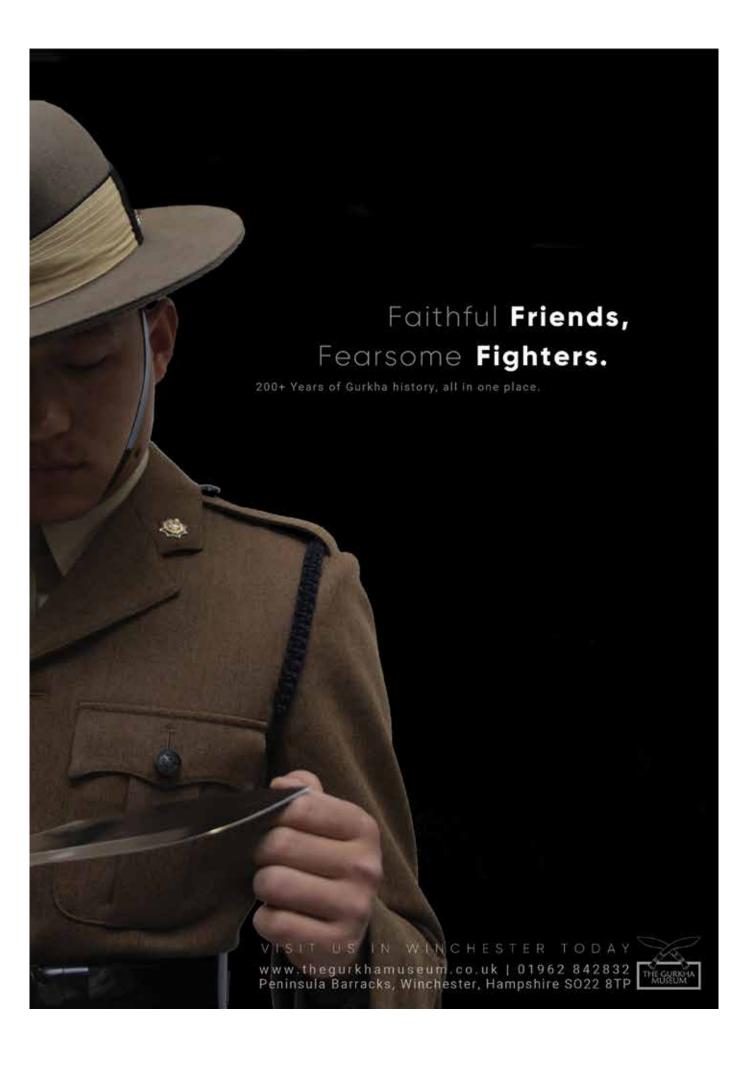


The Magazine for Gurkha Soldiers and their Families www.gurkhabde.com/publication





HQ Brigade of Gurkhas, Robertson House, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4NP.

All enquiries Tel: 0044 300 1581751

Email: rhq3parbate@gmail.com

Editor

Corporal Shekhar Gurung

Head of Communications

Mr Mick Latter

Please send your articles together with high quality photographs (JPEGs min 300dpi and 1 MB file size) through your unit's Parbate Rep to: rhq3parbate@gmail.com

Parbate is published every month by kind permission of HQBG. It is not an official publication and the views expressed, unless specifically stated otherwise, do not reflect MOD or Army policy and are the personal views of the author. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the permission of the Editorial Staff.

No responsibility for the quality of goods or services advertised in this magazine can be accepted by the Editorial Staff or Publishers and advertisements are accepted on the express condition that they in no way contravene the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968 nor any other prevailing Consumer Legislation. The Editorial Staff and Publishers cannot accept responsibility for the result of errors or omissions in articles or advertisements.

Parbate is designed by the AMC Design Studio, ADR010694



and produced using recycled paper.

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



he amount operations, exercises, sport, charity work and social activity across the Brigade of Gurkhas family never ceases to amaze me. Almost every day we open our emails in the Headquarters Communications office, or in the new world from home, to find another batch of emails packed with stories and media for us to use in Parbate or indeed on the GBA website or social media.

In this edition our Unit Focus we return to Gurkha Company Catterick. It is always interesting to hear from them about what the Recruits are doing but also to focus on the



Search for: The Gurkha Brigade Association



Follow us @ Gurkha_brigade



youtube.com/c/ GurkhaBrigadeAssociation highly professional and important staff members who are helping to turn these young people in the next generation of Gurkha soldiers.

Don't forget we want to see your media sent in for the 2022 Gurkha photographic competition. The details on how to do this are on the website: www.gurkhabde.com/photocomp22.

If you have a key story or activity, we want to hear from you so please send your content to rhq3parbate@gmail.com

Mick Latter HQBG Head of Communications



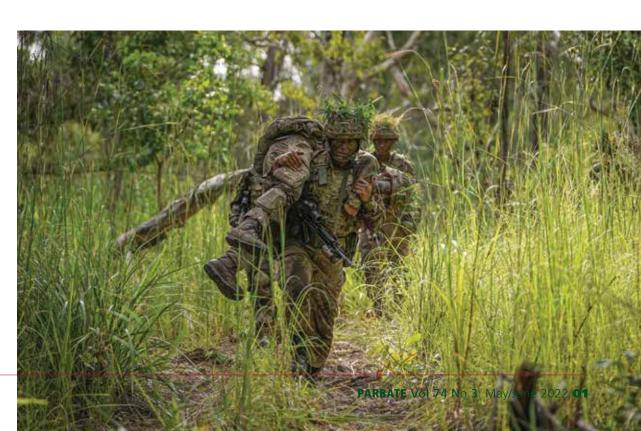
Search for: Gurkha Brigade Association

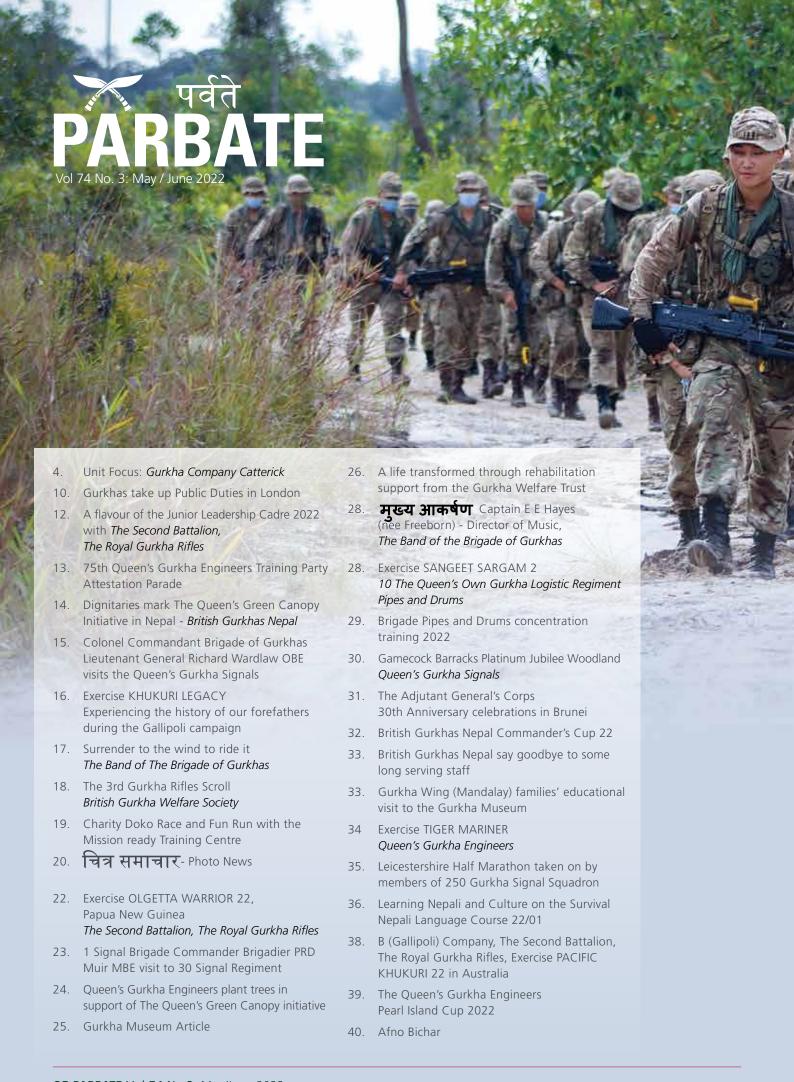


@gurkha_brigade_association

Front Cover: Gurkhas from the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment being inspected before they took on the task of public duties in London for May 2022

Right: B (Gallipoli) Company, The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles on Exercise PACIFIC KHUKURI 22 in Australia







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.



UNIT FOCUS

Gurkha Company Catterick

Mission - To deliver trained Gurkha soldiers to meet the operational requirements of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Role - To mould a Nepalese youth into a Gurkha soldier trained to the standards of the British Army, who retains his Nepalese identity and will live up to the traditions of the Brigade of Gurkhas

urkha Company is the recruit training arm of the Brigade of Gurkhas and traces its origins to the beginning of centralised Recruit training with the formation of Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas (TDBG) in Malaya on the 15th of August 1951. In 1971, TDBG moved to Hong Kong where it remained until 1994 when it moved to Church Crookham as the Gurkha Training Wing (GTW). In 1999, the GTW moved from Church Crookham to the Infantry Training Centre Catterick and became Gurkha Company. This marked the first time in history that the training of Gurkha recruits had been conducted alongside their British counterparts but did not change its fundamental role.

