

QUEENS GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

N.

2

GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

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THE GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

No.2

August 1971

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EDITORIAL

General John, at the GEA Meeting, said how pleased he was that the GEA was now so flourishing. In fact, our Association has never had such a flourishing and active six months. First there was the Mixed Party at Minley, so ably organised by Malcolm Thomson, then the GEA meeting attended by no less than 32 members followed by the GEA Dinner in the Brompton Mess. The Silver Statuette project has been carried towards fruition by John Edwards and details of this appear on page 23. Peter Harvey's suggestion that The Gurkha Engineers should give the RE Sgts Mess a picture did not meet with sufficient support and it has now been decided that the Gurkha Engineers WOs and Sgts will present an open polished Kukri without scabbard on a wood base with a silver inscription to the WOs and Sgts Mess at Chatham instead. Tony Rickets has asked the GEA to organise a portrait of General Bill for the Mess in Hong Kong. Lastly but of great importance and interest, General Lance is progressing well with the Regimental History. So it has been a very eventful half-year.

Gil Roach and Tom MacMillan, the Brompton Mess Secretary, laid on a marvellous Dinner to dine out General John and dine in General Bill as Colonel. Nearly every member who was able to come was there. All the past Commandants, except Terry White who was in Kenya, and most of the original officers who started off the Gurkha Engineers long before even the days of Royal Engineers (Gurkha) attended. How much luckier we are than the Gurkha Infantry Regiments to have a Mess like Brompton to dine in.

General Bill is now firmly in the chair as Colonel. There has been another change too; Peter Harvey has taken over as GELO from Jimmy Nobbs. Jimmy has done a tremendous lot for the GEA, and for the Regiment, during his time as GELO, and has been responsible for laying on, despite Postal Strikes etc, some excellent parties for the GORs.

The death of the King of Nepal, Field Marshal His Majesty Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, is sad news, especially

coming so soon after his appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of the Brigade of Gurkhas. His death may also have far-reaching effects on the stability of Nepal. We can only hope that his son, the new King, will have a long and happy reign.

One of the most striking things about Gurkhas is their ability to adapt themselves to different conditions. They serve with equal success on the bare hills of the North-West Frontier, the North African desert, Italy, the jungles of Burma, Malaya and Borneo. And, of course, in the crowded metropoli of Kowloon and Church Crookham. One thing, however seems to defeat them and that is English pronunciation. There was one occasion about seven years ago when Lt Gen Sir Nigel Poett, C-in C FARELF, visited Kluang. As Gen Poett liked to be recognised, his full rank, initials, name and decorations were duly published in Part 1 Orders and read out to everyone at Ginti Parade on the eve of his visit. Sure enough the General stopped in front of one Sapper and asked him if he knew him name. The Sapper drew himself up proudly and said "Sahib, you are Lieutenant General Sir Niggle Pot".

We try to provide a mixed, but balanced, diet of goodies in these Newsletters. This Issue contains articles written not only by BOs, but also by QGOs. We are very grateful to G/Lt Tikaraj Rai for his article on his trip to Australia. Dick Francis has contributed a hilarious account of his time in Uganda. The more contributions which your Editor receives, the shorter need his Editorial be. This alone should provide an incentive for those who are considering sending in something in the future.

On a letter to movements staff

1. Please cancel reference A.
2. A fresh air application is enclosed for your action.

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

END OF JULY 71 TO END OF JAN 72

by Lt.Col. R. A. Rickets RE

This period has seen Dasher come and go and the departure of our last "rundown" pension party. We are now at our final cap-badge strength of 550, and meeting the full effect of this for the first time. With the burden of running our own trades training, things are very tight but we have hopes of a few more men in due course. The tooth-comb is still being plied. Even the GM's orderly now also works in the QGO's Mess, at least we think he does, and others are sharing an orderly between three. Burro sahebs may gasp with horror but times have changed.

Five new officers have arrived. First in was William Thackwell, who left two days later for a jungle warfare course at Kota Tinggi, a sharp introduction to the Far East. No harm done - he came back to bring his troop in well at the front of the cross-country, and to take 26th place himself in the inter-troop Khud Race. Next came John Baker and Brian Taylor, the latter followed shortly by his wife Sue. These three were all from Shrivenham, and between them bring some very useful expertise at shooting, hockey, squash and running. Last in were our two new YOs John Wheeley, who quickly proved himself to be quite some sprinter, and Bob Newms, who had been playing rugby regularly for the Corps and is therefore now training for Nepal Cup football. Strange logic.

This influx has transformed the BO's Mess from a rather quiet gallery of seldom more than three occupants to a bustling fairground of fast sports cars and glamour.

Phil Cook and Phyl went off, Philip to do his kiddies' staff course before joining his BAOR squadron in Germany. Bill and Vi Lawrence left for Germany and after Christmas Jim Stuart, who had been kicking his heels and picking up all the dirty jobs around RHQ since handing over 68 Sqn to John Speight, left with Sue for Chatham. Jonathan Forbes left,

going via South Africa to join another BAOR squadron, and last away in this great changeover is Chris Haworth who goes on attachment to RAOC hoping to transfer to them later this year.

67 finished the Hang Hau jetty, opened in great style with tape cutting, lion dances and presentations, also the Marston hangar for the Support Squadron, retrained for two months and went back to work on a variety of new projects in January. These included another jetty, on Pak Lap island, building construction work in Shar Tau Kok on the border, part of the construction of a swimming pool in Osborne Barracks, and work for the new Stanley Boat Club.

68 were taken off the border at short notice, lost their retraining and waded in to sort out the new Training Centre Brigade of Gurkhas in the old transit camp at Sek Kong. They have also kept the culverts going on the Luk Keng road and will now retrain, we hope, for the next two months.

We had 34 Fd Sqn here in the Autumn, working on a jetty, village electrification and sports ground project on Lantau island. 150 tons of stores were flown in by helicopter in the first week. At the end of January 33 Fd Sqn arrived, to take on a 160,000 dollar road and bridge project at Nim Wan on the north west coast. There is always plenty of such work to do and it is good to have these UK squadrons coming out to help.

Typhoon Rose hit us in August, and very nasty she was. Trees, cables and squatter huts were down everywhere. 67's MT hangar collapsed sideways and some fifteen merchant ships were left high and dry on the rocks and beaches. If you have never tried crouching in your flat in the dark with the whole building rocking, the floor awash from rain spraying through every window joint, improvising barricades as the windows are sucked out one by one - don't.

We won the Land Forces sailing, beating REME comfortably in the final. I was then away to Thailand for another visit to the STRE there, and back just in time for Dasher. Here we had set ourselves quite a marathon, for between the

squadron khanas was an all-night Colony-wide IS exercise followed the next night by the Royal Engineer/Gurkha Engineer cocktail party. This was held to continue the old tradition of Gilman Mess in Singapore. Officers of the Gurkha Engineers and Royal Engineers Hong Kong were joint hosts to some 200 guests. Our own Mess was the venue, transformed by tentage and coloured lights and additionally adorned by the silver of 54 (Hong Kong) Support Squadron. The New Territories Administration vessel Clementi was loaned to us to bring up the guests from Hong Kong, the Pipes played, the drinks flowed and when the time came to go nobody did.

Colonel Hank Hart from AG7 was with us for Dashera and went away I am sure morally refreshed if physically exhausted. As always the organisation was superb with Kesarbahadur Saheb (now GM) in executive command and Dhojbir himself the guiding presence in the shadows.

After Dashera came the spate of winter sports, football, hockey, basketball, major unit, minor unit, league and knock-out, and people playing for the Army teams too. On top of this the Sapper Bowl with every troop competing at football, hockey, basketball, volleyball, drill, shooting, swimming, athletics, cross-country and khud race. Great competition, great sport, and such enjoyment too. C Troop 67 were the final winners with 1 Troop 68 close behind them. Colonel John Whitehead, once our Adjutant, now Colonel of the Brigade, presented all the trophies, shields and medals at the close of the last event, the athletics.

Somewhere in the middle of all this was a cricket match between the squadrons, maximum 30 runs per bat and two overs per bowler, with buffet lunch on the grass. Most of the BO's, some of the British seniors, and some QGO and GOR talent as well took part. The result of course was a draw, and the result of the late-day extra, against a volunteer ladies team, of course, a win for the ladies.

The weather was fine for another BO/QGO's picnic beside the stream at Tai Lam Cheung, where we whiled away a pleasant day with competition at fishing, bowling, anda-danda and even musical chairs, copious bhat and lubricants. My prize

for the heaviest load of fish (the scales weighed down by a QGO's heavy hand - you can't lose) proved to be a bottle of chinese snake-bile wine, later consumed by Liz and me and the QGO's, to their horror, on a subsequent occasion.

