

The Grove was Jewish-owned and, our activity was greeted with cries of approval, cheers, and hand-clapping by the delighted groups of Arab civilians who occasionally passed by along the road—'Johnny' soldier was quite the hero of the afternoon, the whole affair in their eyes being 'quite quoise'. The removal of the protecting wire also pleased immensely the inevitable crowd of young and old from the neighbouring villages who sat a little distance away calmly watching the activity and patiently waiting their opportunity to ransack the fruit-laden trees when the last of the column had left.

The men themselves fell to the task with great enthusiasm, partly because it gave an authoratative opportunity to even off some old scores, but mainly because it proved such a pleasant change from normal routine duties, a day in the woods appealing to both Officers and Men and in authentic style they set the woods re-echoing with cries of 'TIMBER' as one by one the objects of their labour toppled to earth. It was an enjoyable afternoon, but unaccustomed muscles found it a little tiring and the eventual order to stop work was not ungratefully received.

The whole Operation was carried through without incident and the Column arrived back in Tel-Litwinsky at approximately 1815 hrs.

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## ACTION ON THE JAFFA ROAD

Wed. 11th. Feb. 1948

The Bn. throughout it's tour of duty in Palestine, has been engaged in countless minor incidents with the unruly elements of the country, but it has never before had the opportunity of meeting face to face with them and engaging them in a set action, man to man. This opportunity was afforded us on Wed. 11th. Feb., and it is to the credit of the Bn. that it conducted itself remarkably well.

One of the more important tasks confronting us in Palestine at the moment is the keeping open of all lines of communication within the country which are constantly under the threat of attack from both Jew and Arab gangs. The main road connecting the two administrative centres of Jerusalem and Jaffa-Tel Aviv is of