

THE THIRD

JUNGLE BOOK

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3 COMMANDO BRIGADE

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THE THIRD
JUNGLE BOOK

Being the Magazine of the Third Commando Brigade.

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No. 9.

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Editor Maj. I. V. Carrol.

Assistant Editor Lt C. Shanks, R.M.

THE THIRD JUNGLE BOOK

Being the History of the Third Commando Brigade

COMPILED BY

Major J. V. Cress

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ROLL OF CONTENTS IN MEMORY

	Page
Special Orders of the Day by:	
Lt. Gen. Sir A. F. Philip Christie	7
Maj. Gen. G. N. Wood	7
Maj. Gen. H. E. Laycock	8
Maj. Gen. R. G. Stargis	8
Speech made by the C.C.O.	9
Letter from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten	12
Letters to the "JUNGLE BOOK"	14
NO ONE COMMANDO	15
NO FIVE COMMANDO	21
NO 42 COMMANDO, R.M.	25
NO 44 COMMANDO, R.M.	25
H.Q. 3 Commando Bde	42
3 Troop R.M. Engineer Cdo	49
3 Commando Bde Signal Troop	51
Padon Column	55
Sports: Mares	60

IN MEMORY—



In Memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice both in the First World War and in the last: who gave their lives on land, sea and in the air—in Europe, Africa, Italy and Burma; and in particular men of this Brigade who lost their lives at Shanghai, Myittha, Aithangyau and Kangaw.

"At I should die stand only one of me,
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England."

ROLL OF HONOUR — NO. 1 COMMANDO.

KILLED IN ACTION.

218901	Lt. Hulse-Hague	Kangaw	Nov. 45
5735209	Pte. Coman, W. J.	Myittha	Jan. 45
14804555	Pte. Andrews,	Kangaw	Jan. 45
2614123	Lt. Sgt. Baker, (DCO), A.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
14241781	Lt. Cpl. Baker, H. V.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
6143891	Ger. Baker, G. H.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
1452353	Ger. Boney, J. G. A.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
6024281	Pte. Boney, J. W.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
6246248	Ger. Clay, F. H.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
6932424	Lt. Cpl. Dunning, J.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
1416673	Ger. Dickson, G.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
2185314	Pte. Dunnington, J.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
583587	Ger. Graves, L. F.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
2013288	Cpl. Jones, H. E.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
823568	Lt. G. A. Knowland, (VC)	Kangaw	Jan. 45
6991185	Ngt. Lander, H. F.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
2364680	Pte. Lines, J. R.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
16894377	Lt. Cpl. Lloyd, E. J.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
3965889	Lt. Sgt. Morris, (RSM) M. F.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
2427719	Asst. Palmer, A. A.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
7645236	Pte. Pfa, A.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
7366256	Lt. Cpl. Eubank, H. G.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
5023808	Cpl. Wallis, D.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
14241819	Pte. Watts, E. E.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
6482243	Pte. Wilson, G. C.	Kangaw	Jan. 45
3296421	Lt. Cpl. Young, J. A.	Kangaw	Jan. 45

DEED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION AT KANGAW JAN. 45.

14242783	Cpl. Beardon, T. J.
5284118	Pte. Landon, M. A.
14804582	Pte. Taylor, W. R.

DEED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

3655085	Ger. Hinchman, C. A.	Winnipeg Bay, 45
3786364	Pte. Lucas	Sunderland Aug. 45
5734813	Pte. Radman, J. T.	Hong Kong Nov. 45
327612	2/Lt. Thorsley, J. P.	Pinna July 45
1154949	Pte. Walden, E. O. W.	Polgona May 45

ROLL OF HONOUR — NO. 5 COMMANDO.

KILLED IN ACTION.

7349972	Pte. Betts, A.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
7349989	Pte. Bevis, W. J.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
2023254	Pte. Bishop, J.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
4238998	Pte. Bondford, A. C.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
1164415	Cor. Bond, L.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
1813419	Cor. Chambers, F. A.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
7809234	Tpr. Dickson, A.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
14777473	2nd. Station, P.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
7820319	Cor. Green, A. L.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
4237542	Sgt. Haldane, F. H. M.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
5213420	Pte. Handford, A.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
14205498	Pte. Harris, T. L.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
5200085	Pte. Hodges, J. R.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
1454448	Pte. Hurley, F.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
7411560	Sgt. Kelly, G. W.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
14411453	Rtd. Lacey, C. W.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
14237303	Pte. McGowan, S. J.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
2347436	Cpl. Mack, W.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
5513082	Pte. Peach, L. A.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
14110424	Pte. Ruchman, W. M.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
14205788	Pte. Tordoff, R.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
728587	Pte. Wheeler, R.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
911779	Cor. Williams, J.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
198715	1st. S. Broad	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
14044264	Pte. Tinsall, L. F.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
2125425	Pte. Smith, E. J.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
6914005	Rtd. Flowers, C.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
5492291	L. Bdr. Mason, D. C.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
54211519	Rtd. Stapleton, A.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
4232734	Cpl. Taylor, R. C.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
824737	L. Cpl. Tuma, F.	Hydon	Jan. 45.
14044285	Pte. Bane, S.	Hydon	Jan. 45.

DEAD OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION.

1402738	Pte. Bane, S. J.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
5652718	L. Cpl. Sylvester, G.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
6196985	Pte. Lewis, S.	Manuplan	Mar. 44.
600997	L. Cpl. Jones, S.	Hydon	Jan. 45.
3247843	L. Cpl. Riddle, J. R.	Hydon	Jan. 45.
14737490	Pte. Tooth, R.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

1029444	Rtd. Freeman, E.	Cocacoda	May 44.
6805645	Rtd. Cook, H. J.	Hong Kong	Dec. 45.
14579648	Pte. Phillips, W. J.	Hong Kong	Mar. 46.

ROLL OF HONOUR — NO. 42 COMMANDO, R. M.

KILLED IN ACTION.

14. J. G. Jones	Kanaw	Jan. 45.	
14. Raper Hall	Kanaw	Jan. 45.	
KX 5190	Cpl. W. J. Dell	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 1219	Cpl. J. Whithead	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 1384	Cpl. J. Best	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PLY/X 164652	Cpl. J. Bowdoin	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 5812	L. Cpl. E. W. Thorscroft	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 5297	L. Cpl. J. H. Criley	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PO/X 115944	L. Cpl. L. A. Rogers	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PO/X 114918	L. Cpl. G. Holliday	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 4399	2nd. Lt. S. King	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 3698	Mos. J. Green	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
KX 4776	Mos. F. G. Crutchell	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
CH/X 3973	Mos. C. W. S. Rader	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
CH/X 2094	Mos. J. W. Fountain	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
CH/X 106699	Mos. W. S. S. S.	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
CH/X 106487	Mos. E. H. Phillips	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
CH/X 111764	Mos. T. W. Brown	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PO/X 122001	Mos. C. D. Shuttlesworth	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PO/X 112075	Mos. E. Carlyle	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PLY/X 140056	Mos. V. V. Smith	Kanaw	Jan. 45.
PLY/X 140071	Mos. E. F. Ellis	Kanaw	Jan. 45.

DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION AT KANAW JAN. 45.

KX 5342	Sgt. H. Jacques
KX 5558	Mos. O. G. G. G.
PL/X 110897	Mos. T. E. Brown

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

PO/X 160971	Mos. A. Brown	Manuplan	Nov. 44.
KX 3384	Mos. H. K. Ellis	Manuplan	Nov. 44.

ROLL OF HONOUR — 10th 30 JUNE NO. 44 COMMANDO, R. M.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Capt. A. Martin	Kangas	Jan. 45	
Rev. H. C. W. Ranger, RNVR.	Alibanggas	Mar. 44	
Lt. J. A. McKinnon	Alibanggas	Mar. 44	
EX 892	Cpl. A. V. Brown	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 5569	Mss. C. E. Beale	Kangas	Jan. 45
PO/X 120568	Mss. E. C. Nolan	Kangas	Jan. 45
PO/X 121962	Mss. V. Edwards	Kangas	Jan. 45
CH/X 391414	Cpl. R. F. Fleming	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 2454	Lt/Cpl. P. Frost	Kangas	Jan. 45
EX 8982	Lt/Cpl. A. Beath	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 1001509	Cpl. G. T. Hoop	Kangas	Jan. 45
EX 8888	Cpl. P. Kirby	Kangas	Jan. 45
CH 8889	Mss. F. G. Lewis	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 110662	Mss. D. McDonald	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 100365	Cpl. A. A. Marshall	Kangas	Jan. 45
PO/X 185640	Mss. J. Morrison	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 299828	Lt/Cpl. J. Marston	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 182102	Mss. C. E. Palmer	Kangas	Jan. 45
CH/X 306442	Lt/Cpl. L. W. Payne	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 198764	Mss. J. Pinkney	Kangas	Jan. 45
CH/X 298484	Lt/Cpl. L. Richardson	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 209980	Mss. D. Scott	Kangas	Jan. 45
PO/X 113170	Mss. A. J. Sheather	Kangas	Jan. 45
CH/X 104982	Mss. D. Shaw	Kangas	Jan. 45
PO/X 181881	Mss. J. W. Tennant	Kangas	Jan. 45
EX 4092	Mss. S. K. Walters	Kangas	Jan. 45
PLY/X 109564	Cpl. A. E. Williams	Kangas	Jan. 45
CH/X 160710	Lt/Cpl. G. Gray (Missing)	Alibanggas	Mar. 44
PO/X 120602	Mss. J. M. Ashworth	Kangas	Jan. 45
	Sgt. Whitsett	Alibanggas	Mar. 44
PLY/X 2183	Sgt. R. D. Goss	Alibanggas	Mar. 44

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

PLY/X 191423	Mss. W. J. Watkins.
PLY/X 197394	Mss. C. W. East.
PLY/X 182792	Mss. G. Nelson.
EX 4981	Mss. S. Daly.
PLY/X 108646	Mss. E. Polkinghorne.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

V.C.		Unit.
Posthumous	Lieut. G. A. Knowland	No. 1 Commando.
"	Sgt. T. Durnant	No. 1 Commando.
2nd Bar to D.S.O.		
Brigadier	C. E. Hardy, D.S.O.	Brigade H.Q.
D.S.O.		
Colonel	H. D. Fellows	No. 42 Commando.
Lt-Colonel	K. E. S. Trevor	No. 1 Commando.
Bar to M.C.		
Lt-Colonel	J. H. S. TURNER, M.C.	No. 1 Commando.
M.C.		
Capt.	J. J. Y. Dawson	No. 1 Commando.
"	J. G. Jones	No. 1 Commando.
"	E. Langley	No. 42 Commando.
"	J. G. L. Larcher	No. 1 Commando.
"	G. Kerr	No. 5 Commando.
Lt.	R. Noble	No. 5 Commando.
D.C.M.		
C.S.M.	A. W. Shoop	No. 1 Commando.
V.S.M.	A. J. Walsh	No. 49 Commando.
Lt/Sgt.	A. Duckertill	No. 1 Commando.
N.M.		
Lt. Col.	H. Snow	No. 42 Commando.
R.S.M.	J. J. Denny	No. 1 Commando.
C.S.M.	G. W. Kennedy	No. 44 Commando.
Lt. Sgt.	J. Cross	No. 1 Commando.
Sgt.	E. W. Baldwin	No. 1 Commando.
Sgt.	L. C. Oliver	No. 1 Commando.
Cpl.	A. B. Pirie	Brigade Engineers.
Cpl.	R. F. Russell	No. 42 Commando.
Cpl.	E. Fenton	No. 42 Commando.
Sgt.	W. J. Barker	No. 44 Commando.
Pte.	G. Gibson	No. 5 Commando.
T.S.M.	W. Ferguson	No. 5 Commando.
Gnr.	S. Board	No. 1 Commando.
Sgt.	H. Barrow	No. 1 Commando.
Pte.	W. Irving	No. 1 Commando.
Pte.	E. Allen, 86	No. 1 Commando.
Pte.	W. Aird	No. 1 Commando.

Pls.	J. T. Coker	No. 1 Commando
Pls.	G. Webb	No. 1 Commando
Sgt.	G. I. Nader	No. 1 Commando
Lt. Col.	T. B. Herbert	No. 42 Commando
Lt. Sgt.	R. H. Butler	No. 1 Commando

Mentions in Despatches.

Lt. Col.	D. B. Brynawel	Brigade H.Q.
Lt. Col.	C. J. B. Politt, M.C.	No. 5 Commando
Lt. Col.	P. W. C. Hollings, D.S.C., M.C.	No. 42 Commando
Capt.	K. W. Scoble	No. 1 Commando
Capt.	S. Nise	No. 1 Commando
Capt.	E. G. Balke	No. 5 Commando
Capt.	J. W. F. Richardson	No. 44 Commando
Capt.	E. M. Stanger	No. 44 Commando
Capt.	E. E. Richardson	Brigade H.Q.
Capt.	A. Martin	No. 44 Commando
Lt.	A. B. White	No. 44 Commando
Rev.	H. C. W. Manger	No. 44 Commando
Pls.	T. W. Pancherton	No. 44 Commando
Cpt.	W. E. Lavender	No. 44 Commando
Lt. Cpl.	J. Ward	No. 1 Commando
Lt. Cpl.	D. Walker	No. 1 Commando
Pls.	S. Bala	No. 1 Commando
Pls.	J. Boyce	No. 1 Commando
Cor.	W. Bigham	No. 1 Commando
Eds.	Habib, T. J.	No. 1 Commando
Pls.	F. Sayer	No. 1 Commando
Pls.	A. Chatterjee	No. 1 Commando
Capt.	S. D. Smith	No. 42 Commando
R.Q.M.S.	S. Hardley	No. 5 Commando
R.Q.M.S.	W. J. Downe	No. 42 Commando
Drum.	J. D. Jones, (instrument)	No. 42 Commando
Sgt.	W. G. J. Everett	No. 42 Commando
Lt. Cpl.	G. E. Gray	No. 42 Commando
Lt. Cpl.	R. King	No. 5 Commando
Lt. Col.	A. W. Blaw	No. 5 Commando

Certificates of Gallantry and Mentions in Despatches.

Lt. Cpl.	W. Tuffy	No. 1 Commando
Pls.	Vincent	No. 1 Commando

M.E.E.

Lt. Col.	C. R. M. Stuart	No. 5 Commando
Rev.	R. Kirkland	Brigade H.Q.
Major	A. B. Uttam	Brigade H.Q.

R.E.M.

