

THE BLUE BERET



JANUARY 1989



FAREWELL TO LT COL McA PYMAN



On 16 November Lt Col McA Pyman (right) gave up command of UNFICYP Support Regiment

and returned to UK prior to taking up his new post in HQ I BR Corps in Bielefeld Germany. Taking

over command is Lt Col J E B Smedley (left) Royal Tank Regiment.

UNCIVPOL
CELEBRATE

On Wednesday evening the 30th November, 1988 (St Andrews Day) the members stationed at UNCIVPOL Headquarters together with the members of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess from St David's Camp 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards gathered to open the newly refurbished Winter Mess in typical Caledonian style.



Pictured from left to right are Sergeant Kathy Burdett UNCIVPOL, WO II Colin MacDonald of the 15th/19th The Kings Royal Hussars, addressing the Haggis and Warrant Officer Cruikshank Piper Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

NO PROPS IN POLOPS?

Ch Insp Hurtig (left) and A/ POLOPS Insp Paff were forced to abandon their office recently whilst a wall was erected dividing their office with that of SO2 Planning and Training in Ops Branch, HQ UNFICYP.

Four days later they returned (from where we ask?!) and to their dismay were faced with a mountain of work.

Rumour has it that both are complaining of being over-worked and under-paid!

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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

The Regimental Guidon of the
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal
Canadians)

by: SSgt K Webster

Editorial

I do hope that all our readers have now recovered from the seasonal activities and will remember to give us more contributions towards the Blue Beret. That could be your New Year resolution if you have not thought of a better one.

We are especially keen to give the magazine a face lift as it enters its 25th year of publication. Zavallis Press have been given the contract and are most amenable to change and suggestions.

On a more sombre note may we appeal to you all to be MORE careful on the roads.



The MP10 and staff wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Contents

	Page
FAREWELL TO CO SP REGT	2
EDITORIAL/CONTENTS	3
THE RACE THAT STOPS A NATION	4
MP COY CHRISTMAS PARTY	5
THE 3RD ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY	6/7
NEWS FROM AUSCON	8/9
CANCON MEDAL PARADE	10
CYPRUS V. AUSTRALIA	11
THE CALGARY CARE BEARS	12
INTRODUCING DANCON JOC	13
CANCON SHOW	14
WELCOME BACK TO THE LIFE GUARDS	15
THE UN BLUE SHOW	16

THE RACE THAT STOPS A NATION

In 1886 Fergus Hume wrote, "If there is one thing which the Melbourne folk love more than another its music, their fondness for which is only equalled by their admiration for horse racing."

This admiration for horse racing is alive and well. In early November, Melbourne, Australia, is a punters paradise. Where you couldn't pick a nicer place to lose your shirt with one of the richest, toughest and most colourful events on the international racing calendar. The Melbourne Cup run over 3,200 metres, held on the first Tuesday in November since 1867, when Archer won the Cup after being walked from Sydney to compete.

It's the showpiece of the Spring Racing Carnival and Flemington racecourse is a sea of morning suits and millinery in the members stand as the toffs compete in the fashion stakes and are mercilessly lampooned in the public enclosures. It's anything goes, dressed to the nines a day of madness, champagne, top hats and thongs (flip-flops) and lavish car-park parties.

A few racehorses remain fixed in folk memory as outstanding gallopers. Carbine, carrying the huge weight of 66kg, easily broke the record to win the 1880 Melbourne Cup. The horse, unplaced only once in his 43



The most successful syndicate was the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess of the 4th/7th Royal Dragon Guards at St Davids Camp. Seen Enjoying their winnings from left to right are: RSM Dick Sealy, WO2 Wally Watts and WO2 Taffy Williams.

starts became a legend equalled only by one of the best loved, Phar Lap who won 37 races in 51 starts, including a new record time for the 1930 Melbourne Cup. The third highest stake winner in the world, Phar Lap would probably have reached the top had he not died of poisoning in 1932. Is it any wonder that the whole of Australia stops what its doing for the running of the Melbourne Cup?

