

# Ex WARPAIN 14- The Round Up

69 Gurkha Field Squadron



Members of Fd Tp 2 (G Troop) start work on improvements to Kirikay village

## WARPAIN WARMS (a little..)

The weather is slowly warming (although it might not be for long!) and its full steam ahead as 69 Gurkha Field Squadron roll on with their tasks. Even frozen vehicles and the odd off-road moment haven't stopped considerable progress being made. Read on for the latest updates from Ex WARPAIN 14!



Officers from 69 Fd Sqn QGE Serve lunch

## Special events from the past fortnight:

- Staff SSgt Rae (Clerk of Works) helps the Winter Repair REME ice-hockey team beat the BATUS team 10-1.
- OC Saheb almost beats Cpl Furtenji at squash.
- Field Troop 2 moved out to Exercise control on the prairie (Excon) and begin to base all works from the prairie.

*"After working, eating, drinking and laughing as a team we are all the more grateful for this opportunity"*

**Spr Hide 75 Engr Sqn  
(attached for Ex WARPAIN 14)**

## Who are you calling a part timer?

As part of the Army 2020 restructuring 36 Engineer Regiment has been partnered with 75 Fd Engrs, an Army Reserve unit based in Warrington. The relationship involves the incorporation of the Reserves into 36 Engr Regt's operational and exercise commitments. 69 Fd Sqn QGE has welcomed 6 reservists from the Sqn as part of Ex WARPAINT 14 and Spr Ian Hide from 75 Engrs describes in his own words how he has found the challenges so far.

'After serving in with 75 Engineers, 107 Field Squadron for two years, I had not yet had the opportunity to go on exercise for any length of time.

So when the chance to go to BATUS in Canada and train with 69 Gurkha Field Squadron came up, myself and five other members of my squadron, were excited to prove ourselves. I was already fully aware of the Gurkhas love for sports and renowned professionalism but what I would learn and experience over the coming months, was a once in a life time opportunity. What we first noticed on our arrival at the barracks in Maidstone, was their respect for each other, and how friendly and welcoming everyone was. Our seniors non-commissioned Officers (SNCOs) discussed with us our backgrounds and any knowledge and qualifications we may already have. We were given briefings on the list of tasks that lay ahead, and how they had been prioritized, this gave us all a better understanding of what we needed to accomplish, and any challenges we might face.

Our mission was to construct a variety of structures, as part of continuing development work in order to enhance the facilities provided for Battlegroups to conduct Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT.)

The reserves at work



Breaking the frozen ground

The reserves at work



As we arrived in Canada in mid January, temperatures were plummeting to lows of -39 degrees. Warm kit was issued and signed for, health and safety briefs were given, all in the hope that we could complete our tasks and not let the cold get to us; and that is exactly what is happening. All troops have been constantly smiling in the face of adversity. Pulling razor wire out of mud that has frozen solid is no easy task, and yet there was not so much as a frown when sat around the gas heater in the site office as our faces thawed.

Now we have been here for just over a month I am noticing, and enjoying the routines and traditions. Such as Monday morning parade with an all inspiring speech from the OC, played out to the sound of bagpipes; and the Gurkha curry lunches on a Saturday, where the squadron is waited on by the dedicated team of Officers. Once every few weeks there is a sports day at the weekend, the most recent of which included a basketball tournament. Each troop put together a team, and us as reservists even pitched our own side, despite putting up a good fight we did not win. However, we now feel we have been fully welcomed and integrated into a group that before this exercise we knew very little about; however after working, laughing, eating and drinking as a team, we are all the more grateful to have such an amazing opportunity. I feel that as reservists we are doing our squadron proud, by illustrating our strong work ethic and desire to both work and learn, while not forgetting to enjoy the social side of the exercise and the delights that Canada has to offer.

I look forward to the upcoming months and the challenges and tasks that lay ahead, I am sure that our NCO's and Officers will ensure we keep busy as though our backgrounds may be incomparable, our aims are identical, and therefore achievable.