Sgt.	W. Wright	Brigade H.Q.
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SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by
LT. GEN. SIR A. F. PHILIP CHRISTISON, KBE, CB, MC,
 COMMANDING IN CHIEF CORPS.

HAVING been placed under command of 15 Ind Corps to lead assaults in particularly hazardous and important amphibious operations, you have successfully completed the tasks which were assigned to you.

Your courage and determination in assault and attack, your tenacity and aggressiveness in defence and counter attack have won the praise and admiration of the Commanders and Troops, British, Indian and Gurkha of all other formations engaged in the operations and who fought beside you. Through your exploits at AKYAR, MYERON and KANGAW and the valuable recommendations which you made during the Arabian Coast, you have gained a reputation throughout the Corps for indifference to personal danger.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by
MAJOR GENERAL G. N. WOOD, CBE, MC.

ON the victorious conclusion of the operations for the capture of MYERON Peninsula and the cutting of the enemy Lines of Communication at KANGAW. I wish, on behalf of 25 Ind Div to express to 5 Commando Brigade the admiration we feel for their support and fire in attack, and their aggressive and cheerful spirit when defensive actions have been imposed upon them. Three Commando Brigade has had a stern test—for many officers and men their baptism of fire—but they have emerged

for ruthless pursuit in success, for resourceful determination in adversity, which has been a source of inspiration to your Command in Arabia.

The battle of KANGAW has been the decisive battle of the whole Arabian Campaign and that it was won was very largely due to your magnificent defence of HE 150.

I am very proud of you and thank you all for the decisive contribution which you have made to the success of the Campaign and the rest of the War in this theatre of operations.

I deplore the loss of your gallant Comrades, and I trust that your wounded may soon be restored to your ranks.

For the future, I wish you all happiness and success.

from it with a reputation of which all ranks must always be proud. Their comrades of 25 Ind Div deplore their losses among those many who had already become our personal friends, but these losses have been avenged in full.

I must not dwell among the fruits of our Victory the mutual trust and esteem which has been established on the battlefield between the members of a Commando Brigade and their British and especially their Indian Comrades of 25 Ind Div.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by

MAJ. GEN. R. E. LAYCOCK, D.S.O., C.O.

GENTLEMEN of the Colon, you will have heard that it has been decided to disband the Commando Group. I wish I could meet you all to-day to explain their decision to you and take leave of you in person, but I am only able to speak directly this afternoon to your Commandos, in the First Commando Brigade.

I hope, however, to visit you before you finally disperse.

With the disbandment of the Commando Group in Formation seemed to some in the Fighting Forces of Great Britain the Green Beret will be worn no more. It is a thing of war not of peace. It will be kept in

trust until such time—which God forbid should come—when it may be required again to meet the needs of the Nation at war.

Is you, the wearers of that Beret who have made it a symbol of honour and bravery unexpressed, I send you the unbounded gratitude of those whom you have served.

Your country is justly proud of you—your spirit and your valour will live for ever, in the souls of our Nation.

I wish you, in the days of peace, the great luck and lasting happiness you so well deserve. (Tuesday 14th October, 1945).

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by

MAJ. GEN. R. G. STURGES, C.B., D.S.O.

ON relinquishing the command of Commando Group I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to you all for your magnificent achievements, both in and out of battle. By your great courage, determined efforts, loyalty and discipline you have, on every occasion, achieved success and so deserved the word "Commando" across the world.

The Allies are proud of their Green Beret Bors. The enemy

fears them. Both have every reason to do so, for they have full well that you have done more to bring about the final defeat of Germany than any other formation of similar size.

Thank you all for the past and good luck for the future, whether it be leading days out of the jungle or "taking the lads" in your own home town or village.

Goodbye. Best of luck and lasting comradeship.

SPEECH MADE BY C.O. TO ARMY COMMANDOS OF 1 COMMANDO BRIGADE ON WEDNESDAY

20th OCTOBER, 1945.

OFFICERS and Gentlemen of the Commandos, since your formation in 1940 I have spoken to you on many occasions. In the early days as a Commander of one of your units, later, as your Brigade Commander and later still I have spoken to you as Chief of Combined Operations; but whenever I have spoken to you before it has always been in connection with operations either in training before a battle or in peace after one.

On the former occasions, in your concentration areas or at your Port of embarkation or on board ship enroute before the operations overseas, I spoke in absolute confidence that you would acquit yourselves in the highest of all traditions—the tradition of the commandos—and you never shook that confidence.

Always, later, on the field of battle or on return to your base, I have been able to read out to you, in glowing terms, the high praise and appreciation of the great Generals under whom you fought—Field Marshal Montgomery, General Leese, General Dempsey and many others.

Today there is no battle in store for you, nor have you lately fought one, yet nevertheless I am to-day more moved in speaking to you than ever before for my emotions are not now those which I felt when I spoke to you in the past—the anticipation of battle and the

exhilaration of coming danger—but they are deeper and more poignant emotions and they are those.

First, the emotions of unbounded gratitude which I feel for everyone of you who has helped to make the Green Beret of the Commandos a symbol of bravery and honour whenever it has been worn. Secondly, I am very conscious of the great privilege which I myself feel in having been associated with you and lastly, and most poignant of all, the emotions of the sadness of farewell. For I have come here to-day to tell you, on the instructions of the Prime Minister and of the Chiefs of Staff, that the Commando Group, most probably the finest fighting formation in the world, is now to be disbanded and that the Green Beret is a thing of war and not of peace.

When you have gone it shall be worn no more; for I do not propose that others shall be allowed to wear that distinctive headgear which by rights is yours and yours alone. It shall be kept in trust as the emblem of your corps drill until the day, if ever it comes, when the Commando Group shall be reformed to meet the needs of the Nation at war.

Do not for one moment infer from all this that I am one who shies or apprehends of war—in the contrary I feel, as I am certain everyone here feels, that war with its unthinkable suffer-

ings and horrors, is inhuman; and I thank God with all my heart that it is over and done with.

And yet, out of all the frightfulness of war there emerges something of confidence and something to be admired; for who can say that there is a more splendid example of endurance than that which the Commandos have met during the dark misery which the world has just been through—the high resolve to endure and not to count the cost in the service of your King and Country, the love of adventure, and the skill and loyalty, and heroism conspicuous of which sometimes ended so tragically in supreme sacrifice of many of your comrades—this is the spirit of the Commandos which Great Britain is so justly proud.

I must therefore admit to you, how ever grateful I am that the war is over, and it is with a feeling of very deep regret that it has fallen to my lot to tell you—the Commandos, who have fought with such distinction in Norway and the Islands of the North, in France in Belgium, in Holland and in Germany, in Africa and in Egypt, in Crete and in Syria, in Sicily and in Italy, on the shores and in the Islands of the Adriatic, and on the beaches and in the villages of the Ardenne and of Normandy—is, I repeat, with deep regret that I must tell you today that you are to be disbanded.

Some of you will doubtless wonder, knowing full well how high a dividend has been paid by the Commandos in this war,

why it should now be decided to disband them; but I can only tell you that the reasons put forward are extremely flattering to yourselves.

In the post-war period which faces us, when the future of the Nation must be pulled very tight indeed and when the Armed Forces of the Crown must be run down, to a bare minimum, it is not considered good policy to retain in our formation so great a wealth of talent as is concentrated in a Commando Unit.

That talent must now be spread about and absorbed by other less inspired units.

Gentlemen, you have been described as the cream skimmed off the milk and you have been condemned to your eternal credit, of setting too high a standard in the Army. This Corps d'élite we cannot afford in peace time and you must now go on to form the general standard.

But do not imagine that you will be going without the deep gratitude of those whom you have served—you will go with their eternal thanks, and I have been asked specially to give you a personal message from Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, in profound appreciation of your splendid service.

Do not imagine either that the case for your retention has not been fought. It has been fought in no uncertain way for you by your Commandos, General William Lushington, and it was not until long and grave deliberations had been entered into that the decision

to disband you was taken by my own in a position better placed than either General Lushington or myself to judge what is really in the best interests of the Nation as a whole. I therefore come to ask you to accept that decision without question and with your accustomed loyalty.

Three things I would say to you before we part.

First, as I told you, the Commando Group, as you know it will be broken up so that those of you who still have a period to serve before your age group is due for discharge, or those of you who consider that soldiering is your profession and want to stay in the service, will now return from the Combined Operations Command to the Army Proper. That is to say, you will now pass from my control to that of the War Office.

I have been given a solemn promise by the War Office, backed by the Adjutant General in person, that they will do their utmost to see that you get the treatment you deserve. You will be retained, if at all possible, in the Unit from which you originally volunteered and furthermore, whenever possible you will be placed in appointments which would enable you to retain the active part which you have reached in the Commandos, in many cases I sincerely hope you will get promotion.

The second thing is that the work which you have done in developing a special technique has not been done in vain.

That technique will be kept

alive in the experimental and training establishments of the Combined Operations Command by personnel of the Royal Marines set apart for that duty; but they will not wear the Green Beret because that part of your uniform, as I have already told you, is to be kept in trust for the Commando Group of the future for, if ever we go to war again, which God forbid, you can bet your bottom dollar that Commando Group will be reformed.

Lastly, Gentlemen, it would doubtless take some time to implement decisions of which I have spoken and you will therefore remain together as Commandos for some days or weeks to come. How long I cannot tell you, but I am going to ask every single individual here to play your part during that period just as you have always played your part for the sake of the name of Commandos. There may be a tendency with a few of you to think that your job is over and done with and that what you do now does not matter. I can assure you that this is not the case; for any lapse of the splendid discipline which has been perhaps your greatest attribute (for it makes for all the highest qualities in the soldier) would result in discredit to the Corps d'élite you have served so faithfully throughout the war. The memory of the general public is so short that even small incidents of ill discipline may sight seriously, if not ruin, your splendid name. You are leaving the Commandos when

your reputation is at its peak and I look to everyone of you to ensure that that reputation is not tarnished. I feel confident that I can rely on you.

And now Gentlemen I will bid you farewell and in doing so I would beg you to keep in touch with me. I should like some of you to hesitate in the future to write to me, or to come to me in person, if any of you thinks that I can be of the slightest help to you or your families and my wife has particularly asked that I should give you the same message from her. At some times we take some time to answer. I know that you will bear with us for we are busy people.

Gentlemen, the word Command is to me at once the

most and most glorious in the Korish language. It is a word which will never die in the annals of war.

It is my most cherished memory that I have had the great honor to be associated with that name which stands for loyal and devoted service, and that matchless bravery which has done so much to bring victory to this, the greatest country on earth.

Gentlemen, Good-bye. I wish you in the days of peace which lie ahead great good luck and lasting happiness which you so well deserve.

MAJ. GENERAL R. E. LAYCOCK, D.S.O.

Chief of Combined Operations.

LETTER FROM ADMIRAL LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

I WISH to express to all of you of 3 Commando Brigade, my sincere appreciation of all that you have done, and of the way you have done it.

I have taken a very special interest in your Brigade, since I personally selected you to come from my late Command to my present Command; so that many of you have been under my direct command for more than four years. In fact, even before that, when I was C.C.O., I selected the 3 Commando for the Madagascar landings, and the 1 Commando for the landings in North Africa, and I was responsible for the forming of the

Royal Marine Commandos and organizing the special force into four brigades of four Commandos each, of which two were allotted to North Africa, one to the Mediterranean, and one to South East Asia. It was that allotment I had in mind to give the Commandos an opportunity of proving their worth in every theatre of war.

So you can imagine that I watched your career in the South East Asia Command with growing interest and pride.

You played a notable part in our victory over Japan. Your exploits at Mangrove, Bethlehem, Algha and Mubo,



Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, with Maj. Gen. F. W. Peeling and the R. & A. Officers' Club of the great great white building and men of the R.A.

and the raids on the Arakan Coast was long be remembered; as well as the magnificent show you put up at Kaogay in the face of very heavy odds, when Lieutenant Rowland was the V.C.

I had foreseen that you would play an increasingly important role in our operations here; in the great assault on Malaya, which was to culminate in a direct assault on Singapore.

When the unexpectedly early surrender of the Japanese made the operations unnecessary, I personally selected the 3 Commando Brigade for one of the most important occupational tasks of the post-war, Hong Kong; and I have to have a

chance to come up to Hong Kong to take my personal farewell of you before you are disbanded.

I greatly regret that the decision has been taken to disband the Army Commandos; but I am glad to think that the Royal Marine Commandos will continue to uphold the tradition of the Commandos as a whole. I am so proud of my long association with the Commandos.

When you are back at home, I am confident that your courage, discipline and cheerfulness will help you to overcome the difficulties in the post-war world as you did in the war itself. Good luck to everyone of the Commandos.

LETTERS TO THE JUNGLE BOOK.

FROM MAJ. GEN. R. E. MARRAS-
Lansington, C.R.E.

NATIONAL requirements have necessitated the relocation of 3 Cdo Bde in S.E. ASIA instead of their return home and their disbandment. This number of *The Jungle Book* is, therefore, not necessarily a final edition but rather a *souvenir* or *farewell* number, mainly for the benefit of those old warriors who are now leaving the Brigade having completed their task—the defeat of the Anlu powers.

I have enjoyed my stint at the *Jungle Book* ever since its first publication in the Spring of 1944, at the time when I was in the Staff of the Supreme Allied Commander.

I consider it to have been a most enterprising effort which truly reflects the fine spirit of 3 Commando Brigade. I congratulate the editors, staff and all ranks whose interest and hard work have helped to make the magazine such a success.

To members of the editorial staff as well as to all ranks of 3 Cdo Bde who have left or are now about to leave I wish all good fortune and prosperity in the future; to those remaining I wish good luck and happiness in their continuing in China and a safe and speedy return to their homes.

From Brigadier W. J.
Newell

IT is with real disappointment that I hear this is to be the

last number of the Third Jungle Book. It is a long cry from that home from home (1) KINGMAON to KOWLOON. The Brigade has made an *amazing* journey, and those of you who number among the originals will have varying memories of Naha, Mawpoh, Sibhat, Gwanan, Bangkoku and Tripunawadi—the last center. Then Taknaf, Akayh, Myelon and Kungun—where the Brigade set out on its reputation—before a rest at Kharakrasa. And now Hong Kong.

To all of you wherever you may go and whatever you may do, when the time comes for you to leave the Brigade, the very best of good fortune. I have no doubt that you will take innumerable happy memories of 3 Cdo Bde with you. The best I can wish you is that you may find in any future occupation something of the team spirit which you have found in 3 Cdo Bde.

