

QUEENS GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER
Nos. 1 & 2

N.

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GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No.1

April 1971

Gurkha Engineers Association

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EDITORIAL

This is the first of what we hope will be a long line of bi-annual Gurkha Engineers Newsletters. It was born out of a suggestion at the last GEA Annual Meeting that such a Newsletter would help to keep members of the GEA in touch with the Regiment and the Brigade as well as with each other. It would be built round the Regimental Newsletter which would be produced twice a year and would no longer be sent out by the Regiment to individual members of the GEA.

Although everyone at the meeting agreed with the idea there seemed to be two problems. The first was continuity. Your editor had agreed in a rash unguarded moment to edit the Newsletter for two years. If at the end of this time he found that he no longer had the time or the facilities, would someone else be prepared to take on the task? There is no immediate answer to this. The second question was one of cost. Until it was known what the circulation would be it would not be possible to fix a price per issue; members would not know whether they wanted to become regular subscribers until they had seen a sample copy. To overcome this chicken and egg situation the meeting agreed to inertia selling. Your editor was instructed to produce a trial issue and send a copy to all GEA members. The price of this trial copy would be 20p and members would be asked to send this amount to the Secretary irrespective of whether they wanted further issues. This would ensure that the GEA was not out of pocket.

Here then, is the trial issue. If you approve of it and want to receive future issues twice a year, please let John Allen know. We estimate that the cost of future issues will be between 10p and 15p. A bankers order form will be enclosed in the second issue which will of course only go out to those members who want to subscribe. However in any case, please let John Allen have 20 p (4/-) for this issue.

It is planned to produce these GEA Newsletters in March and August. The Postal Strike delayed this one but it meant that the editor was able to get much of the news of the Brigade and the Pensioners from Hank Bowen who arrived in UK in the nick of time. Hank's new posting as CO of the 4th Bn of the Ulster Defence Force has caused much reorganisation in the Regiment. He handed over as 21C to Desmond Quirke who had commanded 68. Charles Spottiswoode has 67. Jim Stewart steps up from 21C of 68 to be OC until John Speight arrives in August.

The Gurkha Welfare Appeal has reached just over £700,000. The Hong Kong appeal, of which Hank was Secretary, is just starting after a blaze of publicity in the Hong Kong press. Some of the Gurkhas who appear in the newspaper pictures might be somewhat surprised by the spelling of their names, but the Regiment got a very good coverage. Tied in with the GWA is the UK tour of the Band Contingent. A provisional tour programme is given later in this issue. This tour of the Brigade Bands and Pipes and Drums is aimed purely at raising money for the GWA and they are charging for all their appearances. The Regiment is sending seven pipers (including Deobahadur Thapa who is the Pipe Major of the whole P & D contingent) and four drummers (including the contingent P & D base drummer). There are also three Gurkha Engineers in the Display Team.

The GEA has been very active over parties. Jimmy Nobbs beat the postal strike, at the cost of an enormous telephone bill, and laid on a magnificent party in the Kellar Club at Brompton. It coincided with Tony Ricketts visit to the E-in-C's conference. Don Verschoyle laid on a sumptuous bhat from a nearby Indian Restaurant. All the GORs from the Regiment on courses in England were there.

Later on in the issue you will see news of the Brigade which shows where the battalions are. The 7th are coming to UK in August/September and are moving in to Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Crookham which is an elderly wooden camp. They will be replaced next year by the 10th. The MGBG has said that the battalion which has been longest in Hong Kong will

be the first to come to England. Alas, there is no troop from the Regiment coming. One of the unfortunate effects of the run-down is that the shortage of manpower in the Squadrons does not allow for a troop to be detached.

There is a suggestion in the Regiment that officers who leave after one or two tours would like to have a memento of their stay in the form of a small silver statuette of a piper. Hank and John Edwards are finding out details of cost etc. but they hope that each statuette would be in the region of £20 - £30. It is very likely that quite a number of GEA members will also want one which would bring down the price.

The GEA has not been without its share of honours. General Bill Jackson was summoned to the palace and is now our first Gurkha Engineer Knight.

We would like to thank particularly Tony Ricketts, Miss Horne, John Allen, Jimmy Nobbs and Hank Bowen for providing most of the meat. The editor hopes that his first effort at producing a Newsletter meets with your approval; if you have any suggestions for improving it, please let him know. Contributions and articles would be gratefully received. May we once again remind you to let John Allen know whether you want future issues sent to you at the same time enclosing 20p for this one.

Running commentary on Nepal Cup first round match broadcast by Gurkha Engineer signaller, Cpl Purnabahadur Thapa, to troop working on border positions. 1½ hour commentary began: "Hallo two one this is two - long message....."

