Editorial

You may have noticed that we have departed from our usual lay-out of this magazine whereby we devoted entire pages to each contingent and are printing small, short stories: some humorous some just news worthy. We hope thereby to encourage some of you to contribute your own experiences and stories you have gathered here in Cyprus, or indeed in your own home countries to the Blue Beret. The message is therefore: if you have a story to tell write it down and send it to us, we would like to hear from you.

Many of you may have been skiing recently. But for those of you who are yet to go I can only say that the snow is holding well and if you can avoid Sundays the lift queues are not to bad. Our Austrian colleagues will run a ski meeting on the 10th March and we hope that as many of you as possible will come and support this, either as competitors or as cheerers-on.

See you on the slopes!

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Front cover
Mine Blowing in DANCON
By: Sgt A Beaton
Hail Glorious St Patrick
dear Saint of Our Isle
On us thy poor children bestow a sweet smile
And now thou art high
in the mansion above
On Erin’s green valleys
look down in thy love.

So goes a verse of the song “Hail Glorious St Patrick” which was composed in honour of the Patron Saint of IRELAND. St Patrick’s Day falls on the 17th March each year. The day is celebrated in Ireland as the principal national holiday, but is also celebrated across the globe in all areas where Irishmen and Irishwomen put down their roots, even for a short time.

LÁ FHEILE PÁDRAIG
(ST PATRICK’S DAY)

BY: COMDT W. O’HARA

which had three leaves – a SHAMROCK. Which apparently only grows in Ireland. Patrick used the Shamrock to illustrate the three persons in God. (The Blessed Trinity). On St Patrick’s Day sprigs of Shamrock are worn. It has such prominence throughout the world that many think it to be the national emblem of Ireland. Of course this is NOT coast. There the ship was waiting and so his captivity ended.

HE CAME BACK!

On his return to his family
Patrick pursued a religious life and
became a priest. Very soon his
mind turned to the place of his
boyhood captivity. God provided him
with the missionary inclination so in 432 AD Patrick

WHO WAS ST PATRICK?

History tells us that early in the
fifth century young boys were
taken from their homes and
families in Wales and brought to
Ireland where they were sold as
slaves. Amongst those boys was
Patrick. The young boy found
himself on a mountain area in the
North-Eastern part of Ireland:
minding sheep and pigs.

Patrick came from a Christian
family so he prayed profoundly to
God on the lonely mountainside
while he watched the sheep and
pigs. After a period of five years
he had a vision of a ship by the
coastline waiting to take him
home. Patrick felt that God was
telling him to leave so he escaped
and began his journey to the
returned to pagan Ireland. His
Christian teaching was accepted
very quickly by the inhabitants of
the little isle.

THREE-IN-ONE

One of the stories which is
considered worthwhile to
mention relates to how Shamrock
became a symbol of the Irish and
particularly of St Patrick’s Day.
Patrick on his missionary work
was talking to a group of people
about God. He was trying to
explain that God was one, but in
God were three others, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The harp is the National
Emblem.

THE CELEBRATIONS

The memory of Patrick’s great
work has been remembered for
generations. Ireland’s sons and
daugthers have emigrated to
countries down through the
last few centuries. They left
their families and homes behind
but they brought with them the
great tradition of St Patrick’s Day.

Everybody joins in the
celebrations and by the late hours
of 17 March the Shamrock is well
drowned.

PATRICK’S name is
synonymous with many Irish
families, but he has also given his
name to a well known whiskey
which would warm anybody’s
heart!

SLÁinte!

THE DIRTY DUCK INN
ST DAVIDS CAMP

The Junior Ranks Canteen at
St David’s Camp, Sector 2, was
officially opened and named “The
Dirty Duck Inn” on Saturday 17
January 1987. This name was
received with disapproval by the
Camp Commandant who felt that a
more suitable name should be
found with perhaps geographical
or regimental associations. To this
end a competition was arranged

THE BLUE BERET
FEB 87

TROODOS RADIO DETACHMENT

WITH the height of winter now
upon us, many heads turn
longingly towards the
snow-capped summits of the
Troodos mountains – the centre
of the Cypriot ski industry.

What are most not aware of, is
that tucked away on the south
face, 4 members of 254 Signal
Squadron are forced to survive
these adverse weather conditions
as a matter-of-fact daily routine,
living off the land plus twice
weekly resupply runs to Blue
Beret Camp and living with the
thought that in the flash of a
storm, they may be totally cut off
from the rest of the UN (waiting for
the day).

