

**1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

DIARY OF EVENTS 1963

January

1st - An advance party from "C" Company left Miri in Sarawak for North Borneo, to take over Chisel Force. The task of this force was to combat piracy on the east coast of Borneo.

2nd - A warning order was received for an operation to be carried out in the Lawas area by Regimental Headquarters and "B" Company.

3rd - The main body of "C" Company moved off to North Borneo to take on an anti-piracy role as Chisel Force.

4th - The C.-in-C. FARELF, General Sir Nigel Poett, K.C.B., D.S.O., visited the Regiment and congratulated it on the speed with which it had mobilised and moved to Sarawak,

5th - The Commanding Officer attended "O" Group at Brigade Headquarters and was told of redeployment plans for the Regiment,

7th - "B" Company and Regimental Tactical Headquarters arrived in Lawas by Z Craft from Brunei, First meeting of the Lawas DEC held,

8th - Patrols from "B" Company established bases at Merapoh, Kuala Lawas and Maputeh and began to patrol the area.

9th - The Bugle Section went by boat to Punang to live there for a few days and establish whether there was any rebel activity in the area.

11th - The Commanding Officer briefed by Director of Operations on his task as Military Adviser to H.E. the Governor of North Borneo.

14th - Regimental Headquarters moved to Brunei *en route* to North Borneo but held up by bad weather and heavy flooding.

16th - The main road from Miri to Seria and Brunei swept away by torrential rains.

17th -The Commanding Officer flew to Jesselton to establish a small military headquarters and to act as Military Adviser to H.E. the Governor of North Borneo, This post became known as "Comjessfor," He was accompanied by Captain Evelegh. News was received that Rfn O'Sullivan of "B" Company had been drowned whilst crossing a river on patrol near Puteh.

21st - One Beverley load containing part of Regimental Headquarters flew to Kota Bekid. The Commanding Officer visited Kudat.

22nd - The Commanding Officer visited Sandakan.

23rd - Remainder of Regimental Headquarters and H.Q. Company arrived by aircraft at Kota Beiud. The Headquarters remained separated, part in Jesselton and part in Kota Belud, until our departure from North Borneo because of the wishes of the Governor.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

24th - An advance party from "A" Company moved to Tawau in North Borneo to reinforce the anti-piracy force and to guard against Indonesian attack.

25th - The main body of "A" Company moved to Tawau. The Regiment was now once more under command of Regimental Headquarters but spread out over an area the size of Ireland.

28th - No. 9 Platoon, "C" Company, left Lahad Datu and went to Sandakan handing over to 2 Platoon, "A" Company. The Commanding Officer visited Tawau and met the Resident, Mr Edge and a visitor, Colonel Davies, Grenadier Guards, the nephew of Major-General H. R. Davies.

31st - The Bugle Section moved to Sipitang.

Brigadier J. Glennie, D.S.O., B.G.S., FARELF, visited Jesselton to discuss the Bekenu and Niah operations as he was writing the official history of the campaign.



THE OFFICERS, 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND, 1963

Left to right from back row: Captain J. Stevenson, Lieut. Friedberger (R.B.), Captain C. E. W. Jones, Lieut. J. R. Carter (R.A.P.C.), Lieut. K. C. Benner (R.A.E.C.), Major E. F. Garcia, Lieut. K. I. Bayley, Lieut. Smithers (60th), 2nd Lieut. R. Hume-Rothery, 2nd Lieut. H. P. E. Dumas, Lieut. R. D. Letts, 2nd Lieut. T. E. F. Taylor, Captain G. P. Blaker, Captain C. Wynne (R.A.M.C.), Lieut. N. W. Gibson, Captain C. St C. Simmons, Captain C. J. M. Haines (R.B.), 2nd Lieut. M. S. Daunt, Captain M. J. Massy-Beresford, Major M. R. Pennell, Major I. R. C. Greenlees, Captain J. R. G. N. Eveleigh, Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Sweeney, Major D. J. Wood, Major J. D. F. Mostyn, Major S. A. G. Cox

February

1st - Operations continued in "B" Company's area with the aim of covering the Borneo/Sarawak border to prevent rebel movement and block possible escape routes. Detachments sent to Sindumin and Pantai.

2nd - No. 12 Platoon, "C" Company, arrived at Kudat to take over from the Recce Platoon who returned to Kota Belud by ship.

9th - The Colonel Commandant arrived at Jesselton for a visit to the Regiment and lodged with H.E. The Governor of North Borneo, Sir William Goode.

Lady Lathbury visited the wives and rear party in Penang.

