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THE LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE

The Leicestershire Regiment are announced as serving in the Mediterranean Theatre. Since the beginning of the war, the Leicesters, known as the "Tigers" from a badge which they won over a century ago for service in India, have won many laurels in Norway, France and Flanders, Libya, North Africa, Syria, Crete and Malaya.

During the North African campaign, fighting with the First Army, their brigade captured Sidi Mabrouck, north of Sebka el Kourzia in the last week of April.

Perhaps one of the Regiment's most spectacular achievements during the present war was the service which it rendered at Tobruk. A battalion formed part of the garrison and night after night went forth on raids deep into the enemy lines, taking heavy toll of both Italians and Germans. This battalion took part in the final sortie from Tobruk, when the garrison joined hands with the advancing 8th Army. Twice it was counter-attacked by German forces and twice it routed and chased the enemy. The Leicesters' record in the Western Desert was the record of veterans with a great tradition to sustain. They had taken part in General Wavell's offensive, and, in December 1940, at Sidi Barrani, when they captured 2,000 Italians and great quantities of material, they made a famous charge across flat ground in the face of batteries blazing at them over open sights less than a mile away.

A battalion of the Leicesters had to its credit the destruction of over 1,500 German parachutists in Crete.

A regular battalion of the regiment which had seen service in India was at Kodah on the northern frontier of Malaya at the time of the first Japanese thrust in December, 1942. Suffering very heavy casualties and fighting with unfaltering gallantry, it took part in a series of fierce rearguard actions down the length of the Peninsula, and its remnant was in the last stand at Singapore.