

Proposals for the Future of the
6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association

Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it;
Macbeth, Act 1 Sc 4

Foreword.

1. In the 1990s the British Army faced a decade of reductions to defence spending under the British Government's "Options for Change", which impacted particularly heavily on the Brigade of Gurkhas. In 1994 our four Rifle Regiments amalgamated to form a new Regiment, the Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR), initially of three Battalions but subsequently of two. RGR is now the lineal descendant of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles (6GR), carrying forward our traditions, battle honours and ethos, and is also custodian, together with the Gurkha Museum, of our Regimental property.
2. While our Regiment no longer exists, the 6GR Regimental Association (6GRRRA) continues. It provides a forum for members of the Regiment to keep in touch, organises events in both the UK and Nepal, produces an annual Journal, arranges attendance at Brigade events, and ensures that the Regiment is represented at special events when appropriate. The 6GR Regimental Trust (6GRRT), a registered charity, financially supports our overseas branches and Gurkha charities as well as making grants towards meeting certain laid-down objectives. Volunteers run the informal and independent Cuttack Legion lunches.
3. However, given that there is no new source of membership, the Association has a finite life. The number of active (or rather participating) members is declining, recruiting new office holders is becoming difficult and support for the more traditional activities is falling: there is already conjecture over future viability of the Association and the dispersal of the Trust funds.
4. We are not alone in facing this problem, for it will affect all four antecedent regiments. Some, such as the 2GR association (Sirmoor Rifles Association) have been addressing these problems for some time, and the Gurkha Brigade Association (GBA)¹ has made it clear that they will provide a "home" for any associations that choose to disband.

Aim.

5. The aim of this paper is to propose options for the future of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association and the constituent Regimental Trust.

6. The opportunity to clarify the background and role of both the Association and the Trust has been taken. This paper is primarily for discussion and approval by Association Committee members and Trust trustees: once endorsed a synopsis will be issued to all members, although this detailed paper will also be available.

Background and Current Arrangements.

7. The Association (6GRRRA). The Association was formed by officers who had left the Regiment when it was transferred from the Indian Army to the British Army in 1948 and the original objectives were simple: to keep alive the companionship formed after service together, and to allow members to stay in touch with the Regiment. Following the demise of the Regiment in 1994 the Regimental Association Nepal (6GRRAN) was formally registered on 13 June 1995 and quickly established branches within Nepal and one in India (Darjeeling)².
8. Association Objectives. The current objectives of the Association, which is now open to all ranks, are:
 - a. Principal Objective. To foster esprit de corps and comradeship, and to preserve the traditions and history of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles ("the Regiment"), for all former members of the Regiment and members of the Association.
 - b. Further Objectives.
 - i. To maintain contact between members of the Association, fostering mutual friendship among them.
 - ii. To maintain liaison between the Association and the Regimental Association of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and with the serving members of that regiment.
 - iii. To provide for members of the Association to play a full part in the charitable activities carried out by The Gurkha Brigade Association and The Gurkha Welfare Trust in the relief of individual former members of the Regiment and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress, and further to act as a channel of communication between members of the Association in need and the many sources of welfare support and benevolence that may from time to time be available.

9. The Association Administration and Activities. The Association works to a comprehensive set of rules, recently updated on 6 June 2015: these include details of membership³. It is funded by both membership subscriptions and grants from the Regimental Trust and is run by a Committee of between six and nine members, under the Association Chairman, and it meets annually to plan activities, including:
 - a. Organisation of annual reunions, special commemorative events (such as the Book of Remembrance Service at Winchester Cathedral) and, when appropriate, Durbars in both UK and Nepal.
 - b. Production of an annual Journal, sent to all members who pay an annual subscription, plus associated organisations.
 - c. Distribution of information on behalf of GBA, and co-ordination of attendance at GBA events.
 - d. Only if appropriate, the coordination of “own steam” activities⁴ run by individual members for the benefit of all members. Foremost among these are the Cuttack Legion lunches, which take place regularly and are run by a volunteer⁵.
 - e. Ensuring 6GRRRA representation at events/functions when necessary and appropriate.
 - f. Maintenance of the 6GRRRA Website and contact details of members.
 - g. Communication with the membership.
 - h. Through 6GRRT, the financial support of local overseas branches of the Association, specifically in Nepal and Darjeeling but also in UK.
10. The War Memorial Trust Fund (WMTF). Although the WMTF no longer exists it does form part of our history⁶. It was started during World War II for the benefit of members of the Regiment and their families in need. The WMTF was registered as a charity in 23 July 1957 and the objectives amended to include the creation of Regimental Memorials, the training and education of beneficiaries and charitable support to beneficiaries in need⁷. It was subsumed by the 6GRRT in 1995.
11. The Trust (6GRRT). The Trust was formed in 1969, and legally registered as a charity on 16 May 1969. The over-riding purpose was to ensure that Regimental assets (cash, investments and chattels) would remain under the control of Regimental Trustees and their disposal at some future date would be appropriately managed. Had this action not been taken, then on notice of