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

NO 1/71 AUGUST 1970 TO END OF JANUARY 1971

by Lt.Col. R. A. Rickets, RE.

Back in August, having just taken over from Gil Roach and not knowing enough about anything to do very much and thinking wishfully that anything which did come my way could easily be delegated I made a fatal mistake. I volunteered to write the next Kukri and Regimental Newsletter. After all these years I should have known better.

You will find a good deal of the first person, which I know is not good, but a letter is a letter and that is my intention.

We start back to August; RHQ had just arrived in Hong Kong and Gil Roach was up from Singapore to see them properly in and also to say goodbye. Joy came too and they stayed in the rather plush Pearl Island Hotel, on the little peninsula across the bay from Perowne Barracks. John Edwards had contracted 68 Squadron offices to the other end of the balcony, just enough to let RHQ squeeze in while still dominating the open ground across their front. The RHQ signs have still not been hung but plans are afoot. Not that we want to attract undue attention. Those who know us find us and those who don't find John Edwards and this can be an advantage, but dignity is also at stake. In fact the move in has gone well and 68 Squadron have been a great help all the way.

Gil and Joy left with a tremendous send off from everyone in the Regiment which lasted for several days and ended on the runway at Kai Tak. It proved excellent training for Dasher. Before Gil left we renamed Far East Farm, the new home of 67 Squadron, as Bowring Camp, the unveiling ceremony being appropriately carried out by the three past and present commanders of the Squadron; Gil, myself and Desmond Quirke, but you probably saw that in the Sapper.

Before we go any further I had better tell you about the organisation here. Back in May both field squadrons lost the "independent", or "indingpinding" as Hank will have it, from their titles, and we are now officially much more on the lines of a conventional Engineer regiment with control centralised. This will no doubt alarm many of you but let me explain for it is not as bad as you might think. No Far East Sapper is very keen on centralised control - we just weren't brought up that way, and in any case RHQ is not big enough to maintain it, having dwindled considerably. In effect, and despite the sad loss of their "indingpinding", the squadrons are just about as free as they have ever been, though rather closer to RHQ than perhaps they or RHQ would like. We are centralising only where it is obviously of benefit, such things as pay and accounts, messes, allocations of quarters and family permission, works services and the like. The squadrons still have their own MT, stores and quartermasters and go very much their own way which is right and proper. RHQ is blistered onto 68 Squadron, a blister being something which you are inclined to scratch if it irritates, so we try not to.

Our Gurkha families have been spread wide, half in Gallipoli Barracks and half in Perowne, but most of those from Gallipoli, which is 45 minutes drive from here, have just moved to new quarters in Sek Kong which is one step nearer. Sixty new GOR quarters are currently under construction for us on Demolition Point near the Pearl Island and when they are ready we will have all our Gurkha families together in and around Perowne.

But back to the organisation; 68 Squadron work for 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, mainly on border works, and 67 Squadron for 51 Brigade, mainly on MACC tasks. There was a slight hoo-hah over brigade flashes. 68 Squadron wore them and 67 didn't and you can imagine the fuss that this caused. Thank goodness it was quickly settled, both now wear their flashes and the steam has stopped rising from 67 Squadron.

RHQ is very much a static headquarters and the operational and works sides of life are controlled entirely by

HQ RE which is tucked well in with 'G' Branch of HQLF. In September the two appointments of Commandant and CRE were combined and this system of one control works well. Squadron commanders deal direct with their Brigade commanders and with HQRE as they have done in the past. I live with the Regiment, spend a day or two of the week at HQRE and even the paperwork is reduced, a unique achievement.

The organisation would not be complete and could not operate without the British Hong Kong Support Squadron which provides all our heavy plant support, workshops and stores backing, holds all the Colony bridging and training stores and provides and accounts for all our project stores. They live down in Shamshuipo in a camp crammed with equipment and stores and do a great job of work. This squadron is not part of the Regiment but we all belong to the same team and the milap is excellent.

Our main project is the Luk Keng Road, a major task to full PWD specification which occupies all our Colony holdings of heavy plant and one Gurkha field troop. It is a very good example of the Gurkha/British milap that we enjoy here. Rex Osborne, who commands the Support Squadron is responsible for the project through his design team, and his plant troop operate most of the heavy machines. The field troop do the bridging and culverting. Our Gurkha plant operators also operate some of the machines. Some of the culverts are huge and the standards achieved are a joy to see, though as so often happens most of those doing the concreting-usually turn out to be engine-fitters, electricians, wood turners and fitter machinists, seldom the "bricky" or concreter. By taking on this project we are saving the Hong Kong Government over a million dollars and getting the best construction training we could wish for.