"B" Company patrols operating in the Mempakul area returned to Lawas.

10th - The Colonel Commandant accompanied by Major R. R. W. Workman, the Commanding Officer and Intelligence Officer, visited "A" Company and "C" Company where he took luncheon with the Resident of Sandakan, Mr Workey.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

11th - The Colonel Commandant visited "B" echelon at Kota Belud and "B" Company at Lawas. He was accompanied by Mr Tom Harrison, Curator of the Kuching Museum, and the Commanding Officer.

The party was met at Brunei by Brigadier A. G. Patterson, O.B.E., M.C., Commander 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, and took luncheon with the High Commissioner of Brunei, Sir Denis White. The Colonel Commandant then departed for Singapore.

No. 3 Platoon, "A" Company, commenced a follow-up patrol after the *Barossa* incident.

12th - "B" Company made eight arrests in the Lawas area on information received from Special Branch.

14th - A further two arrests were made by "B" Company at Merapoh.

20th - The Brigade Commander, Brigadier Patterson, M.B.E., M.C. accompanied by the Commanding Officer, visited "C" Company at Sandakan.

22nd - "A" Company commenced operation "Shark's Fin"; a combined naval, military and police anti-piracy patrol. A pirate boat was captured at Pulau Menampilik. Four suspected pirates were arrested from Pulau Matakang.

25th - Operation "Shark's Fin" ended with a total bag of one boat and six pirates.

March

1st - The Commanding Officer visited Tawau following a two-day stay in Sandakan. He was accompanied by Mr. John Owen from the *Oxford Mail*.

2nd - Complete Regimental "O" Group met at Jesselton for first time since our departure nearly two months ago from Penang. Return to Penang planned.

"B" Company saw two rebels in the Merapoh area. A quick follow-up of their tracks led to an enemy camp for five or six men which was empty.

3rd - Information was received by "B" Company that there was a party of Indonesians in the area of Merapoh who had come to work in the timber camps and who supported the rebellion and Sheikh Azahari.

5th - Further reports of strangers seen in the Merapoh valley. "B" Company imposed a curfew and laid extensive ambushes.

11th - H.Q. Company moved by air back to Penang leaving no troops in Kota Belud. Regimental Tac H.Q. remained in Jesselton. The Brigade Commander and the Commanding Officer visited "A" Company at Lahad Datu and Tawau.

12th - A joint naval, military and Royal Air Force anti-piracy patrol with "A" Company named "Sweet and Sour" in the Tawau area proved to be unsuccessful.

14th - Curfew lifted in the Merapoh Valley.

Ex-T.N.K.U. leader Haji Beson Ben Mail surrendered to a Custom's officer at Awat Awat.

15th - "C" Company continued anti-piracy patrols from the Sandakan area.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

16th - "B" Company had an "At Home" day in Lawas and played football against local team. Pipes and drums of 7th Gurkhas sounded Retreat.

19th - Torrential rains caused flooding in Lawas.

23rd - Lieut-Colonel A. Seagrim, 2nd/7th Gurkhas, arrived in Jesselton to be briefed on his battalion's role.

28th - The Regiment embarked in H.M.S. *Albion* to return to Penang after 3 1/2 months' service in the Borneo Territories.

29th - No. 42 Commando embarked in H.M.S. *Albion*.
"Comjessfor" ceased to exist.
Regimental H.Q. embarked in H.M.S. *Albion*.

30th - H.M.S. *Albion* sailed for Singapore,

April

1st - H.M.S. *Albion* docked in Singapore. The Regiment disembarked and entrained for Penang.

2nd - The Regiment arrived in Penang.

3rd - Regimental holiday.

4th - The Commanding Officer addressed the Regiment on parade.

2nd Lieut. H. P. E. Dumas joined the Regiment from Sandhurst and was posted to "C" Company.

5th - The majority of the Regiment proceeded on block leave.

8th - The Commanding Officer admitted Taiping Hospital. Major D. J. Wood, M.B.E., assumed command of the Regiment.

10th - The Commanding Officer returned from hospital and reassumed command of the Regiment.

29th - "D" Company was formed and Captain J. R. G. N. Evelegh assumed command,

May

1st - Lieut. R. D. Letts and Lieut. N. W. Gibson were promoted to Temporary Captain.

8th - The Regiment was visited by the D.E.M.E. FARELF; Brigadier H. A. H. Sheppard, O.B.E., and the deputy Paymaster-in-Chief FARELF, Brigadier J. M. A. Braddell.

