineer's Badminton Championship 2022 was held at Aldershot Garrison Gymnasium from 12th to 14th January 2022. A total of six units participated in the Championship which saw a record number of participants and games than any previous championships.

The Championship is the first tournament in the Royal Engineers' badminton calendar which allows the management team to scout strong players from the Corps to participate in the Inter-Corps Championships later in the year. The first day of the tournament saw the team events where all six Units participated. With tough matches and extremely close games, 36 Engineer Regiment and 1 RSME were through to the finals.

The defending champions 36 Engineer Regiment, once again were victorious in the Unit Doubles discipline. 36 Engineer Regiment also won the Inter-Unit doubles on the same day.

The second day of the tournament saw the individual competitions. Corporal Amber Mangmu (3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment (RSME)) won the Men's Singles title and the Men's Doubles title was won by Captain Ram Rai (ITC, Catterick). Staff Sergeant Joseph Subba (36 Engineer Regiment). Mr Rastra Rai and Corporal Sagar Gurung won the Veteran Doubles title and Corporal Arpan Gurung won the Men's Singles plate title.

The final day of the tournament saw two different disciplines. With hard fought games Captain Ram Rai and Staff Sergeant Joseph Subba won the Men's Doubles title in straight games and Corporal Amber won the Men's Singles title.



Funds raised for the Oyam Memorial Hall Project

By Lance Corporal Rajan Limbu, Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support



The Oyam Memorial Hall Project is a fundraising campaign to build a memorial hall, with an extension to the Shree Gupteshwor school to provide essential hostel accommodation, an IT studio, library, and facilities for the children in the rural village community of Oyam which is in a remote area of Nepal. On the 22nd of February 2022, Lance Corporal Rajan Limbu (Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support) and Major General DF Capps CBE, Commandant, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) presented a cheque to Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Paul Gilham and Major Chakra Khatri, representatives from the Oyam Memorial Hall Project (OMHP) at RMAS.



Exercise BURMA SCHOLAR

By Corporal Mikish Gauchan, The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

Headquarters (BURMA) Company, The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles organised Exercise BURMA SCHOLAR an educational visit to the Imperial War Museum, followed by a social event at the Union Jack Club in central London. The exercise was aimed to provide conceptual development and team cohesion amongst serving personnel.

The Imperial War Museum was established in 1917. The museum focuses on conflicts that have involved Britain and other Commonwealth countries, from the First World War to the present

day. We were divided into groups and allowed to explore the museum along with a tour guide. My understanding of this period of military history has been improved due to this visit.

We then moved to the Union Jack Club, which is an Armed Forces hotel and club for serving personnel and veterans near London Waterloo railway station. We got a chance to speak to a few of the veterans at the club and listen to their stories from their own service. The veterans were keen to learn more about the Gurkhas and we were happy to share.



Lance Corporal Rajan ran 5km a day for 30 days and smashed his original target of £1500 by raising an impressive £5459.27, more than triple his goal. He said: "I am very proud to have such a supportive team around who helped me raise such an incredible amount. The strength of purpose drove me both physically and mentally. I am most grateful to my family, friends and all who donated so generously and my Officer Commanding, Major Shureshkumar Thapa MVO The Royal

Gurkha Rifles for his unfailing support and all ranks of Gurkha Company (Sittang)."

The funds were raised in the loving memory of Lance Corporal Rajan's late mother Mrs Prem Maya Limbu. The project is being executed by the Pahar Trust Nepal with support from Hello World, the Gurkha Welfare Trust, other Brigade of Gurkhas units, and individuals. The aim of the project is "Nepal ko Nimti" and we are confident on achieving our target of £184,000 for the project to start in April 2022.



For his commendable effort, Rajan was awarded with Commandant RMA's Coin and Lieutenant General Sir David Bill KCB, PTN's "Certificate of Thanks". Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Paul Gilham presented a statue of Field Marshal WJ Slim to Officer Commanding Major Shureshkumar Thapa MVO for GC(S) and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all.



Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas visit to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers were very pleased to welcome Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas (BG) to Invicta Park Barracks on the 10th of February 2022. He was welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel MD Hendry MBE (Commandant QGE) and Major Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO (Gurkha Major QGE).

On arrival he was ushered to the Mandir where he conducted a traditional Puja for safety, success and longevity of the QGE and Brigade of Gurkhas. This was followed by an update on the QGE including Regimental Headquarters QGE's work to enhance the QGE capability.

