

**1965 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

DIARY OF EVENTS 1965

During January, February, and half of March the Regiment returned from Penang to England by air, had foreign service furlough, and prepared for the move to Berlin.

March

15th - Advance Party of the Regiment arrived at R.A.F. Gatow, Berlin.

April

5th - 1st aircraft of main body arrived at Gatow airfield.

6th - Captain B. E. A. Pascoe rejoined the Regiment.

7th - Rifleman R. A. Edwards of "A" Company died in England.

9th - The Regiment was complete in Montgomery Barracks, Berlin.

26th - Captain B. E. A. Pascoe commenced his duties as adjutant.

Captain C. E. W. Jones was posted to "B" Company as second-in-command on relinquishing the appointment of adjutant.

May

8th - The Regimental Rugby Team beat a Berlin Police side 31—3.

10th - Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., visited the Regiment.

15th - The Regiment took part in the Allied Forces Day Parade.

27th - H.M. The Queen inspected the Berlin Inf. Bde., on the Maifeld Stadium. The Regiment, with the band and buglers were on parade. Lieut. P. G. Chamberlain and Corporal Hobbs were both presented to H.M. The Queen in the English Garden.

31st - Regimental Athletics Meeting won by "C" Company.

June

11th - Brigade Athletics Meeting. The Regiment was third.

15th - Regimental detachment departed for Brussels to attend the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

18th - Waterloo Day.

Regimental Swimming Gala won by H.Q. Company.

The Commanding Officer announced at the All Ranks Dance the following awards for gallantry in Borneo:

Military Cross—to Lieut. D. J. M. Roberts.

Mention in Despatches—C/Sjt Walker, L/Cpl Stephenson, Rfn Cowan.

22nd - Regimental Contingent returned from Brussels.

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25th - A party of Officers from the 2/6 U.S. Infantry Battalion dined with the Officers of the Regiment.

26th - Brigade Swimming Championships won by the Regiment.

July

5th - The Regiment moved to Sennelager training area in Western Germany for three weeks training,

14th - 1 Div. Swimming Finals won by the Regiment.

16th - 1 Br. Corps support weapons concentration at Putlos.
The Regiment won the 3" mortar and anti-tank competitions.

22nd - The Regiment returned from Sennelager.

28th - The Regiment won the B.A.O.R. Swimming Championships held in Berlin.

29th - Colonel Commandant talked to the Regiment and announced that Major-General H. J. Mogg would succeed him as Colonel Commandant.

August

3rd - 2nd Lieut, J. P. Dill joined the Regiment on commissioning from Mons O.C.S.

4th - General Sir James Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., the Chief of the General Staff visited the Regiment, and lunched with the Officers,

24th - The Regiment, in company with the 4/18 U.S. Infantry Bn., and supported by two platoons of "F" Company Berlin Armoured Regt, prepared for a dawn river crossing of the Havel.

September

2nd - Berlin Inf. Bde. Rifle Meeting which the Regiment won.

8th - The Regiment won the Army Swimming Championship held at Eltham Baths, London, defeating 3rd Bn, Parachute Regiment by two points.

9th - A team from "C" Company came second in the Berlin Inf. Bde. driving competition held in Western Germany.

16th - Lieut.-Colonel D. G. House, O.B.E., M.C., said "Farewell" to the Regiment. The Command of the Regiment passed from Lieut.-Colonel D. G. House, O.B.E., M.C., to Lieut.-Colonel O. G. Pratt.

21st - Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs D. G. House left Berlin prior to his assuming command of 51 Gurkha Inf. Bde. Gp., in Brunei.

23rd -The Rt. Hon. Fred Mulley, M.P., Secretary of State for War, visited the Regiment and lunched with the officers.

Major M. M. V. W. Beak joined the Regiment from 2nd The Royal Green Jackets.

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26th - Major W. S. C. Chevis rejoined the Regiment as second-in-command.

27th - Major C. A. S. Hinton rejoined the Regiment to assume command of "A" Company vice Captain F. J. B. Taylor.



Lieut.-Colonel O. G. Pratt

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October

5th - 2nd Lieut. R. D, Rimmer joined the Regiment from R.M.A. Sandhurst.
Inter-Company Boxing Finals won by H.Q. Company.

16th - 2nd Lieut. A. F. Green left the Regiment on the termination of his short service commission.

19th - Regiment moved to Soltau Training Area for three weeks' training.

23rd - The Regimental football team beat 18 Med, Regiment by 2 goals to 1 in the 1st round of the Army Cup at Munster.

November

12th - The Regiment lost to 1 Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers by one point in the first round of the Army Cup for Boxing.

17th - Regimental squash team beat Brixmis in the first round of the Army Cup. (Brixmis: British Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany.)

