

THE BLUE BERET



FEBRUARY 1989



1 SQN RCT RETURN TO ENGLAND



Cpl Thomas Robertson of B Tp being presented with the CO's Shield, by the CO Sp Regt – Lt Col Smedley.

After 6 months as the UN Tpt Sqn, the time came for 1 Sqn RCT to return to Colchester and handover to 7 Sqn RCT from Aldershot. Unfortunately the handover did not include the sights/delights of Ayia Napa but instead the slopes of Troodos!

During the tour the Sqn covered over 615,000 miles, 3000 miles under the 6 month allocation. Accidents have been kept down to an acceptable level, and in recognition the Sqn was awarded the Force Commander's Road Safety Certificate for excellence.

Sqn successes have included the winning outright of Sp Regt Safe and Skilled Driving Competition, followed by taking all 3 trophies and best individual driver in each class in the UNFICYP competition. B Tp (in-



cluding SHQ) finally managed to wrestle the CO's shield from REME over the past 3 months competitions.

A 10 man team led by the OC Maj Norton completed the gruelling 41 mile Green Line run from Troodos to Jubilee Camp, missing the record by 10 minutes. Unfortunately due to weather conditions the second attempt was cancelled. The rules would not allow skis for the first 8 miles!

The junior ranks raised £505



Winners of the Sp Regt Safe and Skilled Driving Competition. Back Row from Left to Right: LCpl Bruce, LCpl Lenette, Dvr Green. Front Row: LCpl Shoebridge, Dvr Grey and Dvr Harding.

for Save the Children Fund from Christmas carols and an Escape and Evasion. The object of the escape was to leave Jubilee Camp undetected via Foxtrot Gate, collect airport stamps from Larnaca and RAF Akrotiri and then return. Thankfully nobody went AWOL with the money once at the airports in order to spend Christmas in the UK.

The Sqn would like to wish 7 Sqn RCT all the best and hope that they continue to provide the same service.

UNFICYP LIBRARY MOVES TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The UNFICYP Library is now situated in the Community Centre at the rear of St Micheal's School, UNPA.

The library opening times are: –

Monday to Friday 0900 – 1130

and 1600 – 1800 hours

Saturdays 0900 – 1100 hours

Left: Mrs Lavinia Courage cutting the ribbon to open the Library in its new location in the community centre. On her left is Lt Col Kirkwood Commander Education BF Cyprus and on the right is Miss Julia Chester Commander 8 Command Library.



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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 black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. 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.

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Front cover

Danish Soldiers on Patrol in the Buffer Zone

by: SSgt K Webster

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

More than the sun is warming the MPIO office, at last there has been a response to our appeal for contributions. This month we are pleased to feature the presentation of colours to DANCON by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

To increase the warm glow we would once again appeal to all our readers to supply us with any material or information that they may have which would be particularly suitable for the Twenty Fifth Anniversary issue of the Blue Beret. We are especially keen to make contact with any personnel who served in UNFICYP at its foundation and who may still have associations with the Force.

Finally, let us return to a theme that has been causing some difficulties for the Force – SAFE DRIVING – we make no apologies for asking you all once again to please drive carefully.



The COS presenting the UNFICYP Clay Pigeon Shooting trophy to the winner Pte Hiniker – DANCON.

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This flag has now been replaced with the Union Jack at BC21 orchard



Strathcona's have mechanical faults on an APC checked by HQ UNFICYP's maintenance team!



Saying Goodbye to Sector Three



FAREWELL TO CYPRUS

Our tour is coming to a close in Cyprus. The members of the Regiment will shortly trade their tropical tans for parkas and winter cams.

They will leave the Island of Love with temperature of 18°C during the day and return to Calgary where at present there is 70 cm of snow and the temperature rarely climbs above 10°C during the winter days.

Our tour has been exciting and it has been one of the busiest in the years. But thanks to all of you, we have been able to complete all tasks to a very high standard.



Danish medical team aids a soldier during the DANCON March



Our fondest memories will be of all the friends we have made from all the different contingents and the local population. It has been an enjoyable tour which we will never forget.

If you ever come to Cowtown, we will teach you how to play hockey, ride western and ski the Rockies but until then... Hold the Line.

PERSEVERANCE



UNFICYP Spokesman, Mr Charles Gaulkin enjoys breakfast with the Calgary Care Bears



Canadians huddle around a British Ferret Scout Car



CS61 Falaise blew its top during a winter storm



We will return!



Sgt 'Winkey' Punter Farming NCO, with the children of Mammari.

UP-DATE FROM 3 RHA

3 RHA is now well settled in to Sector 2. The Regiment has been busy during the festive season and well into the New Year on both the work and social fronts.