I cannot end without expressing on behalf of myself and all the others who have not had the fortune to see the whole war with you, how much we owe the original editor and all who have helped him, for the very hard work he has put in in producing the Third Jungle Book which has given so much pleasure to many and enabled those not there to keep touch with happenings of 1, 5, 42 & 44 Commandos which will long be remembered with pride.

From Brigadier C. R. Hardy,
D.S.O.

THE Third Jungle Book has served as a record of the activities of the Brigade for over two and a half years.

It is perhaps most valued by relatives, and by those who have left.

The steadily rising circulation, and the healthy balance sheet are a sufficient tribute to the efforts of the Editor and contributors.

The present number marks the passing of the old Brigade, and will bring back many memories of the Green Beret in the FAR East.

From Brigadier B. D.
Fellows, D.S.O.

I SHOULD like to take this opportunity of wishing good-

bye and good luck to all who are leaving us here recently left this Brigade. It is very sad to see you going and we are very grateful for all you have done to assist in making the Brigade what it is.

I hope that this number of the Third Jungle Book will form an interesting souvenir and record of your service in 3 Commando Brigade, and aim that it will act as an inspiration to those who are continuing to serve in this Formation.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank the Editors and all who have assisted in producing this Magazine.

To those who have gone or are leaving shortly good-buck wherever you may be and to those who have recently joined us we are glad to welcome you.



A General
From the
Commando marching
away from Government
House after the surrender
commencing on Sep. 26, 1945.

NO. ONE COMMANDO.

APRIL 20: Twilight at 7 o'clock sharp in the station yard, train leaves at 7.30 sharp." With these words we were dismissed from our morning periods at Winchester, back to our last morning coffee, the last mid-day beer, the last of the landlady's hospitality; we were on our way across. We had both hats to wear but those, the wise ones said, were to fool the people of Winchester; we would not be seen in the Far East.

Up to Gosport where we embarked on the P & O "Ranch"

there were no half-tones here, in contrast to some embarkations at England.

The journey was uneventful until we got into the Mediterranean. Here we experienced two bombing attacks by German planes just before sundown. One ship with a direct hit and some slight damage to a part of bow. The "Ranch" was also hit forward, but the bomb went through the deck and through the ship's side to explode in the water, killing one tank crewman.

This meant diversion for our



H.Q. Troop, No. 1 Commando.

which we had seen lying along side for months in Southampton waiting for her troopship duties. For days we lay in harbour without our Green Berets and forbidden to say who or where we were. On the 15th Nov 1942 we sailed and the following day picked up the remainder of the company. On the same day Col. Agas Hales reported himself a shortage. He had been detained for some party. We had had no short-

ages and 42 Commando left Alexandria. For 13 days we spent there and watched the bright lights on shore until finally it was decided to disembark all the "Ranch" personnel. We in the 3 went on to a beach camp (Amiriyah) 35 miles from the town.

Here we spent Christmas, our second one overseas. We could give no address, we got no mail, however we could write on 2 on board; but it was a good

Christmas. From the camp by antique train to Port Tewfik to embark. The majority on the "Scythian," some unfortunately in the 1900 (scrapped in 1955) "Paladin."

On January 21 1943 we arrived in Bombay; by train up through Poona to Kolhapur our first Indian camp, a bare, rocky, dusty plateau where only reconnaissance as a camp was allotted space. In March we moved to Belgum area to do our jungle training. Here for the first and probably last time we enjoyed being in India. The climate ideal, the training intensive, the country varied and absorbing. For two months we trained hard and liked it. Then by train across the face of India to arrive at Cochin

Bombay. We arrived fit and well and with little or no sickness but when orders came for us to move again we left over sixty in hospital, one was boarded out of the army, and four evacuated to England. A long train journey to the Southern tip of India, across by ferry to Cochin, and then again by train to Trivandrum which we reached in early Sept. 1944.

We were only three weeks in our camp by the water's edge under tall palm trees. Here Maj. Pollitt, MC, 2/Lieut. No. 1 to take over 5 Co. On the 3rd, Oct. 1944 we embarked again with our old friends 42 RMC Commando on the trooper "Mianan" for Ceylon. By rail and paddle boat, remote-



3 Troop of No. 1 Commando

on the East coast on May 30th 1944.

For nearly four months we endured appalling damp heat, with temperatures in the shade of 114°-118° a bamboo banya camp, little or no training facilities, conditions rotten and

end of the River, from Calcutta across the Brahmaputra to Chittagong.

A week in the (tunnel) camp then to embark again, this time in L.C.L. (L)'s for a short trip down the coast past Cox's Bazar to Tekong Peninsula



Mr. F. F. Seng, premier of China, inspecting a group of leaders of No. 1 Commando on his visit on 26 Jan. 1946. With him is Maj. J. F. Correll.

there was made our base for the next six months. We were lucky. There were bushes from an old hospital, patchy fields we soon turned into football fields, and perfect weather. We were stripped to the waist by day and hurried to put on sweaters when the sun went down.

On Nov. 39 we, with 42, under the command of Lt-Col. K. E. S. Trever of No. 1 went into the low South of Massapah to receive units of 74 Infantry Bde. The Commando was split: in two, half under Major Turnbull, MC, in a house named H8 called "Hutton" and half on the plain under Major Davies. Major Turnbull's force did hard work, less exhaustive patrols over steep jungle covered hills, but Major Davies's force on the plain had the excitement.

We suffered one casualty (Lt. Hain-Henry) killed in an

ambush while the enemy lost 12 killed, an unknown number wounded and 1 prisoner taken by S Troop, the first taken in nine months on this division's front.

Back to Tetum for the third Christmas eve/week. The ducks kept dying and we thought Christmas day would have to be put forward, but there were enough on the day and plenty to drink. On Jan. 2nd 1946 we embarked in L.C.A.'s and on the following morning landed Akyah Island.

No. 1 Commando was in the second wave. We came ashore to find that the Japanese had cleared out and there was no opposition. A long dusty march, a few days in rain, Akyah-bury chickens from the natives, and on the 12th January we embarked again, our objective the Mykon Peninsula. After the bombardment 42 Commando went into the beach



"Mr." Gavon Jones and Capt. Trever

with the R.L.M. Sloops "Janna" and "Yarbado" in support.

I Gdo came in to land to find our pos of heavy mud twice the beach. We struggle through to arrive tired and filthy at the shore and twisted underground running down to the

beach. I Gdo searched the small island to the west of the beach, and then took up a position on the Western edge of the Peninsula about three quarters of a mile inland for the first night.

Later our objectives were the features Onko where 6 Troop killed a sniper, and finally H8 201. The shore was first shelled and strafed by Hurricanes then with a troop of Sherman tanks the Commando went in. Major Osopp was badly wounded and Pte Cohen of the Signals killed; other casualties were light.



6 Troop of No. 1 Commando

One tank went over the edge of the hill to turn over and over to the bottom some 200ft below. Although broken and shaken the crew were all alive.

We dug in on top of H8 200 while 3 Troop under Capt Davies went forward and part of 1 Troop under Capt Hines laid ambushes on the banks of the "Kastha" channel. Here they caught the enemy at night withdrawing some stores in sampans on the river. For long afterwards Lt. J. S. Gibson was nothing but Japanese boots. The peninsula was clear.

of by the tide and 74 led Bde moved through.

For us, back to Mykon beach to embark on an R.L.M. sloop for the attack on Kaung. During the night we steamed South Hatter's Bay to anchor in the morning at the mouth of Daikong Channel where we embarked in L.C.A's. No. 1 Commando was to be first ashore. Line ahead up the channel to turn 90 degrees and charge the mangrove mud bank. We had the advantage of surprise.

With 3 and 6 Troops under Major Turnbull leading, the

Commando was soon on H8 179. The enemy came up the hill from the North and after a short engagement, in which Sgt Baker D.C.M. and two others were killed, no casualties were made and left. As occupation of the Northern jungle 141 the following morning.

For ten days H8 179 was our home. It dominated the beach head and was the key to the whole position. During those ten days the enemy in his routine early morning and mid-morning shelling put down an

average of 700 shells a day. We hurried to dig deep, to die fast, and to stay dug down.

Much has been said and written about Ranong, whose Lt. Knowland won his Victoria Cross. It ended up on the last day with what has been described as one of the bloodiest battles of the war, and which the Japanese have recently admitted was the heaviest action in the Burmese Campaign. On our last day the Japanese made a determined attempt to capture Hill 178. The battle started at 4 in the morning and ended at 6 in the evening. Troops from the other Coco, mounds came and fought side by side with No. 1 Commando.

The Brigade held the hill and it cost the enemy over 400 in dead.

Finally we were relieved: back to Myittha where Lt. Col. Trease left us for Comberly, and then to Akyah. This was it. Akyah and 1 and 42 again embarked together on the "Dunera" for Madaya, where we arrived on March 2nd. A week in a Transit Camp there, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the people and a welcome return to civilization.

We were given leave and then started another Cook's Tour. A week or so at Nadi, more to Puckun Camp Poona, a few

weeks at Poona and down to London by two days. From London to Almondsbury and when we had settled down there we moved to Khamkanda near Poona. At last we settled down to prepare for the Malaya invasion.

We were already to go when the Japanese surrendered, so on August 15th 1 and 42 Commando embarked at Bombay on the "Idanastephon Castle". We were to have taken over Poona by late after a week at Trincomalee the plans were changed and we came to Hong Kong.

On September 19th 1 Commando landed at Victoria, where we have been since. We have run the Civilian Jail at Stanley, the Japanese Civilian Internment camp of 5,000 strong, the Detention Barracks and 3 Police Stations.

Detachments have been on the islands of Lantau, Lamma, Lan Tau, Ping Chau, Po Tai and Lamma. The hills have been patrolled for boats and the Ferry watched for spies. We are the housemaids of the Government and have swept up much of many of the signs of the Japanese occupation. It was a lucky break for us that we came to Hong Kong and high time we did get out!



Lt. Col. Turnbull, R.C., with members of the high post, engaged while at the original main party shortly before he left the Brigade.

NO. FIVE COMMANDO.

GREY Schneider covered the Greenock hills with snow and passed by fingers across the frozen waves as His Majesty's Transport "Bala del Pacifico" slipped slowly down the Firth in the cold dawn of 15 November 1941. Within that grey half, in the process of being steered to some unknown destination were the official bodies of 22 Officers and 430 men of No. 5 Commando who had embarked at Greenock some few days previously "dust with all the paraph of war" for active service overseas.

ALL THE MURDER WAS AGING: the robes and billets of the fourth

unconquered, twisting, took looting and, premature lines and by September the pub talk was assuming more concrete lines.

"Italy", it said "for sure . . . well, just look at Salerno—bags of room for another Commando there—probably more than one".

"Look at Burma" it said, "No Commandos there yet . . . just our bloody jack . . . lookers and muckers".

"Look at Australia" it said " . . . Sydney . . ."

"Co., know a girl from there too?", real sniggers . . .

November 1941. The Ger-



1 Troop of No. 5 Commando

Coast had been disappointed by race with the word "Commando" emphasized on their shoulders in relaxed skirts. Everyone had talked of rain, snow, of ships and battle, all the usual glib to the uncomfortable wall of soldierly carriage. No. 5 had learned the Isle of Wight and with new experience from Madagascar and now ideas to back the spirit of free initiative which was

mean rolling back from Baylen hammer blows; the brightened at Salerno established; the 14th. Army on the Italian Front; talk of a "Second Front in the West", next Spring in France—the pendulum swinging.

On Dec. 1941, No. 5 Commando disembarked from the "Bala del" at Bombay in company with No. 44 Commando R.N. The voyage—in comparison with most voyages at that time

the Japanese. Whilst on their way back from this job they were passing—3 Tp leading—through a very narrow defile, when they came under the ambush fire of a large number of light and heavy machine guns which caused the severest casualties and completely prevented movement on their part. After some hours they were extricated under covering fire and returned to the Commando box. For this action Capt Kerr and Lt R. Noble were awarded the Military Cross, Pte (now Sgt) Gibson the Military Medal, Pte. Gieseler and Sgt King "Distinguished in Despatches".

In this month the Jap broke through to the North, appeared to be threatening the province of Assam and the 14th Army's railway communications with India and on April 26th W left Mangalore and joined up with 41 Gls. They made a heart-breaking track journey under terrible conditions to Sikkim in Assam where, amongst other things, they learnt the potential fury of the Burmese-Indian mountain rain—4 Troop in particular as they watched in chagrin their kit-bags, unwisely stacked on the river bank, dis-appearing down stream after an afternoon overnight rise in level!

From "B" Camp some 7 miles outside Sikkim, patrols lasting up to 3 and 4 days were carried out in the hills to the South and East in order to unblock the railway and very friendly contact was made with the hill tribes of the Province—the Kachins and the Nums—who were not only helpful but extra-

ordinarily hospitable—embar-rassingly so at times—do the inhibits confusion of more than one patrol leader! The men who trod these hill tracks and crested under the weight of their own rations, who snarled the vines from their feet in the Assam hills will not easily forget the cherry people who killed the feared cat for them and whose one rule was the Japs.

As midsummer drew near and while the monsoon rain dropped occasionally from heavy reds into the ankle-deep mud, a new word came into W's lexicon—"Leave." In August the fat went forth—"Pack up and back to India—14 days Leave".

By train the Unit moved from Calcutta to Bangalore, the dispersal centre and thence all ranks left for the selected leave centres—free for that precious period of some of the joys and stresses and strains of their military life.

Early September saw the Commando in camp at Trincomalee—somewhat unsettled after the period of heavy loss, showing great signs of promise in the general training which was undertaken in the "Hollywood South Sea" setting of palm ponds, yellow sand and blue expanse—the recuperation was appreciated by everyone, although to this day the stories told regarding the entrance to the Trinco Officer's Club have been seen to bristle when approached by a 4 Commando member!

It was here, too, that the unit experienced a change in command—Lt. Col. D. R. Shaw MC left to replace his

regiment and Lt. Col. Charles Politt MC came to take over command, and quickly won everyone's affection and respect.

Col. Politt came from No. 1 Commando and what was their loss may truly be said to have been our inestimable gain.

Soon after W left Trinco for

comfort was a thing of the past.

As the most intensive training came into full swing here, another 1p Commandos took special delight in persuading their Troops to march quite unnecessary distances in their chin straps and to produce them scribbled



2 Troop of No. 3 Commando.

Madras and widespread scope of active service ahead crystallized into reality when the W started changing socks on open, green dye came into play and the Commando embarked on S.M.V. "Rajah" in the harbour, crossed the Bay of Bengal to "Chittora" and thence by L.C.I. to Teluk—a second meeting with the Raf River, well west of Nika days.

