

**1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

DIARY OF EVENTS 1964

January

1st - Lieut. N. M. Prideaux arrived and assumed the duties of Signals Officer.

2nd - Captain M. F. H. Scrase-Dickins arrived and took command of "D" Company and later command of the Recce Platoon in Borneo.

4th - Lieut. N. M. Prideaux promoted Temporary Captain.

7th - The Commanding Officer, Major J. H. W. Haddon, Major M. G. A. Hay-Will, Major S. A. G. Cox, Captain T. M. Hartley, Captain C. E. W. Jones and Captain N. J. R. Sale attended an operational briefing at Terendak Camp. The Regiment was under operational command of 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade during the absence of 1 K.O.Y.L.I, in Borneo.

17th - The Regiment was placed on eight hours notice to move to Borneo. This was a routine operational commitment.

19th - Lieut.-Colonel D. G. House, O.B.E., M.C., and Mrs House arrived in Penang.

20th - Lieut. M. W. Friedberger and riflemen, who had been to Hong Kong aboard H.M.S. *Albion*, returned to Penang.

27th - Commanding Officer's Farewell Parade, commanded by Major P. J. Durant.

28th - Lieut.-Colonel D. G. House, O.B.E., M.C., assumed command of the Regiment.



Lieut.-Colonel D. G. House, O.B.E., M.C.
Commanding 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd

29th - Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Sweeney, M.C., and Mrs Sweeney left for Singapore *en route* to England.

**1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

February

3rd - Captain K. J. Smith rejoined the Regiment and assumed command of "D" Company.

7th - The Regimental Cross-country Team were placed third in the 17th Gurkha Division Cross-country Championship.

