

6th AND 7th GURKHA RIFLES AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

On 10th June 1959, a party of officers, serving and retired, and men of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles and 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles had the honour of being received in Audience by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to mark the granting of their Royal Titles.

We arrived in cars straight from Wellington Barracks where the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards had been very kindly looking after us. Perhaps one or two of us hoped that Christopher Robin was there to watch as we swept in through the main gates to the courtyard beyond. Leaving hats and gloves we were shown into a drawing room carpeted, quiet, with a bow window looking on to the garden. This was where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were to meet their Regiments. We talked a little but mostly we were silent. Once the double doors at the end of the room were opened for a moment and we heard talking beyond. Then a bell rang and we waited. We hardly saw them enter but by instinct bowed and then the Queen was shaking hands, the officers and men being introduced by their Colonels. The Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers, whose first day of duty this was, were steady behind her. The Gurkhas down the line were saluting and the moment of tension was over. The Duke of Edinburgh followed the Queen round the semi-circle shaking hands, chatting. Then the half circle broke and for half an hour the officers and men of the two Regiments talked with the Queen and the Duke telling them of themselves and of their life in the Regiments that now so proudly bore Her Majesty's and His Royal Highness' names.

We left quietly, as we came, back to Malaya or Scotland, Nepal or the War Office, each with his own memories of interest shown and questions asked to pass to the regiment or to keep as he felt. We hoped that we had been worthy representatives of our Regiments on one of the most important days since they were raised.

Representatives of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles and the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles as shown on opposite page.

Front Row: Lt-Col H. M. M. Hackett, MC., Lt-Col F. B. Abbot, DSO, Major General J. G. Bruce, CB, DSO, MC (President 6th GR Regt Assocn), Major General J. A. R. Robertson, CB, CBE, DSO (Major General The Brigade of Gurkhas), Field Marshal the Lord Harding, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC (Colonel 6th GR) all 6th GR, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, GCB, GCMG, KBE, DSO (Colonel 7th GR), Brigadier A. J. H. Ross, MC, Colonel R. B. E. Upton, Lt-Col S. F. Harvey-Williams (all 7th GR).

Second Row: Captain D. T. Florey, Major J. A. Lys, MC, Lt-Col W. M. Amore, DSO, MBE (CO 1st Bn), Lt-Col P. B. Winstanley, MC (late CO 2nd Bn), Lt-Col H. R. K. Gibbs (all 6th GR), Lt-Col J. T. H. Morris, Lt-Col H. C. Pullev, OBE, MC, (BGLO), Lt-Col M. H. F. Magoris, MBE (CO 1st Bn), Lt-Col E. R. Hill (CO 2nd Bn), Major R. E. Taylor (all 7th GR).

Third Row: Sgt. Sahabir Pun, Captain Lalgopal Ghale, MM (2nd GR, Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer), Lt Manbahadur Rai, Captain A. C. Wakeham (all 6th GR), Major R. B. Kenney, Major T. P. Rhodes, MBE, Captain Harkasher Rai (Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer), Sgt Lakhbahadur Limbu, Cpl Karkabahadur Rai (all 7th GR).

Back Row: Rin Budiparsad Gurung, L/Cpl Makansing Gurung, L/Cpl Chhabilal Rana, (all 6th GR), Cpl Kulbahadur Limbu, Cpl Jaibahadur Gurung, L/Cpl Gaabahadur Rai (all 7th GR).

A. C. W.