Today Gurkha Company is one of 5 companies in the Second Infantry Training Battalion (part of the Infantry Training Centre). Alongside the Brigade of Guards, Parachute Regiment, Pegasus, and Anzio Companies, the unit is responsible for the delivery of the Combat Infantry Course to specialised areas of the Infantry.

Gurkha Company deliver the 37-week long Combat Infantry Course (Gurkha), (CIC(G)) whose content reflects Basic and Initial Trade Training, which all infantry soldiers complete before joining the Field Army, but also incorporates Gurkha-specific training serials. These can be broadly split down into the Recruit English Package (English language and cultural training), a series of 'cultural orientation' exercises, and Close Ouarter Combat (which combines the use of the kukri with Tae Kwon Do). All recruits of the Brigade of Gurkhas, regardless of cap-badge, must complete this course before they join their units.

The CIC is a progressive, yet challenging, course which includes offensive operations, patrolling, defence, operations in built up areas, live firing up to platoon-level and a final exercise which confirms whether recruits have met the standard required to perform in an Infantry section on operations. Lessons, exercises, and assessments are designed to ensure that trainee riflemen leave Catterick with the skills required in personal administration, weapon handling, drill, fieldcraft and fitness. The cultural elements of the course ensure that they understand the Brigade's kaida and are prepared for life in the UK.

Apart from providing the recruit training arm of the Brigade, Gurkha Company is responsible for the cap-badging of Gurkha soldiers, who are recruited agnostically. The 60-strong military staff is made up of service personnel from every cap-badge of the Brigade and is well-placed to offer advice and insight into the roles of each unit. The selection of soldiers to each cap-badge is marked with a parade attended by Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors and is second in import only to the Passing Out Parade at the end of

In addition to the military staff, Gurkha Company employs a Pandit and a Lama who provide spiritual and welfare support. The course allows for the celebration of many religious festivals and rituals which provide another important insight into life in the wider Brigade.

At the time of writing, the 218 soldiers of Recruit Intake 22 are well on the way to their first major milestone, 'Passing Off the Square'; following an assessment in individual turnout and drill, military knowledge and CQC, successful recruits will become 'Trainees' and progress to the 'Advanced' element of CIC(G). The permanent staff continue to work hard to ensure that the traditions and professional reputation of the Brigade are upheld amongst the next generation of Recruits. Unit visits to training are always welcome, and the Company hopes to see some readers in Catterick soon.

You can follow the trainees progress through their training in Catterick on the Brigade website where we are running a blog showing some of highlights of the course as they happen. https://www.gurkhabde.com/recruit-intake-22-journey-throughtraining-blog/

Key Personnel



Second Infantry Training Battalion

Major M F Barney RGR

ajor Barney grew up in East Anglia and completed his undergraduate studies at Newcastle, before attending RMAS and commissioning into The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1 RGR) in Brunei.

Officer Commanding Gurkha Company Catterick,

As a Platoon Commander, Maj Barney was on course in Nepal during the 2015 earthquake and remained to support Operation ARLINGTON and Operation LEYLAND. A later, more formal, deployment followed as a Team Commander on Operation NEWCOMBE in 2016. On moving to Support Company, he managed the disbandment of the Battalion's Medium Machine Gun Platoon and then deployed to

Australia where he spent 5 months working with The Royal Australian Regiment and planning Exercise PACIFIC KUKRI, a Company Group Overseas Training Exercise.

Major Barney posted from Brisbane to the Operations Directorate, MOD Main Building Directorate as Staff Officer Class 3 International Counter Terrorism and spent around 18 months in Whitehall before returning to Regimental Duty as 1 RGR's Unit Intelligence Officer for Operation TORAL 7.

On return from tour, he took over as Operations Officer 1 RGR and remained in Folkestone until posting as Officer Commanding Gurkha Company Catterick in Jun 2021.



Captain Vijayprakash Limbu RGR

Second in Command Gurkha Company Catterick, Second Infantry Training Battalion

aptain Vijayprakash Subba Limbu comes from Mamankhey village, Taplejung District. He joined the Brigade of Gurkhas in 1998. On completion of his training at Church Crookham he joined C Company The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (2 RGR) in Brunei.

Following a year in 2 RGR, Captain Vijay was posted to C (Gurkha) Company 2 PARA until its disbandment in 2001. He posted to Mortar Platoon 2 RGR and completed his Junior Leadership Cadre (JLC) in 2002. In 2005 he successfully completed UK Special Forces selection and spent 5 years at Hereford where he promoted to Corporal. He returned to 2 RGR in October 2010 as a Platoon Sergeant. In 2015 he was selected for Company Sergeant

Major Gurkha Company Catterick, and the next year, on the first Infantry LECAB, he was selected for a commission. His first Captain's appointment was as a Platoon Commander in A Company, 2 RGR and he then spent 4 months as Staff officer Class 3 Visits/TacOps in BATUK before taking over as Military Transport Officer British Forces Brunei in 2019. He assumed the appointment of Second in Command Gurkha Company Catterick in June 2021.

Captain Vijay has served in the UK, US, Brunei, Canada, Australia, Oman, Cyprus and Kenya. His operational deployments include East Timor (Operation LANGER), Bosnia (Operation PALATINE), Sierra Leone (Operation KEELING/OP FINGAL), Afghanistan (Operation TARROK and four separate Operation HERRICKs).

Warrant Officer Class Two (Company Sergeant Major) Raj Rai

Company Sergeant Major Gurkha Company Catterick, Second Infantry Training Battalion

arrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Raj enlisted into the Brigade of Gurkhas in 2003. Completing his training at Catterick and then joining The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (2 RGR) in Brunei. He was the top student of his junior leadership cadre and promoted to Lance Corporal in 2008.

In June 2010, WO2 Raj was assigned to Gurkha Company (Mandalay) at the Infantry Battle School. As a qualified Master Sniper, he worked with the Sniper Division for six months as an Assistant Instructor. On returning to 2 RGR in January 2014, he assumed the role of Recce Sergeant for a year before posting to Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps as an Operation FORTIFY Sergeant.

WO2 Raj passed the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Instructor Cadre and was posted to Sandhurst in 2016, conducting roles in the Training Wing, on short courses and as a Platoon Colour Sergeant on Regular Commissioning Course 173. On returning to Regimental Duty he completed 18 months as CQMS B Company 2 RGR before posting to 1 RGR as Air Operations Senior Non Commissioned Officer.

WO2 Raj has served 4 Operational tours in Afghanistan, was a Multiple Commander on Operation COMET, providing security for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. He also deployed on Operation LEYLAND, the UK's Relief Effort following 2015 Nepal earthquake. He was awarded the Prince of Wales Kukri (awarded to the SNCO who has done the most to enhance the name of the Regiment that year) in 2017.

In 2021 he was selected to be Company Sergeant Major Gurkha Company Catterick.





First steps outside of the Barracks for Recruit Intake 22

Exercise PAHILO KADAM

By 4 (Iraq) Platoon Recruits, Gurkha Company Catterick

he 39-week Combat Infantry
Course is tailored to mould young
Nepalese Recruits into Gurkha
Soldiers. There are lots of cultural
differences between the UK and Nepal
and so to educate us on British culture,
traditions, and the way of doing things,
we ventured out on Exercise PAHILO
KADAM (First Step) on the 5th of April
to explore our local amenities and the
nearby town of Darlington.

We were woken up fully refreshed for an exciting day ahead of us. The learning began straight after exiting camp with road safety and using public footpaths. We made a stop at the Garrison Church where we had a quick brief from our Section Commander about religion in the UK. The second stop was a local primary school where we were amazed to find out about free education in the UK. We then walked towards a Tesco supermarket, familiarised ourselves with shopping and the use of bank cards, and bought some useful items.

The next stops included a library, a bank, a police station and a leisure centre. The library issued us with a library card, and we were shown the different facilities they could provide. The morning was well-spent learning and walking around and we were all hungry; it was time for lunch. We opted for a McDonald's as we all wanted to try it since it is not available in Nepal. The thought of ordering a food was daunting at first, however the order machines were userfriendly and we were able to order our lunch without any fuss. The burgers, wraps and ice creams were delicious. One of our numberis quoted "I'm loving it" whilst devouring his tasty chicken and bacon wrap meal!

With our taste buds happy, we then travelled to Darlington by public bus. We learned to buy tickets as well as find information about the routes and times. Our next visit was Darlington Train Station where we were shown ticket counters/machines and the process by which to buy travel tickets.



We were given a short brief on the City's history. The last and most awaited stop was a Darlington shopping centre. It was clean, bright, and full of people enjoying their day. We wandered around the centre, bought some essentials and headed back to our rendezvous point for our transport back to camp.

An amazing day of cultural orientation and familiarisation of local places for Intake 22. We were grateful to get this opportunity to explore and looking forward to our next 'Kadam' exercise.



ecruit Intake 22 officially started their 39-week long journey to become infanteers on the 28th of February 2022. Week three saw them deploy for the first time on Exercise INTRO 1 with training objectives including packing personal and team equipment, occupying a Harbour Area, sleeping, eating and maintaining health and hygiene in the field; battlefield discipline and employing personal camouflage and concealment.

