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Queen's Gurkha Engineers Association



Newsletter

No 20

THE QUEENS GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

No 20

SEP 80

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THE QUEENS GURKHA ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

<u>President</u>	Lt Gen Sir Hugh Cunningham KBE
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<u>Field Officer Recently Returned</u>	Maj P Cook RE
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<u>Associate Members Secretary</u>	T P Langridge

EDITORIAL

A record entry of 28 items for inclusion in the newsletter causes both joy and despondency to your Editor. I know that you will find a large and varied diet in this edition, but it is an unhappy task to reject articles which have obviously taken much effort to write, but have had to be omitted to make way for items of greater interest.

One particularly striking feature of this summer's entry is the great variety of style. Contrast the interestingly intellectual approach to reporting the Sapper Bowl Shooting (!) with the delightfully naive 'Seaford, Whitsun 1980'; the purposeful prose of 'Korea Honour Guard' and the elegaic 'Gurkha Children's School'. And obviously the Regiment has made deep impressions on two young officers!

Another happy trend is the increasing quantity and quality of articles by Gurkhas. Not all have been included, but I am happy to retain "Farewell to SSgt Dowsett" not only because it is interestingly and amusingly written, but because it displays a warmth and strength of feeling towards a departing British SNCO, a subject not touched on before and one which BOs tend to feel as their own prerogative.

My usual problem regarding family news will, I hope, be alleviated by separate entries from Chatham and BAOR so as to give a broader base. Which leads me to the subject of the Editorship of the Newsletter. For two unconnected reasons I feel that the time is ripe to start looking for a new Editor. Firstly my own pressure of work is increasing and secondly, more importantly, a magazine should not get into a rut. I believe that a change of Editor every few years ensures a fresh approach and greater interest for the reader. Who would you like to rumble for the next in this chair? There are other more immediate changes in the Committee, so I am happy to do one more edition, but after that

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

The realisation that the time had come for me to pen my last newsletter made me cast my mind back to two years ago when I was faced with the task of writing my first. Then the future seemed settled. There was a feeling of stability in Hong Kong; the Brigade, although unsure of the fate of its fifth battalion, had come to terms with its reduced level; the Regiment had won back manpower in its recent I of E review and its role was well established. Neighbouring China was more friendly than for many years and a sense of security prevailed.

Any thoughts that I was in for an easy time were short lived and as I have described in my last two newsletters much has happened to change that initial settled outlook. I should have liked at this stage in my tour to have been able to give firm details of our plans for the future. However, the decision to raise 69 Squadron has yet to be confirmed and, as most of you will have seen in the national press, the recent talks on Hong Kong force levels were inconclusive. So all I can do is bring you up-to-date with the developing situation.

Firstly, on the operational scene, we still run boat troop. The plan to recruit Chinese was shelved and as a fall back, we now have some 25 infantry operators on 6 months ERE boosting our strength. This has allowed us to change over our sapper coxswains after a reasonable length of time on boat troop duty.

The standard of watermanship has risen most remarkably and it is amazing how quickly a Gurkha sapper, in some cases of but a few month's standing, develops both skill and confidence when operating a 35 knot speed boat under difficult conditions in the open sea. As a tribute to his resourcefulness and determination, Cpl Nainabahadur Tamang recently received the The Commander British Forces Commendation. He safely brought his 2-boat section to shelter when struck by a surprise Force 8 squall whilst in exposed waters off Castle Peak at night; his quick thinking and sensible action ensured that boats and crew suffered no more than a severe dunking.

The long-term future of boat troops is still far from certain. Both the Marine Police and the newly arrived Royal Marine Raiding Squadron operate similar sized craft but neither has the capacity to provide the close in-shore support needed by the infantry. The Royal Marine training team left us in April and we now do our own training of coxswains up to Royal Marine standards. Ssgt Hukumraj Thapa and Sgt Krishnabahadur Limbu both attended courses at Poole recently and their expertise helps us maintain the very high standards required.

Both field squadrons have had to surrender key NCOs plus some of their best sappers to establish boat troop which has put a considerable strain on them when trying to do project work and during squadron training. Nevertheless life has continued as before and somehow the work has been accomplished. To assist in providing essential management, Support Squadron has come to the rescue on several occasions and it is only fair to list their achievements first for a change. With barely a break after their project at Beas Stables, Plant Troop started work on an extension to the Gurkha Cemetery at Tam Mei. This has been followed by site

levelling for a new car park at Ocean Park. (The old park prepared by the Regiment is required for urban development). Workshops Troop, in addition to coping with a vastly increased boat and engine repair load, have modified assault boats, built 'flying dog kennel' shelters for observations post in exposed areas, and have completed countless other tasks both big and small. Design Troop have continued with a full bill of work and have latterly produced the design for sectionalised observation platforms now being erected along the border by PWD. In their own quiet way Resources Troop too have done their bit and demands for stores during 1979 were up 100% on 1978!

The big project of the year has been 'Tolo', which has occupied 67 Squadron throughout the past 6 months. The company base there is due to be opened by the Secretary for Security, Bim Davies, on 10 July. The Twynham hutted camp will provide vastly improved accommodation for the hard worked force, which use it when patrolling the rugged coastline east from Sha Tau Kok into Mirs Bay. We have every reason to believe that it will continue to be used for a long time to come, sadly not the case with the excellent camp on Ping Chau completed 3 years ago and virtually unused since. Tolo has required a lot of tradesmen; whilst all who have been deployed have done wonders, the job could not have been completed in time without the assistance of skilled inmates from the Tai Lam Drug Addiction Centre. The RAF have ferried them out to site daily to help us beat the deadline. Graham Price has masterminded the project helped by Tekansing Saheb, a natural choice for the job when he returned from leave with descriptions of a most sophisticated house that he had just built in Pokhara.

For 68 Squadron the year started with the re-wiring of Snake Fence. In a slickly organised airlift and joint sapper, infantry operation, they completed the re-wiring of the fence West from Crest Hill to Lok Ma Chau in a matter of days. Then followed large scale improvements at Wardhaven and Gurkhahaven, the building of two large helipads at Pak Nai and the completion of the infamous plunging fire tower. For the first four months of the year they worked flat out to finish their tasks before settling down to retraining in May. This year they have actually made it, although the size of the squadron on parade most of the time has left Bill Chesshyre a little puzzled as to why it is a major's command! The promise of Brunei in September has kept the squadron going through the lean days and with relatively few projects on the books my hope is that both they, and 67 Squadron, can make up lost ground in training by the end of the year.

The influx of recruits for 69 Squadron has greatly increased Training Wing's task. Faced with the prospect of 3 intakes of 65 instead of one of 50 in the course of one year, Mark Gritten and latterly Andrew Smith have shouldered the extra work load most efficiently. The first large intake is now with us and we are looking forward to the next batch joining in August from Brunei, where they have been put through their basic training by 10 GR. A major problem has been that of accommodation and we have to accept the undesirable solution of double-bunking in Perowne - albeit, as a result, the rooms are now fully air conditioned! In addition some extra rooms have been won in Bowring by judicious juggling of stores.

Apart from the recruit parties, Training Wing are pressing on with cadres combat engineer upgrading, search training and, in particular, trade courses. In the last we have made a start in the long process of training up the extra numbers of tradesmen required when the expertise has to be spread between 3 field squadrons. Mention of search training leads me to the continuing need to keep our own specialist teams up-to-date and, most importantly, to teach all-arms search to infantry battalions. Under the watchful eye of the 2IC, Training Wing have stage-managed several very successful test stands for infantry companies tied in with Gurkha Field Force and Colony exercises.

As the list of soldiers on courses elsewhere in this edition will indicate, we are still making use of all available course vacancies. The standards and results achieved have, on balance, been excellent and two men in particular have hit the headlines. Kalusing Saheb's son Cpl Hombahadur Limbu came top of his Electrician AI course, establishing an all time record pass for an overseas student with marks which have only once been bettered by any student! Sgt Binodkumar Lama, we have just heard, has come top out of 33 on his senior NCOs course. This is particularly gratifying as he now starts training to be a Clerk of Works.

To complete the up-date on the state of the Regiment, a word on the new build. Despite the lack of decision on 69 Squadron and on the permanent establishment of boat and armourer troop - more on the latter in a moment - the new barracks still goes ahead. Although we have fed in the changes in numbers likely to occur, no action has been possible to modify plans for the new camp other than to make minor provision for future expansion. This is a thoroughly unsatisfactory state of affairs as planning is so far advanced that, when a decision is eventually made, any modification of plans, if allowed at all, will be a far most costly exercise than if incorporated earlier in the planning phase. Nevertheless the contractors are now moving in and the inevitable appears likely to occur!

The armourer troop mentioned above is an extra commitment we have collected since I last wrote. Chinese civilian armourers in the REME workshops were sacked as a result of industrial action early this year and no others can be recruited. To cut a complicated story short, the Brigade of Gurkhas was charged with recruiting more armourers to provide second line support for Brigade units. The Regiment as the most obvious choice was given the task of running the Brigade's armourer "troop". Initially the manpower will come from existing armourers in the various units plus new blood trained on two courses being run this year. Thereafter our recruit input will include an element to keep the troop topped up. All armourers will wear our cap badge and do tours on ERE with battalions and 50 Command Workshops. This was not a chore that we were looking for, but for a fairly minimal manning effort we hope that in future we shall be able to attract good men into the trade of armourer and give these essential soldiers a full career with the chance of reaching QGO troop commander. In line with our own regimental policy soldiers of jat other than Kami will be recruited.