Albeit small, this 4 man
detachment provides an essential
service to the UN. Perhaps better
known as “niner-eight” this radio
broadcast station provides the
means for all island VHF and
Motorola communications. Only
second in height to Mt Olympus,
Troodos provides an adequate
vantage point from which to relay
Motorola communications to the
west side of the island and VHF
communications to Sectors 5 and
6.

At present, the detachment is
3 Canadian and 1 British radio
operators selected from Radio
Troop, 254 Signal Squadron; the
detachment commander MCpl
(killer) McKellar (he gets his
nicknames for his prowess as a
cook), and detachment members
Cpl Bruce, Tor Mason and Sig
Donoghue. These soldiers will
spend 4-6 weeks with the
detachment and will then be
rotated in order to give other troop
members the experience of
detachment living.

Since the net must be
monitored at all times, all
detachment members do a 24
hour duty during which they are
also responsible to: carry out
detachment, maintain the log
book and last but not least, do all
the cooking and washing up.
When not on duty the others
manage to keep busy by improving
the accommodation, doing
resupply runs to BBC (Tuesday
and Thursdays) skiing, running,
weight training, watching videos... suffice it to say that no
one has yet complained of
boredom.

Manning the rebroadcast
detachment is a unique
opportunity for both Canadian and
British soldiers serving with 254
Signal Squadron. Those who have
spent some of their leave in
Troodos making good use of the
spare beds in the back will attest
to this fact. For those who have
not and wish to hear more – flick to
channel 1.
AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day is a day set aside to commemorate the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove on 26 January, 1788. The major reason for establishing a colony in Australia was the placement of convicts, as when the American colonies ceased to take convicts, the British prisons became very overcrowded. Harsh laws ensured that there were many prisoners, and transportation was the only solution.

Many books portray the convicts as mostly victims of unjust criminal laws. In fact, many were; but there were also many hardened criminals, thieves and pickpockets. England supplied the largest national group of convicts,

followed by Ireland. Not all convicts were from Britain, as a few had come from the Indian colonies and other British settlements. This system of deportation, now called emigration, is known in Australia as the "Brain Drain".

Here in Cyprus the Australian Civil Police celebrated their National Day with the help of the other contingents which comprise UNFICYP. An annual event known as the Henley-on-Pedhieos Boat Race attracted a most unusual assortment of boat designs, not to mention a most unusual assortment of crew members and spectators, all gathered at the UNPA Sports Field. Novelty events such as boomerang throwing, tug-of-war etc. revealed incredibly graceful and stylish performances - the pictures tell the story!

CAPTION COMPETITION

There were many entries for last month's photo.
the one chosen was the best was.
"Gee, that was fun, I hope there's no protest about that cable I cut off"
Capt Anders Janson

other entries were:
"I told them my name was Macniris, not McAlpine"
Sgt John Self
"Go on, give me just one more go"
Sgt Mick Highes
"I'm determined to pass this resettlement course"
F/Sgt Robert Hewer

6 Plt B Coy 3 RRF at B28
"UNARMED COMBAT TEAM DOUBLE MARCH!"

Canadian Airborne Regiment, perhaps more than any other conventional or light infantry unit, realizes the vital importance of basic field soldiering and, as being demonstrated here, the hand-to-hand unarmed combat.

"Attack!" The spectators are caught surprised in a battle scene - machine guns rattling, whirring nois of helicopters, pyrotechniques blasting off, the stench of gun powder, the eerie smouldering of smoke grenades. The team suddenly breaks all semblance of orderliness and engage in a mass assault of closequarter hand-to-hand combat. Bodies being thrown crashing onto the floor, kicks being delivered, blocks fending punches, arms twisted and necks choked. Screaming and shouting with facial expressions of aggression and pain.

Being deployed to UNFICYP presents an unequalled opportunity for the Regiment's Unarmed Combat Team to assemble and sustain an intensive training in a variety of combative skills. The team trained under the direction of Lt. Yung Jin Hou for two months prior to the Canadian Contingent Medal Parade Mini Tattoo where many members of UNFICYP had the opportunity to be entertained. In addition, the team made several command performances for the visiting CF army generals and the UNPA's KIDCON. The team's most memorable show had to be the one for the delighted CANCON Show Troupe. One particular Argonaut Sunshine Girl went out of her way to convey her appreciation to our Sean "Rambo", AIRBORNE!
**UNIFIL V UNIFCYP RUGBY**

The result of the match was 29-16 to UNIFIL.

