FAREWELL
THE
LANCERS

At the end of their tour with UNFICYP, Maj. R.E.H. Coghill leads A Squadron, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) past the saluting dais at the BRITCON Medal Parade.
Providing the necessary direction, guidance and operational support for the Sector Four Companies, and in particular the 'Soldiers of the Line', is the role of HQ Company, and its sub-units!

Consisting of some 108 personnel, the primary operational sub-units include a Battalion Command Section, Operations Section, Operations Information Section, Operations Economics Section, a Military Police Section, a Reconnaissance Platoon and a Signals Platoon. Providing other important but non-operation activities are the Padres, a Hotel Manager/Laundry Section, Company Transport and the various mess staffs.

Commanded by Captain Bob Newman, HQ Company moved out of Wodany Barracks while being quartered in the adjacent Ledra Palace Hotel. From this location it is the sub-units of HQ Company who provide the continual liaison link with HQ UNFICYP. Their direction through the companies thus has an effect down to the soldiers on the line. In this manner the soldiers of HQ Company take an active part in maintaining "Peace".

**CANCON NEWS**

"HQ COMPANY"

Sector Four maintains a Joint Operations Centre which functions for both Sector Four Operations and the AUSTAICYPOL attached with the Canadians in Nicosia. Left to Right Chief Instructor Ross Jackson assists Lieut. Glen Nordick during a routine incident.

Reconnaissance Platoon continuously has mobile patrols moving throughout the Sector Four Buffer Zone providing a UN presence in all areas. Left to Right, MCpl Mike Spellen is briefed by WO Rocky Stiplton prior to going out on patrol.

MCpl Gun Pirie of the Operation Information Section carefully marks a map.

Cpl Red Hunter makes a delivery on behalf the Red Cross. One of the many and varied humanitarian activities of the Operations Economics Section.

The Signals Platoon provides operational communications support for Sector Four. Cpl Brian Carke (Right) does repair work 90 ft above the ground.

Pie Dave Hothkiss our CANCON photographer and a wisdom, published member of HQ Company provides a big service on behalf of CANCON.

The move is under way. There go the Mess tables.

The tents are pulled down at "Goldfish Camp" in Larnaca.

The final inspection at "Seed Mill", in the middle, Maj Paul Carcas, Force Engineer and the CPLF, Lt Col J A Harrow.

Approximately one year ago, SWEDCON and AUSCON exchanged Sectors and this resulted in a shortage of accommodation for SWEDCON. In order to remedy this situation a tented city for a platoon from No 1 Company was pitched just outside Camp Victoria in Larnaca.

The new camp on the eastern outskirts of Nicosia, known as "Seed Mill" during its construction, was finally occupied at the end of August by the platoon of men from No 1 Company who have been patiently awaiting the move from their tents. Also members of the nearby OP 561 moved out of tents into this new "Goldfish Camp". The tents at Larnaca and those at OP 561 have finally been pulled down and packed away, for good we hope!

The CPLF takes a look at the new barrack rooms.

Some confusion caused by the move. But it was soon cleared up.

Teething problems... A leaking water tower!
The parade took place at 1800 hrs and the picture shows the parade presenting arms on the arrival of the Force Commander.

EVRYKHOU STADIUM

The parade closed with the covering of the Union Jack and the lowering of flags. It was a moving moment, taking place as it did with the sun setting on the hills on the horizon and the sound of martial music in the air.

DANCON MEDAL PARADE

BUT THE PARADE ALSO MEANT THIS

TRAINING

Capt. J. Jensen training the Colour Party.

CLEANING

Among the many arrangements that had to be made for the efficient reception of the guests was the car parking. Lpl P.A. Olsen marks out the parking area.

MARKING

The parade had to be dismantled after the parade. Here the flagpoles can be seen being floodlit.

DECORATING

The dais for the inspecting officer is moved into position.