To less weighty matters! There are two events for which the early part of 1980 will be remembered, General Hugh's visit and the Nepal Cup. Timing was not quite right this time and we failed to get our success in the Nepal Cup to coincide with our Colonel's visit although we were able to fit a rather nerve wracking semi-final match against TDBG into his programme. General Hugh and Lady Jill spent a week with the Regiment in early March. Visits to projects and boat troop, a Regimental cocktail party and Beating Retreat, the training party pass off parade and the inevitable round of parties were all packed into the programme. Lady Jill even fitted in a short trip to China with Shirley Reedman. In addition to visiting the Regiment, General Hugh, in his capacity of Representative Colonel Commandant, visited all other sappers in the Colony. It was a busy time but one which the Regiment enjoyed tremendously and we hope that both he and Lady Jill will be able to visit us again before his tour is over.

Our Nepal Cup victory came at the end of a successful season in which, in the major units knock-out final, we managed to reverse last year's result and beat 1 RGJ, our old and very worthy rivals, 4-3 in a thrilling match. In the first round of the Nepal Cup we beat 2/2 GR in a well fought game. In the semi-final, after a good first half, we were subject to a sustained battering by a spirited old and bold TDBG team, but managed to keep our nose in front at the final whistle. The day of the final dawned and we were favourite to win against a young, fit and enthusiastic 6 GR. We lost the toss and had to play the first half into a very strong head-wind and there were fears that we would change over at least 2 goals down. In the event lack of experience of using the elements prevented 6 GR capitalizing on an invaluable advantage and we snatched a quick penalty at the end of the first half to buoy us for the final run home. The closing score of 4-1 was a fair result; with the wind on our side 6 GR did well to score a goal and stop what showed signs of developing into a rout shortly after half time.

Released from their football commitments a large element of the Nepal Cup squad were soon to be seen on the hockey pitch. With only minimal practice and dogged by clashing events, the team were narrowly beaten by 7 GR in the closing minutes of extra time in the final of the major units cup. Luck was against them in all other events, but it was not through lack of enthusiasm and determination that they did not pull off an impressive sports double.

Once again we must gloss over the result of the Khud race and just note that our new recruits ran extremely well, with Digby Armstrong a strong competitor himself. Who knows but next year, when a measure of control is to be exercised over those units who practise on the course itself, we may get amongst the Gurkha battalions. I add hastily that we did beat a strong and determined 1 RGJ who themselves ran extremely well.

With Digby, Roy Wilsher and WO2 Derrick to the fore our squash players have earned themselves a good reputation but lacking a convenient court we have yet to break into the big time in team events, although Digby won the British Forces Squash championship held in Mar 80.

As I write this letter the shooting team are preparing for Bisley. In the Hong Kong shoot we finished in our usual position behind the Gurkha battalions but the standards were if anything higher than last year. Many of you will know that WO2 Kharkabahadur Limbu has coached the team into top position again at the RESAM and we keep our fingers crossed that, despite problems with ranges, the team will acquit itself well again during Bisley. (Secretary's Note - Results are on page 30).

Golf still seems to be a popular sport! Our players have done well, both individually and collectively, although it was with sadness that we just failed to carry off the Wilkinson Sword, a new trophy acquired by Ray Butler our Paymaster. Ray and Digby Armstrong produced by far the best scores but as they were not paired together we only managed 2nd and 4th. Individually the honours must go to Harry Caulfield. As a tribute to his consistently fine performance over the previous year he was invited to play in the Hong Kong Open Championships. Sadly he missed the cut for the final 2 rounds by 2 strokes.

The Sapper Bowl got under way with the Orienteering, 2 Troop clinching a good victory. The remaining events have yet to be held.

To close the sporting picture a word or two on Gordon Hard. The Club thrives and a healthy military racing interest spearheaded by those old friends of the Regiment, Greville and Rose Edgecombe - he now commands the Garrison's support element in Osborn Barracks - and latterly by Paul Reedman and others of the Regiment has helped to balance the continuing strong civilian interest. The Club's new social secretary, Marjorie Whitcombe, our WRVS lady, has brought a breath of life into evening functions which now happen regularly - at a profit! The new clubhouse is almost complete and we plan a formal opening on 20 July.

This year sadly we have had to pension off Junk Anna. Her general condition was such that it was just not worth spending the money to put her to rights. To replace her we have alerted the Director of Marine to look out for a suitable craft caught smuggling in illegal immigrants. Andrew Smith, when out with the marine police one evening spotted a Pearl River oyster catcher's junk which we now use as a stop gap. QGE 12 as she is called - to prevent her being confused with others of her type by either friendly police or the neighbours of the original owner - is looking very smart after a lot of work put in by the Regiment's enthusiasts. She is a narrow craft with sleek lines and a good engine, and for nil initial outlay, not a bad investment!

During the period we have said goodbye to John and Marion Morgan. John has been posted to 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment in Hameln. Both will be remembered for their tremendous support in all aspects of Regimental life - John not least for his draining of the Colony's stocks of Taylor's Vintage Port! Harry and Rose Caulfield followed to "somewhere near Chatham". Harry's posting was a bit vague and I suspect there is some truth in the rumour that AG7 couldn't find a golf club prepared to accept his banditry! Next to leave, were

Mark and Marilyn Gritten. Mark in his two years as Training Officer has done much to establish our search training cell and bring us up-to-date with the new Corps Training system. He has been posted as adjutant of Cambridge University OTC. Then - after an extension to help fill the gap before our Project Liaison Officer arrived, Roy Wilsher and Pat left with just enough time to spare before repacking their bags for Saudi Arabia. To fill the gaps, Len and Joyce Wilson arrived in January. Len thwarted in a bid to come as Training Officer two years ago is now well ensconced as Quartermaster. Tony Sowerby has taken over command of Design Troop, he and Gundula joining from Germany in early March. Mark Gritten's post has been taken over by Andrew Smith in an internal shuffle and Bill Kray and Florence arrived at the end of June, Bill to take over the supervision of the new build for the next two or three years. Oh! and I mustn't forget Tony Prosser, John Prosser's son who is doing his 6 month SSLC attachment with us, and our youngest member, James Burnside, weighing in at 3.95kg when recruited!

Amongst the British Seniors, Ssgt Ferguson from Workshop Troop has been replaced by Ssgt Canning, Sgt Goddard has left Resources his post having been "Gurkharised". In the Pay Office Sgt Humphries has been replaced by Sgt Longfellow and Ssgt Renwick leaves as I write. They have been helped by Ssgt Zainal of the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment for a 6 month spell whilst he has been learning our Pay methods. In Boat Troop we have 'acquired' Sgt Charlton as short term cover to help maintain our fleet and we hope that his short tour may be extended. Finally we have said farewell to WO2 Edwards our RQMS. As President of the British WOs and Sgts Mess he has done a great deal to foster a good mess spirit in difficult times. His relief WO2 Turner takes over as I write.

The coming six months will see many changes and it will be John Worthington's task to describe them next time. I will however say a word or two about Nick Tomlinson. He shortly hands over the reins as QGEL0 to James Anderson.

There can be few QGEL0's whose Commanding Officers have felt so out of the picture that they have asked the Commandant some 6,000 miles away to draft his confidential report! This may be a slight exaggeration but it is indicative of the tremendous support given by Nick to all the course personnel in UK, his deep involvement in their welfare and interest in ensuring that they make the most out of their stay. The same goes for the shooting team who have benefited greatly from his support. Thank you Nick, we wish you all the best when you take over from Dom Verschoyle in Nepal. Most of what I have said about Nick applies too to that staunch friend, WO2 Langridge, who has done so much to support us. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him too.

Outside the Regiment we have bid farewell to Brigadier John and Jenny Whitehead. Such good friends for many years it was a sad day when they came to lunch with us in the Mess for the last time. Brigadier John has been replaced by Brigadier Able Dacre as Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, whilst he himself has gone as Schools Liaison Officer in South East England. Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave and Lady Valerie also visited us shortly before they too left Hong Kong. General Roy's farewell

visit was timed to coincide with the Junior Leader's Passing Off Parade on which WO2 Bhaktabahadur Gurung received his Lt (QGO) pips. Major General John Chapple has now taken over as CEF/MGBG. Finally we have also said goodbye to the Royal Nepalese Liaison Officer, Lt Col Pratapsing Malla who has left, he believes, to command an Engineer Regiment in Nepal. He spent a busy day with us doing some last minute homework!

We have had many other visitors too numerous to detail, but I will mention the brief call made by Major General Tony Younger on his way to China to lecture. He and his wife took time off to spend a few hours with us in a very tight 'stopover' in Hong Kong.

For myself, over the last six months I have been lucky enough to pack in a brief trip to Brunei, 3 weeks in Nepal, and a 10 day tour of China. As my full recollections on these would fill the newsletter I will but make brief mention of the highlights of the two latter. Nepal was in the throes of a fuel crisis in February and Bhim Gharti's best laid plans for a grand safari came to nought. However Alison and I did see our old friends in Dharan, spent 3 fabulous, if expensive, days at Tiger Tops and enjoyed a 6-day trek west from Pokhara. On this we spent an enjoyable evening with Ranbahadur Saheb and the other ex-Gurkha Engineers who form a strong contingent at Lumle. Then on to Birethanti where we were looked after royally by Thamansing Saheb who is opening an attractive guest house on the river there. Our next call was on Amarbahadur Saheb at Deopur. Despite his years Amarbahadur is very fit and agile, and had ridden into Pokhara to meet us only to find that we had set off already for his village. We trekked back through Ghandruk, Landruk and Dhampus meeting several old friends on the way. No trip to Pokhara would be complete without a visit to Minbahadur Saheb's Danphe club, although we were unable to see a show as his troupe were performing elsewhere on our only free evening.