J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery saw the New Year in with some style when they took a Piper round to all their OP's. In addition to the festivities we provided support

for the intercommunal talks at the SRSG's residence. We are now preparing for the UNFICYP Shooting Competition and are providing many players for numerous UN sports teams. The visits programme is already underway. At the beginning of January the Commander 1st British Corps, Lieutenant Gen-

eral Sir Peter Inge KCB visited Sector 2 and toured most of the Buffer Zone seeing D and J (Sidi Rezegh) Batteries respectively. He is to be followed by an apparently endless succession of other visitors. We will enjoy welcoming all of them.



Sgt Rylands, J Battery, on his tour of the OPs in the New Year



2Lt Parham explains the layout of the Buffer Zone in Sector 2 to Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge whilst Maj James briefs the ADC, Capt Hinde



Above: Major Gillies points out Wayne's Keep Cemetery to Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge, accompanied by Lt Col Broke and Maj Foster of 3 RHA

Left: Gnr Lloyd-Butler outside the SRSG's house (the SRSG can be seen behind him)

BRIDGING THE GAP FOR UNFICYP



The workers from 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sqn, RE from Dhekelia on the bridge built for DANCON - Cpl Tom Hope, Cpl Geordie Richardson, LCpl Billy McLaren, Spr Jason King, Spr Tim Hartnell and LCpl Ma Baker

TROOPING THE COLOUR IN DANCON



Immediately before DANCON 50 left their country to do service with the peace keeping forces in Cyprus, they received from Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II on behalf of the UNFICYP Danish Contingent brand new colours to bring with them to Cyprus. This occasion was, in many respects, a very special one, as the only Danish Battalion to have their own colours are The Royal Life Guards. Many have felt it to be natural that DANCON should have their own colours, especially considering that the Contingent represents the Danish state, and is the only one perma-

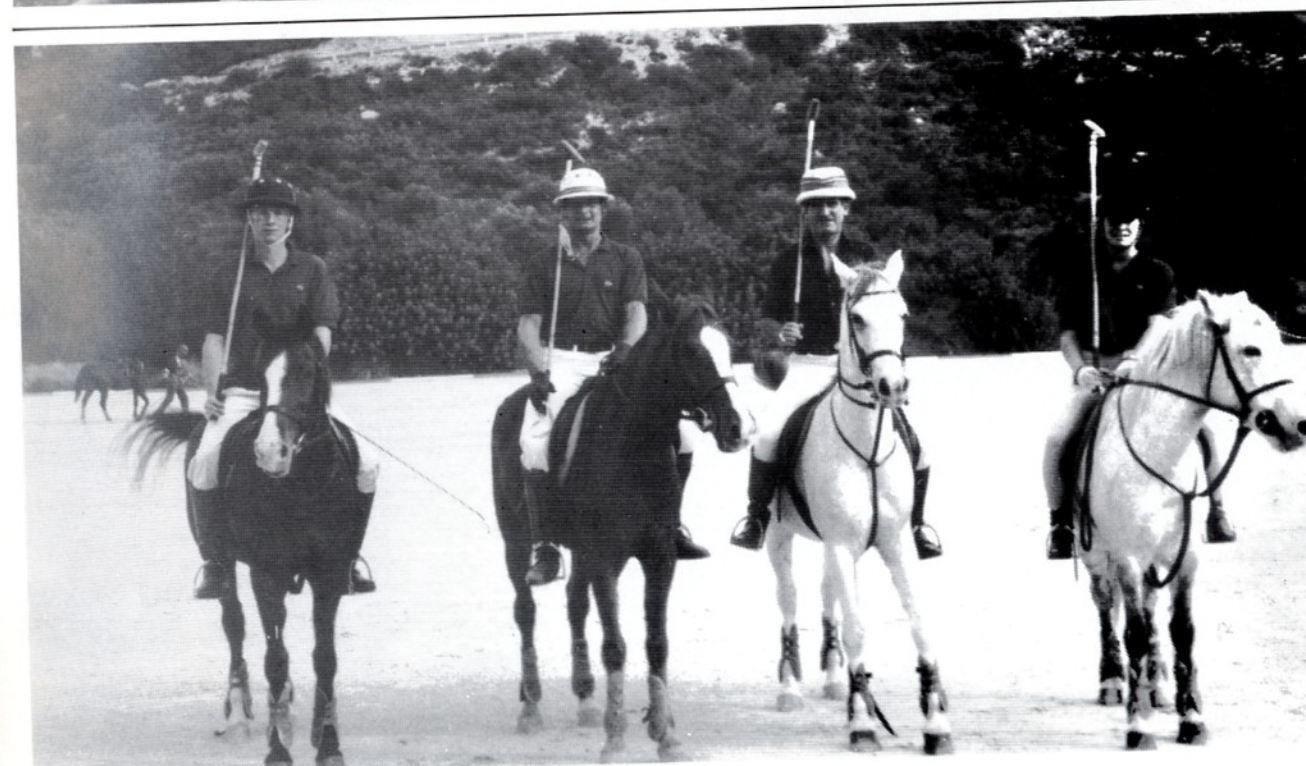
nently based outside Danish borders.