With the Brigade's concentration at Teluk in Oct. can be counted the location of the 1945 Burma Campaign which so valiantly assisted the explosion of the "little men" from the Arakan. At Teluk W came back to their old friend the backs (bamboo—pines) and when matches had been sharpened and bamboo-rafts were brought into play the

for inspection the following morning! Training was varied in the extreme, ranging from the textbook intricacies of all the Commando weapons through square basting and amphibious drills to rock-climbing and jungle lore, and W earned a vigorous back slap from the Raf. Good. For the enthusiasm and skill which they put into all their training.

The pessimists pointed out that "all this little lot was adding up to a sum" and were enough, after a Christmas as skilful as it was enjoyable, remarkable in one respect for the facile manipulations of the tree at the noon-meeting by Capt. Hoyle and in another for the slight—reached for by the most respectable barman—of half an inch of gin on the floor

of the Officers Mess the morning after—it all added up.

After a Commando briefing and a rushed but minute review we saw part of the total—Akyah.

On the morning of Jan. 3rd 1945 the last wave of 3 Commando Brigades—Nos. 4 & 42 (C)—advanced from their landing craft up the beach of Akyah Island with no opposition. This epic campaign resolved itself

into a race for Akyah town which had been left deserted by the Japs some days before, and the final concentration of the Brigade in the town area in time for the briefing for the next job. "Y" was in Singapore on the waterfront and the only thing worthy of record apart from the almost complete lack of resistance was the delight in which Capt "Chips" Bence jumped when the Japs dropped its first bomb.

After a very complete briefing for the landing on the Moulmein Peninsula which was to follow, all the Tys embarked on H.M.S. "Jenna"—a ship manned by Pathans and at 10 Hour, 1945 hrs on the 17th, 5 Commando landed on Charlie Red Beach at the foot of the Peninsula, with a spectacular commitment from the Fleet and most encouraging overhead support from Liberators and "Barrabanders".

During 12.45—Major Ray Condy No. 1 Troop was severely wounded—such a wound from which only "Wasser" could have recovered, nearly 7 Capt John Seymour took over. The next morning Capt. Ken Haggitt was hit in the shoulder and evacuated and wounded at a 1700p

derivocal on Lt. D. H. Barr. The rest of the 7 day Campaign was a succession of landing, digging in and heading off features culminating in the seizure of the stoutly-defended hill "Father" by 8 Troop.

The next show on the programme was the final stage in the Brigade's task of cutting Jap supply routes, for which the



Gen. Cheng Fu-shan of the Chinese National Army taking the salute at the march past of a guard of honour of No. 1 Commando when he visited King Kong on Jan. 5, 1945. Setting was a small Burmese village called Kangaw through which ran the last coastline Angkay road open to the enemy.

The landing took place on Jan. 12nd, under shell fire and the Commando moved up to big positions and gave salt "char" on 100 170—a huge storm the landing place. With all-too-regular attention from the Jap artillery the Unit lost many old and raised troops and reserves grew palatial in depth and security. This is not the place for an article on the ramifications of the battle but some of the highlights were 2 Troop's famous breach of "Mangrove Look-out" and a body trapping patrol touched out by 1 Troop late

Kangaw village. On Jan. 11th the coordination came with 1 and 4 Troops counter-attack on the enemy breakthrough of 1 and 42 Commandos on "139". A most uncomfortable afternoon and night were spent by all and the following day the Commando was evacuated to rest and recover at Myebon.

It was at this last engagement on HE 174 that the Cde lost their Commanding Officer—Charles Poling—wounded in the knee. All through the campaign and particularly on that afternoon, he had led his troops in every sense of the word and was nearly carried back from within 30 yards of the Japs—a most severe deprivation.

The second in command, Major Robin Dwyer, took over command and was promoted to Lieut. Col. a short time later.

After a fortnight here "Y" reached their way back to Akyah—congratulate again! On March 12th, they embarked with the rest of the Brigade on the "Oncom" to return to India. A delightful 4 days voyage to Madras whence everyone dispersed for 14 days leave once again and considered are the stories of revelry which flowed in from all parts for months afterwards.

At Moulmein Camp in April, where the Unit reformed from leave, commenced the camp-camp progress which characterized the existence of the next 4 months, together with many drafts of reinforcements from U.S. Of our movements, suffice it to say, the most appreciated was a fortnight spent in the

jungle at Belugum and the following day from noon to Kharivada where amid the almost familiar Highland scenery and with Lake Fife spread out below "Y" embarked on training for what would have undoubtedly been the most momentous operation of the Unit's career—the attack on Malaya. Once again every phase of training was exploited to the full and the great test taken place—to group of men would have been stiff of its better heart.

But it was not to be—came August and the wild rumours of Jap capitulation, soberly prompted by what was going forward at R.M.S. (I became truth and on the 16th of that month "Y" embarked on K.M.S. "Glenagly" and set out first for Penang then for Hong Kong, where with the Brigade, they stepped ashore on 15th Sept. and two days later moved headquarters to the frontier of the New Territories.

And so in this great Colony, amidst the ever present evidence of those typhoon onslaughts and with memory of the men who fought so gallantly and were wounded—only to be brought down to routine Garrison duties.

Of the stalwarts who embarked on the "Alma de" in Nov. 1943 only a small percentage remains, but of those who have joined in the years between, there is not one but—schooled by those many who have gone—carries the Commando's past days in his heart and who will not be proud to say in days of peace to come—"I was in No. 5".

NO. 42 COMMANDO—ROYAL MARINES.

42 (RSM) Commando originated as the 2nd, EASTMAN, Royal Marines, on the 2nd April, 1944, and although there were numerous episodes of interest during its days they are not relevant to the Jungle Book. In the Summer of 1945 I.R.M. was stationed at Bray in the New Forest.

Members of the Royal Marines Division at that time felt that the Division had got into a bad habit of not being given a satisfactory operational task.

It was with feelings of considerable pleasure therefore that the Officers of I.R.M. heard the G.O.C. R.M. address them at Southampton and tell them

arrived at Akhaury. It was more than the merit of the pipe band were given by Capt F. C. Kellogg, the M.D., himself a Scotsman and an ardent piping enthusiast. After Akhaury the Unit went into "civvy billets" at Hurne Bay for a period that was all too short. Khaki Drill and G.I. boots, command and the Unit embarked for Gourock.

We arrived there on 11th Nov. and embarked in 1947 "Lanch" together with No. 1 Cde and 7th Landing Shelters. The ship sailed on the 15th. German Focke-Wulf attacked the "Lanch" one day out of Gb. An Indian ship was hit



Lt. Col. P. W. C. McGowan, D.S.C. M.C. with officers and men of No. 42 Commando, R.M.

that 40 battalions in the Division would be converted forthwith to Commandos.

As there were already 2 R.M. Commandos, 49 & 51, it was natural that 3 R.M. should become 42 Commando. All ranks well, available, or ever establishment were drafted to Land Ing Craft duties and the Unit settled down to Commando training.

The Gen. Adm. 42 Commando

and on, on down. After a few peaceful days, 16 Bunkers attacked from their base at Rhodes. One bomb hit the side of the "Bunkers" and destroyed the Troops' Headquarters. Only one man was killed, but the ship was damaged at Akhaury, where the Unit spent Christmas at a camp at Bili Bili.

The Unit travelled from Port Thwait to Bombay in the

"Scythia" and "City of London" and arrived at Bombay on the 25th day. Then by train to Kellogg. It was here that 3 Commando left (then 5 Special Service Brigade) assembled.

The Commando was not impressed by Kellogg, but it is

memory of a somewhat tedious rail journey was relieved at last by the effects of the dance band.

The Commando was three weeks in Trincomalee where we had nothing to do more and then embarked in HMS



A Troop of 42 Commando, R.M.

memorandum for the amount of football which was played and because, on one occasion "Bunkers" Clayton, the cook Sgt, piloted the Unit there. From Kellogg the unit went by road to Castle Rock near Belgaum. The drivers of the trucks were trained Indians. We were lucky not to suffer any casualties. The training at Belgaum was extremely valuable and much enjoyed by all ranks.

From Belgaum the Unit proceeded to Cochin. While there, Lt Col R. C. de W. Leathes relinquished command and Lt Col H. D. Williams arrived to take his place. Cochin was regarded by all ranks "new" as much as the end. It has something very much further back than that. The best was appalling. After a period at Cochin the Unit moved to NERVEN Camp, Trincomalee. The

"Nervan" on the 30th October for Cochin.

Once again 1 Cde and 42 Cde were together in the same ship. On arrival at Cochin, the Unit proceeded by rail and river steamer to Chittagong. "Welcome to the 18th Army." A week in a brandy camp and then by L.C.I. to Tekong.

In November, we relieved the first Ox & Bucks in the line at Mawlaikong. For these weeks there were very few days and most of the Commando had quite a quiet time, enhanced by a steady supply of Ceylon Tea, brought forward by T.M. Baker. Whilst at Tekong, a raid was carried out—Elizabet Island. On this occasion 2,121 stragglers were in U.K. became separated from the point and was taken prisoner. Christmas was the occasion for the consumption of a very

amount of liquor and for several very good parties. After Christmas, the Cdo was reorganized on a basis of 4 Rifle Tps, and "Y" Troop was berled with 121 Military Banders.



"Y" Troop of 41 Commando, R.M.

On Jan. 2nd, after only 3 days preparation, the Cdo embarked on H.M. Ships "Napier" and "Nepal" for Akrah. The landing took place on the 3rd, 5 & 6 Cdo being the first ashore. There was no opposition and the operation turned into rather a dull march across the island.

After a few days in Akrah, we embarked once again in H.M. Indian Ships "Nahala" and "Jama" for the assault on the Myebon Peninsula. On the 12th, January, after a most encouraging bombardment from the air, 42 Cdo went ashore, fortunately there was very little opposition on the beach.

There were several casualties in the Landing Craft, while the water was extremely rough, and owing to the glutinous quality of the mud and the mines on the beach. After establishing a beach perimeter, we advanced about a mile, dug

some very shallow positions and settled down for the night.

A burst of enemy fire during the night caused some fairly heavy movement, and the Adj. was found almost unrecognizable

at the bottom of a slit trench with the I.O. and Colonel Follows on top.

The following day the Unit advanced through Myebon Village and was held up at "Cabang", where severe casualties occurred, including the C.O., who was evacuated to the beach leaving Lt Col R. H. Dales (then Major) in command. 42 Cdo did very little serious fighting after the capture of "Cabang" at Myebon and, after 2 or 3 days rest, we embarked once again for Kangaw.

After making our way through miles of Changas in L.C.A. and L.C.M. which we foolishly thought were bullet proof we proceeded to the beach head. Two Troops were landed on the East bank of the Changas, on the flanks of 1 Cdo, and the remainder of the Unit on the West bank of the Changas, where they spent a very miserable night in a thicket

"So we are off to Hong Kong—"





But though the Japs surrendered and the fighting is over there is still plenty of work to do—

They put some of us out on an island—the rations come by boat—



Our job here is local Government. We issue the rice rations—

—We meet the ferry
every day—





—search the passengers—

—and their baggage. They may be trying to smuggle food, opium or arms—



The streets are washed down daily—

The evenings are a bit boring but we play plenty of solo and catch up on the letter—





One day Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten came to see us—



—He inspected our guard—

—and went up to one of our frontier posts and had a look at China—





—No, the job definitely is not finished. Until the destruction and chaos left by the war is cleared up we have plenty of work to do before everybody can return to a normal life of peace.

grave swamp.

The next day most of the Unit joined up on the East beach, leaving "A" Troop to look after Dainglon Village on the West bank. It is quite impractical to record the number of men done by the Troops of 42 Cde in the next few days; back and forth, higher and higher, and equally in a measureless success.

We finally ended up on Hill 170 and it was here that so many of the Cde learnt how to dig a very deep hole in a very short time. Much has already been said and written about the battle of Hill 170, but suffice it to say 42 Cde did their share of fighting on that day, those who were not engaged in the battle being tactically disposed elsewhere.

Ranger more than anything else welded the Brigade together as a fighting formation and gave us a greater sense of comradeship than we had ever had before. It is a great pity that, owing to the shortage of space, it is impossible to say more about the part played in our life by other Units of the Bde since its formation.

On 21st. January, we en-

tered once more for Myson and thence by "Z" lighter to Abeyak. At Abeyak the Unit lived in "bushes" of its own construction and had a very pleasant period of rest and discipline. On the 12th. March, the Brigade embarked in RMF "Donera" for Madras. At Madras the Unit was billeted in a Transit Camp preparatory to going on leave.

After leave, all ranks were told to return to Madras. On arrival there the advance party was found to be already moving to Pashan Camp, Poona, followed two days later by the remainder. After a short time in Pashan, we were told that we were to move once again, only this time all stores were to go one way—to Ahmednagar—while we were to go in the other direction for Jungle training at Londa.

After ten days at Londa, we returned to Ahmednagar and then shortly afterwards to Kharivavla (U.P.), near Poona. At Kharivavla preparations were made for going to the invasion of Malaya.

During all this activity Lt Col F. W. C. Bellings, arrived to



"W" Troop by Lt. Commander, R.M.

relieve Col Dales, who was compelled to go into hospital with dysentery. When the news of the Japanese capitulation came through there was considerable speculation whether the Japs would still fight. The U.S. moved from Khanduwa quite expecting to meet Japanese resistance. Shore leave was granted before entraining at Poona and there was some fairly wild scenes.

The Colo embarked in HMCS "Llaniothaphan Castle" at Bombay on the 17th, August and sailed on the 18th. The "Llaniothaphan Castle" proved to be the most uncomfortable Trans Ship without exception in which 42 Colo had ever travelled.

The original plan for the operation "Zipper," the assault

on Malaya, had entailed the 42e landing at Port Dickson. On this point—out this was changed to Penang and then again, after the survey had waited a week in Trincomalee, to Hong Kong.

The Llaniothaphan Castle arrived at Hong Kong on the 12th, September and the Colo disembarked on the 22nd, to accept the surrender of some of the Japanese and assist in the Civil Administration. At the time of writing, the 42e is engaged in 5 areas—Clearwater Bar, Kowloon, Tsun Wan, Tai Po and Sai Kung.

To all those old members of the Unit, into whose hand this rather brief history may fall, we wish all the best of luck.

THE PIPE BAND OF 42 COMMANDO—ROYAL MARINES.