With similar enthusiasm the Australian members of UNCIV-

POL held a Calcutta on the Saturday night before the Cup. For the uninitiated this means that anyone of the 332 ticket holders for 2 Cyprus pounds could have become a half owner of any of the 26 starters in the Melbourne Cup. The other half ownerships are auctioned, going to the highest bidder and all monies received are placed in a fund with 10% going to a worthy charity and the rest divided unequally between the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last horses past the finish post.

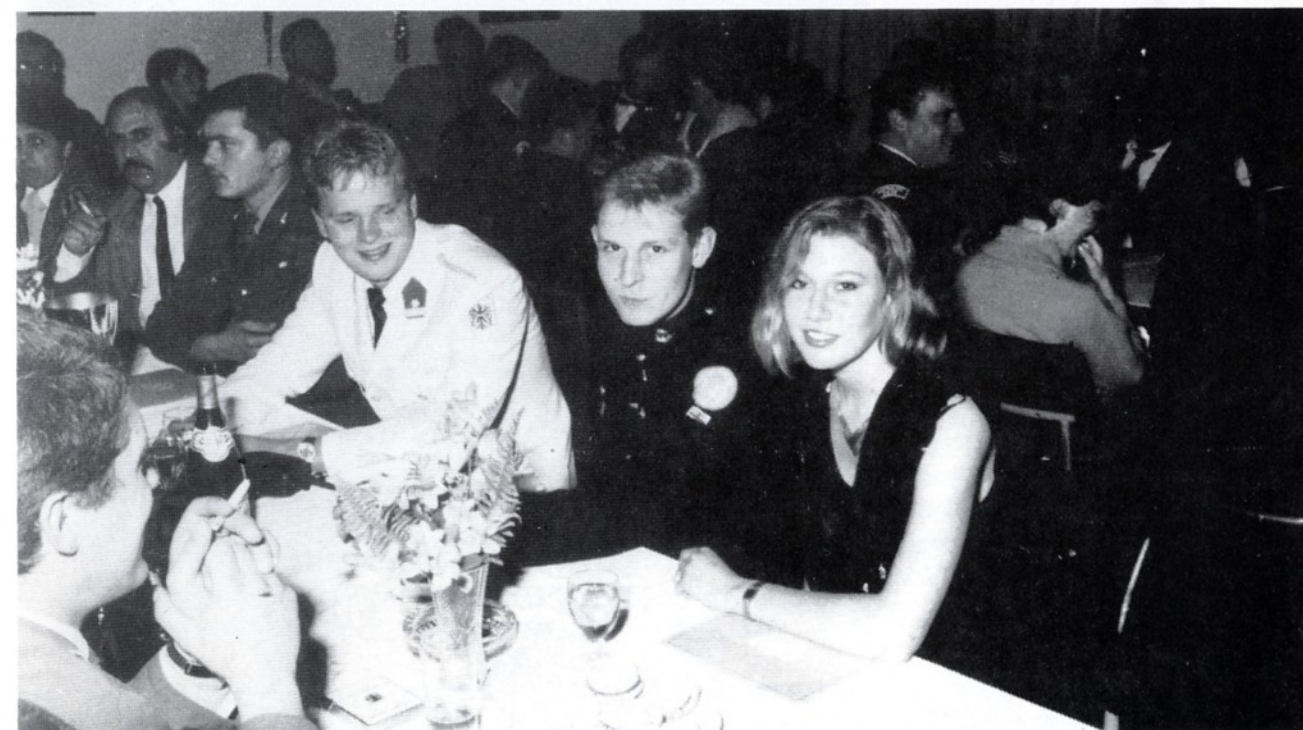


During the two months before Christmas the members of UNCIVPOL were kept busy with visits from the Commissioner of

the Australian Federal Police Mr R (Peter) McAulay, the Police Minister Mr Bengt K A Johansson and the Under Sec-

retary of State Mr Olaf Egetstedt from Sweden.

UN MP COY CHRISTMAS PARTY



On the evening of 13th December glad tidings and good cheer were celebrated by members and guests of the UN MP COY at a gala

Christmas party held in the Jubilee WOs and Sgts Mess, Jubilee Camp.