# SUPPORT TP, MT UPDATE- EX WARPAIN-14 by Spr Sangeet Gurung

Support Troop is playing a vital role in Ex WARPAIN- 14. Five members of the troop deployed to Canada on 20<sup>th</sup> of January 14 as an advance party. Initially we were very busy taking over all the Green fleet (military) and white fleet (civilian) vehicles and stores and making sure that they are in a good order. All Senior Gurujis had a busy period of delivering driver refresher training specific to Canada highway code in which risks and hazards of winter driving were covered. On arrival of the main body Sp troop has been providing drivers and the vehicles to the troops whenever they require for the task. Daily bus services to Crowfoot camp, Ralston gym and welfare run to Medicine Hat are being put on for Troops. Due to the extreme cold weather conditions we are finding difficult to start up the vehicles early in the morning. Vehicles have bogged in a few times on the Prairie as the road is very challenging due to the heavy snow and black ice but we managed to recover ourselves ( most of the time). REME support is also in place which helps! Despite the unsuitable weather conditions for driving, the drivers are tackling the situation safely. Saturday is the maintenance day. OC, Ech Comd and all heads of department conduct snap inspections of their equipments and stores to check serviceability. We are learning and gaining more experience in this exercise as the days passing by. Although it is very cold and the vehicles are old, we are managing to support the field troops to complete this exercise successfully.

A member of MT conducts vital vehicle maintenance



**SPORTS!!** No moment of down time has been wasted- Every night the gym is full of Ex WARPAIN 14 personnel! Sunday's organized basketball tournament was a particular success!



## 60 Seconds with.....Sgt Ang Sherpa (Sqn Clerk.)

**What is your favorite thing about Canada?** The BEEEEERRR!!! like all the beer.

**What about the best font and font size?** Oohh Comic Sans is a good font and standard 11!

**Worst thing about Canada?** The cold! When it is -30 degrees ..I really feel for the lads from my warm office!

**Best Canadian food?** Rib eye steak!

**Best key on the key board?** ALT F4 definitely!(it closes windows!)

**Who causes the most admin in 69 GFS?** There are a few but I am not naming names.

**Best sport?** Without a doubt basketball!

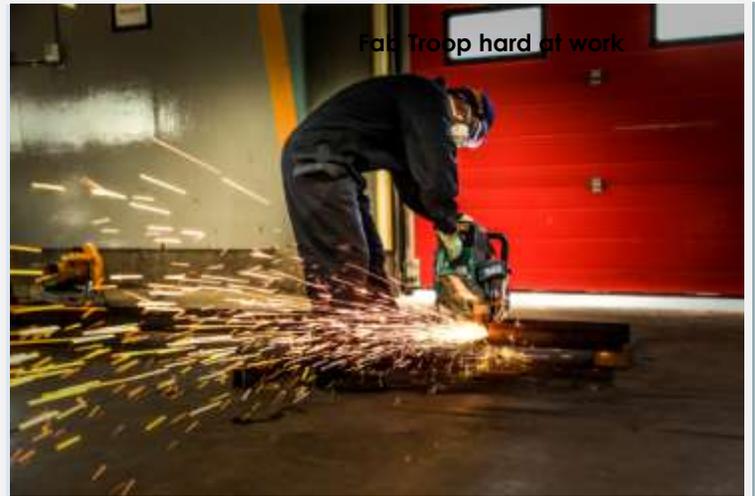


## FABRICATION TROOP UPDATE by Spr Min Kumar

Fabrication Troop has been fully loaded in last two weeks. In this period we have been provided with all the essential resources. There is a good sign of completing job properly on time. Recently the resources have arrived in the workshop. The individuals from senior to junior rank of troop pushed hard and this has shown new light of success. There is a massive amount of timber work to complete. This past fortnight the Troop Commander set all the carpenters a goal of three accommodation plinths per week. Under the command of LCpl Raj and Spr Shakti the carpenters built 4 of the 13 accommodation plinths (a massive achievement). The plinths are large timber platforms designed to take tents so that more exercise personnel can be housed on the prairie. Thanks to all the helping hands from welder team and other 1 and 2 Troop!

On the other hand, fabricating and welder teams commenced building an observation post for an exercise village. They have started cutting metal in different shape and sizes. All the team members are fully confident in completing it in estimated time.

In the past two weeks we have seen a lot of progress. Fabrication Troop will be facing an extremely busy schedule in coming days. All the troop members are prepared for it. I believe we can accomplish our mission on time with enthusiasm and dedication.



Fab Troop hard at work

## FIELD TROOP 2 UPDATE (1 TROOP) By Spr Arpan

Due to extreme weather in the previous week, work has been a little slow in the resources yard. With the slightly warmer weather we have suddenly seen a lot of progress! The Bobcat (plant machinery) has dug many holes and work has been undertaken to position and concrete numerous posts into position. We have also been concurrent and finished dumping the fill material for a large wall of earth at exercise control (EXCON). With half the Troop in the resources yard the other half have been working hard on the dismantling and relocation of a representative bridge for exercises. This task is located a long way away from the main camp and is a place where the weather can quickly drain your energy. As the weather sets to turn again we are not looking forward to the cold creeping in.