I mention our leave scheme visit to China only as an indication of the much more relaxed atmosphere in Hong Kong towards China and vice versa. A package tour was not my idea of the "break to get away from it all" but in the event we thoroughly enjoyed the company of an amusing group of Americans, Australians and Chinese in a packed programme taking in Peking, Shanghai, Hangchow and Soochow, with a brief look at Canton in transit. The China travel authorities are a rule unto themselves and there is always some element of doubt as to what one's programme is to be. But we found people most helpful, the accommodation generally very reasonable, the guides most willing to oblige and the atmosphere very friendly. Our only grumble was the seemingly universally bad standard of driving of our tour mini-bus drivers; some sort of kamikaze streak was immediately obvious as we stepped on to our standard Toyota Coaster air-conditioned buses at each stop. Despite their determined efforts we arrived back in Hong Kong unscathed after what we felt was a most worthwhile and interesting experience.

As I close this my last newsletter I look back on almost two and a half exciting, busy and thoroughly rewarding years with a Regiment with which I have been proud to serve. I hope that I leave it in as good heart as I found it. I shall be most sorry to go but know full well that that event will cause hardly a moment's hesitation in the Regiment's march on to bigger and better things in the years to come.

Commandant's Aftersnotes:

1. Congratulations to John Kitching on his selection for promotion to Colonel. Shybash!
2. I would like to clarify the reference to the Gurkha families and Katja Carleton-Smith as printed on page 8, fourth paragraph of the last newsletter. When the typist came back from lunch she should have included the bit about the handicraft exhibition which Katja had been asked to judge!
3. As the draft of the newsletter reaches its final stage I have spotted a glaring omission. The excellent performances of the Pipes and Drums have not been mentioned!! Throughout my time in command, and most particularly on those special occasions such as Beating Retreat and Guest Nights, the Pipes and Drums under Drum Major Uttambahadur Thapa and Pipe Major Yambahadur Gurung have performed magnificently. Their order book is crammed full and their standard is such that their performances draw praise on every occasion. With Hamish Macleod, a talented pipe himself, we have been able to expose our Gurkha musicians to some real Scottish piping and his interest certainly spurs their enthusiasms. As a reward for their consistently high performance - and I must admit it is their turn too - the Pipes and Drums are at this moment preparing to go to Canada with those of the Queen's Gurkha Signals. I hope that the Pipe President will have something to say about their tour next time.

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Margaret Williams, who over the last two years had become a most enthusiastic and helpful civilian member of Gordon Hard Boat Club committee, was drowned whilst sailing in Castle Peak Bay in early June. She and two other civilian friends were caught in a strong current which swept them and their boat under a dredging barge moored off the Tun Mun reclamation. Those of you who remember Margaret will share the same sense of loss and of grief as we all do here.

As we go to press we have had another tragic boating accident. At 1030 pm on the night of 2 July a patrol of two Rigid Raiders was collecting 2 captured IIs from the island of Kat O Chau in Mirs Bay to take them back to their Tolo base. The second of the 2 boats driven by Sapper Siribahadur Mall of 67 Squadron was hit on the port beam by a civilian boat travelling at high speed. The force of the collision caused considerable damage to the boat, crushing the drivers console. Either the shock of the impact on the boat or a direct blow by the civilian craft knocked Siribahadur overboard. Despite an immediate

search by the accompanying Rigid Raider and an intensive search during the night and the following morning by boats, helicopters, land-based patrols and diver, the body has not been found. The other boat involved in the accident made off at high speed. It is with great sadness that the Regiment has to record the death of Siribahadur, the first serviceman to be killed whilst actively involved on anu II operations.

a. RRO 515/80. Morning Sick Parade

The morning sick parade for 22 May 80 will start at 1400 hrs, therefore sick personnel are to report to the MI room between 1300 and 1330 on that day.

b. RHQ File QGE 500 - Title MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL

- clerical version of Sect 69 of AA 1955!!

OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS
SERVING WITH THE REGIMENT

RHQ

Comdt	Lt Col	M J F Stephens RE
2IC	Maj	P Reedman RE
Adjt	Capt	J A Pinel RE
IO	Capt	D W Armstrong RE
Trg Offr	Capt	A R H Smith RE
QM	Maj (QM)	L F T Wilson RE
Pmr	Maj	F R W Butler RAPC
Project Liaison Offr	Capt Maj (QM)	R F Wilsher RE W Kray RE Des wef 16 Jun 80
Ed Offr	Capt	R Z A Ciaglinski RAEC
GM	Maj (QGO)	Bhimbahadur Gharti
HC	Capt (QGO)	Balkrishna Pradhan
Gurkha QM	Lt (QGO)	Premkedar Sherpa
Asst Trg Offr	Capt (QGO)	Kusalsing Gurung
Gurkha Fam Offr	Lt (QGO)	Budhiparsad Gurung

67 SQN

OC	Maj	D J R Stack RE
2IC	Capt	G J F Price RE
A Tp Comd	Lt	J B Olley RE
B Tp Comd	Capt	A W H H Macleod RE 2IC Des wef Jul 80
C Tp Comd		
Gurkha Capt	Capt (QGO)	Sunar Gurung MVO BEM
A Tp QGO	Lt (QGO)	Jamansing Rai
B Tp QGO/Boat Tp QGO	Lt (QGO)	Manbahadur Pun
C Tp QGO	Capt (QGO)	Tekansing Gurung
ME/Plant Offr	Lt (QGO)	Sambahadur Rana

68 SQN

OC	Maj	W J Chesshyre RE	
2IC	Capt	N B Standbridge RE	
1 Tp Comd	Lt	J R Durance RE	
2 Tp Comd	Capt	A P Burnside RE	
3 Tp Comd/Boar Tp Comd	Capt	D R Bill RE	
Gurkha Capt	Capt (QGO)	Ichhabahadur	Rai BEM
1 Tp QGO	WO2	Kharkabahadur	Limbu
2 Tp QGO	Capt (QGO)	Ekbahadur	Gurung
3 Tp QGO	Lt (QGO)	Kharkajang	Gurung
MT/Plant Offr	Capt (QGO)	Lokbahadur	Gurung

SP SQN

OC	Maj	D G Saunders RE	
2IC	Capt	P Watson RE	
Wksp Tp Comd	Capt (E&MO)	M J Shand RE	
Res Tp Comd	Capt (QM)	R F Pye MBE RE	
Des Team Comd	Capt	A P Sowerby RE	
Gurkha Capt	Capt (QGO)	Makardhoj	Sahi
Project Offr	Lt (QGO)	Jogindrasing	Gurung

ATTACHMENT SSLC OFFICERS

2Lt	D C Lane RE
2Lt	A J B Prosser RE

ERE

HC British Gurkha Nepal	Maj (QGO)	Bharatsing	Limbu
HC D A Kathmandu	Capt (QGO)	James	Bhujel
Admin Offr BGTC Kathmandu	Capt (QGO)	Indrakamal	Tamang
Asst Ed Offr 28 AEC	Lt (QGO)	Manikumar	Prodhan

GURKHA WOs

RSM	WO1	Ramlal	Pun
SSM 67 Sqn	WO2	Padambahadur	Gurung
SSM 68 Sqn	WO2	Kumbahadur	Gurung
SSM Sp Sqn	WO2	Chandrabahadur	Gurung BEM
ORQMS	WO2	Jagdish	Rai
RQMS	WO2	Ranbahadur	Burathoki
	SSGT	Motiram	Gurung Designate
SQMS 68 Sqn	WO2	Jahansing	Rai
QMSI Trg Wing	WO2	Dambermansing	Gurung

BRITISH WOs AND SNCOs WITH THE REGIMENT
AS AT 30 JUN 80

MPF	WO2	Toogood	M A G	RE	Sp Sqn
Res WO IC	WO2	Bosworth	W B	RE	Sp Sqn
QMSI	WO2	Derrick	P I C	RE	RHQ
RQMS	WO2	Edwards	R J	RE	
Art Veh	WO2	Fitzpatrick	J K	REME	RHQ
C of W (M)	WO2	Kemp	G R	RE	Sp Sqn
C of W (E)	WO2	Canning	B	RE	Sp Sqn
C of W (C)	SSGT	Champion	R F	RE	Sp Sqn
C of W (C)	SSGT	Owens	B	RE	Sp Sqn
MT/Plant Sgt	SSGT	Milnes	J A	RE	Sp Sqn
Div 2 Pay Clk	SSGT	Renwick	E	RAPC	RHQ
SQMS	SSGT	Wilkinson	R W	RE	Sp Sqn
LAD SSGT	SSGT	Styles	G R	REME	Sp Sqn
Stores Tp Sgt	SGT	Dalbahadur	Gurung		Sp Sqn
Pay Sgt/Div 3 Clk	SGT	Longfellow		RAPC	RHQ
REME SGT	SGT	Wyratt	A P	REME	RHQ

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY BATTY

by Lt Col J Speight RE.

Larry only did one tour with the Regiment as Quartermaster but nevertheless was as devoted to the Kaeda as any other officer. During his spell with the Regiment there was no function which he did not attend. He was popular with British and Gurkha Officers and men and the British NCOs. He also had a fine rapport with the locally employed staff even though he could not speak Chinese. His early death will be a great shock to all those who knew him not only in the Queen's Gurkha Engineers but also the Royal Engineers where he was well known and liked.

Death of WO1 HINDLE

Lt Col Corsellis, Maj Tomlinson and various members and ex members of the Regiment attended the funeral of WO1 Hindle, who died on 9 June 1980. At Mrs Hindle's request a donation of £10 from QGEA and a further £10 from the Regiment in lieu of flowers was sent to the Tom Hughes Fund.