3RD REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

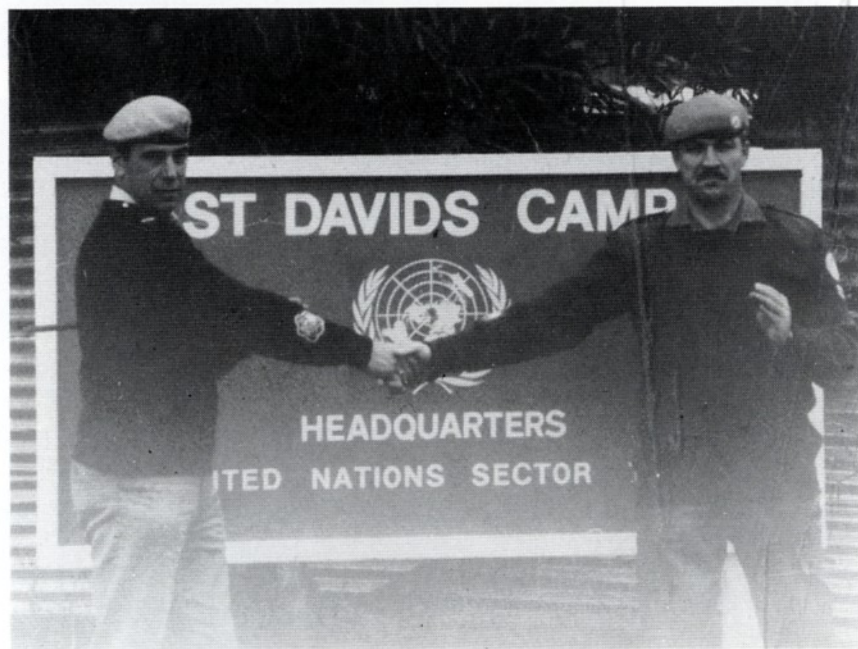


The Inter Platoon March and Shoot Competition included many activities to confirm our training prior to deployment to UNFICYP. Some required brains whilst others required brawn — this one required both brawn and brains!



All ranks of 3 RHA are delighted to have arrived safely in Cyprus at the beginning of December and to have taken charge of Sector 2.

In the 7 weeks of intensive training before deploying to Cyprus the Regiment reorganised, converted to the infantry role and took under command 9 (Plassey) Battery, 12 Air Defence Regiment based in Dortmund, Germany. It is interesting to note that some members of 9 Battery served in Cyprus in 1974. 3 RHA is the first Royal Artillery Regiment to be selected to serve with the British Contingent of the United Nations Peace Keeping



The out-going RSM, WO1 R Sealy 4/7 RDG hands over to the RSM 3 RHA, WO1 W S R Ferguson at the beginning of December.

Forces in Cyprus.

The Regiment has now settled in to its operational role and the diary is starting to fill up with many visits and social functions.