The day before deployment was hectic for the recruits given that they had to learn about occupation of a Harbour, load carriage in the field and the preparation of their dress and equipment. However, they seemed excited about the prospect of leaving camp for the first time since their arrival in Catterick. The Exercise kickstarted with an early start which saw beaming recruits marching towards the Armoury to get their hands on their Individual Weapons. Company Sergeant Major Gurkha Company then delivered a passionate speech to all 218 recruits providing his words of wisdom and advising them as to how they could best learn and build a strong foundation for their future in the British Army.

The exercise started with an insertion march to their Final Rendezvous (FRV) carrying 18kg in their daysack and webbing. Platoon Commanders then took over their respective Platoons for a walk-through, talk-through of how to occupy a Harbour and its importance. Their work routine

started with an introduction to Operational Ration Packs (ORP), calorific requirements and how to cook in the field. Half of the Recruits in my platoon wanted more bags as they were not full with an allocated single bag for lunch! They were promised that they would get their Daal Bhat once back in camp! With lunch complete, it was time for them to learn how to construct their basha (shelter). They were shown various methods and were given time to construct their own. The rest of the first day introduced them to 'why things are seen', individual movement and how to apply their personal camouflage and concealment.

The evening consisted of a central demonstration on the use of pyrotechnics and movement at night. The Recruits were shown effects of smoke grenades, noise simulators, parachute illumination, tripflares, practice grenades and blank rounds. It also incorporated 'actions on' lights and movement at night. Finally, it was time for recruits to head down and experience their first night inside the sleeping bag and basha. In the morning they were introduced to how to maintain their personal hygiene and equipment in the field before being inspected. It was a delight to see recruits enjoying and engaging with Section Commanders, showcasing their willingness to learn. With all lessons delivered, the recruits patrolled back to camp and started the reconstitution phase of the Exercise.







Learning Never Stops Exercise INTRO 2

with Gurkha Company Catterick

By Trainee Rifleman Diyan Gurung, Gurkha Company Catterick

xercise INTRO 2 was much more challenging and demanding than Exercise INTRO 1. I really enjoyed this phase as I felt like I was becoming a true soldier step by step. We are incredibly lucky that we are learning from our experienced Platoon Commanders and Section Commanders.

We started Exercise INTRO 2 with day navigation skills, searching for seven check points with a partner. It was very challenging as it was our first time working against the clock. My determined numberis did extremely well as the top three pairs from No. 2 Half Company were all from 6 Platoon. We then patrolled our way to a platoon harbour using hand signals, which are especially important to communicate without making any noise.

Not only was the exercise challenging, but the weather was also surprising with irregular rain and biting winds blowing throughout the exercise. All my numberis and I were shivering. I did not expect the weather to behave like this, but I learnt that we must always expect the unexpected and never make assumptions. Sentry duties were important, and I found it enjoyable communicating through our personal role radio systems for the first time. We learnt the importance of target indication and judging distance. A soldier must be capable of identifying enemy forces and appreciate distance so he can use his weapon effectively and help others in acquiring the enemy position. Next was the highlight of the exercise, we were taught how to react and fight during a battle situation. It is important to always have one foot on the ground. Moving with our numberis needed clear communication which proved difficult, however with practice we will become better at this. Night navigation was the most challenging activity for me, as it was difficult to find our way to a certain point in the dark and we had to rely heavily on our pacing. Exercise INTRO 2 was an excellent experience, our weapon handling got quicker, even in colder environments and we improved in our individual and pairs fire and manoeuvre skills.







Recruit Intake 22 take on

Exercise INTRO 3

By Corporal Utshab Singh Rana, Gurkha Company Catterick

xercise INTRO 3 the final field exercise of the Recruits' Basic Training phase. With assessments on the various skills the trainee Gurkhas have learned so far as well as teaching section battle drills, and the various skills required for using blank ammunition. This exercise that took place over three nights and four days is crucial for the trainees to move forward into the initial trade training phase of combat infantry course (Gurkha) training.

On D Day 25, we were all focused and full of energy to deploy on the exercise. Early in the morning weapons were issued, and kit was inspected. We patrolled 4 miles onto the Catterick training area, with a 20kg bergen load, to occupy our harbour location. After that, the recruits saw a demonstration of various fieldcraft skills. After a night of routine, the second day saw them conduct formative assessments in order to help them better their skills and to ensure they were at the standard for the summative assessments which would take place the following day. In No. 1 Half Company, 3 (Tobruk) Platoon was responsible for conducting assessments for target indication and individual fire and manoeuvre, whilst individual close quarter battle and judging



distances were conducted by 2 (Kandahar) Platoon. Stalking and pairs fire and manoeuvre was covered by 1 (Tigris) Platoon.

The third day was the pivotal part of the exercise as the summative assessments are a requirement which recruits need to pass in order to progress in their training. To challenge the recruits, No. 1 and No. 2 Half Company recruits swapped areas of operations and, in the interest of fairness, were assessed by the permanent staff from the other Half Company. The assessments were challenging and few of the recruits passed every stand first time. Considered and honest feedback from the permanent staff, ensured that in time all of the recruits achieved the standard required.

Following the summative assessments, section attack demonstrations were conducted using instructors from the Company, so that the Recruits could begin to understand the mechanics of the low-level tactics they will be employing in future exercises. The last day of the exercise included captured persons handling and casualty extraction. This was an exhausting period but a proud moment watching the recruits develop and perform what they have learnt up to this moment. Exercise INTRO 3 was very successful as all the trainees proved their learning, competence and understanding.









Gurkhas take up Public Duties in London

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

The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) and the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas have been on Public Duties in London for May and June 2022. Both units passed their 'Fit for Role' Inspections and have been conducting Guard Mounts at Buckingham Palace, St James' Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

Gurkhas from QOGLR last took to the Royal forecourts in front of thousands of tourists in 2019, but for many of the Gurkhas this will be their first experiences in the spotlight of the world-famous parades, seen by thousands every year.

In their distinctive uniforms with black accoutrements, khukuri's, highland brogues and traditional hats, the Gurkha's provide a stark contrast to the scarlet tunics and bearskins of the Guards Regiments often seen undertaking this activity.

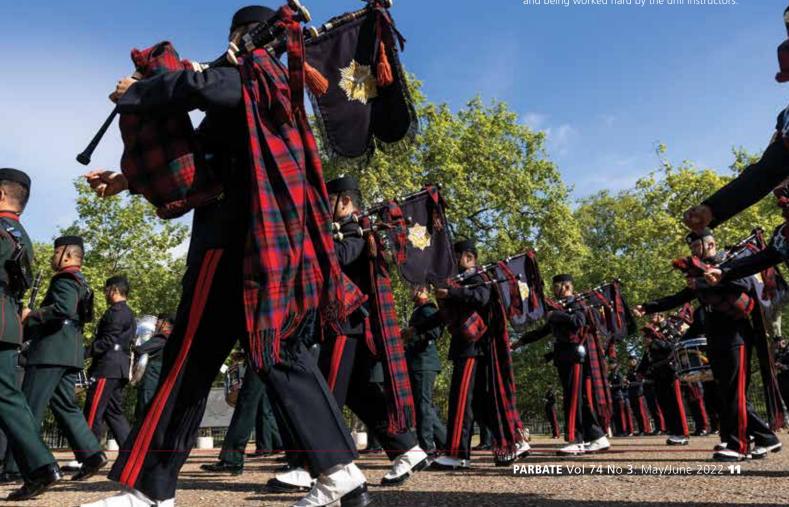


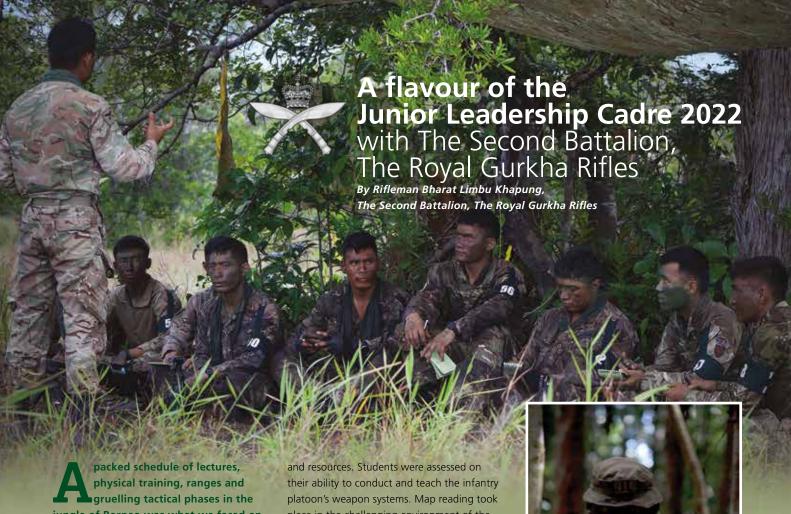


Musical support for many of the parades to be undertaken by QOGLR has been provided by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas including a section of Pipes and

The musicians prepared for this in April with an intense training session down in Shorncliffe under the direction of their newly appointed Director of Music Captain Esther Haves (Royal Corps of Army Music)

it is a childhood dream to one day guard The Queen, and now that dream has come true for a few of them. The soldiers know that it is a privilege, and worth the hours of shining shoes and being worked hard by the drill instructors





jungle of Borneo was what we faced on the seven-week Junior Leadership Cadre 2022 in Brunei.