He then watched the demonstration of Khukuri fighting skills where he had the opportunity to practice for himself with the team. This was followed by a lunch with the members of QGE allowing him to discuss issues and developments with individuals and he delivered some key messages to the team before his departure.





The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association contributes to sustainable summits 2021

By Colonel (Retd) A M Mills OBE, Director Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association

The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) and their partners, the Gurkha Welfare Trust, were asked to contribute to the Sustainable Summits Conference which took place in Kathmandu last year. Later, these contributed to a wider film that was shown at COP 26 in Glasgow.

KAAA is a privately funded charity which has been helping poor communities in the hills of Nepal for the past 53 years. Whilst its primary role is infrastructure, namely trail bridges, drinking water and small-scale hydro-electric projects, it also conducts remote medical camps, provides solar home lighting systems, builds cliff tracks, provides kitchen garden and improved cooking stove training, and employment training to youngsters. It has also, so far, rebuilt 11 villages, 650 homes, which were damaged during the 2015 earthquakes.

We are close long-term partners with the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Our motto, "Help those who help themselves" and "Opportunity in life to the disadvantaged" are reflected in the way we work. We always work alongside the beneficiaries.

Two examples of our work. First, a 100-kilowatt micro-hydro project at Kyanzin-Langtang in Rasuwa District. At 4,200m it is our highest project. It took six months to complete in 2016/17. It is the first hydro project in Nepal to be fed from a glacial lake. It produces power for 130 households of Kyanzin, Langtang and others. The project has not only enhanced the quality of life for the villagers but it also assisted the rebuilding of Langtang itself, and increased the opportunities in the community. KAAA also built a 74-meter trail bridge over the Lanza River at the approach to Kyanzin benefitting on average 2,000 locals, and visiting tourists.

The second example is Lingjo Village in the remote North Dhading District. The village was heavily damaged in the earthquake but was reconstructed by KAAA in 2017, after which villagers who had migrated to urban centres like Dhadingbesi and Kathmandu returned to the village to resettle permanently. There are now 146 households whereas before roughly half the village was deserted. KAAA has also installed a community drinking water system and a 45kW micro-hydro plant which both survived the effects of the earthquake. With 24hrs access to water and electricity, and a KAAA apple project, the community is thriving.

Over the past 53 years, KAAA has made an important contribution to the development of remote villages, in the hills. Whilst I used to think that we were doing no more than delaying the inevitable migration of pastoral hill people to the urban centres, I now believe that it is possible to reverse this trend, and make once unviable villages flourish again. "Mountains nurturing communities."





Clean water is a simple necessity of life

Gurkha Welfare Trust

But there are still many Gurkha veterans and communities in Nepal who do not have access to safe water. Our water projects pipe water to remote villages in Nepal and install tap stands for every household, bringing clean safe water right to their doorsteps.

The challenge of bringing clean water to Gaduwa

Som Bahadur Tamang lives in the village of Gaduwa in Chitwan District. When his father, Rifleman Ram Bahadur Tamang, died many years ago, the family relied on the pension paid to his widow Devi in order to survive.

We visited Som and his wife to find out how the water project in Gaduwa has benefited his family and the entire village. "Before GWT built this water project there were so many problems. There was no water tap in this area. People from this village used to collect water from wells. It was especially difficult in the summertime. There were wells at the side of roads. Vehicles passing on the road used to blow away dust which dirtied the water. So, the people over here had to go and fetch water in nearby rivers. We had to wake up at four in the morning and walk for 30 minutes to an hour just to fetch water. We also had to go to rivers to take a bath and wash clothes."



Transforming lives in a remote community

Due to the difficulty of reaching a clean water source, the project involved drilling down to reach water, and installing an overhead water tank. Initially some villagers had doubts about the project, but Som has been a great advocate for its success. Som said it was because of his father and his service with the Gurkhas that people in the village came to know and respect his family and listened to Som's advice. With his support and through education provided by The GWT, villagers came to understand how the project would transform their daily lives. "During the initial phase of the project, nobody knew about deep boring. They thought no organisation was capable of doing such a big project. They didn't support us in the beginning," Som said. "Staff from The GWT came and explained to all the villagers and convinced them of the benefits of this project. After the project was successful, all the doubts were cleared."