I was away again, this time to Nepal and I missed most of Dhojbir's farewell, but got back to Kai Tak just before his plane left, for a final few hours with him in the airport bar. He was in good form and content to be going, I think, after all his years of splendid service with the Brigade, What changes he saw in his time.

The MGBG, General Horsford, had ordered a Regimental parade from all the battalions and suggested that we might not wish to be outdone. The challenge was met on a windy morning on the football pitch at Bowring, the only place large enough in Castle Peak to take the Regiment. With all too few rehearsals the parade was a good one and we were congratulated on a first-class effort. On this same parade the General commissioned S/Sgts Kusalsing and Lokbahadur, and to round off a good day we thrashed 10 GR in the soccer league.

To add a little spice, basketball was added to our last BO's/QGO's badminton evening, the referee having a hard time with spectators adding their weight to both teams and at times two balls in play.

On 1st December the Brigade said goodbye to General Horsford, our Pipes and Drums joining the others to beat Retreat. Our Pipe Major (Deobahadur who is WO 1 now) provided the most touching moment, when he marched into the spotlight, on the hill overlooking the evening gathering, to play Mist Covered Mountains.

One of General Bunny Burnett's first engagements in the Colony was to take the passing out parade of our Recruit party.

I remember waxing very enthusiastic about the transformation of our WO's & Sgts' Mess, completed just before their last Christmas Draw. Well, for this years' Draw they had

taken it even further. The panelled interior of the Mess itself was used this time only as a dining room, where we ate one of the best buffet suppers I have ever seen. Outside, where previously long grass grew, a huge marquee was sited on their new badminton courts, entered through an ornamental garden and concrete steps. This gave a delightful setting, ample space, and a dance floor too.

An excellent dance band played and the whole party was superbly organised. You would all I know have been proud to be there. I am quite sure that no other Seniors Mess in the Colony, and few in the Army could have done it so well. This Mess is firmly on the map.

On 21st December all available Sapper officers in the Colony and our QGOs gathered at St. Martins Church Sek Kong for the dedication of the plaque to the memory of David Roberts; a brief, simple and moving ceremony.

Christmas brought the usual round of parties and junketing, and the children home from UK, mostly by Jumbo jet. The newly formed "over 35s" hockey team, spawned after too many drinks at the MGBG's farewell party, turned out for its first stiff-jointed practice, the officers played the seniors at football and an impromptu rugby match took place between revellers shaking down their Xmas lunches in Barbecue Gardens. This year we had a pantomime, "Peter Pan", thought of, produced, directed and pushed along by Rosie Speight. An all-star cast included most of the Mess bachelors as pirates or indians, stage-hands or curtain raisers, L/Cpl Kesorsing as Smee and several other villainous looking Gurkha soldiers, British and Gurkha school-children, Sarah Chapman as Mrs. Darling and Kim, the Speight's (formerly the Cooks') spaniel. The "Brits" spoke their lines in English and some Gurkhali, the Gurkha children in Gurkhali and sometimes English and the result, performed at the elder-children's Xmas party was well worth all the organising and rehearsing involved.

We sat down nearly 50 for the Ladies Dinner Night, all the bachelors bringing at least one Bird (sorry, but it's the accepted word) for the occasion, and most of them having driven through dense traffic and a filthy night from Kowloon

and Hong Kong. The beating of the tables had glasses jumping and ash-trays bouncing as the full Pipes and Drums marched around us to Black Bear and later the Mess rocked to Scottish dancing until Jonathan Forbes could be persuaded that the time had come for something softer. David Howie's mass of electronic switchery then set the pace for most of the rest of the night, and the elders of the community gradually slunk away, regretfully, and left the field to the young.

Our new Headmaster arrived in the BO's Mess for a BO/QGO Games Night, in sports kit.

If you walk into Perowne or Bowring these days in the daytime you will hardly find a soul, except for one or two clerks and storemen, and occasionally a driver working on his vehicle. The rest will be out working or training, or just out. Most of the camp chores, the grass-cutting, sweeping, emptying and humping are done by a large civil labour force, a welcome development of the last ten years.

If you come back later in the day you will find things little changed from former days. The volleyball and basketball pitches will all be busy, most of the QGO's will be about, and some of the British officers and British seniors will probably be playing too. There may well be a regimental match on somewhere, and probably a squadron match as well. Later still, after what in the evening some of the play will still go on till late, under the floodlights.

Our sports successes, such as they are, are listed elsewhere this time. In general we are doing as well as ever, particularly at soccer, but are a little alarmed to have drawn 1/2 GR in the first round of the Nepal cup with 2/2 GR also on the same side of the draw. However we have just drawn with both in league matches. Orienteering is going well and we have our first five fibreglass canoes ready for canoe training in the Summer.

A few words about our Pipes and Drums, which deserve more than just mention. Many of you must have seen and heard them in UK. Our Pipe Major (WO 1 Deobahadur) was solo piper

for most of the retreats in UK and for the MGBG's farewell in Hong Kong. They have played in every major hotel in Hong Kong and at a host of sporting and social occasions, and we sent four by special request to perform the sword-dance in the Bangkok Hilton at Christmas. Their own funds have swelled and they have earned a great deal of money for the Gurkha Welfare Appeal. Some of them are now doubling up as orderlies, storemen etc., which has become necessary, but they are the best Pipes and Drums in the Brigade and we intend to keep them that way.

Sadly we sent our last signals to General Bowring on his handover as Colonel, noting however that we might welcome him in Hong Kong again, as Representative Colonel Commandant The Royal Engineers. We welcome General Sir William Jackson back to the Regiment as our new Colonel.

Jimmy Nobbs has also handed over, as GELC, to Peter Harvey, and I don't think it out of place to thank Jimmy here for all his efforts on our behalf. At times, particularly during the postal strike we have belaboured him with signals almost daily asking for his help in all manner of things or just to act as a relay station. He had done everything we have asked and a lot more, spent a fortune in private telephone calls, and I hope enjoyed doing it too.

A notable percentage of our mail from UK comprises Gurkha Engineer envelopes (from an apparently inexhaustable supply) written in biro in a hand we have all come to recognise. The arrival of one of these is a signal for action. The Head Sahib stops typing, the runner stops making tea, the Records clerks stand to in file, the Adjutant heads for the hills and RHQ waits for the first question in General Lance Perowne's latest historical knowledge quiz. They are always straight to the point. "There was a sapper in 69 Sqn in 1961 who tripped on a log and broke his head. A passing doctor stitched him up and sent him on his way. Who was the Section Commander? "A" thinks it was Balbahadur. "B" thinks it was Tulbahadur. "C" is convinced it was Phulbahadur. Perhaps "D" would know." - - - Well, we haven't been beaten yet though shaken a few times. It is now a matter of pride and a few remaining elephantine memories.

Enough is enough. From all of us - good luck.

BOs, QGOs AND BRITISH WOs AND SGTs SERVING WITH THE REGIMENT
AS AT 31 JAN 72

Regimental Headquarters

Commandant	-	Lt Col R.A. Rickets RE
21C	-	Major D.M.A. Quirke RE (RHE Apr 72)
Adjutant	-	Capt J. Knowles RE
Paymaster	-	Major P.C.E. Creasy RAPC
Trg Officer	-	Capt G.S. Lucas RE
Edn Officer	-	Capt D. Howie RAEC
Gurkha Major	-	Maj (QGO) Kesarbahadur Limbu
Head Clerk	-	Lt (QGO) Bharatsing Limbu
Gurkha QM	-	Lt (QGO) Indrakamal Tamang

67 Gurkha Fd Sqn

OC	-	Major C. Spottiswoode RE (Regt 21C designate Apr 72) (Relieved by Major Corsellis Apr 72)
21C	-	Capt J.A. Thorp RE
QM	-	Capt F. Sewell RE
Tp Comd	-	Capt J.A. Ris RE
Tp Comd	-	Lt J.G. Baker RE
Tp Comd	-	Lt B. Taylor RE
Tp Comd	-	2Lt R.A. Newns RE
Gurkha Capt	-	Capt (QGO) Embahadur Gurung
Tp QGO	-	Capt (QGO) Bhimbahadur Gharti
Tp QGO	-	Capt (QGO) Tikaraj Rai
Tp QGO	-	Lt (QGO) Makardhoj Sahi (on leave)
Tp QGO	-	Lt (QGO) Lokbahadur Gurung

68 Gurkha Fd Sqn

OC	-	Major J. Speight RE
21C	-	Capt J.W.A. Chapman RE (Currently pension-paying Nepal)
QM	-	Capt D.C. Revins RE (Also acts as QM RHQ)