10th - An Officers' Day was held in Minden Barracks. The subject that was studied was "The Operations in the Borneo Territories in December 1963,"

15th - The Regiment was visited by the Acting G.O.C. Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, D.S.O., M.C.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

23rd - An Officers Day was held in Minden Barracks. The subject was "The Malayan Campaign 1941-42."

25th - A relay team from the Regiment came second out of 18 in the annual Penang Round the Houses race.

31st - The Commanding Officer warned the Regiment that it was likely to move to Brunei or Sarawak for a further tour of four months on or about 18th August.

June

4th - The Second-in-Command Major D. J. Wood, M.B.E., departed for U.K.—Major I. R. C. Greenlees took over as second-in-command.

7th - The Penang Polo Tournament was played.

8th - The Regiment paraded in honour of the Queen's Birthday, The Commanding Officer took the salute.

14th - Officers' study period at Batu Ferringhi.

18th - Waterloo Day. The Regiment paraded in Minden Barracks, The parade was done in two halves. The first half was a ceremonial parade and the second half was in the form of a battle presentation. The inspecting officer was the acting divisional commander Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, D.S.O., M.C.

24th - The Regiment were invited to a free showing of "The Longest Day" at the Cathay Cinema, Penang.

Major J. H. W. Haddon arrived.

25th - Major-General D. A. B. Clarke, C.B.E., Director Personnel Services, War Office, visited the Regiment.

28th - The Commanding Officer went on "change of air," Major Greenlees assumed command of the Regiment.

ARMY ORDERS

Army Order 34/1963—29th June, 1963

1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd—Change to Rifle Regiment

Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, shall henceforth be a Rifle Regiment.

30th - The following members of the Regiment became Penang Amateur Boxing Association Champions 1963: S.I. Daley, A.P.T.C. att, L.-Cpls Cresswell and Humphries, and Rfn Breene.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

July

7th - The Penang Decathlon Championships were held. Second was Rfn Joseph, Third L.-Cpl Netzler, Fourth L.-Cpl Christian, Sixth L.-Cpl Wood.

11th - The Commanding Officer returned and reassumed command of the Regiment. Major P. J. Durant rejoined the Regiment.

12th - The Regimental Sports Meeting was held.

15-19th - Exercise "Zig Zag" took place in the jungle around Kuala Kangsar.

23rd - The Regiment went on block leave.

25th - Lieut-General Sir Reginald Hewetson, K.C.B., G.O.C.-in-C.. FARELF visited the Regiment.

29th - R.S.M, Hornblower took over from R.S.M. Clarke who left the Regiment on posting to The Queens Royal Rifles T.A.

August

6th - The Regiment returned from block leave.

8th - Captain Evelegh departed for England.

9th - The advance party left for Seria in Brunei.

The Regiment was visited by the United States Military Liaison officer in Singapore, Colonel R. K. Carver.

11th - The main body of the Regiment left Penang by train for Singapore.

12th - The main body of the Regiment embarked in H.M.S, *Albion*.

13th - H.M.S. *Albion* sailed.

15th - H.M.S. *Albion* anchored off Labuan. The Regiment disembarked and flew to its various locations. "A" Company to Miri in Sarawak; "C" Company to Tutong in Brunei. Regimental H.Q., "B" Echelon and "B" Company to Seria also in Brunei. C.S.M. Hughes left the Regiment.

16th - A large patrol led by Lieut. N. Shaw was sent to Bangar to look into reports of enemy movements in the area.

17th - "A" Company was visited by Brigadier A. Patterson, O.B.E., M.C., the Brigade Commander.

A patrol left Miri for Niah and Batu Niah commanded by 2nd Lieut. Daunt.

21st - "C" Company together with the recce platoon flew to Sandakan in North Borneo. This was a practice turnout of the force mobile reserve.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

26th - Two T.N.K.U. members were arrested by 2nd Lieut. R. Hume-Rothery in Long Akah.

27th - The Brigade Commander visited Regimental Headquarters, "B" Echelon, and "C" Company.

29th - The United Nations team visited Miri. A demonstration by 300 young Chinese developed into a small riot. The police opened fire and wounded three civilians. The riot squad was called out and "A" Company stood by.

Lieut. N. J. R. Sale and Lieut. A. P. Whitfeld arrived in Penang.

30th - Information was received of a possible attack on Boreo over the period of the formation of Malaysia.

No. 8 Platoon commanded by Lieut. N. Shaw was flown in to defend the airstrip and longhouse.

Major D. Mostyn flew in to mobilise 30 border scouts.