68 Squadron have done great works on the border; bigger and better and deeper defence positions, more lighting, better living, cooler cooling, and quicker cooking. They have also built stables for polo ponies, sports pitches for the Fire Service and are working on our new bridging and plant training area and the road into it, behind Perowne

Barracks. Given three weeks to move half a hillside behind the butts at Lo Wu range they surprised many unbelievers, working their plant without a break and finally under floodlights to finish when they said they would, of course.

67 Squadron has been wider spread. They have provided the field troop and their plant management on the Luk Kong road, built an enormous concrete tank ramp into the sea on the East coast, put up Romneys and Nissens and Marstons and done a host of smaller MACC tasks, several on remote islands of the Colony. Do they really choose the jobs which are furthest from RHQ or is that only my imagination?

A lot of the work is supervisory, with Gurkha Engineers NCOs controlling non Sapper working parties from Gurkha and British units.

There is little time for training, but by careful rotation of their troops squadron commanders seem to manage. There are plenty of exercises, and seldom does one go by without 67 or 68 taking part and giving a good account of itself.

11 Fd Sqn is about to arrive as I write this, and will relieve us of the Luk Kong road for three months, giving more time for training. 68 Sqn will then move onto it, and 67 Sqn will put a troop onto the border. We have our fingers crossed that we might get a troop away to Brunei for a while, and next year we take over control of the STREs working in the Solomons and Thailand which will offer a chance for at least one of us to go a visiting.

Bill Lawrence, Lt (QGO) Bhimbahadur Gurung (the younger) and WO II Clouter have set up the Training Wing office at Gordon Hard and WO II Mckie has the first signals course under way in Bowring Camp, Lt (QGO) Tikaraj Rai has the recruits half-way through their combat engineer course and we start plant courses here shortly. Meanwhile workshops trades training goes on apace in 70 Sqn, still in Mowbray Barracks Singapore, as we make the most of the opportunity left to us until they disband in July. Thereafter the

workshops trades will be taught in a small new wing yet to be built in the Support Squadron, staffed on a rotation basis from the two Gurkha field squadrons. John Getley has been to Nepal yet again, and plans continue for him and Tric to return home overland later in the year.

Bill Wiggett, 21C 70 Sqn, found himself appointed 21C 59 Field Squadron late one night with the job of getting them embarked on Intrepid the following day for Pakistan. By good planning he was back three weeks later just in time to bring Sue to Hong Kong for Christmas and for her first Ladies Guest Night.

Early in September sounds of the madal were heard in quiet corners and troop commanders found themselves without soldiers. Dasher was upon us. The mass of timber, scaffolding, ropes and canvas began to take the shape of a huge and magnificent Dasher ghar, on Perowne square large enough to take the whole Regiment. The squadron hold their own parties first and all combined for a memorable Kalaratri. The old and bold, and one or two young enough to know better, stayed through the night and all were present next morning at Mar and to be blessed at the Maula. There had been several typhoon warnings and miles of rope issued to ensure that if the Dasher Ghar went at least the camp would go with it. "Not to be cut", said the Quartermaster - "Of course not Saheb". Ah well!

We have a combined British and Gurkha WO's and Sqts' Mess in Bowring Camp, and a small "drinking amexe" in Perowne. The members of the Mess Committee are all paired and take their turns to run things, and the system works well. Our problem in October was the Mess building itself, a cold and miserable old hut used by previous units as a temporary Officers Mess. The Mess members were desperately anxious to do something about this, and to do it before Christmas. They set to with sleeves rolled up. S.Sgt Wakeling drew out the designs, including a bar based on that in Pearl Island Hotel but far better. The wood panelling from Kluang, destined for the Officers Mess was quickly diverted. The support Squadron set to and

prefabricated the new bar. Sgt Denholm the carpentry instructor in 70 Sqn was called up from Singapore, squadrons produced their closely guarded tradesmen, the MES clerks of works with the PWD gave their support and the Mess itself was soon rather like a film set in the last frantic minutes of preparation, a confusion of hammering and drilling, screws and nails, lengths of timber and sheets of ply, electric cables and empty glasses, a hive of activity.

All was ready, just, for the Christmas Draw and we were able to enjoy a splendid and very memorable evening in a Mess transformed from cold emptiness to one which we can all be proud of and which is undoubtedly now one of the best WOs & Sgts' messes in the colony. And that too is of course right and proper.

As a final touch it was decided that the Recruit Party would do well to learn a little concreting, and the new steps down to the Mess and the concrete forecourt will long bear witness to their new found skill.