18th - The Regiment was informed that it had won the Queen Victoria Trophy in the Home Series of the A.R.A. non-central

19th - The Regiment celebrated Nonne Bossehen Day with a Regimental holiday.

25th - The Regiment was defeated in the second round of the Army Cup Squash by 1 Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

28th - The Bishop of Maidstone addressed the Regiment.

December

1st - The Regiment won the Brigade Cross-Country Championships.

16th - The Regiment assumed responsibility for guarding Spandau Prison.
News of the award of the Military Cross to Captain R. D. Letts received.

December 28th

GREEN JACKETS BRIGADE

By virtue of the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 22nd December 1965 (published in Army Order 69 of 1965) all officers of the Land Forces belonging to 1st Green Jackets (43rd and 52nd), 2nd Green Jackets (The King's Royal Rifle Corps), and 3rd Green Jackets (The Rifle Brigade), will be transferred to The Royal Green Jackets with effect from 1st January 1966.

30th -The Regiment handed over the responsibility for guarding Spandau Prison to 3rd Royal Anglians.

31st - Regimental Christmas holiday for four days.

2359 hours—The Regiment ceased to be known as 1st Green Jackets 43rd and 52nd.

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January 1966

1st - 0001 hours—The Regiment assumed the title of 1ST BATTALION, THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS (43RD AND 52ND).

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THE 43RD AND 52ND LETTER

Dear Editor,

The last letter to the CHRONICLE described and commented on the end of an era in which the Regiment saw much active service in Borneo and Sarawak. This letter describes the beginning of another era in the history of the Regiment when we find ourselves soldiering once again on active service, on an island of democracy deep in the midst of East Germany.

Gone are the days of operations against Indonesian infiltrators where initiative and planning to outwit the enemy featured so much in the life of every member of the Regiment. Inherited are firm plans and operation orders made many years ago and frequently revised giving us our orders in the event of the "cold" suddenly turning into "hot."

This almost stereotyped existence at first took a good deal of time to digest, but the Regiment rapidly adapted itself to the new problems and conditions. Thoughts and memories of the past three years were pushed into the background, though of course not the lessons learned.

Berlin must be one of the few places in the world where politics play such a large part in the military field. Soldiering here is at times, perplexing at times frustrating, often interesting and great fun. Yet so often the tasks we are called upon to perform are the result of the tremendous game of political chess that is played almost continuously by the British, Americans, French and Russians.

"They" presumably understand the game and can see the next move but often, to us the simple soldier, it is all rather confusing. As an example, when we first arrived here we spent a considerable part of our time guarding the Russian guards who were guarding the Russian War Memorial, situated just inside the Western Sector—this understandably caused much comment, shaking of heads, and sucking of teeth about our old friends "they."

However, Berlin itself is a fascinating city and has much to offer in entertainment and interest. The results of the devastation wrought upon it by the bombing of the last war are still to be seen in both sectors, but West Berlin proudly sports new buildings and blocks of flats of impressive proportions and modern design. The Berliners themselves have an air of great industry and prosperity.

The Western Sector appears normal and indeed apart from the language differences and odd customs it could be any large city in England. However, no large city in England has running through its heart a wall. Not a very impressive wall, in fact everyone who sees it for the first time is surprised how small it is. Yet its effectiveness needs no mention. It is a sobering moment indeed when, having driven down broad avenues to the impressive Brandenburg Gate, one's progress is halted by the wall. That, for an ideal, a city should be divided by a man-made barrier is tragic in the extreme and more than hints at weaknesses in the application of the communist ideology.

In the eight months since our arrival in Berlin we have made quite a name for ourselves, both militarily and at games. Our great achievement was our victory in the Army Swimming Championships in September, winning on the way the Berlin Bde, 1 Div., and B.A.O.R, Championships into the bargain. We are all justifiably proud of this victory, the first the Regiment has had in any Army Championship for 30 years.

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A Regimental sentry in Berlin

Our first real attempt at shooting since leaving Warminster also paid off handsomely when we heard that we had won the Queen Victoria Trophy (Home Series) in the A.R.A. non-central meeting. This was very heartening news and plans are now being laid for the shooting team to take Bisley by storm in 1966. We also won the Bde. rifle meeting, our representation being in fine form. Our Cross-Country team has convincingly won the Bde, Championships, came second in the 1 Div. Championships, and now will compete in the B.A.O.R. finals.

During the year. Generals Sir Gerald Lathbury and Peter Young visited us and each spent several days with the Regiment.

At 0001 hours, 1st January 1966, a small party of men under the direction of the Regimental Provost Serjeant was seen to be engaged in an operation of the utmost secrecy. A large heavily veiled board was moved with great care to the main gate and within minutes, in carefully pre-prepared positions, the board was installed and then unveiled to disclose the new name of the Regiment, and the beginning of another era.

Yours,
43rd and 52nd,