AS this is a Seavair Number of the Third Jungle Book, and most probably the last issue, I feel that it is only fit that a few lines should be written about the Pipe Band of 42 Commando.

The Band was first thought of seriously when the Unit was coming from England on the "Barchi." The Medical Officer, "Doc" Rodgers decided that as he would play the Pipes there was no reason why he could not teach a few others. Chalmers was available and so every day the Doctor would hold his classes, which went on through the whole of the voyage.

At Kulgana, Capt Rodgers received from the Glasgow

Highland Society, of which he was a member, six sets of pipes. The Band had got its feet on the first rung of the ladder. The Pipes however had to go to Poona to be seasoned, which takes rather a long time, especially in countries like India.

At Kulgana, the band (some about 15 strong) practised with its Chanters and drums. We eventually moved to Castle Rock with 1 Colo, where we at last caught up with our six pipes from Poona. Here the Doctor managed to get a few men to play the pipes as well as the Chalmers. When the Unit moved from Castle Rock, the few pipers managed to put up a good show resembling the troops in the

station.

Cocosneta was the next stop, and this was the first "Retreat" done in the camp by the Unit. After having heard a few of the comments, Capt Rodgers then had the Retreat at the hospital; once again all went well. Here we increased the number of Pipes from 6 to 12, the other six being obtained from the Highland Bag Pipe Company, Salford City. These six were bought by the hospital

Calcutta Station. Eventually they reached Teluk, having played a "Retreat" to the personnel at the Staging Camp at Chittagong.

As it looked as if the Brigade would be at Teluk some time, the band got down to some hard playing. Salford City kept supplying the food, skins, music etc. The band then had three big moments those were when the Bde was inspected and addressed by Admiral Lord



The Pipe Band, 42 Commando, R.M.

members of the Pipe section.

At Trincomalee the band once again gave a "Retreat" and learned some tunes. From here the Unit moved by sea to Calcutta en route Chittagong, and several broadcasts were given by the band to the ship's company and to 42 and 1 Colo. The Band's first march came at Calcutta, when it marched the mile from the rail camp to

Louis Mountbatten, Maj Gen Laycock and Lt Gen Christians.

Then came the brilliant victory of Alksh, when three pipers played in the stern of landing craft. Great was their relief when it was clear that the Japanese had gone. One of the pipers on the beach played the others in.

On the next operation, the bandmen played in their own

was broken and the instruments were left at Akyah. At Kengay the band suffered its only casualty in Cpl Headley one of the slide-drummers. He unfortunately got a bullet in his left shoulder, and we took this opportunity of hoping that by now he has completely recovered.

After this operation the band returned to Myittha, and here the Pipers played at a Memorial Service, some going to 5 Cols, others playing at their own service. Back to Akyah and here they played at the Guard of Honour for Gen. Christison.

It was here that they lost their mascot, Capt. Rogers, who started the band from scratch with men who could not play a note of music, or even read it and who in spite of these handicaps, had under his tuition earned a name for themselves.

When the Brigade got back to Madaya everybody went on a well earned leave, and here the Band got its first full dress uniforms—secure, smart, smart coats and badges for pipers and drummers. From Madaya to Akhmednagar where they played a great deal, having one Guard of Honour and March Past when Brigadier Leconte visited.

The Southey Highlanders invited the band to play with them for two weeks. The invitation was accepted and the band returned a 100% better. Again the Uncle moved, this time to Khairavada near Poona. Here, again, leaders came and watched us at work, Gen. Harding and Brigadier Leconte being two of them.

Eventually, our training finished we embarked at Bombay for Malaya. Once again the band gave a broadcast on the ship. At Trincomalee we heard the shore was off and several unpleasantly hot days were spent in the harbour.

During this period the band played on a number of ships, HMS "Phoenix," the "Comet," and the hospital ship "Vita." Here, for the first time, they played on the quarter deck of one of HM ships.

At last the Brigade sailed and this time for Hong Kong. On the way the band played the ship past the minesweepers which had been out ahead clearing a passage for the convoy. The ship was played into Hong Kong Harbour, much to the delight of all the ships which were near at the time.

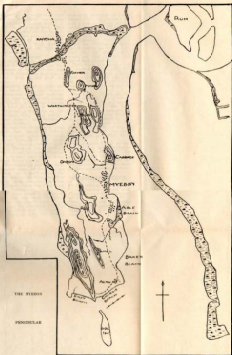
The first engagement in Hong Kong was to play round the streets, this being the first band to do so since the fall of Hong Kong. Naturally the Chinese went mad and so did even a few of the Internos.

Their real time came when as part of a Guard of Honour with 1 Col, they were present at the surrender ceremony.

The band then went to Kowloon where it was kept very busy playing at Guards of Honour by General Postings, Mr. G. Lawson, Admiral Chalk, they played to Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser on the quarter deck of the "Duke of York," then played on the "Heron." They lent the "Retreat" at the Central Police Station Hong Kong.

They went inland and played at the Orphanage at Tai Po.





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Naturally as a result of all this playing, something was bound to happen and true enough it did—the drum skin went. The Adjutant saved the day by flying to Sydney and sending up the new skins. Due to the "Anson" and "Black Prince" the Pipe Band still kept its engagements.

When the Chinese first AI played 44 On the band played, much to the enjoyment of the Chinese—it was their first big outdoor concert and there was a band! Just like the good old times.

Another feather in their cap was when Lord Alton Brooks commented on their turn-out when they were part of a Guard of Honour. After about 4 weeks the band decided to do two set "Retreats" a week, one at the Cenotaph, Hong Kong, and the other outside the Peninsula Hotel, Kowloon.

In between these dates, the band had plenty of affairs. Pipes went to the Wardrooms of the "Vengeance" and "Black Prince", then played at a Christmas Party on the "Artiller". They played to General Fusting at a cocktail party in the Hong Kong twice ocean.

Eventually the event we most dreaded came, 29 Group to go home. As a result we lost the Pipe Major. But nevertheless the band went down to play the ship away from the docks and just before she went Sgt Stevenson joined in and played his last tune with the band. Before leaving he made a fine gesture by presenting the Pipe Band officer with his Pipes.

However, with Cpl Wright

leading the band and Cpl Bailey leading the drums the band was still a long way from getting beaten, and proved this by their subsequent "Retreats". One of these being particularly interesting—during "Retreat" on board the "Vengeance" being played coming up on the aircraft lift, the whole performance was then recorded and played back afterwards.

Their finale was playing on St. Andrews Night in the Officers Club, Peninsula Hotel. They played a great deal during the evening while everybody kept on doing the various work.

One of the Pipes, a true Scotsman nearly had a certain garment taken off him when he had commented that the Scots were getting the Haggis and the English were getting M & V and still hadn't noticed it.

I hope that I have achieved what I set out to do and that, as you have read, the Pipe Band has certainly something to be proud of.

One question I may as well answer, how many Scotsmen are there in the band? The answer is that there are only two Englishmen, and they are both drummers and have joined their language last for Scots.

42 COMMANDO CLUB.

It has been suggested that it is desirable to start a 42 Commando Club for all members of the Unit. R.G.M.S. W. J. Downe has been appointed Secretary provisionally and it is hoped to hold a dinner once a year.

NO 44 COMMANDO—ROYAL MARINES.

In July 1941 the 4th Royal Marine Brigade was breaking up. New ranks had come to join the existing band of volunteers, whilst others had gone their devious ways to Landing Craft, Port Divisions, and to Flak-rafting, a somewhat novel reserved occupation in Wales. On August 1st, the 4th Royal Marine Commando was officially in being.

With the small dark cloud of Armistery approaching fast, we settled down to our different way of living and working with a renewed, but slightly apprehensive interest. Our part at the New Forest was suddenly bedecked with rows, usually bedecked with rows, usually rows, cap comforts (worn

just through, which caused distraction. Whilst up there we very regretfully had a few casualties—some fatal—and we further thinned out by the combined efforts of 'Appo 'Aery and Benjamin Nevils.

We moved, first but very far, to Folkestone where we proceeded to both alarm, surprise and please the locals with speed marches, abseiling, ball and blazes.

Our Landladies, bless them, soon took charge of us—body and soul—in such overwhelming effort that we began to wonder how much it would be before they issued our Party I Orders.

Typical KR was issued no gardens of six rolls, which is



'D' Troop of H Commando, R.M.

night cap fashion) green berets and herringbone slacks carrying several rolls.

A weekly cinema added to the menu by showing "Tarnas Don't It Again." If J. McIndoe and Marjorie O'Sullivan can do it, so can we.

Of Armistery we shall say little, for it has a reputation as an overbearing effort mentally and physically on all those who

addition to confirming the previous fact, was found to make up the laundry stock of all whom worn. Hats, slacks with special lining, magnificent in their grandeur and terrifying in aspect, were hurriedly hidden away and the Grenades, with his head, we had to solve the problem of both shirts inside or outside our trousers.

Also, good times seldom last



'B' Troop of H Commando, R.M.

long and we had to bid a sad and for some—indebted—farewell to Folkestone. At Liverpool, prior to embarking a dockyard matry told us our destination, duration of voyage and described our fellow passengers.

Once on board we met 3 Gls for the first time and at once we began a friendship between the two Units which had become firmer as better acquaintances and still continues.

The voyage was mainly successful, though we had three air attacks. We sailed on, unscathed, over the Mediterranean and the first two commands three days, leaving our homes and families further behind and many of us wondered when we would be home again.

The gateway to the East should always be seen, or the screen if it is to be appreciated, we thought, when we arrived in Bombay. On the other hand, the cramped and hot weeks may have given us a justified outlook on life. We are not impressed by the view.

Our main worry was, however, where were we going? We didn't expect dirty billets, but

surely Special Service Troops had priority in good accommodations? We soon learnt our fate.

After a short train journey during which we marvelled at the dirt and squalor, the unlimited supply of fruit and nuts and the howling kishkadee wailers who advised our hearts for the first and last time, we arrived at our first camp in India.

A cold, windwept, bleak and bare hill, marked with many black marks crept into view. An occasional tent and bamboo building remained standing in the wilderness, then an "Quarry" and "Concrete" have their special meaning, so "Kodgion" should mean across nothing of great nothing.

Nothing was quickly recognized and a blanket and mats were hardly issued, a road made for beds was built by the men that they were all big infested, somewhere and somewhere we spent our first miserable night in India.

We were soon initiated into the routine of our wretched duties, duties, exercises, therapy, bathing and all that men

with camp life in India. Our native talent for improvisation and bull soon smokes and our camp put on an almost pleasing aspect; even the rocks changed from black to white.

It was repetition later on we would like to say that at the time of writing we have built and improved our fourteenth camp since our arrival out East—most the Commando Fiveover.

We have learned how to make our own shelters, beds, tables and other furniture, how to cook and eat; all with bamboo supplemented by a little wire, string, wood, tin and unprintable language. We have blundered our mopping, gay ropes and stone; dug ditches through and around our bushes; found that rifle all lives in a scabbard, tery light when burnt. We have learned to bargain and haggle for better prices (if don't do it at home!).

We have delved the Pongu tape and to work during mid-day theory, thereby being well and truly taxed by the sun and improving our man in the bargain. We have learned to appreciate salt and water as a drink, and Victory 'Va' or Wag

tobacco leaf rolled in "SEAC" as cigarettes.

Even our monthly of two bottles of beer and an occasional tot of "Rosa" was looked forward to as a very special occasion. Our food too has changed from Soya to sausage, spam to curries, corn dog to chops and biscuits to bread. We have in fact learnt well and truly to live rough, and most important of all to appreciate the small pleasures and luxuries of home life.

We have had our share of "sea time" (not forgetting changing time) too; big and small ships, hot stuffs and overcrowded ships and company. The older soldiers amongst us bore these things more easily, for they could enjoy the lull to the younger soldiers and in addition with the low cunning cultivated in years of living on wit, the older soldier could produce that life-saving wit at the critical moment and also work a square number job some, where.

From Rangoon we narrowly saved by ship to St. Martin's Island, a real tin set island, prior to embarking on



'C' Troop of 44 Commando, R.M.

our first operation—Bewo. driver 1—and ten days after that its second driver 11. After our first qualms in battle, we had an interesting and successful time and made a

read and the frogs. We survived the monsoon a little worse for wear and with one eye on the verge of reaching it left Sikkim and began our long winding 5 day journey via Calcutta, to



'F' Troop of 44 Commando, R.M.

various contrivances to the success of the first phases of the Arakan battles.

The Japs then launched their 31 land invasion of India and with 5 Cdo we were whisked up North by DUKW, Higgins Barge and the notorious one track Royal Assam Railway to Sikkim.

Our job here was to defend the Sikkim plain from any Jap infiltration. We were, then, sent up in Troop Detachments and settled down under canvas to await the Japs and Monsoon. The latter soon broke and if it hadn't been for masterly improvisation and splendid co-operation from the tea-planters we would have had a pretty rough time.

Our drivers will never forget the roads to Doodhah or Moudah, and we shall long remember the dodged pony, the

hagstone to enjoy a well deserved rest. During the monsoon—Bewo—the well worn tag—never was so much language learned so many times by so few in such a short time.

After six weeks in comparative luxury at Rangoon during which the majority of the Unit had its first leave in India, we did a little more camping of stores and kit and eventually settled in Tezgaon. Here we settled down by the banks to hard training interspersed with games and swimming. Unfortunately at that time the attitudes of Trinco were still insufficient and there was little to occupy our evenings, but we managed.

It was in Trinco that our once smart shock hats appeared from the depths of our kitbags and assumed the widest and widest of shapes that ever

Epslein could produce. Each and all tried to produce a new fashion and the effort was truly ludicrous.

After our usual short stay in any camp we moved again by rail and sea to Teluk. Here maps, medicines and operations orders appeared in overwhelming rapidity and apart from a spell of three enjoyable days



"Single Line Ahead" Men waiting in L.A.A. from Teluk to Trincomalee.

spent "camping out" by the sea, we worked very hard.

Our second Christmas in India was spent here and despite the limited resources of the supply salaka, we all enjoyed a good Christmas, in as near the traditional style as we could. Our festivities were short lived and a day or two after Hogmanay we embarked for Akkai.

I feel it hardly necessary to put our various activities in type print, for a verbal picture is far superior. So the stories of our weary march across Akkai, our stony road, the Mysore road, the Changanu of Kannur, the Eastern Viceroy, our armed banding complete with the formidable and never to be lost

Char cane and our eventual return to Akkai can wait till we get home.