**UNIFCYP'S Stewart Moore spearheading a Unicorns attack against Irish Batt.**

**UNIFIL's Pat Carey jumps highest in the line out.**

**UNIFIL's injured hooker Benny Ludlow with unfamiliar "props"!**

**UNIFIL's scrum half Brendan Woods passes to his fly half Michael Brennan (No 10).**

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**UNIFCYP'S CHESS COMPETITION**

The results of the competition were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>AUSCON 10½ pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>DANCON 9 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>CANCON 7½ pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Individual:** L/Cpl Kochlendorfer - AUSCON

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**THE GENTLE TOUCH IN SECTOR 5**

2/Lt Sigbritt Snare, one of Sweden’s radio officers.

**Sgt Eva Eriksson, duty free shop assistant.**

**Pre Mariannas Loweroth, Comcom Operator.**

work. The Swedish Contingent have nearly 400 soldiers here on Cyprus. The girls work in various posts, some have secretarial duties, one is a telegrapher, two are nurses and another can normally be found repairing the broken telephone lines.

Back home in Sweden we have compulsory military service, which means the army can call on every man between the ages of 18-47. Every man in Sweden has to do at least seven and a half months of military training, so when a girl has been accepted for UN service she has to do a couple of weeks of the same training. Every Swedish soldier is expected to know how to defend himself in the event of an attack, this rule must also apply to the women.

The personnel in the Staff and Admin Company must be fully conversant with the working of the OP’s, so every girl must visit one during her tour.

Eva Eklof the pay clerk says "It is really difficult for us girls to get a job like this. I am very pleased that I was chosen."

Mariann Loweroth, one of the operators at the communication centre says "For me this is such a marvellous experience, although it seems very strange at first living so close to people you have never met before."

**Sgt Eva Boden, Staff Clerk.**
**CANADIAN CONTINGENT MEDAL PARADE**

The Canadian Airborne Regiment celebrated the Snowgoose XLVI UN Medal presentation with a combined Mini Tattoo and Medals Parade on 12 Jan 87 at the Ledra Palace Complex, Nicosia. The festivities began at 1830 with a Band Interlude from the St George’s Band, 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, under the direction of WO1 C.C. Atrill. The Mini Tattoo began by a “sentry take out” performed by the Canadian Forces Europe Pipes and Drums under the direction of Pipe Major Sgt J Langille.

The Medal parade then took place with the “Parade Fall-In and Take-Over” by Major Alan Stephen who ordered the 2 Commando Regimental Colour to be marched onto parade. Following the General Salute, the UN Medals were blessed by Regimental Padre (RC) Capt Jacques Marcous, and pinned on each member of the parade by the Force Commander who then closed the Medal presentation Ceremony with an address. The parade was dismissed and replaced with a guard who fired a feu de joie.

**COMANDER FINCON**

Major Carl-Bertil Eriksson took over from Major Raimo Koskela on the 6 December the Finnish Contingent. The new commander has served among others in Kashmir. We thank the old commander for his good work for UNIFCYP and wish all the best to the new commander, who will work as the SO Personnel in HQ/UNIFCYP.

On August 1986, Sgt Vince Mylett and Sgt Greg Slater were involved in rescuing a civilian from an area in which there was a confrontation between Canadian UN Forces and Turkish Cypriot soldiers. For this action they received the Force Commander’s Commendation in appreciation of distinguished service rendered to the force in Cyprus.

**FORCE COMMANDER’S COMMENDATION**

Brigadier General Foster presents Capt Karp, MWO Miles, WO True and Sgt Barnard with their silver insignia denoting their third tour of UN duty in Cyprus.

“He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool. Shun him. He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a child. Teach him. He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep. Wake him. He who knows, and knows that he knows, is wise. Follow him.”

From the Persian
The inaugural meeting of the Fusiliers SDC Wives Club took place in the “Dirty Duck Inn” at St David’s Camp on Wednesday 21 January, but got off to a rather inauspicious start as none of the wives turned up! It is thought this may have been due to the fact that none of the 3rd Fusilier wives are on the Island. However, this had been thought of beforehand, and a low key advertising campaign took place to encourage other more fortunate members of the Force to loan their wives, but surprisingly to no avail.

The proprietor and members of the “Dirty Duck Inn” consulted LCpl Bore, CPL Kelsall and CPL Wooley (who do not wish to be named) who said they were disappointed with the turnout but hoped future meetings may be better attended.

The next meeting will be on 18 February when the Battalion polo team will be giving a display in the UN pool if they can get the horses.