68 Gurkha Fd Sqn (Cont'd)

Tp Comd	-	Capt D.J.R. Stack RE
Tp Comd	-	Capt R.C.O'B. Haworth RE
Tp Comd	-	Lt W.T.R. Thackwell RE
Tp Comd	-	2Lt J.F. Wheeley RE
Gurkha Capt	-	Capt (QGO) Bhimbahadur Gurung
Tp QGO	-	Capt (QGO) Ganesh Chhetri
Tp QGO	-	Lt (QGO) Pete Limbu
Tp QGO	-	Lt (QGO) Ichhabahadur Rai BEM
Tp QGO	-	Lt (QGO) Sunar Gurung BEM
Tp QGO	-	Lt (QGO) Kusalsing Gurung

ERE

Head Clerk, Trg Centre Bde of Gurkhas	-	Capt (QGO) John Tenzing Lepcha
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Regimental Headquarters

RQMS	-	WOII Pilgrim G.C., RE
QMSI	-	WOII Wyers J., RE
QMSI Sigs	-	WOII McKie J.A., RE
Pay Clerk Div II	-	SSgt White J.C., RAPC

67 Gurkha Fd Sqn

SQMS	-	WOII Standish G.S., RE
MPF	-	SSgt Perkins J., RE
C of W (C)	-	SSgt Geany J.P., RE
VM	-	SSgt Greenaway J.H., REME
Pay Clerk Div III	-	Sgt Smith G.A., RAPC

68 Gurkha Fd Sqn

SQMS	-	WOII Field B.D., RE
MPF	-	SSgt Reast F.P., RE
C of W (C)	-	SSgt Winship D., RE
VM	-	SSgt Shepherd B., REME
Pay Clerk Div III	-	Sgt Sloat W.J., RAPC

QGOs DEPARTED ON PENSION

Hon Lt (GCO) Dhojbir Limbu MVO
Capt (QGO) Bhimbahadur Gurung
Capt (QGO) Baburam Thapa
Capt (QGO) Minbahadur Gurung MBE
Capt (QGO) Sambhu Sunwar
*Capt (QGO) Harkabahadur Limbu
Lt (QGO) Gangaparsad Thapa
Hon Lt (QGO) Dhanbahadur Rai

HEADMASTER DEPARTED ON REDUNDANCY

Mr. Lokbahadur Pradhan

PROMOTIONS - QGOs

Kesarbahadur Limbu	to Maj (QGO)
Bhimbahadur Gurung	to Capt (QGO)
Ganesh Chhetri	to Capt (QGO)
*Harkabahadur Limbu	to Capt (QGO)
Bhimbahadur Gharti	to Capt (QGO)
Tikaraj Rai	to Capt (QGO)

QGO COMMISSION

21139243 SSgt Kusalsing Gurung
21147813 SSgt Lokbahadur Gurung

DEPARTURE - BOs

Capt W.J. Wiggett RE	6 Aug 71	to 7 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr Regt.
Capt P.W. Cook RE	4 Nov 71	to JC and SC and to 16 Fd Sqn, 27 Engr Regt.
Capt W.G.N. Lawrence RE	10 Dec 71	to 42 Fd Sqn, 35 Engr Regt.
Capt J.N.B. Stuart RE	13 Jan 72	to RSME.
Capt J.G. Forbes RE	17 Jan 72	to DOMCOL leave, then to JC and SC.

DEPARTURE - WOs AND NCOs

WOII Clouter K.J., RE	25 Aug 71	to 1 TRRE.
WOII Lane B., RE	29 Sep 71	to 22 Engr Regt.
SSgt Steer W.J., RE	13 Oct 71	to 44 Sp Sqn RE.
Sgt Fowler D.G., RAPC	1 Dec 71	to 2 RGJ.
Sgt Cramp P.A.C., REME	1 Dec 71	to 11 Tpt Sqn Wksps.
WOII Bethall A.G., RAPC	17 Dec 71	RAPC Trg Centre.
Sgt Adams T., REME	6 Jan 72	to 1 Tpt Sqn Wksps.
SSgt Clifton T.D., RE	15 Jan 72	to 40 Army Sp Regt RE.

From a driver's statement: ".....before the compact our speed was 15 mph....."

Misprint on stores list - Item intended to be Pollyfilla
Typed as Pottyfilla!

From the report of a Guard who caught 2 Chinese inside a Barrack Area.

"I followed them from their behind"

QM 67 Sqn on having tried out a Christmas card in the form of a record which has been given to him by one of his storemen.

"Cpl, this record doesn't make any sound."

Storeman - "What's the title of the record saheb?"

QM - "Silent Night."

Storeman - "Well Saheb! there you are."

LAND FORCES SPORTS RESULTS OF NOTE AS AT MID JAN 72

MAJOR UNITS FOOTBALL LEAGUE : Regt lying 3rd in Colony.

MINOR UNITS FOOTBALL LEAGUE : 67 Sqn lying 4th. 68
lying 9th.

LAND FORCES 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL : 68 Sqn beat Irish Guards
in final 3-1.

MAJOR UNITS HOCKEY LEAGUE : Regt lost to 10 GR in close
fought semi-final 1-0.

MINOR UNITS HOCKEY LEAGUE : 68 Sqn still unbeaten.

RCT/GTR INVITATION FALLING
PLATE SHOOTING : Won by 67 Sqn against
opposition from all units.

LAND FORCES 6-A-SIDE HOCKEY : Won by Gurkha Engrs B Team.

BADMINTON - Mixed Doubles : Capt (QGO) BHIMBAHADUR
GHARTI & MISS CAROL RICKETS
LOST IN QUARTER-FINALS.
CAPT (QGO) EMBAHADUR GURUNG
& MRS JAHANSING RAI still
in.

Ladies doubles : MISS CAROL RICKETS & MRS
JAHANSING RAI through to
quarter-finals.

Ladies singles : MRS JAHANSING RAI through
to finals.

LAND FORCES INTER UNIT SAILING : Won by Gurkha Engrs.

TAI LAM PRISON 5-A-SIDE
FOOTBALL CUP : 67 Sqn beat 2/6 GR in the
final.

Lastly, not really sport but LCpl Narbahadur Gurung took part
in exercise NORWAY SAPHAR, a mountaineering exercise 210
miles North of the Arctic circle.

BRIGADE NEWS

The Gurkha Welfare Appeal has reached £950,000. The Appeal will go on until the million pounds have been obtained but the United Kingdom organisation is closed except for any enthusiastic volunteer who may continue to run an appeal event. Australia and Canada are arranging appeals in Autumn 1972.

The various GB Regimental Associations report that the Gurkhas distinguished themselves as ever in the Indo-Pakistan War and spearheaded the attack in the East. At least one VEEER CHAKRA was won. Glowing reports appeared in the Sunday Times of the thoroughly professional prowess of the 5th GR. Another report indicated that there had been quite a few casualties.

2 GR had, of course, been affected by the run-down like everyone else. When 2/2 was rerieved a total of 332 QGOs and GORs were transferred to 2GR from 6GR, 7GR, 10GR, Gurkha Engineers, Gurkha Signals and GTR. 168 went to 1/2 GR and 164 to 2/2 GR. It seems that they have been absorbed very successfully.

Digby Willoughby takes over 1/2 GR from John Chappel in May 1972. Terry Bowring took over 2/2 GR from Johnny Lawes in May 1971.

2 GR appear to have dispensed with SD hats and the BOs wear Gurkha hats on parade.

1/2 GR are now at Casino Camp, Hong Kong.

2/2 GR are at Gallipoli Camp, Hong Kong.

6 GR are in Seria, Brunei.

7 GR are well established at Crookham. They have about 700 men here, but Queen Elizabeth Barracks is big enough to take 2,000 so there is plenty of room. They have a full time PRO, Nigel Dicker, whose job it is to deal with the press and television and arrange outings for the men to Safari parks etc. The Regiment is extremely popular in

Fleet. Your Editor asked two GORs for New Years Eve and they provided some interesting information on life in England. One, a Corporal, gets £131 a month! A third of their pay goes to the Regimental Savings Account. The Battalion works $5\frac{1}{2}$ days a week. There are, of course, no Chinese dhobinis, so the men have to do their own washing. They still have ginti parade and late passes are sparingly issued by the Gurkha Major. There are a reasonable amount of football pitches, and basketball and volleyball grounds have been built. For the Palace Guard (which also includes St. James Palace and the Tower) they travel up to London in coaches. They all have an English type breakfast, bhat for lunch and an English supper (usually fish and chips - lovely!). There are, of course, no Gurkha families here (nor in Hong Kong either). The BOs Mess is in Aldershot as most of the BO's quarters are there, but the QGOs Club is in the Barracks.

10 GR are at Queens Hill Barracks, Hong Kong. The pilot of one of the helicopters in the 10 GR Air Platoon had a somewhat unusual experience. He was asked to re-supply a Gurkha sub-unit on a hill near the border in Hong Kong. Unable to land completely he maintained a hover with one skid touching the ground while his aircraft was unloading. Believing the aircraft to be unloaded and unable to maintain his position because of high winds he took off. After a few minutes he noticed a hand coming into the passenger door followed by a white faced Gurkha who proceeded to climb in and sit down in the passenger seat. The aircraft was about 1500 ft above ground level at the time.

