

Brigadier, Lt.-Col. S. A. Cooke O.B.E. who had been called away on duty and expressed the hope that the next Sobraon Day would see the Bn. in a somewhat more settled station where celebrations on a more varied and elaborate scale could be arranged. He read a telegram of good wishes to all ranks from our late C.O., Lt-Col. D. R. Wilson and he himself wished the best of luck to all ranks for the future.

In the afternoon the expressed wish of the Brigadier was fully realised when the newly constituted Bn. Band made it's first appearance, to beat 'Retreat'. The Band, with a composition of 4 side-drums, 2 tenor drums, a bass drum, and 10 Bugles, and led by Drum-Major Lowe gave a fine display of marching and counter-marching in slow and quick time. The Officers of the Bn. were present at the display, and following 'Retreat' the C.O. took the salute as the Band marched away.

The day was concluded with a Cinema Show in the Bn. quiet room featuring James Cagney in 'Blood on the Sun'.

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### OPERATION 'ORANGE-GROVE'

Following repeated sniping attacks on the Gaza-Ramle bus, once again it was decided to carry into effect Operation Orange-Grove whereby a portion of the Grove from whence the attacks originate is cut down.

Accordingly at 1200 hrs. on Friday 6th. February a column transporting 'B' and 'D' Coys. supported by 2 sections of Carriers left Tel-Litwinsky to carry out the Operation.

The location of the Orange Grove was along the Ramle-Gaza road in the vicinity of Ma'ayan 134143 approximately 10 mls. SSW of Ramle.

The Operation began, under the personal supervision of the C.O. Maj. Wall, at approximately 1330 hrs., the men of the Bn. using hand saws and axes, while the 17 Fd. Sqn. RE gave valuable assistance with their power-driven saws; an area of 200 x 50 yds. was ultimately destroyed, the Operation being completed by 1630 hrs.