

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

# Supt Acton retires from Malawi Police

**S**ENIOR Supt. Les Acton, his wife Rona, and their three children, recently left Malawi on retirement leave. Mr Acton, apart from one other officer, was the longest-serving European officer in the police force, having arrived in the country in August, 1949. He served under four different Commissioners of Police.

Born in London in 1918, he saw service with the 4th Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) TA from 1935 to 1938.

In 1938 he joined the Palestine Police as a constable and



S/SUPT. ACTON

remained in that force until the termination of the British mandate in 1949. He was promoted to sergeant in 1944; for much of his service he was a plain clothes officer. During the Second World War he commanded an internment camp.

Joining the Malawi Police as an assistant inspector, he served at many police stations in the Southern Division. For some time he was Divisional Prosecutions Officer, a post which he relished and to which he could put his ample experience and knowledge to good use.

During the latter part of his service he was second in command, successively, of the Southern and Northern Divisions and for a short time he commanded the latter, with the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

A keen golfer and bridge player, Les hopes to continue these pursuits in England. He has, however, indicated that the Acton family might well return to this part of the world should the opportunity present itself.

At a farewell party given by

the police at Mzuzu, Mr and Mrs Acton were presented with a silver entree dish and a copper wall plaque by the officers and other ranks of the Malawi Police, Northern Division.

## FACTUAL TOUR

'Tosh' Mitchell Macintosh, attractive US Peace Corps teacher, has spent some of the school vacation on tour in the North. Of particular interest to her were the growing of rice and coffee, in order that she could provide a factual background for lessons to be given to her pupils at Mzimba during the coming school term.

## ROAD SAFETY

Mr D.W. Harris, Road Traffic Commissioner has also recently toured the Region for discussions on licensing and other allied problems. Whilst in Mzuzu he took the chair at the half yearly meeting of the Road Traffic Assessors, at which he stressed the importance of road safety.

He expressed his thanks for the efforts of the police, who had given 26 lectures to schools during the period under review.

During the year ending July 31, 1966, there were 168 accidents reported in all districts, of which six were fatal, twenty with serious injuries and 41 with slight injuries.

## RECRUITING

With the consent of the President, recruiting for the Malawi Army is taking place in all districts in the Northern Region.

## STRONGHOLD

Mzuzu is fast becoming a stronghold of the Irish. With the recent arrivals of Bob McWilliams, Paddy Adair and Celestine Collins, aided and abetted by others, the shamrock takes pride of place. The sight of Paddy and Bobb leading Scottish Country Dancing at the Club has to be seen to be believed!

## MYSTERIOUS

With championship matches taking pride of place over social tennis during the last few weeks, many tennis players have been trying their hands on the wide open spaces of the golf course. In preparation for a handicap tournament the "new boys" have been practising assiduously but still manage a few mysteri-