Heard on first rehearsal for Regiment parade: "British officers spread yourselves evenly across the front."

Seen on an application for a shot gun licence.

Purpose for which required "Wild Games"

MINUTES OF THE A.G.M.

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held at the Study Centre Brompton Barracks at 5 pm on Friday 26th November 1971.

1. PRESENT

Maj Gen J H S Bowring CB OBE MC - Retiring President
Maj Gen L E C M Perowne CB CBE - Retiring Immediate Past President

Col F M Hill CBE	Maj J C Getley
Col L G S Thomas OBE	Maj R L Jordan
Col M J A Campbell MBE MC	Maj D F Moorcroft
Lt Col W W Branford	Maj J S Nobbs MBE
Lt Col D H Bowen MBE	Maj J H G Parfect
Lt Col D E R Cameron MC	Maj D H Philpott
Lt Col J H Edwards	Maj I C Slater
Lt Col P C Harvey MVO	Maj I A D Thomson MC
Lt Col J R Radford	Maj D Verschoyle
Lt Col G G Roach	Capt P W Cook
Lt Col J Thornber	Capt D R Humphrey
Maj D H G Corsellis	Capt P R Knowles
Maj T F Croxall	Capt R H Marriott
Maj J A N Croft	Capt H E Vialou Clark
Maj C E H Edwards MBE MC	Lt Col J F Allen MBE - Hon Sec

2. The new President Lt Gen Sir William Jackson KCB OBE MC had expected to arrive by air in time to attend the meeting. Due to bad weather his aircraft was diverted and his time of arrival so delayed as to make it impossible for him to be present. Maj Gen Bowring therefore took the chair for the whole meeting and business commenced at 5 pm.

3. Before turning to the Agenda the Chairman read out a letter received from the Principal Military Secretary to His Majesty the King of Nepal in which His Majesty thanks the Association for their loyal greetings on the occasion of his acceptance of the appointment of Colonel in Chief of the Brigade of Gurkhas. The Chairman also read out a Signal addressed to the Association from Major (QGO) Dhojbir Limbu MVO on the occasion of his departure from the Regiment on retirement.

4. LAST MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Other than those on the Agenda there were no matters arising.

6. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer presented the Accounts. There is an excess of Income over Expenditure of £27. The Accumulated Fund stands at £341.61 made up of £291.50 Investments and £50.11 Working Capital. The Accounts for 1970/71 were adopted. The Chairman thanked Major Ian Slater for auditing the accounts.

7. ENTERTAINMENTS

It was proposed that three parties be held in 1972. Two GOR parties. One early in the year and one late to coincide with courses. A mixed party in May. The mixed party to be run on the same lines as this year and if possible again at Minley Manor. This was passed. It was generally agreed that this year's party was an excellent affair and a vote of thanks to Major Malcolm Thomson was passed.

8. REGIMENTAL HISTORY

General Perowne said that he hopes to complete writing the history by next Spring. The Chairman said that Capt Richard Marriott has kindly agreed to organise publication. Capt Marriott then described the relative merits of two methods of production. Normal Letterpress and Rank Xerox offset. The former being the most expensive. The majority of those present agreed that the aim should be a first class production. The Chairman pointed out that before cost could accurately be discussed it is essential to have some firm figures upon which to base estimates. He said that the Institution of RE are prepared to help by making an initial grant of approximately £250 and also, possibly, by carrying unsold copies until they are sold. All this is tentative until firm figures are produced. After some discussion the Chairman said that when all the factors are available Gen Jackson will make a decision. The Chairman then said that the History Project Fund is down to £5.75 and at the moment

Gen Perowne is £30 out of pocket. He proposed that members be asked to subscribe a further £1 towards this fund. This was agreed. In order to save time and postage it was further agreed to include an additional £1 for this purpose to the mess bills of those attending the dinner, with a note of explanation and an option. The Secretary will write to others and invite them to subscribe. The Chairman then expressed the gratitude of the Association to Gen Perowne for all he has done in connection with the history and a unanimous vote of thanks was passed.

9. GEA NEWSLETTER

Major Ian Thomson spoke. He said that he had met a number of BNCOs who are anxious to keep in touch with regimental affairs. One way of doing this would be to allow them to purchase the GEA Newsletter. The question of BNCOs becoming associated with the GEA was discussed. Members were concerned that the Newsletter, edited for officers, might change its format if the publication was extended to BNCOs. Lt Col John Edwards said that he would resurrect a list of BNCOs he produced in 1968 and bring it up to date. He would ask NCOs if they want copies of the Newsletter. The Chairman said that the question of an official BNCO Association with the GEA is a matter of policy which should be left to the new President to decide. In the meantime there was no reason why BNCOs should not purchase a copy of the Association Newsletter on repayment, if they wish to do so. This was agreed by the meeting.

10. STATUETTE

Lt Col John Edwards spoke. He referred to the Editorial of GEA Newsletter No 1 in which he suggested the possibility of providing silver statuettes for officers who have served in the Regiment to purchase as mementos. He said that the response to his suggestion was considerable and he estimated that more than 60 statuettes will be required. He showed the meeting a sample statuette. The cost will be in the region of £20. He suggested that any small profit should go to the officers mess to help finance a stock of statuettes for those serving in the regiment. The Corps Committee have kindly agreed to a loan of £800 (interest free) for one year to buy

an initial stock. When the first consignment is ready those entitled to do so will probably be asked to order their statuettes from the Treasurer of the Corps Funds. Members will be informed of these arrangements through the GEA Newsletter. The question of ineligibility was discussed. Firm proposals were put to the meeting and the following decisions were carried.

- a. That the GEA will adopt this scheme
- b. That any member of the GEA is entitled to purchase a statuette
- c. That any profit should go to the officers mess to help finance a stock of statuettes.

11. PICTURE FOR RE HQ WOs/SGTS MESS

Lt Col Peter Harvey spoke. He asked if the Gurkha Engineers would consider presenting a painting of a Gurkha Sapper to the RE HQ WOs/SGTs Mess. He suggested a picture of the current RSM of the Gurkha Engineers painted in oils, in Hong Kong by a good local artist. Chosen and commissioned by the Regiment and paid for by them, GEA members and any British WO or Sgt who wished to contribute. There was some discussion and some opposition to the suggestion. It was finally agreed that Lt Col Harvey should write to the Regiment and keep the Association informed. When more details are available the GEA might consider a contribution. Col Thomas suggested that ex Gurkha Engineers BNCOs should be asked if they wish to subscribe and proposed that Lt Col Edwards does this when he circulates BNCOs about the Newsletter. This was agreed.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Lt Col Roach showed the meeting the Roberts Cup. He said that it would become the Champion Troop Cup for 68 Squadron.

b. The Chairman congratulated Lt Col John Edwards on his appointment as Commandant and wished him well on behalf of the Association.

c. The Chairman said that the rules of the Association state that the Colonel of the Gurkha Engineers is "ex officio" President of the GEA. He said that he has already handed over

the Colonelcy to General Jackson. He would therefore vacate the chair. Before doing so however, he wished to say how pleased he is to find the Association such a flourishing organisation. He particularly referred to various initiatives which have come from Members such as the Roberts Cup, the Statuette, GEA Magazine etc.

d. Due to the unavoidable absence of the New President, Col Thomas proposed vote of thanks to the retiring President. He spoke of Gen Bowring's great services to the Regiment and to the Association. He said how delighted we are that under the rules Gen Bowring now becomes Immediate Past President, so his wise counsel is not lost to us. He also referred to Gen Perowme who under the rules vacates the post of Immediate Past President and thanked him on behalf of the Association for all the work he has done both for the Association and the Regiment. This was carried with acclamation.

13. There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Lt Col J F Allen
Secretary

GBA & GEA FUNCTIONS

GBA Reunion on Friday 19th May 1972 from 18.30 - 21.30 at the Connaught Rooms. Buffet Supper - cost with wine: £2.75. Guests will be the Nepalese Ambassador and MA. Tickets through John Allen.

GBA Dinner on Friday 21st November 1972 at the United Services and Royal Aero Club. Details will be given in the next Issue.

GORs Party on Friday 30th June 1972 at the Brompton Study Centre starting at 1900. Bhat will be served at 2000. There should be seven GORs there. Any member who wishes to attend should inform:-

Capt D. R. Humphrey, RE.,
GSO 3 SD,
HQ RSME. (tel: Medway 44555 Ext 213)

GEA Mixed Party in September 1972 at Minley Manor. (NOT May as planned) Details will be given in the next Issue.