DANCON

NEWS

PAINTING

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Whilst DANCON were preparing for the parade they were involved in a national referendum. The Federal (then) Australian Parliament, had decided to hold a referendum to find out if the majority wished to lower the electoral age from 20 to 18 years. Mr H.G. Brandis is seen taking the vote from Sgt H. Jacobson.

DANBROG, the Danish national flag, is hung on the stadium above the spectators' seats by Sgt P.P. Olsen and Pte B.T. Pedersen and L.T. Christensen.

25th AUGUST 1978
Pictiles above and below show the close competition in the butterfly race, an exiting event fought out with only centimeters separating the leaders. We had to bow to the undoubted supremacy of the Swedes. They were just too good for us all and certainly deserved to win.

"JUMP TO IT!"!

On Thursday 31st August the strange cry of "Jump to it!" echoed around the Blue Beret Camp swimming pool. AUSCON members were encouraging their competitors in the UNFICYP Swimming Competition that was taking place. Teams from all seven contingents contested fiercely with each other throughout the afternoon.

Our team had trained very hard and they were very keen. There is no doubt they entered the competition intending to win but in the end they had to accept the Olympic ideal that to win is not important, to compete and to do your utmost is what really matters.

Incidentally, we did not do as badly as all that, we achieved third place in the relay race. However, it was a disappointing day for us on many counts - in the 50 metres crawl we thought we had a winner, but it was not to be, our competitors faces fell when a Swede was announced the winner.

Here you can see how stunned our team were when they heard we had not won the crawl.

SAFE DRIVING TROPHY

Col P F B Hargrave presents Capt R Laitel, 1 RRF with the BRITCON Road Safety Trophy, given for the accident-free month in July. Capt Laitel is the MTO for Sector 2 at St. David's Camp. During the month his 47 assorted vehicles were driven by 110 drivers both on military roads and across country. Looking on is Maj A Reddick, KCT, the Road Safety Officer for Sector 2.

Many readers of the "The Blue Beret" will have seen and enjoyed the "It's a Knockout" series that have appeared in the swimming pool at Blue Beret Camp. This year the presentation of the games have taken place. The first was by the UNFICYP Support Regiment who played four teams. This proved so popular that two months later an "It's a Knockout" took place. For the BRITCON presentation reported in "The Blue Beret" four teams entered for the display of skill and humour and in turn were followed by an UNFICYP presentation in which all the major contingents, save AUSCON, entered their teams.

The idea of having an "It's a Knockout" started in the UNFICYP Workshops and was the brain child of WO1 P Weston. All the equipment used in the workshops was manufactured by the REME personnel who make it all in their duty hours. Although the equipment has very largely remained the same, many of the games have changed during the series. Maj J Drew, the Workshops OC, and WO1 Weston would decide what the games were to be, get the existing equipment adapted and then two days before the games took place, the REME crew would transport it all down to the pool for testing.

The organisation of the series did not stop at the making of the equipment. Rules had to be decided, the timings for the various events, a speaker system installed and a pool, judgess provided and, unknown to most people, four safety men, two each side of the pool were also in attendance.

All those people who saw and enjoyed the "It's a knockout" series owe a great vote of thanks to all the background boys, who gave up much of their spare time.

IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

It can happen to you. After nine years of trouble-free driving WO1 P Weston attempted to overtake a white van. After taking the proper precautions, he moved out to overtake. Whilst in the process of overtaking, the van pulled over to the right, struck Mr Watham's Datsun and sent it rolling down a thirty-foot embankment. The car rolled over five or six times, incredibly Mr Watham and his passenger got out suffering from only cuts and bruises. Mr Watham had experienced a very bad accident caused by bad driving by another road user. Bad driving is rife in Cyprus, so here are a few rules to keep in mind when overtaking.

Overtaking Rules

Before attempting to overtake sound your horn to warn the driver of the vehicle in front that you are going to overtake. Be prepared for the vehicle to move towards the right.

Drivers of vehicles that are parked never seem to check that the road is clear before opening doors, nor do they check before pulling out onto the road. Be careful then, when passing parked cars.