With the cooler weather came the sporting season. Football, hockey, basketball, volleyball, leagues and knock-outs, major unit and minor unit, fast and furious. There has been almost too much to keep up with but our team have done well. Most of the leagues and knockouts are still in progress and the Regimental football team is currently lying second in the league to RAF Kai Tak, having beaten all the other Gurkha units and RWF, the latter having five Army players on the field.

Tony Kerr and John Edwards won between them just about everything on the Golf course and we have had rugby, hockey and football players in the Army teams. Even cricket was played - on Boxing Day. Just to add to the confusion we are now half way through the Sapper Bowl intertroop competition, which involves all the usual sports, the khud race and shooting.

In the middle of Dashera we entered a team for the Far East Inter-Unit sailing, four Enterprises each helmed by a

British Officer and crewed by one of our Gurkha soldiers, and got to the Hong Kong final. We would have won too if we hadn't gone for the wrong mark when comfortably in the lead, leaving the opposition to sail merrily away in the right direction. Sailors always find some excuse!

Mess badminton evenings have started up again, the venue being the garden of the QGOs' Mess in Perowne, which is rather lovely in the evening under the floodlights. On the last occasion, having watched all possible combinations of sahebs play off, the mem-sahebs, in the persons of Mrs. Dhojbir and Mrs. Kesarbahadur issued a challenge, and proceeded to thrash all comers with no apparent effort whatever, which rather deflated our image and no doubt did us all good.

We had a memorable Ladies Guest Night just before Christmas, sporting our scarlet mess jackets to compete with the gorgeous dresses of the ladies. Unfortunately and despite many promises our new rosewood dining room furniture was not ready in time but will be here this month. Plans for the Mess include six more bedrooms, the panelling of the dining room, when more panelling comes up from 70 Squadron, a cold bar and the removal of some of the ante-room pillars if the roof will stay up without them. The setting is delightful and the view over the sea magnificent.

The rundown of course continues but the end is now in sight, and by the end of the year we will be down to our final strength of about 550. Between now and then we have to plan the best possible organisation to make the most of our numbers. We will be thin on the ground but it will work, the Pipes and Drums will continue to delight us, and we do have the Support Squadron to take a lot of the load, and a large civilian staff.

The indefinite continuation of the Brigade, and of The Gurkha Engineers, was announced at the Brigade Conference in December. Our QGOs promptly held one of their best parties ever, a "buffet supper", to which all the Gurkha Majors attending the conference came.

We are coming up now to our FFR inspection, (the new name for the old "Admin",) which will be carried out by the MGBG. Little men are seen each day poring over our ledgers, peering into dark corners and lifting up the carpets and the pre-admin checks go on. So far all is well and we have no worries, so I am told. Tony Kerr has just left us and taken Lorna with him - John Knowles is the new adjutant, John Edwards hands over 68 Squadron to Charles Spottiswood and leaves the day after the FFR (Depending of course on the result). Hank Bowen now goes at the end of March, to command a battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment, and will be offering cheap holiday tours to Ireland in due course. Douglas Humphrey goes in April to be GSO 3 (SD) at Chatham.

Lastly General John Bowring comes out to see us in March. If all goes well I hope to meet him in Calcutta and we will be going to Dharan, Paklihawa, Pokhara and Kathmandu meeting as many of his old friends from the Regiment as we can muster along the way. He will then visit the Regiment in Hong Kong and Singapore. But I will tell you about that next time.

I can write no more. I have jumped from subject to subject and the whole is too long and I have left a lot out, but I hope that some of it will be of interest to you.

From all of us to all of you -

BALYO RAHANU HOS

QGOs comment on seeing a European in company with a lady other than his wife:

"Duty free".

WRVS GURKHA WELFARE REPORT FOR
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1970

By Miss L. Horne, WRVS.

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Number of families	71	72	75
" " Children	124	127	133
" " Births	3	1	1
" " BMH Admissions	3	3	1
" " BMH Discharges	2	3	2
" " going to BMH	8	12	15
" " " " Dentist	4	5	4
" " Sek Kong Family Centre	2	-	1
" " Ante Natal	10	9	10
" " Xray	6	9	-

Health During October there were the usual coughs, tonsillitis bronchitis, jaundice developing in the new babies. One child had an abcess on her thigh, it didn't show up for a few weeks, just swollen and very painful. I think this is a Nepal type of abcess, however it was lanced and drained and she is fine now, children with cut heads getting stitched up by the midwives. November still the same ailments also one abortion and one colic case. December brought the mumps, only 3 cases so far and mild bronchitis, catarrh, a few fevers, quite a few cases of worms. I wonder why this should be - even around families who have been here for some time.