VISIT OF GENERAL SIR HUGH CUNNINGHAM KBE, COLONEL OF THE QUEEN'S GURKHA
ENGINEERS AND REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT ROYAL ENGINEERS 7-14 MAR 80

QGE were recently fortunate enough to receive a visit from our Regimental Colonel, General Sir Hugh Cunningham and his wife Lady Cunningham. General Sir Hugh is also the Representative Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers so his aim was as to visit all Hong Kong Sappers as well as QGE.

During the course of his visit the General visited the CBF and HQBF, Brig BG and Comd Gurkha Fd Force where he was able to discuss all aspects of Sapper work in Hong Kong as well as the planned QGE expansion in Hong Kong and possibly in UK. He also visited the Postal and Courier Sqn, Survey Branch, and Military Engineering Services depots in Tamar, Kowloon and Sek Kong, thus, with the addition of QGE, meeting all RE units in Hong Kong.

Within the Regiment, the General spent some time looking at projects at Stonecutters Island, Cassino, and Tolo, seeing 67, 68 and Sp Sqn at work on site. In addition he toured our 3 camps at Perowne, Bowring and Sek Kong. There was even time to take him for a sail in the Boat Troop flagship complete with 3 stars to see a demonstration of Boat Troop expertise including the deployment by Wessex helicopter of a Rigid Raider. General Sir Hugh's main official duty was to take the salute at 30 Training Party's Pass Off Parade and award a record 20 LS and GC medals.

Socially General Sir Hugh acted as chief host at our Beating of Retreat and Cocktail Party on 10 Mar. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which enabled the Regiment to say thank you to a large number of military personnel and civilians who have helped us over the last year. The evening climaxed in a splendid performance by the QGE Pipes and Drums ably assisted by the kind addition of the QG Signals Pipes and Drums. The General also managed to survive a series of lunches and suppers with all RE officers in Hong Kong, all British RE WOs and SNCOs, and QGE officers and their wives. A spot of birdwatching on the Mai Po Marshes and a 'Junk trip' on "Jackson", if it can be so described, rounded off the social programme.

Lady Cunningham went off to Canton with Mrs Reedman, wife of the 2IC and thoroughly enjoyed her 2 day visit there, arriving back in time for a few farewell parties.

There were only 2 bad moments during the visit. One was when Lady Cunningham, immediately before departing by hovercraft to Canton, handed over a photograph receipt for a film at a shop in Kuala Lumpur! Grandiose plans for alerting the Defence Attache in the Embassy at Kuala Lumpur, diverting an officer on leave in Malaya or sending the Gurkha Major to Kuala Lumpur for a weekend holiday all fell through when it transpired that the wrong ticket had been handed over! The second feeling of impending doom came when the General was addressing British Officers in the Mess. 'About my son' he said - His son Richard had recently left us after 6 months as an SSIC officer. He arrived a fresh faced, thoroughly pleasant, innocent and unscarred 18 year old. After a series of traffic accidents, dunkings in the bottle

cooler and endless thrashes in the Mess and downtown, he was sent home a raving dipsomaniac, with a particular affinity for port, scars all over his face and liver, completely destroyed in body and mind, looking about 35 years old - 'You did a thoroughly good job on him', the General continued as the Commandant hid his face in his hands and the batchelors started writing their resignations. 'He came here a teenager fresh from school and returned a mature young man having considerably benefited from his time with you'. Well that was one way of looking at it! However, Lady Cunningham had a parting shot at the batchelors as she left the Mess on a later occasion 'You haven't fooled me. I heard all about you before I arrived'.

The visit of General Sir Hugh and Lady Cunningham was a very pleasant mix of the official and social sides of our life and thoroughly enjoyed by the Regiment. We look forward to seeing them again later in the year.

CBF'S COMMENDATION WON BY QGE CORPORAL
DURING FREAK STORM

A CBF's Commendation was presented by Commander British Forces Hong Kong General Sir Roy Redgrave KBE MC to 21158069 Corporal Nainabahadur Tamang of Boat Troop The Queen's Gurkha Engineers at a special parade at Borneo Lines Sek Kong on 2 June 1980. Cpl Nainabahadur won the award for his cool actions and leadership during a freak storm which lashed the Colony on the night of 26/27 February 1980.

Cpl Nainabahadur was in command of an anti-illegal immigrant boat patrol operating in the Deep Bay area to the west of Castle Peak. The two Rigid Raiding Craft in the patrol were manned by three other Boat Troop coxswains and six riflemen from 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

The patrol left the Boat Troop base at Gordon Hard at midnight. The weather was calm and clear and the latest forecast was favourable. They moved quickly to Deep Bay and started patrolling in the Black Point area. At about 0315 hours a severe local tropical storm passed over the Colony of Hong Kong from the North West with wind speeds in excess of Force 8. The Rigid Raiding Craft can operate safely in wind speeds up to Force 5.

The patrol had no warning of the approaching storm and did not see it because of darkness. The wind speed increased quickly and the sea built up into short, steep and vicious six foot waves. A curtain of rain lashed down and reduced visibility to a few yards.

Cpl Nainabahadur decided to seek safety aboard a Royal Hong Kong Marine Police barge moored to the concrete Nim Wan beacon. The barge was pitching and rolling heavily, however, since the Raiders were taking water over the bows, the danger of swamping an outboard motor was greater than that of boarding the barge.

Cpl Nainabahadur showed courage and leadership as he first landed his infantry patrol and then, together with his fellow coxswains, fought to ensure the safety of the equipment in the boats and minimise damage to the craft themselves. At one stage a wave lifted one Raider and dumped it on top of the other, damaging the steering column - Cpl Nainabahadur was in the lower boat at the time. A petrol tank was also washed away from its securing lashings.

At first light a 21' Atlantic Rigid Inflatable Boat was launched to render assistance but since Cpl Nainabahadur had already organised a tow from the barge, no aid was necessary. During the tow the towlines parted but were quickly resecured in a seamanlike manner although a heavy sea was still running.

Despite the extremely difficult and dangerous conditions no one suffered injury and little loss or damage was incurred. That this was so was directly attributable to Cpl Nainabahadur's calm but determined action and his firm control of his men.

Cpl Nainabhadur passed his Rigid Raiding Craft course in November 1979 and has had only limited experience of small boat operations and, until now, none of severe weather conditions. Although suffering from sea sickness, he by his actions and leadership, ensured the safety of the men and boats and prevented the loss of equipment from being far greater.

SUNGEI PATANI REVISITED
BY MAJOR D J R STACK RE

On our leave scheme recently my family and I were returning from Langkawi Island to Penang by ferry and taxi through the mainland. Passing through Sungei Patani without seeing the old TDBG camp would have disappointed many QGOs who remembered it from their early days. They suggested I called in if possible and take some pictures. So, for the benefit of all, here are a few impressions based only on memories of my short stay there during my language course in 1970.

Having been guided by a friendly Chinese on a motor cycle our 'flying' taxi was stopped at the guardroom by smart MPs. An exercise was in progress so there was a lot of coming and going and I was afraid the tight security exercised by the Malaysian Army would preclude me going into the camp to look at old familiar places. After a long wait, I was granted permission to go round the camp in the taxi with one of the MPs, who spoke English, escorting me. I had to leave my ID card with the guardroom though!

The camp was much as it was before but there is a lot that is new. Of the old buildings the old HQ building, still used as such, was in immaculate order with the surrounding gardens and grass well kept up. The old wooden classrooms used for the language courses are still in use but as offices now. The large wooden contractors' building had recently been half burnt down. However, the other half was still in use by the contractor. The old officers mess is still used as such. The furnishing inside appeared utilitarian and more like a canteen, but the building is in good order. Alas, the surrounding gardens and lawns are not being kept up and the area looked rather shabby. The grass around the camp has not been cut and the general surrounds had a slightly overgrown, unkept appearance.

There are many new blocks built in amongst the old huts - probably soldiers quarters. Where the old recruit lines were there are a number of these blocks and beyond that larger multi-storey blocks which are probably families quarters.

It seems that the camp is now used as a brigade base camp judging from the support units seen - Transport Squadron, EME Workshop, Ordnance Company, Engineer Plant Troop and so on. Without asking questions which might have aroused suspicion I could not find out specifically what the camp was used for. I was not allowed to take any pictures except at the camp entrance.

Having retrieved my ID card we set off on the remainder of our journey with happy memories revived.

QGEA - ANNUAL DINNER

By Your Court Correspondent

Happily ensconced in my office and thinking back to the excellent Friday evening of the week before, my reverie was shattered by the ring of the infernal machine, but by threading through the coffee cups I managed to answer it. "Congratulations, You've been elected" were the words that met me as David Corsellis asked me to scribe a few words about the dinner - from which he had regrettably been absent and thus could not himself put pen to paper.

On Friday 23rd May some 55 of us gathered at the Minley Mess to renew old acquaintances, get up to date with the happenings in the Regiment and also test our appetite (of which more later). It was a pleasure to have along General Sir Hugh Cunningham and his wife and also WO2 Kharkabahadur Limbu, the Captain of the Shooting Team who was at Church Crookham.

When the meal arrived we were faced with an excellent cold table or a choice of three superb curries. Seconds were had by many before moving on to a choice of gateaux or trifle.

The Colonel of the Regiment then spoke of his highly enjoyable visit to the Regiment earlier in the year and assured us that everything was as good, if not better, than before. A highly informative telegram from Mike Stephens gave us all the latest news and also mentioned an elusive phoenix that was stirring in the ashes, and by the time this goes to Press may well have risen. General Hugh also announced that the time was approaching when he would reluctantly have to relinquish his Colonelcy of the Regiment but had the pleasure in announcing that Lieutenant General Sir George Cooper, currently GOC South East District, had been asked to take over, and had accepted.