Carol singing in Cyprus is sometimes considered a non-event because many of the things associated with carol singing; cold biting winds, snow and thermal underwear, are missing. Not to be deterred the carol singers of the United Nations Protected Area assembled at St Michael’s School on the evening of Tuesday 23 December 1986, under the guidance of members of the UNPICYP Support Regiment Workshop. Some were slightly overdressed with scarfs, gloves and woolen hats - nostalgic memories of cold December evenings in England.

The singing was conducted by Padre Brooke who brought along his trio of sons to boost the vocal onslaught. The singers went through their repertoire from one lamppost to the next, while the younger element of the group knocked on doors collecting the rewards, or payment to move on as the case may be!

After a final encore at Lieutenant Colonel Pyman’s house the evening finished having collected £78.49 for the BFBS Wireless for the Blind appeal. The carol singers would like to thank the occupants of the Nicosia married quarters for their generosity.

On a fine Monday morning in January, I set out with my photographer LCpl Roland Joksch, to make contact with a part of Cyprus that until recently I knew little about. This part is the so-called panhandle, the 80 kilometre long KARPASSA PENINSULA, situated in Sector 6.

From Camp Duke Leopold V we pass the ruins of Old Salamis, onto Trikomo, from where we leave the coastal road to cross the eastern part of the Mesaoria, the former granary of Cyprus. Very soon we find ourselves up in the thinly fir-tree covered Karpassa mountain range to get a panoramic view from Kantara Castle, the once so mighty stronghold of the Byzantines and the Lusignans.

Afterwards we head for Dhavlos to see the bizarre and animal-like formations of sandstone, “sculptured” by the waves. Then we cross the mountains again for Trikomo, Boghaz with its picturesque fishing port, to Ayios Theodosor and Leonariosso, from where we make a short trip to the ruins of Lythrakomi and to Yialousa. At Ayios Thyrso the road leads close to the sea again. One cannot help but be impressed by the yellow, green and blue contrasts; this is from the flowers, the meadows and the sea. Passing many inviting bays, we eventually reach Rizokarpaso where still quite a few Greek Cypriots live. From there a single-file road with many bends and bumps, is winding its way towards the “end of the world”. The few houses along the coast were deserted a long time ago.

All one can see are flocks of sheeps and friendly shepherds. The island itself gets more and more barren and civilization disappears altogether. Now and then one can see wild olive and carob trees. But what a sight being the Galounopetra Point! Hardly anywhere on the island can you find a finer beach and clearer water. Here we would like to take a long rest, but we must press on to the Monastery of Apostolos Andreas. Getting closer to this place, we realize that it is almost empty, except for three towns keeping vigil in front of the former pilgrims’ cells, then policemen and Greek Cypriots appear and show us around.

After the tour of the fine monuments and a delicious cup of Karpas tea, we continue our excursion. On foot we reach Cape Apostolos Andreas, a place that is rich in legends and history. From the top of the rock that once crowned an Aphrodite temple, we get an impressive view over the Kythnos Islands that look like grey specks in the aquamarine water. In the meantime the wind has gathered strength and turned into a storm. A whirlwind is playing its game off the island. When one is up there, one has to think of all that have set foot on this island, via the Karpass Peninsula: Greeks, Assyrians, Egyptians, Romans, Venetians, Turks etc. One also has to think of Saint Komnenos, who was captured by Richard the Lionheart up here.

On our way back we visit the magnificent places of Ayios Philon and Aphrendrika, centres of early Christianity in the Byzantine Era.

Who could think of a better way of starting another week!
BIG BANGS IN DANCON

“The! A cry sure to strike fear into any soldier’s heart.

Miners are an indiscriminate weapon posing a deadly threat long after their initial deployment and intended period of use. The UNBZ has many marked minefields remaining, with mine explosions having claimed several UN lives.

So when the decision was made to open the Kambos road in Sector 1, thus improving access to DANCON C Coy Ops, a mine clearance operation was mounted. (This area yielded 19 Anti-Tank mines in searches during Nov 1986).

The search operation was carried out by a party from Sector 4, as Sector 1 has insufficient Combat engineers (the Sector 1 engineers are mainly conscript ‘Artisans’) and one more Anti-Tank mine was unearthed.

Destruction of this mine was the responsibility of Sector One Engineer Officer, assisted by his Pioneer Sergeant and one sunny Jan. morn. work began........

The detonating cord must be wrapped tightly around the sticks of plastic explosive.

Clusters of the explosive are placed around the mine.

“Mines! A cry sure to strike fear into any soldier’s heart.

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Working alone the Eng Off prepares the detonator and safety fuse.

After his final checks he will ignite the safety fuse.

BANG!!!

Has anybody seen the Engineer Officer???