31st - 2nd Lieut. T. M. Robinson joined the Regiment.

September

7th - Three patrols of the recce platoon led by Captain Letts, Sjt Hickmott and Cpl Sanders flew to Long Akah to operate in the Indonesian Border area.

9th - The Regiment was visited by the Director of Operations Major-General W. C. Walker, C.B.E., D.S.O.

2nd Lieuts. P. G. Chamberlin and D. J. M. Roberts arrived in Penang.

11th - "C" Company together with the Band and Buglers moved to Sandakan in North Borneo.

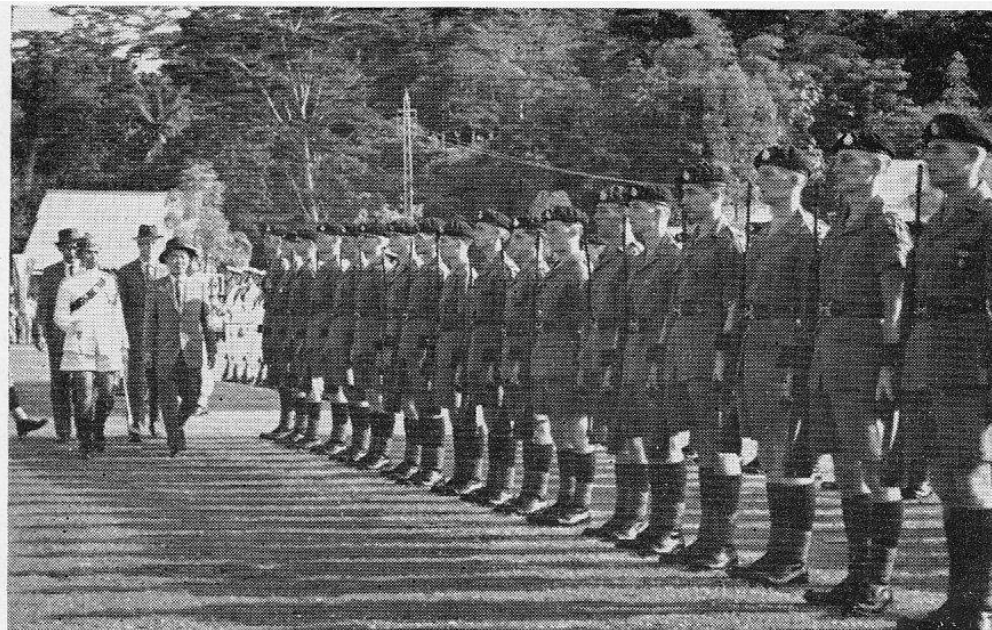


Photo : Kwong Tai

The Chairman of the Town Board, Sandakan, inspects "C" Company

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

14th - Two patrols of the recce platoon, led by Sjt Hickmott and Cpl Sanders reported that they were unable to reach their R.V. at Lepu Leju on the Sungei Baram and that both patrols were out of rations.

A successful airdrop was made to Cpl Sanders but Sjt Hickmott's patrol was not located.

15th - Captain Haines flew out and located Sjt Hickmott's patrol and dropped rations to them.

16th - Malaysia Day. All remained quiet and there were no incidents.

Lieut. N. J. R. Sale promoted Temporary Captain.

17th - Lieut. A. P. Whitfeld promoted Temporary Captain.

18th - The Brigade Commander visited "B" Company at Tutong.

20th - "C" Company returned with the Band from Sandakan.

25th - A detachment from "C" Company commanded by Captain N. W. Gibson took part in a parade in honour of the Sultan of Brunei's Birthday.

27th - Captain Letts and a patrol of three flew to Long Lellang.

30th Major D. Mostyn left the Regiment to take up an appointment at the Staff College, Camberley. Captain T. Hartley was promoted to Temporary Major and assumed command of "B" Company.

October

1st - Regimental Headquarters moved into the Labi area on a deployment exercise.

5th - Regimental Headquarters returned to Seria from the exercise.

11th - "B" Company flew to Tawau in North Borneo on a "flag showing" exercise. The Commanding Officer accompanied them.

12th - The Commanding Officer and "B" Company returned from Tawau.

14th - Headquarters 99 Brigade Returned to Malaya and handed over command to Combritbor.

16th - A C.S.E. production called "All That Jazz" was performed for the benefit of the Regiment in Seria.

27th - No. 11 Platoon, "C" Company, commanded by 2nd Lieut. T. Robinson flew to Tawau to be under command of the 1st Royal Leicester s.

28th - No. 7 Platoon, "B" Company, took over border duties from the recce platoon.