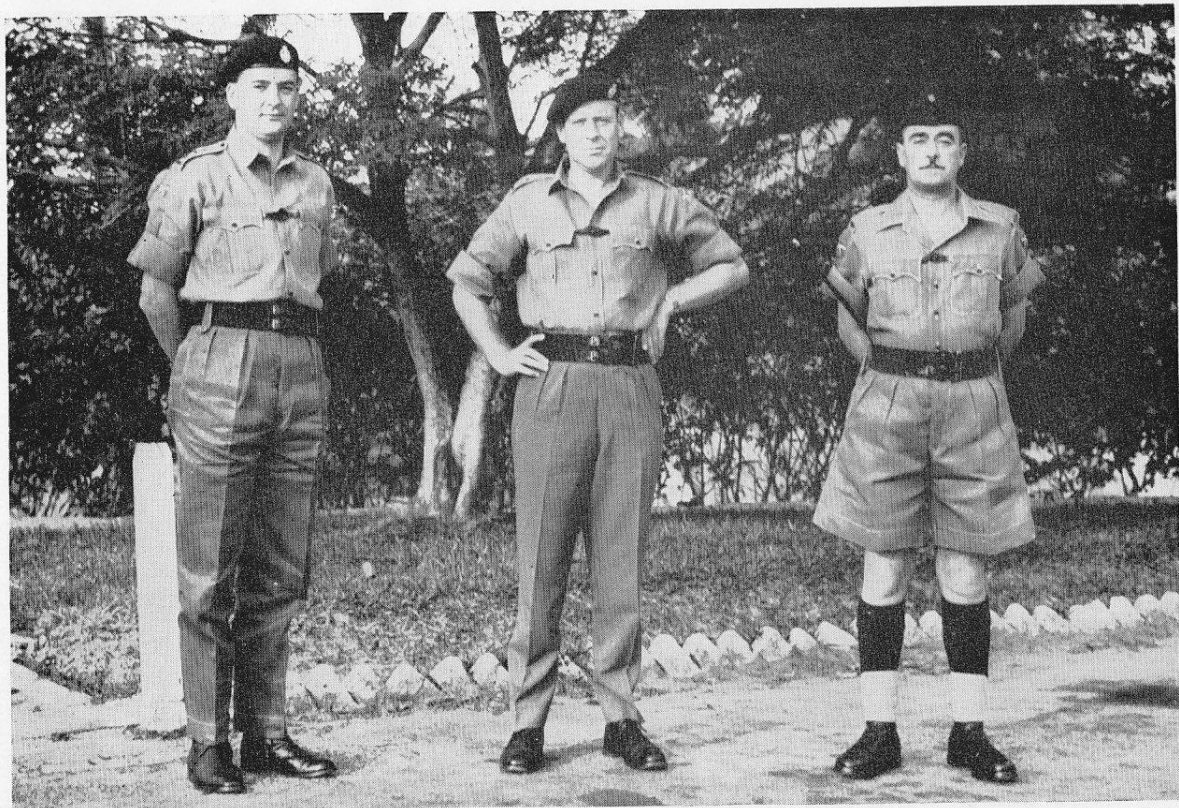
March

3rd - Major R. M. Koe joined the Regiment.

20th - 2nd Lieut. R. H. S. Gutteridge joined the Regiment from Mons O.C.T.U. and was posted to "B" Company.

21st - 2nd Lieut. S. M. H. Lewis joined the Regiment from Mons O.C.T.U. and was posted to "C" Company.

25th - Major W. M. Cracknell rejoined the Regiment and assumed command of "C" Company.



1ST BATTALION
Captain C. E. W. Jones, adjutant, Lieut.-Colonel D. G. House, O.B.E., M.C., commanding officer, R.S.M. D. Hornblower

1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

April

2nd - The Regiment was brought to readiness to move to Borneo aboard H.M.S. *Bulwark*. One company was ordered to move and "A" Company was chosen.

5th - "A" Company embarked in H.M.S. *Bulwark*.

7th - "A" Company arrived in Kuching. Their task was to support the police field force in patrolling the rear areas.

9th - Captain B. Sanders, R.A.P.C., joined the Regiment to take over as paymaster vice Lieut. J. P. Carter, R.A.P.C.

21st - "C" Company and H.Q. Company paraded in honour of the Queen's Birthday. The Commanding Officer took the salute.

23rd - Captain A. J. Howland rejoined the Regiment.

27th - A recce party consisting of the Commanding Officer, Major K. J. Smith, Captain N. J. R. Sale, Captain N. M. Prideaux and W.O.II Bullen arrived in Kuching and were met by Major J. H. W. Haddon.

May

5th - Major S. A. G. Cox, M.B.E., and Mrs Cox left the Regiment for U.K. on posting to R.M.A. Sandhurst.

20th - The Advance Party embarked in H.T. *Auby*,

22nd - Advance Party arrived in Kuching.

23rd - "C" Company left by air for Sibu.

24th - The L.S.T. Party under Captain A. P. Whitfeld embarked for Kuching.

26th - "C" Company arrived at Kapit in the 3rd Division of Sarawak.

29th - The Main Body left for Kuching aboard H.T. *Auby*.

June

2nd - Main Body arrived in Kuching.

3rd - Major O. G. Pratt rejoined the Regiment.

13th - Major I. R. C. Greenlees left the Regiment on posting to Berlin.

14th - 5 Platoon commanded by Lieut. C. J. P. Miers flew to Simanggang to come under command of 2nd/2nd Gurkha Rifles, who required reinforcement as a result of a contact with a large party of enemy in the border area of the 2nd Administration Division.

1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

20th – The Minister of Defence, Mr James Ramsden, G.O.C.-in-C.(Designate) Lieut-General A. Jolly, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and A.O.C.-in-C. (Designate) Air Marshal P. G. Wykeham, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., visited "A" Company at Padawan.

27th - An enemy force about 40 strong approached 2 Platoon, commanded by 2nd Lieut. A. F. Green at Sapit, but withdrew after losing the sight of their rocket launcher and getting into difficulties with the defences.