Reducing the burden on women

Supplying clean water to the village has reduced the burden on women who traditionally spent hours every day collecting water and doing household chores. "I used to bring in two buckets in the morning and two in the evening," Som's wife explained. "During summer, the water used to be yellowish. My children had white school uniforms and while washing their clothes with that water, it used to turn their uniforms yellow. We were also not able to grow crops due to insufficient water. It was difficult, my kids were small at that time, I had to carry them as well as the dirty clothes and go to the river to wash them. Now, it's very easy. I can now cook and fill my water bottle at the same time. We don't have to constantly think of water and how to get it."

"Now all you have to do is turn on the tap"

The completed project in Gaduwa supplied water to 168 households, benefiting 970 people. Not only do they have clean water for drinking, cooking and washing, but they can also use a simple irrigation system to grow vegetables. This enables them to produce crops through the dry season and maintain a healthy diet. "The first thing in peoples' minds as soon as they woke up was to fetch water because even to brush your teeth you need water," Som said. "Water is one of the most basic things and the most important. Now as soon as you wake up, to get water all you have to do is turn on the tap. It's that simple."



Empowering the whole community

One of the most important aspects of our water projects is getting the whole village community involved. We provide villagers with education on sanitation and how to maintain their new water system, ensuring the project is sustainable for years to come.

Asha Waiba received training as part of the water project in the village of Gaduwa. Asha helps educate others in the village about the importance of clean water, sanitation, and hand hygiene, and is now a role model in her community. She learned how to help maintain the water system and works with others to routinely test the water quality and equipment. "We all have the feeling of ownership that we need to manage and sustain this project," Asha said. "After all the experience and training, I have earned respect from the community. Now, women in my community perceive me as a role model and they have been inspired by my work. We have mitigated many conflicts, coordinated with local authorities and empowered communities." We have come a long way and we will continue to work more effectively to sustain this project. Thank you to The GWT for bringing clean water to my community."



Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas visit to 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment *(overleaf)*





Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas visit to 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

By Corporal Bhim Bahadur Pun, Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) were honoured to welcome Deputy Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, Brigadier Mark Lancaster TD VR PC, and the Colonel Brigade of Gurkhas, Colonel David Robinson.

The Brigadier and Colonel were initially greeted by 28 Squadron before being transported to the Regimental Headquarters in Close Support Tanker vehicles. On arrival at the headquarters, they were welcomed by a traditional Honour guard.



Brigadier Lancaster then presented a Commander 101 Logistic Brigade Commendation to Corporal Taraman Gurung (Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support) for his outstanding performance over the last 12 months. The visiting party were presented with an update about the Regiment and future planned activities.

The Brigadier and Colonel were introduced to the Regimental Pipes and Drums where they received familiarisation training on various musical instruments including the bagpipes. This was followed by a visit to the Regiments Custodian Account, managed by 1 Squadron's Logistic Specialists, to provide an insight into how the account operates both in peacetime, and on deployed operations. Gurkhas from 28 Squadron then introduced the Regiment's vehicle

capability, which included the impressive Mastiff vehicle. The Commanders Monitoring Inspection explained why it is vital to inspect vehicles to ensure the Regiment remain ready when called upon. Our communications specialist team delivered a presentation on the wider trade employability; including roles and responsibilities, equipment care and their communication plan for the Regiments impending training; Exercise KHUKURI ENDEAVOUR which will see the Regiment deploy to Scotland.

After a competitive pistol shoot at the 25m range, our catering department demonstrated how they improvise in the field, this also included some outstanding fruit carvings. In true QOGLR fashion, our guests were treated to the legendary traditional Gurkha curry before departing.





Exercise SITTANG WARRIOR EXPEDITION 2022

By Rifleman Bishwa Pratap Kedem, Gurkha Company (Sittang)

Exercise SITTANG WARRIOR EXPEDITION 2022 took place in Pembrokeshire, Wales, and was organised by Sergeant Tulasi Gurung. 24 members of Gurkha Company (Sittang) (GC(S)) attended the expedition, with the aim to build leadership, teamwork and enhance physical and mental resilience.

We were divided into four teams of six to take part in mountaineering, rock climbing, mountain biking, and kayaking. My first activity was hiking, and I was amazed to see King Henry VII's castle and plenty of Welsh historical features and locations. The next day for me was mountain biking on a trail of 10km along the coast of Llys-y-fran reservoir, this was an amazing experience and was really challenging.

