

**1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE SUMMARY OF THE DIARY 1962

January

8th - The Regiment returned from Christmas block leave.

12th - Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Sweeney, M.C., assumed command of the Regiment vice Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E.



Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Sweeney, M.C.,
Commanding 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd.

18th - 2nd Lieut Shaw and 2nd Lieut Bayley joined the Regiment from R.M.A.S.

22nd -Lieut-Colonel P. Duhaine, Commanding Officer Le Regiment de Joliette, visited Knook Camp. He later attended dinner in- the Mess. During his stay he presented a silver tray to the officers.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

February

6th - G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, Lieut.-General Sir Robert Bray, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Regiment.

10th - Jungle Warfare Team left for Malaya.

14th - The Southern Command Cross-country Championships took place at Bulford. The Regiment was placed sixth.

19th - Mons Platoon returned to Knook Camp and was posted *en bloc* to "C" Company.

20th - Mr Turnbull of N.A.A.F.I. visited the Regiment and spoke to wives and men about facilities in Penang.

22nd - A detachment from the Regiment marched through Birmingham as part of a Green Jackets recruiting display.

23rd - "A" Company went on embarkation leave.

March

1st - Detachment from School of Infantry, Hythe, rejoined the Regiment.

2nd - Main body of the Regiment went on embarkation leave.

12th - "A" Company returned from embarkation leave.

14th - Lieut. M. J. C. Draco was killed in a vehicle accident on the Imber Training Area.

17th -The funeral of Lieut Draco took place at the Parish Church, Heytesbury.

19th - The main body of the Regiment returned from embarkation leave.

23rd - The Regiment paraded for the Colonel-Commandant. During the parade Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented to R.S.M. R. J. Clarke and O.R.Q.M.S. G. W. Bayliss.

26th - The Director of Infantry's Conference began at the School of Infantry. Lieut. J. R. Carter, R.A.P.C., joined the Regiment.

30th - Lieut.-Colonel Mohammed Noor, Military Liaison Officer to the Malayan High Commissioner, visited the Regiment and spoke to the officers.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

April

3rd - Brigadier J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Commandant of the School of Infantry, addressed the Regiment and presented a plaque on behalf of the School of Infantry.

4th - The Regiment paraded at High Wycombe to receive the Freedom of the Borough.



The Colours of the Regiment and the T.A. Battalion at High Wycombe
Front rank, left to right: Lieut. M. Whitfeld, C.S.M. R. Bunce, Lieut. N. K. Newell, Lieut. N. M. Prideaux, C.-Sjt Towns and Lieut. N. W. Gibson



The Colonel Commandant receives the Freedom of the Borough of High Wycombe from the Mayor. *Left: Lieut.-Colonel G. Montague-Jones*

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

6th - The Regiment provided a Guard of Honour, Commanded by Captain C. E. W. Jones, at High Wycombe on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty The Queen during her tour of Buckinghamshire.



Her Majesty The Queen inspects The Guard of Honour at High Wycombe
Left: Captain Jones; foreground: Lieut. Prideaux

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd



The Regiment led by Lieut.-Colonel Sweeney approach the saluting base at High Wycombe



The Band and Buglers led by Bugle Major Dunwell marching through High Wycombe

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

7th - The main body of the Regiment sailed from Southampton for Malaya on board H.T. *Nevasa*.

“Four hundred of the 1st Green Jackets sailed from Southampton for Malaya—the first all-Regular fighting force to leave Britain for overseas service since the war.”

“Sunday Times,” 8th April.

9th - The advance party left Stansted Airport for Malaya.

11th - The advance party arrived in Singapore.

12th - The advance party arrived in Penang.

The Regiment arrived at Malta and all ranks were granted shore leave until 2300 hours.

19th - H.T. *Nevasa* arrived at Aden. Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., disembarked to take up his new appointment of Garrison Commander.

The Regiment was granted shore leave.

20th - Brigadier R. G. S. Bidwell, O.B.E., Commander North Malaya Sub-District, visited the advance party in Minden Barracks.

28th - Regiment disembarked from H.T. *Nevasa* and moved to Minden Barracks, Penang.

May

7th - 2nd Lieut. Hume-Rothery joined the Regiment on Commissioning from Mons.

14th - Mr Head, Far East Director of N.A.A.F.I., visited the Regiment.

15th - Brigadier Gould, C.E.O. FARELF, and Lieut.-Colonel Parker, S.O.1 Edn., 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., visited the Regiment.

17th - Brigadier W. E. Brennan, D.D.M.S., 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., visited the Regiment.

18th - The advance party for Exercise "Rabbit Punch" left by road for Singapore to take part in Exercise "Rabbit Punch," an island-wide Internal Security exercise for which the Regiment provided crowds.

20th - The main body of the Regiment left by train for Singapore. The party was commanded by Major I. R. C. Greenlees.

22nd - Major-General I. C. Harris, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. Singapore Base District, spoke to all officers and senior N.C.O.s on internal security problems in Singapore.

23rd - The Commanding Officer, H.Q. Company Commander and the Adjutant visited Exercise "Rabbit Punch."