29th - Lieut-Colonel E. N. W. Brammall, M.C., the commanding officer of 2nd Green Jackets, K.R.R.C., visited the Regiment,

July

4th - The Colonel-Commandant, General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., A.D.C., visited the Regiment in the 1st Administration Division.

5th - The Colonel-Commandant visited "C" Company at Kapit in the 3rd Division.

11th - "C" Company rejoined the Regiment from the 3rd Division.

12th – 5 Platoon commanded by Lieut. C. J. P. Miers moved to Bukit Knuckle Patrol Base in the Bau District.

13th – 6 Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. R. Hume-Rothery moved to Serikin Patrol Base and 7 Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. P. G. Chamberlin moved to Stass Patrol Base.

14th - Command of the Bau sector passed to Major R. M. Koe.

15th - 10 Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. S. M. H. Lewis and 11 Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. D. J. M. Roberts came under command of "B" Company at Bau.

18th - 5 Platoon attacked at Bukit Knuckle, resulting in possibly seven enemy dead.

20th - Enemy reconnaissance of Bukit Knuckle. Fire was opened but there were no known casualties.

23rd - Report of two armed and uniformed men seen in the Bukit Skunyiit area south-west of Semengo Camp. 10 and 11 Platoons and a combat tracker team under the overall command of Captain T. M. Hartley searched the area and found tracks but these were obliterated by heavy rain.

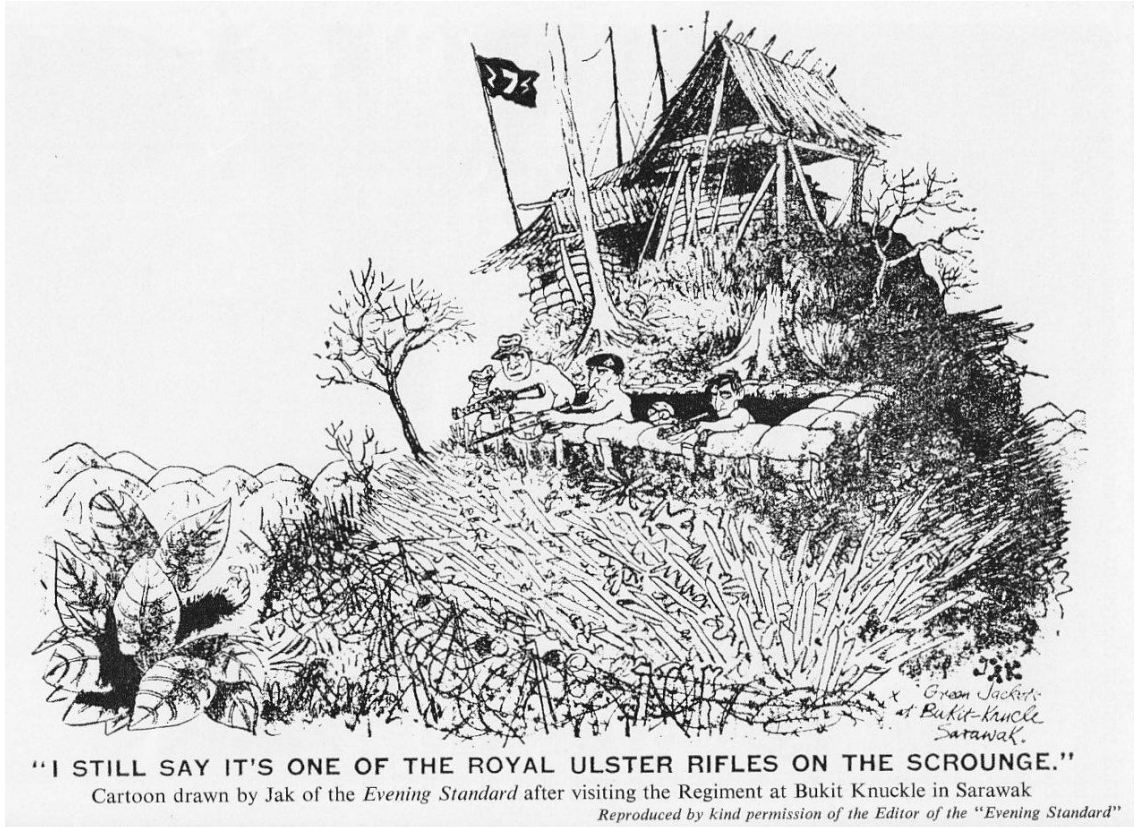
Lieut. S. L. Theobalds rejoined the Regiment and was posted to "C" Company.