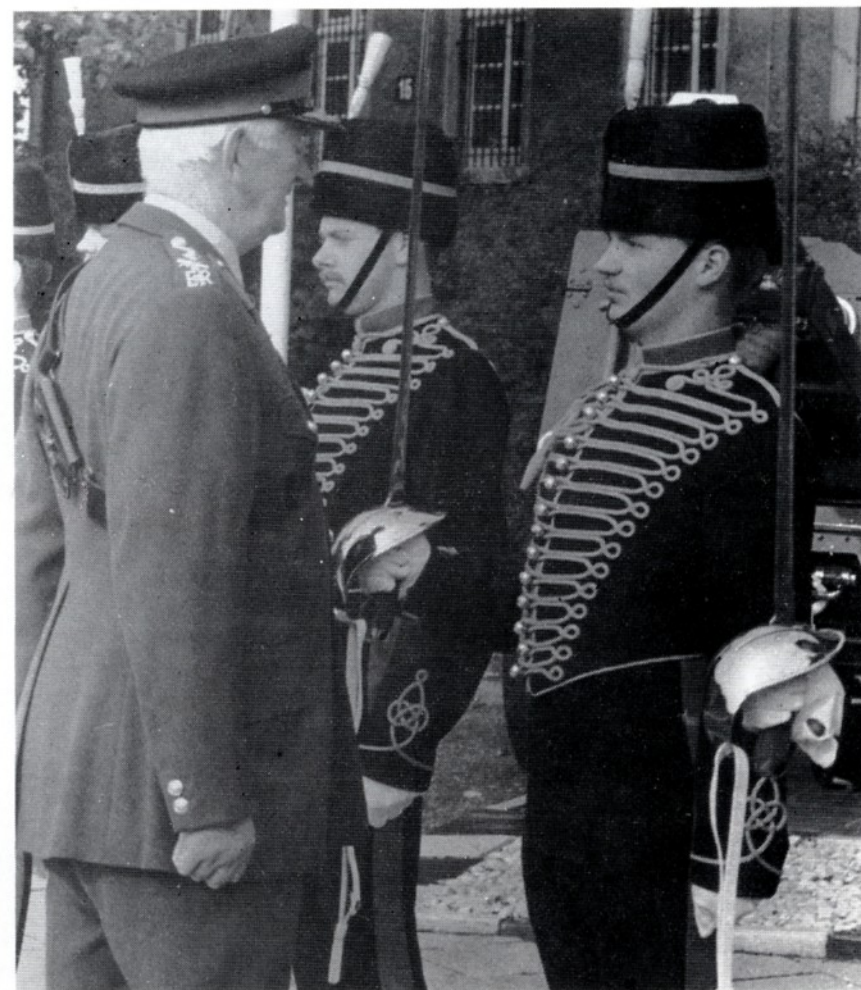
On the sporting front we are looking forward to the many events already planned with the other Sectors and members of UNFICYP.

A SHORT HISTORY

Although the constituent Batteries of 3 RHA have existed since the time of the Napoleonic Wars, the Regiment only began to assume its present form when 3rd Brigade Royal Horse Artillery, consisting of F, D, and J Batteries was formed in 1924.

In 1936 on mechanization of the Horse Artillery Batteries the Brigade was adjusted to consist of D, J and M Batteries. In line with the rest of the Royal Regiment of Artillery the Brigade was re-designated to become 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery on 27th, August 1938 whilst serving in Cairo. During the Second World War the Regiment fought in the Western Desert, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland, before crossing into Germany. The Regiment's most notable action was in support of 7th Armoured Division at Sidi Rezegh in November 1941, when 2nd Lieutenant Ward Gunn was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. J Battery now bear the honour title of Sidi Rezegh but the event is commemorated throughout the Regiment by the wearing of a red felt background to the beret cypher.

Since the war the Regiment has served in the U.K., Germany, Kenya, Aden and Hong Kong. In 1958 M Battery was suspended and C Battery joined the Regiment from 5th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. In 1977 M Battery was revived as the Regiment completed its sixth Northern Ire-

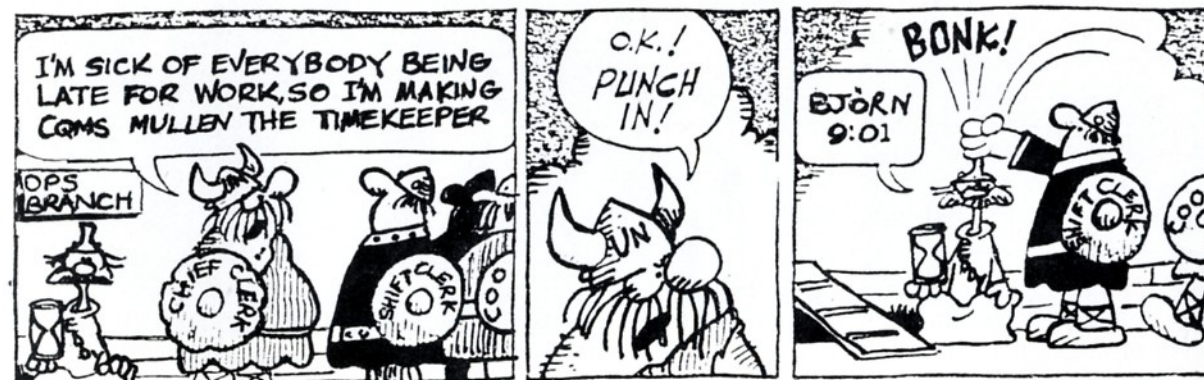


General Sir Thomas Morony inspects a 3 RHA sword guard dressed in traditional RHA uniform during his farewell visit to the Regiment in Paderborn.

land tour and also undertook an emergency tour in Belize. On 31st December 1977 the Regimental Headquarters was placed into 'limbo' whilst C,D,J (Sidi Rezegh) and M Batteries moved to Germany to form the four divisional anti-tank batteries equipped with the Swingfire anti-tank guided weapon system.