80 personnel were lucky to be selected to attend the cadre. Our company moved to Penanjong Camp for three weeks focusing on the Army Leadership Development Programme for Lance Corporals, the skills at arms qualification, battle exercise and range safety, and infantry section tactics. During those seven weeks we attended assessments on conducting presentations, conduct on battle exercises, command tasks and map reading.

The command tasks assessed our ability to think under the pressure, create a plan and execute as a team within the limited time place in the challenging environment of the Brunei jungle, where we were evaluated on our route selection, briefing, and getting to the check points all within the time limitation. During this week our first physical assessment, the Soldier Conditioning Review, took place.

The tactical phase of the course was challenging as it took place in the Close Country Tropical Environment of the jungle. Every one of us was assessed on six appointments as Section Commander as well as Section Second In Command on various missions including Hasty Attack, Ambush, Recce and Platoon Operations. The addition of an urban phase also brought a new challenge to the cadre.

The cadre has help to mold us into junior leaders and to assume our first leadership roles. We were taught the characters of a leader and the knowledge we need to lead.





75th Queen's Gurkha Engineers Training Party Attestation Parade

he 75th Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE) Training Party Attestation Parade took place on the 1st of April 2022. The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier John Clark CBE was the reviewing Officer, with the event taking place at 36 Engineer Regiment, Invicta Barracks, Kent. A total of 52 QGE Sappers took the Oath under the Queen's Gurkha Engineers' Flag.

Awards for the 75th Training Party:

- Top Combat Engineer Student Sapper Umesh Moktan
- Top Academic Student Sapper Milan GC













Dignitaries mark The Queen's Green Canopy Initiative in Nepal

By Mr Gaurav Chandra Gurung, British Gurkhas Nepal



er Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal, Her Excellency Nicola Pollitt, Defence Attaché Colonel Paul Smith and Deputy Commander British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) Lieutenant Colonel Simon Townsend, along with Dr Buddi Sagar Poudel, Director General Department of Plants and Resources Nepal and Dr Mark Watson, Head of Major Floras, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh marked The Queen's Green Canopy initiative in Nepal.

The dignitaries kickstarted a programme at the National Botanical Garden, Nepal by planting the Nepali Holi tree 'Punwale' (Aquifoliaceae). They were joined by other guests who helped plant 70 saplings at the site.

The serving members, dependents and civilian staff of British Gurkhas Nepal were among the guests at the programme.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". The event also ties into the historic tree planting that her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II conducted in 1986 at the National Botanical Garden.

















Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE

visits the Queen's Gurkha Signals

By Corporal Sanam Ghale, Queen's Gurkha Signals.

ieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas visited 30th Signal Regiment, Regimental Headquarters of the Queen's Gurkha Signals (QG SIGNALS) on the 7th of March 2022. This was his first visit to the home of the QG SIGNALS.

On his arrival, he was welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Simon Smith (Commander QG SIGNALS), Major Amrit Gurung (Gurkha Major QG SIGNALS), Warrant Officer Class One Pandu Tamang (Regimental Sergeant Major QG SIGNALS) and other key personalities of the Regiment. He then spent the morning expanding his knowledge on the

Regiment, its roles and responsibilities. He acknowledged how busy the Regiment is, whether it be exercises or numerous operational deployments around the world.

A traditional Gurkha cuisine was served for lunch where he was joined by other key personalities and a team of four young bhaiharu performed a Khukuri dance. The General then visited the Gurkha Temple.

The final phase was a presentation of Operational Service Medals to all the personnel who had recently returned from their operational deployments. 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron has a total of four operational commitments: Operation TANGHAM (Somalia), Operation NEWCOMBE LRRG (Mali), Operation TURUS (Chad and Nigeria).







Exercise KHUKURI LEGACY

Experiencing the history of our forefathers during the Gallipoli campaign

By Corporal Shekhar Gurung and Lance Corporal Min Bahadur Gurung, Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas.

the 24th of April 2022, 11 serving personnel from Headquarters
Brigade of Gurkhas and two serving personnel from Gurkha Company (Sittang) deployed on a battlefield study to the Gallipoli Peninsula supported by Paul Harris, an academic from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and Bill Sellars an expert on the Gallipoli Campaign. The aim of the exercise was to get an indepth understanding of the Gallipoli Campaign and develop the Headquarters understanding of the conceptual and moral components of fighting power.



The first day was spent travelling to our destination by taking a four-hour flight from London to Istanbul, a long road journey to Eceabat and a ferry to Çanakkale. The trip gave mesmerising panoramic views of Çanakkale from the sea at night as we approached our final destination.

We started our Gallipoli campaign journey by attending the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Z beach (also known as ANZAC Cove) to commemorate all those who lost their lives in the campaign, who shall never be forgotten. The service itself was spectacular and contained recorded accounts of the campaign by veterans as well as a digeridoo performance and a traditional M ori haka; all set to the backdrop of dawn over the sea. After the heart touching service, we headed to Achi Baba which was the main objective for Allied forces on the first day of the landings in 1915. This is where we learned more about the war and reason to occupy this hilltop objective which was considered vital ground. Then we moved to V beach where our guide Bill, an Australian journalist who lives on the peninsular, explained how thousands of British troops had tried to occupy the beach but encountered heavy resistance from a little over 100 Turkish soldiers due to accurate fire control and discipline. After hearing about

the heavy allied losses, we went to Helles Memorial where we saw the names of our forefathers from 4th, 5th, 6th and 10th Gurkha Rifles and laid the wreath with our outmost admiration.

The next day was emotional as well as exciting as we learnt more about the Gurkhas' involvement in the Gallipoli Campaign. It was explained how the 6th Gurkha Rifles traversed up Gully Spur which is now known as Gurkha Bluff. I felt proud when we learnt how 6th Gurkha Rifles assembled 300 feet below the bluff, climbed up at dawn and captured the coast west of Kritiha advancing the front line 500 yards under heavy fire from the Turkish forces. The courage, skill and ingenuity of the soldiers and officers of 6th Gurkha Rifles saw them take more ground than any other unit at this stage in the campaign whilst taking minimal casualties.







On the third day, we returned to ANZAC Cove and took the arduous hill route taken by the ANZAC soldiers whilst attempting to capture their objectives. Walking the route and seeing the steep cliffs added a level of reality to the tour giving a new appreciation for what the solders went through.

On the fourth day, we went to Sari Bair ridge, where the final operation, the August Offensive took place. The New Zealand and Australian Division, 13th British Division and 29th Indian Brigade were involved in battle of Sari Bair. The plan of attack was thoroughly explained by Bill, and we walked the route

of their manoeuvre. I was interesting to hear about the difficulties of communication and command and talk about how we would overcome those problems today. We then visited the site where the 6th Gurkha Rifles had briefly taken the Q hill, earning the battle honour that the RGR proudly display today.

It was exciting to learn about the bravery of our forefathers by visiting the ground they fought and died on. It was a real privilege to gain an appreciation of the situation they found themselves in, the commitment and determination they showed, and ultimately the sacrifices they made.





1

Surrender to the wind to ride it

By Musician Deksan Rai, The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas





Parachuting is one of the most extreme adventurous training activites you can undertake, and we were very







excited to have this opportunity. The instructors were very experienced, they taught us about the theoretical side of parachuting, and coping strategies to overcome our fears.

During our course we managed to complete six jumps, and we now are all looking forward to taking on the advanced level PFT course at some point in the future.





The 3rd Gurkha Rifles Scroll British Gurkha Welfare Society

By Major (Retd) Tikendra Dal Dewan JP, Chairman Brigade of Gurkhas Welfare Society

he British Gurkha Welfare Society (BGWS) shares a warm affinity with the 3rd Gorkha Rifles through the Chairman Major (Retd) Tikendra Dal Dewan JP and his classmate Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Vikram Sing Verma whose father the late Major General T S Verma PVSM commanded the Battalion and was also the Colonel of the Regiment.

Added further by an excellent link with Colonel Nitin Thapa younger brother of Mrs Rosy Thapa wife of Warrant Officer Class Two (Retd) Tara Chandra Thapa. Colonel Thapa commanded the 2/3 Gurkha Rifles and it has now been announced he is to receive the Sena Medal - "Awarded for such individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage as have special significance for the Army."

This relationship was brought closer when BGWS handed over a scroll to the Regiment which was presented to the Society many years ago by a British family who had found it in their attic. As per the photo it may seem like any scroll but luckily behind the frame a typed script which reads as follows, says otherwise:

"This fire screen was designed and worked in Butschwil, St Gallen, by E.N.M. who was in Switzerland from March 1944 to October 1944, having escaped from an Italian Prisoner of War (POW) camp in September 1943. The design is based on the regimental badge of the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles, supported by the crests of the GRAY family (the scaling ladder) and the MUMFORD family (the wild cat)."

The lettering is as follows:

DEIE-EL-SHEIN - where Charles Edward Gray and E.N.M were captured in the Western Desert.