The party continued on past midnight when beds and baby-sitters began to call and so closed an excellent evening.

P.S. For those of you who might be worried, Peter Druitt is still in fine bhat eating form and Philip Poole managed to stay awake for the whole evening.

IMPRESSIONS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA ON OPERATION DRAKE

Papua New Guinea (PNG), as some of you may know is really the 'last unknown'. It was virtually the last inhabited place in the world to be explored by Europeans, and even today some parts of the country have had only the briefest contact with Western people and their civilization. However now-a-days PNG is reasonably accessible, though very expensive.

Fortunately for me my airfare and ration expenses were paid for by the sponsors of 'Operation Drake'. This operation, is a two year, round the world expedition involving scientists, servicemen and young explorers of all nationalities doing useful and challenging projects. For me it was a chance of a lifetime to visit PNG and I found it a fascinating and rewarding experience.

The initial few weeks after arrival in PNG were spent in the construction of a scientific camp at a place called 'BUSO' to be used as a base by the scientists for their research. As part of the DS LCPL Anandakumar Rai of 7 GR and I had as our first job, together with other instructors, the task of teaching jungle survival to the young explorers including building bashas, cooking, moving, etc..

Next both LCPL Anandakumar Rai and I joined Lt Col R I Jordan RE (Ex QGE) and worked with him on the Bull Dog, Black Cat and Skin Dewai trail projects. The main purpose of patrolling and walking through these trails was to produce an accurate report on the trails and put up signs, with information on them to mark the routes, villages, good camp sites, fresh water etc, to enable future visitors to have an easy trek.

Mt Victory a volcano was chosen to climb as part of our next project mainly because it had never been climbed to the top before. PNG volcanologists were very keen on obtaining useful information and temperature readings from the volcano starting from the base right to the top and down to the other side.

Other major projects were also carried out at the same time in different areas. One of them was the Strickland River project led by Major Roger Chapman. This must have been the most exciting and dangerous project that Op Drake carried out on the PNG phase. The aim of this project was to gather accurate information along the Strickland River and run down the rapids (about 600 miles) using the 'Avon' inflatable boats. This was being attempted for the first time as no one had explored this river before. I was very glad to meet a white water expert from Nepal taking part in this group. His name was Mr Yogi Thami who is currently working with Mountain Travels in Nepal.

The 'Eye of the Wing', a 150 ton Brigantine home for 22 young explorers on each phase of Op Drake was used as a floating base for most of the time while in PNG. However people like us, who never had proper seafaring experience, did manage to get aboard the ship and sail around the nearby islands for a few days in turn. The ship is fully equipped with all the necessary modern equipment and instruments., She also has a sophisticated laboratory on board for use of the marine biologists carrying out marine biology research. Lastly but not least she also has a nice cosy lounge bar on board big enough for about 30 people which also serves as a study room.

The population of PNG is amazingly varied. They range from the Buka people who claim to be the darkest people in the world, to the lighter Polynesian people who live on the South Papuan Coast. The range of languages is equally varied, there are over seven hundred different languages and dialects, which in a population of 3 million, causes enormous problems.

Pidgin English is the most common although it sounds very funny to the visitors with its mixture of broken English and foreign words. Motu is another main language spoken mainly on the South Papuan Coast but all official and government business is conducted in English.

The people themselves are shy but very helpful and friendly despite their sometimes ferocious looking appearance. I was fortunate enough during my four months stay to pass through a number of small villages and have the opportunity to talk to and work with the villagers and made many good friends, both young and old. In the evenings, as the sun goes down the villagers collect in groups to sing and dance accompanied by traditional musical instruments. This really touched my heart as it reminded me of Dashera celebrations at home in Nepal. Their traditional dancing, called 'sing-sing' also reminded me of the cocktail dance we have in the regiment at the end of Kalaratri.

The larger towns in PNG such as Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Madang are very modern but in the more remote areas the people still follow very primitive ways. Their main hunting weapon is the bow and arrow and the only means of cooking is the open fire. Their dress is made out of tree bark or grass and many people walk round semi-nude. Although in some cases people in the villages are suffering from defects in their diet nobody is starving and I am sure that, although they are aware of the changes taking place in their country, they prefer their old ways.

One of the things which excited me most before I went were the rumours of head-hunters and cannibals in the jungle. I was expecting to be attacked any second. However these tales were not true and on asking I found the people did not wish to discuss it and that the incidents which happened years ago could more likely be put down to the trigger-happiness of explorers.

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An interesting facet of trekking in PNG is the number of war relics that can be discovered. We consulted the National Register of Aircraft Wreckages and visited crashed bombers from America and Japan. During these visits and our trek we were most impressed by the local flora and fauna and members of the expedition were able to study them.

The many varieties of beautiful flowers were extremely exotic as were the butterflies and spectacularly plumed birds including most of the known varieties of Birds of Paradise. The animal life, surprisingly, is limited, the most common being tree kangaroos and wild pigs but there are many varieties of fish and shells round the coast and our diving team under Lt Tony Maloney RE explored many coral reefs and wrecks as well as doing projects in Port Moresby, Madang, Rabaul, Finchhaven and Milne Bay.

In conclusion PNG is a fascinating place to visit but, because of the lack of proper communications and the need to import many commodities it can be quite expensive.

CPL MANBAHADUR GURUNG QGE

FAREWELL TO SSGT DOWSETT

Every man in the Regiment plays an important role, for without his help it will be difficult to maintain the high reputation of the QGE. This cannot be indicated or realised until we lose what we possess. Our Regt has lost quite a number of British soldiers over the past few months.

Among them was SSGt Dowsett who was our Clerk of Works for the past two and a half years. For the great jobs he did for the Regt he deserved special thanks, and that was given at the farewell party which took place in the Jago Arms on the 30th Nov 79.

At about 1230 hrs the guests ranging from Acting CO, GM and OCs, to SNCOs of the Regt, started flocking in. They were all served with inspiration tablets i.e. the normal foods and drinks. Everyone looked cheerful and could be heard conversing on different subjects. They were all in their own world forgetting perhaps that they were attending a farewell party, until they saw the Acting Comdt Maj PGCP Druitt going forward to speak. Everyone kept quiet and listened to the Acting Comdt's speech. After the speech, he garlanded and presented a 'Kothimora Khukri' to SSGt Dowsett on behalf of all members of the Regt.

SSgt Dowsett in return not only thanked all personally, but amused everyone by giving short amusing descriptions on each and every man present, starting with the Acting Comdt, which was indeed an interesting one. Excepting the individual mentioned everyone could be seen enjoying the descriptions with much laughter. So Sp Sqn lost yet another of the British SNCOs who do so much to help the Regiment.

Spr Tirthaman Gurung (61232)
Sp Sqn QGE.

KOREA HONOUR GUARD IMPRESSIONS (PART II)

Before I went to Korea 'Honor Guard' was just a block on the Gurkha Field Force programme. The reader will probably know no more than that. I will endeavour to enlighten him.

The state of war that exists between two parts of a divided Korean nation is presently suspended by an armistice agreement. The armistice is "managed" by four neutral nations, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Poland. (A neutral nation is one whose combatant forces did not participate in Korea.)

The Korean Armistice was signed in ten minutes on 27 July 1953. Without speaking the communist and UNC representatives rose, walked out of separate doors and ended the longest armistice negotiations in history. The Korean Armistice is unique. There was no exchange of amenities by either side. The agreement is binding only upon military forces of north Korea, the Chinese Peoples Volunteers and 16 United Nations member nations who sent combat troops. The agreement is merely a military document, an agreement to end military conflict, and to discuss the unification of Korea and withdrawal of all foreign troops. No mutually acceptable solution was reached and Korea still remains divided.

The Military Armistice Commission is the principal agency established to supervise implementation of Truce terms. It is composed of five members appointed by each side (total 10). Representatives of the US forces United Nations Advisory Group and the Republic of Korea serve on the UNC component of the commission. Four officers of the North Korean Peoples Army and one of the Chinese Peoples Volunteers represent the communists. Since the headquarters of the commission of each side is located outside Panmunjon - Seoul in the South and Kaesong in the North, Joint Duty Officers are appointed by each side to maintain offices in the conference area and provide continuous liaison. They meet each day except Sundays at noon to exchange routine reports and pass on communications. Soldiers of both sides guard the conference area. In the event of a MAC meeting being convened this guard is made up of the 'Honor Guard' who travel up from Seoul. This duty is the primary function of the Honor Guard. Unfortunately a MAC meeting did not occur during our tour and so I am unable to describe the event further.

"Back in camp" the Honor Guard lives in the vast American Headquarters at Yongsan, Seoul. (A commanding view is obtained at the Hyatt Regency, Seoul!).

The Honor Guard itself comprises three platoons, 1 United States (US), 1 United Nations (UN) and 1 Republic of Korea (ROK). The British platoon commander from Hong Kong commands the UN platoon, which currently comprises about 20 British soldiers from Hong Kong, five Sergeants from Thailand five from the Republic of the Phillipines.

Although the Platoon is under the care of the Commonwealth liaison Mission (CIM) for administration, I was in every other sense a platoon commander in a company of the United States Eighth Army. The platoon in camp has four duties:

1. To provide guards on various installations in Yongsan - notably the United Nations Command Building and Command Bunker.
2. To provide a ceremonial guard for the 'Honor Guard Ceremony' - a Beating of Retreat at least once a week.
3. To provide a 'canoneer' daily, and to maintain the canon.
4. To provide a ceremonial guard for a Garrison Flag Ceremony.

At a flag ceremony, the flags of the garrison - US, UN, ROK are ceremonially lowered as part of the retreat ceremony.

Intensive rehearsals take place throughout the week in preparation for each ceremony, interspersed with military training lectures.