30th - The Regiment was visited by the G.O.C-in-C, FARELF Lieut.-General Sir Reginald H. Hewetson, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. The Brigade Colonel arrived for his annual visit.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

November

4th - Tactical H.Q. of "B" Company moved to Marudi.
The Brigade Colonel departed.

6th - The Director of Infantry Major-General P. Cleadell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Regiment.

7th - Tactical H.Q. from Regimental Headquarters flew to Long Ahah on a "rapid deployment" exercise.

10th - Remembrance Sunday. Service was conducted by the Regimental Chaplain, the Rev. P. Moffatt, at St Margaret's Church Seria.

11th - Nome Bosschen Day was celebrated as a Regimental holiday.
Major M. G. Hay-Will arrived Penang.

17th - Three Indonesian aircraft, two Mustangs and one B25 Mitchell Bomber flew around Bareo and "buzzed" the airstrip.

18th - The Commanding Officer and the Deputy Director of Operations flew around the Battalion area visiting Marudi, Lio Matoh, Long Bangar and Long Akah.

20th - The Regiment was visited by Major-General W. Odling, O.B.E., M.C., Chief of Staff H.Q., FARELF,

25th - Nos. 1 and 4 Platoon flew to Bintulu.
Major M. G. Hay-Will joined Regiment.

28th - No. 8 Platoon commanded by Lieut, N, Shaw, "B" Company, won the Sweeney Inter-Platoon Battle Efficiency Cup.

December

3rd - The Regiment was visited by the Vice-Adjutant-General, Major-General G. R. D. Musson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Advance party of one officer and four other ranks from the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry arrived,

4th - Rfn Gray and Sutton were drowned when a boat overturned on patrol near Bintulu.

6th - Further elements of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry advance party arrived.

7th - No. 11 Platoon returned from Tawau and was placed under command "B" Company at Tutong.

8th - Rfn Gray and Sutton were buried in Labuan.

9th - All jungle patrol bases relieved by the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

11th - The Regiment started embarking in H.M.S. Albion.

**1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

12th - "A" Company and M.T. embarked in H.M.S. Albion.

18th - The Regiment disembarked at Singapore.

19th - The Regiment arrived in Penang.

21st - The officers entertained the Serjeants' Mess members and their wives to a cocktail party.

22nd - A Regimental thanksgiving and carol service was held in the dining-hall. Major C. St C. Simmons and Captain C. M. Haines left the Regiment.

23rd -The officers and Serjeants served the traditional Christmas dinner in the dining-hall.

**1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

THE 43RD AND 52ND LETTER

"He said that still through chaos
Work on the ancient plan
And two things have altered not Since first the world began
The beauty of the wild green earth
And the bravery of man."

My dear Editor,

I begin to write this annual letter to you as I leave Borneo for the second time in a year and fly in the latest Malaysian aircraft, the Fokker Friendship, along the coasts of Sarawak. Somewhere below me the Regiment is steaming along in H.M.S. *Albion*, the Commando Carrier. It is the contrast between the unending wild green jungle below me and the modernity of my form of travel as well as that of the Regiment in their air-conditioned carrier that causes me to think of the change and non-change that continually occurs in the Regiment.

Who could have foreseen 20 years ago the modern methods by which the Regiment travels to war, the light aircraft, the helicopters, the bigger aircraft such as the Beverley and the Britannia each carrying over 100 men, and the aircraft-carrier complete with all "mod. cons." ? Yet, having arrived, is there really any great difference in our actions to that of the sixth battalion in the jungles of India and Burma 20 years ago? Admittedly we have more modern weapons and wireless sets, possibly our clothing is slightly different, but that is all. In the jungle there is only one thing that counts; the training and marksmanship of the soldiers and the courage in their hearts.

We often think that we are very up to date in our methods and training, but looking in one of the war chronicles recently I was struck by a statement about the 7th Battalion of the Regiment in which it was said that this battalion was "inspired with all the tradition of the Regiment: efficiency without advertisement, strict discipline without severity and friendliness between all ranks without familiarity." This is exactly what we try to achieve today.

It is extraordinary how a great Regiment continues to reproduce itself, its attributes and character generation after generation.

I feel sure that if older members of the Regiment descended suddenly on us in our barracks in Malaya they would find that there is far less change in the Regiment than they might have imagined and astonishingly little in the character, bearing, cheerfulness and spirit of the men. The modern younger generation is often condemned for its dress and behaviour. This is not evident in the Regiment. I have never seen men as well turned out in their off-duty dress as they are today and apart from a few hard cases who are slowly but surely being discharged, the behaviour of the Regiment is excellent, though this has been achieved only by discipline.