General During these months families have been leaving on redundancy and on leave, the wives are very happy to be going back. We still have a number of families at Gallipoli Barracks now being looked after at the 6th Family Hospital, they are happy in their quarters there, but soon will be moving to new quarters in Sek Kong about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Perowne Barracks, then 67 Squadron will take over Pearl Island quarters and 68 Squadron will be in Perowne Barracks - however this won't be until the end of 1971.

Our families in Perowne enjoy their sewing classes twice a week. We are also trying to get a team of Badminton players - so we have it twice a week also, more if they want it. The midwives gained a lot of interesting knowledge during their time at BMH. Our New Ward assistant trained at BMH is well and truly working hard at the Family Hospital at Perowne and doing very well.

Activities In October there was 'Dashera'. 68 Squadron had their own night and Bhat and 67 Squadron had their own night and Bhat - both great fun. The buffalo had its head off in one cut of the kukri. Everybody was very happy.

We gave a film show to the wives and any husbands who wanted to come. We held it in the cinema. There were 3 training films - one showing the diseases caused by flies on food etc. Second, the dangers of mosquito's bites. Third, the various ways of life saving, this was most interesting, it showed the kiss of life - how it is operated. I would like to see this again. Our Lines Policeman, (then S.Sgt. Bombahadur Gurung) gave an explanation of the films before showing and answered any questions afterwards, (he had taken a Hygiene course). We have been after two other films on family planning, but so far we haven't run them to earth. Then there was 'Devali', with the candles lit at the windows and doors and the children come around and sing and dance, rather like Halloween in U.K. A pretty festival. December 18th was the tiny tots Christmas party. I have never decorated too much before, but I did not bargain for two young midwives, they made the Welfare Centre look very lovely. What patience they had and with the help of some of the wives, they strung different coloured paper together making yards of long streamers - it did look nice and they all enjoyed it all so much. The Lines Policeman was Father Christmas, he liked that too - the Nepalese children call him "Christmas Father". The school children had their party on December 19th, in the school.

We had the usual monthly visits to the Cotton Factory and towel factory. A visit during October and

December to the Castle Peak Mental Hospital sale - when the wives collected their orders of chairs, tables and baskets - quite a few families taking home chairs and tables.

Visitors No visitors to the Family Hospital during these three months. Miss N. Barlow, WRVS Administrator Far East, visited us during November.

Magazine Adoption Scheme Parcels received from the following:-

<u>WRVS Centres</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Larbet and Stenhausmuir	-	-	4
St. Albans	5	6	5
Macclesfield	-	1	1
Blackpool	1	1	1
Northumberland	-	-	2
Exmouth	-	1	1
Palmers Green	-	3	1
HQ London	1	-	1
Blackburn	-	-	2
Liverpool	-	1	-
Luton	1	-	1

All good selections and acknowledged.

Bowen Saheb's orderly, baby-sitting for him on Christmas Eve, Bowen having just called in to see that all was well and having previously briefed him on Father Christmas: "Father Christmas hasn't been yet Saheb, but if he comes do I wake up the children?"

BRIGADE NEWS

1/2 GR under John Chappel now at Slim Barracks moving to Casino Barracks HK in November.

2/2 GR at Seria moving to Gallipoli Barracks HK in June/July. Terry Bowring takes over from John Lawes in May/June when John goes to Dharan as AQ.

6 GR under Jim Kelly (21C Henry Oakden) now at Gallipoli Barracks changes over with 2/2 GR in June.

7 GR now at Casino Barracks move to Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Crookham, in August/September. Alan Jenkins hands over soon to Ian Elliott.

10 GR under Norman Roberts (21C Chris Pike) have just moved to Queens Hill Barracks HK.

Birdie Smith now Col Bde of Gurkhas becomes Brig L of C in September.

John Whitehead takes over as Col Bde of Gurkhas around September.

Bunny Burnett becomes MGBG at the end of the year.

Mike Allen is BM Bde of Gurkhas.

Colin Scott takes over the Depot which moves from S. Patani to Sek Kong in May. Sherbahadur is GM and John Tensing is HC.

Gil Hickey commands 48 Gurkha Inf Bde in HK.

PENSIONERS NEWS

Hank Bowen met several QGO pensioners on his trek. Amarbahadur Gurung was in fine form, still the same size. Deobahadur Thapa is a prosperous business man in Bairawa. Santabir had been very ill but was fit and tagra when he came to Paklahawa to collect his pension. Ranjit Gurung is still with the DCRE staff at Dharan. Aitahang has remarried and has a new son. He retires this month from the Depot.

Harkabahadur Gurung (ex G/Capt of 69) is Liaison Officer with the Directorate of the Environment (DOE) East-West road project. Also engaged on this are Sase Thapa, Jagatram (Camp Commandant of a delightful military style basha camp!), Deolal, Dhane (Plant king), Harkabahadur Gurung (88 Maila) and Ganesh Thapa.