STATUETTES

The AGM supported the scheme for a statuette for sale to GEA members, and over 60 people have responded to the circular which went out about it.

Before inviting members to place orders, some indication should be given of what they can expect for their money. The statuette consists of a hallmarked sterling silver figure of a piper, 3" high, mounted on a square ebonised wooden base, with silver plates on two sides. One silver plate will have THE GURKHA ENGINEERS engraved on it, and the other will be available for details of the officer concerned and his service with the Regiment. The pipe banner will have the Regimental device on one side, and the Corps badge on the other (i.e. the Corps Banner). The latest sample is an improvement on the one exhibited at the AGM, but members must realize that the figure is cast, and they cannot expect the sort of detail and finish that can be produced by hand carving, as in the case of the figures on the Regimental centre piece.

The silver plates available for officers' personal details are $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and it is not possible to engrave more than 3 lines on each. Two possible inscriptions are shown in the illustrations, but the details are left to individual officers. Those who require more than one plate may have them fitted to the sides of the base in addition to the back, at a further cost.

D. R. HUMPHREY
67-69 LT. 69 SGN
67-70 CAPT 67 SGN

CAPT D. R. HUMPHREY
1967-1970

The all-in price, including the plates on the front and back and the engraving on them, is £20. One additional plate costs £1.50, and two cost £2.50, again including engraving. There is a further charge of 40p for postage and insurance if you want your statuette sent by post.

Orders should be placed, not before 1st April, with the Treasurer of the Corps funds, using the proforma enclosed. Members are asked to indicate EXACTLY what they want inscribed on their silver plate(s), in the panels, drawn to scale, on the proforma.

GURKHA ENGINEER PERSONNEL ON UK COURSES

1972

SERIAL	NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	REMARKS
1	57143 LCpl MILANCHANDRA GRG	Svy Engr AII	25										
2	57078 Spr EMBDR GRG		Elect AIII	10									
3	55312 LCpl NARBDR GRG	Outward 8 → 25 Bound Course	with 7GR	→ 6			Cbt Engr BI			→ 4			
4	47173 Sgt MANDALAL LIMBU	10	UK Course Beaconsfield	→ 24	6		Cbt Engr BI			→ 4	NBC 2 → 20 Course		BAOR att to be arranged for Sep 72
5	57097 Spr JUBDR GRG	10	"	→ 24	10		Design Asst			→ 29			Att to be arranged with 62 CRE in Oct 72 for 4 weeks
6	54817 LCpl BALARAM RAI	10	"	→ 24	17	Senior Pipers	→ 26						Att to be arranged with 7GR from 26 Mar - 16 Apr 72
7	54832 Spr KISHORSING TAMANG	10	"	→ 24	Row	8	PM AI	→ 21					
8	50666 Sgt BUDHIPARSAD GURUNG				UK Course Beaconsfield	12				Cbt Engr BI	→ 3		
9	52962 LCpl DIPAK RAI				"	19				Fitter Plant AI	→ 13		To be confirmed
10	58720 Spr BHIMBDR RANA				"	26				Elec AII			Course finishes 15 Dec

From:- Hony Lieut Dhojbir Limbu, Retd

Dharan Cantonment
Dharan, Nepal -

29 December 1971

Dear Colonel Rickets. saheb,

May we both thank you and Memsahab, all the members of the Regt, and the families, for giving us such a good farewell and of course the good presentation which was a memorable one. We are very proud of it, and we shall treasure it with utmost care which will remind us of you all and the Regt.

I shall never forget the kind assistance given to me by one and all which enabled me to serve for over 30 years so happily, I must thank you all for this too.

I have now become a Pensioner Baje from 27 December 1971 and I look forward to seeing a good happy honourable life. If you ever trek to this part of the world, I must say you all are very welcome to my home.

Lastly, I sincerely wish that yours and the Regt's name will grow even bigger in the future. I also must add that I wish you all have a very happy new year.

Wish you all a very good luck.

Your Sincerely:

Dhojbir Limbu MVO

To:- Lieutenant Colonel RAS Rickets RE
Commandant The Gurkha Engineers.
Perowne Barracks, Hong Kong
B.F.P.O. 1.

UGANDA DIARY

October 1970 to July 1971

by Maj. R. J. Francis

October 23, 1970 Arrived in Entebbe by the shore of Lake Victoria. Met, and driven to the Grand Hotel in Kampala. After sleeping, to the office to meet the Manager and the team.

October 25 Moved from the Grand Hotel to a type of motel on the outskirts of Kampala, chiefly to get away from quite unwanted, and very expensive, grandeur. Very soon learned that the late-night, electronic, Congolese music from the JAMBO GARDENS was a very poor exchange, but worse was to come. The Motel was adjacent to a unit construction housing project run by an Israeli contractor. One of the foremen cleared his throat on the verandah next to mine at six every morning. He was a very heavy smoker, and a perfectionist, and did a proper job which usually took twenty minutes.

November 15 Elected temporary member of the Kampala Club, and given permanent allocation of room number 10, an oasis of calm and order in a desert of slagbaggery.

November 18 Invited to tour North-east regions with J----- McK-----, Regional Engineer East. Found a good companion, and had wonderful three days of desert and mountain, towards Turkana and Somaliland. Picked precious stones on the slopes of Mount Moroto: observed naked Karamoja herdsmen and the cattle from which they take blood and milk - their only food: put together to my own satisfaction the clues by the roadside at Napak, viz, a volcanic crater eight miles across, tilted from 4000 feet above the plain at one point, to zero at the opposite point, with a mini-crater or caldera at the centre and in the heart of that again the upright plug of the last explosion. Regretted altogether returning to the banana shambas of Kampala.

December 4 Embarked on a tour of roads in northern Uganda. Started by spending a week-end on the way, at Chobe Lodge on

the Nile. Fished for perch at dawn on the Saturday and Sunday. Caught a 35 lbs and a 20 lbs fish, these two being the only trophies on four rods. Photographed game of all kinds. Went on to Gulu - Pakwach - Arua - Mayo - Kitgum - Lira - Mbale and home. Crossed the Nile four times, at the only four crossing places, by railway bridge, road bridge, ferry and dam wall highway.

December 10 Met the beautiful and charming African wife of a European business man. The lady was shocked to hear of my bachelor life, and suggested, of the kindness of her heart, that one of her younger sisters would be an agreeable companion for my quiet hours.

December 11 A salesman in a shop in Kampala road sold a watch to an African girl, who then found that she could not pay in cash. They agreed that a series of payments in the currency of love would do as well. This Friday, when the girl was in the shop paying the second instalment, the pair discovered that they were quite unable to disengage. In desperation, on calling for help, they got not the Harley Street Specialist they needed, but an errand boy, who rushed into the street shouting the news in high glee. A crowd gathered, not only in the shop but in the street outside and in the trees and up the lamp posts. Newsmen and cameramen arrived, and the local television crew. At last the Ambulance came to find their stretcher for one barely capable of taking two. All traffic in Kampala Road was blocked by this time, and the Special Force with CS gas cleared the way. Eventually the unfortunate pair were wheeled away to the relief of an anaesthetic, whilst the rest of the world returned, slowly, to normal.

December 15 Attended the Club Xmas draw with five one shilling tickets. Won a bottle of liqueur brandy and another of Scotch, the first such win for nineteen years.

December 17 Flew home for a fortnight's Christmas leave.

January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Return to Africa delayed by the strike at Heathrow. An ill wind!

January 26, 2 a.m. Woke to the sound of gunfire. Just like Jerusalem twenty-six years ago. This time, knew nothing and could do nothing, so went back to bed. Breakfast on the club verandah as usual at 7.30 a.m., but the world outside strangely quiet. Drove to work, but diverted by askaris at various points. No-one about. By 11 a.m. our manager had arrived and had told us to go home. Drove very slowly back to the club with my right arm draped whitely and conspicuously out of the car window. Found the club agog with excitement, and the bar doing a roaring trade. There had been a gun battle between soldiers and police next door at 8 o'clock, and a bazooka attack on the house next door at half past eight. Armed police had thrown away their arms and uniform, had stolen cooks' clothing and fled through the club down to the town. Helped to collect and list and lock away the ammunition. Two dead policemen were later discovered in the hedge behind the manageress's bungalow. That lady did an heroic job in keeping the staff calm and at work, and in catering for the dozen of us who lived in. Began to get the drift of things from BBC News.

January 27 Breakfast on the verandah as usual, but noticed an African squatting at the foot of the steps, with nothing but a paper bag to clothe him. Sat down to breakfast. Just about to dissect my kipper, when noticed the African standing facing me on the verandah. Suddenly he threw away his paper bag, and advanced on me doing a curious footsy shuffle. Not knowing whether he was going to attack, and if so, with what, I raised my kipper knife, but very glad to see him fall on his knees and beg for eggs and bread. Putting first things first, I gave him a pair of policeman's trousers left over from yesterday's rout, then rang for the boy to do the food business.

