

ACTIVITIES OF "B" COY. DURING FEBRUARY 1948

At the beginning of Feb. "B" Coy. found itself — to use a very time worn expression — fully committed on Guards and Duties.

On the 9th. Feb. we welcomed the arrival of Major O. A. J. Cary-Elwes to the Bn., and his appointment as "B" Coy. Commander Maj. Cary-Elwes returned to the Bn. after an absence of nine years.

On the 12th. of the month it became apparent that "B" Coy's. prowess as lumber-jacks had reached the ears of Higher Authority, for once again we sallied forth with shouldered axes to destroy an Orange Grove.

On arrival, the sight of some young Jewesses flitting prettily in and out of the trees inspired every man in the Coy. and Pte. Wycherley R. was observed to clear the six foot wire fence surrounding the Grove in a single joyous bound.

During the middle of Feb. road patrols occupied our main attention and, on one of these, commanded by 2/Lieut. Birks and Sgt. Leivers, we had a little set-to with snipers, though the only damage that resulted was to adjacent telegraph wires many of which were cut. It might be said that the patrols found the coffee at Mique Israel very excellent.

On the 17th. we were very pleased to see C/Sgt. Scully back with us from his Course in U.K., and none more so than the harassed Cpl. Twiddy who has been doing valiant work as A/CQMS in his absence.

On the 19th. the Coy. moved to Jaffoon, where we soon learnt to ignore the nightly 'battles' taking place in the Manshiya and Abu Kabir areas of Jaffa. A/CSM Smith gives us to understand that he personally has had many hair-breadth escapes from sudden and violent death whilst walking from the Sgt's Mess to the Orderly Room — or should we say from the Orderly Room to the Sgt's Mess?

We were all very sorry to say good-bye to Cpl. Millns who left us with 69 Group on Feb. 14th. The only people pleased to witness his departure were Group 70 who have been waiting now for some two and a half years to see the last of Group 69