2 Troop's auger!

## Can you identify the frozen Soldier?!



## ADVENTURE TRAINING

Despite being flat out with works the Sqn has sent many personnel Adventure Training! Activities included skiing, ice-climbing and dog sledging. All have felt challenged by the activities the new experiences!



Sgt Overland with his novice ski group

## SSM'S MESSAGE

Since we arrived in Canada, the Sqn was very busy; procuring resources, equipment and vehicles. At the same time the personnel were wrestling with bitterly cold temperatures and trying to use the best practice. The Squadron Headquarters is making sure the troops have been deployed with sufficient cold weather kit, plenty of food and the emergency procedures are in place. Despite the weather and busy periods, the Sqn personnel are enjoying being in Canada with exceptional food available in the kitchen, wider range of gymnasium facility, brilliant accommodation and more importantly free WIFI in accommodation and messes. Most of the Sqn personnel have been enjoying Canadian bars, restaurants and clubs during weekend and so far all have been behaved well. As my job as a Squadron Sergeant Major, I have not received any call from Regimental Sergeant Major and the Royal Military Police (yet). Outside of the work, OC Saheb is keen that all personnel are participating in Adventure Training (AT). So far, 26 personnel have already taken part on the AT including Skiing (SF1, SF2 and SF3), Ice Climbing and Dog Sledging. The AT is running in the wilderness of the Kananaskis Provincial Park and Banff National Park in the heart of Canadian Rockies. A separate Distribution Training has been organised to make sure maximum personnel will qualify on SF1 so that they step on to the Joint Service Adventure Training Scheme (JSATS). Outside of AT, few Sqn personnel are keen to learn and refine their skills on Skating and Ice Hockey games. Finally, the Sqn is really looking forward to host the Commanding Officer 36 Engr Regt and Commandant QGE. Let's hope the weather stays good and the CO saheb manage to visit as many personnel as he can.

**Jai Ex WARPAINT 14!**



SSM enjoys his birthday cake as OC Saheb looks on!

### C3S SIGNALS TROOP By Spr Bikash Gurung

During the initial phase, Signal Troop took over the Range Control. Our job is to man the safety net and communicate with all the call signs deployed on the Prairie. We work alongside our Canadian counterparts and are responsible for the route clearances (movement of vehicles) and booking in/out of all personnel. Due to the unpredictable nature of the weather, we have to get clearance from the 29 flight line which is red, amber or green depending on the weather that day. If it is red, then the casualty evacuation would be impossible and all work would have to cease. During the first week, our troop could not be deployed because of the flight state, which was red and troops were vulnerable.

Some of our troop personnel were attached to the field troops so that they could gain experience and learn the hardships of our Field Troops on the ground. Recently, 3 boys have completed their SF1 AT. It provides the troop personnel with excellent opportunity to go away and enhance their moral. We have been concentrating on carrying out a proper signals exercise with different equipment further down the line and concurrently setting up "Bowman platform" which will enable call signs on the ground to send proper reports and returns over the radio network.



Sigs Troop hard at work



**OCs Proverb of the week:**

Macha Macha.....Beguta!



## 2 Troop (I Troop) Update!

2 Troop have had a busy week! They have moved up to a base on the prairie which cuts their journey time by half an hour a day! Work has surged ahead with the warmer weather and the fake cemetery and police station are making real progress. The only real show stoppers have involved transport in the challenging conditions but REME and MT are always there to lend a hand. When they can they are even helping out other call signs on the area!

Next week work focus is on installing the stairs

**WEATHER WATCH: COLDEST: -15° Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb WARMEST: (+) 5° Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb**

### OC's Message :

Time seems to have really flown since my last input into the newsletter and the warmer weather has truly lifted our spirits. The Squadron is aware of the hard work going on back in Maidstone and wishes all our sister Squadrons and the rear-party best of luck in helping with the flood crises – it seems everyone has faced some very challenging weather conditions.

Field Troop 1 under SSgt Subash and Lt Chris Marris have been really pushing their team this week to gain momentum on several task sites and the boys are clearly enjoying getting stuck in and dirty. Field Troop 2 have moved locations and are now living approximately 45 mins away from SHQ - doing some sterling work in upgrading KIRIKAY village out on the prairie. Both Lt Rob Richardson and SSgt Narendra are thoroughly enjoying the autonomy this task provides. The Fabrication Cell has also leaped forward in its production rate and Lt Jo Chambers and Sgt Ram are pushing their team hard to support the Field troops. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lt Jo Chambers for putting together an excellent newsletter and pointing out I did indeed 'nearly' beat Cpl Furtenji in a single squash game – he was using his wrong hand! Jai QGE and Jai 69 Sqn

