SECTOR 2
REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS
COMPETITION

As well as all the excitement of the last few weeks 2nd Field Regiment also found time to hold its annual athletics competition in Nicosia. A somewhat shorter programme than usual was necessary to keep the manpower bill to the minimum, but this did not detract from the quality of the competition. After a neck and neck race 46 Battery clinched the title from N Battery on the last event, the 4 x 100 metre relay. We now look forward to the UN athletics competition on the 17 April.

VISIT TO HMS MANCHESTER

A party of soldiers from O Battery recently visited Her Majesty’s Ship ‘Manchester’. ‘Manchester’ is affiliated to 2nd Field Regiment because the city of Manchester is our joint recruiting area and both units retain strong connections with the county and locals. The visit was possible as HMS Manchester was paying a courtesy call in Laraca. A group of sailors from the ‘Manchester’ visited Camp Elizabeth and were delighted to get the opportunity to visit the Green Line and get an insight into the working of UNICYP.

The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice. Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in good lighting and written on glossy paper sized 165mm by 215mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy. The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications except where acknowledgments are made to another copyright holder. No article or illustration may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

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See Legend Above By: Capt. Heckel and Photo Kirchner

The Blue Beret

EDITORIAL

For many UNICYP personnel used to less favourable climatic conditions in their home countries, summer has arrived in Cyprus and for some this is reflected in greater participation in outdoor activities. Over a year UNICYP organizes a great variety of events both sporting and cultural. The success and benefits derived from such activities depend on the encouragement and wholehearted participation of everybody. For the interests of camaraderie, esprit and personal enjoyment we urge all our readers to become involved, UNICYP and its personnel will be the better for it. The editorial staff are very pleased with the reaction of Blue Beret readers to the recently included En Passant column. Please continue to provide the material. The magazine needs a continuous supply of information concerning current activities and personalities in all areas and from all ranks of UNICYP.

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LEGEND TO FRONT COVER:
1. The ‘Allied council’ (France, Great Britain, USA, USSR) as co-governor between 1945 and 1965 with the Austrian first President, Dr Renner.
2. Symbolizing the monarch history up to 1918 when Austria became a Republic.
3. The signing of the 1955 State Treaty in the Vienna castle of Belvedere.
4. A piece of Austria which belongs to the whole world - the ‘Vienna International Centre’ which houses some of the organizations of the UN. With this Vienna became the third UN HQ city in 1979 after New York and Geneva. (Photo: copyright reserved).
5. In 1998 the ‘Iron Curtain’ between Austria and the former Communist neighbours was pulled down. (Photo: Copyright by Austria Today - James Wilkie).
EXCHANGE TRAINING

B Coy in DANCON have just completed their exchange training with the other contingents in UNFICYP. The first exchange was with CANCON at the end of January which lasted for four days. The City Coy sent six Canadian soldiers to B Coy who in turn sent six Danes to City Coy.

In mid February we had the opportunity to send a further six soldiers, one from each OP in B Coy, to the Pyla platoon in AUSCON, and once again this proved to be a tremendous success.

For the men of B Coy it has been very instructive and many routine tasks have been improved as a result. The English radio procedure for instance has now reached an acceptable level and is no longer one of our weak spots. The increased social contact has strengthened relationships between the sectors and has proved that we can all work as a team which in turn gives us all a better UNFICYP.

In the next rotation we had a BRITCON exchange. This time it was difficult to select the soldiers as almost everyone in the Coy volunteered. With BRITCON being our neighbours along the line transportation was no problem. The BRITCON rotation gave the Danish soldiers a good chance to view their own area from a different viewpoint.

SAFETY FIRST

When the Canadian soldiers arrived they were briefed and each soldier was placed on a separate OP. The Danes who were sent to the City Coy were likewise stationed on OPs throughout Sector 3. When the Danish soldiers returned they were sorry to leave the friends they had made and said that they would rather spend the rest of their six month tour in CANCON! Apart from making new friends the Danes have learned a lot about how the Canadian Army works and of course have improved their English (if you can call it English).

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CAPT STIX

Capt Stix a member of the Austrian militia was sent to Cyprus to inspect the windlass for the Austrian Battalion. He spent a week doing the checks and found all in order.