It was an intensive load of guards and duties by anyone's standards, made worse by the intense cold at nights. Minus thirty with windchill effect was not unusual. The British parkas were useless and so we borrowed down-filled clothing from the Americans. On some nights it was declared too cold for guards to be outside! I vividly remember as duty officer inspecting the guard at night and seeing a huge green ball approaching me and flinging up a 'Michelin' man salute as a Gurkha dwarfed by his protective clothing greeted me.

It is the concern of the UN platoon commander to ensure that his platoon see as much of Korea as possible. My main duty was to arrange such visits as I could. We managed to visit a Korean Folk Village, the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom and the sights of Seoul itself. Fortunately the US Army has plenty of transport and so by assuring the Transportation pool that every visit was "Mission Essential" we generally managed to attain a large bus. We had arrived in mid January and so snow often hampered movement, but most of the platoon were able to visit most locations.

Socially the prime attraction is the local night life of Itaewon. The Korean business woman is quite different from the business women in European cities! In daylight Itaewon is a sort of Nathan Road/Stanley market. Many of the platoon were soon to be seen sporting the Korean national dress - the track suit - often elaborately embroidered with the QGE crest. Clothing is cheaper than in Hong Kong.

The platoon commander himself is welcomed into the United Nations Mess, referred to as another 'British Baby' by the staff unable to keep up with the bi-monthly change, and has immediate acceptance into a society of senior officers of UNC. The Mess is run on British lines and is the only one in Korea. Fellow mess members had homes in the following countries, USA, Canada, Thailand, Korea, Phillipines, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia and many others.

Alas all too soon I had to return to Hong Kong to take (the now defunct) PQSI, and so having handed over to Gilbert I took my place on the stand to watch the Honor Guard march on. I was presented with the United Nations Salute and the National Anthem was played in my honour. A cup of Ginseng tea with the General, and suitably invigorated I returned to Hong Kong. I left with a tinge of nostalgia, and the best wishes of many friends of many different nationalities, proud to have been a part of the 'Honor Guard'.

"At no time in history has it been more important to understand and pursue the principles of the United Nations, which seek to preserve individual rights and human dignity. Free world nations joined with the Republic of Korea to defend these principles on Korean soil for the first time under the United Nations banner.

It is a memorial to their success that communist forces which sought to engulf the Republic of Korea in 1950 were repulsed and remain beyond the Demilitarized Zone.

The Korean Military Armistice Commission was established to preserve these gains until a political solution is reached. The United Nations will continue to honour its spirit with sincere negotiation and military dignity. To do less would be injustice to those who died to preserve a free society".

BISLEY RESULTS

REGULAR ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 1980 - RESULTS

HM THE QUEENS MEDAL

MAJOR UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 - 2/2 GR
- 2 - 1/2 GR
- 3 - 6 GR
- 4 - 7 GR
- 5 - 10 GR
- 6 - QGE
- 7 - QO Highlanders

Order of Merit

Points

	<u>The ARA Bronze Jewel Class A</u>		
3	Lcpl Pahalsing Thapa		857
	<u>Class Championship - Class A</u>		
3	Lcpl Pahalsing Thapa		857
	<u>1ST 100 - ARMY CHAMPIONSHIP</u>		
3	Lcpl Pahalsing	Thapa	857
32	Spr Pratapsing	Thapa	828
53	Lcpl Prakash	Rai	813
70	Spr Minbahadur	Gurung	800
83	Lcpl Tekbahadur	Gurung	790
	<u>SMG MATCH 9 - Individual 75</u>		
8	Lcpl Prakash	Rai	251
	<u>SMG CONCURRENT TEAM MATCH</u>		
	<u>MATCH 25 - No of Entries - 67</u>		
6	QGE		Score 114
	<u>THE MAJOR UNIT SMG TEAM MATCH</u>		
	<u>MATCH 27 - No of Entries (Bronze Bars)</u>		
4	QGE		61

Order of
Merit

Points

		<u>THE LMG MATCH</u> <u>MATCH 29 - No of Entries 229</u>	
C	The Royal Signals Cup - Winner - QGE		
		<u>LMG INTER UNIT MATCH</u> <u>MATCH 30 - No of Entries 63</u> <u>Major Units Class A - Bronze Bars</u>	
11	QGE		102
		<u>MATCH UNITS SECTION MATCH</u> <u>MATCH 31 - No of Entries 67 -</u> <u>Bronze Bars</u>	
5	QGE		116
		<u>THE TEAM SNAPSHOTTING MATCH</u> <u>MATCH 33 No of Entries -</u>	
7	QGE		82½
		<u>PISTOL TEAM MATCH</u> <u>MATCH 38 - No of Entries 74</u>	<u>Score</u>
8	QGE		534

QGE INTER TROOP ORIENTEERING COMPETITION 1980

As we know, sport is one of the most popular pastimes in the world. The reason is that it keeps one healthy and fit, both qualities which are essential for a soldier to have in order to maintain the Army's ability to fight. Among many sports played in the army, orienteering is one which demands stamina and knowledge of map reading.

The Sapper Bowl orienteering competition in the QGE for this year was held on 16th April 1980 in the Taimo Shan area. There were five troops and three individual pairs taking part in the event. There was a very good atmosphere and the competitors were obviously enjoying themselves. All spectators were hoping for their own troop to win and as the pairs started to arrive back the crowd became excited and noisy. At the start No 3 troop (68 Sqn) was leading. But one pair of No 2 troop had still not arrived, so the troop Comd was getting quite worried, but one could see his relief and joy when the last pair arrived bringing victory to 2 troop.

The CO Lt Col M J F Stephens RE gave away the prizes and congratulated the top three teams, 2 troop as the winner followed by 3 troop and then by RHQ in 3rd place.

LCPL RAMPRASAND GURUNG

Seen on a hoarding in Brompton High Street

'Gurkhas Rule. OK'

INTER TROOP SAPPER BOWL SHOOTING COMPETITION

It is, of course, an incontrovertible fact that the ability to handle a weapon efficaciously and to shoot lethally by a soldier is a skill of the highest value and of great exaction within the army. Not just in the army, mind you, but also to other sectors outside the military sphere. And especially in the present world of ours where the current unhealthy situations, created by some jingoos indoctrinated with undesirable ideologies, so rife, are pushing mankind and everything that it has achieved to total obliteration from the face of the earth. Yes, one has only to open the morning papers to read of the current affairs that reassert this grim truth.

In order that a soldier may attain and maintain the highest standard in handling and shooting of the weapons, it has become customary to hold shooting competition in the Brigade of Gurkhas with each unit having its own held at the time it considers proper.

The QGE's designated Sapper Bowl Shooting competition, held annually, was on the 27th October 1979 in the San Wai Range. It was a fine day for the big event. The competitors comprised three troops from each Sqn, 67, 68 and RHQ. By 8 o'clock in the morning the shooting was well away in progress and right from the start it seemed 'B' Tp (67 Sqn) would emerge the eventual winner. But, even with the Bisley veterans like Spr Pahalsing (alias Junge), Spr Pretapsing Thapa and Spr Sukbahadur Gurung 'B' Tp had no reason for complacency. Being covetous of the trophy other troops had taken a formidable form too.

The competition itself comprised SLR match, GPMG match, Section match, SMG and Pistol shooting. There was a prize for the winner of each match, as well as for the individual from each sector.

It was such a thrill for the spectators to see the competitors rush to their positions, event after event, and shoot away frantically at the seemingly immortal targets. And then the painful expressions on their faces when told of the results. Some would curse their weapons, others would spit on their performance or just give a quizzical expression.

However, everything that exists is not on a permanent basis, as an aphorism goes, so this big event had to come to an end too. Undoubtedly, the winner was 'B' troop. The prizes were distributed by Maj PGCP Druitt RE to those who stood out best among their fellow mortals. Certainly, it must have been a big relief for the organisers to see that their managerial expertise was not required any more for the day. And well done, too!

MEMOIRS OF AN AWAM

The meaning of the name AWAM will undoubtedly be confusing you. In brief it stands for Add Water And Mix; the result being of course - 'an instantly prepared officer'. It is fast becoming the familiar name given to certain young officers in the army on Short Service Limited Commissions. As a school leaver last June with a place at University in October 1980, and having passed RCB in July, I was given the opportunity of a Short Service Limited Commission with the Royal Engineers. On this commission I was to spend a year with a Regiment in the Royal Engineers as a Junior Subaltern. This required first doing a short 3-4 week course at Sandhurst, followed by an even shorter course at RSME Chattenden; hence the name 'AWAM' aptly arises from such a brief training.

It was during my brief passage through Sandhurst on my way to a Short Service Limited Commission that I remember being hurried into the office of a Royal Engineer Officer. I was asked where I hoped to be posted during my brief period in the Royal Engineers. My hopeful reply was of course Hong Kong to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. Three weeks later, after an eighteen hours flight, the many million night-time lights of Hong Kong swung into view. I was indeed to join the Queen's Gurkha Engineers - a privilege I am sure never to regret.

My first problem of finding who was meeting me on arrival was easily solved; the lost expression on my face easily differentiating me from the crowd to the two officers waiting. I was soon made to feel at home, chatting in the Mess, drinking the inevitable Hong Kong brewed San Miguel beer from a huge silver goblet - a since very familiar activity!

The initial thought which struck me on joining the Regiment was its immediately welcoming atmosphere, and the smiles. I had never seen so many smiles! The Gurkhas have an irrespressible sense of humour and are steadfastly cheerful.

After arrival there followed days of utter confusion as numerous introductions were made, places visited and the organisation of the Colony explained.