Later in the day the President of the Club, a passing tourist and I disposed of the two dead policemen in the garden, a nasty task which no-one else in Kampala seemed capable of doing.

January 28 Curfew imposed from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. which gave us the options every evening of going out on the

streets and getting shot, or staying in the club and getting stoned. Settled happily for the latter.

February 11 Set off on my third, and last, official "safari", as all travels are termed in Swahili. Drove to the south-west corner of Uganda by the Ruanda-Congo border, swung right-handed to the north past Ruwenzori, to Chobe again, and back to Kampala. Found the south-west a perfect wonderland of volcanoes, unpenetrable jungles, high fold mountains, rift game. Crossed the Nile by the Karuma bridge, on which, rumour had it, those whom the soldiers disapprove of are shot, and the bodies pitched into the Nile. My car and driver hijacked by soldiers on the bridge, and later set free for fifty shillings cash.

Fished the Nile again, but caught nothing. Saw elephant, giraffe, buffalo, hippo, baboon, many smaller varieties of game, and scores of different kinds of birds.

March 25 A public holiday was declared from 25 March to 30 April, on the occasion of the re-interment of King Freddie of Buganda. Decided that this macabre occasion was likely to rouse the local people to high excitement, and that their sorrow was no fit spectacle for a stranger like myself, so took a caseful of work to Chobe and Paraa. Missed the funeral in Kampala, which as it turned out was wonderfully well done, caught no fish, turned out of the hotel for a presidential party, did no useful work, and came back a day early, thoroughly bad-tempered.

April 10 Took off for the hunting lodge at Mweya in the West for Easter. Had a wonderful four days, recovering from the disasters of the previous week.

April 17 To Ministry of Defence for appointment with the Permanent Secretary. Saw a very large notice on the landing, saying,

"MILITARY HEADQUARTERS,
NO POLITICIANS BEYOND
THIS POINT"

May 1 By this time, it became apparent that without exceptional efforts we should not complete our appointed task. Three things sprang from this circumstance:

Firstly we were all obliged to work from eight in the morning to six in the evening, "Monday through Saturday".

Secondly, those of us who did occasionally go on a toot the night before a day's work, were often obliged to work at our desks standing up, to avoid falling asleep in the afternoon heat - a trick which I found very effective.

Thirdly, I was, as expected, well and truly on the critical path, at the end of the assignment, when most of the others had done their stuff. Not even a sixty hour week could get me through in time, and my return home was deferred, by agreement, for a total of six weeks.

July 8 Finally returned home, to find my wife and children blooming, the house immaculate, the garden a picture, and the car running like a dream. For those heads of families who think themselves indispensable, a chastening thought. For those with wives like mine, no surprise.

PENSIONER NEWS

Tony Rickets met 240 members or ex-members of the Regt on his trip to Nepal. Among the pensioners were: G/Maj Aitahang Limbu now a shopkeeper in Dharan selling five kinds of rice and doing well: G/Capt Krishnabhadur Tamang now working on the East-West highway and looking very smart and successful: G/Capt Harkabahadur Gurung, the DCRE's "Man in Paklahawa": G/Major Deobhadur Gurung who runs a thriving business in Paklahawa and is part owner of a large Mercedes: G/Lt Rambahadur Ghale who retired from the Regt in 1953: WOI Singhabadur Gurung who organised an excellent musical party for Tony culminating in Singhabadur firing off his ancient muzzle loader into the night: WOII Gunjabadur Gurung.

THE SPOTTED DOG TO MOVE

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 9

After a long battle the Selangor Club, known to thousands of expatriate tea planters and civil servants as the Spotted Dog, will have to move to new premises.

Mr. Muhammad Khir Johari, Minister of Commerce and Industry and president of the club, stated today that the club would have to make way for a civic hall, which will be built at the site opposite the Islamic Federal Secretariat, the nerve centre of the Malaysian Government.

The Spotted Dog, so called from the time when, several decades ago, an expatriate woman paraded with her dalmatians at the club, has been in trouble over the past year or so. Just before Christmas, 1970, the building was partially burnt down, and three weeks later it suffered badly from floods.

The charming Tudor-style facade was largely destroyed in these calamities, and it appeared to many that the Dog had had its day when the STRAITS TIMES backed efforts to move the club to a new site. It had long held an anomalous position as an outpost of expatriate life style, although with a multiracial gloss, in an increasingly nationalistic Malaysia.

The new site of the club is not yet known.

On a Sqn Pt I Orders.

Signals Trg

The following are to report to.....Lcpl.....Tamang
for extra-moral signals trg at.....

A GURKHA OFFICER'S VIEW OF AUSTRALIA

by Capt (QGO) Tikaraj Rai

1/2 Gurkha Rifles was involved in an exercise in Western Australia, with the result 2 officers and 3 SNCOs were required from Gurkha Engrs. They were as follows:-

Capt Knowles RE
Lt (QGO) Tikaraj Rai
SSgt Kusalsing Gurung
Sgt Budhibahadur Gurung
Sgt Saroj Tamang

We were very lucky to have the chance for we believed Australia to be a beautiful place.

On 2 June 71, we took off from Kai Tak Airport by Hercules. On reaching our destination we were attached with 1/2 GR. On 3 and 4 Jun, we took part in the exercise, and the Adjt gave us lectures. Other units were also present namely Gurkha Signals, 6 GR and RA.

On 5th Jun 71, Hercules headed towards Australia. After monotonous 7 hours journey we landed in Perth a well known city of Australia. After going through the Custom and immigration we went to Swanbourn where we were to stay. The weather was very cold, and we were freezing, but soon we were blessed with some food which sent down comfortably with Rum. Feeling happy and "giddy" we retired to bed.

Next morning we woke to find the place just beautiful. It was clean and the green grass looked as if painted. The same day we moved to a place called 'Bindoon'.

On 7 Jun 71 the advance party moved to the trg camp Bindoon. There camp construction work started, and GE personnel were detailed as "Supervising Officers". The work went at a full swing, and finally we put up tents to accommodate one battalion. Main body also came. It was so cold that men with beard look miserable, but we soon solved

the problem by installing hot water.

Our trg camp was in a quiet area, and one could experience every type of training. From 11 Jun 71 Battalions Range Programme started. We were detailed as safety officers. The range had electric targets and was operated by 'Remote Control'. On 28 - 30 Jun 71, we had jungle exercise. All the attached men were the enemies. During this activity we had a chance to see the Kangaroo and rabbits, they were seen hopping around all over the place.

Finally on 1 Jul 71, we came to Bindoon, and from there we went to Swanbourn. We had 6 days leave, and during that time we met Major (Retd) S.J. Edwards. We were very happy indeed to see him. For two days he took us around sight seeing.

During these 6 days we visited Kings Park, Zoo and other interesting places.

We were invited to the Government House for a Dinner Party. At first we were very surprised, because there were many new faces, but soon we got used to the atmosphere. We also met some old officers of the Bde of Gurkhas.

The next morning we got ready for another long journey back to Singapore. We all were very sad to leave the wonderful place Australia.

On arriving in Singapore, G Maj of 1/2 GR had arranged a party which we were included. Finally on 15 Jul 71 we came back to Hong Kong.

A troop from 67 Sqn were constructing a pier on the East coast of the New Territories and living in a hutted camp. One day a dead rat was seen in the water near the pier. The following remark was made by a Section Commander:

"In C Troop we have three sorts of rations: fresh rations, dry rations and now, floating rations."

THE GURKHA ENGINEERS AND NEPAL CUP

by Lt.Col. D. H. Bowen, MBE, RE

After the exhausting few days that covered the handover between Gil Roach and Tony Rickets in September 1970 I found a piece of paper on my desk written by Gil to Tony saying "we haven't got the notes on the Nepal Cup sorted out as yet, I suggest Hank and Bharatsing knock something up". This had in true Camberley style a minute in red ink "I agree R.A.R." Bharatsing Sahib produced a very good summary of results and a very comprehensive list of players. What nobody seemed to remember was the names of various BO's who had played. Obviously we were a very unimpressive lot. What cut me to the quick was that neither Bharatsing nor Embahadur could remember that I had played, with them, one year! Over the next few months the pieces of paper kept coming up in my "In Tray". We held a competition amongst all those who had played in the Regimental Team asking for names, dates, scores, anecdotes, anything. More pieces of paper collected but nothing was produced for the archives. Bowen left Hong Kong in a flurry taking with him all the notes, which again sank to the bottom of his new In Tray. At last I have struggled through and produced a summary, not without prompting from General Lance Perowne and a great deal of help, notably from Dick Francis, John Allen, John English, David Kiggell, Jim Kennedy, Bruce Abernethy Clark, Bill Branford, Malcolm Campbell and Donald Cameron. Again the message was loud and clear. No one could remember the BO's - and what is more the "Khelaris" could not even remember the years they played! Everyone remarked that the games were splendid but the parties afterwards were even better and they could not remember the result - or the venue!