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

24th - No. 7 Platoon, "B" Company, went on detachment to the Jungle Warfare School at Kote Tinggi as Demonstration Platoon.

25th - The Regiment returned by train to Penang.

28th - The first Regimental Jungle Warfare Course, consisting of "A" Company, started at Hobart Camp. The course was run by Major M. R. Pennell, M.B.E., and those officers and N.C.O.s who made up the Training Advance Party.

June

3rd - Brigadier W. T. Campbell, C.B.E., Brigadier in charge of Administration, 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., visited the Regiment.

5th -Major-General W. C. Walker, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., visited the Regiment. He also flew with the Commanding Officer in a helicopter to Hobart Camp to visit "A" Company in training.

6th - The Commanding Officer attended an initial conference in Seremban on Exercise "Trumpeter."

9th - "A" Company returned from Hobart Camp.

12th - The Commanding Officer and a party of 70 all ranks, consisting of umpires, signallers, porters and drivers, left for Exercise "Trumpeter," the annual 28 Commonwealth Brigade Group Exercise. Major E. F. Garcia assumed command of the Regiment.

18th - The Regiment celebrated Waterloo Day.

19th - Major-General E. A. Williams, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Chief of Staff FARELF, visited the Regiment.

23rd - Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand drove past Minden Barracks. The Regimental Band provided music for the spectators along the route.
Rfn Smith of "A" Company died in the B.M.H. Taiping.

25th - Rfn Smith was buried with military honours in the Western Road Cemetery, Penang.

28th - Exercise "Trumpeter" ended.

29th - Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Sweeney, M.C., reassumed command of the Regiment.

30th - Brigadier P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., D.S.O., arrived for a short visit to the Regiment.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

July

2nd - Brigadier Young left Penang.

"B" Company went to Hobart Camp for jungle training.

3rd - "A" Company went to Taiping Ranges for weapon classification.

4th - The following officers rejoined the Regiment from courses in U.K.:

2nd Lieut. N. E. Shaw, "B" Company; 2nd Lieut. K. I. Bayley, "C" Company.

8th - The Regiment lost its first round match in the FARELF Cricket Competition to the Royals by four wickets.

9th - Major-General W. T. Officer, C.B.E., M.B., D.M.S. FARELF, visited the Regiment.

Exercise "Lambic," an air-loading exercise for selected members of the Regiment, began at R.A.A.F. Butterworth.

11th - "A" Company took part in Exercise "Saxon Shore," acting as enemy to the Royals.

12th - Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., E.R.D., Chief Signals Officer, FARELF, visited the Regiment.

19th - The Regimental Athletics Meeting was won by H.Q. Company 1st Team.

20th - Lieut.-General Sir Nigel Poett, K.C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. FARELF, visited the Regiment.

21st - The Regiment left for Singapore to take part in Exercise "Fotex."

This involved travelling in H.M.S. *Tiger* to Trengganu on the east coast of Malaya, carrying out an assault landing, then re-embarking in H.M.S. *Tiger* and returning to Singapore.

28th - The Regiment arrived back in Penang.

31st - The Regiment ran a T.E.W.T. at Hobart Camp for Staff Promotion Candidates in North Malaya.

August

1st - The Regiment was visited by Lieut.-General H. Knott, D.A.G.M.S., Major-General W. T. Officer, D.M.S. FARELF, Brigadier W. E. Brennan, D.D.M.S., 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., and Brigadier W. T. Campbell, C.B.E.

6th - August Bank Holiday.

7th - Major M. R. Pennell, M.B.E., assumed command of "C" Company.

10th - The Regiment took part in the North Malaya Sub-District Athletics Meeting and was placed second.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

13th - The Regiment began cadre training. The following courses were run: Senior N.C.O.; Support Weapons; Education; Basic N.C.O.s; Swimming; Games and Sports; Company Radio Operators.

17th - Lieut.-Colonel Hardy, G.I, 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., visited the Regiment.

26th - A party of officers and civilians from the Imperial Defence College lunched in the Mess.

27th - Major D. J. Wood, M.B.E., assumed command of the Regiment during the temporary absence of the Commanding Officer.

Lieut. G. P. Blaker was granted the temporary rank of Captain.

30th - The Divisional Athletics Meeting ended. The Regiment was placed sixth.

31st - The Regiment celebrated Malayan Independence Day—Merdeka— with a holiday.

September

3rd - Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Sweeney, M.C., reassumed command of the Regiment.

5th - The Commanding Officer visited the Support Weapons cadre, which was carrying out live firing at Asahan.

6th - The Command Secretary visited the Regiment.

The Commanding Officer visited the Demonstration Platoon at the Jungle Warfare School.

11th - Captain J. G. C. Goodwyn assumed the appointment of Weapons Training Officer, "B" Company won the aquatic sports held in Minden Barracks.

14th - Colonel Scott, U.S. Army, visited the Regiment.

18th - Major-General W. C. Walker, C.B.E., D.S.O., the Divisional Commander, visited the Regiment.

19th - Colonel E. G. B. Davies-Scourfield, M.B.E., M.C., the Brigade Colonel, The Green Jackets Brigade, arrived for a short visit to the Regiment.