The Regiment was reformed

on 2nd April 1984 at which time M Battery was once again suspended. The Regiment now consists of C, D, J (Sidi Rezegh) and Headquarters Batteries. It is currently stationed in Paderborn West Germany, where it supports 20th Armoured Brigade, 1st (British) Corps with its 105mm Abbot self propelled guns.





THE MEN'S MESS - AS GOOD AS NEW

At the beginning of December the Men's Mess in AUSCON reopened after complete refurbishment with the help of the engineers and 15 volunteers.

The mess now 'houses' 2 pin ball machines, 6 video machines, table football, a billiard table and a reading corner (See picture above).

The PMC. LCpl Huber, welcomes men from all Contingents to drop in if you happen to be in Famagusta.



KRAMPUS PARTY IN CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V

On the 3rd of December the Austrian NCO's held a Krampus party in the WO and Sgts Mess. According to the legend Nicolo, in appearance similar to Santa

Claus, was a Bishop who gave presents and sweets to good children. His counterpart is Krampus, a devilish looking character, who is responsible for punishment, hands out pieces of coal to naughty children.

After greeting the guests with diabolic drinks, a hell of a dinner was served. Then Nicolo read the bad deeds from his silver book and the culprits had to pick their punishment from Krampus' sack.

Lt Col Dallinger was condemned to a waltz with the RSM WOI Rupp. The PMC WOI Nussbichler and SLO Maj Fritzlehner were luckier, one received a beating from Krampus and the other an "anti-evilin" injection containing devilish



Two very gifted dancers

spirits. The midnight surprise, set the men's hearts on fire. The next day one or two of the guests still felt the demons of the previous evening in their heads!!!



Dr Hofstaetter provides the SLO with an oral 'injection'.



WO Nussbichler who stopped laughing shortly afterwards.



COMMANDER OF AUSTRIAN ARMY VISITS SECTOR 4



Gen Philipp talks to his soldiers.



Gen Philipp says farewell to the NCO's.

The Commander of the Austrian Army General Hannes Philipp, who also served as Force Commander with UNDOF for 5 years, arrived in Cyprus on the 12th of November. The General spent his first day in the North of the Island visiting Kyrenia. The following day General Philipp was briefed about the situation of UNFICYP in the Nicosia HQ and witnessed the difficult task the UN has here during his line tour of Sector 3. The highlight for AUSCON was the line tour in Sector 4, where the General stopped at every single OP and spent time talking to the soldiers. The visit was concluded with a memorial in Goshi for 3 Austrian soldiers who were killed there in the service of peace.

ROTATION TIME

In November the AUSCON Rotation took place. On the 15th and 23rd the Austrian Airlines DC-9 landed in Larnaca bringing in the newcomers from Vienna, (the "old crew" flew home on the same plane).

The average tour of an Austrian soldier lasts 8 months but may be extended for an additional 4 months, depending on the posting and satisfactory performance. Rotations take place every 4 months and thereby ensuring continuity. During the time between the two flights key personnel hand over all matters concerning their post to their successors.

All Austrians are volunteers and therefore rotation time is not only cause for happiness; many soldiers are sorry to say goodbye to their friends and an island, where they enjoyed service in spite of the often difficult duty.

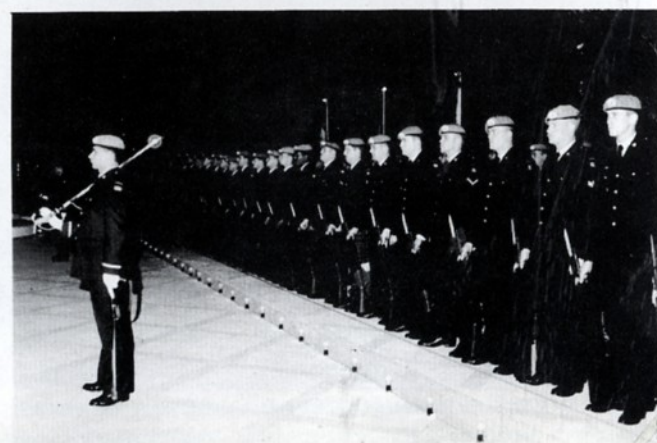


A final goodbye before leaving for home.