disbandment being received all Regimental assets would have had to be frozen pending the drawing-up, upon application to the Charity Commission, of a Cy-pres Scheme: under this the assets would have been moved to a charity with purposes as near as was possible to the original intentions of the Service Non-Public Funds (SNFP), which made-up a portion of the Trust's assets. SNFPs absorbed into the Trust included the British Officers Mess, the Queen's Gurkha Officers Mess, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, the Regimental Institute's Fund (the PRI) and the Pipes and Drums Fund from both Battalions and by May 1970 the Trust had a value of £30,019. On the formation of RGR in 1994 there was a major reduction to the Trust funds, as the portion made-up of SNFP, such as PRI, were transferred to RGR⁸. Since then, by careful investment, the disposal of unwanted property and legacies, the rump of the Trust plus the WMTF has grown considerably such that the Trust and Association now share assets⁹ of over £260K.

12. Trust Objectives. The Trust's Objectives have changed over the course of time as a result of the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) taking on responsibility for needy ex-servicemen in 1969, the demise of the Regiment in 1994 and the absorption of the WMTF in 1995¹⁰. On 20 June 1997 a Charity Commission Scheme wound up the various sub-funds within the original Trust (such as British Officers' Mess Fund) and enabled the entity to be administered and managed as one Charity with the following (and current) Objectives:

- a. To promote the efficiency of the Royal Gurkha Rifles in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit.
- b. To foster the esprit de corps and further comradeship and welfare of former members of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Regiment) and their families and to preserve the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- c. To relieve, either generally or individually, persons who are former members of the Regiment and their dependants ("beneficiaries"), who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.
- d. To create and maintain a permanent memorial or permanent memorials to the members of the regiment who were killed in action or died in consequence thereof.
- e. To assist the education and training of beneficiaries.

13. The Trust Administration and Activities. The Trust is administered by a Chairman (traditionally the President of the Association) and between six and seven trustees, with the Secretariat supplied by the Independent Services Agency Limited: the Association Chairman and Secretary are, by appointment, Trustees.

The Trustees meet annually to consider and approve grants as appropriate and to vet and approve the Annual Report and Accounts. Income is generated primarily by capital investments and legacies, but since 2015, when the accounts of both 6GRRA and 6GRRT were combined, also by subscriptions. Grants tend to be made to the GWT, the Gurkha Museum, the RAN¹¹, the costs of the Journal, for benevolence and, until recently, for RGR property maintenance¹². Pleas for additional grants may be considered out of committee.

The Problem

14. Our Association, and hence our Trust, face a simple and continuing problem as regards our future: declining membership. We are not alone in this – it affects all of the other antecedent Regiments (2GR, 7GR, 10GR). While there is a small core of dedicated and regular supporters, there is a far greater number who, by virtue of age or inclination, pay little or no part in Association activities.
15. The statistics make disturbing reading: as at September 2017 we had 369 members, but only 34% of these are badged 6GR British Officers, 9% are Gurkha Officers and 13% are Other Ranks. An analysis of the figures and a study of participation over a three-year period indicates that only some 8% of the members are actively and regularly involved – about 30. This shortage of active members manifests itself in several ways:
 - a. Poor attendance at formal association events, such as the Annual General Meeting and the Remembrance Ceremony at Winchester Cathedral¹³. The same applies to GBA events: the RMA Sandhurst Memorial Service and Lunch, the Brigade Bhela, the GBA Cenotaph Parade and the GBA Dinner, tend to be attended by the same few individuals. Paradoxically, occasional major events, such as the recent Regimental Durbars in Nepal and UK, are well attended.
 - b. A paucity of individuals prepared to serve in the organisations that run the Trust and Association. Between thirteen and eighteen are needed to fill a variety of posts and fewer suitable members, prepared to devote time and energy, are available. Filling the more senior posts with individuals who have an understanding and the skills required is now a significant problem.
 - c. The fact that the regular and informal Cuttack Legion lunches, which is in effect a private dining club, is now the most popular event among all age groups.
16. But a shrinking membership is possibly not the only reason involvement with association events is falling; society is changing and the younger generation are perhaps not so fixated with retaining links with what may seem to be an anachronistic past and way of life. That attendance at memorial functions is dropping, while attendance at the Cuttack Lunches is rising, is perhaps a fair

indication of what many of the younger and active members want from their Association.