We were visited by Sandhurst Support Unit Second In Command Major Lok Gurung and GC(S) Company Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class Two Rabi Gurung who later accompanied us during the mountain bike activity. The real adventure for me was when my turn for the indoor climbing activity was upon me, as I have a fear of heights. This could be a real challenge we may face in operations. At the end of the day I overcome my concerns and was confident to climb to some of the higher points on the wall. On the last day we headed to Cleddau Ddu tidal river to take on kayaking. I learned the different techniques to use a sea kayak and we sailed along the edge of Cleddau Ddu, with a beautiful view of Benton Castle.

This expedition provided us with good training to support overcoming our fears and forcing us to rise to new challenges.





Changes to Settlement Fees for Non-UK Service Personnel

Currently non-UK Service Personnel (Commonwealth citizens, Gurkhas, Nepalese citizens who have transferred out of the Brigade of Gurkhas to serve in the wider Armed Forces, British Overseas Citizens, British Overseas Territory Citizens and British National (Overseas) citizens), must pay a settlement fee of £2,389 (FY21/22) when they apply to remain (settle) in the UK following their discharge from the UK Armed Forces.

Last year the Defence Secretary and the Home Secretary jointly launched a public consultation seeking views on a policy proposal to remove the charge for the settlement fee. The policy proposal was to remove the charge for non-UK Service Personnel who had served in the Regular Armed Forces or the Brigade of Gurkhas for at least 12 years at their point of discharge and who had applied to settle in the UK after their Service or who had been discharged due to an attributable to Service illness or injury. Views were also sought on how the Government could support non-UK veterans who were living in the UK but who had not regularised their immigration status.

Over 6,000 responses to the consultation were received which reflected the significance many attach to this issue. After considering the consultation feedback, the Defence Secretary and Home Secretary have agreed to revise the policy. They are pleased to announce that the following policy will be implemented:

Providing all other Home Office requirements are met, non-UK Service Personnel who apply to remain in the UK will not have to pay the fee if they meet one of the following criteria:

- have served at least six years at their point of discharge from service
- or
- Are discharged on medical grounds with a condition attributable to service irrespective of their length of service
- or
- Are a veteran who has served for at least six years, or was discharged on medical grounds with a condition attributable to service and is currently living in the UK and has not yet regularised their immigration status.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

"Last year we sought views from non-UK personnel about how we can best support and recognise their incredible contribution to the UK Armed Forces. I am delighted to announce that eligible personnel and veterans who have served for a period of six years or more, and wish to settle in the UK, will no longer have to pay the visa fee. It is only right that we have taken this important step to express our sincere gratitude to the brave men and women from outside of the UK who have made such a valuable contribution to the defence of this country. Today, it was a pleasure to meet personnel who will benefit from this change. I wish them all the best for the future."

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

"There are thousands of brave men and women across the Commonwealth who have served our country with distinction in the military over the years. Waiving the visa fee for those Commonwealth veterans and Gurkhas with six years' service who want to settle here is a suitable way of acknowledging their personal contribution and service to our nation".

The fee waiver is planned to come into effect this Spring once the necessary legislation has gone through the Houses of Parliament. Information relating to the application process will be published shortly.

Other options remain open to non-UK Service Personnel such as being able to make a paid application for Settlement in the UK upon discharge if they have served a minimum of four years. There is also no intention to amend the Citizenship Rules or fund the fees for Armed Forces personnel who choose to apply for naturalisation while serving or as veterans after they have had settled status for at least 12 months.

The Ministry of Defence and the Home Office work closely with non-UK citizens who serve in the UK Armed Forces to ensure they are fully aware of the support available for them and their families to settle in the UK. The new policy will improve this support even further. Current support includes working with the Joining Forces Credit Union to offer financial advice, savings packages and loans to help personnel pay for visa costs.

A copy of the Government response to the public consultation can be found on the Gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

Changes to Settlement Fees for Non-UK Service Personnel

Questions & Answers

I am due to discharge from the Regular Armed Forces soon. Will I be charged a fee if I apply to remain in the UK after my service?

The policy change is expected to take place this Spring. Those who apply for settlement on or after the implementation date will benefit from the fee waiver. If you apply for settlement before that date you will be expected to pay the fee. If you apply after the policy has been implemented and providing you meet the suitability requirements you will not be charged.