Just before rotation-time, in November, a football match was held between the NCO and Officers Team (AUSCON). After a fierce battle on the football pitch in Famagusta, the NCO team got the edge over their superiors, scoring 5-3 against the officers.

CANCON MEDAL PARADE



The Australian sheep



The sheep of Cyprus

CYPRUS V AUSTRALIA

On my first line tour of Sector Three I was amazed at the similarities of the countryside of Cyprus, in places, compared to Western Queensland, Australia where I come from. Dry, brown dusty plains, gum trees and of course sheep!

SAD LOSS
FOR UNFICYP

It is with great sadness that it was learnt that Kemal, the Officers' Mess Barman, passed away on the evening of 11 December 1988 after suffering a heart attack. Kemal joined the Officers' Mess in 1977, having previously worked for the Royal Air Force in Nicosia from the age of 16. In 1979 he took up the post of Barman in the Mess, an appointment he held until his untimely death.

Kemal will be remembered for his loyalty and diligence, in recognition of which a presentation will be made to his family on behalf of all members of the Mess.

Australia, as most people are aware is the largest producer of sheep and wool in the world. As a former sheep shearer, woolclasser and now part time hobby farmer in New South Wales I was particularly interested in the sheep of Cyprus, their breeds, origins and uses.

Most sheep in Cyprus can be traced to the ancient Israeli breeds talked about in Biblical times. They are described as long legged with brown wool and faces, long ears and fat tails. These are now cross bred with 'Xios' sheep which are similar but predominantly white woolled with smaller tails. They produce the familiar type of sheep regularly seen in small flocks around the island. These have black faces and are white woolled, some have fat tails whereas others don't. The majority of

these sheep are milked daily and the milk used to make the famous Fetta cheese. (Halloumi cheese is made from goats milk). Meat of course is the other main source of income for the farmer.

Australia's first sheep were five fat tailed ewes taken aboard the first fleet at Capetown, South Africa in 1788. These sheep were used as rations not long after the establishment of the settlement at Botany Bay. In Australia some 158 million sheep most of which are Merinos, are descendants of the prized Spanish flocks. These were introduced to New South Wales around 1805. The world record price for a Merino Ram is \$330,000 (Australian dollars). The sheep I breed are solely for wool production — superfine Merino wool now sells at approximately \$20 per kilo. Meat is the by-product.

LS&GC MEDAL PRESENTATION



On 13 December 1988 Sergeant RL Stephenson REME was presented with his Long — Service and Good Conduct Medal by Lieutenant Colonel JEB Smedley RTR, Commanding Officer of the UNFICYP Support Regiment.

Sergeant Stephenson was presented with the Medal in the UNFICYP Workshop, in recogni-

tion of his 15 years exemplary service with the British Army.





THE CALGARY CARE BEARS COME TO CYPRUS

The arrival of the Calgary Cares Team was a wonderful gift to all personnel in the Canadian Contingent. The team lead by Gabbi Franco, Ron Gillis, Peter Kennedy, Jone Rowe and the members of the Twenty-Twenty Band travelled throughout the Canadian Sector spreading their very special gift of joy and hope.

The team whipped up pancakes at observation posts along the line in the area of the old city, prepared steaks at section and troop houses in the open plains of the rural area and filled the Buffer Zone air with good old western hospitality and song wherever they went.

The most touching gift of all was the presentation of the giant Christmas cards. Soldiers huddled around the cards looking for a special message from a loved one or friend. They found not only those but also special messages from thousands of other people they had never met. This touched the hearts of all and made the Christmas season a little brighter.



DANCON JOINT OPERATIONS CENTRE



At the centre of Sector One, in the heart of that Wild Life Resort known as Viking Camp in the midst of downtown Xeros, the JOC is conveniently located at the far end of the camp.