17. The 6GRRAN remains a vibrant and well-supported organization, particularly for major reunions, but is beginning to suffer from the ravages of time, but even more so by the fact that most of the younger pensioners now live in the UK. However, the rather informal association of our UK pensioners is, although supported by small grants for their annual All Ranks Reunion, not a formal part of the 6GRRRA by choice and prefer their independence.
18. There is no appetite for artificially increasing Association membership by changing entry criteria. Proposals made in the past to widen membership by including descendants, historians and the like were considered and rejected, and will not be revisited.

The Future and Possible Options

19. Put simply, 6GRRRA cannot continue indefinitely in its present form. Closure of the Association is inevitable at some stage in the future, with Trust funds being appropriately dispersed in compliance with Charity Commission rules.
20. All the antecedent Regiments have the same problems and are planning to close their associations and disperse trust funds within the next 15 years¹⁴. The other ex-Indian Army Gurkha Associations have effectively closed, although 4GR and 9GR retain a Secretariat and have an annual lunch, while all others try to send representatives to memorial functions.
21. Most of 6GRRRA members have friends across the Brigade and the GBA offers the best environment to retain these links, and the GBA has made it clear that they will provide a “home” for any associations that choose to disband. Furthermore the GBA Constitution states in Rule 9.a. that “When a Regimental Association disbands, its full members¹⁵ continue to be members of the Association as individuals”. GBA may need to review the way in which they will host disbanding antecedent regimental associations to encourage them all to adopt a similar relationship: this is particularly relevant bearing in mind the, albeit limited, financial responsibilities GBA might inherit and the considerable trust funds that the associations might be dispersing¹⁶.
22. An alternative “home” might be for individuals to join the RGR Regimental Association (RGRRA)¹⁷. This option is already open to all, but few of those who did not serve in RGR have taken it up, and even fewer attend their one annual event. To the best of our knowledge, this option is not being considered by other

antecedent associations and, while suitable for some individuals, will not be considered as a viable home for the Association, although individuals will be welcomed ¹⁸.

23. It behoves us to plan for a future when both the Association and the Trust formally close, funds are dispersed and alternative arrangements are made. However:
- a. Nothing will happen in the immediate future, other than planning: a possible time frame is within the next five to ten years. Note that the proposals in this paper are, in effect, a living will and decisions at the time will be the responsibility of the then Trustees, although it has been proposed that this paper, once endorsed, be enshrined as an addendum to Association Rules.
 - b. Nothing will be done without consultation of all Full Members of the Association and the 6GRRAN.
 - c. The Association and Trust are inextricably linked and should close together, but see paragraph 30.
 - d. There must be no run-down of Trust funds simply in anticipation of closure, as they represent the main source of income.
 - e. Whatever we do, at some stage the dispersal of our Trust funds will need to be addressed, against our existing objectives and within Charity Commission rules. Possible beneficiaries might include the GWT, the Gurkha Museum, the Gurkha Memorial Museum Pokhara, our 6GRRAN, RGR, GBA and the UK All Ranks reunion.
24. Options. There are few viable options for the future, they all involve closure, and they only differ by small degrees. For example:
- a. To simply close down, disburse our Trust funds to other Brigade organizations, and use GBA as “our home” while providing seed-corn funding for the RAN to become financially independent.
 - b. Or, to scale down our activities slowly and gradually disappear completely over a period of years.
 - c. Or, to mutate into something different, such as a “Cuttack Legion Lunch Club”. The Trust funds would need to be dispersed and could not be transferred to such an organisation unless it were to register as a charity - simply reinventing the wheel and a completely pointless act.

d.Or, some sort of combination of these options.

25. This paper does not propose to examine each option in detail, but to simply propose a course of action and identify areas that need to be refined and planned in detail.

The Proposal

26. It is proposed that:

a. The 6GRRA close at a date to be determined and that members be absorbed into the GBA.

b.At the same time the 6GRRT disburse all the funds in a manner that best meets their objectives and within Charity Commission regulations.

