



SRI SIDDHARTHA ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SRI SIDDHARTHA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

6/4 COY, SSIT, TUMKUR.



ARMY ATTACHMENT CAMP - WELLINGTON, TAMIL NADU.

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ARMY ATTACHMENT CAMP(Wellington, Tamil Nadu)

This is the camp that gave me a chance to experience the reality of defence life and motivated me to join the defence forces. I witnessed the shaping of new recruits. Recruits commitment and discipline let me adopt those into me.

Camp was conducted by '**Madras Regimental Centre**', Wellington, Tamil Nadu. We were 10 cadets from 4 Karnataka Battalion, We 10 gelled with each other quickly. We left the Battalion at 0730 hrs with a PI staff after being addressed by the Subedar Major veer chakrCaptManjith Singh. We took bus to Bangalore and reached at 1000 hrs. Saw 20 more cadets from 1Karnataka Battalionjoining us. We got onto **Ooty**bus, lodged our luggages and settled down. 31 seats were reserved for us including an ANO. We 4 Kar cadets were in uniform, we changed into tracks in the bus itself. Our josh was at peak and we were having lot of fun. Bus stopped at Maddur for a break. Then at Mysore, we took some photos in the bus stand. Stars laughed to our cadets jokes, it was already 1900hrs before we could realise. Our bus went through Bandipur forest. I could see painting of wild animals and 'beware notes'. I saw a bunch of elephants anddeers. The temperature started to fall, I could feel the chill air hitting my face through the bus window. It was 2130 hrs when Ooty welcomed us. We waited for MRC bus to arrive, an hour and a half of hilly section led us to MRC. A statue of Field Marshal Manekshaw. I went near an info board about the 30mts bridge that stood before me. '**Black Bridge**' it said, named so because of colour it had when it was built. A canter came to pick us up. It was not sufficient for 30 of us to fit in, we managed anyhow. We were directly taken to the mess because we didn't had dinner. We walked through a road decorated with street lights, at the base of each pole I could see places name and dates. I guesed they might be wars this Regiment has fought. We had rice sambar and papaya fruit. Mess had steel tables and an lcd TV. Regimental uniform(tracks) was in dark green with red, yellow and white track lines. Regimental staff are called '**Thambis**'. We couldn't touch the water it was so cold, our hands were freezing. Then we were taken to our barracks, it was a primary Army school. We had individual beds and shiny washroom with a big mirror. Everybody settled down, Subedar Martin greeted us. We quickly fell asleep. We had made a mistake, we were supposed to report on 7th but there we were a day before. The next day we were supposed fallin at 0730 hrs. We had roti for breakfast. We just wandered the school campus. Maj Gen Louis Raj welcomed us in the morning.They enquired about the warm clothes we had brought, some of us didn't had complete uniform leave about warm clothes. I thought " how did they get selected for such a valuable camp?". The whole day was free, we were strictly informed not to go out of the school gate. The evening went in making our uniforms ready for tomorrows welcome address. 8th Nov, we were seated in addressing hall, the hall was decorated with portraits of regimental directors. Present regimental director addressed us. He stated that he was really upset with our early arrival and unpreparedness. He was kind enough to wish us 'happy stay and good training'. A

class on the structure of the regiment followed that. We were taken around the regiment to visit.



Attires of the regiment(Banner before the Black bridge, entry to MRC)



JCO's Mess Army School we stayed in

Regiment was so beautiful. We were taken to museum, It was a movie of history, How the regiment began, Its course and the wars it fought. I got to see Medieval and modern weapons, a wonderful sight. The whole day went in sight seeing

. We packed our luggages and we were shifted to 'AVA Hills' , some 2KM from MRC. The entry had an arch withwriting "Mode of all round excellence". As our canter entered in, I could see obstacles training area and class conducting area. My emotions were high. I always wanted to have that feel. We were showed to our barracks, cots with no beds and just a woollen sheet spread on them. Washrooms were some 30 mts far down, sheds with many toilets blocked and stinking. There were 2 solar water heaters. A 10 by 5 mts general water tank.A wet canteen, juice parlour, cobbler shop, and a saloon on area.A CC Volleyball court. A PT ground with

obstacles around. Obstacles were advanced. 10mts wall, rope climbing, toe touch, etc.,