Up until 25th November 1988, the colours of DANCON were 'an improvised rag on a pike' as one of the former Commanders described it. The new Colours depict a new regimental badge with Her Majesty the Queen's Royal Monogram. The Regimental Badge shows a fence with chains around it meaning 'this far and no further'.

The actual parade took place in November 1988 in Jaegerspris Camp in Northern Zealand, Denmark. The first of the guests to arrive were the Chief of Staff,

the Army Chief and Commander Land Zealand. Some minutes later the Minister of Defence arrived followed by Her Majesty. After inspecting the Contingent and giving a speech she handed over the new colours to the Commander for the Danish UN Department, Lt Col R K Jacobsen, who then presented the colours to the present Commander DANCON Lt Col J C K Lange.

The colours will remain with the Commander of DANCON and will be presented on every suitable occasion, medal parades being one of them.



UN POLO

The Cyprus polo tournament semi finalists: - From Left to Right: Lt Luke Meynell (9th/12th Lancers), Maj Jamie Mackaness (EX OC FSC Sqn 9th/12th Lan-

cers), Brig Walter Courage (COS) and Mrs Spo Harding-Rolls whose husband is Captain Mark (harding-Rolls from Sector 3). The next tournament is due to

take place on 11th March at Happy Valley between the UN and the Sovereign Base Area Team.



A rare sight – AUSCON engineers not working!

AUSCON ENGINEERS – BUSY AS USUAL



Clearing away a fallen tree

The January storms and heavy rainfalls uprooted several trees which in one case smashed a newly constructed building in AUSCON.

1Lt Strassgschwandtner and 10 men spent 7 days repairing the damages.

The Engineer platoon, probably the busiest in AUSCON, comprises 18 men who are electricians, bricklayers, locksmiths, plumbers and carpenters under the command of 3 NCO's and 1 Officer.

At the moment they are working on a new washroom building with showers, new doors and windows for some of the OP's. Of course they still tackle the routine jobs such as checking gas pipes, electricity, hot water and leaking roofs.



Storm damage in CDL V

So if you approach an engineer for a simple job such as hammering a nail into your wall, you will get the reply: "The impossible will be done immediately, miracles may take longer".



WO1 MAREK – AUSCON'S LINK TO AUSTRIA

WO1 Marek is AUSCON'S link to Austria. The operator of the so called "Heimatsfunk" has made his hobby a profession. As a radio amateur he is in contact with people around the world from Japan to Greenland. As a signals NCO he is responsible for

the radio contact to Austria. This is used for important duty conversations but private calls are also permitted on a regular schedule.

The "Heimatsfunk" home radio station in Austria is located in Salzburg. From there the

received signals can be transmitted via telephone to any part of Austria.

A man who enjoys his job as much as his hobby is lucky and WO1 Marek is one of them!



5 Troop. The Grenadier Guards prepare for their new role.

NEWS FROM C SQUADRON THE LIFE GUARDS



Having left England just after a very mild Christmas, C Squadron were pleased to find that the weather here in Cyprus was just as warm. If it only gets warmer, then there shall be no complaints.

During our handover week with D Squadron 9/12 Lancers, the Force Reserve callout was practised so that the C Squadron hierarchy could get the feel of how it worked. All seemed to go well and the Squadron is now prepared for the next occasion.

In the handover week patrols were carried out by composite troops, made up of Life Guards and 9/12 Lancers. This eased the task for our Troops consider-



Time has already been found for skiing. Members of 5 Troop pose in the sun.

ably in getting to know, not only the Sectors but also the Sector Commanders, Company Commanders and Platoon Commanders. The weather that week did little to assist our Troops as many of the tracks and bridges in the Sectors became impassable. It caused a great deal of amusement amongst the Squadron when our Squadron recovery vehicle was tasked to recover the UN recovery vehicle. However our laughter was short lived, when we received a request from our recovery team to get assistance for them from the Sovereign Base Area's Engineers. Unfortunately in trying to recover the UN recovery vehicle, our own had got bogged!



Major W S G Doughty
The FSC Squadron Leader.

Two days after our main party arrived, the Squadron hosted a

visit by Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge. After a short brief from the Squadron Leader, he went out on patrol with Lt Loder and his Troop.

A small amount of 'self help' decorating has been done in the WO's and NCO's Mess and also in the Officers' House. Unfortunately the day after the work was completed in the Officers' House, a pipe burst and the staff awoke to a flood.

However it has not been all work, and we have managed to get some troops away for a few days skiing in Troodos.

The first month of our tour has been quiet, we have now found our feet and are looking forward to the next 5 months.