The implementation of the fee waiver requires legislation to pass through Parliament: it is not possible for those who apply before this happens to have their fees waived. Further guidance will be issued to inform personnel in due course.

How do I apply for settlement?

There is already guidance on how to apply for settlement.

- UK Visas and Immigration - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-settle-in-uk-as-former-member-of-hm-forces-setaf>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-armed-forces>

The Home Office is currently in the process of amending their on-line forms to reflect the changes when the amendment comes into effect. Unit Welfare Officers (and the RN/RM and RAF equivalents) can also help to sign post SP to relevant forms and sources of advice and guidance. The Families Federations can provide further help and guidance on immigration issues.

How much will it cost to apply for settlement to remain in the UK after my discharge?

If your settlement application is submitted after the policy change has been made, and you have at least six years' service, or have been discharged due to an illness or injury attributable to service, you will not be charged a fee. However, if your application has been submitted prior to the policy

change or you have not served for at least six years or do not have an illness or injury attributable to service you will have to pay the current fee of £2,389 (FY21/22).

How do I ensure that I am not charged a fee for my settlement application?

The Home Office is currently in the process of amending their on-line forms.

I have already submitted a settlement application. Will I be able to get a refund?

No. If you have already submitted a settlement application before the policy has been changed you will not be entitled to a refund. Until the necessary legislation has passed through Parliament, it is not possible for the Home Office to apply the waiver.

I have served four years and want to apply for discharge. Will I have to pay the settlement fee?

Yes. If you have served for four years and wish to remain in the UK following your discharge you will have to pay the fee when you submit your settlement application.

I have served six years and want to apply for discharge. Will I have to pay the settlement fee?

No. Providing you meet all the other suitability requirements that would entitle you to remain in the UK, you will not need to pay the settlement fee if you submit your application after the policy change is implemented. You will need to pay the fee if you submit your application before then.

I would prefer to apply for British citizenship. Will you pay for my citizenship application?

No. Becoming a British citizen is regarded as a personal choice that goes beyond regularising immigration status and you would be required to pay for your own application.

Why won't you pay for me to become a British citizen?

Becoming a British citizen is regarded as a personal choice that goes beyond simply regularising your immigration status. In addition, some countries do not allow their citizens to hold dual citizenship, whereas non-UK personnel who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for settlement on discharge.

Will my family be charged a fee if they apply for settlement?

There is no change to the charges to settlement fees for non-UK family members. The charge for settlement fees remains the responsibility of the Service Person or their family member. Non-UK family members of Armed Forces personnel can apply for settlement once they have completed an initial five-year period in the UK of limited leave.

I have only served two years and I am due to be medically discharged due to an injury I received during my Service. Will I have to pay the settlement fee if I wish to remain in the UK.

No. If your settlement application is submitted after the policy change has been made, under the revised policy if you have received an injury or have an illness which is attributable to your service and providing that you meet all the other suitability requirements, you will not have to pay the fee when you submit a settlement application.

I am a veteran who left the UK Armed Forces over 10 years ago but I have not regularised my immigration status. Will I be eligible for the fee waiver?

Providing you are currently living in the UK, served for at least six years or were medically discharged due to an injury or illness which was attributable to your service and meet all other suitability requirements, you will be eligible for the fee waiver when you submit an application to regularise your immigration status.

What happens if my application to settle is turned down?

Discharged members of the Armed Forces who make an unsuccessful application for Indefinite Leave to Remain are entitled to an Administrative Review of the decision. Details on how to do this are outlined in the Home Office decision letter sent to the applicant.



The Infantry Training Centre has some new Gurkha recruits! Have you noticed them?

By Corporal Youkesh Gurung, Gurkha Company Catterick



For many, 2021 was yet again incredibly challenging, with plans made, plans changed, and then changed again. And here we are at the start of 2022, somewhat in limbo. Despite some issues thanks to the latest Covid variant, the rigorous selection process for the Recruit Intake 2022 (RI22) was successful. This year, Gurkha Company Catterick (GCC) has reaffirmed its commitment to quality infantry training by welcoming 218 Recruits to start their journey of becoming trained Gurkhas in the British Army.