CHIETI - the Italian P.O.W. Camp where both spent the winter of 1942.

VEANO - the P.O.W. Camp for senior offers where C.E.G. went in Spring 1943.

FONTANELLATO - where E.N.M. went in early Summer 1943, meeting C.E.G there, and from where they escaped in September 1943.

SWITZERLAND - where they met again in Spring 1944.

BGWS realised the historical value this scroll carried and felt it was only appropriate to present it to the Regiment. There was an exchange of emails between the Chair and his friend when COVID took over, then out of the blue the Chair received an email from Major Jai Sing 2/3 Gurkha Rifles: "We all were very delighted to know about the scroll of Brigadier CE Gray and Major Mumford of 2/3 Gurkha Rifles, Due to the COVID scenario we couldn't go ahead with the collection of the same.

Luckily at present Mrs Pooja Chowdhary, wife of Colonel Shreekant Amdoskar Commanding Officer 2/3 Gurkha Rifles, is undergoing her higher studies at University of Sussex. Mrs Pooja will be travelling back to India on 4th April. So we hope that we are able to see it in person and give it a special place in our officers mess.

I am attaching extracts from our Regimental History, (1941-1943), This will give an insight about the Battalion and its work in North Africa and How the Battalion was overrun by the German Tanks and at the time how Lieutenant Colonel Gray, Captain Mumford with 200 Gurkhas became POW and the ordeal they had to undergo. If you are in touch with the family members of Brigadier Grey and Captain Mumford, it would be our pleasure to connect with them as well. On Behalf of the Battalion and all Veterans would like to thank you for making us aware of this history and being gracious enough to hand over this historical artefact back to the Battalion."



The scroll now came to life and every word therein now had a meaning and the characters mentioned too came alive. The Chair immediately contacted Mrs Pooja Amdoskar (now Chowdhary) and on 1st April 2022 handed over this small treasure back to the Regiment. Mrs Amdoskar was received by the Chair and his wife Mrs Milan Dewan, this was followed by a small reception at the Gurkha Bhawan where the presentation had been organised.

Following this they then drove to visit Kulbir Thapa VC's statue at Aldershot where Mrs Amdoskar lay a 'khata' on behalf of the 3rd Gorkhas, I am sure a day to rejoice as Kulbir Thapa is not only the first Gurkha VC recipient (1915) but from the same battalion and Regiment ie. 2/3 Gorkha Rifles. The second VC recipient too hails from 2/3 Gurkha Rifles, Karnabahadur Rana VC. Mrs Pooja Amdoskar too is the first 2/3rd to visit the only statue of the first Gurkha VC recipient and from her battalion. Another chapter in the history of the 2/3rd Gorkhas. The programme ended in true Gurkha/Gorkha tradition - momos for lunch!





Charity Doko Race and Fun Run with the Mission Ready Training Centre

By Colour Sergeant Nabin Rai, Mission Ready Training Centre









charity Doko race and fun run was held at the Mission Ready Training Centre (MRTC) at Bassingbourn Barracks, organised by Colour Sergeant Nabin Rai from The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The aim was to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) and MRTC Welfare Fund and promote team cohesion. The event included a brief on how Gurkhas are selected, which gave the participants a better understanding of Gurkhas and the history of the Doko race and its place within Gurkha soldier selection programme.

MRTC is a family unit with personnel from many different capbadges across the Army and the event would not have been successful without support from Unit Headquarters, especially the Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One O'Neill. Sergeant Shankar Magar (Acting Overall In Charge) and our serving Gurkha team also worked tirelessly to deliver it. Participants included military staff and civil servants.

Colour Sergeant Gillies (Scots) added theatre to the event with his beautiful bagpipe music and the great weather provided the icing on the cake. With support from participants, their friends and family, a total of £1142 was raised for GWT and £231 for MRTC. We also managed to support the Gurkha Museum by purchasing 54 miniature Khukuris which were presented to each participant. Commander MRTC has directed that this should become an annual fixture in the Unit calendar.















- 1. Congratulations to Lance Corporal Ashim Gurung (1 RGR), Lance Corporal Lekha Bahadur Gurung (1 RGR), Lance Corporal Prabesh Gurung (1 RGR), Lance Corporal Kumar Chemjong (2 RGR) for all achieving Instructor Commendations on the Section Commanders' Battle Course 2103 Tactics Phase.
- 2. 10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment planted a tree for The Queen's Green Canopy Initiative in Aldershot.
- **3.** Private Yubraj Budha Magar of the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment was awarded first place in a conmbined bugling competition during his recent class 3 drummer course at the Army School of Bagpipes and Highland Drumming.
- 4. Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas presenting a 4* commendation to Major Amrit Gurung, Gurkha Major Queen's Gurkha Signals.
- 5. Rifleman Pawan Gurung from Infantry Battle School has been awarded the Best Rifleman of the Year for his exemplary service. He was involved heavily as a assistant commander of the COVID-19 isolation facility and organised a charity event to support the people of Sindulpalchowk who were severely affected by a monsoon flood.
- **6.** Warminster Garrison and Gurkha Company (Tavoleto) personnel planted a Tibetan Cherry tree for the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

- 7. Congratulations to Corporal Rohit Budha (The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles) on achieving Instructor Commendation on the Platoon Sergeant's' Battle Course (PSBC) 2103 Tactics Phase. Corporal Rohit Budha and Corporal Sameer Gurung were also awarded best supportive students for their display of teamwork throughout the course.
- **8.** Sergeant Shankar Magar and Colour Sergeant Ratna Gharti Magar currently assigned to the Mission Ready Training Centre, completed the Easter 50 challenge 2022 at Windsor race course.
- **9.** Major Hebindra Pun from the Queen's Gurkha Signals received a Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation Award from Admiral Sir Tim Fraser KCB ADC for his outstanding work as the Assistant Military Attaché for his work at the British Embassy Kathmandu during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Congratulations to Lance Corporal Binod Rai Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support who passed the All Arms Commando Course.
- 11. Distinctions awarded to Lance Corporal Pradip Dumi Rai (2 RGR), Lance Corporal Prabesh Gurung (1 RGR) and Lance Corporal Umesh Pun Magar (QOGLR) on the Section Commanders' Battle Course Skill at Arms phase.























Exercise OLGETTA WARRIOR 22,

Papua New Guinea

By Dagen Rai, The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

ervice personnel from The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (2 RGR) were deployed as a Mission Specific Training Team (MSTT) to deliver a seven-week training package for the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). The team delivered training alongside partners from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the US troops.

Exercise OLGETTA WARRIOR 22 (Ex OW22) was the name given to the pre-deployment training we would be delivering for 1 Royal Pacific Island Regiment (1 RPIR) of the PNGDF. Captain Sangam Rai (Second In Command, Support Company) was the Officer Commanding MSTT and seven other members of Support Company were deployed for this task.

The training started after an opening address from Australian Chief of Army Lieutenant General Nick Burr at 1 RPIR base at Taurama Barracks, Port Moresby. The training was focused on basic infantry tactics and stability operations. Training was organised and coordinated with combined tactics-based actions in order to refine basic skills and drills, particularly in communications, first aid, vehicle convoy contact drills, urban operations, vital asset protection, and riot control. The final exercise was a weeklong scenario-based exercise to test the troops' standards before their deployment to provide security to the Papua New Guinea (PNG) General Election.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, 1 RPIR used to conduct this level of training on a yearly basis to prepare their soldiers for deployment



on border security operations. Ex OW22 was a great opportunity to refresh their basic skills and drills with training delivered by skilled and experienced multinational troops.

Despite the intense training programme, the team from 2 RGR managed to visit some places of interest in Port Moresby including the Bomana War Cemetery, the National Museum, the Sogeri hydropower station, and the Kokoda Trail, a 96km long trail, where Allied Forces fought against the Japanese during the Second World War.

As part of British Forces Brunei's enduring defence engagement in the Indo-Pacific region, Ex OW22 offered excellent opportunities to deploy individuals for their personal and professional development as well as helping to strengthen our ties with the UK's allies in the region.











1 Signal Brigade Commander Brigadier PRD Muir MBE visit to 30 Signal Regiment

By Corporal Shanteshwor Pun, Queen's Gurkha Signals

UK) Signal Brigade Commander,
Brigadier PRD Muir MBE visited
30 Signal Regiment on the 1st of
March 2022. The visit started with a
physical training session with 244 Signal
Squadron followed by an office call and
a presentation about the Queen's Gurkha
Signals (QG SIGNALS) at the Himali club
by Major Amrit Gurung (Gurkha Major).



Later in the afternoon, the Brigade
Commander presented the Long Service and
Good Conduct medals to six service personnel
and two other awards in the Warrant Officers
and Sergeants Mess. The medal ceremony
was attended by the Squadron Officer
Commanding and other head of departments
within the Regiment along with the family
members of the personnel receiving the
medals. The Brigade Commander expressed
his gratitude to all the recipients and thanked
them for their service.

The Regiment took the opportunity to share their experience of Operation TEAMWORK, to the Chief Of Staff, Brigade Commander and the Brigade Sergeant Major. Finally, the visit was concluded by presenting General Service Medals to serving personnel by the Brigade Commander.