UN MP COY BEACH PARTY

It may be winter in Cyprus but that did not deter 11 members of the UN MP Coy holding a New Year's Eve Beach Party at Ayia Napa. The weather was favourable, the refreshments great and steak delicious. Not all members braved the cool waters but a few of the hardy took to the sea. As evidenced by the pictures, it was a fun time.



BAD NEWS

It is always unpleasant to hear or read bad news. Sometimes however it helps to realize how close oneself has been to dangerous situations and to be more careful in the future.

Sadly two Austrian soldiers were badly injured after an accident in this car.

Remember an accident may change your life or that of others in seconds. Be cautious, stick to the speed limit and don't drink and drive.





UNFICYP SOLDIER WINS 15 TENNIS TITLES

WO2 Bill Herlihy of Support Regiment had a very successful season last year winning over 15 titles in military and civilian tennis competitions, these have included – UNFICYP Singles Champion May 88, Army Singles Champion October 88 and winner of several Cyprus Opens in singles.

Prior to his arrival in Cyprus he has played over 300 games for the British Army team, and has also represented his county and the British Combined Services.

A UN XV V TPT SQN RUGBY

Right: The line-outs getting ready to receive the throw-in. On the left is the Tpt team with Cpl Priestley REME in front. On the right is WO1 Roy Collins ACC the Force Catering Warrant Officer leading the UN XV Pack.

Below: Lt Col Smedley, the referee separating the sides which ended in a narrow win for Tpt Sqn – 4 points to nil



SUPPORT REGIMENT SQUASH COMPETITION



The winning team was HQ RAOC, SSgt Sandy Mcaulay Detachment, shown here from RAOC, SSgt Clive Grant APTC, Left to Right: SSgt Ian Sharpe Major Gwyn Burton RAPC, SSgt

John Baldock RE (and not shown Major Nigel Oxley GORDONS).



UNFICYP SAILING CLUB PREPARE FOR NEXT SEASON

Left: The UNFICYP Sailing Club are seen here taking their boats off Deniz Kizi beach. The boats will be renovated in the UNPA prior to next season.

SUPPORT REGIMENT DUTY FREE PRI SHOP

The Support Regiment PRI Duty free shop is under new management. Shown here is Mrs Sharon Wright trying to persuade customers to buy the perfume.





Enjoying a well-earned break after Humanitarian work. From Left to Right: Sgt Roughley, Sgt Cummins, Col Hall, Capt Brown and Sgt Ramsay, Stn Sgt Holst and Insp Hall.

UNCIVPOL NEWS

In January a further step forward in the establishment of UNCIVPOL took place with the inter-change of three Swedish Police Inspectors. Vigo Westlund, Bertil Rosenberg and Tommy Hall (pronounced Hull) exchanged duties and locations with three Australian Police Sergeants, Curtis Drewett, Grant Kinkead and Garry Kirkpatrick. The Australians will serve at Larnaca and Pyla, Inspector Hall will serve at Wolseley Barracks, Inspector Rosenberg will serve at UNCIVPOL Headquarters at Nicosia Airport and Inspector Westlund will perform duty in Sectors One and Two, whilst based at Peristerona. All six police are enjoying the new experience.

At the beginning of December 1988 Sergeant Kathy Burdett together with other colleagues from UNFICYP left Cyprus to represent UNCIVPOL and her country, Australia, in Norway at the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Secretary General of the United Nations Mr Perez de Cuellar. Well done Sergeant Burdett.

On Thursday 19th January



Toivo Gustavsson

1989 members of UNCIVPOL gathered simultaneously at the Swedish Club and the UNCIVPOL Mess in Nicosia to welcome Chief Inspector Toivo Gustavsson who joined his Swedish colleagues on the island when Inspector Erland Degerman was repatriated. Toivo comes from the Drug Investigation Unit in Stockholm after some experience as a homicide detective. This invaluable experience will enrich the efficiency of UNCIVPOL in any future investigations. Other members gathered to bid farewell to Motor Transport

Officer, Lance Corporal Fred Perry on completion of his tour of duty in Cyprus. They also welcomed his successor Private Jim Seager.

Preparations went well for the Commander's Australia Day Reception and Medal Parade on Thursday 26th January 1989. All members worked enthusiastically to ensure the success of the Henley-on-Pedhioes Regatta held on Sunday 29th January 1989.

For those readers who enjoyed the 'Nativity Play' story in the Christmas issue, this story happened a few months afterwards at the same Convent. The Sisters were holding a school concert when a new boy arrived from the country. They tried to encourage him to participate and asked if he could sing, dance or play a musical instrument and he replied that he could do farm noises. The big night arrived and the boy was given a big build-up as a mimic. There were a few red faces however when he walked to centre stage and said at the top of his voice, "Get off that *&\$! tractor."