TALAVERA TAKE OVER IN THE WEST

At 0800 hrs on the 8 March 46 (Talavera) Air Defence Battery assumed command of the western half of Sector 2. 46 Battery is the senior battery in 2nd Field Regiment and was awarded its honour title "Talavera" after the battle of Talavera de la Reyna in 1809 as part of the Peninsular Campaign, part of the war of the alliance against Napoleon. 46 Battery is the only air defence battery in 2nd Field Regiment and when stationed in Germany is equipped with the Javelin shoulder launched missile system.

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THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED!

N Battery (The Eagle Troop) has just taken over the eastern half of Sector 2. It gained its distinctive title fighting against the Afghan army in 1942. The Battery does have another honour title, however, that of Beni-Boo - AI Troop, although its rather a mouthful to shout on parade!

The Battery fought with distinction in both World Wars and holds the record for the highest number of rounds fired in a month. August 1917 saw the Battery's guns fire 15360 rounds, fur

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SBA BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP

The newly formed UNPA Badminton Club entered the competition with six players: LCpl Yoe, LCpl Davies, Cfn McGann, Drv Gibbons, Mrs Davies, and Cpl Merritt, (Team Captain).

As well as playing in the singles, all participated in either the men's doubles or mixed doubles.

During the weekend of the 10th February 1990 the annual Badminton Competition took place at 8 Signal Regiment, Dhekelia.

Cpl Merritt winner of the Men's Plate

LCpl Yoe and Cfn McGann did extremely well to reach the quarter final of the men's doubles, only to be beaten by Cpl Merritt and Sgt Middleton, who lost to the favourites in the semi-final.

In the mixed doubles Cpl Merritt and Mrs Casson made the semi-finals before getting beaten by the eventual winners.

The teams greatest success was that Cpl Merritt won the men's plate convincingly by 15-0, 15-5.
SECOND BATTALION TAKES UP THE SLACK!

With the arrival of main body one on 7 March and main body two on 11 March, Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry has hit the ground running. Picking up where our 1 RCR predecessors left off, the boys from Winnipeg are ready to roll. More than one new arrival was heard to comment on the joys of trading a Canadian prairie winter for the balmy climes of a Cypriot spring!

The arrivals and subsequent processing went smoothly (for the most part!) and in no time the soldiers of 2 PPCLI were on the line. Most of our soldiers got a hearty handshake, a "welcome to the Island of Love" and directions to the nearest O.P. Alas fellas, work before play!

It has been a busy introduction to Cyprus but sure, but what the heck—to a man, Second Battalion is "good to go." Plenty of time to relax later is the attitude around here; for now its "lets get busy." So far the results have been worth it. Everyone is settled in, we've all learned our jobs and the great "rotation" house cleaning is in full swing. (Firewood? Not required sir—just look at all of these filing cabinets and wooden signs the RCR left behind.)

Speaking of housecleaning, how about that rain/hail/sleet storm on 11 March? Anyone happy to have a roof over their heads in the Ledra Palace Hotel is no doubt now praying fervently that the rainy season has passed. Rumour has it that WD Amral is looking for a good pair of used water wings (Just in case). A good room is no longer a BIG room, just a DRY room—right Warrant?

Now that we're firmly in the groove, the rest is, as they say, gray. With summer fast approaching so to are a variety of Contingent and Force level competitions. All ranks of Sector Three look forward to getting out and meeting the other Contingents on these various fields of battle. In the meantime, there's always those 4s to look forward to...

On that note, its time to sign off. From all of the Second Battalion's new arrivals, a hearty "Hello" to the rest of UNFICYP. Talk to you again in a month with the further adventures of 2 PPCLI "on the line" in Sector Three!

FSC SQN NEWS

C Squadron 9th/12th Royal Lancers (P.O.W.S.) have had a particularly busy month, and over the last fortnight have spent a great deal of time being deployed as the Force Reserve. On two occasions the Force Reserve has been in the Ledra Palace to help support Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in the final part of their take over. Inspite of the continuing commitment to the Force Reserve the Squadron has over the last month managed to take part in a number of sporting activities. The British Near East Forces skiing competition was represented by a team consisting of Lt Wilkinson, Cpl Thomas, Tpr Mallin and Tpr Rutherford. They managed to achieve a very credible fourth place amongst strong competition. A Squadron team also took part in the Ayios Nickerias Road Race where LCpl Pender and Tpr Burkat achieved particularly good results.

