

DREAM PROJECT

GURKHA HISTORY IN HONG KONG



“If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or is a Gurkha.”

Gurkhas

How many people know about Gurkhas in Hong Kong?

“Sadly only few people around me know about them here. On the personal note, while talking about Gurkhas, my own grandfather was one of them, who was also stationed here in Hong Kong with 6th Gurkha Rifles some time around 1950s.

After listening to some of his interesting stories from his Gurkha days, I have always paid a high respect for my brave grandfather as well as for other Gurkhas.. In the mean time, I also always wonder why did they have to fight for some other nation whilst their own Himalayan nation was always known for peace and love.”

-- Dhiraj Gurung

Gurkhas are soldiers hired from Nepal to serve on the front lines of almost every British Army conflict in the past 200 years. They first arrived in Hong Kong in 1948. After 1997, most of the Nepali troops' base moved to Britain, but many soldiers stayed, and had been granted permanent residency here. Despite being bona fide Hongkongers, however, their history in the is lost. A display of Gurkha veterans' personal histories, therefore, would enable fellow Hongkongers to know better about Gurkha's heritage, as well as raise the public awareness of aging problem they are facing.

Credits

Gurkhas:

Chandra B. Gurung.

Ran B. Khimding. 10GR

Sher B. Gurung. 2GR

Chandra B. Gurung

21154797 / 524547

Recruited in 1961 as a boy Gurkha at the age of 14, Captain Gurung mentioned he was one of the brightest recruits in his group, and later got to serve with the Queen's Gurkha Engineers although his first preference was Queen's Gurkha Signals.

He was at Sungai Petani, Malaysia before arriving Hong Kong in 1966, where his job as an engineer was to construct bridges, roads, fences around the borders but also bomb disposal.

67 years old now, he remembers of not only riots in Hong Kong, but also of including laying (as well as removing) of mine bombs. His improved performance and his skills not only promoted him as Officer later (*so that's why he has two army numbers), but even he got to serve as senior inspector for the construction of major sites in Hong Kong, including Tsing Ma Bridge, Ting Kau Bridge, Terminal 2 at Chek Lap Kok airport.

Even at this age, he is actively working with his expertise and proud to say that, how Nepalese 'Gurk hali' have contributed to Hong Kong society in terms of construction and security.



Ran B. Khimding 10 GR

21164697



Recruited in 1981 & served in British Gurkha Force until 1998, he remembers how he and his fellow Gurkhas were mainly assigned to guard the borders of Hong Kong, esp. where they had to stop the illegal immigrants who used to enter Hong Kong. He lives with his family here whilst he is also looking for a job at present here.

Sher B. Gurung 2GR

21153230

"Together as brothers, we had good times but also bad ones, but we cannot nor we should not forget those days."



Recruited in 1961 when he was 18, before arriving Hong Kong in 1963, he had to be at Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation as soon as he had finished his training in Singapore. Many moments he remembers from Gurkha days in Hong Kong but one of the memories he cannot forget is preparing himself for the Queen's birthday parade. He and his fellow Gurkhas had to travel on a train to participate at the parade but used to be worried about their well ironed & knife-edged creased uniform while traveling by standing in a train which was not as comfortable as today.