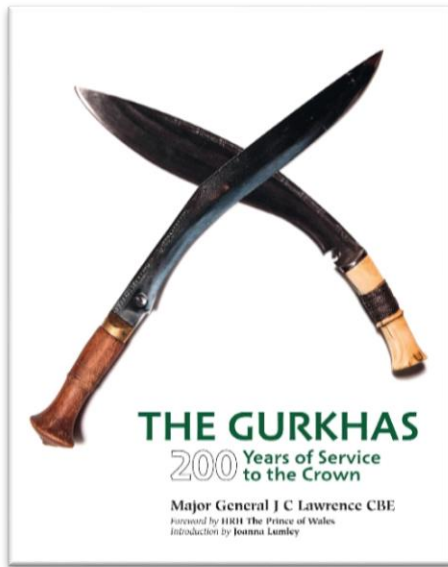




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66 Charlotte Street  
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# THE GURKHAS

*200 Years of Service to the Crown*

**Major General J C Lawrence CBE**

*With a foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT  
GCB OM and an introduction by Joanna Lumley OBE*

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Hardback 256pp with over 200 photographs

**£40.00** Royalties support The Gurkha Welfare Trust

***“As the pictures in this book show, the standards, traditions and spirit of the Gurkhas have given a great deal to our country, and they have stood by us in our times of need. I commend both this book and the charity to you in this notable two hundredth year of loyal and dedicated Gurkha service.” – HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron of the Gurkha Welfare Trust***

***“Gurkhas have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. They are a remarkable people. Proud yet humble, brave yet compassionate, my affection and respect for them runs deep. I am proud to introduce this book which tries to convey a sense of what makes them so special. I think it succeeds.” – Joanna Lumley, Vice Patron of the Gurkha Welfare Trust***

In April 1815, the Honorable East India Company began recruiting soldiers from the mountain Kingdom of Nepal. These soldiers, Gurkhas, have continued to serve with loyalty and bravery in every major conflict the British Army has been involved in since then. When HRH Prince Harry returned from Afghanistan, he claimed that there was ‘no safer place than by the side of a Gurkha’.

Over two centuries, the Gurkhas have built a reputation as fearless warriors. From the Indian Mutiny and skirmishes on the North West Frontier, through two World Wars when fifteen thousand Gurkhas died in the service of the Crown to more recent conflicts in the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan they have served with distinction. Since Gurkhas became eligible for the award in 1911, twenty six Victoria Crosses have been earned for gallantry of the highest order. As Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw, former Chief of Staff of the Indian Army once said: ‘If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or is a Gurkha’.

British officials in the 19<sup>th</sup> century declared the Gurkhas a 'Martial Race', a term describing people thought to be 'naturally warlike and aggressive in battle', who possessed qualities of courage, loyalty and self-sufficiency along with physical strength. To this day that holds true, but while Gurkhas serving in the British Army remain highly respected by their comrades and greatly feared by their adversaries, they are known and loved in the UK as a dignified people, often reserved and mild-mannered who make fearless and dedicated soldiers.

During their two hundred years of service, the signature weapon of the Gurkhas has remained the Kukri. Every Gurkha soldier will carry two, one for everyday use as a work tool and one for ceremonial purposes. The image on the front cover of **THE GURKHAS 200 Years of Service to the Crown** shows The Fisher Kukri which belonged to Major General John Frederick Lane Fisher, who as a lieutenant served in the Siege of Delhi in 1857 during the Indian Mutiny and the Kukri of LCpl Tuljung Gurung of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, who was awarded the MC for his bravery in hand-to-hand combat in Afghanistan in 2013.

Many thousands of young Nepalese men still apply every year for the great honour of joining the Gurkhas but only a few hundred are accepted through a rigorous selection process involving academic tests, medical assessments and gruelling fitness challenges. Those who pass muster find themselves on a rigorous nine-month training course at Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire. Ahead lie years of adventure, brotherhood, service and danger.

A series of major celebrations are planned for 2015 to mark their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including a spectacular open-air pageant at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 9<sup>th</sup> June which will be attended by members of the Royal Family. The launch of **THE GURKHAS 200 Years of Service to the Crown** will be at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) on 30<sup>th</sup> April, when the Brigade of Gurkhas hold their memorial parade in London with soldiers marching from Wellington Barracks down the Mall to the Gurkha Statue in Whitehall. Further information on 2015 commemoration events can be found on the [G200](#) website.

Providing a complete visual history, **THE GURKHAS 200 Years of Service to the Crown** commemorates their courage and commitment.

The fascinating story is illustrated with over two hundred images; more than one for every year.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Major General J C Lawrence CBE is a serving officer in the British Army and currently has the honour of being the Colonel of the Royal Gurkha Rifles. He has spent over 30 years serving with Gurkhas, having been commissioned into the King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) in 1987. During his career, he has served in the UK, Germany, Nepal, Hong Kong, Canada, South Africa, Kenya, Belize and Brunei. He has commanded Gurkhas on operations in Bosnia and the Ivory Coast and has just returned from an 11 month deployment to Afghanistan. He lives with his family in Salisbury.

A debut novel by Craig Lawrence will also be published in 2015 by Firestep Press, an imprint of [Uniform Press](#). **The Legacy** is a high-octane, high-altitude action thriller set in the mountains of Nepal, the Tors of Dartmoor and the streets of London and Edinburgh. Featuring an ex-Gurkha Army officer among the converging characters, the story that unfolds will grip you from the first page.

### **ABOUT THE GURKHA WELFARE TRUST**

[The Gurkha Welfare Trust](#) was established in 1969 to relieve poverty and distress among Gurkha ex-servicemen of the British Crown. Its focus is providing financial and medical support for elderly Gurkha veterans and their widows in Nepal who depend on the Trust for a dignified and secure old age. For those who are unable to live independently, it offers residential care.

The Trust delivers community aid to rural villages in Nepal, installing clean water systems, running mobile medical camps and repairing and refurbishing schools. It also provides advice and assistance to Gurkhas who have chosen to resettle in the UK.

The Trust is a registered charity (Reg Charity No. 1103669) that relies on the generosity of the public to support its welfare relief. For more information on the work of the Trust, visit [www.gwt.org.uk](http://www.gwt.org.uk)

### **ABOUT UNIFORM PRESS**

[Uniform Press Ltd](#) is the military history imprint of the Unicorn Press Group which has been producing high quality cultural history and art books since 1985.

**'We are immensely proud to be publishing this magnificent book and it is an honour to support the tireless work of The Gurkha Welfare Trust.'** – Lord Strathcarron, Chairman of Unicorn Press

**For further information, review copies and interview requests please contact:**

**Jill Misson**

**[press@uniformpress.co.uk](mailto:press@uniformpress.co.uk)**

**07798732149**