A lot of in-house preparations have been achieved for the new training year and Gurkha Company is delighted to see the bright characters who arrived in the UK on four different flights over the last week of February. On arrival, the trainees were screened and immediately entered a period of 'controlled monitoring' until they received negative PCR test results. All clear, they then begun their 39-week Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha) – or CIC(G). CIC 21, a 26-



week course, is the standard Infantry course on which our training is based, and which is augmented by several Gurkha-specific training serials including the Recruit English Package training, Close Quarter Combat and cultural orientation.

The first 2 weeks of their training have been focussed on administration, introducing the Recruits to their new surroundings, informing them about the organisation they are now part of and teaching them the basics of being an Infantryman. All of this, plus an introduction to the Values and Standards as well health and safety, fire safety, can be a lot to take in!

However, for us - the Training Team – the last 2 weeks is a little more than that and we have been shaping the bigger picture. We have had the opportunity to begin developing a trainer-trainee relationship. If we get that right, then we can start understanding their learning and educational needs and thus start developing a personalised learning plan to help motivate them, as well as enabling them to settle into GCC.

As always in GCC we are fortunate to have a diverse team of professional permanent staff who care passionately about the delivery of world class Infantry training and the provision of highly trained Gurkha soldiers to the Brigade of Gurkhas.





Trainee Rifleman (T/Rfn) Bhisma Rai 1 Platoon



It is a wonderful opportunity in terms of all aspects considering the job, salary and adventure. But more importantly, the respect and prestige that the British Army gets in Nepalese society is still great... I'm glad that I was successful this year. I think [the training] will be a little challenging and I am expecting it to be a little more fast-paced, but I am physically and mentally prepared for it. It is interesting – the majority of the lessons for the last two weeks have been on PowerPoint, and we get to use the Defence Learning Environment system on computers.

T/Rfn Pasang Sherpa 4 Platoon



It is an honour for me to be selected and I feel great to be here at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick. I initially thought there would be skyscrapers however it feels like a nice village. I know I will be busy because of the tempo of the training, but I am prepared for it. There are a lot of things going on in our heads now, purely because we are still trying to figure out terminology! Our Section Commanders, Platoon Sergeants and Platoon Commanders have been helpful throughout. Not only with the lessons but they invest a lot of their time with us.

T/Rfn Anurag Dhakal 2 Platoon



I am the first one in my entire family to join the Gurkhas. I was influenced by society and friends, and I am very happy being here today. I expected it to be a slow training process, but the pace is rather steep. We have been getting a lot of kit issued, and sometimes we get asked to show items we have been issued to the staff. I know I have those items but since I don't know the names, I sometimes get stressed. But I am realising the importance and getting on well with the training, I am ready to take on the challenge.

T/Rfn Bibek Gurung 5 Platoon



It was my third attempt at Gurkha selection in Nepal, and I was so desperate to make it this year. No doubt that's why I am smiling now, and it's been wonderful to be in Catterick. In the first two weeks we have learned a lot and I feel a little heavy-headed. We were taught Army Values and Standards and health and hygiene lessons; so much that sometimes I am struggling to think. It is fast-paced, and I think I am doing well.

T/Rfn Diyan Gurung 6 Platoon



I was born and raised in Singapore and wanted to follow my grandfather's and father's footsteps. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to be in the Singapore Police. I understand and I have seen the training in Singapore; although they are police, the commitment, effort and Gurkha traits are not that different. I can feel a similar spirit, the Gurkha competition is clear, although the approaches may be different. I am happy to be here and enjoying the training. I feel it is busy, but I believe it will ease off a little as the training progresses and we get used to life in Catterick.



THE DOKO CHALLENGE NORTH
Greystoke Castle, Penrith - 8 May 2022

THE DOKO CHALLENGE SOUTH
Wimbledon Common, London - 12 June 2022

TAKE ON THE ULTIMATE RACE - THE DOKO CHALLENGE!

Based on the traditional Gurkha recruitment race in Nepal, this is a 5km run with a twist. Run the distance carrying a Doko Basket with your choice of weight - 5kg, 10kg or 15kg.

We will provide the baskets and weights, and our team will be there to cheer you on. The target is to complete the course in 46 minutes, but whatever your time you will have fun, and earn the medal awaiting you at the finish line!

Registration costs £25 and we suggest you set a fundraising target of £150. Funds raised from the event will go to support Gurkha veterans, their families and communities in Nepal.

Places are limited - register now at www.gwt.org.uk/doko



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BRIGADE OF GURKHAS PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO COMPETITION 2022

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activity across the Brigade of Gurkhas
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