There is, of course, an affluence amongst the soldiers that was not evident in previous generations and this helps to maintain high standards of dress and behaviour. The Warrant Officers' and Serjeants' Mess have functions of a very high standard, the corporals run their own dances and one frequently sees men in the largest and most cosmopolitan hotel in Penang having an evening out and behaving most circumspectly.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

One of the amazing things about a soldier is his ability to cope with the most remarkable eventualities—an ability which has been well proven over the past two years. Since we arrived in the Far East the list of countries that soldiers of the Regiment have visited reads like a glorified Cooks Tour—Malaya, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Hong Kong, Sarawak, the Philippines, Brunei, North Borneo and, in a whisper, Indonesia. Whether the occasion has been the sounding of Retreat in Vientiane or a full company attack at Bekenu, the individual rifleman has shrugged it off as being entirely unremarkable. The lack of incredulity is astonishing. Aeroplanes, far from being an adventure, are now noteworthy in their absence. All these qualities denote a certain sophistication in the soldier. One would expect that the effects of the welfare state, high incomes and a comfortable standard of living would also bring about a softening of character. To some extent this may be true but the theory is belied by the comparative ease with which the soldier adapts himself to the discomforts of the jungle, to the physical hardships of living out for long periods and by the ease with which he fits into the way of life followed by the aboriginal inhabitants of remote regions in this part of the world. In most ways the soldier is still the man that Kipling described.

This year has seen the Regiment spend two-thirds of its time on active service in Borneo. It started quietly as we moved from the areas in which we first landed in Sarawak to North Borneo, there to provide a garrison and to assist the police in hunting pirates who sweep in from the Sulu Sea to raid the east coast. We were spread out over an enormous area with rifle companies all over 100 miles from Regimental Headquarters and operating independently with the minimum of direction. One of the most satisfactory aspects of the whole of our campaign in Borneo was that we managed to operate without churning out masses of written instructions on paper.

We moved to the scene of operations without one single written order and we redeployed time and again without written instructions. Only when we came to return to Penang in late March was a written movement order produced. All this shows the high state of training and the understanding that existed between companies and Regimental Headquarters. Of course, messages were passed daily but we took a leaf out of the Royal Navy's book and used short sharp signals for the most part. The Adjutant could be seen always armed with a signal pad and whether in the Borneo Hotel, where Tactical Regimental Headquarters was accommodated, or the Police Headquarters, where it had its offices, or even in a Land-Rover going from one to another he was always ready to put in signal form a directive from the Commanding Officer. Our time spent in Royal Navy ships had not been in vain.

On our return to Penang we concentrated on individual training, drill (for the Queen's Birthday and Waterloo Day) and sports. An annual training cycle is very difficult to achieve nowadays when a regiment must be prepared to operate at the drop of a hat, so we merely tried to concentrate on those aspects of training which had suffered by our period in Borneo. Nevertheless, we had to be prepared to operate as a regiment, at short notice, so we ran one Regimental exercise to ensure that we had not lost our touch.

In the field of athletics we produced some of the best results we have had in many years. Unfortunately, "Higher Authority" would not permit our athletics team to remain behind when we moved to Borneo a second time as they anticipated serious internal security troubles there (needless to say they never materialised) and so it was with a certain amount of chagrin that we noted that the winners of the Divisional athletics had times and distances which in most cases were inferior to ours.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

Our second tour in Borneo took us to the Shell Oilfields of Seria and Miri with our zone of operations stretching right up to the Indonesian border. This time it was a different war, no longer chasing Brunei rebels or pirates but withstanding Sukarno's confrontation and watching for the communist-inspired Chinese subversion in Sarawak. Sukarno's confrontation did not make our task severe for his troops kept well away from our area. However, we were not to know that and so we patrolled vigorously, watched the frontiers and the coasts, visited the inhabitants in their isolated longhouses and generally made it apparent that if there was going to be any incursion from outside or subversion from inside, it was going to be put down quickly.

We moved to and from our operational area three times in H.M.S. *Albion*, the commando carrier, on which an article appears elsewhere in the CHRONICLE. From the very beginning our relationship with the ship was excellent. "A" Company were the first troops to be carried into the jungle by *Albion's* helicopters last year and every time we met our regard for one another increased. It resulted finally in an invitation to some 20 men to remain on board and sail to Hong Kong over Christmas and a complimentary letter from the Captain who said, "We have enjoyed having your chaps with us and they all behaved awfully well. In fact, we always like lifting the Green Jackets and they are far the most popular with the Ship's Company."

