

THE GREEN HOWARDS
IN MALAYA

THE GREEN HOWARDS IN MALAYA

(1949-1952)

*The Story of a Post-war Tour of Duty by a
Battalion of the Line*

BY

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The Green Howards

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KING'S HOUSE
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MALAYA

FORWARD


I hope very much that this short History of three years' operations in Malaya by the First Battalion The Green Howards will be read not only by students of Regimental History, but by many other people as well.

For certainly it is a story of inspiring leadership, courage, hardship and success.

I recommend it to the reader because I know something of the conditions under which The Green Howards have served; and I know that they have attained a remarkably high standard of skill and guile against the Communist enemy in very difficult terrain.

The way in which the young National Service Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer and man has endured and mastered these jungle conditions is a continual source of admiration to me. It is also a very great tribute to those Regular Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers who have trained such admirable material and welded them into a first-class fighting Battalion, equal to the highest standard set by their Regimental forbears.

The Green Howards leave Malaya with a fine record behind them. Not only a record of success in battle, but also a record of having won the respect of men and women of all the races with whom they have come in contact. They have been worthy ambassadors of Britain during these years of struggle and endeavour.


HIGH COMMISSIONER
FEDERATION OF MALAYA

PREFACE

THIS account of the part played in the Malayan Campaign by the 1st Battalion The Green Howards, between August, 1949, and October 1952, has no pretensions to being an official War History. Rather is it an attempt to tell the story of the fortunes of the Battalion and of the Officers and Men who served with it during this period, so that some record shall exist of their contribution to the reputation of the Regiment, and that there may be material from which some more fluent pen may one day write its History.

Although every effort has been made to ensure that accounts are accurate, it is certain that many incidents worth the telling have been omitted, and a score of brave deeds left unsung. Since so many Officers and Men who served with the Battalion during this period, and particularly during the early stages of the tour in Malaya, have now either finished their service or are serving elsewhere, this is unavoidable. Their comments and advice, had they been available, would have helped to make the story more complete.

This story, then, is a recital of facts in the nature of a full diary. Such commentary as there is has been included so that the background against which events occurred may be the better understood.—

I would like to express my thanks to the *Straits Times* and the *Singapore Standard* for their assistance and permission to use some of their photographs in this book ; also to Mr. James Patrick, District Officer, Tampin, who advised me on the finer points of the Civil Administration.

In addition to the more formal acknowledgments, I would like to thank all those Officers, N.C.Os. and Men of the Battalion, and others, who, by comment and correction, have assisted so greatly in this record, and without whose willing