Queen's Gurkha Engineers plant trees in support of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative (Overleaf)





By Corporal Deviram Rai, Queen's Gurkha Engineers

o commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a team of 12 serving personnel from 50 Headquarters and Support Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE) took part in a community tree plantation programme on Saturday the 12th of March 2022. This activity took place at the Young Peoples' Forest, associated with the Woodland Trust Foundation in Derbyshire. The aim was to plant as many trees as we could within the allocated time.

The allocated time for the team was between 1000hrs - 1200hrs. On our arrival at the plantation site, we were greeted with a warm woollen hat (with a Woodland Trust logo), big smiles and a handshake by Mr Simon our point of contact at the venue. Mr Simon's father had also served with the Royal Engineers.

Mr Simon allocated us 500 tree saplings and said, "Please return the plants that you couldn't plant within your allocated time." It was perhaps, a wrong statement for a group of enthusiastic soldiers. That's when we as a team decided to set our goal for the day, not to return a single sapling but instead plant all those 500 as quickly as we can and ask for more.

Within those 2hrs we managed to plant the following

- Team Staff Sergeant Paban Thapa: 70 Hazel trees
- Team Staff Sergeant Rabin Thapa: 320 Dog Rose trees
- Team Corporal Devi Ram Rai: 246 Dog Rose trees

A total of 636 trees, 136 more than Mr Simon thought we were capable of.

A further two Magnolia trees were planted at Invicta Park Barracks in the presence of the Commandant QGE Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hendry MBE and the Gurkha Major Kamal Bahadur Khapung Limbu MVO on 21st March 2022 making it total of 638 trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



The Gurkhas key role in the Falklands War in 1982

Mr Doug Henderson, Collections Officer, Gurkha Museum





Tith the outbreak of hostilities in April 1982 the 1st Battalion of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles prepared for potential deployment to the Falkland Islands as part of the 5 Infantry Brigade. By the 12th of May the Battalion was ready to deploy and the men (alongside four members of 541 Troop of the Queen's Gurkha Signals) were piped aboard the QE2 ocean liner at Southampton docks.

For the next three weeks the soldiers kept fit and active despite their cramped surroundings, training under a programmed of 'Tactical Exercises Without Land'.

By the end of May 1982, the QE2 liner had arrived in the South Atlantic and the 650 men of the 1st/7th Gurkhas disembarked at San Carlos before moving to Goose Green. Once there the Gurkhas set to cleaning up the combat debris left behind by earlier fighting and guard some 500 Argentinian prisoners of war. These prisoners were initially terrified of their new guards, as earlier British press photographs of Gurkha soldiers had been used by the Argentinian military as anti-Gurkha propaganda.

Once the Argentinian prisoners had been processed the Gurkhas began a series of short, sharp patrols by helicopter. By the 10th of June the Gurkhas had moved east towards Port Stanley and the 5 Brigade's battle plans were formed, planning to attack the features of Mt. Tumbledown and Mt. William. By this point the Battalion was close enough to the Argentinian positions to come under artillery fire and on the 11th of June four members of 'B' Company were evacuated with shrapnel wounds.

The Battalion advanced east along the north flank of Mt. Tumbledown on the morning of the 14th of June. Delays meant that the advance occurred in daylight past a minefield and a further eight casualties were caused by Argentinian mortar and artillery fire. Eventually the leading 'A' Company reached the eastern tip of Mt. Tumbledown, but were held up by Argentinian sniper fire for a time, delaying their planned swing south towards Mt. William. 'D' Company moved forward towards Mt. William but found that, instead of facing them, the Argentinian forces broke and either retreated towards Port Stanley or surrendered to the Scots Guards nearby. It is

believed that this retreat was in part caused by the fearsome reputation of the Gurkhas.

Shortly afterward the Argentinian forces surrendered, ending the Falklands War. The Gurkhas returned to Goose Green to help with the large-scale clean-up operation which occurred. It was at this point that the Battalion suffered its only fatal casualty. Lance-Corporal Budhaprasad Limbu was killed whilst working on filling in trenches when his spade struck and set off a hidden grenade. Later in 1982 Corporal Krishnakumar Rai of the Queens Gurkha Engineers would also be killed whilst engaged in similar work.

For the next several weeks 5 Brigade remained on the Falklands to help clean up the post-war chaos before sailing to Southampton. On the 9th of August the 1st Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles marched through the town of Fleet to a warm and welcome reception, exactly 90 days after they left.







A life transformed through rehabilitation support from the Gurkha Welfare Trust

From bedridden to independent

Kalu Gurung is the son of late Rifleman Padam Bahadur Gurung of 4/2 Gurkha Rifles. He lives in the small village of Bansar in Lamjung. Kalu's father was recruited into the British Army in 1940 and discharged six years later without a pension. He subsequently received a monthly pension from The Gurkha Welfare Trust, which enabled him to support his wife and seven children. After Padam's death in 2001, the pension was transferred to his widow, but she sadly passed away in 2006. Kalu has been unable to hear or speak since birth and as he was unable to earn a living on his own, GWT continued to support him by providing him with a monthly Disability Support Grant.

A lifeline for Kalu and his family

Kalu is looked after by his elder brother, Nandas Rai who is dependent on subsistence farming for an income. Both Kalu and my youngest brother, Aita Sing were born deaf.

"Our father had registered Kalu and Aita Sing with The GWT as 'disabled' so I put forward an application for Disability Support Grant which was duly approved. This is a lifeline for Kalu and the whole family too. He is not able to earn a living and we, being poor, would find it very difficult to provide him with continuous support. I do not have a stable source of income so supporting Kalu and Aita Sing would be very difficult. Whatever GWT provides lessens the burden on me too."

Kalu used to live in a small shed made of wood and CGI sheet. His health condition started deteriorating about two years back. He became weak and was unable to walk. We had to carry him to the toilet. The mobile nurse at the GWT Welfare Centre in Lamjung recommended that he be checked upon by a physiotherapist. When the physiotherapist came to visit him here, it was discussed that he should be taken to Pokhara for further treatment.

Learning to walk again

In April 2021, 71-year-old Kalu was admitted to our Residential Home in Kaski for rehabilitation. During his stay at the home we provided continuous care and support, focusing on nutrition, hygiene, exercise and therapy. Kalu loved getting involved in social activities with other residents at the home. His health improved, he was able to move around with the help of a walker, eat by







Kalu is delighted with his new home

While Kalu was in care we commenced construction of a new earthquake-resilient home for him. The design was adapted to take into account his disability, with railings around the house and in the rooms so that he can easily walk around. When the house was ready, Kalu was able to return to his village and his new home.

Nandas Rai expressed his thanks for the life-changing support his brother received from The GWT. "I would like to thank the British people and everyone involved for helping out my brother who is physically challenged. My family and the whole village is very happy and are appreciative of the help given to us. On behalf of my family and me personally too, many many 'Dhanyabad' (thanks)!"

himself, and regained his bowel and bladder control. It was a long journey, but after eleven months of rehabilitation, Kalu was fit enough to return home.

His family members and the whole village were stunned by the improvement in his health.

"We had thought it was very unlikely that he would recover, I had thought he was not coming back when the GWT team came to pick him up. But, on the day when he returned and I saw him walk, I was very happy! I was amazed to see the recovery and transformation that the team was able to make."





Personnel Spotlight मुख्य आकर्षण

Captain E E Hayes (nee Freeborn) Director of Music, The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas

aptain Esther Hayes was born in Coventry in 1976, fostering an early enjoyment of music by learning the flute and piano. Whilst studying music at university she joined the Volunteer Warwickshire Band of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, an Army Reserve Band. After realising the worth of a full-time role as an army musician, she applied to join the Regular Army, receiving sponsorship during her degree.

She completed her initial Phase 1 training at the Army Training Regiment Winchester, arriving at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall in January 1999. She was awarded a Cousins Memorial Parchment in recognition of her high levels of performance.

After an assignment to The Band of the Royal Corp of Signals, she was successfully selected for a place on the prestigious Bandmaster's Course at the Royal Military School of Music in 2003.

As a Bandmaster, she has completed assignments with the Bands of the Parachute Regiment, The Life Guards and The Queen's Division, as well as the esteemed role as School Bandmaster at The Royal Military School of Music. Her most notable achievement was a deployment to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul mentoring an Afghan Officer in lesson development and maintenance, as well as managing 64 Afghan interpreters.

Whilst working at Headquarters Regional Bands as the Operations Officer, she achieved the highly coveted Fellowship of the Royal



Schools of Music in Conducting, qualifying her to select for commission. On commission Captain Hayes took up the new appointment of Senior Instructor Subsequent Trade Training at The Royal Military School of Music, the focal point for Bandmaster training and Subsequent Trade Training for the Royal Corps of Army Music. Although this involved the sad move from Kneller Hall, she contributed to settling into the new home at Gibraltar Barracks, very much embedded with the Royal School of Military Engineering.

Captain Hayes was assigned as Director of Music of the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas in April 2022. She enjoys spending her spare time with her husband Michael and his son Aidan at their home in Dorset and the family like to take adventures on their Himalayan motorbikes, exploring the British countryside.



Exercise SANGEET SARGAM 2

10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Pipes and Drums

The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) Pipes **L U**and Drums deployed on Exercise SANGEET SARGAM 2, a training exercise at the Army School of Bagpipes and Highland Drumming, Edinburgh between the 3rd and 8th of April.

for when called upon, be that it support to operations, UK engagement or ceremonial duties.

