

# MONTHLY NEWS LETTER No 5.

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## 1. GENERAL

Early on the morning of the 12 July, two British Serjeants belonging to a Field Security unit were kidnapped in the coastal town of Nathanya. Failure on the part of the abductors to release the two N.C.O.'s. and the unpleasant record held by Nathanya as a centre for anti-British activities resulted in the area being placed under "military control"

In spite of a country-wide curfew by night and intensive searches throughout the Jewish areas, no trace could be found of Sergeants Martin and Paice. To free troops of the Guards Brigade to take part in the searches in the Nathanya area, 'D' Coy, under command of Lieut. J.E. Hodgson, returned to TEL LETWINSKY for a time as Defence Company at HQ 1st Infantry Division. Some of their members had a lucky escape when a time bomb left outside the camp Cinema exploded during the performance but did no serious damage.

On the 18th July the temporary lull in attempts at Jewish illegal immigration came to an end when a ship — the "President Warfield", renamed "Exodus 1947" with 4,500 Jews aboard appeared off the shores of Palestine escorted by ships of the Royal Navy.

Evasive action by the crew resulted in the "Exodus" and a Naval ship being damaged. A boarding party was met by armed resistance and in forcing their way aboard three Jews were killed. Transhipment was carried out by night and the passengers taken to Haifa where they were transhipped a second time. During this, a mine exploded in the hold of the "Empire Lifeguard" and she sank. The ships later left Haifa for an unknown destination which later proved to be France.

In consequence, there was a general flare up throughout the country and incidents resulting in loss of many lives and injuries to others resulted.

On the morning of the 23 July, the Battalion experienced its second attack by the Thugs against British troops. One of two 3 ton lorries carrying a party out to the Rishon Ranges was blown up by mines which had been concealed in the verge of the road. The mines were of a particularly vicious type and filled with half-inch rivets.

By an act of providence none of the passengers were killed. Lieut. J.P.F. Furst, our Motor Transport Officer, who was sitting beside the driver, Pte. V. Beedham, was seriously injured in the eye and arm by the shattered windscreen and flying rivets. Pte. Beedham was injured in the face and chest and Pte. E.