

# MONTHLY NEWS LETTER No. 2.

April 1947

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## 1. GENERAL

Since our last bulletin the situation in Palestine altered little. Illegal immigrant ships continued to arrive; the oil storage installation at HAIFA went up in smoke; ships were sabotaged and sunk; rail and road movement were subjected to the most bitter of attacks. When Dov Gruner and the other murderers were at length hanged the dissident groups retaliated with train-wrecking and the issue of direct threats to all British civil and military persons within Palestine.

## 2. CURFEW

After the end of Martial Law in JERUSALEM the greater part of the city still remained under curfew during darkness. The Battalion was solely responsible for the enforcement of this curfew, until, on April 2nd it was at last lifted. The Christians were the able fully to celebrate Easter the Jews the Feast of the Passover, the Moslems the Feast of Nebi Musa. And at the same time our own troops could enjoy the comparative relaxation of road-blocks and camp-defence patrols.

On Wednesday April 16th the end of the Easter period heralded the death by hanging of Dov Gruner and the re-imposition of curfew for a continuous period of twenty-six hours. As a deterrent to retaliation on the part of the thugs the sundown to sunrise curfew was re-established for the night of Thursday 17th April. And then, once more, the curfew was lifted.

On the following Monday, however, the 21st of April, the Irgun Zvai Leumi recommenced its activities. Two Jeeps were attacked with grenades and gunfire within a short distance of Mount Scopus Camp. A rapid Police search in the area yielded a store of illegal arms and ammunition and the gruesome find of two hangman's nooses ready for use. On Tuesday, the 22nd, two more Jewish thugs were to be hung in the JERUSALEM Prison, therefore curfew on Monday night was re-imposed. The Jews cheated the hangman by blowing themselves up, and the curfew was lifted at midday when they had been buried without incident.

Meanwhile the Cairo—Haifa express had been attacked and eight killed. An Officer and an N.C.O. of the Battalion returning from a course in Egypt escaped injury though within a few feet of the exploding mine.

The now well-trained citizens of JERUSALEM were not surprised when it was announced that the curfew would continue each night.

The Battalion was allotted the Northern half of the city as its area for rigid curfew patrolling. Road restrictions throughout Palestine were introduced and the unit provided two road-blocks on the northern outskirts of the city.