Rate Limbu has a very nice new house, Kalusing has been sick with pneumonia but has now recovered. Manbahadur Lumbu's wife had been sick but is now better.

British Plant NCO (two pieces of plant having rolled off hill tracks):

"We must teach our plant operators to jump before the machine rolls".

Tp Comd (holding the two damage reports):

"Wouldn't it be better to teach them to keep their machines on the track?"

BRIGADE OF GURKHAS BAND CONTINGENT 1971

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME AS AT 25 FEB 1971

APRIL

28 Contingent arrives in UK - accommodated
in Aldershot.

MAY

7 Opening ceremony Public House "GURKHA"
- IVER BUCKS. P & D (30)

9 SHAMLEY GREEN
Lunch time performance on village green. All

12 Farnham - Beating Retreat. P & D

14 - 16 Royal Windsor Show. All

18 Private engagement in aid of Gurkha
Welfare Appeal - OSWESTRY.

19 - 20 West Midlands Agricultural Show
- SHRESBURY. P & D

20 - 21 Devon County Show - EXETER. All less
P & D

22 Devon County Show. All

26 Arborfield - Beating of Retreat. P & D

29 March through GUILDFORD High Street
- Salute taken by Mayor.

29 Ball at Wintershall Manor. All

31 Surrey County Show - GUILDFORD. All

JUNE

1 International Spring Festival
- BIRMINGHAM. P & D

2 - 3 Suffolk Show - IPSWICH. All less
P & D

5	Bath and West Show.	P & D
5 - 26	Royal Tournament (incl rehearsals 5-8).	All less P & D
8 - 9	Royal Cornwall Show - WADEBRIDGE.	P & D
12	Coventry Carnival.	P & D
14	Engagement in Royal Albert Hall (?).	P & D
15 - 17	Three Counties Agricultural Show - MALVERN.	P & D
19 - 20	Private engagements in aid of Gurkha Welfare Appeal in Wiltshire.	P & D
20	Four Pipers in unveiling of Indian Army Memorial Window - Sandhurst.	
22,23,24	Possible engagement in Reading (one day)?	P & D
25	Private engagement in aid of GWA in Hertfordshire.	P & D
25	7GR Regimental Dinner.	2 Pipers
26	Private engagement in aid of GWA in Cambridge.	P & D
28	Private engagement in aid of GWA in Kings Lynn.	P & D
30 - 1	Royal Norfolk Show.	All
<u>JULY</u>		
3	Wembley Tattoo (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).	All
5 - 11	Aldershot Army Display.	P & D
5 - 11	Colchester Tattoo.	All less P & D
12 - 15	BREAK	
16 - 17	Kent County Show - MAIDSTONE.	All less P & D
17	The Liverpool Show - LIVERPOOL.	P & D

JULY Cont'd

17	Sponsored March - RYLL.	2 Pipers
18	Private engagement in aid of GWA in FOLKESTONE.	All less P & D

Engagements in Aid of GWA in WALES

20	CHEPSTOW	Band & Bugles
21	PEMBROKE	"
22	ABERYSTWYTH	"
23	LLANDUDNO	"
24	WREXHAM	"
1 Aug	SWANSEA	"
20 - 22	Royal Welsh Show - BUILTH WELLS.	P & D
24 - 7 Aug	Cardiff Tattoo.	All

AUGUST

10 - 11 Sep	Edinburgh Tattoo.	All
21	CRIEFF Highland Gathering	All

SEPTEMBER

13 - 18	York Military Tattoo.	All
19	Private engagement in aid of GWA in Nottingham.	
21 - 23	Engagements in aid of GWA in PRESTON- BLACKPOOL area and KENDALL (P & D only on 23)	
24	2GR Dinner	
25	Beating Retreat - Losely Hall, Nr. Guildford.	
27	Contingent starts to return to Far East.	

GORs ON UK COURSES

48958 Sgt Birbahadur Gurung on Combat Engineer B1 course at RSME until 14th May.

57729 Spr Durgaparsad Gurung on Design Assistant 3 course at RSME until 28th May.

58089 Spr Imanhang Limbu attached to HQ 12 Engr Bde at Barton Stacey until 2nd August (contact is Ian Slater) and then on Design Assistant 3 course at RSME from 2nd August-11th February 1972.

It (QGO) Indrakamal Tamang on All Arms QM course at HQ RAOC Trg Centre, Deepcut, from 13th April - 28th May.

56063 L.Cpl Haribahadur Thapa) At Beaconsfield from 5th
55302 L.Cpl Purnabahadur Gurung) April - 7th June then on
Sig RE B1 course at RSME
from 7th June - 6th August.

