

2nd Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment
MONTHLY NEWS LETTER No. 6.

August 1947

1. GENERAL.

For several days after the murder of Sergeants Martin and Paice the situation throughout Palestine remained tense. Then, on the morning of the 5th August came a report from Arab sources that a party of Jews dressed in uniform had been seen in the act of abducting yet another British soldier — the Jews carrying the soldier across country and placing him in a lorry which then drove away. The information was rapidly broadcast throughout the area and a 'net' spread by the military and police over the land, but no clue could be found till late in the evening when it was discovered that 'C' Coy in Jaffa had taken advantage of the lull in I.Z.L. activities to do some training. The 'abduction' turned out to be nothing worse than a section escorting a casualty to the nearest line of evacuation.

On the 5th of August, in the House of Lords, the Marquis of Salisbury joined with Viscount Hall in paying tribute to the exemplary and extraordinary patience and restraint shown by the troops and police in Palestine over a long period or strain, including the almost daily murder of their comrades. In our daily work we are inclined to regard ourselves as the 'forgotten army' of the post-war period and it is refreshing to hear of open expressions of commendation as opposed to the veiled derogatory remarks we have become so used to reading in the local press.

In Palestine, on the 5th of August, a new move was made when more than 60 arrests were made under the Emergency Regulations. These included the Mayors of Tel Aviv and Nathanya, and Dr Altman, the head of the United Zionist Revisionist Organisation. All who were arrested were said to be men who had shown sympathy towards the policy of violence or to have been in contact with the thugs.

The 9th August saw the first attack on our sector of the railway when the Cairo — Haifa Mail was blown up near Wilhelma. The engine and three coaches were derailed and the Jewish engine driver killed. The police caught two young Jews, who are alleged to have carried out the attack, lying low near the railway. A third escaped.

An attack by unidentified persons (believed to be Arabs) in a Hawaii Cafe in Tel Aviv on the 6th August led to a sudden conflict between Arabs and Jews in the Tel Aviv and Jaffa boundaries. Attacks on vehicles approaching the towns increased and for a time it appeared might spread. Further, a curfew was placed on the danger spots. Troops were ordered in to enforce the curfew and after several days, and after the Haganah had taken their revenge on the attackers of the Hawaii Cafe, the conflict died down.