20th - "C" Company left for classification camp at Taiping,

28th - An Officers' Day was held to study air-portable operations.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

October

1st - Exercise "Ruth" began.

5th - Exercise "Ruth" finished.

6th - Major D. J. Wood, M.B.E., assumed command of the Regiment during the temporary absence of the Commanding Officer.

10th - Lieut. C. J. M. Haines, R.B., joined the Regiment from U.K.

12th -Lieut.-Colonel Metcalfe, A.A. and Q.M.G., 17 Gurkha Division/ O.C.L.F., visited the Regiment.

15th - Lieut. C. J. M. Haines was granted the temporary rank of Captain. The first company, "A" Company, left for Hong Kong on Exercise "Vulture."

17th - Exercise "Vulture." The move of the whole Regiment to Hong Kong was completed.

19th - Lieut.-General Sir Reginald Hewetson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander British Forces Hong Kong, visited the Regiment in Erskine and Sai Kung camps.

20th - A party of officers went on a conducted tour of the Chinese border.

22nd - The Regiment took part in Exercise "Rachel" in the New Territories, Hong Kong.

28th - The Regiment arrived back in Penang from Hong Kong,

November

2nd -Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie, D.S.O., O.B.E., B.G.S. FARELF, visited the Regiment.

6th - The Regiment began to fly down to Ipoh on Exercise "Gambion."

12th - The Regiment returned to Penang by road after the exercise. This was the longest Regimental exercise in which the Regiment had taken part since Exercise "Battle Royal" in 1954.

16th - The Regiment celebrated Nonne Bosschen Day.

17th - The Regiment lost the first round of the FARELF Hockey Competition to Q.R.I.H. by 3-1.

19th - Technical inspections, part of the Annual Administration Inspection, began.

20th - No. 10 Platoon,"C" Company, won the Inter-platoon Cross-Country Competition. The individual winner was 2nd Lieut. Shaw of "B" Company. Practice for the Regimental Rifle Meeting began on the ranges of the Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas, at Sungei Patani.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

28th - "A" Company beat H.Q. Company in the first round of the Intercompany Boxing Competition.

30th - "A" Company beat "B" Company in the Boxing finals.

December

4th - "A" Company took over responsibility for the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, Singapore. Captain Haines was Guard Commander.

6th - The Regimental Rifle Meeting, held at Sungei Patani, ended. "A" Company won the Inter-company Competition and Captain Goodwyn won the Commanding Officer's Tankard.

9th - The Regiment was ordered to move to Singapore in connection with the Brunei revolt.

The order was received at 1340 hours and the first vehicle moved off at 1930 hours.

10th - While passing through Kuala Lumpur the Regiment was instructed to go directly to the Naval Dockyard on arrival in Singapore. The Regiment would there embark in H.M.S. *Tiger* and sail for Brunei via Labuan.

11th - Whilst sailing toward Labuan, orders were received to direct to Miri, 4th Division Sarawak.

12th - The Regiment, less "A" Company, landed at Miri and proceeded to deal with the revolt in that area. The Regiment was visited by Brigadier P. Patterson, O.B.E., M.C., Commander 99 Gurkha Inf. Bde. Gp., under whose command the Regiment was operating.

13th - "B" and "C" Companies successfully retook the villages of Bekenu and Niah, which had been held by rebels.

14th - "A" Company, after carrying out operations with the Queen's Own Highlanders, returned to Regimental Command.

15th - "A" Company landed by helicopter from H.M.S. *Albion* on the head waters of the Sibuti River.

20th - The Commanding Officer flew to an "O" Group in Brunei. The Second-in-Command arrived from a course in U.K. and the Padre arrived from Penang.

"A" Company departed by helicopter to become force reserve on board H.M.S. *Albion*.

23rd - "A" Company landed by helicopter at Labi.

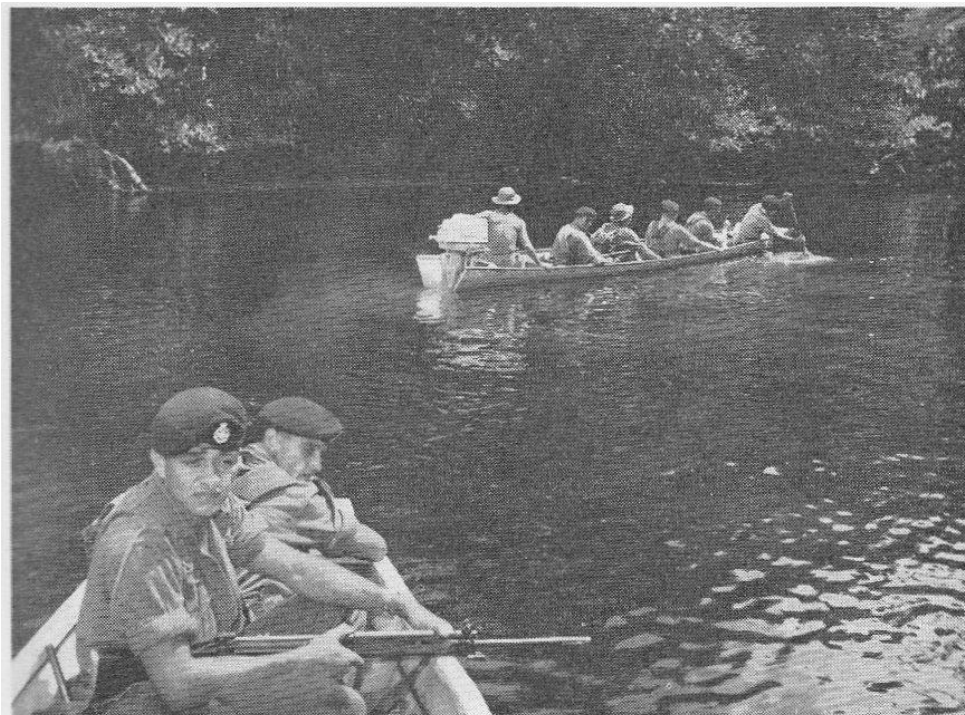
24th - The Regiment was visited by Major-General W. C. Walker, C.B.E., D.S.O., Director of Operations.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