The JOC in Sector One, is not only the Battalion Duty Room as you might expect – not by far! The Humanitarian Branch, the Operations Branch, the Ops Info Staff, the main printer and radio communications, and finally the Air Liaison functions are all contained within the meagre confines of one of the architectural masterpieces that so characterizes the camp.

So, as you have probably guessed, space is not abundant, and the place is as busy as a Finnish Vodka sellers just before the

weekend. People are invariably drawn to the JOC, in the (vain) hope that their problems might be solved. Thus the JOC has become a tremendous bank of knowledge on everything going on within, as well as outside the Sector. Any decent rumour about anything is certain to have been originated here. True or not!

But monitoring the daily situation and responding to emergencies, based on a thorough knowledge of the area and the status quo, has always been the finest test of the JOC. Such an emergency occurred this May during the "Great Fire". For three days all air, land and water operations in the area were directed from the JOC. The fire seemed to spread everywhere! Not even the

JOC was left unblemished. This was their finest hour!

On a daily basis, the JOC maintains close and warm links with the outside world. For example, the inspiring tenacity of the persistent radio checks has always been a source of joy and bemusement to all involved. To some, the mystery will never be solved; others are left with more permanent damage.

The Danish Contingent has recently rotated. Half of the personnel have changed. To those, we did business with: good luck, and may headquarters be with you! To the newcomers: do half that we did, and you'll still be in trouble! To the old crew: may we rest in peace!

by: Lt R M Pereira Holmboe

UNFICYP BASKETBALL COMPETITION

Sector 3 received thanks from all of us for organizing the UNFICYP Basketball Competition on 24th November. The venue had to be moved at the last minute which was an added problem for the Canadians. The competition took place in the Makarios Stadium. After a well balanced start Support Regiment pulled away from the rest of the field and with 2 teams got through to the finals. Support Regiment A Team won in a very close match.



WO2 Prankard (Support Regiment Coach), receives the winner's basketball trophy from the CPLO, Lt Col Stuart Bennett.



Support Regiment winning team: Back Row, Left to Right: WO2 Prankard (Coach), WO2 Herlihy, Major Norton, Cfn Piercy and LCpl Pawley. Front Row, Left to Right: Cpl Hanson, SSgt Grant, Sig Harper, Cfn Henderson and SSgt Whiteford.

CANCON SHOW



WELCOME BACK TO THE LIFE GUARDS



C Squadron The Life Guards took over as the Force Scout Car Squadron at the beginning of January. The Squadron is commanded by Major S Doughty who has just finished at the Staff College and the Squadron Corporal Major is WO2 N Gilbert.

Being the Force Scout Car Squadron will be a change in role for C Squadron. In Windsor, England the Regiment is, in theory, the Armoured Reconnaissance element of 5 Airborne Brigade

but in practice acting as anything from light artillery to tank support.

While most of the soldiers will have come from the service regiment at Windsor, others will be returning from a tour with The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in London, fulfilling our ceremonial commitment.

Another part of the Squadron also returning from ceremonial duties will be a troop of Grenadier Guards (attached to C

Squadron) under the command of Lt S Loder, for the UNFICYP tour.

We wish the 9th/12th Royal Lancers the very best on their return to England.



FAREWELL 9th/12th ROYAL LANCERS

Well what a remarkable tour! You can read whatever you like into that but as you do, D Sqn 9/12 Lancers will be back somewhere in snowy South East England (Section 25 paragraph 6 – need to know basis) in our more usual role as a Sabre Squadron in an Armoured Recce Regiment.

Many of us will be very sad to

say farewell to our suntans and Scout Cars as many close relationships have been formed. I think it is safe to say that the Squadron has used every facility that the Island had to offer to the best possible extent, from sailing in the North to skiing in the South (via Ayia Napa)!

We at the FSC hope you all had

a wonderful Christmas and an exciting New Year. We hand over to 'C' Squadron, The Life Guards who will have arrived from Windsor by the time this edition appears, good luck to them during their tour and may they excell and extract as much enjoyment as we have done over the past six months.

THE UN BLUE SHOW