25th - A small enemy party made a further recce of Bukit Knuckle.

27th - Captain F. J. B. Taylor rejoined the Regiment and was posted to "A" Company as second-in-command.

**1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

30th - Attack by 60 enemy on Stass patrol base held by 7 Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. P. G. Chamberlin. Enemy withdrew in two parties, one of which walked into an ambush laid by 11 Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. D. G. Roberts. Six enemy were killed and it is thought that four may have died of their wounds.



August

11th - Cpl N. J. Fewell of the Recce Platoon killed by an accidental discharge while out on patrol.

2nd Lieuts. R. H. F. Attwater and the Hon. P. R. Smith joined the Regiment from Mons O.C.S, and were posted to "C" and "A" Companies respectively.

13th - Shield presented to the Dragon School by Major J. H. W, Haddon on behalf of the Commanding Officer in thanks for help given to "A" Company during May.

14th - Funeral of Cpl Fewell held in Singapore.

17th - Recce Party of 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles arrived prior to taking over the Padawan sector.

30th - A small enemy party was seen near the perimeter of Bukit Knuckle.

1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

September

1st - 2nd Lieut. R. Hume-Rothery left Kuching for Penang on the termination of his short service commission.

4th - News received from Ministry of Defence of the return of the Regiment to England in January 1965.

5th - Tracker Team deployed in the area of Pang Tebang to investigate reports of an enemy incursion,

8th - As part of the "Hearts and Minds" campaign Major R. M. Koe presented bookcases and books to villages in the Bau District.

12th - Rifleman C. V. Campbell died in Bangkok.

17th - Colonel H. D. G. Butler, Brigade Colonel, The Green Jackets Brigade, arrived for a short visit to the Regiment.

21st - Captain T. M. Hartley left the Regiment on posting to the Ministry of Defence.

24th - "A" Company left for Penang aboard H.T. *Auby* on relief by "D" Company, 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles, in the Padawan Area.

27th - Rifleman P. J. Keogh died at Minden Barracks.

October

22nd - Rifleman F. Hunt and Rifleman C. Saunders were killed by an accidental explosion at Bukit Knuckle.

23rd - Main Body 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles arrived. The Main Body of the Regiment embarked on H.T, *Auby* for return to Penang. Fly pasts were flown by 66 Squadron R.A.F. (Belvederes), 225 Squadron R.A.F. (Whirlwinds) and 14 Flight A.A.C.

26th - The funeral of Riflemen Hunt and Saunders was held in Singapore, The Commanding Officer arrived in Penang.

27th - The Main Body arrived in Penang. Four Sabre jet fighters of the R.A.A.F. flew past in welcome,

1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

November

13th - Captain F. J. B. Taylor assumed command of "A" Company vice Major J. H. W. Haddon.

14th - The Regiment came to 24 hours notice to move to Borneo or Hong Kong as "Follow up" Battalion.

21st - The newly formed Assault Pioneer Platoon commanded by 2nd Lieut. A. F. Green moved to Kluang for pre-Berlin training under the Gurkha Engineers.

28th -The Regiment became "Spearhead" Battalion for reinforcement of Borneo or Hong Kong.

December

2nd - Major J. H. W. Haddon departed for U.K.