25th - Christmas Day. Commanding Officer, Chaplain and Medical Officer visited "B" Company at Marudi.

26th - "A" Company reverted to Regimental Command.

30th - The Regiment was visited by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. Patterson, O.B.E., M.C.



A patrol moving up river in the Bekenu area



Letter "C" Company on board a Shell company launch about to leave for Niah

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

1962 THE 43RD AND 52ND LETTER

Dear Editor,

In this part of the world the Chinese have a custom of calling each year by a different name—the year of the tiger, the year of the fish, etc. If we adopted this style there is no doubt that 1962 would be called "The Year of the Regular." We have been talking about the all-regular army for years now, some happily, others unhappily. Now, at long last, in fact for the first time since 1939, we have no one but regulars serving in the Regiment.

Stability is the most obvious advantage of the regular army as its advocates have always maintained. The constant talk of "When I get out," the calendar on the locker door with each day of service being crossed off, the last-night singsong in the N.A.A.F.I. with those not going out looking on enviously, all these have disappeared. There is a restful atmosphere nowadays which was missing before.

There is not only Regimental stability but stability within platoons and departments. The signal platoon, the orderly room and the support platoons, to name a few which require specialist training, should not vary much between now and 1965. This has resulted in more self-consciousness in those small divisions of the Regiment. Old soldiers have often spoken of comradeship as one of the attractions of army life; also of the strength of the platoon and company spirit. There is no doubt that these existed, of course, in the national service army, but now they are becoming stronger and one hopes they will carry on when the individual returns to civilian life and so put new life into our old comrades meetings.

The Regiment has always had a strong family spirit as opposed to a strong Regimental spirit. The relationship between its various groups has always been of that friendly understanding type that exists in families and it has embraced everyone in its bosom. We all like one another; a thing that in my experience does not exist in all Regiments. How often at receptions do we have to watch ourselves or we spend most of the evening talking to our Regimental friends to the exclusion of other guests. This affection amongst all ranks is still there and growing strongly with the new young regular. When the soldier salutes he smiles and says, "Good morning, Sir," even in the middle of the jungle in Borneo where I write this letter.

However, there is another family spirit which has suddenly sprung into prominence with the all-regular army. There are now 230 separate families in the Regiment. All but three or four of the warrant officers and Serjeants, a large percentage of the corporals and nearly one-quarter of the riflemen are married. This large number of men does not live in mess or barracks—in the case of the junior ranks they live 12 miles away in what is known as Jalan Gajah. Here we have the paradox. Although the husbands feel themselves very much part of the Regiment it is only the older wives, especially those who live in barracks, who identify themselves with the corporate life of the Regiment. This state of affairs is changing and the operation in Borneo has helped tremendously, as always in times of difficulty, to bind the families together. For example, the "A" Company wives recorded a song for their husbands in Borneo in which it is quite clear that they are proud of the fact that their husbands are in "A" Company. Nevertheless one of the factors which one is very much aware of is that the Regimental family spirit has not yet embraced the young Regimental wife.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

The number of families has made their welfare and administration a major part of Regimental life. Transport, time and thought have to be devoted to them in ever-increasing quantities. An officer had to be sent to Penang especially to arrange for family accommodation before the Regiment arrived on board H.T. Nevasa. He did such a good job that one of the national Sunday newspapers asked for a report and, but for the unfortunate events in Germany, would have published a feature article. This officer spends a great part of his day assisting families. There is no doubt that families do tie the Regiment down. Even plans for training must take families into account. Nevertheless the Regiment proved, as will be heard elsewhere in this "chronicle," that when it has to move swiftly families or no families it can still compete with its predecessors. Before we leave the families there is one final thought. They do take up a lot of time. Some of the wives are ungrateful and selfish. They do influence their husbands. The bachelor officers do feel that too much fuss is made of them. This is all true. They are a problem, but just think what a big problem we should have without them. "God bless them!" (as a rotund colleague of mine not long retired used to say).

The edifice which is now being built is not one that, as in the national service days, will dissolve within 18 months. It will last for many years. We are all very much aware that we are building for the future and we must at the outset get the standard of discipline, training and behaviour right, for if we do not produce the right foundations how can our successors continue to build. Fortunately, of course, we are not starting from scratch.

