

### Gurkhas train in Canada

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas, the famous Gurkha infantry unit based in England, is training in Canada at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, Alberta this summer. The 650-man battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Rose, arrived at the beginning of August and will leave September 13.

The Gurkhas are camping out and training as an infantry battle group, said Major John Parkes, the regiment's second officer-in-command.

The regiment, also known as "The Sirmoor Rifles", consists of two battalions, the 1st stationed at Brunei, a Borneo protectorate, and the 2nd at Church Crookham, Hampshire, England.

The Sirmoor Rifles, the senior Gurkha regiment in British service, was raised in 1886 in the Himalayan country of Nepal, to serve in the East India Company. The regiment since has fought campaigns in India, France and Italy, as well as in the deserts of Mesopotamia and Africa, and the jungles of Southeast Asia.

### Collective agreements

Collectively-bargained settlements during the second quarter of 1975 show a higher rate of wage increase than those of the first quarter, continuing the upward trend that had been evident throughout 1974, according to a report issued by the Canada Department of Labour. The 114 settlements during the second quarter produced average annual increases in base rates of 18.8 per cent in compound terms. The comparable figure for the first quarter of 1975 was 16.9 per cent.

The figures are based on an analysis

*Canada Weekly* is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación parecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.*

*Ahnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.*

of collective agreements covering 500 or more workers in industries (other than construction) within both the federal and provincial jurisdictions.

There were 43 settlements in the second quarter classified as one-year agreements, 62 classified as two-year agreements, and nine classified as three-year agreements.

While the 114 agreements settled in the second quarter provided for average annual increases in base rates equal to 18.8 per cent, in one-year agreements it was 24.5 per cent. In two-year agreements the annual average increase was 20.8 per cent for the first year and 10.8 per cent for the second year. In three-year agreements it was 19.5 per cent for the first year, 11.4 per cent for the second year and 2.5 per cent for the third year (of the nine settlements classified as three-year, one large settlement of a duration of 30 months did not have an increase in the last 6 months).

Of the 114 settlements during the second quarter of 1975, 48 provided for a cost-of-living allowance (COLA); the average annual increase in base rates for these settlements was 14.3 per cent (excluding the effect of the COLA clause). The remaining 66 settlements lacking a COLA clause, provided for an average annual increase in the base rates of 21.3 per cent.

### Summary of last four quarters

During the 12-month period ending with the second quarter of 1975, there were 414 major collective agreements settled. These settlements provided for an average increase in base rates of 16.9 per cent.

Of the 414 settlements, 158 were classified as one-year agreements, 217 as two-year agreements and 38 as three-year agreements.

The 159 one-year agreements provided for an average annual increase in base rates of 19.0 per cent. The two-year agreements provided for increases of 21.3 per cent for the first year and 11.6 per cent for the second. The three-year agreements provided for increases of 16.5 per cent in the first year, 8.3 per cent in the second year and 4.0 per cent in the third year.

There were 171 settlements negotiated in the 12-month period ending with the second quarter, 1975, which provided for a COLA clause. These 171

settlements provided for 15.0 percent average annual increase in base rates (excluding the effect of the COLA clause), while the 243 settlements without a COLA clause provided for average annual increases of 18.6 per cent.

### Cloud-seeding holds promise for forest-fire control

The possibility of inducing rain showers that could blanket a large forest fire with a million gallons of water in about 20 minutes (compared to the 800-gallon discharge of a water bomber) is under investigation by Environment Canada and the National Research Council in co-operation with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

On average, two million acres of forest are destroyed by fire each year in Canada — a costly destruction of one of the most important renewable resources.

Conventional methods of fighting forest fires — the air-borne water bomber together with ground-force techniques — are ineffective for many fires, particularly the very large ones.

Environment Canada announced that, in July, a two-week research project would be undertaken, within a 150-mile radius of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to study the physical processes involved in the formation of rain through cloud-seeding.

Two types of aircraft — a *Twin Otter* penetrates cumulus clouds to confirm the suitability of their structure, then a T-33 aircraft seeds cloud-tops with silver iodide. Observers in the *Twin Otter* monitor the physical changes produced by seeding and measure any rain that may have formed.

Serious consideration has been given to potentially undesirable environmental impacts arising from the use of this technique for fire-fighting. Scientists associated with the project have estimated that a successful cloud-seeding attempt would cover an area of about five square miles with about one tenth of an inch of rain — the equivalent of a summer rain shower — or 1.6 per cent of the total annual rainfall for Yellowknife. Up to 20 attempts at seeding were expected to be undertaken within the 90,000-square mile target area.