6th - The Band departed for U.K.

19th - "Spearhead" commitment ended,

26th - Officers versus Serjeants football match resulting in a draw.

28th - Swimming Gala. The inter-company competition was won by H.Q. Company.

31st - First aircraft of 2nd Green Jackets Advance Party arrived at Butterworth.
First aircraft of Advance Party flew from Butterworth.

**1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

43RD AND 52ND LETTER

Dear Editor,

This letter marks almost the end of an era. Within a few days the Regiment will be leaving Penang for England, where everyone will spend two months on leave before moving to our next station in Berlin. In common with the trend of change that has taken place during our tour in the Far East we now fly home, completing the move in a week as opposed to the three weeks' sea voyage of our outward journey in 1962.

I write looking out over the sea; the view is unchanged since the day the Regiment arrived. The Barracks are quiet, resting in the aftermath of Christmas. To all outward appearance things have not noticeably changed from the time of our coming. However, let us look closer. First the riflemen. There is literally no rifleman in the Regiment at the moment who has not served on operations; the majority have seen three tours in Borneo. This is reflected by the one, or more usually two, medals on their uniforms. The logical outcome of the experience is not only a professional competence and self-assurance but the development of a fierce pride in the Regiment. An outsider comparing the men who landed in Malaya three years ago with the same men on the eve of their departure would be struck by the confidence and steadiness he would find. The majority are mature, independent and more settled in their ways, The prophesy of the 1962 CHRONICLE has been born out. Departments are settled and one sees the same faces doing the same jobs month after month. Inevitably, as a result of this stability in H.Q. Company, the administrative efficiency of the Regiment has increased. All these qualities will serve the Regiment well in Berlin where the challenge will be an entirely different one.

In direct contrast to what I have just said is the lack of stability among officers and senior N.C.O.s. Of the officers who arrived with the Regiment only one remains; of the company serjeant-majors none. No platoon has the same platoon commander or platoon serjeant. This constant changing that takes place is unsettling and unsatisfactory and makes long-term planning within the Regiment terribly difficult. The best-laid plans of mice and men are exposed to continual adjustment.

On the eve of the move, the reactions to the tour in Penang and the Far East from the riflemen and families are interesting. Talking to riflemen, it is quite obvious that generally they have enjoyed the tours in Borneo where they "were doing a proper job." The fact that they were deprived of all creature comforts mattered not one wit and for those trying to build up recruiting this is a most noteworthy point. They enjoyed the independence and responsibility of operating by platoon and sections, and the knowledge that they were regarded as real men and treated as such. They took pride in the results of their work, the efficiency of their rugged patrols and arduous ambushes, and the strength and effectiveness of their patrol bases. They experienced the active support of artillery and mortar fire to the extent of nightly harassing fire becoming routine. And, above all, those who were lucky enough to have actual contacts dealt very severely with the Indonesian enemy without loss to themselves. Thus their spirit was high, and they earned and enjoyed the confidence of the local people. The families, too, despite the separations and difficulties of the past two and a half years, are sad to be leaving. They have enjoyed a high standard of living in Penang and their children have bloomed in the climate. The cold uncertainties of Europe loom damp and unattractive.

**1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

Of course, the pace of political and military life in the Far East, particularly over the past two years, dictated that everything should "take second place to operations or training for operations. The result has been that a number of less serious but very proper activities have been neglected during our stay out here. There has been no chance to produce properly trained sports teams. Individuals have not had the chance to make the best use of their leave. Adventure training has never started. These are things that everyone looks forward to in Berlin where we sincerely hope that life will be more orderly and predictable. There has been no opportunity in Penang for the Regiment to measure its ability against other Regiments in the way that will happen in Berlin, Soldiers are already looking forward to adventure training in Norway, skiing in Germany and the other activities that will replace the strictly professional and operational way of life in the Far East. Everyone is confident that the Regiment will take the challenge of this entirely different existence in its stride. And so, Mr Editor, I close for another year.