57124 L.Cpl Dipak Tamang at Beaconsfield from 5th April - 14th June then on Electrician A3-2 from 14th June - 10th December at RSME.

55506 Spr Manilal Thapa) Attached to HQ 12 Engr Bde
58135 Spr Surjabahadur Thapa) from June then on Design
Assistant 3 course at RSME
from 2nd August - 11th
February 1972.

O/Cdt Bejoykumar Moktan now at Mons OCS then on to RMAS.
Bejoykumar was originally Gurkha Engineers but is to be commissioned into 2GR.

3 more Gurkha Engineers arriving later in the year.

GBA AND GEA FUNCTIONS

GBA Reunion on 14th May 1971. This will be similar to the previous ones and will be a buffet supper at the Connaught Rooms, 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. Tickets through John Allen.

GBA Dinner on Friday 5th November 1971.

GEA Party on Friday 24th September 1971 at Minley Manor. Because of the move of the RE Trg Bde Mess from Southwood Camp to Minley Manor, it will not be possible to have the party before September. It is hoped that Malcolm Thomson will be making all the arrangements, and further details will be given in the next issue.

GOR Party Jimmy Nobbs has not yet been able to make firm arrangements yet. He is in favour of holding it at Chatham again as the last one there in February was so successful. Possible dates are early July or November.

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The collection of suitable photographs for the Regimental History is being undertaken by Jumbo Thomas. All members will be getting a letter from him soon about this. It is hoped to compile an album which will march side by side with the written history. This will require selected photos on selected subjects so considerable sifting of ideas will be necessary before members are asked for photos. Jumbo plans to send out a synopsis of subjects in time - probably not before the end of this year. Members are asked not to send him any photos yet.

FAMILY GOSSIP

David and Jane Corsellis have bought the leasehold of their mews house and built on a studio for Jane who continues to sell her paintings for large sums.

Mike Calvert gave a very splendid farewell party for Mike Gaffney before the latter's departure for Northern Ireland. Most of the breakfast table wits from Kluang days were present. Mike is still with IBM and living near Earls Court in a large and very comfortable flat on which he has lavished many loving hours with a paint brush.

Jumbo and Priscilla Thomas left Beachley House on 13th March just in time to see Wales beat England at the Arms Park. They are living temporarily in a very nice quarter in Cardiff where they plan to stay for three or four months whilst they condense their joint belongings so that they will fit into a normal house. Jumbo leaves the army in June 1971 or June 1972 depending on the outcome of his Golden Bowler application which should be known by the end of March. He is looking for a quiet job NOT in the South-East nor the North.

John and Maureen Allen are both well. John spends all his spare time managing a fly fishing club. Dierdre works in London. Patrick is a management trainee and Michael is in Ireland.

John and Mavis English are at present in Germany. John will be returning as 21C to the GTR in Hong Kong. Mavis's sister Shirley, whom many many members will remember from Sungu Beri days, is married to a banker in Hong Kong. Cathy is proving to be quite intelligent and Patrick charming. The arrival of No.3 was a bit of a shock!

General Bill Jackson took over Northern Command in November. He and Joan are now living at Claxton Hall which is 10 miles out on the A64 Scarborough road. They would be delighted to see any Gurkha Engineers passing through and

a whisky or gin are always available. General Bill was dubbed by the Queen on 9th February, thus becoming the first Gurkha Engineer Knight. The Jacksons stayed with John and Maureen Allen at Westbury and found them in good heart.

Mike Gaffney is being posted to Germany to take over as 21C of a Squadron in 21 Regt from Peter Druitt. He will not now be going to Angers. Jenny had her baby in January. They have left Hartley Wintney and Jenny will be staying with her parents in Churt while Mike does a stint in Northern Ireland with his new squadron before they both go to BAOR.

John and Berce Freeland have bought a 340 acre farm in Hurstbourne Tarrant near Andover. They now live, very happily, in an enormous Manor House (circa 1920), panelled throughout and with about 48 bedrooms. John takes his finals for his Estate Management degree in May and meanwhile goes to London for four days a week to study. He farms for the remaining three days. The eventual intention is to have a beef herd. Berce works all day cooking and cleaning but looks extremely well. Ian boards at Cheam. Justin, Julia and Sarah thrive under the care of their Nanny, Rosemary.

Margaret Baird is very happy in her cosy cottage in Suffolk. It is an old cottage, very well converted and Margaret has made it delightful. A weekend there is a gastronomic experience. She sees a lot of Mrs. Barlow, Tricia Rich's mother. Margaret had Nancy Moon, a fellow ex-WRVS from Malaya, to stay for Christmas.