Not all our time in Borneo was spent on patrolling. We were able to do a tremendous amount of training and retraining to keep up with the changeover of officers and non-commissioned officers. In particular a platoon combat efficiency contest was run which was successful in raising the standard of platoon training. It also gave a guide to the overall efficiency of the cutting edge of the Regiment.

We were also able to indulge in a great deal of sport. Every Company location possessed excellent sports fields and the beach was on all our doorsteps—a beach such as one sees in travel folders; miles and miles of white sands flanked by casuarina trees.

Then the local inhabitants, both European and Asian, did their best to make our stay pleasant and so good were our relations with them that when we came to go there were many expressions of regret at our departure and many kind remarks about the behaviour of the men.

How does the Regiment now stand as it reaches its second year in South East Asia and also its second year as an all-Regular unit?

It has a cohesion that has been produced by its experiences and the men have acquired a maturity they lacked a year or two ago. What strikes the casual onlooker is the bearing and self-reliance of these men who think nothing of spending long periods in small groups under a junior non commissioned officer in primeval jungle many days' journey away from their nearest compatriots. Then, too, the machinery of administration runs smoothly. Communications are maintained during difficult atmospheric periods over great distances. The transport, the cooks, the orderly room, the intelligence section, the quartermaster's department, all have had experience of carrying out their duties under active service conditions for eight months and they have acquired a professional competence.

**1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

All is not perfect, it rarely ever is, but the basis is sound and experienced so that those things which are not yet right can be rectified when the opportunity occurs.

As I come to the end of this narrative which I have jotted down over a period of two weeks I find myself on New Year's Day 1964 on top of Penang Hill, on a beautiful, still, sunny day looking out over the turquoise sea to the dark green of Kedah Peak, and bright green of the lowlands near Butterworth, the gigantic Australian air base where modern jet planes help maintain the stability of South East Asia.

There, below me, is the everlasting wild green earth and not far away, relaxing in barracks, the Regiment, constantly changing yet unchangeable, just beginning its last year in the East, In spite of jets, in spite of modernity the Regiment remains much the same and, one hopes, still reflects the spirit of its creator: like the wild green earth.

Yours sincerely,
43rd and 52nd

**1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

**H.M.S. ALBION
I. R. C. GREENLEES**

At various places in both this edition and also in last year's chronicle H.M.S. Albion is mentioned. We thought it to be an appropriate thing if an article were written about this ship, of which a photograph appears elsewhere.

Albion and her less sophisticated sister-ship Bulwark are the Royal Navy's two commando carriers, and were converted at great expense from normal fleet carriers. Basically their role is to transport, land, maintain and recover a Royal Marine Commando in a "bushfire" type operation. On normal deployment one of these ships is east of Suez and the other in home waters.

I have been unable to get any "vital stats" about Albion but she must be about 600 feet long and displace about 30,000 tons. Anyway she is a big ship, particularly if you have to climb on board by scrambling net or walk from stem to stern.

She carries two squadrons of Royal Navy helicopters: 845, equipped with Westland Wessex and 846, flying Westland Whirlwinds. The Wessex can carry ten men, or a small Citroen van or gun slung underneath. The Whirlwind is a smaller aeroplane with a smaller payload. Both these aircraft can carry offensive weapons. The SS11 anti-tank missile is fitted to some of the Wessex, and the Whirlwinds have a certain amount of firepower in their 2-in. rockets. In addition to these weapons air/sea rescue equipment and also Sonar are or can be fitted.

The Royal Marine Commando lives on board but does not help to run the ship except for hewing wood and drawing water. There is a complete ship's company but there are very few seamen and the Royal Marines help out and the ship runs without them as efficiently. There are certain Royal Marines who are part of the ship's complement. A major who ranks as a lieutenant-colonel when on board is the senior in command and is known as the assault operations officer and with the commander flying and the ship's operations officer plans all military activities.

There is a lieutenant Royal Marines (O.C. R.M.), who is in charge of the four landing craft assault (L.C.A.) which Albion carries and which are crewed by marines. There is also a serjeant who is the intelligence non commissioned officer and the ship's bandmaster.