Your ever,
43rd and 52nd.

1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd
THE THIRD DIVISION OF SARAWAK
W. M. CRACKNELL

At the beginning of the Regiment's third Borneo tour "C" Company found itself detached from the remainder and under command of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles, in the Third Division of Sarawak for just under two months.

The Company took over an area which until a short time before had been occupied by a Gurkha battalion, but at the time there was only a large company group left on the ground. Security forces were stationed in this area, which appeared from the enemy point of view to be an unlikely and uninviting incursion route, because there had in fact been a large-scale incursion there about six months before the Company arrived.

The area to be occupied was known as the Third Division East and comprised almost all the Kapit District. The surface area was some 16,000 square miles, nearly half the area of Ireland, and had nearly 300 miles of frontier with Indonesia. The defence of this was an interesting task for the some 110 men of the Company.

The boundary to the Company area was the watershed of the Rajang River and its two main tributaries, the Balleh and Balui Rivers. The border with Indonesia to the south and south-east was a high range of mountains rising to over 6,000 feet in places, the watershed to the east and north was less pronounced but also mountainous and to the west were rolling hills, which, further west beyond our area, gave way to the flat swamps of the Rajang Delta. Cutting the area in two was a high and rugged range of limestone mountains which at some prehistoric time had been pushed up through the jungle-clad hills from beneath. These are the Hose Mountains, which run out from the main southern watershed feature in a north-westerly direction and rise to over 6,000 feet,

This is big and wild country covered for the most part by high and uninhabited primary jungle. There is life and cultivation however along the banks of the three large rivers and on many of the smaller ones. Beside these rivers the primary jungle gives way to stretches of secondary jungle which mark the abandoned hill padi fields. Here and there are cleared patches which are the hill padi fields in current use. No other cultivation is visible except for fruit trees in the immediate vicinity of the longhouses which are perched high on the river banks, standing on their stilts above the high water mark.

Living in these longhouses are the famous "Wildmen of Borneo" the handsome Ibans or Sea Dyaks, the less picturesque but more brave and artistic Kayans and Kenyans, and not in houses at all but in rudimentary shelters deep in the jungle the most primitive of all, the Punans. These were fascinating people to live amongst.

The only town in the area is Kapit, where the District Officer has his offices, his various officers live and an old Rajah Brooke fort is in use as the administrative building. This is a more cosmopolitan community, Kapit is the administrative and trading centre for this vast area and as such supports a large Chinese bazaar with several communities of Chinese, speaking different dialects. It has a large Malay kampong, a government cantonment with a rest house and most beautiful lily-strewn ornamental lake. Each tribe living up river also has its own little community in Kapit. There is a large Methodist mission running schools and a modern, well-equipped hospital. The town also has its own water and electricity supply and telephone service.

1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd

It was naturally to Kapit that Company Headquarters went. The town was completely indefensible by its small garrison and the administration seemed only interested in our presence, almost forbidding the carriage of arms or digging of trenches.

The platoon positions were more warlike. 9 Platoon, commanded by 2nd Lieut. John Beddard, was at Belaga Airstrip on the Rajang some 80 miles up-stream from Kapit. The airstrip which was used at very irregular intervals by Borneo Airways Twin Pioneers is about three miles down river from Belaga Bazaar, the only administrative outpost of the district officer. Here there is another splendid, robust, wooden Rajah Brooke fort in which one found the Sarawak administrative officer, his clerk, a postman who worked the radio and in a filthy dark corner underneath, the maternity room. There was also the bazaar which consisted of a long row of shops, the dispensary and the school.

Although 9 Platoon spent a great deal of time and effort in preparing for battle with the Indonesians, their only warlike act was when firing from their stand-to positions to shoot the sump out of a P.W.D. runway roller.

