
COLONEL QG SIGNALS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2009

I think, unless my creaking memory fails me, (sadly an ever-increasing occurrence as the years fly past), that these will be my 6th notes as Colonel of the Regiment. Which means, amongst other things, that I am either well past my sell by date – or that I have extended my tenure as Colonel of the Regiment. Happily for me (although I am humble enough to realise that others might think differently), the latter applies for now. I have agreed to carry out another 5 year stint 'at the helm' – and both Her Majesty the Queen and the Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas have been gracious enough to endorse this application.

For me this is a tremendous privilege – and in my opinion a singular honour. I have been associated with Queen's Gurkha Signals for much of the last three decades – and as others will testify in far more eloquent words than I am capable of, the Regiment gets under your skin. Kaida, friendship and lifelong bonds enter the blood stream – there is no escape! And long may this situation last! My part of the bargain is to support the Regiment – in the broadest sense of the word – as well as I am able so to do and in every way that I can. I hope and trust that I will live up to the challenge....

My theme for 2009 was about bridges and the debt that we serving soldiers owe to those who served before us, who retain their links to the Regiment in the QG Signals Association. I talked of the Regimental Birthday celebrations at Bramcote in September. I also flagged the celebrations in Kathmandu. I said that both celebrations would be special occasions. How right I was! I will cherish the memories of a balmy November's day until my dying day. Seeing Sig Min (77 years old and young at heart) punching the air in triumph following his success in climbing Mount Everest last year, was a lesson of hope for us all....

I suppose that the theme for 2010 is: the future. Along with the rest of the British Forces, we face an impending Strategic Defence Review, where an uncertain future is mapped onto a very difficult financial climate. But I remain convinced that the Regiment offers a brand that is 'Second to none' – and I firmly believe that we can and will weather the storm of a Review with confidence.

My wife Jo and our four offspring join me in sending all members of the Regiment, serving and retired, our deep affection and very best wishes for the coming year. Jai Queen's Gurkha Signals.

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