The Troops have also begun rotating through the leave period, and many have taken advantage the excellent opportunities available to visit Egypt and Israel.

Major Edward Nall (13th/18th Royal Hussars) has recently visited C Squadron on his recce and we look forward to seeing him with C Squadron in July.

CITY COY, 2 PPCLI ON THE LINE

By Lt J Walsh

With all of its personnel now firmly on the ground, City Coy, 2PPCLI is quickly adapting to its new operational role of United Nations Peacekeeping. For most personnel, the change in climate comes as a warm welcome compared to the cold winter weather left behind in Canada.

For many members of City Coy who are serving in Cyprus for the first time, the island of Cyprus offers a new geographical and cultural experience. For others who have been to Cyprus on previous occasions, sampling the local cuisine and absorbing the warmth of the Mediterranean sun are highlights quickly remembered from years ago.

City Coy personnel are looking forward to a rewarding tour on the island of Cyprus and are committed to fulfilling the challenging task of operating as an integral component of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.
NATIONS SERVING WITH UNFICYP: AUSTRIA

General:
Austria is situated in southern central Europe, covering a part of the eastern Alps and the Danube region. The country has a wide variety of landscape, vegetation, and climate. Situated as it is at the heart of a continent, it has always been a junction for communication links between the trade and cultural centres of Europe. Austria is a federal state with a total area of approx. 8,400 sq. km (3,200 sq. miles) and consists of nine provinces (see map).

Austria has common borders (1,662 miles) with no fewer than seven other countries. These neighbouring states have varying social and economic systems.

The Landscape:
The Austrian landscape falls into two sections: Eastern Alps (63%), Foothills (11%), Pannonian Lowlands (11%), Vienna Basin (6%), and Granite Highlands (1%). Austria's highest mountain is the Großglockner (12,465 ft). On its way from the Black Forest in southern Germany to the Black Sea the Danube flows some 2,200 miles of its course through Austria. Austria belongs to the Central European transitional climatic zone. The oceanic influence of the Atlantic is felt more strongly in the West, the continental influence more strongly in the East.

The Economy:
Austria has a social market economy, the principles of which are organized on a private basis. Exceptions are provided by such public services as the post, the railways and the nationalized industrial concerns. In terms of production Austria is a highly developed industrial country with a rapidly growing services sector. In 1987 the Austrian gross domestic product was per head of the population 15,535 US Dollar (primary sector - 3.8%, Secondary sector - 38.4%, Tertiary sector - 57.8%). The average unemployment rate for 1987 stood at 5.8%. The consumer price index rose by 1.4% between 1986 and 1987.

Political structure:
Austria is a republic based on the principles of pluralistic democracy as practised in the West. Austria's democratic structure is founded upon the multi-party system. Since 1945 more than 80% of the votes in all elections to the main legislative body, the Nationalrat, which comprises 183 representatives, have been accounted for by two major parties: the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats. The head of the state is the president, who is elected by all citizens entitled to vote in a direct ballot for a six-year term of office. The head of the government is the Chancellor, who is usually the chairman of the strongest political party. Austria is a country in which basic freedoms and human rights are safeguarded for everybody. Social peace is safeguarded by the collective and the so-called social partnership in which the representatives of employers and employees have effectively cooperated on a voluntary basis for decades.

An outline of recent anniversaries
1945-1990: 45 years Republic II
(RepUBLIC 1 1918-1938; 1938-1945
Austria as an annexed part of the German Third Reich)

One of Austria's most famous composers is Wolfgang A. Mozart.

POLITICS

Around one quarter of all Austrians take an active interest in politics. During the 1970s it was only 10% to 14%.

Almost half of the population react to politics with indifference or mistrust, or consider the subject too much for them.

Around 75% of Austrians think they have little influence on what the government does. The corresponding figure for Italy is 89%, West Germany 61%, and USA 33%.

By contrast, 72% of Austrians regard referendums as "a good thing". In 1985 the figure was only 59%.

The number of committed voters who traditionally vote for "their" parties (or those of their parents continue to sink steadily: from 65% in 1979 it is now down to 59%.

Some 10% of Austrians are personally politically active, 20% try now and again to persuade friends and acquaintances to vote for a particular party, and 30% attend political events.

About 30% of Austrians are prepared to participate in "citizens' initiatives". Only 20% agree with strikes as a means of realizing political objectives. A mere 4% would be prepared to use illegal means to that end, and - would have no objections to living in a dictatorship.