Anyway, for what it is worth, here is a summary of our efforts in the Nepal Cup. (You can prove anything with statistics)

Games Played	42	Won	16	Lost	22	Drawn	4
Goals for	61	Goals against	86.				
In matches we lost		the score was	For 8	Against	40		
In matches won		the score was	For 70	Against	13.		

Although it never appeared to the spectators, from the results it would seem we had very few "cliff hangers". We either won or lost very convincingly!

Against the various regiments our results were

<u>2 GR</u>	Played 7 Won 2 Lost 4 Drawn 1. We have never beaten 1/2 GR in a Nepal Cup Match.
<u>6 GR</u>	Played 9 Won 3 Lost 3 Drawn 3. The 6th were always our closest rivals but again we have never beaten 1/6 GR but did beat 6 GR in 1970.
<u>7 GR</u>	Played 14 Won 3 Lost 8 Drawn 3. We never seemed to get over the handicap of playing against 7 GR until Lofty Whitehead moved over to the 6 GR.
<u>10 GR</u>	Played 6 Won 4 Lost 2.
<u>G SIGS</u>	Played 2 Lost 2 Alas we haven't beaten them yet!
<u>TBDG</u>	Played 2 Won 1 Lost 1.
<u>PARA</u>	Played 1 Won 1.
<u>GTR</u>	Played 1 Lost 1.
<u>BGTC</u>	Played 2 Won 1 Lost 1 - who will ever forget the 'debacle' in 1957!

Players. Excluding the British Officers, a total of 67 men have played for the Gurkha Engineers in the Nepal Cup - of these 31 were Gurungs including 1 Ghale - I also assume our two Lamas were NOT Gurung Lamas. 15 of these 67 played in six or more seasons and 3 played for 11 seasons. The longest unbroken run was 1841 Rudrupal Thapa who played every year from 1953 to 1963. Embahadur Sahib missed one year through injury in his run from 1954 to 1964, while that "great" goalkeeper 5855 Dhambahadur was displaced by Malcolm Campbell in 1958. He returned again in 1959 and continued until 1963. What is of interest is that to date no less than 15 of these players have become QGO's and if we count

Kesarbahadur Limbu, who is to be the next Gurkha Major, 5 of these have become Major (QGO) - Kalusing, Dhojbir, Narbahadur, Aitahang and of course Kesarbahadur. All but two of our players have gone on pension at the rank of Sergeant or higher. One of our Khelaris has gone to the RMA Sandhurst (Bejoy Moktan). If you want to get ahead buy a pair of football boots. British Officers. No less than 21 British Officers played over 19 seasons! Four of these, Geoff Bennet, Mitchell, Brian Cameron and David Philpott managed to play for two seasons, the remainder had one season of glory each, or in some cases one game only.

A summary of games and the BO players is attached. If you have anything to add - or subtract - from this list I would be most grateful. The Nepal Cup Archives are almost in the can. We can alter them now in preference to after publication of the history.

We reached the final twice and semi final three times. Let us hope that 1971 brings home the cup.

THE NEPAL CUP

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>BO/CAPTAIN</u>
1949	10 GRTC	Lost	0-7	Kluang	Capt G A Bennett
1950	2/6 GR	Lost	0-3	Kluang	Capt G A Bennett
1951	1/10 GR	Won	3-1	Kluang	Capt J F Allen
	2/7 GR	Lost	0-7	Seremban	Capt J F Allen
				(semi final)	
1952	1/6 GR	Lost	3-4	Ipoh (?)	Maj R D Mitchell
1953	1/7 GR	Lost	0-6	Kluang	Maj R D Mitchell
1954	2/2 GR	Won	1-0	Hong Kong	Capt D E R Cameron
	1/7 GR	Lost	0-4	Seremban	Capt D E R Cameron
1955	1/2 GR	Lost	1-2	Kluang	Lt D H Bowen
1956	2/6 GR	Won	1-0	Seremban	Maj J H Spencer
	2/2 GR	Won	2-1	Kuala Pilah?	Maj J H Spencer
	TDBG	Lost	0-1	Seremban	Maj J H Spencer
				(Final)	
1957	BGTC	Lost	0-2	Singapore	Capt J D English
1958	2/10 GR	Won	5-0	Blakang Mati?	Maj M J A Campbell
	G Sigs	Lost	1-6	Seremban	Maj M J A Campbell
1959	2/7 GR	Lost	0-3		Capt B Cameron

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>BO/CAPTAIN</u>
1960	BGTC	Won	2-1	?	Capt D F Owens
	2/7 GR	Lost	0-2	Blakang Mati	Capt D F Owens
		(after 2-2 draw at S Besi)			
1961	2/7 GR	Won	2-1	Sungei Besi	Capt B Cameron
		(after 2-2 draw at Blakang Mati)			
	G Sigs	Lost	0-1	Kuala Lumpur	
1962	GMP	Won	3-0	Kluang	Lt A B D E Abernethy Clark
	1/10 GR	Won	4-1	Johore Bahru	Lt D. Kiggel
	2/7 GR	Lost	1-4	Seremban	Capt R L Jordan
		(Final)			
				?	Lt A B D E
1963	TDBG	Won	1-0		Abernethy Clark
	1/7 GR	Lost	1-3	Kluang	Lt A B D E
		(after 1-1 draw at Ipoh)			
		(1963 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn lost 0-6 to 2/7 in Hong Kong.)			
		D. Kiggel played)			
1964	1/7 GR	Won	1-0	Kluang	Capt M A M Calver
		(after draw in Kluang)			
	1/10	Lost	0-3	Malacca	Capt J Stevens
1965	1/7 GR	Lost	0-2	Kluang	Capt D H Philpot
1966	GTR	Lost	0-1	Kluang	Capt D H Philpot
1967	2/10 GR	Won	4-0	Penang	Lt D R Humphrey
	2/6 GR	Won	1-0	Kluang	Lt D R Humphrey
	1/6 GR	Lost	4-5	Singapore	Lt D R Humphrey
		(Semi final)			
				Kluang	Lt (QGO) Bhimba
1968	Gurkha Para	Won	4-0		
	2/2 GR	Lost	0-1	Singapore	Lt (QGO) Bhimba
				Singapore	Lt (QGO) Bhimba
1969	1/2 GR	Lost	0-2	Singapore	Lt (QGO) Bhimba
		(after draw in Kluang)			
		Won	3-1	Hong Kong	Lt (QGO) Sunar
1970	6 GR	(after 2-2 draw)			
	7 GR	Won	3-2	Hong Kong	
	2/2 GR	Lost	2-1	Penang	
		(semi final)			

From 1949-1953 the Gurkha Engineers were represented by Gurkha Sqn ETC reinforced where possible.
In 1968 the rules were changed to allow QGOs to be playing captains.

FAMILY GOSSIP

John and Veronica Worthington have emerged from Camberley and moved to Colchester where John is DAA and QMG of 19 Bde.

Billy Brown continues to hibernate in his home in the Black Country. He claims that he could not afford to come to the GEA Dinner! A laughable excuse.

John and Mavis English are now esconced in Hong Kong where John is 21C of the GTR. They say that all their old friends in the Brigade seem to have been banished to the L of C. Mavis says that Hong Kong is rather sordid with indifferent quarters and lazy amahs. She reports that Roma Spottiswoode has a job as an announcer on Radio Hong Kong, Rosie Speight wins all the gymkhanas and Marjorie Quirke teaches at the Army School at Sek Kong.

Margaret Baird spent Christmas cosily at home. She reports that Philip and Tricia Rich are back from Warsaw, Philip is at MOD.

Jimmy and Dierdre Nobbs are moving to HQ Strategic Command in Wilton. Jimmy views this with equinimity.

Harry and Alison Vialou Clark have moved into a bigger quarter in the same road at Brompton as they have a student living with them.

Terry Croxall has moved to Guildford. His son is a reporter for the Camberley News and his daughter teaches dancing, having gone through ballet school.

Richard and Val Marriott continue in prosperous form. Richard has been promoted to PA to someone very, very senior in IBM and now has to commute daily to Wandsworth. Many members who were in Kluang knew Bala Suberamaniam, who was in the JKR (PWD to the older and bolder!) and his wife Kay. Both of them were in UK before Christmas, stay-

ing with the Marriotts. Bala says that he hopes to be in charge of a section of the new dual-carriageway Kuala Lumpur - Seremban road to be built on a completely new alignment and financed by the World Bank.

Terry White has moved South to Harpenden. He seems to have to do a lot of travelling. His sister Pamela has married Jock Neighbour.

