

Information & Morale Directorate,  
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COMMUNIQUE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 8 -- Subject to negotiations regarding terms and conditions, agreement has been reached in principle between the Governments concerned about the future of the Gurkha units which now form part of the Indian Army.

The first and second battalions of 2nd Gurkha Rifles, 6th Gurkha Rifles, 7th Gurkha Rifles and 10th Gurkha Rifles and their Regimental Centres have been allotted for service under H.M.G. All other existing Gurkha Battalions remain in the Army of the Dominion of India, but the continuance of the (war raised) 3rd and 4th battalions of any regiment may only be of a temporary nature. No Gurkha will be compelled to serve against his will either under the Dominion of India or HMG.

The agreement whereby the eight battalions of 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles are allotted for service under the British Government is in anticipation of satisfactory arrangements regarding conditions of service, and without prejudice to negotiations in this respect. Missions representing the Government of India and HMG are shortly proceeding to Nepal to discuss details.

From the 15th August all Gurkha battalions serving in the Dominion of India will be under the command of the C-in-C of the Army of India, and those in Pakistan under the command of the C-in-C of the Army of Pakistan until they can be moved into India. Gurkha battalions overseas will remain under the command of the Supreme Commander.

Until such time as Army Headquarters of the Dominion of India is able to take over the full administration of all Dominion troops (including Gurkha units) located in the Dominion, the Supreme Commander will be responsible for the general overall administration of Gurkha units in the same way as he remains temporarily responsible for the general administration of all units of the armies of India and Pakistan, as well as of British troops still located in the two Dominions.