Seldom can the Regiment have crammed so many varied experiences into one year, so perhaps we should name this "The Year of Many Experiences." At the beginning of the year we were still in Knook Camp, Warminster, as demonstration battalion with a full course to complete. Some of our men were carrying out trials on the Trojan, the new personnel carrier. Before we sailed for Penang in April we carried out the demonstrations for the Infantry Commanders' Conference, received the freedom of High Wycombe, parading the whole Regiment with the 4th Battalion, and provided a guard of honour for Her Majesty The Queen. Since our arrival in Penang we have trained in the jungle, carried out an internal security exercise in Singapore, taken part in a two-brigade exercise which lasted for three weeks, sailed in a cruiser and landed from amphibious craft on the east coast of Malaya, flown in Britannias to Hong Kong and carried out three battalion exercises, one in the New Territories and two in the jungle. Finally, in the last month of the year, we were rushed to Borneo to assist in defeating a rebel movement.

Here we rest for the moment and so do I as, by the light of a Tilly lamp and to the sound of tropical rain which has not ceased for 48 hours, I send you our best wishes from Borneo.

Yours sincerely,
On Active Service.
43rd and 52nd

**1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

**A SUDDEN CALL TO ACTIVE SERVICE
H. J. SWEENEY**

Sunday, 9th December, in Penang was quiet, sunny and peaceful. The Regiment was at long last concentrated except for two detachments. For months we had been operating most of the time out of barracks— training in the jungle, training in Hong Kong, training with the Royal Navy and, finally, quite recently carrying out the A.R.A. non-central matches on a range 40 miles away.

Now we were back. Soon our demonstration platoon would return from the Jungle Training School and the C.-in-C.'s guard would come back from Singapore. For the first time since our arrival the Regiment would be all together.

Christmas was a short way off. The padre had his carol singers trained to perfection, Christmas entertainments had been planned, dolls' houses and tricycles were being earmarked in shops for delivery on 24th December and everyone was looking forward to the rest following the culmination of our intensive training over the past few months.

As we sat down to breakfast to the sound of the insects and birds, the sight of the glistening dew on the grass and the vivid colours of the exotic tropical plants there came the first tiny disturbance in the serene atmosphere—"Two companies of Gurkhas flown to Brunei" were the headlines in the newspapers. This was unexpected. There had been no forecast of Trouble in Brunei, but no doubt the Gurkhas, lucky devils, would deal with it.

We went on with the papers and were struck by the article that 21 years ago today the Japanese had attacked the airport at Penang. It was hard to picture that peaceful Sunday being rent with the screams of Zeros as they spread death and destruction over the airfield. Such things belonged to the past.

At 1.30 p.m. the peace of this Sunday was also shattered. A message from Division arrived by telephone, "Move as soon as possible to Singapore, there to take over responsibility for internal security from the Queen's Own Highlanders or to stage and move on to Brunei."

The Regiment is at no notice to move under normal circumstances. Furthermore a great number of key officers were away: the second-in-command was on a course in England, the adjutant was in Singapore, the intelligence officer was in hospital, the signals officer was in the jungle on the Thai border attached to the New Zealand Regiment and, finally, the officer commanding "B" Company was playing polo 100 miles away.

The men were scattered around Penang Island, but fortunately as it is an island few ever go over to the mainland.

However, on the credit side was the fact that the few left behind in barracks included Robin Evelegh, an ex-adjutant, Steve Cox, the quartermaster, and John Stevenson, the transport officer. With this quorum planning could start and so the commanding officer summoned an immediate meeting to set in motion the machinery to recall and move the Regiment.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

A full "O" Group was ordered for 1600 hours. Transport was sent to warn everyone to be back in barracks by 1715 hours. A meal was arranged for 1830 hours and, finally, as matters clarified themselves, the commanding officer made an estimate, said a prayer and told the Division that the Regiment would be ready to move at 2030 hours.

And this is exactly what it did. By 1930 hours the Regiment, less four men who could not be found, was paraded on the square ready to move, with G1098 equipment and ammunition on their allotted vehicles. Extra vehicles to carry the men who do not normally travel by unit transport, had been provided by North Malaya Sub-District, and just before 2000 hours the first group moved off" to cross by special ferry over to the mainland.

Through the long night the Regimental convoy roared steadily southward, a long line of headlamps on the deserted roads. As we passed the villagers came out to see what was happening. Signposts with familiar names appeared—Taiping, Kuala Kangsar, Ipoh and, eventually, just as a misty dawn was breaking, Kuala Lumpur. Every two hours we halted and the men and drivers climbed out of their vehicles to stretch their cramped limbs and to smoke and chat. As every vehicle had two drivers there was no need for long halts.

The Military Police led the convoy through Kuala Lumpur to the railway station, where breakfast had been arranged in the Station Hotel. Here, amidst the perspiring waiters and noise of 150 men at a time having breakfast, we were told of the change of plan, which was for us to go straight on board H.M.S. *Tiger* and sail at midnight that night.