27. Timing. When the Association and Trust close is perhaps the most difficult question and to which there can be no precise or definitive answer at present. This decision needs to be made while we are still able to find effective and knowledgeable Committee members for the Association and Trustees for the Trust. The youngest members are already entering their fifties and those career officers who were badged only to 6GR are now in their sixties or older. It is morally wrong to duck this issue now, while we can still plan properly, and so it is proposed that:

a.From 2019 the President and Chairman of the Association annually review involvement of members in both Regimental and GBA events¹⁹.

b.When the average attendance falls below the numbers required to staff the Association and Trust (viz, between thirteen and eighteen²⁰) and after consultation with Full Members, the decision be made to close the Association the following year, with Trust funds dispersed under the guidance which follows. This situation could arise, in the worst case, within the next five years, but it is hoped that suitable volunteers will come forward to keep the Association and Trust viable for at least another decade. Whenever this decision point is reached it is essential that we have the right people in the appropriate posts at that time.

c.There should be a formal event to mark the closing of the Association, possibly linked with the annual memorial ceremony at Winchester Cathedral, but with guests²¹.

d. The 6GRRA Website would cease to be “active” on closure, but with the historical element retained as part of the GBA website²².

e. These proposals be accepted as simply guidance and are not prescriptive: the then Trustees must make the final decision.

28. The Association after closure. When the Association closes members will still be members of GBA, entitled to all the current privileges this brings: however they will need to rely on the GBA Secretary for information²³. At this stage there is no reason to think that certain 6GRRA events cannot continue, and be run by nominated volunteers, for example:

a. The Book of Remembrance Service at Winchester Cathedral, followed by a lunch at the Gurkha Museum. This is held on the Saturday of the week preceding the GBA Dinner and would effectively become an annual reunion for those that wish to attend.

b. The Cuttack Legion lunches. Provision to allow access to the Association address lists, if required, could be made²⁴.

c. The other “own steam” activities.

29. The Association and GBA. To make closure a success GBA will need to consider taking-on certain association tasks at present done by the Association Secretary. Hence before this stage is reached the relationship with GBA needs clarification in certain areas:

a. Individual Membership. Under current rules only Full Members of associations are members of the GBA. This is because the definition of Full Members is common across the Brigade, while the other categories (Honorary etc) vary between associations. The GBA should be asked to clarify this and, if necessary, agree to including, by application, the widows/widowers of Full members and those who consider that they have ties by kinship or association.

b. Membership of closed Antecedent Associations²⁵. Once the four antecedent associations close down the relationship between them and GBA merits consideration. Possible areas for clarification include:

i) An assurance from GBA that the antecedent regimental associations will be treated in the same way as the ex-Indian Army Gurkha regimental associations. This means GBA funding provision of wreaths, invitations to attend GBA functions and attendance of pensioners at Bheas etc.

ii) Ergo, the provision of a Secretariat by GBA²⁶.

iii) To help with provision of information, and to relieve the GBA Secretary of an escalating workload, it is requested that that the GBA Website, funded and controlled by HQBG, become more representative and include more on GBA affairs, particularly on future events. In addition, the GBA website could provide access to the inactive 6GRRRA website as a source of historical information.

iv) Furthermore, the current Regimental Membership and Address lists are dominated by inactive members. To make the role of the GBA Secretary viable, this list would have to be pruned before closure: all those on it would need to be asked whether they wish to continue to receive information, to give an email address, and to confirm that they wish their details to be handed over to the Secretariat and, if requested, to the Cuttack Legion lunch organisers. While HQBG are currently addressing the impact of recent changes to the Data Protection Act, this task will also have to comply with legislation in force at the time of closure.

c. Meeting funding shortfall within GBA. The closure of the antecedent associations will reduce GBA annual income by half, while demand on GBA for support will increase. 6GRRRA would strongly support a GBA request for up-front grants from closing associations to help their transition to a smaller income but also to enable GBA to fund the assurances sought above. A sum of between £7,000 and £10,000 is suggested²⁷.

30. The Trust. While the Trust is not obliged to close at the same time as the Association, if it continues it will encounter the same problems that force the Association to close: a dearth of manpower. Ideally, both should close together, but in practice this might not be possible: to clear any outstanding debtors and creditors, and to permit the submission of a final Annual Report and Accounts to the Charity Commission, the Trust might need to continue to exist for a short while after the Association has closed. Existing funds will need to be disbursed, and this must be compliant with Trust Objectives and in accordance with current UK and international legislation.