10 Platoon, who were under the command of Lieut. Hugh Dumas, were no luckier as far as catching Indonesians was concerned. It was at Long Jawi, the site of the large incursion, which had prompted the presence of troops in the district, some 120 miles east of Company Headquarters tucked in behind the Hose Mountains on the River Balui. This defensive position was almost of the Korean War style except the platoon lived above ground. Long Jawi is about 30 miles from the frontier and is the last permanent habitation on the River Balui on the Sarawak side of the frontier. Many of its inhabitants had their tribal homes over the border in Indonesia but no intelligence was forthcoming from this source as they were too frightened to travel across the boundary.

The third platoon position was on the southern tributary of the Rajang, the River Balleh, at a place named Nunga Gaat. This means mouth of the River Gaat. It is in the heart of the Iban country and their Paramount Chief, Dato Temonggong Jugah, had his house within the platoon perimeter.

At Nunga Gaat there was also a forward base from which operated three Royal Naval Wessex helicopters. Their security was 11 Platoon's chief concern and the task was such that they were augmented by the antitank section of 12 Platoon, the mortar section of which was with Company Headquarters.

2nd Lieut. David Roberts commanded this platoon who also saw no enemy in this part of their tour but were kept alert by cows wandering near the wire by night and the spirits of Japanese soldiers said to have been divorced from their heads by Ibans in the area of one of the section positions.

The control and administration of this vast area presented considerable problems for a normal rifle company and without the magnificent support of the helicopters, which never once failed to complete a task, life would have been difficult in the extreme.

The normal re-supply was about as diverse as could be under the circumstances. Kapit was well served by nightly launch schedules downstream to the divisional capital of Sibul, where the Royal Ulster Rifles had their Battalion Headquarters.

**1964 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

This journey was just over 90 miles and could take anything from 16 hours in a Chinese launch to three hours in a tiny speed boat—the latter means could be quite exciting in the dark as the Rajang was always strewn with logs. Food and many of the extras of life could be obtained in the bazaar, so Company Headquarters were well looked after.

Nunga Gaat is only about 35 miles upstream from Kapit so they were supplied every other day from Company Headquarters by native longboat. There was only one set of rapids on this journey and the Company boatmen soon mastered the navigational intricacies of this trip. 11 Platoon were also well placed as the helicopters brought in supplies from Sibu and Kapit when they had room.

Belaga was on air re-supply, and air-dropping was easy onto the airstrip. They were also able to buy certain small items in the bazaar. The positioning of 9 Platoon on take-over and abandonment of the airstrip on our departure was not so simple. Twin Pioneers which could operate from the strip were not available and the helicopters were doing other tasks so these two trips had to be done by water in the local longboats. The journey involved traversing a very severe series of rapids around which the passengers had to walk. Our predecessors unluckily lost a boat load of stores on these Pelagus Rapids but we were more fortunate and came through unscathed on both journeys.

Long Jawi was the most distant and remote outpost which had to rely entirely on airdrops and helicopters. Here the dropping zone was not so satisfactory and often parachutes would land in the river or a bog.

Salvaging 44-gallon helicopter fuel drums was an interesting exercise which was put out to local tender. Local boatmen carried them from Long Jawi down river to Belaga in longboats where there were many more awaiting salvaging. A "Kon Tiki"-type raft was then made out of the thousand-odd barrels which were held together with rattan. This raft was floated down stream gently nudged by a little longboat with an out-board motor until it reached the Pelagus Rapids. Here the raft was dismantled and each barrel took its chance over the rapids. At the bottom they were collected and assembled again for their journey to Sibu via Kapit. The raft crew cooked, ate and slept on the raft during their three-week journey but at the end they made what for them was a small fortune out of their adventure. They had never seen so much money and were unable to count it

"C" Company saw no enemy during this initial period of the third Borneo tour but it was fascinating to live amongst these near-legendary people and to see their beautiful, unspoilt country. The whole period was a very useful and interesting exercise for us all.