A message was sent to the Regimental transport, at that moment bypassing Kuala Lumpur, to press on with all speed, whilst the remainder continued the journey to Singapore by special train. The Commanding Officer and his reconnaissance group flew on by Beaver aircraft.

A great deal of staff work was done during this day. However, it is dull to write such things. Suffice it to say that at 2100 hours that night the Regiment, with full stomachs and properly equipped, was on the quay about to board H.M.S. *Tiger*. We had been reinforced by two platoons, one which had been guarding the Commander-in-Chief's house and the other which had been the demonstration platoon at the Jungle Warfare School. This platoon had been pulled out by helicopter from an exercise on an island off the east coast of Malaya.

The scene around the ship was one of bustling activity. In the light of searchlights and to the sound of turbines roaring, six Land-Rovers and trailers, the whole of our equipment, including all our ammunition, was slung aboard. Then the men filed slowly up the gangway and into the interior. By 2300 hours all men had embarked and we sailed for Labuan. We had mobilised, moved 500 miles and embarked the Regiment on a cruiser in the space of 34 hours.

H.M.S. *Tiger* was an old friend of ours. We had sailed in her last July. She had arrived in Singapore that morning from a cruise to Australia, which included the Empire Games at Perth. The crew were due for ten days' leave. We commiserated with one another as we steamed into the South China Sea.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

Of course, one of Her Majesty's modern cruisers is not built to carry troops. In the spacious Victorian days battleships had lots of space spare, but today the requirements of long-range gunnery, radar, anti-submarine devices, nuclear protection and all the latest steering devices so load a ship like a cruiser that it is a miracle that she floats. She certainly has no free deck or dormitory space. Nevertheless we all managed to sleep that night and it was not too hot.

We steamed at 28 knots towards the area of the rebellion. The commanding officer had been briefed by G.H.Q. on the situation, but as usual in the early stages it was all rather vague. However, it was known that the rebels held an oil-field called Seria and a part of Brunei City. The first Gurkha troops had suffered casualties, and, apart from ourselves, the Queen's Own Highlanders and the 42nd Commando were rushing to reinforce the small initial force. A small Force H.Q. was ashore and they would give us our tasks on arrival.

We planned for all eventualities and got ourselves ready to disembark quickly by breaking down rations and ammunition. That afternoon groups of men were to be seen on the quarter-deck filling magazines, receiving ration packs, checking equipment and listening to talks by their officers.

At 2300 hours our orders eventually arrived. "From Bde. to *Tiger* for 1 Green Jackets. First. You will move in H.M.S. *Tiger* to Miri area and disembark Bn less one coy gp. Second. Tasks. Assume responsibility for operations in the area in conjunction with civil and police authorities eagerly awaiting your arrival. Boundaries, etc. Flanking units, etc."

Now at long last we knew which maps to issue. Our busy preparations were interrupted by a click of the loudspeaker and a voice which said, "This is the chaplain. Some of you may be going into action tomorrow." In the sudden shocked silence one realised that this was so. And, indeed, the next day, just three days and 1,300 miles away from that peaceful Sunday in Penang, we landed and were on active service once again.

**1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

**THE BORNEO OPERATIONS
H. J. SWEENEY**

By the time that this article is published the operations in Borneo, in which the Regiment took part, will have become part of history, and military as well as political experts will have made their assessments and drawn their conclusions. At the present time (February 1963), whilst the Regiment is in fact still in Borneo, it is possible only to skim lightly over the background of the revolt. Nevertheless, any article concerning the Regiment's part would not be complete without some background and political detail.

The British territories in Borneo comprise Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo, which run along the north coast. To the south is the vast land mass that was part of the Netherlands East Indies and is now Indonesia. The Indonesians name their part of Borneo Kalimantan.

Sarawak and North Borneo are still colonies administered in the classical manner with governors, district officers, etc. Brunei is a protectorate governed by a sultan with a British high commissioner to advise,

All these territories are scheduled to achieve independence this year and to be linked with Singapore and Malaya in a federation which will be known as Malaysia.

Historically this is understandable, for all these territories were linked under the Crown and administered as a whole by the Colonial Office before Malaya achieved independence in 1957. However, there are other countries with different views.

The Philippines, which are only 200 miles from North Borneo, have always had their eyes on this territory because it was originally ceded to the British by the Sultan of Sulluk, who himself was under the suzerainty of the Philippines. Then the Indonesians, who have a very long border with two of these territories, are jealous of the control that Malaya will have over them.

The history and indigenous peoples of the territories vary considerably. Sarawak, as everyone knows, was governed by the Brooke family until 1946. What is not so well known is that North Borneo was governed by the Charter Company until the same date. It is only recently, therefore, that Whitehall has been responsible for their development and it is only in the last few years that outside pressures have forced the speeding up of independence.

It was against this background that in December 1962 a sudden and unexpected rebellion broke out in the state of Brunei.

A rebel army calling itself the T.N.K.U. (The North Borneo Freedom Army) attacked police stations all along the seaboard from Miri in Sarawak to Weston in North Borneo at 0200 hours on Saturday, 8th December 1962.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

The rebels were nearly all Brunei Malays. Their cause of discontent was Malaysia. They wished to unite the three territories under the Sultan of Brunei. Azahari, their leader, was the head of the Party Rakyat, a political party which formed the opposition in the legislative assembly.