Then, after long and heart-breaking marches across India and after a further spell of leave we returned to the Poona Area, which we had left behind four months before. We did not like Poona when we were there the first time and we therefore returned with some misgivings. During the sixteen weeks that we were there we occupied three camps all of which were pretty good on the whole.

In the third Camp at Kharakrasta, we were fortunate in being the only such in line in India and since the monsoon broke during our stay there we counted ourselves double lucky. We held a Dick dance in Poona some first in India—which was a having success in more ways than one. Unfortunately part-time men were scarce, so those of us who were not so keen on dancing stuck to the wine and song while the others more soberly looked after the second part of the trip.

Our unit and Bde Football teams made a name for themselves in Poona but we unfortunately left Poona before we could finish our matches in the soccer league which we had entered. We have the satisfaction in knowing however that we twice beat the team which eventually won the league.

V. J. Day sprang upon us when we were in the middle of planning our next group of operations. It was rather hard to celebrate properly with the thoughts that perhaps the Japs

would not surrender in Malaya. A few flares and very lights were fired at intervals during the night and those who were lucky enough to have the wherewithal, proceeded to enjoy themselves but it was with this possible feeling of further fighting, after the end of the war, that we left Kharakrasta behind and embarked at Bombay.

Who, on our last night in India, released the Tiger Purses and Government Balaclavas and in their stead the streetlights whipped the Victory Flags and lit the West End Cinema Manager on the head? Not us, surely.

We had no definite news of where we were going and we resigned ourselves to the good-will of the higher authorities. Our trip was unexciting, but boredom was relieved by a short

spell in Trincomalee, where we went ashore a few times to stretch our legs. We then received the news that we were going to Hong Kong to disarm the Japs and look after the Japanese. We are still in Hong Kong, doing in comparative luxury and our idleness we varied the best ever since we left Bham.

Our normal team has gone from strength to strength and remains undefeated. We have raised and help to raise well over \$6,000 for the Cdr-Cdr Relief of Distress in Hong Kong Fund.

Now that Hong Kong is returning to normal, our job here will soon be done and we can return to England at last, knowing that despite the heat, rain, and the discomfort that goes with service life in the East we have done our job.



"U" Team of 42 Commando, B.M.

H.Q. THREE COMMANDO BRIGADE.

ON 1 Sep 43, HQ 3 S.S. Bde formed at the old passenger Durbaner, incorporating the HQ Troops of the defunct 102 E.M. Bde and a nucleus of the new staff. Bde HQ and attached troops comprised of Cpls, 3 Cde Bde, Sig Tps, 3 Tps, RM Regt, Cpls, L&C Type 37, and RM Postal Det. It was soon apparent that the Bde was destined for overseas service in the near future and heavy training and preparations were set afloat to that end. About half the Bde Troops were sent to Aldershot to qualify at the Commando Basic training centre. The Bde moved to East Kent, setting up Bde HQ at 4 New Dover Road, Canterbury on 22 Sept. Between that date and Nov '43 Bde HQ filled its ranks and utilized for service in the Far East.

At that time, the staff consisted of the following:—Bde Command, Brig. W. I. Newnham, RM Major D. B. Drysdale, RM, SAsA & QMG Major J. E. C. Smedley, Foresters, G.S.O. III, Capt. C. A. Watkins, RM, L.O. Capt. C. C. Scarth R.M., Bde Sig Cde, Capt. R. A. Richards, RM, S.O. S.O. Capt. V. A. Barnes RM, S.O. S.O. Capt. V. E. Miles, Essex; S. C. 'A' Capt. B. G. Taylor RM; Camp Commandant Capt. R. A. St. Quentin RM, E. M. E. Capt. S. C. O'Grady SEMR; OC Tps RM Engineer Cpls, Lt. F. E. Hawdon, RM.

Reinforcement of staff and personnel was completed by the night of Nov 13th and on the 15th Nov H.M.T. "Banshi" with

one HQ, 1 L&C Bn 42 RM L&C on board sailed from Gairloch. After two German bombing attacks in the Mediterranean, during which the "Banshi" received slight damage, the ship left Norway and sailed independently to Alexandria, where Bde HQ disembarked on Dec 12.

Bde HQ were billeted at 106 Trahan Camp 2nd Sde, whilst Sigs, Tps and L&C were at Mustafa Barracks, Alexandria. Jan 9 of 1944 found Bde HQ at Port Tewfik, embarking aboard a Polish Ship S.S. "Polaski", "Polaski" docked at Bombay on 21st Jan, and we proceeded by rail to Rajpoot Camp near Poona. On the 14th, Feb we were inspected by Lt. Gen. M. G. M. Stopford, CB, DSO, MC Command 1st Corps. Meanwhile the Bde had received orders to move to establish HQ and two Commandos in the Chittagong Area. Approximately half the Tps, of Bde HQ and a staff nucleus of the 1st, L.O., S.O. S.O. and 2 Sigs Tps left by train for Bombay, embarking aboard HMS "Keres" on Feb. 20th.

Arriving at Cox's Bazar on March 25th, the Bde prepared for an immediate operation and was moved to Nafin on the Tekong Peninsula. A TACO, comprising the Brigadier, L.O. and Bde Sig Oftr were about on L.C.H. 265, planning operations in conjunction with a one (one) The object was to land Commandos in the enemy rear in the Achehansang area to assist the

main assault by 15 1st Corps, aimed at clearing the Maungdaw—Buthitang Road, before the monsoon. These operations began on 15th March and continued March 17th. Sigs and Tps played a prominent and successful part in the activities of 3 & 44 Commandos during this period. The Bde HQ conducted flame operations from L.C.H. 265.

From March 17th, until Easter Sunday 1944, Bde HQ were established in the Maungdaw Hospital while the Brigade took over the commitment of patrolling the coastal plain south of Maungdaw, including the Race Regt of 81 (WA)

The move was completed in 36 hrs by river steamer, road and rail. Bde HQ assumed the role of an area Comd and what a Command! An elephant Coy, a Bn of Malacca Light Infantry, a Bn of Sepoys Class Troops and a Company of Sikhs, White Missionaries, Christian Nagas and many small Units of the Indian People's movement. The Commandos were held in reserve, although they carried out many deep reconnaissance into enemy jungle.

Bde HQ found plenty to do administering to the needs of this collection of Troops; Sigs in providing the extensive communications required to control



Brigadier H. D. Phillips, D.E.O. and officers of Bde HQ.

Division, with whom we had maintained cordial relations throughout the past month.

On April 25th, the Bde moved North to a destination later disclosed to be Sdehar in the Farina Valley. This strategic point controlled the possible means of entry into India for the attacking Japanese Forces in the Imphal Area.

On the area and the Sigs in maintaining the necessary L. of C from the ranges of terrestrial observation. However, which went away bridges and tracks as fast as they were constructed.

Inside the end of the monsoon, we were withdrawn to India to rest and refit for further operations. The Bde finally communicated in Telesonachon on

18 August, after a spell in transit in December.

A few words will sum up the activities of the half of Bde HQ who were left behind at Kangar in February. They, together with 1 & 42 Commandos, completed an intensive period of jungle training at Belgiam and proceeded to Comenada, a new C.E.A. on the East Coast of



Camp Commandant of Bde HQ and his staff.

India. There they endured under extremely difficult and uncomfortable conditions. Only a few old craft were available for landing purposes.

The temperature frequently rose to 115° and the place was little better than a desert.

Then, in August 1944 for the first time since arriving in S.E.A.C. we were a complete Brigade, with plans for training, a completely detailed rule for future operations, and a supply of special stores with which to repulse ourselves.

We were not long to enjoy the amenities of Trincomalee. At the end of September 1944 the Brigadier, Brigade Major, DAA & GDS, BSO, and I.O. flew off to Burma to start planning at

18 Ind. Corps HQ then situated at Rangoon. A few days after their departure part of Bde HQ with 1 Cdo and 42 RM Cdo embarked and sailed to Calcutta. After a tedious journey by rail to Chittagong and from there by sea, they arrived at Teknaf. They were followed about a fortnight later by 5 Cdo and 44 RM Cdo.

The Bde, concentrated there, first set about creating a camp out of the patchy fields, and then moved on to training. The Bde staff returned from Rangoon and the operations planned for the Bde were postponed.

Brigadier Sturges returned to England for a period of leave and for conferencing. During his absence the Brigade was commanded by Col. G. Young, D.S.O., M.C., who had recently arrived by air from England to take up the appointment of Deputy Commandant.

At the beginning of November a detachment of Bde HQ Bps and Engrs together with 1 Cdo and 42 RM Cdo crossed to Mawngun and captured two battalions of 34 Bde in the line. With the end of the monsoon season the Bde carried out aggressive patrolling with excellent results. At that time Bde HQ was established close to 74 Bde HQ.

Most of the month, both of setting up camp and providing greatly devoted men the Engrs.

The Bps detachment established contact with units by line and W/T, and with Rear Bde HQ by W/T and pigeon. Just over a month was spent at Mawngun, during which invaluable experience was gained

in jungle work and in getting to know the Japs.

Early in December Bde HQ and the two units returned to Teknaf. It was not possible to send 5 Cdo and 44 (RM) Cdo over to Mawngun as we were so short of transport that we were in start preparing for the unspecified operation.

Brigadier C. A. Murray, D.S.O., arrived early in December having succeeded Brig. Sturges as Bde Comdr. At the time he arrived the B.M., D.A.A. & GDS, I.O. and BSO had started planning with 28 Ind Div, at Co's Bazaar for the assault on Akyab scheduled for February 1945. Planning went on until Christmas, during which time units and Bde HQ devoted much time to administration in preparation for the operation.

Christmas that year for Bde HQ was viewed by most to be the best Christmas they had spent in the Service.

On Boxing Day the Brigadier was summoned to 18 Ind. Corps at Co's. Next day he called for his planning staff and once more the B.M., DAA & GDS, I.O. and BSO left to join him. Units were warned to be prepared to move within a week.

At Co's Op. "BURST" was quickly hatched—it involved an assault on Akyab by 5 Cdo Bde during the first week in January. The reason for this hastening of the attack was the swift advance of 25 Div, which had brought them to the rearlands overlooking Akyab.

On January first, the Bde, less a small rear party left at Teknaf, embarked and sailed for Akyab.

On January 4th, the Bde landed unopposed and quickly gained control of the island. Two days later elements of 25 Div were passed through to secure the town of Akyab. The Bde concentrated in the North of the island and was warned to stand by for further amphibious operations within a few days.

Planning then started for an assault on Myebon, a peninsula 30 miles South of Akyab. Plans were finally prepared on board HMS "Tribble", which was to act as HQ ship and carry out bombardment in conjunction with other naval units.

On January 31th, the Bde embarked in LCT(L) and other landing craft and sailed that night for Hester's Bay.

The landing took place at the southern end of the Myebon Peninsula at 0830 hrs January 31th, under cover of a heavy naval and air bombardment.

After an extremely contact landing through mud in which



After a busy day the Staff Comd. (A) settles down behind a paper, a cigarette and a glass of his favourite beverage.

men wank up to their waists, 1 Cdo and 42 (RM) Cdo together with Bde HQ quickly established themselves and started to push up the peninsula.

Bde HQ quickly settled to the task of providing communications, support and maintenance

for the Bde. The Engz Troop performed miracles in clearing the beaches of mines and in making a road from the jagged rocks which barred the exits from the beach over which the Jps. was landed.

At the time the Bde had under its command 4th Sqn of 19 Lancers. This Sqn had great success in getting ashore not once ashore gave invaluable assistance in support of the Infantry.

5th Commando landed later in the morning and 44 Cde in the afternoon. 44th Commando had to cross 300 yds. of liquid mud and it was only after heroic efforts on their part that they got themselves ashore without losing a man.

Cassicles were relatively light during the first day. The Bde then pushed steadily forward driving the Japanese back. On the second day casualties began to mount and Lt-Col. Folwell, commanding 42 (R31) Commando, was amongst a number of officers wounded. The 25th members of the Brigade, L.O., Sig Det "C" Sqn, Comd and VCP moved with the assault unit. Main Bde HQ was located with 41 RM Commando who were responsible for the safety of the beach area.

The Engz Tp. developed the beach maintenance area and unloaded stores practically single handed during the first day; subsequently they had the assistance of a detachment of an Indian Beach Group.

Within 5 days the Japanese had been driven from the peninsula and the Bde commanded Gen Kenyon Channing

which virtually divided the peninsula from the mainland. Having secured the peninsula and concentrated for its defence, the leading Bn. of Gurkhas from 14 Bde moved through to carry on the good work.

On January 17th, the Bde was withdrawn into reserve in the beachhead area having landed over 14,000.

The 25th Ltr had landed and planning soon began to strike another blow at the enemy's vital, aimed at cutting his escape route in the mainland.

After a GUPP race it was decided to launch the Bde at Kangor on 14th, the Bde which covered the main coast road.

On 15th, January the Bde embarked in the craft which had brought them from Ayrah and sailed at dawn on 15th, January through the narrow channels to Kangor.

The Bde HQ was established on an M.L. and Main Bde HQ in HMG "Narada".

The landing was unopposed except by Artillery fire from the hills (Japs), 4th Sqn and R.A.F. bombarding, covered the landing.

Under Command of the Bde for this operation were a Bn of 25 pdrs, mounted in a 2 craft, a platoon of paratroops, a part of a Field Ambulance and several additional medical units.

After landing and throughout the subsequent 11 days Bde HQ was situated on H.M. 17A. The Sigs Tp. moved continuously (by only links back to Div. The Engz Tp. was engaged in assisting the unloading of stores on the fringe of the main area and in helping to get the Jps. har-

ried over the sudden paddy.

At the end of 11 days having fighting the Bde was withdrawn. Bde HQ was established in Myeban and subsequently at Ayrah, where we reconnoitred success.

On March 16th, the Bde en-

training in the revised layout of this HQ as the result of our Arakan experiences, forecast another campaign in the near future. Indeed the Brig. and RM, and DAA & GMD flew off to Delhi and then to Bombay where they were joined by the



The Defence Planes, Bde. HQ

tered in HMT "Ducera" and arrived in Madras 5 days later.

The Brigade, RM and 180 had flown off before the Bde and were at Malacca in most at. The planning staff was given a days grace and were then flown to Delhi, while the remainder of the HQ dispersed via leave all over India.

It was not until about a month later that Bde HQ were once again established this time in Puckan Camp, outside Poona. After 5 weeks we "sapped sticks" and moved to Ahmednagar where we were in very great accommodation. A period of

350 and L.O. and planning for the Bde assault in Port Dickson began.