31. Disbursement of Trust Funds. After the considerable expenditure in 2017 on the 200th Anniversary celebrations, plus the large (£48K) grant to GWT, the Trust is at present worth some £265,000. Assuming no untoward expenditure in forthcoming years, it is prudent to assume that this balance will be retained (or exceeded) in the future. How and to whom grants will be made is a decision for the future, but were this decision to be made now, and from the Trusts current holdings, possible final grants might be as outlined below:

a. RGR Regimental Association. As our lineal descendant and the custodian of much of our property it is proposed to grant £50,000, or 19% of the Trust funds, whichever is the greater, to the RGR Regimental Association as follows:

i) A grant of £25,000 to “...*promote the efficiency of the Royal Gurkha Rifles in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit...*”.

ii) A restricted grant of £25,000 towards 6GR property maintenance which will help to “...*to preserve the history and traditions of the Regiment...*” and indirectly to “...*create and maintain a permanent memorial or permanent memorials to the members of the regiment...*”

b. GWT. Any award to a charity should bear in mind proportionality, and hence the impact, of the grant. Last year the GWT spent £21.059 M²⁸ and if all trust funds were donated to GWT they would represent just 1.3% of expenditure. Nevertheless, GWT is the main source of support to our pensioners and it is Trust policy²⁹ to route all welfare donations through GWT to ensure a proper and efficient delivery of help to those “...*in need, hardship or distress...*”. It is proposed that GWT be awarded £50,000 or 19% of Trust funds, whichever is the greater.

c. The Gurkha Museum. Conversely an award of all trust funds to the Gurkha Museum³⁰ would equate to 168% of annual expenditure, and a substantial grant to the cash-poor museum would ensure that they are able “...*to preserve the history and traditions of the Regiment...*” as well as “...*creating and maintaining a permanent memorial or permanent memorials to the members of the regiment...*”. It is proposed that the Gurkha Museum be awarded £100,000, or 38% of Trust funds, whichever is the greater.

d. The Gurkha Memorial Museum, Pokhara. Although not a current recipient of Trust funds, this museum, which enjoys Nepalese charitable status equivalent, merits support. It is well run, popular, the only museum of this type in Nepal and above all, a memorial to all those, past and present, of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Any grant would meet the same objectives as those met by the Gurkha Museum. It is proposed that the Gurkha Memorial Museum Pokhara be awarded £8,000³¹.

e. GBA. As explained earlier, the demise of the antecedent regiments will result in a halving of GBA income, see paragraph 29 and associated footnotes. If members are to continue to enjoy the benefits of GBA membership and expect GBA to take on some of the Association roles, which will help “...*foster esprit de corps and further comradeship...*”, it is right and proper that they be recompensed. It is proposed that the GBA Trust – the financial arm of the GBA – be awarded £10,000.

f. 6GRRAN and Darjeeling Branch. The RAN and Darjeeling branch have not indicated that they are thinking of closing in the near future. They are fundamental in fostering comradeship among the increasing old and frail pensioners in Nepal and merit continued support. At present the RAN receives an annual grant of £2,500 and, although their bank account holds some £13,000, it is proposed that they be granted £12,500. The Darjeeling branch receive £400 annually and it is proposed that they be granted £2,000. These grants are conditional on their continued existence for at least five years after the Association and Trust close.

g. Tiptyang School. The Trust pays £500 annually to the Tiptyang School for the Hon Lt(QGO) Tulbahadur Pun VC School Leavers Certificate (SLC) Scholarship. In the absence of any SLC³² students these funds are at present used to enable the employment of a science teacher, thus helping to meet the obligation towards “...*education and training*...” and as a memorial to the VC holder. It is proposed to grant £2,500 towards this scheme: funds will be lodged with an appropriate Regimental Officer who will both warn the school that this support is time-limited, and also pay the correct amount annually. The manner and period over which these funds are disbursed might merit further investigation and this will need to be addressed separately.

h. All Ranks Reunion UK. Although not part of the Association the Trust has recently supported the annual gathering with £500 annually, as this group does much to sponsor comradeship among our pensioners and families in UK. It is proposed that they receive a final grant of £2,500.

i. Regimental Journal. It is likely that the final Regimental Journal will be issued after closure, and it may also be decided to issue a final hard-copy membership and address list. It is proposed that £8,000 be set aside for this and that any unspent element be donated to the RGR for their Regimental Journal³³.

j. Contingency. From the balance of Trust funds (£19.5K, assuming the balance stands at £265,000 on dissolution), up to £10,000 can be allocated to a final 6GRRR Durbar in Nepal. The balance (£9.5K) will need to be held somewhere acceptable (the Trust will have folded), possibly by GBAT as restricted funds. It should be retained as contingency for any outstanding bills, including possible payments for the 6GRRR website, for at least one year, after which any balance should be divided up proportionally between the 6GRRAN, the Darjeeling Branch and the All Ranks Reunion UK.