10 feet wall



Barrack

Temperature dropped to 17 celsius at midnight. Even my bedsheet went cold. 9th nov, our training started that day. Fall in tracks for PT in the ground. Our trainee was Lance Naik Mallappa, He was just 24. First day went with yoga disappointingly, I was waiting for some hard PT. Breakfast at 0730. Class began at 0800. Hav Mohammed Zahangeer sir, was our teacher for theory aspects. Topics we learnt in 10 days span covered mines, fences, RL's, MMG, JDFS, INSAS and AK47 etc.. We were given a Handball, Basketball and a Volleyball for games. We used to play Volleyball in CC even after it got dark. Games time were most refreshing. On Tuesdays we used to have prayer at mandir. When I saw the photo of Mecca along with other hindu gods photos in mandir, I understood the defence way of looking at religion. Bhajans were sung by the staff, Arathi done by the recruits themselves and wonderfull 'kesari bath' as Prasad at the end. Food was just awesome, It was both quantitative and qualitative. Cereals, vegetables, chicken, mutton and fresh fruits were part of the diet. We used have food along with the army staff. I got a chance to know few of them, they shared their experiences of their service and view points. Our training started. In the PT, We used to get motivated by looking at the recruits putting so much effort. We Watched live making of a soldier. We were shown how a section operates, That's the first time when I heard the sound of the grenade. Though it was dummy, it gave sound and smoke as a simulator. Trap setting was shown. It was abundant survival knowledge. We were shown 2 movies in the Roperia auditorium. One was about the history and evolution of the regiment and other was an army English movie. Classes were not restricted to theory part, everything was practically done in the field. GTA(ground tactical area) I had seen them only in movies, now I got to move on them. We were taken to the firing range, I wanted to feel the real firing. LMG detail was ready for its fire. When the first round was fired, my ears went numb. As the firing continued my ears adjusted to the sound and gained their powers back. After the firing we ran towards the target. It was a human target. For my shock the 5.56 caliber made a hole just An mm more than what 0.22 deulex can do. An Indoor Firing stadium, to train good firers and to push them into

sports. A gallery exhibiting things that a soldier uses, types of terrains in India, section formation, bunker formation, ambush, fencing, area formation and securing the boundaries etc., Another room showing explosives and their working.



Photo in mandir

Mess at Ava hills

Our training was coming to an end, we were sent on a day outing to visit Ooty. We went to Rose garden, then to Botanical Garden. We bought lots of chocolates and varkees which Ooty is famous for. Finally to the Wellington Bazaar. We roamed in the bazaar for 2 hrs. Clothes and many other stuffs are sold there which are very cheap. This bazaar is put once a month. Even staff gets to go for outing on Sundays. Recruits get to use mobile which will be deposited. The day before our departure from Wellington, some 4 of us went to MRC to buy badges of Madras Regiment. We ourselves bought the badges as the regiment didn't provide us any except for the certificate. The day of closing address dated 14th Nov came at last. We were given camp certificate, Regiment director wished us good luck with our carrier. We took a group photo with the staffs. We were then let free for our packing. That day evening at 0700 we left MRC bidding bye to everyone. We had a chicken feast early that evening. Our bus tickets were reserved from Ooty. We reached Bengaluru at 0500 the next day. We bid bye to our 1 Karnataka friends and left to Tumkur. We 10 reported to Battalion and thus my adventure came to an end.



Roperia auditorium



Entry of the AVA Hills Training area



Me before Barracks



Me at Rose Garden

I thank my Company and Battalion for providing me such a life time opportunity. I thank my ANO Lt Dr HV Jayaprakash, Commanding officer, Col Y S Parmar and Administrative Officer Lt Col Vivek Shukla for their motivation and support. I thank our caretakers, teaching and training staff of the Madras Regiment for their involvement in training us. My stay in army area in such cold whether improved my survival skills and knowledge on many of the defence aspects.



Group photo in PT session with our PT Trainer Lance NaikMallappa sir