Meanwhile Bde HQ did put another team unit to Kharkivsk and managed to get themselves comfortably installed against the wet weather. Training and equipping went progressively forward whilst the Bde planning staff sweated at Bombay.

After a long, cold, rainy season "LILIPUT" which was in pressure on for the landing in Malaya, the Bde started packing up and preparing to move to Bombay for embarkation.

The Bde. Planning team then as Sunday rushed through orders for the occupation of Penang as a result of the Japanese defeat and the embarkation at Hongkong of the Bde took place on 19th, August, 1945. Bde HQ was split between H.M.S. "Gangly" and H.M.L.S. "Llanstephan Castle." At Trincomalee where the Bde Comd rejoined the Bde it was learnt that our destination was Hong Kong.

The Bde arrived in Hong Kong on 12th, Sept. and Bde HQ was set up in the Peninsula Hotel, Kowloon with Sigs., Tps. Engrs., and Tps. of Bde Hqs established in Wady Road.

On 28th, October Brigadier C. K. Harvey, 1600, left us to fly home, there to take over the

new Royal Marine Bde of Commandos. We were very sorry to say "Goodbye" to one who had been with us and inspired us throughout the past year.

Brigadier H. D. Pethica, DSO, arrived from England by air on 7th, Nov. to take over command of the Bde.

So, today we are glad to be here in this pleasant place waiting out time to be repatriated and demobilised. The life at Bde HQ in Kowloon has been a happy one on the whole, in spite of depressing periods. We have kept fit and cheerful and it is with a feeling of regret that we watch our comrades go one by one. But from our associations we retain many valued memories which will enlighten our old age.



Mr. Campbell, Staff Work, of 1 Troop, J. Commando.

3 TROOP ROYAL MARINE ENGINEER COMMANDO.

THIS is probably the last time that surnames will appear in print so we may as well spread ourselves a bit—and anyway the ED said "send in laukings". Therefore a sign is indicated.

Gradually we are disintegrating, but this is something new and has a hollow ring—the echoes of where our twinned finger-prints have sounded. Most of the old familiar faces have gone and perhaps it is not to be long before all that is left of us will be a weather bleached blue notice board with a white "49" painted on it and a thin whiny voice of a face-faced boy coming out of space and saying "Engrs present, Sir" but definitely the notice board. Oh yes; possibly also a rusted earth auger and a square box and a sheet of "a run to superintend", but we have our memories.

Few old lugs are left who can recall the drab grey afternoon in October 1943 when in greasy, bushy, bushy-embanked Twickenham 2 Sec. 1 (HM) Engr Commando tumble out of a train and presenting themselves at 48 Old House Road, Portsmouth to join HQ 1 S.S. Bde. Of the Britishers' commands on our cap. A frantic and maddling mobilisation as stores mysteriously arrived from Ordinance and from our Parent Unit, 15 cwt. frigs across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom panic stricken, and panic stations for embarkation here, the cold-chill awakening to the icy drizzle at Gosport Docks and the cold wet squalls

stombling into the depths of a ship called "Ranch".

A bomb from the blue Mediterranean skies—and—Alex, but not I would we go to Gertrude. When we are old and grey we'll still be saying as we dangle our grandchildren on our knees, "When I was in Alex". And so to Penang and everybody writes home "I can't tell you where I am but by God Sir! when I was in....."

We open our stores boxes and begin to find that there are quite a number of "just those things" we have a blacksmith and tool kit but no forge, the chippy kits have no planes or chisels, the painters kit has no brushes except a lacyratory brush. But we begin our long, long list of signs to be painted, which no one can see ending before Gabriel gets better than Harry James.

Aethagapaw (yes, we were thick) and bamping explosives; Slicker and the "Ducaple as 50" either the Commanded Cpt. Sigs should go on the topside or the underside of the 54". The other half of us meanwhile rotting in that white man's grave, Comdair, made more signs, got bigger and better boxes and put our stores in them, made blowing an excavator on the beach and got prickly heat.

Trincomalee and a lot more signs—bigger and better than ever (the "direction post" was the real effort, especially when all the arrows were carefully pointed the wrong way); gully building and mousing and

electric lighting (sudden cries in the dark as the lights faded, "Haween").

"Sir."

"What's happened to the lights?"

"Capt. Murphy, what's happened to the lights?"

"Wherever those . . . lights have gone out again."

"Well, Aam's only generator runs."

"Oh, he's just gone out in the jeep" . . .

At Trincom, suddenly the other half of the Troop arrived from the U.K. and many were the lines shot about the second front and 100,000 and progress and the hell of the beaches, and of the green hell of London Jungle. So we became a Troop, at an end, back office. Remember that my opposed landing oversteer in the jeep? More mock than that flying, and the new flame throwing, the old magazine and releasing the battle field twice a day, we did it 20 times for you lucky Commando Chaps.

Our motor up to me too here "You can do anything with bamboo except make it fast." Attendant was the vision of a "Slapper Rampart" and a "Grace holder". A few weeks at Trincom brought out the full usefulness of the earthquake. We used it to have walls for the Bde—we filled them from a gush water truck at dead of night.

The arrival of "the new Deputy and Ramabdi" gave guards and patrols with him (very nerve-racking—more more than with "Baby Dampening") Lt. Copper, who had collected

at MC in France) and the wife of Santa's Brother or "Mush, Mush" the winder "Body".

Hackings—"I've found a love, ly tree for the bridge Sir, just over there." Three miles away we had a colossal tree (in fact in diameter and a hundred feet high, bang in the middle of a soil birch).

"On now it down sir" he says. Well, the great got across and the bridge didn't fall down.

Then the birth of the "Wood, peckers Club" and the new motto "Tactful Bombs". The new Deputy Comd. inspects our bunker we'd been dripping about when clearing patchy-bands to make a parade ground—we'd all got lefty and didn't think it was "Engineer Work"—He crawled inside, felt the roof all and snuff the new wood, erupt out and with a her said "Build me a house like this; place in by 5 o'clock".

And so we began the famous "Log Cabin" with its living room; 2 beds, bath, box, central heating, tel. s. (the A.I.) two showers from the Bde. We wonder how many Burmese families are now living in the Sabbi's barra bamba. And all arranged as was every bit of the "Theatre Royal"; we were really proud of that; with the trees behind it and the night sky and the full tropic moon. Hollywood Bowl had nothing on it at all. Particularly with "Victrola".

Then the drama began boiling again, and one fine morning we shored off for Akrah.

It turned out to be as exciting, but we were proud of the beach we made and of making two

brigades. A few days later we loaded the Jde, flights of craft and sailed for Mykonos.

We must forget that landing, or the rain; sunset before, Lt. Copper had a duffly with some Japs on the island; "Mason's Casanova" was born (with much sweat and toil from the rocks of Easy Beach) the miles came up and the road went through; the Ravina Chawag was crossed with a nippy crossover.

A Dore rest and off to Kangan. Fox Beach emerged from the mud; we emerged into same; laid Jap-traps on Pincer, Jap Japsa store pits (very quickly dug, very slowly filled with screws) made a road and another heavier track and foot-bridge; and kissed the deck of the L.C.T. that took us out.

Back to mother India. We'd collected a lot of experience for the last 10. Sgt. Pirie got his well-deserved M.M., Capt. Twelveton his Mention in Despatches; Lt. Copper left for the Fleet, Capt. Hamshall rejoined "the old 489" from 4 Cdr. some of the old hands left as we took more ships; Poona, Akrochagar, Belgum, Kharsivada; new

special stores, new organizations, dumpgrower and assault demolition detachments went to and trained with Commandos; set for Pongang; we sent "Belum"; then some silly fellow ended the war; more Japs and at last we are on "China Station".

A new Eage racket emerged—sea time, Jap suicide boats as a sabbon and M.L. "Kangas" the apple of our eye.

Now slowly the Troop is disengaging, in ones and twos they leave. Capt. Woodhouse, Ted Parsons, Jack Robertson, "Jacks" Arthur, Bedford the Doyens, Alex. Brown, Scotty and Rutland, Harry Hambley the legendary figure of Eng Coy since the year dot. Stamford, Pauline, Lucy, Dore, John Adams, Jack Kirkpatrick, Bud Selfe, Capt. Hamshall, C.S.M. "Body", "Foot", "Face" Hook-ton and all, whistled away. Well, good luck to them all.

And so we say farewell. But will meet again. There's still the 40 Chik and we hope when it gets going that we'll meet again every year and once more say "Holla".

festivities.

Early in the New Year they left by train for a port north of the Red Sea and arrived in Bombay on January the 21st. From Bombay they went to Rangoon which is a small village about 50 miles from Poona. Kodgson was intended as a training camp, but they were only there about three weeks before it became obvious that soon some, if not all would witness their first operation against the Japs in Burma.



Staff of the Brigade Office.

These three were however spent in intensive training and the troop was now ready to operate efficiently.

As only half the Brigade was required to go to Burma, only half the signal troop went. This was an easy matter, as the troop was organized to work in small sections or as a whole.

Late in February half of the signal troop set out with 5 and 44 Cdo's to Burma via Bombay. At Bombay the "Kame" (a naval assault ship) complete with landing craft, awaited them. When all troops and stores were aboard, they left for Chittagong, a port on the Indian coast near

the Burma border. The orders were changed en route and they finally arrived in a small place named Cox's Bazar after stopping 36 hours in Madras.

Cox's Bazar is about 60 miles south of Chittagong, and although it has been built up since, was the most forward point where ships could anchor, and consisted of nothing more than a small jetty and a clearing in the jungle. The Kame (30,000 tons) was far too large to be up alongside so the Landing Craft were used to ferry men and equipment ashore although this point was about 20 miles away from the Japs, the unloading was never interrupted, and in fact everything went according to plan.

The following two weeks the signal troop (in company with all others) grouping and preparing for the assault. Some of the wireless equipment had been damaged by the rough handling it had received during the voyage etc, and had to be repaired and "on line" again.

On the 15th March they set off prepared to assault the coast line of Burma in the vicinity of a small place called Maungdaw. One small detachment was sent to hold communication with the West Africans another with 42 Cdo and a third with 5 Cdo.

A larger Force went to the H.Q. ship on which the Brigadier was directing the operation. During the month of the operation, the signal troop gave its full support to the troops. There was never a break in communication throughout. A fact that the Brigade has enjoyed

of since is every operation.

One evening in the middle of March saw them with the Commandos packing stores and equipment in a hurry and getting ready to be rushed up North to check the threat to Sittah in Assam while the battle of Imphal was being fought.

Although the Brigade was not called on to fight, it was well spread over the country at strategic points. This gave the signal troop some thinking, because communication was essential in spite of the country being some of the worst in the world for wireless communication.

The long distance over jungle covered mountains and through violent lightning storms called for a new technique. The obstacles were overcome, and indeed communication was established between 44 HQ and the corps who were looking out at Imphal.

The stay in Assam was possibly more interesting for the signal troop than any other section of the Brigade, and much was learnt of varying conditions which at times even the more experienced operators.

In July they left Assam for Bangalore and after a train journey of seven days they arrived at the camp where it was intended to have a rest and some leave. The rest was not to be for a few days after arriving in Bangalore and the all-India party set off for Trincomalee in Ceylon. Most of the men did however have a few days leave in Bangalore. It was in Ceylon that the whole Brigade

joined up again—one half that had been in Burma and Assam, and the other that had been training hard in India.

Like the whole side they enjoyed the beautiful camp in Ceylon and reformed again as a whole troop with lessons learnt in Burma and India taken into great consideration.

They were only in Ceylon about a month when they were on the move again. This time it was better—every one was going together, so the early days of October saw them moving towards Burma—a bigger, better, and more experienced troop.

On arrival this time they were stationed with the rest of the Brigade at a little place that was some 2000 yds as a forward base for the coming attack on the



"Essential workers" employed on the staff of 44 Cdo.

Arakan. It was named Teknaf. Not much can be said of this place except the life of training for the job ahead.

It was while they were here that the "Signal" Troop Sports Fund was formed, a thing that helped more than anything else to make the signal troop

one of most united bodies of men in the British land at work and play. At Christmas, although they were living in tents and lath-and-plaster huts on the edge of a desolate jungle, the festive spirit was not lacking and a grand time was had with the assistance of a few willing ducks and much treasured bottles of beer.

The opening days of the New Year saw the full tide set in for the assault on Alibay. The expected opposition was not likely to greet us on the attack turned out to be a routine march across Alibay Island. Nevertheless the wireless operators were still in communication, and carried their sets and equipment just the same. One detachment had the good fortune to have the Deputy Brigade Commander land a hand when the going was heavy.

After a few days on the Island they set off again with their respective Commanders to assault the Mythen peninsula. What was lacking at Alibay was certainly made up for here—according to High Ranking Officer of much experience "The more beach landing was." They came in very much encouraged by the bombardment by sea and air but the knee deep mud, water high water, and solid beach was a deterrent. Nevertheless, the assault commander had his link back to his HQ immediately dry land was reached.

Of the fighting that followed and how the Signals supported the fighting troops who did it is too crowded to include in detail. Suffice it to say that

wherever the troops went and what were they did there was communication for them—*"Without which,"* said the 11th Commander, "No operation could really succeed."

At Kogsway—the Brigade's greatest hour, the signals were up with the fighting troops calling for support whenever they required it. The day that the Brigade were withdrawn from Kogsway proved to be the last time they would fight together again thus all signal attachments returned and back to Mythen.

It was here that the Signal group were asked upon to perform annual duties for a signalman—that of HQ Cooks. This they did until the whole Brigade, across back to Alibay for a week, across back to Alibay for a week, India for leave and disembarked from H.M.T. "Dames" at Madras. After leave in April they went with the Brigade rushing about India—first a few days Nanki, then two weeks at Poonah then off to Ahmednagar. From there to Belgium for jungle training and then to Kharsk-vah where they stayed for a couple of months. It was here that about ten new men joined the troop, and much sport and social evenings were enjoyed by all, as well as the special training for the assault on Singapore. It was here also that the news of the end of Japan was known, and in consequence they re-organized to their new role of occupation forces and set off with others from Bombay once again, this time for Penang on H.M.S. "Glasgow" and "Llan-

stephan Castle," naval assault ships.

The ships pulled in at Trincomalee and Ceylon and it was here that they heard that the plans had been changed and they would go to Hong Kong where we are at the time of writing. It is here that they are playing a unique role. The troop has been split in half to perform two entirely separate duties; half working in the signals at the HQ on the coast, and the other working the G.O.C. Signal Office on the Island of Hong Kong.