Many of the "fast" stretches of road in Cyprus run over a series of small hills. Make sure that you are not approaching one when overtaking.

Local drivers tend to swing to the right before a bend and turn to the left when taking a right-hand turn. Beware of vehicles that have pulled to the right-hand side of the road giving the appearance of going to stop; he could be well preparing for a right-hand turn. Likewise, if a vehicle moves to the centre of the road, giving the appearance of positioning for a right-hand turn, don't try to pass on the nearside unless he is definitely indicating that he intends turning to the right, he may just be getting a bit more room to run left.

When approaching the top of a hill or a corner, keep well in to the left. Many local drivers seem to think that the best part of the road to drive in is the centre.

Finally, he golden rule again - if in any doubt, at all, don't try it.

STRENGTH IN UNITY

On Tuesday 22nd August the monthly meeting of the Sector Commanders was held in Sector 6. The aim of these meetings is to help Sections understand one another's problems and relate them to the problems of the ground.

After being briefed on our problems and deployment the Sector Commanders were taken around the Sector. They visited many OPs, including the Orthello Tower, Varosha and the Dhekelia line. The finished back at Camp Duke Leopold V where the Sector Commanders had a round-table discussion on current problems in all their Sections before having lunch together.

The relaxed and friendly atmosphere is very evident in the accompanying picture of the Sector Commanders at the lunch table.

SAFE DRIVING TROPHY

UNFICYP Workshops

Backup for "It's a Knockout"

Col P F B Hargrave is seen here after presenting UNFICYP medals to WO1 Dickens, WO1 Nicola and WO1 Roach. For doing 18 years of undetected crime H Parker, ROAC, 18 years, WO1 Nicola, ROAC, 18 years, WO1 Roach, 18 years, D J Taylor, ACC, 18 years, Sgt G

Sixty Eight Years of undetected crime

Col P F B Hargrave is seen here after presenting UNFICYP medals to WO1 Dickens, WO1 Nicola and WO1 Roach. For doing 18 years of undetected crime H Parker, ROAC, 18 years, WO1 Nicola, ROAC, 18 years, WO1 Roach, 18 years, D J Taylor, ACC, 18 years, Sgt G
Namibia — UNTAG

New Force Outlined by Secretary-General

In a report to the Security Council at the end of August, the Secretary-General outlined a plan of action calling for the deployment of 9,000 UN peacekeeping troops and civil adminis
trators to Namibia to pave the way for elections leading to independence for the territory.

His report was based on the findings of Martin Ahituvski, his Special Representative, who had completed a survey mission involving extensive con
sultations with representatives of the various population groups in Namibia as well as with the South African authorities.

The report envisaged a lapsed of seven months from the time the Security Council gives the UN operation a go-ahead until elections are held. It says that the South African authorities, having previously set 31st De
cember 1979, as the date for independence, feel that elections should take place as sched
duled. But a majority of the political parties stressed the need for sufficient time to en
sure free and fair balloting. It was also pointed out that the actual date of independence would fall well within the competence of the constituent assembly as
described above.

The report anticipates a one-year operation by the UN tran
siton assistance group (UNTAG) which would cost up to 500 mil
lion dollars.

The independence plan, and the work of the group, would be carried out in stages, as de
tailed in the Namibian settlement proposal of the five western members of the council — the United States, Britain, France, The Federal Republic of Ger
dany and Canada. First would come a cessation of all hostile acts by all parties, and the withdrawal, restriction or demoli
tion of the various armed forces. Second, the conduct of free and fair elections to the constituent assembly, with pre
cipations including the repeal of restrictive laws, the release of political prisoners and volun
tories return of exiles, and the establishment of effective moni
toring by the UN and an ade
quately period for electoral cam
paigning. The next stage would involve the formulation and adoption of a constitution by the elected assembly, to be fol
lowed by the entry into force of the constitution, and inde
pendence.

