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MALAY REGIMENT'S 21st ANNIVERSARY.

The Malay Regiment comes of age. Malaya's oldest fighting force - now 7,000 strong - celebrates its 21st Anniversary, in Kuala Lumpur, the Federal Capital, with a Ceremonial Parade before the High Commission and Their Highnesses the Rulers. Although it is not a public holiday, a crowd has collected in vantage spots and around the edge of the padang.

A sunny, tranquil morning, finds detachments of all 7 Battalions drawn up in proud array on the padang facing the Government Offices.

As each Ruler arrived, he was given the Royal Salute and his State flag was broken - until 9 flags hang side by side in the still air, and the moment for the High Commissioner to arrive draws near. General Templer is met by the G.O.C. Malaya, General Sir Hugh Stockwell, and officers of the Malay Regiment. Lady Templer and other distinguished guests watch the parade from seats outside the Government Offices.

And then to a slow march General Templer inspects the 400 men chosen to represent their Battalions.

The last 5 Battalions have all been raised since 1949 - a miracle of rapid expansion - and all, except the 7th Battalion formed not 6 months ago, have been constantly in service against the terrorists. The Malay Regiment has so far killed and captured 500 terrorists, in operations from Perlis to Johore.

And then the Parade moves to its climax - the trooping of the colours of the 5 Battalions that have so far received them. A traditional reminder of the past when the colour was the vital rallying point to troops dispersed in battle, this ceremony remains the outward show of the soul of a Regiment. The newest recruits on the right - men of the recently-formed 7th Battalion, show that they are not so new that they can't form an open square as smartly as their long-served comrades on the other side.

Then the High Commissioner speaks to them. Then comes the order for three cheers for Her Majesty The Queen, and Their Highnesses the Rulers.

And to the lively tune of their own Regimental March and led by their Commanding Officer, Brigadier G.T. Denaro, the Parade marches past the saluting base

Men of every State and Settlement of the Federation of Malaya - men of proud and soldierly bearing - men of the Malay Regiment, which comes of age today.

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REGIMENT COMES OF AGE.

Army Public Relations Press Statement.

The Malay Regiment, now 7 battalions strong, has its 21st anniversary on 1st March.

Today in Kuala Lumpur, the Regiment celebrated with a ceremonial parade on the Selangor Club Padang opposite the Secretariat. This early date was arranged in order that The Highnesses the Rulers, who are at present in the Federal Capital, might have the opportunity of seeing the detachments representing all battalions on parade.

The Malay Regiment, 21 years ago, started with only 25 men under the command of Major Bruce, now Major-General. The 1st and 2nd battalions met the fury of the Japanese attack and came through the ordeal with flying colours.

After the interruption caused by the war, the 1st and 2nd battalions were re-formed and since 1948, five further battalions have been added to the Regiment.

This morning's ceremonial parade was commanded by Brigadier G.T. Denaro, Director of the Federation Military Forces.

Eight Sultans - Johore was represented by His Regent - attended the ceremony, adding colour to an already colourful parade with rich Malay ceremonial dress.

Each Ruler was received by Lt. Gen. Sir Hugh Stockwell, G.O.C. Malaya, and was accorded by a Royal Salute, the Band of the Regiment playing the respective State Anthem.

His Excellency, the High Commissioner, General Sir Gerald Templer, after receiving the Royal Salute, inspected the four hundred men on parade.

The Regimental Colours of the first 5 battalions were trooped. The 6th and 7th battalions have yet to receive their Regimental Colour.

The Parade then formed "hollow square" and the High Commissioner and the Religious Teacher made their speeches. After re-forming line, the parade "advanced in review order".

Three cheers for Her Majesty The Queen and Their Highnesses the Sultans were lustily given by the parade.

The ceremony ended with a march past, the salute being taken by General Sir Gerald Templer.

A very large number of guests were present and thousands of spectators witnessed the parade.

Kuala Lumpur.