Ian Slater is going as 21C to 28 Amphibious Engr Regt in Hamelin in the summer.

George and Joan Ritchie have returned to UK and are living in W. Byfleet. He has a similar job to Gil Roach and John Edwards so they are in a most excellent position to introduce sound jungle tactics to the North German Plain!

Malcolm and Josephine Campbell have bought an old farmhouse in Buxted near Uckfield. It needs a certain amount of restoration work as beetles have nibbled some of the woodwork. They hope to move in very shortly. They have been living in Josephine's sister's house at Wimbledon. Joanna now prepares the directors lunches at Lonhro every day (could this be why their shares are so low?) as well as undertaking private catering in the evening. She has a flat in the Boltons area.

John and Tricia Getley are enjoying Edinburgh where they live in a quarter.

Peter and Julia Harvey find Chatham life absorbing. There is an excellent local school nearby where the children go.

Jumbo and Priscilla Thomas love living in Scotland but will not be retiring there as it is too far away from so many of their friends.

John and Rosemary Waymark have had their cosy routine shattered by the arrival of a son.

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Maj (R) D.M.L. Bruges	Brook House, Semington, Nr. Melksham, Wilts.
Capt (R) M.A.M. Calvert	Flat 5A, Richmond Mansions, 248 Old Brompton Road, London SW5.
Maj B. Cameron	D13 (Army), MOD, Whitehall, London SW1.
Lt Col D.E.R. Cameron, MC	58 Girton Road, Bushey, Herts.
Col (R) M.J.A. Campbell, MBE, MC	29 Murray Road, Wimbledon, London SW19.
Capt J.E. Carter	Junior Leader's Regt, Dover, Kent.
Lt Col (R) J.H. Carver	Roff Cottage, Beech Hill, Reading.
Capt J.W.A. Chapman	68 Sqn.
Capt W.J. Chesshyre	4 Communications Unit, Oakley Farm, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
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Capt P.W. Cook	Over the Way, Ord St, Nr Borden, Kent.
Maj D.H.G. Corsellis	8 Norbury Mews, London W11. wef Mar 72 - 67 Sqn.
Maj P.C.E. Creasy, RAPC	RHQ The Gurkha Engineers.
Maj D.C. Crocker, RAPC	HQ British Honduras Garrison, BFPO 12.
Maj J.A.N. Croft	83 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5.
Maj (R) F.A. Cronk	Bank House, White Lane, Middle Assenden, Henley-on-Thames.

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Maj (R) J. Downes	Rosebank, Braishfield Road, Woodley, Romsey, Hants.
Capt P.C.G.P. Druitt	42 Survey Engr Regt, Barton Stacey, Hants.
Lt Col (R) A.D.M. Dunne, MBE	8 Fairmile, Henley-on-Thames.
Maj (R) C.E.H. Edwards, MBE, MC	Wooster Arms, Islip, Oxon.
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Maj (R) S.J. Edwards	PO Box 93, Kalamunda, W Australia.
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Maj J.D. English RCT	HQ Gurkha Transport Regt, BFPO 1.
Maj (R) R.J. Francis	19 Lynch Road, Farnham, Surrey.
Maj (R) J.B. Freeland	Doyley Manor Farm, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Andover, Hants.
Capt J.G. Forbes	JC & SC. Warminster.
Capt M. Gaffney	21 Engineer Regt, BFPO 48.
Maj L.P.K. Gatfield	RMCS, Shrivenham.
Maj J.C. Getley	2 Redford Neuk, Edinburgh.
Maj (R) D.J. Goddard	3 Archery Close, London W2.
Lt Col P.C. Harvey, MVO	Gibraltar House, Gibraltar Avenue, Brompton, Gillingham, Kent.
Capt R.C.O. Haworth	68 Sqn.

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Capt J.H. Hewitt	Mooltan Bks, Tidworth, Hants.
Col F.M. Hill, CBE	Manor Farmhouse, East Knoyle, Wilts.
Capt G.I.J. Hole	52 Fd Sqn, Waterbeach.
Lt D. Howie, RAEC	RHQ The Gurkha Engineers
Capt D.R. Humphrey	HQ RSME.
Capt (R) A.P. Hunter	Cherhill, 201 Passage Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, DS10 7DL.
Capt (R) W.D.M. Ingram	Park Cottage, Addington Green, Nr. Maidstone, Kent.
Capt R. Jackson	Dept of Environment,, Gibraltar, BFPO 52.
Lt Gen Sir William Jackson, KCB, OBE, MC.	Claxton Hall, York.
Capt P.R. Johnson, BEM	Fortress Sqn, Gibraltar, BFPO 52.
Maj R.L. Jordan	23 Chattenden Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent.
Capt (R) J.R.M. Kennedy	The Well House, Canada, Westwellow, Romsey, Hants.
Capt H.H. Kerr	HQ RE, 1(BR) Corps, BFPO 39.
Capt (R) D. Kiggell	29 Palewell Park, East Sheen, London SW14.
Maj J.E. Kitching	21 Eng Regt, BFPO 48.
Capt J. Knowles	RHQ The Gurkha Engineers.
Capt (R) P.R. Knowles	The Lyttons, Seale, Farnham, Surrey.

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Capt W.G.N. Lawrence	42 Fd Sqn.
Capt R.A. Lawson-Tims	26 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.
Capt G.S. Lucas	RHQ The Gurkha Engineers.
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Lt Col (R) R.D. Mitchell	5 Bishops Close, Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa, Warwicks.
Maj D.F. Moorcroft, RCT.	17 Port Regt, RCT McMullen Bks, Marchwood, Hants.
Capt (R) D.R.G. Morris	c/o National & Grindleys Bank Ltd., 13 St James Square, London SW1.
Maj J.C. Murcott	71 Engr Regt (V), 51 Yorkhill Parade, Glasgow CW.
Lt Col (QM) L.H. Mutton	37 Engr Regt, Longmoor, Liss, Hants.
Lt R.A. Newns	67 Sqn.
Maj J.S. Nobbs, MBE	HQ Strategic Comd.
Maj (R) J.D. Orange-Bromhead	Fairgreen, Sandringham Road, Catisfield, Fareham, Hants.
Maj D.F. Owens	12 Bishops Road, Upper Hale, Farnham, Hants.
Lt (R) G.R. Oxley	7G Elcock Drive, Perrybar, Birmingham 22B.
Maj (R) J.H.G. Parfect	Greystones, Huthwaite, Yorks.
Capt R.P. Paul	42 Survey Engineer Regt, Barton Stacey, Hants.
Maj Gen (R) L.E.C.M. Perowne, CB, CBE	Flat 4, Benfleet Hall, Green Lane, Cobham, Surrey.

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Capt J.E. Preedy	32 Engineer Regt, BFPO 30.
Capt W.J. Preiss	Depot Regt, RSME.
Maj D.M.A. Quirke	RHQ The Gurkha Engineers.
Lt Col J.R. Radford, RCT	17 Gardiner Close, Marchwood, Southampton, SO4 4ZG.
Maj P. Reedman	HQ 1(BR) Corps, BFPO 39.
Capt (QM) D.C. Revins	68 Sqn.
Lt M.D. Reynolds	38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn, BFPO 45.
Maj P.P. Rich	Thorpe House, Thorpe Abbots, Diss, Norfolk.
Lt Col R.A.S. Rickets	RHQ The Gurkha Engineers.
Capt J.A. Ris	67 Sqn.
Lt Col G.N. Ritchie	DOAE, Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey.
Lt Col G.G. Roach	Quebec House, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.
Capt (R) R.S. Rugg	21 Finchfield Hill, Compton, Wolverhampton.
Capt (QM) F. Sewell	67 Sqn.
Maj I.C. Slater	HQ 12 Engr Bde, Barton Stacey, Hants.
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Maj J. Speight	68 Sqn.
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Maj (R) T le M Spring Smythe	c/o Br Embassy, Kathmandu.
Capt D.J.R. Stack	68 Sqn.
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Maj F. Stewart	HQ NORTHAG, BFPO 40.
Maj (R) R.C.G. Stowe	108 (W) Fd Sqn TAVR, Swansea.
Capt J.N.B. Stuart	RSME.
Maj A.A. Taylor	HQ E-in-C (Engr 1A), Empress State Bldg, Earls Court, London SW6.
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Maj N.W.A. Tomlinson	62 CRE (Construction), Barton Stacey, Hants.
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Lt A.S. Tuggey	RMCS, Shrivenham.
Capt H. Turnham	26 Engr Regt, BFPO 24.

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Lt J.F. Wheeley	68 Sqn.
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Col J. Whitehead, MBE	HQ Bde of Gurkhas, BFPO 1.
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Capt W.J. Wiggett	7 Fd Sqn, BFPO 30.
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