Gil Roach went to BOAR for a visit but got back to Haverfordwest in time for Christmas. Alun is in his second year at Swansea University and Gareth in his last year at Llandovery College. The family moved to Canterbury in February. Gil will be working at Sevenoaks with John Edwards on some incredible employment which is too secret to mention.

Andy Brown is with the Organic Fd Sqn at the RSME. He and

Beryl will be moving to 35 Engr Regt in Hamelin in June where Andy will be Tech QM. He reports that John Carter is currently with the Junior Leaders Regiment at Dover as C1 of the Combat Engineer Wing. As such he will be paying his annual training visit to the RSME from 23 Feb - 6 Mar.

BOOK REVIEWS

People of Nepal by Dor Bahadur Bista published in 1967 by the Department of Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, H.M. Government of Nepal.

Dor Bahadur Bista is a Nepali who studied cultural anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University under Professor Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf. Together, these two anthropologists have travelled over almost the whole of Nepal, studying the customs and characteristics of the different Jats. The book is divided into three parts - Middle Hill and Valley People, Terai People and Northern Border People. The origins, social structure, occupations and customs of each Jat and Thar are dealt with clearly and in depth. The photographs, many of them in colour, are excellent, being a mixture of views of the villages and countryside and close-ups of Gurkhas. There is a good index and a glossary but no map. This is a scholarly but very readable book written in excellent English and should prove to be of great interest to anyone who has known Gurkhas and Nepal. It is probably impossible to buy this book in England (I was lent a copy which had been bought in Khatmandu for Rs 25/-). Perhaps some kind soul in the Regiment could get hold of some copies from Nepal.

I.A.D.T.

Gurkha by Robin Adshead published in 1970 by the Asia Pacific Press Pte Ltd., Singapore and by Leo Cooper Ltd., 196 Shafesbury Avenue, London, W.C.2. Price (from Paul Wellars Bookshop, 1 Dollar Street, Cirencester, Glos) is £2.50 plus 30p postage.

This is a collection of Robin Adshead's photographs, all in black-and-white, which show the activities of the Brigade since 1966. Robin Adshead, who joined 1/6 GR in 1954 has always been an outstanding amateur photographer. Since retiring last year, he has turned professional. The quality of the photographs and their reproduction in print is of a very high order. John Cross has written a clear and interesting commentary, which is aimed primarily at those who have little or no knowledge of Gurkhas and the Brigade. Most of the pictures are of men of the four Infantry Regiments, although there are a few pictures of Gurkha Engineers - Kalusing and Jagatram particularly. This is a book to invoke interest in the newly-joined and happy memories for the retired.

I.A.D.T.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Lt.Gen. Sir William Jackson, KCB, OBE, MC.,
Claxton Hall,
Nr. York,
Yorks.

Major J. B. Freeland,
Doyley Manor,
Hurstbourne Tarrant,
Andover, Hants.

Capt. M. Gaffney, RE.,
21 Engr. Regt.,
B.F.P.O. 48.

Lt.Col. G. G. Roach, RE.,
Quebec House,
Howe Barracks,
Canterbury, Kent.
Tel: 0227-64784

Col. L. G. S. Thomas, OBE.,
10 Queen Anne Square,
Cardiff.
Tel: 21530

Major D. Verschoyle, RE.,
HQ. RSME.

Lt. Col. D. H. Bowen, MBE, RE.,
4th (Fermanagh) Bn, Ulster Defence Force,
TAVR Centre, Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh,
N. Ireland.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS (Cont'd)

Mrs. D. H. Bowen, (until late May/Early June)
37 Basingbourne Road
Fleet
Hants

BIRTHS

Jenny and Mike Gaffney - a son, Justin Michael, on 15th
January 1971.

Val and Richard Marriott - a daughter, Alison Jane, on
31st December 1970.

Alison and Harry Vialou Clark - a son, Henry Max, on 5th
March 1971.

STOP PRESS NEWS FROM KLUANG

As the Newsletter was going to press, the Editor received a letter from Dr. Stephen Kulesza whom many members will remember from Kluang days. He and Col. Nicholas Moais attached to the Malay Regt, are the only Europeans in Kluangtown. In the Kluang area, the Brooklehursts are still there although Joyce is on holiday in Europe/UK and Derek goes soon; Nobby Clark resigned and went to Australia to start 'a new life'; John Galpin is somewhere in Africa; Bryan and Judice Belsham are due to go on annual leave in the first week of May; Strivens is still in CEP Rengam; Jim and Merlyn Wilson are commuting between Singapore and London but are at the moment both in Rengam; Scoulars are in Scotland on their annual leave. Steve himself is playing lots of bridge and seems very busy.