Summary

32. In summary:

a. The Regimental Association is becoming less viable as active membership declines. Once a certain level of active participation is reached, the decision to close it should be made.

b. The Regimental Trust would close at the same time.

c. Association Membership will be absorbed by the GBA, although certain assurances from GBA are requested.

d. Certain Association events would continue, run on a voluntary basis.

e. Trust funds will be dispersed to meet objectives and the Trust formally wound-up.

f. The proposals in this paper are just that: final decisions will have to be made by 6GRRT Trustees and 6GRRA Committee Officers at the time and voted on by the membership as per Association Rules.

John Anderson
President 6GRRA
Chairman 6GRRT

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22 Apr 18

¹ The GBA is the over-arching organisation which was established to enable those who are serving or have served with Gurkha units to keep in touch with one another: all Brigade Regimental Associations, and their retired or serving members, are GBA members. GBA holds no funds: their funds are held by the GBA Trust, (GBAT) a properly constituted charity. Funds are used to make donations or grants to foster esprit de corps, comradeship and welfare, to preserve the traditions and history of the Brigade of Gurkhas, and to sponsor Association or Brigade events.

² To stop the proliferation of overseas associations eligible for Trust funding, the decision was made some 15 years ago to only formally recognise the associations on Nepal and India, although occasional grants have been made to the Hong Kong branch for special occasions.

³ There are three types of membership, defined in paragraph 4 of the Association Rules:

1. Full members. Those who are those who served on the posted strength of the Regiment are eligible for election to Full Membership
2. Associate Member. Those who have ties by kinship or association are eligible to apply for membership.
3. Honorary Members. Widows/widowers of deceased Full Members will automatically be invited to become Honorary members, and distinguished persons may be invited to join if approved by the President and the Committee.

⁴ These include golf, shooting, fishing and the Cuttack Legion Lunch club.

⁵ The Cuttack Legion Lunch club enjoys a 'quasi-legal' status in that its income and expenditure (which are cost neutral) pass through the Association accounts. This is legally acceptable, as it "...fosters comradeship...", a Trust objective.

⁶ The War Memorial Fund was set-up during WW2 to support Gurkhas of the Regiment and their families who may have fallen on hard times as a result of the men's war service. The earliest mention is in the 1946 Newsletter, which records that the War Memorial Fund was funded by voluntary half-yearly contributions by the battalions and the Regimental Centre on the basis of a flat rate per rank from every man; this sum was supplemented on a voluntary basis by individual subscriptions by British Officers. The Fund stood at Rs13,058 at 15th May 1946, by 20th August it had grown to Rs 22,047, and by November Rs25,862. On the battalion's disbandment 4/6GR donated Rs10,000, thereby resulting in the Fund reaching Rs39,781 by 1st April 1947. As at 30th June 1954 the Fund held investments of fractionally under £3,000 and cash at Lloyds Bank of £420. The fund was severely depleted by June 1956 when it paid for the second volume of the Regimental History, but by 23 July 1957 the assets were valued at £3003. Following lengthy negotiations with the authorities the Fund was recognised as a Charity in 1957 pursuant to an approved Trust Deed and became the War Memorial Trust Fund (WMTF). As a consequence it was able thereafter to recover Income Tax paid over the previous years as well as from that date and by 1988 it was worth over £16,000. When the Fund was absorbed by the 6GRRT in 1995 assets were down to £8,177. Their Objectives were:

1. "To create a permanent memorial or permanent memorials to the members of the Sixth Gurkha Rifles who fell in the Second World War 1939-1945 or died in consequence of it.
2. To benefit in such way or ways as the Trustees think best those officers warrant officers non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who are serving or have served in or been attached for service to Sixth Gurkha Rifles and wives widows children grandchildren and other dependants of such officers warrant officers non-commissioned officers and private soldiers (all which persons are hereinafter collectively called the 'Beneficiaries') who in the opinion of the Trustees are through reason of their poverty in need of assistance.
3. To assist the education and training of any of the Beneficiaries by the provision of funds for scholarships tuition the purchase of textbooks and the payment of school and apprenticeship fees and expenses in connection therewith."