A hugely important training camp to ensure the team remain ready



By Captain Kevin McLeod, 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

A special thanks to Major Gordon Rowan for allowing the team to use the excellent facilities, Corporal Roman Rai for facilitating and assisting the team, and Corporal Lokraj Limbu, 28 Squadron QOGLR, for organising the training.







Brigade Pipes and Drums concentration training 2022

he Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas conducted a Brigade
Pipes and Drums concentration training period in April
2022. This is an annual event to enhance and develop
the musical side of the Brigade's Pipes and Drums.

The training was highly successful and a productive week for forthcoming events as the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Pipes and Drums (QOGLR) are involved with the Band on public duties in London. This event was the first training event undertaken by the new Director of Music for the Band, Captain Esther Hayes (Royal Corps of Army Music).

This year Rifleman Dev Gurung (The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles) and Lance Corporal Nabin Magar (QOGLR) were awarded the most improved pipers in the Brigade.









amecock Barracks
Platinum Jubilee
Woodland is a project
being delivered in Gamecock
Barracks to mark Her Majesty's
Platinum Jubilee and improve
the environment for those
living and using the barracks.

As its inaugural plantation
Colonel David Robinson (Colonel
Brigade of Gurkhas (Col BG)),
Lieutenant Colonel S Smith
(Commanding Officer 30 Signal
Regiment), Major Amrit Kumar
Gurung (Gurkha Major, Queen's
Gurkha Signals), representatives
from the unit families and civil
servants planted some young trees
during the official visit made by
Col BG.

Gamecock Barracks Platinum Jubilee Woodland

Queen's Gurkha Signals

By Captain Subaraj Sunuwar, Queen's Gurkha Signals







गोर्खाली समाचार

The handover and takeover of the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) for 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) has taken place. QOGLR and the Brigade of Gurkhas would like to thank Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) (RSM) Madam Rana for his outstanding service to the Regiment. We wish him and his family the very best of luck in the future. WO1 (RSM) Rajkumar Gurung has taken over, and the Regiment look forward to the leadership, experience and knowledge that he brings to this important role.



embers of the Adjutant General's Corps (AGC) currently serving with British Forces Brunei (Staff and Personnel Support, Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support, Royal Military Police, Army Welfare Services, Educational and Training Services, Army Legal Services) commemorated the AGC 30th Anniversary under the direction and command of Regimental Administrative Officer British Forces Brunei (RAO BFB), Major Anil Gurung and coordinated by Sergeant Mimlal Thapa.

Phase one of the celebrations included a three-day physical training activity led by newly qualified Army physical training instructor, Lance Corporal Paras Gurung. This incorporated a 10km beach run, 10km cycling and rowing task, and a 10km bergen march. This all took place in the vicinity of the Tuker Lines camp area covering 30km in total to represent the 30 years.

Phase two saw the AGC members deployed on Exercise ULU TEMBURONG CANOPY WARRIOR, a packaged tour to the Canopy Walkway of the Ulu Temburong National Park. The team travelled to the Freme Rainforest Lodge and then a boat ride of 45min to the starting point of the Temburong National Park. A thousand steps uphill hike was waiting for the team prior to arriving at the Canopy Walkway. Everyone managed to get to the top to enjoy the magnificent canopy view of plant life covering Brunei's large landscape where the trees were seen to be meeting the clouds above due to their substantial heights.

Phase three was a social evening for the AGC personnel and invited guests from the Garrison at Brunei Signal Troop Community Centre. The highlight of the evening was a piper playing a birthday song while RAO



BFB and the VIP guests cut the cake. A short video to capture all events over the last four days which was played for all to enjoy. As part of the entertainment, Privates Sandip Gurung and Suraj Sinthan performed a spectacular Kukuri Dance which was really fascinating to watch including Private Suraj exhibiting his Taekwondo skills.

The commemoration and celebration of the AGC's 30th anniversary has given a new prospect to unite the Army's reflection on culture, conduct and coordination by introducing the concept of mutual collaboration across all positions equally within the AGC. This occasion has been rewarding and a unique opportunity for all AGC personnel in station to come together as a team, enhance esprit de corps and reflect on the AGC's 30th landmark anniversary.





he British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN)
Commander's Cup 2022 was held
between 6th and 7th May 2022 in
British Gurkhas Pokhara (BGP).

This annual sports event between teams from BGN (Kathmandu) and BGP (Pokhara) saw eager and competitive participation from both military and civilian personnel, taking part in volleyball, basketball and football matches. The Green Team from Kathmandu were the eventual winners, securing the Cup with an overall top score from all the events. Team A from Pokhara, Team Red from Kathmandu, and Team B from Pokhara came second, third and fourth respectively.

A fantastic event and one that enables the personnel from Kathmandu and Pokhara in Nepal to come together, compete, have some fun and build team cohesion. Well done to all that took part.



British Gurkhas Nepal Commander's Cup 22







Tri-Adventure Race, Nepal

by Mr Gaurav Chandra Gurung, Communications Officer, British Gurkhas Nepal

Pritish Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) entered two teams in the COAS Tri-Adventure Competition in May 2022. The event saw teams of two navigate Jomsom, Mustang by climbing 100m, running 4.75km, and cycling 15.35km. Teams had to complete the course in the 2.5hrs time period. Altogether 24 teams, including 20 from Nepal and four invited from international armies participated in the men's category with four female teams included. Both of the pair needed to complete all three race disciplines to successfully complete the event.

Prior to the race, a training schedule was put in place to acclimatise and familiarise participants with the route. The training took place in Jomsom, which lies at approximately 2700m above sea level. A basic medical assessment was conducted to check participants were acclimatised and were fit to compete.



The top three teams in the men's and women's categories won monetary prizes distributed by Nepal's Chief of Army Staff and all the participating teams were awarded certificates. The BGN Adventure Racing Team trained and participated in the COAS Tri-Adventure Race to enhance unit cohesion and support defence engagement in Nepal.



Gurkha Wing (Mandalay) families' educational visit to the Gurkha Museum

By Mrs Rosie Gurung Rana, Gurkha Wing (Mandalay)

n April, families from Gurkha Wing (Mandalay) visited the Gurkha Museum in Winchester. The visit comprised of a briefing delivered by a curator on the formation of Gurkha Regiments, involvement, and the bravery shown by the Gurkha soldiers in the First and Second World Wars, Malayan Emergency, Borneo Confrontation, and present-day operations.

It also highlighted the sacrifices made by some of the bravest men in history. The final phase of the day was a visit to the stunning Hillier Garden, which was 10 minutes walking distance from the museum. Here we spent some beautiful moments close to nature, some of us were really overwhelmed by the visit and bought some plants to remember the day.



On the way home the kids were still fascinated with the Gurkha history and talked about what they had learned.



British Gurkhas Nepal say goodbye to some long serving staff



British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) (Kathmandu) said farewell to senior civilian staff members Mr Sanjor Pariyar and Mr Ram Bahadur Tamang on 22nd of April 2022. Mr Sanjok served for 31 years with BGN. Similarly, Mr Ram had a remarkable of 20 years service with BGN.

On 12th May 2022, BGN then said farewell to another civilian staff member Mrs Jamuna Gurung. After serving for more than 12 years as a core staff at BGN's Gurkha Settlement Office. This office supports the Gurkha veterans and families in their UK settlement processes and acts as the official liaison point for UK visas and immigration for the British Gurkha community.





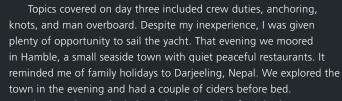
Queen's Gurkha Engineers

By Sapper Munafen Eakten, Queen's Gurkha Engineers

was travelling between Chatham and Maidstone when I received a call from Staff Sergeant Guruji who asked if I was interested in attending a week of sailing adventure training in the Solent. Why not I thought? Having only seen videos of yachting in the Mediterranean, I assumed this competent crew course would be a piece of cake.

We departed our barracks early on a chilly morning, unsure what to expect. We were welcomed by our Troop Commander when we reached Gosport. Our course kicked off with a short brief on crew duties and immediate actions. We took to the water and began finding our feet with various mooring drills.

The next morning, we found our yacht heavily keeled over, impressive considering the yacht was roughly the size and weight of a large truck. Huge waves rocked the boat as we sailed upwind. Salty sea water splashed from the bow to our cold dry faces at the stern. I was glad to be inexperienced as this meant I only had to focus on the ropes, leaving the steering to the day skippers. On arrival in Southampton Village Marina, we cooked up some food and settled down for an early night on board our new home.



The next day, we had planned to sail to Isle of Wight, but unfortunately our trip was cut short by the arrival of Storm Eunice. This was a brilliant experience in spite of the wind and steep learning curve. It made me feel in tune with nature and gave me an appreciation of the hard work required to sail a yacht. I highly recommend the competent crew course to others in the Brigade of Gurkhas.







personnel from 250 Gurkha
Signal Squadron took part in the
Leicestershire Half Marathon. This event
was led by Corporal Shanteshwor Pun
and Lance Corporal Ganesh Chand to raise
charity for the Royal Signals Charity and
the Queen's Gurkha Signals Association.



