

# INDUS RANGERS INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

## OPERATION KUKHRI

### Operation KUKHRI

- ✦ A unique multinational operation launched in United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)
- ✦ Aim of operation was to break 2 months long siege laid by armed cadres of the revolutionary United Front (RUF) around 2 companies of Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion group.
- ✦ Marshal people of Nepal are called Gorkha.
- ✦ 1817; Anglo-Nepal war; Gorkha Kingdom was divided into Dehradun, Garhwal, Kumaon, Nepal, Sikkim, Morung.
- ✦ Gorkha are the soldiers of Nepalese nationality recruited in the :-
  1. British army
  2. Nepalese Army
  3. Indian Army
  4. Gorkha Contingent Singapore
  5. Gorkha Reserve Unit Brunei
  6. UN Peace Keeping force

**If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or he is a Gorkha:-Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, I.A**

- ✦ This operation was performed in Sierra Leone (Free Town) Capital
- ✦ From 1991 to 2002, Sierra Leone was engulfed in civil war which devastated the country
- ✦ The war was characterized by extreme brutality & widespread human rights abuses against civilians
- ✦ It left more than 50,000 people dead, much of the country's infrastructure destroyed & over 2 million Sierra Leoneans displaced as refugees in neighbouring countries.
- ✦ In October 1999, UN agreed to send peacekeepers to help restore order & disarm the rebels
- ✦ Daru & Kailahun
- ✦ By mid-April of 2000, two of the companies of INDBATT-1 were deployed in Kailahun, while the rest were deployed in Daru.
- ✦ However the situation at Kailahun kept deteriorating and the 2 companies of 5/8<sup>th</sup> Gorkha Rifles remained in their base surrounded by hundreds of RUF rebels of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

The rescue plan had 5 phases:

- (1) Mobilisation of UNAMSIL forces.
  - (2) Pre-emptive strike by helicopter & breakout by the besieged forces at Kailahun,
  - (3) Link up of besieged Kailahun column & special forces unit,
  - (4) Link up of Daru column & Kailahun column at Pendembu.
  - (5) All forces fall back to Daru
- ✦ Ground Units & Airborne Units-
    1. 223 troops of 5/8<sup>th</sup> Gorkha Rifles.
    2. 1 QRF of Mechanical Infantry & Para commandos
    3. 18<sup>th</sup> grenadiers
    4. 2 Para (SF)
    5. QRC of Mechanical Infantry
    6. 1 Company of Engineers
  - ✦ Air support