⁷ The latter two objectives taken on by the Gurkha Welfare Trust in 1969.

⁸ Based on Trust Fund archives:

Prior to the formation of RGR there was considerable discussion on how Regimental funds of all categories were to be passed from the existing Regiments to the new Battalions of RGR. This was based on 2GR and 6GR funding 1RGR, while 7GR and 10 GR would fund 2RGR. In the event 6GR was far more generous than other Regiments, paying:

1. £25,000 to help form the 1RGR Trust.
2. £12,500 on formation to 1RGR Trust.
3. 81.5% of the Service Non-Public Funds (SNPF) to 1RGR. This figure, which was laid down by HQ Brigade of Gurkhas, merits explanation:
 - a. SNPF are made up of the funds from the Messes (Cpls, WO/Sgts, Officers), the Ps&Ds, the PRI and other such Regimental Funds which exist for the benefit of serving soldiers.
 - b. The amount to be retained by 6GR – 18.5% - was calculated as that expenditure which would be incurred on behalf of those going on Pension or Redundancy prior to amalgamation, and was thus different for each Regiment.
 - c. The 6GR SNPFs stood at £47,964. 1RGR received £39,090, with 6GR retaining the balance of 18.5%, calculated at £8,873. In the event, 6GR received only £4,237 (8.8%), as the Regiment paid for the movement of Regimental property from Brunei and the costs associated with final reunions. This balance was spent on those departing on pension/redundancy.

Immediately post-amalgamation the Regimental Trust was valued at some £145K, but we continued to make substantial grants to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, the Gurkha Museum, the Regimental Associations in Nepal and UK and to other organisations in pursuit of our objectives: in the last 10 years over £180k has been granted to the RAN and to GWT alone. By 2016 the value of the Trust had grown to over £400K as a result of legacies, the sale of property not wanted by either the Gurkha Museum or RGR, donations from members and, above all, investments. The unusually high expenditure in 2017, including the 'Gift to Nepal' (£48K) and major support for Durbars in Nepal and UK plus other commemorations and presentations (totaling some £135K), was partially balanced by associated income of over £27K. The combined Association/Trust value at the end of FY 2017 stood at £264K.

⁹ At the 6GRRRAAGM on 7 June 2014 it was agreed to adopt the recommendations of the Channing Report and to transfer the Association's financial assets to a ring-fenced account within the 6GRRRT.

¹⁰ The original objectives of the Regimental Trust were:

1. To promote the efficiency of all personnel of and in the Regiment by providing recreational facilities and amenities not provided out of public funds.
2. For other charitable purposes promoting the efficiency of all ranks of or serving with the Regiment.
3. In making payments (including gifts or loans of chattels) to other Trusts or Funds or organisations directly or indirectly connected with the Regiment provided that such Trusts or Funds or organisations are themselves wholly charitable.
4. To provide such monies whether by loan or gift as the Managing Trustees declare to be necessary for the relief of distress amongst serving or former members of the Regiment or their families in need of assistance.

¹¹ Also includes grants to the Darjeeling Branch and the All Ranks Reunion in UK, which is not a part of the Association (by choice). There is also an annual payment of £500 to the Tiplyang village school in honour of the late Hon Lt QGO Tulbahadur Pun VC. This was originally intended for SLC scholarships but, in the absence of an SLC class, is used to help employ a teacher.

¹² The grants made, in common with the other antecedents, were set at £600 p.a., although we retained the right to review these after three years. Concern over the maintenance of 6GR property and the dearth of reporting led to a decision in 2011 (6GRRRT Minutes of 24 Oct 11) to discontinue these grants the following year unless our concerns were met. In 2012 the decision was made to cease paying this grant by 2015 (6GRRRT Minutes of 30 Oct 12.)

¹³ Note that the Association Committee recognise the need to adjust these functions to make them more attractive to all members, and that this is currently in hand.

¹⁴ It is believed that: 2GR plan to close within 15 years, with the Sirmoor Sathis and the Sirmoor Club continuing as self-funding organisations and funds to be split up among GWT, Gurkha Museum, GBA and RGR; 7GR to close within 15 years, with funds being run down by supporting projects in Nepal; 10GR might disband as early as 2019, with funds going to 10GR Gurkha groups to enable them to become self-funding, with some funds to GBA and RGR.