The troop is diminishing fast with its members returning home and it appears that soon the troop as such will cease to

exist. One thing can be said of them, to work and play they were a team fused together by a friendship that has grown during the past two years. On Saturday 30th December they held the "Farewell" dinner at the Tin Chai restaurant in Hong Kong where it was unanimously decided to hold a session in Nighty.

To complete this story of the R.A.T. it is well to remember the 1936 and the chosen 1936 that has been awarded the troop and to deplore the loss in action of an old member—Jack Stoddard. To his wife go the troop's deepest sympathy and sincerest wishes for the future.



Personnel of the 11th R.A.T. Section.

THE PADRES COLUMN

THE noise was indescribable. Everyone was talking at once. It was about half past twelve when I got aboard the "Bajah" to welcome the reinforcements that arrived in Hong Kong in March 1944, and on entering the syndicate I immediately recognized Officers I'd known in other Commands, 1 and 4 Commando Brigades in Europe.

Everyone of the old stages of our Brigade seemed to be ahead looking for old friends from the other Brigades, and there was the sort of atmosphere we shall probably know again in Commando reunion dinners in years to come.

It brought back very vividly what an extraordinary friendly thing a Commando is, and memories of Officers and men, what they did and what they said, came flooding back.

As a Padre I cannot help noticing that the war has taught us more about good and evil than we ever knew before. Perhaps not one of us would dare to say that he has done nothing in this war of which he has been ashamed. Dishonesty, crime, and immorality seem to thrive in the general equal movement and necessity of war, but the bad things we know all too well, and if they are on our consciences it is good to remember that the Eternal God was known as a friend of Sinners, and in His infinite patience and understanding, not by His death for

us on the Cross near Jerusalem, in both side and willing to forgive, and longing to forget.

It is, however, the good things we want to remember. In Commando in Europe, in Italy or the Middle East, we have unconsciously picked up ideas we may never have had before. We have seen men carrying their friends who have been wounded two miles through swamp or sand or jungle country when an action is over and S.R.'s are scarce. We have known people who have given their last Vesper for swamp, and combat (this sets like that which all virtues do that service for others, unselfishness, good humour, kindness, discipline, endurance and even courage itself are things many of us have learnt if not for the first time, at least in fuller measure, as a Commando soldier or Commando Marine.

Agreed. But what of the future? We've left a map to day dream, and see no future further than putting our heads on the mantelpiece at home and having a conscience made for an infinitely longer we won the war. Putting it bluntly, if we are to tell our weight, we must remember our responsibilities more than our rights and honestly have a crack at beating ever into every street these good things we have learnt in the service.

As this is the Padre's column, you'll be expecting some propaganda, won't you? Here it is.

The Christian Faith teaches us that we are not capable of producing all these good fruits of character entirely unaided, and, more surprisingly, that even if we do, that doesn't get us to Heaven. That is to say religion is more than something on a supernatural level, it is on a God-human level, and surely it is more than just trying to do right in the sight of God, it is first being just right by God, as we trust Jesus as our Saviour and Master.

One of the functions of the Church is to keep reminding people of that, and this is where our Ministers of War may help. I remember one night just before a small Troop unit standing in an empty building of a little village near where our L.C.A.'s were hidden, to hold prayers, at the request of the Troop Commanders, before we sailed, and how we stood there with our back hands and faces while a Marine held a candle over my Bible, so that I could read, and even though it was purely voluntary, everyone came. Why? because instinctively we felt, most profoundly, the need of God's presence and forgiveness and assurance, before we went into danger. Yet our need of Him for our soul's health and salvation will be just as necessary in peacetime, even though danger and uncertainty do not wake that need, even so acute as in war time, that is why your local church is there.

Don't forget that when you get back to civvy street there will still be a place there in that

local church, who not only wants to help you, but who needs you to help him. Never again read me let it be said "Religion is something for old ladies". Many of us have missed the power and vitality of the Christian Faith in war-time, and if we call ourselves Christians and are seeking to follow Christ, we must be ready to take our place in our home church, whatever denomination we may be, and really put our might.

Many of you reading this Jungle Book will be demobilised before it reaches you. Because God has spared our lives surely He must have work for us to do. Will you ask Him to show you what He requires of you in the days of peace? He certainly asks you to find a surrogate to Christ, to attendance at the House of God, and perhaps even to some actual post or duty within the Church. Remember that His service is perfect freedom, but that obedience to the call of God means danger to you.

In the name of the great Chaplain in the Brigade, I am sure I echo their thoughts in saying how glad we shall be to hear from you, or even see you when we get established in our home churches. There will always be an open door in my Village for service from a Brigade, and a special third story open window for all keen Adventure types who prefer to come in that way!

May God bless us and guide us through all the unknown future, as He has guided us and protected us through the often dangerous past.

SPORTS NEWS

NO. 1 COMMANDO

SINCE our arrival in Hong Kong, sport has played a considerable part in the daily routine of the Commandos.

In September we were given a piece of ground which several hundred natives soon turned into a first-class football ground.

The Association Football Team was out of practice but soon settled down and has played some games in the last three months that probably in the 18 months previous to our arrival in Hong Kong.

We have played H.M.S. "Newcastle", H.M.S. "Antifer", and on March 1st, we defeated H.M.S. "Duke of York" by 4 goals to 2. Among many other teams were Force HQ, R.A.F. and the R.R.C's.

Since leaving India we have lost many of our team. Amongst them we all remember C.S.M. Hayes, Cpl. Logan, Cpl. Andrews and L.Cpl. Jackson. The new team has done extremely well and from December until the time of going to Press they have played 22 games of which only 2 have been lost.

Some of the closest games have been against our old friends No. 5 Commando. Two hard fought games both ended in a draw.

During February, an Inter-Troop League was started and four games have already been played. This competition has been successful for a short period while the Commando Team gets into fighting (per-

haps this should read football) this is play in the Hong Kong Challenge Shield. Congratulations to L.Mr. Douglas, Sgt. Gray, L.Cpl. Jones, Pte. Inglis, C.S.M. Ralston, Pte. Turner, Sgt. Perry, Pte. Bailey, L.Cpl. Wilson and Sgt. Stokes. Pte. Morgan, Sgt. Miran and Pte. Rendle for their stout record on the field of play. May those who take their place in the team when they have gone be as successful in the future.

The old Murray Barracks parade ground, first used in 1889 for a review of the troops in their romantic dress of 50 years ago (!) has been turned into a football ground rather uncertain looking pitch.

We have played Kennedy Force, H.M.S. "Comack", HQ Land Force, H.M.S. "Antifer" and the R.A.F. In our many Rugby Matches. In January we met our match in the Jaipee Grounds with whom we have had three games drawing one and losing two.

We are grateful to Major Gardner-Jones, MC who is a lightning bolt we hear enjoy playing this air in Australia. Good luck such a varied quantity of Sports Gear.

We have also played cricket on most Wednesdays on the Hong Kong Cricket Club ground and L.Cpl. J.H.S. Turnbull, MC, Major A.R. Ehill, Capt. J.R. Turpin, Capt. N.W.E. Wylie, Capt. J.J.V. Dawson, MC and Capt. A.J. Davies have all played on the Army side representing Hong Kong. Despite a rock-

hard ground three Rugby Football Matches have been played, the results being:—

- 1. Commando v H.M.S. "Antifer" was 71-0
- 1. Commando v R.M. Engineers was 12-0
- 1. Commando v H.M. Commandos was 11-0

Last but not least a grand exhibition by C.S.M. Mahdani, Sgt. Griffin, Cpl. Ralph and L.Cpl. Roberts in a boxing Tournament open to all the Services including the British Empire team. No. 1 Commando was three out of their four fights. C.S.M. Mahdani was defeated as an British Army heavyweight champion. Cpl. Griffin who scored with a knock-out in the first round and L.Cpl. Ralph who won on points.

NO. 5 COMMANDO

AS usual, the main sport played in 5 Commando during the months we have spent in Hong Kong has been Soccer, although basketball enjoyed—for a few weeks—a wave of popularity which proved unfortunately to be a brief and soon-forgotten interlude.

Despite many changes, and team formations the Commando has been fairly successful during the season and finally achieved its greatest ambition—the defeat of its old rivals, No. 48 Commando (R.M.) in a match where team spirit overcame skill.

In October, in an excellent match watched by many spectators, the team lost to an R.A.F. Select but hopes of revenge in the future are considerable.

The teams successes were two excellent wins against R.M.

HQ and the R.R.C's and on two occasions a draw was gained with No. 1 Commando and once with 42 Cdo. In the Colony Shield Competition the team drew Eastern Athletic in their first match and though facing one of the most experienced teams in the Colony made a gallant showing and went down to the tune of four goals to two.

The personalities of the team throughout the season have been many but chief amongst them is undoubtedly that of E. R. H. Dryden, the Captain, who has led and inspired the team throughout as well as being the prime mover in both attack and defence.

Sgt. Thorne playing at centre has been an ever-ready king in all emergencies, whilst Cpl. Ford, inside forward, has displayed equal popularity in attack as tenacity in defence. F. J. H. Kibbel in goal has played many hard and valuable games and other members of the team who have all contributed to an excellent season's play are Cpl. Coleman, L.Cpl. Harvey, L.Cpl. Dean, Sgt. Walters, Pte. Hill, Pte. McMahon, Pte. Alexander, Cpl. Connor.

Selected to play in the B.C. team were those of the Cdo's forwards—E. R. H. Dryden, Cpl. McOcher and Cpl. Ford.

Within the unit an Inter-Troop Tournament has provided first-class sport and entertainment with teams fielded at least two teams and forgetting the soldiers who didn't quite finish at the bottom of the League. The tournament consisted of both

seven and eleven-a-side games and has been most popular.

Boxer within the Troops in the New Territories, has been much encouraged and it was a rare thing indeed to find the athletes empty at almost any hour of the week.

Other activities in the sphere of sport, apart from the afore-mentioned (untenable) phase, have been largely theoretical, as the newly launched athletics ship foundered on the rocks of awards and nobility laurels!

Fencing and polo were also branched but proved imprac-

No. 1 Club.

The amalgamation of No. 1 and 5 Commands should prove serious in sporting advancement; a combined football team will be capable of challenging any team in the area and with the approach of summer an athletics meeting is hoped for, and planned. The possibilities of a combined shooting team to challenge other Services is also pre-shadowed.

In conclusion we must thank all those members of the Club—past & present—who have shown such civilised spirit in the maintenance of sport throughout the season.

42 COMMANDO, R.M.

OWING to the fact that the majority of troops are separated as much as, in some cases, twenty miles apart sport has tended as of late to be on a Troop basis rather than on a Commando.

However, prior to our moving out from Kowloon numerous games of football were played with local units. The most outstanding games were with 41—which we lost, and with 1 and 2 Cde, which we drew. Numerous matches were played with the Chinese, the most interesting game being with Kwong Wah. We won with a score of 4-2.

No cricket matches have been played by the unit but four officers played for the Army XI in Hong Kong. They were Mr. Farthing, Lt. Cadwallan, Lt. Williams and Lt. Ward. From all accounts they put up a very good show.



Maj. Gardner engaged while watching a football match. He does not, however, seem too happy about it.

ticable owing to the lack of anything but tame pig!

Just before the move to Hong Kong in March two members of 3 Cde, participating in the Services Boxing Competition. They were Lieut. Tunell and Cpl. Taylor. The former couple, Lieut. McGaffery, R.A.F. known to fame as the "Fighting Brickman" and won an excellent fight on points while Cpl. Taylor went down to Capt. Griffin of

We have only played one rugby match so far. This was on March 14 when we played 1 Commando and lost with a score of 10-0.

An officers' hockey team managed to play Kennedy Force in Hong Kong. The result,

Officers so the loss said the better.

41 COMMANDO, R.M.

WITH the settling down of the Hong Kong Command generally, has come the formation of the Hong Kong Rehabilitation



Football teams of 41 Cde and the Western Police during the Cde leave tour.

much to our surprise was a win. Next day there were a few more heads and legs.

One of the most popular, and indirectly the most lucrative sport has been horse riding. An arm HQ had the most opportunity to indulge. One or two horses were turned out to various Troops that nearly everyone who wanted to has had a chance to ride. Later on a number of horses were taken over by the Hong Kong Jockey Club to be trained for flat racing. Col Porter, Mac Lakin and Mac Meleer were asked to race at the races. There have been three races and three times the riders from the unit have found themselves very popular indeed.

Other sports in the unit include kite flying, archery, horse-shoe golf and artillery practice. These, however, hardly come under the Sports

League, the progress of which has aroused great interest and sometimes high feelings in the Colony.

Here are the results of matches so far played by the teams:

S & P	won	lost
Civilian 'A'	won	2-1
R.E.	won	4-2
South China	drawn	1-1
Eastern Athletic	lost	2-0
Queen's High	won	2-1

These reflect in some way the derelictions of demobilisation, but we are expecting great things from our reinforcements.

During the Christmas New Year celebrations, three exhibition matches were played, in which 41 Cde players featured as Captains of the teams representing United Services, the Mainland, and the "Host of Colony". Our Regs. were Col Hudson, P.O.M. Johnson and Cpl Hudson respectively.

In a Challenge Shield match the first XI was also victorious over South China Athletic Association, winning 2-1.

During the recent Inter-Services Boxing Competition in Hong Kong our sole competitor was T.S.M. Jimmy Smith (HQ Tp Sgt Major). He was unlucky to draw a fast, heavier and more experienced boxer in P.O. Collins (R.N.), but put up a very plucky and game showing. This was much appreciated by all those who realised that he had risen from his bed after an attack of malaria only two days before the fight.

Our sports activities have been mainly confined to football. In the first organised match since the re-occupation of the Colony the 1st XI played a Combined Chinese Team in a charity match in aid of the C-in-C's Fund, winning 6-0. The total proceeds were

R.K.\$5,500.

Here is a summary of other matches played:-

R.M.A. Amos	drawn	3-3
R.M.A. Netherby	won	2-0
Combined Chinese	won	7-1
R.M.A. Shickle	won	2-0
Royal Engineers	won	2-1
4 Commando	lost	3-1
4 Commando	won	4-2

From these it will be seen that the Commando XI has been highly successful in its efforts. Whether we attribute our one lost game to Christmas festivities or not, it may be safely said that they had something to do with it!

From the 17th. to the 21st. November the team visited the Portuguese Colony of Macao, which entertained them for the whole period.

Results of those games were:-

Macao Police	won	2-3
Macao Corp	won	2-0
Portuguese Navy	won	2-2

