

paramount importance in this respect and it is the Bn.'s allotted duty to share in the protection of this road by maintaining a Mobile Patrol between the Beit Dajan crossroads and the outskirts of Jaffa. Our Road Patrol on this particular day consisted of one Platoon under the command of Lieut. Bows supported by a Carrier Section under the command of Sgt. Millington.

At approximately mid-day a Jewish convoy moving up towards Tel Aviv came under heavy fire from Arab posts NE of Miqve Yissrael. The patrol, being on the spot, immediately engaged the attackers and escorted the convoy safely through the ambush. Immediately, heavy fire was brought to bear against the patrol itself from a building and Grove to the NW. Between the patrol and the source of fire lay approximately 500 yds. of open ground, but notwithstanding, a Carrier was despatched and under the covering fire of the patrol succeeded in approaching the building at close quarters, from whence, by employing all its available fire power, casualties were inflicted and the assailants eventually forced to withdraw. Fire, however from Rifles, Stens, LMG's and 2 ins. Mortars continued to be directed against the patrol from a nearby Albatour and also heavy Rifle and LMG fire from a sandbagged building SSW of the main road; this was replied to in like kind by the patrol and the engagement was truly joined.

It was impossible to send for aid due to the destruction of the wireless equipment early in the action and the patrol was left entirely upon its own initiative and resources. It was difficult to estimate the strength of the Arab gang, but the fire power they had at their command was extremely heavy, and this, plus the fact that they had excellently prepared lines of withdrawal into the maze of the Jaffa under-world thwarted all attempts to entrap them in a manner conducive to their annihilation. The Arabs with backs to their ultimate HQ in Jaffa countered every forward movement of the patrol by a corresponding backward movement and in such a manner the engagement lasted for approximately 2 hrs.

At 1500 hrs. however, information having reached Bn. HQ concerning the situation, reinforcements arrived and the assailants, not wishing to pit themselves against an orthodox army attack, dispersed their several ways, to assume once more the role of peaceful Arab citizens. Law and Order was once more fully established by 1600 hrs.