Finally, 82% of Austrians are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with democracy, parties, and "the entire political system".

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* Statistically, every "1.7th" Austrian owns a motor vehicle. There is one private car per 2.8 inhabitants, and one motor cycle, truck or tractor for every 12 people.
* Every third Austrian is — statistically — owner of one of the 2,524,000 castle registered at the middle of the year.
* Every "2.6th" Austrian is in dependent employment.
* Every fifth employee works in public administration.
* Every twelfth Austrian came to the country as a refugee. Since 1945, around two million people have sought sanctuary in Austria. Of these, 630,000 have remained and become socially integrated.
* Every 19th Austrian lives outside the Austrian borders.
* Every 192nd Austrian married during the first half of 1989. This is 43 percent fewer than during the equivalent period of 1968; when the state still awarded a marriage grant of 15,000 AS (around $1,000).
* Every 280th Austrian was injured in a traffic accident during the first half of 1989, an increase of 4.4% over the first half of 1988. Every 12,300th Austrian was killed on the roads (5.2% down).
* Every 82nd Austrian has been injured in a sporting accident on average in recent years. One third of these accidents took place while skiing.
ALL THE WAY FROM BOTANY BAY

Nine new members of AUSTRVIVPOL have just arrived here in Cyprus from Australia. Each member will spend at least six months here as part of the 52nd contingent. Service in Cyprus is voluntary for members of the Australian Federal Police and members are selected from all regions of Australia. Among those pictured are:

Sergeant Wayne D Jacob will find a slight difference in the duties in Cyprus having served for a time in the Observation Squad in Brisbane, Queensland.

Sergeant Anthony R Petherbridge's most recent deployment was with the Organised Crime Branch based in Sydney, New South Wales.

Sergeant John Williams-Mooley I am sure will welcome the operational type duties in Cyprus having spent time in the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence based in Canberra.

Sergeant Melita Zielonko has been on the Island since mid January. Prior to her posting to Cyprus, Melita was employed at City Division, General Duties Branch.

Sergeant John Myers also began his new duties in mid January. At home John is employed in the legal division based in Canberra.

No matter where you have served in the past I doubt if you have experienced anything quite like Cyprus and the duties we carry out here. Welcome to the Island, everyone here wishes you all the very best and hope that you will enjoy your tour.

BRATFISCH - A FAMOUS HISTORICAL NAME

MCpl Johann Bratfisch currently serving with AUSTRV CON is the great grandson of the late Mr Johann Bratfisch, who is well known in Austrian history. Mr Bratfisch was the coachman to the Crown Prince Rudolf and was the first to find the Prince and his loved one shot dead on a winter's morning in 1899. The tragedy of Mayerling caused a great scandal and no one has ever known whether the Prince and his lover were murdered or if they committed suicide.

AUSCON SOLDIERS GO 'GREEN'

Cyprus, like many other countries in the World is noticing the 'green' movement.

In Athienou the village within the Buffer Zone in Sector 4 villagers have formed a group known as 'Friends of the Forest' and recently invited the soldiers of 1 Coy, AUSCON to participate in an afforestation campaign.

Twenty peacekeepers, led by the Coy Commander, helped the villagers to plant some 500 native trees and in return UNFICYP were given 100 trees for planting at the OPs along the line.

CO 1 Coy, Maj Gruner sets an example

AUSTRALIA

further six months in Cyprus but his children proved too great a pull back in Canberra. Bill returns to Canberra to City Division.

Sergeant Steve Rollings is posted to the Legal Services Division in Canberra.

Each of the members returning home will leave something behind which will remind us of them and their stay here. I hope that they have all gained some valuable experience whilst here and that their lives are the better for it.

Sergeant Paul McEwan and his wife Victoria are returning to Canberra where Paul is posted to City Division - a uniform or community role.

Sergeant Bill Rawlinson I believe, intended to stay for a
VISIT TO SWEDCIVPOL

In the beginning of March, SWEDCIVPOL and UNFICYP were visited by the new Chief of the Swedish UN Training Centre, Lt Col Bo Henricsson. He was accompanied by Maj Christer Alldén, who is Chief Instructor at the centre, and Maj Hans Flodell from the UN Department at the Swedish Army Council.