Th military component, made up of infantry battalions totaling about 5,000 men plus 200 mon
itors, along with logistic and other support element totaling about 2,500 would be under the command of Major General Han
nes Philip, who has been ser
ing as Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights.

The functions of the military team would include monitoring the cessation of hostile acts by all
parties, the restriction of South African and Swazo arm
ed forces to base, the phased withdrawal of all except the spe
cified number of South African forces and the restriction of the remainder to specified locations.

The military team would also have the task of protection of free elections as well as surveil
lance of Namibia’s borders, moni
toring the demobilization of citi
gan forces, and supporting the civilian part of the UN operation.

The civilian component of UNTAG would include about 300 police officers whose duties would include taking measures against any intimida
tion or interference with the electoral process. The police element would be made up of some 1200 personnel who would supervise and control all aspects of the electoral process, advise the Special Representa
tive as to the repeal of discrimina
tory laws, and assist in ar
rangements for the release of political prisoners and peaceful return of refugees.

The report emphasizes that if the UN operation is to proceed effectively it must at all times have the full support and back
ning of the Security Council as well as the full co-operation of all parties. It also stresses the need for the co-operation and support of the neighbouring countries.

Lebanon — UNIFIL

Force Commander rejects Lebanese call for aggressive action

The Comander of the United Nations peacekeeping troops in Lebanon recently said that he is firmly opposed to suggestions that his men should attack Right wing militias in the south
ern border region.

Major-General Emmanuel Er
skine was commenting on a Lebanese government call for more effective moves by the 6,000 strong UN Force.

He told Reuters the idea of fighting to serve control of the volatile area from the Israeli
backed militias had been dis
cussed several times, but that he believed the problem should be tackled by political rather than military means.

In a letter to the U.N. Se
curity Council on 4th September the government questioned UNIFIL’s ability to complete its task within the limits set by its peacekeeping mandate, and urged the Council to redefine the forces duties. The note added: “It would be in the interests of all parties concer
ned to discuss more effective steps...”

The UN Force was set up in March to confirm a withdrawal of Israeli invasion troops and to help the Lebanese govern
ment re-establish its authority in the area. The militaries have so far refused to relinquish con
trol of a six miles-deep belt of territory stretching the entire length of the border, which they inherited from the departing Israelis.

In an interview at his head
quarters in the southern coastal village of Naqoura, General Er
skine said: “I am firmly oppo
sed to the military option. This has been discussed several times, including during a re
cent visit to the area by Under
Secretary General Brian Ur
chart. From my own assess
ment, and I have made this very clear to my superiors, the problem here is not a military one. It is political, and I see it as being resolved as such.”

The General said it would make no sense to send his Force, which was lightly armed, against mi
tillias equipped with tanks and heavy artillery. “It would re
quire a completely new man
agement, more men and more heavy weapons to make conversion up into a strike force. In addition the countries contributing detachments would also have to accept that their soldiers would be at war and would suffer ca
sualties. Even then, what would we do? Bomb the villages where we are supposed to be keeping the peace? It would not make sense”.

The UNIFIL Commander re
jected Lebanese criticism and urged government co-operation. He said: “The Northern area of our zone is the most peace
ful and secure in the country. I would like to see the Lebanon
es re-establish their authority there. Why haven’t they? I would like to stress the border region is a political problem and political solutions take time. The Leba
nese government is in too much of a hurry. I wish the Lebanones
es rather than criticizing UNIFIL, would give us their maximum co-operation.”

General Erskine said that 80 percent of the re
fugees who fled the fourth inva
sion of the area during March has returned to their homes. He said: “The only personal satisfaction we get is from giving humani
tation aid and I believe we have done a good job in this re
spect, but this is ignored by those who criticise UNIFIL.”

(Roote)

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Two weeks ending 1st September 1978

<table>
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<td>172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total same time last year</td>
<td>191</td>
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LESSON OF THE FORTNIGHT

The question is not how well you CAN drive — it’s how well you DO drive.

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