The Leicestershire Half Marathon is an annual charity event for Macmillan Cancer Support organised by "Run-through".

Despite the Squadron being at R2 readiness and personnel being engaged on various commitments, every participant was very enthusiastic and had trained hard for the event.

Participants were released on a basis of their predicted timings. Most of us were aiming for times of 1hr 30min – 1hr 45min finish. With the start of the count down, our pulse started to race with excitement and pride augmented by the fact we were doing this for two wonderful charities. The route was an interesting mix of undulating ground with loose gravel paths at the start, followed by sections on country roads, the airfield, racetrack, and some inclines followed by immediate declines.

Among 27 personnel who participated in the event, Corporal Funghang took the lead with exemplary time of 1hr 38mins.

This event wasn't just a marathon, it also allowed us to get together as a team, foster our friendship and team cohesion. We successfully managed to raise £777 for the Royal Signals Charity and £333 for the Queens' Gurkha Signals Association.





Course (SNLC) of the year assembled in British Gurkhas
Pokhara (BGP) on 7th March 2022 for what was to be a fantastic three-month course. With 18 Officers from across the Brigade of Gurkhas, and two Officers from Singaporean Police Force Gurkha Contingent, the course was the biggest to date, and British Gurkhas Pokhara was full of chadke young Sahebharu keen to get to grips with Nepali language and culture.

Unfortunately the language did not prove easy, and the question of "chha", "ho" or "hunchha" left us scratching our heads.

Nonetheless, the lessons were well delivered by Captain Dirgha KC Saheb and his team of Gurujiharu, all of whom managed to withstand our constant barrage of questions about Nepali grammar. Slowly but surely, we found our confidence, and soon enough we were convincingly haggling down taxi drivers and shopkeepers alike.

To supplement the language learning, there were numerous other insights into the life of a Gurkha, which included the infamous Doko run. Assembling on a humid morning at 0500hrs near BGP, the students gave their all to get up 5.8km of hill with a traditional Nepali Doko on their back and head). Lieutenant Will Rutter of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers left a dust cloud behind him when stormed off straight to the front, coming it an impressive 37mins 33secs.



By Lieutenant Alan Cousins, The First Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

A highlight of the trip was our visit to the Area Welfare Centres (AWC) around the country, whose function is to provide support to Gurkha veterans and their dependents. Trekking out to the villages and seeing the routine of those who live so far from the cities was eye-opening, and gave us some indication about how different life can be. It was also a fantastic opportunity to learn about some of our Brigade history from those who had made it, and a good way to test our new found Nepali. We were also particularly impressed, if not humbled, by the numerous didiharu we saw, who were carrying dokos double the size of ours, at double the weight and double the age! The AWC trip also included some hands-on experience of Nepali culture, where some of us were put to work in a vegetable shop. It was a great way to get to know some local families, while simultaneously expanding our now considerable vegetable vocabulary.

In our free time, we kept busy exploring Nepal, trekking to Annapurna Base Camp and Mardi Himal and white-water rafting in Lamjung. We were also challenged by the locally employed civilians in BGP to a game of football and cricket. Showing true Nepali spirit, they drew with us on the former and defeated us on the latter, leaving us with our tails between our legs and a newfound respect for them all. However, the first ever SNLC water volleyball team remained undefeated, with a world tour planned in the near future.

The course was been a fantastic experience, with many new memories made and connections formed across the Brigade and beyond. Our language ability has come on in leaps and bounds, as has our understanding of the journey our incredible soldiers make into the British Army. It has made us even prouder to call ourselves Gurkha officers





MBE for Gurkha from 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment



Congratulations to Captain Vivek Jung Shah MBE, 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR), who was officially presented The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire medal by HRH The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Logistic Corps, on the 5th of April.

Captain Vivek was awarded the honour for 'his profound contribution to the wider Nepalese culture' in his town during his time with Abingdon-based 60 Close Support Squadron QOGLR, where he expertly delivered critical infrastructure projects and cultural changes within Abingdon Station. It was noted that this significantly improved soldiers' morale, a key element of the moral component of fighting power.

गोर्खाली समाचार





(Gallipoli) Company, The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (2 RGR) deployed on Exercise PACIFIC KHUKURI 22 (Ex PK22) in Australia. Supported by elements from Recce, Anti-tank, Machine Gun, Sniper, Mortar and Pioneer Platoons, as well as support elements from across British Forces Brunei (BFB), Ex PK22 was the largest overseas exercise 2 RGR has deployed on since 2019.

The exercise consisted of both live fire tactical training and the blank firing, beginning with section attacks by day and night and

The Second Battalion,
The Royal Gurkha Rifles

building up to a series of complex and dynamic company operations. The enemy objectives became increasingly elaborate throughout the exercise comprising of both jungle camps and shoot through facilities, to test both conventional tactics and compound clearance. Such challenging training in an austere rural environment meant the Company Group developed significantly and conducted training that simply cannot be delivered in Brunei. Key to the Exercise success was the close working relationship the Company generated with the Australian Defence Force (ADF), who supported the training throughout.

Commanding Officer 2 RGR, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Todd MBE, visited the Exercise to validate B Company's training prior to the Battalion's upcoming unit move and resubordination to 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team. The Exercise was designed to prepare B Company for their upcoming role and included urban operations, night operations and airfield defence serials that are the core skills required to operate effectively within the British Army's high readiness brigade.

Ex PK22 was a hugely memorable and successful exercise for all personal who took part. It's successful delivery, following two years of delays and setbacks, was a testament to the positivity and flexibility of Gurkha soldiers and the men and women of British Forces Brunei who made it happen.











he Pearl Island Cup is an annual badminton tournament organized by the Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE) for the families and children of QGE. Pearl Island was a married quarter area in Hong Kong which was the home of QGE for several decades. The Cup was initiated and presented by Ex Gurkha Major QGE, Major (Retd) Dhan Bahadur Chand and his wife Mrs Sunta Chand. It was first played in 2007.

This year the Pearl Island Cup was held in the Unit Gymnasium on Saturday 23rd April 2022. I had the pleasure of organising it and I am very thankful to the welfare team and Gurkha Major QGE Major Kamal Khapung Limbu MVO Saheb. This event was open to all families and children of 36 Engineer Regiment and QGE. It provided great opportunity to showcase skill, talent and build confidence.

There were three different categories: Singles, Doubles, and Under 16s. Each player had to play a minimum of three games. Although the players were physically drained from their efforts, dedication and enthusiasm continued until the final match. A majority of the officers and soldiers were present to show support and cheer for their families and children.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, **Pearl Island Cup 2022**

By Sapper Rahul Darai, Welfare Assistant, Queen's Gurkha Engineers

On completion of the event trophies were presented by Mrs Sarah Hendry (Wife of the Commandant QGE) and Mrs Paru Sonyok (Wife of the Gurkha Major QGE) to the following players:

Sinales

Winner: Mrs Aliza Ale LimbuRunner-up: Mrs Rebecca Limbu

Doubles

Winner: Rebecca LimbuRunner-up: Mrs Aruna Limbu

Under 16s

Winner: Mr Nirik LimbuRunner-up: Ms Saraya Rai



Afno **Bichar**

We asked Gurkhas from B (Gallipoli) Company, The Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles about their experiences on Exercise PACIFIC KHUKURI 22 in Australia.



Rifleman Utsab Thapa 4 Platoon



During our training in Catterick, there was a rumour that B Company would be deploying to Australia on a large and demanding exercise, an exciting prospect confirmed on our arrival to 2 RGR. For my Numberis and I, it would be our first overseas exercise.

Due to a sudden change in weather and the worst flooding in Queensland for over a decade, B Company made it to Camp Growl on the 4th of March and deployed to the training area. There were many hardships we experienced over the exercise, including extreme heat and COVID-19 outbreaks, but we remained flexible. Throughout the exercise I got the chance to work closely with Senior Sahebs and Gurujis, and a strong brotherhood and bond grew. Over the course of the exercise, we all learnt a lot and developed many new skills, and I think it prepared B Company well for operations in the future.

Rifleman Sudeep Gurung 6 Platoon



Cooperation between nations in military training is an essential component of diplomacy and helps develop close ties between nations. Such cooperation helps to strengthen relationships and learn lessons from each other. We were able to strengthen our relationship with the Australian Defence Force (ADF), setting the foundations for working together in the future.

Rifleman Nila Kumar Dhimal 5 Platoon



We had our final Company attack near the sea and after reaching our Limit of Exploitation, our Officer Commanding Saheb called out "End-Ex". It was a great feat obtained after completing two gruelling weeks in the field. We took some Coy photos and cooled off after the attack in the Pacific Ocean. A BBQ arrived and we ate and celebrated a successful exercise together. We returned to Camp Growl with morale high, ready for company messing and a reflection on the weeks gone by.

Lance Corporal Suman Rai 6 Platoon



We had the opportunity to see a Javelin fired by Anti-Tank Platoon in support of our Company raid, a rare chance to see the employment of one of the most effective weapons systems in the British Army. By observing the assets B Company had available, including all Support Company weapon systems, it gave a feeling of realism to each serial. B Company also implemented and experimented with dispersal tactics in every serial, an objective of the exercise. There were many hurdles, but we never stepped back from the challenge. It was great success for B Company and everyone involved to make Ex PK22 happen.





