

organisation. The Haganah eventually arrived on the scene, but were too late to prevent the thieves making good their escape.

On Jan. 24th. it was decided at a Conference between the Divisional Commander & Mr. A. P. Mitchell, the British Superintendent in the Department, to put a Guard on the Survey Buildings. This was done, and on the same day 'D' Coy. under the command of Capt. Porter left to take up the duty.

On the following Monday, Jan. 26th. all map originals (excluding the Jewish versions) were moved by an R.A.S.C. Convoy, escorted by 'D' Coy. and one section of carriers to Ramle Airport. This was completed without incident.

OPERATION ORANGE GROVE

In the early hours of Thursday morning, January 22nd., a party of Arabs attacked a vehicle containing seven JSPs near YAZUR. Their primary attack consisted of detonating a mine, which was buried in the road, as the car was passing over the spot. The vehicle, undamaged, continued on its journey only to be ambushed further along the road. The occupants were shot and finally dragged from the car into a nearby Orange Grove, where they were found by a patrol of the 2.R.Lincolns brutally mutilated.

In the afternoon "B" Coy., under the command of Captain Smale, left with a section of carriers for YAZUR with the intention of carrying out the Divisional Commander's threat that if any violence from either Jew or Arab originated from an orange grove, a portion of it (TO A DEPTH OF AT LEAST 20 YARDS) would be immediately destroyed. On arrival at the location of the incident, the area to be cut down was decided by the Commanding Officer, Major A. Wall, who personally supervised the operation.

A REME detachment was present, complete with petrol-driven saws, to tackle the larger trees, every other man being equipped with either an axe or a hand-saw. The task of removing the trees was nobly tackled and enjoyed by all. The idea of becoming woodsmen appealed to every member of the operation and loud and constant shouts of "timber" could frequently be heard.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

During the month, there were two important cases of illegal immigration as far as the Middle East was concerned.

(1) THE ARCHIMEDE

At mid-day, on the 1st. the illegal immigrant ship, ARCHIMEDE, a two-masted schooner of about 200 tons, beached just off-shore at NAHARIYA about 5 miles up-coast from Acre. The landing was not detected until almost 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the Royal Navy noticed a large crowd on the shore. Disembarkation was progressing rapidly and there were indications that the local HAGANAH was caught unawares. A large number of the inhabitants