The Swedish UN Training Centre, situated outside Stockholm, trains about 2,500 officers, soldiers and policemen of all ranks every year, among them about 150 women. At present, most of them are serving within UNFIL in Lebanon, where 650 men and women belong to the Swedish Logistic Battalion (SWEDLOG).

THE ANONYMOUS SWEDES

There are some members serving within UNFICYP who you don’t see very often. WO1 Stig Edsall at the UN MP Coy SIS in Nicosia is one of these people. Members of the Special Investigation Section are the only members of UNFICYP who do not wear a uniform to work. Like most Swedish MPs, Stig Edsall is a civilian policeman at home, and serves as a Detective at the National CID in Stockholm. Stig has previously served as a Military Policeman in Cyprus and in the Middle East and is pictured here (right) with his Canadian colleague Sgt Floyd Marrin.

SUPT ÖRJAN GREEN

Capt Hans Thorgren is Duty Officer at JOG. He has been in Cyprus since July last year. This is his second service tour in Cyprus. In Sweden he belongs to the Army Reserve and has a degree in Economy at the University of Stockholm, where he lives.

CAPT HANS THORGREN
UN OPEN DARTS COMPETITION

At the beginning of March the UN Tpt Sqn organized a UN Open Darts Competition in the Wheel-er-Inn Club, Jubilee Camp. The event, sponsored by Just Darts of Nicosia, attracted over 50 entries.

It was obvious from the first throw that the standard was very high. The semi-finals were very keenly contested with most throws scoring 100 plus. The final was an all DANCON affair with 'Scooter' emerging as the victor against Willy Olsen after some darts reminiscent of the 'World Championships'. Third and fourth places went to Mark Wright and Jay Jones both of UN Flight.

Mark Wright (3rd place), Pamela (Just Darts), 'Scooter' (DANCON) - winner, Tom (Just Darts) and Willy Olsen (DANCON) - runner-up.

The evening raised 77 sterling for charity which was presented to Cpl McCollah of Tpt Sqn by Pamela of Just Darts. Cpl McCollah flew to the UK the following day where the money was presented to the Aldershot and District Society for the Handicapped.

Pamela of Just Darts presenting a cheque to Cpl McCollah for charity.

AUSCON CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Chess Championships, part of the AUSCON Sports Club activities, was held over 3 weeks within the three companies.

LCpl Nagy, WO1 Retwoger and Capt Thonhauser played in the final. The Chess Cup was awarded to Capt Thonhauser by CO Sect 4 - Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg.
en passant...

If you have any information you would like to see published in this section please telephone extension 2235 by Fri 11th May.

VIP VISITORS TO UNFICYP IN MARCH

Maj Gen Pennicott, Director Royal Artillery, to BRITCON
Amb L Yves Fortier, Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN, to CANCON
Mr R Facer, Deputy Under Secretary of State (Personnel and Logistics), to BRITCON
Mr Paul Lewis, UN Bureau Chief of the New York Times, to UNFICYP
Mr Vincent Brady, Irish Minister of State Department of Defence to IRCON
Lt Gen James Parker Chief of Staff Irish Defence Forces to IRCON

ARRIVALS

Maj Michael Mueller is the new DCO in AUSCON. He has extensive experience in peacekeeping, having served in Ops Info AUSBATT in UNDOF in 1976, OC 1 Coy AUSCON, UNFICYP in 1980 and as SLO AUSCON, UNFICYP, in 1986.

In Austria he is the Training Officer for tactics in anti-air fighting and he teaches at the Austrian Military Academy of Wiener Neustadt, the world's oldest military academy which was founded in 1752.

COMMENORATION FOR THE FALLEN

The dependants of the three Austrian peacekeepers (Lt Izy, Sgt Decombe and LCpl Isak) came to Cyprus to visit the tomb erected near Goshi where the three soldiers had been killed in 1974. A garland was laid by CO Sect 4, Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg.

Pictured on the right enjoying a beer during a recent sailing trip is LBrdr Kempin who has been promoted a short time ago. He is now based at OP BC21.

UNFICYP WATERSPORTS CLUB

The UNFICYP Watersports Club is open to all members of the Force and their families. The club is situated at Salamis and has a number of dinghies, canoes and windsurfers. Courses are run throughout the summer and enquiries should be made through the 21C Sp Regt.

Maj D G Merrett, OC REME Wksp.