

during which time our specialist cadres would train sufficient reserves, and sufficient training would be carried on without operational embarrassment.

3. MARTIAL LAW

On March 1st it was a shock therefore, when we heard the explosion which wrecked the Goldshmidt Officers Club.

Immediately we cordoned off the whole of the Hippodrome, i.e. the area it was planned to place under Martial Law, with two companies, while one platoon under Captain R.E. Groves went to the club to dig for the bodies. It was evident now that Martial Law would be enforced, and our hopes of a quiet time were rudely shattered.

We learnt that Martial Law was not to be imposed on the whole of JERUSALEM as we expected, but only the northern sector of the city, the working class quarter. This was only one-third of the area which we had allowed for on our operational instructions for "Hippo".

To distinguish this area from other sectors of the city it was given the name of "Hippo Minimus". It was perhaps as well for us that we were not implementing Martial Law over the whole of JERUSALEM because we found ourselves fully committed on the smaller sector.

At 1400 hours on March 2nd "Hippo Minimus" was put into operation and Statutory Martial Law was declared.

Our policy to effect this was for one company to cordon the area, and the other companies to search the area from West to East to a timetable. The searching of the whole area was expected to take a fortnight. Cordons were left on the searched areas to prevent arms and equipment being passed from an unsearched area to a searched area within the 'Hippodrome' itself.

By day and night the area was patrolled to enforce house curfew. Two troops of the King's Dragoon Guards were put under command of the Battalion to help in this task.

At the Syrian Orphanage an operational HQ was established, and at a school in the centre of the 'Hippodrome' an administrative HQ. It was soon found that the administrative was the more overworked. The operational side of Martial Law proceeded so smoothly that the operational HQ returned to Bn HQ.

At this stage the original searching and cordoning scheme was modified so that two companies were on cordon duty while another company carried out a new snap-searching programme with the aid of parties from the other Battalions of the Brigade.

'D' Company were installed at the 'Hippo' HQ which protected this building, and save the company the fifteen mile journey from Ramallah.

With the help of Mauritians the total perimeter of the area containing over 25,000 people was wired.

On March 12th a particularly daring attack was made by thugs on the Syrian Orphanage — 1 soldier of the RAPC was killed and eight others wounded. As a result practically the whole of JERUSALEM was put under