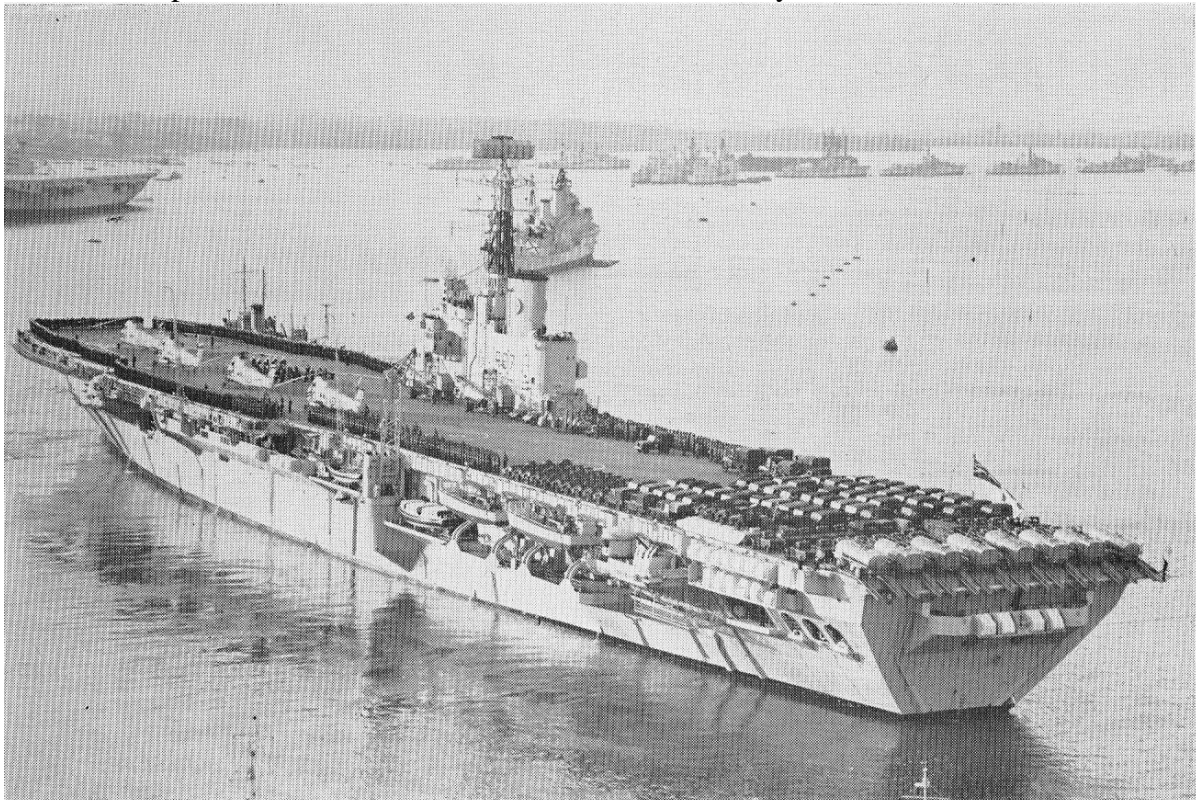
The two squadrons are each equipped with 12 helicopters and are commanded by lieutenant-commanders, both of whom got M.B.E.s in the New Year's Honours List. They have 18 pilots of whom a proportion are officers of the Royal Marines.

The squadrons have their own administrative backing and can and were landed and remained ashore in Borneo for long periods. They then become a Royal Naval Air Station and break out a white ensign on arrival. As I have already mentioned, all flying is co-ordinated by the commander flying, his deputy and the flight deck party. The latter all wear different coloured shirts, carry miniature wireless sets and are very efficient. They are responsible for positioning the aircraft correctly, guiding "sticks" or helicopter loads to their correct aircraft and for take-off signals. They did the same thing in reverse when aircraft were landing on her deck.

1963 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

The ship's company is made up by the usual departments of watch-keeping, engines, supply and so on. She has a very efficient sick bay and dental centre, two sorts of padre and a kitchen staff of Savoy standard. As is realised, I expect, there are therefore three different components in a commando carrier: the crew, the squadrons and the commando, or "embarked unit"! In Albion these three have been welded into a happy ship by the Captain Colin Madden, C.B.E., M.V.O., who was the navigator of the Royal Yacht Britannia.

We have travelled in Albion now four times and are very nearly professional sailors. We are accepted, have taken part in all sorts of activities and have even had Mark Friedberger and Tony Whitfeld watch-keeping, and soldiers working ship alongside the seamen. Given the right dye it is not difficult to turn a Green Jacket into a Bluejacket but David Cox, her commander, promised that he would not recruit—or certainly influence too much.



R.N. Official Photograph, Crown Copyright Reserved
H.M.S. *Albion* leaving Portsmouth, May 1962