The unparalleled bounds and consequences of the Gurkha hospitality very soon made its impression upon me, as soon became apparent at my first Regimental function. One aspect of this hospitality was that no glass should ever empty and should only ever be full of something alcoholic. This provides, on occasions, quite a test of stamina for many British Officers.

The soldiers themselves were very polite, and keen to find out about the new 'Sano Saheb' even though at first I could not understand much of what they said and they even less of what I said. Inevitably the first question was when was I doing my language course. I had to say I was not doing one, of course, due to the length of my posting. Some seemed disappointed at this, others undeterred informed me that I had no cause for worry, as they would teach me! Now having been in the

Regiment for over five months some of the Corporals are showing signs of frustration at my lack of Gurkhali and are becoming reluctant to speak in English. I get treated therefore to the odd passage of Gurkhali until the blank look on my face produces the typical Gurkha grin! One result of not speaking the language is that given drivers directions proves difficult and much gesticulation goes on which results in the vehicle beginning to wander from lane to lane, numerous near misses taking place.

The first training exercise in the Regiment brought with it my first introduction to the ordinary Gurkha 'Bhat'. The Gurkha 24 hour ration pack placed in competent cooking hands leaves little to be desired - except perhaps variety. The curries, ritually and thoughtfully prepared in the field, would shame many an Asian restaurant. 'Bhat' as I discovered does become dangerous however, for although it increases the efficiency of the Gurkhas, it definitely decreases the efficiency of a British Troop Commander. After the usual vast helping of 'Bhat' has been placed before you, and especially if you succeed in getting outside it all, one would think the only sensible thing to do next would be to go to sleep.

To be posted, as an 'AWAM' to a Regiment as busy as the Queen's Gurkha Engineers with its diverse number of tasks and commitments was very fortunate. The Regiment not only has to perform and train for all the normal sapper tasks but it is also committed to training for an active internal security role in Hong Kong as well as providing the large 'Boat Troop' responsible for helping to police Hong Kong's water against the flow of illegal immigrants from Communist China. Being in my position has allowed me to work with, train with and observe all aspects of the Regiment on work and the Gurkha soldiers themselves in their many varied roles. My time therefore with the Regiment has been very interesting and of course extremely enjoyable - due mainly I think to the Gurkhas infallible sense of humour and goodwill.

D C LANE
2Lt RE
AWAM QGE

GURKHA SAPPERS SOCCER SUCCESS

For the last three seasons the Queen's Gurkha Engineers had been the Cinderellas of Hong Kong soccer. Trophies always seemed to slip away by the odd goal. This year, however, the wind of change was felt and a determined assault was made on the major units trophies. Unfortunately the league was not played due to border commitments and the first major competition was the Major Units Knock-out Cup. 7 GR and COD were quickly disposed of and QGE lined up against the old enemy, 1 RGJ, in the final. The skill and contrasting styles of the teams promised an excellent match and so it was. A two goal lead at half-time was nullified in a disastrous three minute spell when the Greenjackets used their height to great advantage in the penalty area. QGE scored again but the Greenjackets soon pulled level. Finally, with ten minutes to go, Cpl Dambersing broke away to score a magnificent goal and QGE won 4-3.

Attention was then turned to the Nepal Cup, the Grand Prix of Gurkha Football. This magnificent trophy was presented in 1948 by His Highness Maharaja Mohan Shamsher Jangabhadur Rana who was then The Prime Minister of Nepal. Since then winning this trophy has become of paramount importance in The Brigade and QGE had only managed to capture it twice in their history. 2/2 GR were beaten 3-0 and TDBG were disposed of 2-1 in a heart-stopping semi-final in which two QGE defenders were injured. The final was played in a strong wind against 6 GR and, playing against the wind, QGE did well to be 1-0 up at half-time. After the interval the floodgates opened and QGE ran out 4-1 winners, 6 GR scoring a consolation goal in the last minute of the match. The victory was rounded off by the presentation of the Man of the Match Award to Cpl Dambersing Gurung who scored a hat-trick.

A message of congratulations from the Engineer-in-Chief read "Many congratulations on another Nepal Cup success. Lend me the team with the UK Sqn and we might win the Army Cup". So watch out the UK units.

Lt J R DURANCE RE

SEAFORD, WHITSUN 1980

by SPR - NAGENDRA DHAJ KHAN

As every year, again we had a Whitsun bank holiday for this year. It was four days holiday. It started from May 31st to 3rd June. So on this occasion we all decided to go to Seaford, because we were so anxious to go there for a long time. So this time we didn't let our chance slip through our fingers.

As we made our programme we left Brompton Barracks at 1430 hrs for Seaford. On our way to Seaford we had to go through the English countryside. During our journey we enjoyed the natural beauty of nature. Without knowing how fast our landrover was running, we got to Seaford at 1800 hrs. That night we didn't go anywhere because we were so tired of our journey. After having our dinner we all went straight into bed.

Next morning we all woke up as early as the birds. After having our breakfast we went towards "Hastings" for our first visit. Hastings is a beautiful little town which lays on the coast of the sea. At Hastings there is a ruined castle which is famous for the memory of the battle between Harold of England and William of Normandy in 1066. From there we went to see Beachy Head coastline which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 200 ft high. Back in old times this place was known as the suicide place, because mostly the people who were fed up with life used to commit suicide from this cliff. After finishing looking around Hastings we said Goodbye to Hastings and hallo to the Drill Hall at 1800 hrs. As we got to Camp we carried out our usual routine. On the next day our last day at Seaford we went to visit Brighton Beach. Our dream to visit the nudist beach for a long time has come true. But unfortunately the day became cloudy and cold, so we spent our time playing Bingo in the Palace Pier. From there we changed our plan to go to Bently Wildfowl Reserve because we still had some time on our hands. At that garden we mostly enjoyed watching birds and flowers. After spending two or three hours with the birds we came back to the Drill Hall at 1400 hrs, so we could pack up our things for next day's return back to Brompton Barracks. On the next day we said Goodbye to Seaford and are hoping to visit next year again.

On behalf of all the people who went to Seaford our thanks to WO2 Langridge and Sgt Jhud Bahadur Gurung who had arranged this beautiful enjoyable time.

'FIRST IMPRESSIONS' BY 2ND LT A J B PROSSER

Joining a regiment is always a novel experience, so I am told. My initiation into the Queen's Gurkha Engineers was certainly no exception. At 7.00 pm on March 3rd I left Brize Norton in a British Airways 707. Forty eight hours later, after a twelve hour flight, a gallon of rum, six hours sleep in a bus shelter at Sai Kung, a voyage round the colony in a rigid raiding craft which for those who have not had the pleasure is a most uncomfortable experience, followed immediately by an alcoholic dinner, and my initiation was complete.

To you, the reader, this may all seem fairly benign, but as yet I have omitted to mention some of the finer details of this escapade arranged solely on my behalf by the officers of the regiment. Take for instance my OC - to whom I saluted furiously for twenty four hours. He was in fact a five foot eleven inch Staff Sergeant masquerading as my six foot four inch OC. Whether he was wearing high heels or not I failed to discover, but I was totally taken in, to the satisfaction of all who saw me humbling myself.

Having drunk my gallon of rum, which within an hour of consumption made me feel like the devil incarnate, I was directed to my accommodation, the aforementioned bus shelter. Waking some hours later I discovered to my surprise and, dare I say it anxiety, that my fellow officers had been replaced by a medley of smiling Gurkhas. Is this to be a crash course in Gurkhali I asked myself? Yet with their disarming charm and politeness I was soon made to feel very much at ease.

Within a couple of hours I found myself involved in an exercise with the Gurkha Signals, followed by my waterlogged journey to the Mess, which as yet I had not seen. Participants in the dinner that followed appeared to have one aim - to render the defenceless 'AWAM' inebriated as quickly as possible! I am glad to say that in this they were not totally successful. I was informed that Black Tie was the normal dress for an evening meal so who was I to argue? Walking into the bar at 7.00 pm I was introduced to my fellow mess members - the other AWAM who I thought was very helpful but was in fact one of the chief perpetrators; a homosexual padre, beautifully acted by 'luv' em and leave 'em' Durrance Saheb - an oscar should be awarded here I think; the 2IC of 68 Sqn - a most peculiar personage dressed in a shirt that would have made a deckchair blush and my 'OC' still being acted by indomitable Staff Sergeant, who was so rude to the 'padre' that I began to look forward to watching my first duel at dawn.

Walking into dinner I was directed to a certain seat, and not thirty seconds later I was ordered to remove my body by the adjutant. Having done as I was told I sat back to watch forty minutes of horror; officers being given extra's for late attendance, 2ICs walking out and slamming doors when being told to change their shirt, even though they were only one day junior to the adjutant, and the whole while a running commentary from the 'OC' saying who was a bad officer and who was a good 'un.

Dinner over, we trooped back to the bar, although by this stage I felt more like re-enlisting as a sapper, if only to avoid being given ten extra's on my first night for not wearing a bow tie that ties. I spent the rest of the evening pushing the 'padre's' hand off my knee, and triple whiskies under the sofa. As the night wore on even the most hardened drinkers began to topple - I was astounded by the sight of a kilt-clad, bagpipe clutching officer soundly asleep on the dining room floor, "oh, he always does that", I was duly informed. Finally, the whole truth was revealed to me by the adjutant at 3.00 a.m. in the morning while we were both sitting or rather wobbling on our stools; we were the last remaining vestiges of a very interesting and, with hindsight, very enjoyable introduction to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

From an unpublished article on a farewell party to Capt Gritten.