¹⁵ But see paragraph 29.a.

¹⁶ At present Associations pay annual subscriptions and for wreaths, and make a significant donation towards the costs of the Brigade Bhela: these charges total £380 p.a. The GBA picks up the costs of wreaths and the Brigade Bhela for the ex-Indian Army Brigade Associations and has a grant from 4GRRA to pay for the maintenance of their memorial at Stoke Poges. In addition, GBA pays the costs of GBA meetings and briefings. When the antecedent associations close the GBA income will halve and it seems unrealistic to expect the serving Regiments association to make up the shortfall. It is suggested that an arrangement similar to that for 4GRRA will be needed, possibly allowing GBA to establish an endowment fund to generate the shortfall.

¹⁷ Membership costs £15 annually.

¹⁸ It might be worth noting that for 6GRRA members, Nepal features strongly, since most of our pensioners retire there: for RGR, Nepal is not as important since the vast majority of their soldiers retire to the UK and become British citizens.

¹⁹ Excluding Cuttack Legion Lunch attendance.

²⁰ One option to mitigate the dearth of volunteers might be to reduce the numbers of Association Committee members and Trust trustees, or even to amalgamate the Association and Trust. But this does not solve the problem of finding the right calibre of individuals to fill the senior posts.

²¹ For example, Colonel Commandant, President, Chairman and Secretary GBA and reps from other Associations.

²² At present the GBA website leads users to an 'access button' which connects to a one-page summary of 6GRRA. This could be changed so that the 'access button' leads to an inactive but comprehensive 6GRRA website. The detailed mechanics of how this is done can be resolved later, but we may need to pay an annual fee to keep the website open, or we might simply add extra pages to what is already on the GBA site.

²³ At present GBA Secretary provides information, covering everything from GBA events to deaths, to the Regimental Secretary for onward transmission to Members. The Regimental Secretary supplements this with Association news and may, in some cases, coordinate attendance returns.

²⁴ While this, and similar events, would enable UK-based members to stay in touch, it could not replace the Association and Trust, as the link with our members in Nepal would be lost and charitable activity curtailed.

²⁵ There have been suggestions of seeking a place on the GBA Trust board for representatives of Antecedent associations but there is no justification for this.

²⁶ At present Regimental Secretaries provide a Point of Contact for GBA to circulate information, ranging from Honours and Awards and promotions to details of forthcoming events and deaths/funerals etc. Assuming that Associations can provide an up-to-date and vetted contact list (see paragraph 29,b.) we would ask that GBA take on this role once an association closes.

²⁷ Remaining associations cannot be expected to fund the shortfall in GBA income caused by closure of antecedent associations. See Note xiii for details. For consideration:

1. Assuming a degree of inflation, a reasonable up-front payment to GBA from the trust funds of closing associations would be £5,000 to cover the following ten years (a reasonable period) of current annual charges or to set up an endowment fund.
2. We would ask that in return GBA provide a secretariat to keep existing members aware of events and other relevant news currently undertaken by Regimental Association secretaries. Obviously detailed address lists would be provided.
3. Many Associations/Trusts have liabilities for memorial maintenance costs (rather like 4GRRA). For a further up-front payment would GBA continue to maintain a limited number of nominated memorials? In the case of 6GRRA, this would only be the Book of Remembrance, maintenance for which over ten years is unlikely to exceed £1,000.
4. For an additional payment, it is requested that GBA provide wreaths for regimental funerals. Likely to be under £100 p.a., or £1,000 over ten years.
5. For 6GR Association and Trust, these costs amount to £7,000. A payment of £10,000 on disbandment would be more than fair.

²⁸ The GWT AR&A dated 30 June 2017 shows expenditure of £21,059,000.

²⁹ See 6GRRT paper "Welfare Policy: 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Trust" (kept under regular review) and Trust Minutes 26 Oct 09.

³⁰ The Draft AR&A for FY 16/17 shows expenditure of £158,000.

³¹ Note that the possibly of erecting a permanent memorial to the Regiment, probably in Nepal, is under consideration, but it is assumed that this will be funded (not necessarily by the Trust) before closure of the Association and Trust.

³² The education system no longer provides for SLC qualifications. Currently, at Class 10 the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) is taken which leads on to Higher Secondary Education Board (HESB) at class 12.

³³ Should any volunteer wish to continue the Journal, possibly in electronic format and perhaps concentrating on family news etc, this would be welcomed.