The rebels were extraordinarily well organised so far as knowing what to do, which vital installations to seize and the type of organisation required to carry out a *coup d'etat*. They were organised in platoons, companies and battalions, they had a uniform of sorts and their plans had been well laid.

The rebellion failed initially to achieve its objects because of lack of weapons, the inept manner in which it was executed in spite of good plans, the unexpected resistance of the police, especially in Brunei under the British commissioner of police, and poor leadership, especially on the higher levels. To all this was added another important factor; the authorities at the last moment became suspicious and the police were standing to.

Nevertheless by the time daylight came the rebels were firmly in control of many areas. The reaction by G.H.Q. FARELF was swift, however, and two companies of Gurkhas were in Brunei by late afternoon.

One company set off for Seria, the oil town some 45 miles from Brunei City. Unfortunately darkness descended before this party got under way and during the night, as they motored through the jungle-bordered countryside, they were ambushed. They sustained a number of casualties including their British commander, who later died. Eventually they were recalled to Brunei.

The situation was now serious, the oil town was in rebel hands and the road route was ambushed. No police stations had yet been retaken.

It was clearly at this stage that the rebellion became a much bigger affair involving not just two companies but some two brigades.

Accordingly on the Sunday three more battalions began to move towards the battle area—the Queen's Own Highlanders and the 42nd Commando from Singapore and the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, from Penang. An *ad hoc* Force H.Q. was flown in and H.Q. 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade was alerted to take command of the ground troops.

The story of the Regiment's move has been told elsewhere, so that need not be described again. As we were 500 miles farther away than anyone else, and as we moved by land and sea, the other units got to Brunei well before us.

By Monday, 10th December, the pattern of the operation was beginning to become clear. The Gurkhas cleared Brunei Town with their usual *elan*. The Queen's Own Highlanders, in a brilliant *coup de main* operation, including landing by Beverleys on an air-strip held by rebels, siezed the two outside ends of Seria and set about cleaning up the large number of rebels, which they achieved without casualties.

The 42nd Commando dashed up to Limbang in Sarawak and in spite of serious casualties, including five killed, siezed the rebel-held police station.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

Finally the Regiment on board H.M.S. *Tiger* was ordered, late on Monday evening, to land at Miri and deal with any rebels in that area.
This operation I shall now describe in some detail.

On disembarking at Miri from H.M.S. *Tiger* shortly after dawn on 12th December 1962 the Regiment was informed that, although Miri was clear of rebels, Bekenu was definitely in their hands and Niah was being threatened by them.

Bekenu is a police and administrative post on the Sibuti River some 25 miles south of Miri, five miles in from the coast, and ten miles up the Sibuti River. Niah is a smaller post some 40 miles south of Miri on the Niah River.

Bekenu can be reached only by going up the Sibuti River by launch, or on foot from the coast at Tg Batu. However, this latter approach ends in a mile of Batangs (single log pathways raised on trestles some three or four feet over swamps), which run into the pepper garden and rubber plantations that immediately surround the village. Niah can be approached only up the river.

At 1030 hours on 12th December "B," or Major Mostyn's, Company, together with two sections of the field force under command of Supt. B. Lewis, was ordered to retake Bekenu. At 1230 hours the force embarked in a Shell landing craft and sailed with two launches in tow for a landing beach just south of the cliffs at Tg Batu. The plan was for the force, less one platoon, to approach Bekenu on foot from the coast, whilst the remaining platoon sailed up the Sibuti River by launch in order to give fire support in event of an attack being necessary and to cut off any rebel retreat upstream or downstream by outboard pershaws. (*Local boat*)

By 1630 hours the force was off the intended beach, but had to move a mile farther south before the landing craft could get close enough in shore. Even then the craft beached in seven to eight feet of water because it was loaded with oil-drilling equipment, and one of the launches had to be used to get into four feet of water, where disembarkation took place. No. 6 Platoon at this stage transferred to the second launch to sail up the Sibuti River.

By 1715 hours the disembarkation was complete and the march had started. The original intention was to move north along the beach to a known track to Bekenu. However, on landing, a party of local men was accosted, who thought that this track was ambushed, though one of them was prepared to guide the force along another lesser-known track, which he knew was clear for two miles.

By 2000 hours on 12th December the force had reached a house on Sungei Mumong. It was now pitch dark and the force therefore rested until midnight, when by the light of a full moon it continued its march, intending to reach Bekenu by first light.

At Sungei Mumong the force commander was told that there was an enemy outpost of about six men guarding the only bridge (single log) over the Jongales River. However, the informant was prepared to lead the force to another crossing place that he knew, which would avoid this outpost, and since the force wished to reach Bekenu unannounced his suggestion was accepted.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

The going, even by moonlight, between Sungei Mumong and Sungei Jongales was extremely difficult and by first light the force had only reached the latter river. At this point one section of the field force was detached to lay an ambush on the track to the west of the suspected enemy outpost so that if, when firing started at Bekenu, the outpost party should break north-west they would be caught. In the event there proved to be no rebel outpost and therefore this ambush was abortive. Two perhaws were impressed on the Jongales River and by 0730 hours on 13th December the force had been ferried across, eight men at a time.