"... to take up a new appointment as Adjutant of Cambridge University"

That should smarten the undergraduates up a bit

JUNKS 'ANNA' AND 'QGE 12'

Many members of the Association will remember our pleasure junk Anna which was purchased in 1972 and, after a few modifications and painting, was ready for charter by the end of June that year. Sadly she had to have her equivalent of PULHEEMS in November last year and she was fairly soundly condemned, the main ailment being rot. It was clear that we would not be able to hire her out any more in her present condition and, as a conservative estimate for repairs was put at \$10,000, it was decided to sell her and this was done for only \$ 1500. Her new owner is serving in HQBF and she can be seen occasionally in the STANLEY area.

We then gave some thought about her replacement and after writing to what seemed all departments of the Hong Kong Government we finally received their agreement to give the Regiment a confiscated junk for use as a training vessel and for pleasure. We were warned there was likely to be a delay and a vessel is still awaited.

Meanwhile, in early March this year Captain Andrew Smith, who was then acting OC of 67 Squadron, which commanded QGE Boat Troop, came across a small Pearl River Oyster boat that had been caught by the police carrying illegal immigrants. This was salvaged and brought back to Gordon Hard!

This newly acquired junk of ours is 36 feet long and weighs about 15 tons. She is powered by a simple robust Chinese two cylinder diesel engine that gives a top speed of around 8 knots which is just twice what Anna was able to achieve at the end of her time. On acquisition she was quite filthy, without any sign of paint but liberally oiled from the bilges upwards. Cockroaches, crabs, spiders and other assorted bugs abounded.

Since then, QGE 12 as she is now named, has had a startling change in appearance. The standing rigging and engine house superstructure have all disappeared together with the rotting hatch covers. The same classic lines remain but with several coats of primer, anti foul and finally gloss, she now looks the best kept junk of her size and type on the water. Only an awning is now awaited for her to be complete ready for charter within the Regiment.

We have prepared Standing Orders and a scale of charges for hire. In this latter respect we went through all the old files to read the history of Anna and learned whatever lessons there were to learn from running a junk. So thank you friends for all those well documented reports. They have been read with care and where mistakes were made, we are warned and will see that they are not repeated.

P REEDMAN

PEROWNE GURKHA CHILDREN SCHOOL THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS

Overlooking the beautiful sea view of the Pearl Island, there is an ideal small Primary School, which lies in a shady nook amidst flowering shrubs and trees at Perowne Barracks, where the singing and twitter of little birds resound enchantingly.

The name of this little school is Perowne Gurkha Children School, which is named after Major General LECM Perowne, CB, CBE who is one of the most outstanding personalities in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

This little school is attached to the Regimental Headquarters of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers at Perowne Barracks. This is an important welfare Institution where the Gurkha children of the Regiment acquire all round basic Primary education.

At present there are 112 children and five teaching staff including the Headmaster. The Officer-in-charge of the school is Major P Reedman RE who takes keen interest in the general welfare of the staff and the children. The education policy and the general administration of the school is looked after by the Chief Education Officer HQBF.

The school follows the curriculum and the syllabus of the new Education System of Nepal. The main subjects taught are, Nepali, English, Maths, Social Study, Hygiene, Physical Education and Arts. In addition to these subjects, Pre-Vocational subjects like Agriculture, Cooking, Carpentry, Sewing and Knitting are also taught in the school.

The children enjoy extra curricular activities, like games, sports and swimming. The school has a Cub-Pack and Brownies too. They take an active part in all Cub-Scout and Brownies activities. Last year Perowne GCS boys won Inter-Primary Schools Football championship cup and this year they won Inter-Cub Packs Athletics championship Shield. Several trophies have also been collected by the School Brownies in Inter-Brownies Activity Competitions.

During each term, the school organises some Educational Visits to local interesting places, like Agricultural Farms, Factories, Botanical Gardens etc, and to make the trip useful, the children are asked to do project works on the subject of their visit, and they all enjoy doing it.

Attention is paid to keeping good discipline of the children at school and the emphasis is laid on the physical, mental, moral and spiritual development of the children.

A good relationship with parents is regarded as an important factor in the process of children's education and therefore the parents are invited to visit the school during Parents' Day each year. They see their children's works and discuss various things with teachers about their children's progress in study.

In order to maintain a good standard of study, the Education Branch conducts Nepalese Government's District level exams every year. This year four students of Perowne GCS appeared at this exam and out of them, one passed with distinction and three passed in first division. This result was excellent.

In all its welfare activities the school gets good co-operation both from the parents and the unit. The children are happy and are eager to learn, and the teachers too work very hard. The school is indeed happy, progressive and successful.

G K SINGH
Headmaster

BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

As agreed at the Annual General Meeting held on the 7 November 1979 the subscription for Ordinary Members has now to be raised from £2 to £3.

Would member who pay their annual subscriptions by Banker's Order on the 1st October please notify their Banks accordingly.

COMING EVENTS

1. Dashera Party

2000 hrs on 11 October 1980 at the US (Medway) Sports Club

2. Annual General Meeting

1630 hrs on 6 November at the Army and Navy Club.

3. GBA Dinner

1915 for 2000 hrs on 6 November at the Army and Navy Club.
Black Tie. Cost £14.50. Bids direct to AAG Brigade of Gurkhas (01-499-8040 Ext 7341)

4. Dinner for Handover of Colonels

This is likely to happen on 4 December 1981 in the REHQ Mess, Chatham. Details will be published in 1981.

GURKHA HOLIDAYS 1981

Wed 18 Feb 81	-	Tribuwan's Jayanti and National Democracy Day.
Sat 21 Mar 81	-	Holi
Mon 13 Apr 81	-	Nepal New Year's Day
Sat 15 Aug 81	-	Rikhi Tarpan
Mon 5 Oct 81	-	Phulpati)
Tue 6 Oct 81	-	Kalratri) Dashera
Wed 7 Oct 81	-	Mar)
Thu 8 Oct 81	-	Tika)
Tue 27 Oct 81	-	Luxmi Puja)
Wed 28 Oct 81	-	Gobardhan Puja) Deowali
Thu 29 Oct 81	-	Bhai Tika)
Tue 29 Dec 81	-	Birthday of HM King of Nepal

REGIMENTAL DAYS

Mon 23 Feb 81	-	Ghanzi Day
Mon 14 Sep 81	-	Delhi Day
Wed 23 Sep 81	-	Assay Day
Mon 28 Sep 81	-	QGE Day

FAMILY NEWS

Murphy's Law is inescapable so if you are writing to me with family news your letter is guaranteed to arrive the day after we have gone to press. Sorry about that Tom S-S and John Speight! Anyway here is the gist of of their news, even if a little belated.

Tom has been on his travels in the Far East again - Burma, Thailand, 'gazing across the Mekong River at the Lao-trun shore', and back in Singapore finalising the plans for the Mass Transit Railway. As a footnote he exasperates at the extraneous 'e' attached to his name on our lists (All concerned to note).

John Speight, as well as writing the tribute to Larry Batty, reports that he had a delightful time at the NATO Defence College in Rome and can recommend it.

Ian Thompson has used his expertise in the building trades to make a splendid conversion from an old stables near Haywards Heath and lives there in great style with his sister. Their combined culinary efforts make it difficult to know who to congratulate on the splendid meals they serve. (Definitely a 'knife and fork' award in the guide to QGEA houses I am compiling).

John and Mavis English finally dug themselves out of their west country small holding to come and join us at Minley. They are as ebullient as ever. Mavis adds a little ready cash to the products of the soil by working for Van Heusan, so John's muddy corduroys are usually topped by an elegant executive shirt.

The number of ex QGE officers at Chatham seems to grow and grow - there is scarcely a department that is not infiltrated and the Regimental Colonel's office is almost totally overwhelmed by Tony Kerr, John Allen and lately Philip Poole. Tony and Lorna are off shortly to Tidworth where one of them is going to command 22 Engr Regt. Phil Cook then moves into Tony's desk at Chatham.

At long last Nick Tomlinson has got his posting to DCRE Dharan. The Regiment will miss greatly all the work he does as QGELO - he will be a hard man to follow. The Rick's remain their usual friendly cheerful selves - Philip now commutes to London from Amherst Redoubt and Trish rubs sailors better at HMS Pembroke's physio department.

Amongst many others the Jennings - Bramleys and the Corsellises continue to thrive at Chatham.

Carl West Meads has been seen twice at parties at Chatham lately in the company of Jungly Drake. West Meads was the chap who always looked frightfully intellectual except sometimes - now he is really is. Anyway he is in excellent form.

There was supposed to be a BAOR section of family gossip by John Edwards but it missed the deadline - Crusader strikes again.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS NEWS

Hi Folks!

Most of you will have received the sad news of David Hindles death. He will be missed by us all. David will be remembered for his stories and the support he gave the association.

Almost £250 was donated to the Dave Hindle Fund which will be passed on to Tom Hughes in Dharan. You will recall he is running a boys home out there, with this cash of Daves we will have donated over £400 this year, a remarkable effort.

Local News

Tom Wye has arrived home from Dharan and is now SSM 3 Training Regiment.

David Clifton has been commissioned and posted to Germany with family.

Bob Parker has arrived home from Hong Kong and replaces me at Chatham.

Tom Kilvert now lives at: 3, Downside,
Shoreham by Sea,
Sussex

Mr Day has been promoted WO1 and posted to Ireland and the Medway Towns houses more and more Ex British QGE pensioners every day.

Finally Dasher:

Any late proformae please, send soonest to me or telephone 0634/574122.

Best wishes to you all.

T P Langridge

LATE NEWS Bob Mac has some Goats in Kent. I must tell the Gurkhas!!!!

STOP PRESS (from Secretary QGEA)

1. It is now almost certain that 69 Sqn will be in Kitchener Barracks Chatham from mid 81.

2. Congratulations to Hank Bowen on his selection for promotion to Brigadier in 1981.