The march then continued through swamp to join the Batang route into Bekenu. The force moved in bounds along the Batangs with a section of the field force leading, since they were able to negotiate the logs more quickly and expertly than the riflemen. By 0930 hours on 13th December the force had closed up into the pepper and rubber around Bekenu and some 300-400 yards from the objective. At this point the force commander was told by a local that the rebels were then in the government buildings, police station and Chinese school, which are situated at the east end of the village, that they were totally unaware of the force's presence, but that word had been got to the population in the bazaar area to lie low.

At this point also 6 Platoon on the launch came up on the radio to say that they were ten minutes' sailing from Bekenu and believed that, as yet, they were unobserved.

The force commander therefore decided to move in immediately with two platoons up, supported by fire if necessary from the launch-borne platoon, and at 0945 hours the force crossed the start line. It was intended that the force should advance under cover to fire positions surrounding the rebel-held Kubu, (*Government Offices*) with stop sections on the river above and below Bekenu, Supt. Lewis was then to demand the release of two hostages, known to be held by the rebels, and the latter's surrender, and only if this move failed was fire to be opened. However, when 200 yards away from the Kubu the force was spotted by the rebels, who immediately opened fire with shotguns and appeared to run in all directions in confusion, leaving their hostages unattended. The force therefore retaliated with fire to prevent escape. Six rebels were killed, one body in the river was not recovered until ten days later and was by then unrecognisable, and five, including one wounded, were taken prisoner. All were in uniform and were carrying ammunition and 12-bore guns. The 11 guns captured had all been fired. Unfortunately the "stop" section above Bekenu was unable to get into position in time and an estimated 12 rebels escaped towards Kg Setap on foot. Neither the force, the civil population nor the hostages suffered any casualties.

At 1400 hours two platoons were despatched by launch to Kg Setap, which was reported to be the local rebel force's jungle centre. Here eight rebels surrendered, the last remaining hostage was released unharmed, and several guns, uniforms and a quantity of ammunition seized from the house of Haji Ibrahim, one of the local leaders with the rank of Kapitan.

This completed the operation at Bekenu and led to the mopping-up phase, which continued on 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th December.

1962 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

Orders were issued to "C" or Major Pennells, Company at 1030 hours on 12th December 1962 to occupy Niah, and information was received at much the same time that a British-led government survey team in the area had reported no rebels in sight at first light that morning. The company commander and two platoons left Miri at 1230 hours on a Shell Company L.C.T. with two launches in tow, a section of the field force and four regular policemen, under a field force inspector.

The L.C.T. reached the mouth of the Sungei Niah at 1630 hours, and troops and police transferred to the two launches to travel up-river. All the houses along the river were shut up and no one was seen before reaching Niah at 1800 hours. Here a Rhodesian surveyor had organised all the villagers with shotguns into a "home guard" to defend the village until the arrival of the troops, who were enthusiastically welcomed.

One platoon occupied the district office and police station, at Niah. One platoon went further up-river to Rumah Pasang, where the other British members of the survey team and Mrs Harrison (*Wife of Tom Harrison, Curator of Kuching Museum and an authority on the local peoples*) had organised a similar defence.

The platoons remained in these two locations and were employed on extensive patrolling, with the police, on the several rivers over a large area, and made a number of arrests of those who had been prepared to help in the projected capture of Niah by the rebels.

After Bekenu and Niah had been taken it was feared that the bulk of the rebels in the area, which was said to number at least 300, would escape up the river into the hinterland and that there would be a prolonged hunt for them over the next few months. To prevent this happening it was decided to make use of H.M.S. *Albion's* helicopters to put "A," or Major Greenlees, Company in cut-off positions on the head waters of the Sungei Setap, Sungei Sibuti and Sungei Niah. In addition irregular forces controlled by Tom Harrison were instructed to provide a screen farther inland on these same rivers.

H.M.S. *Albion* was on her way from Singapore via Kuching. On 15th December, at 1000 hours, she arrived off Miri. Two helicopters flew in and the pilots were briefed on what was required. Maps and air photographs of the likely L.Z.s had been obtained from the local lands and surveys branch and this topographical information, together with the advice of the local surveyor and Tom Harrison, was of great value. After an initial recon the squadron commander called in the remainder of his helicopters from *Albion* and briefed them on their mission over the air. Then he and his second-in-command personally led the remainder into the L.Z.s. The whole force was landed accurately in good positions in spite of the fact that the pilots had never operated before in the jungle. Within four hours H.M.S. *Albion* was on her way to carry out further operations.

This sealing of the head waters caused complete collapse of the rebels in this area. The total rebel bag eventually amounted to six killed (all at Bekenu), four wounded and over 400 taken prisoner, including all known local rebel leaders.

The rebellion collapsed in all areas and by the end of the week it had developed into a cordon-and-search operation. At the time of writing, two months later, this is still going on, but very few rebels and weapons are still to be recovered.