UNFICYP WELCOME

CHIEF OF STAFF

Brigadier Walter Courage was commissioned into the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guard from RMA Sandhurst in December 1960 and spent 3 years as a troop leader in BAOR and Tidworth. After a helicopter pilot’s course, he joined 4 Guards Brigade in Lebanon as a Skeeter pilot for 2 years. There then followed 18 months in command of his Regimental Air Squadron in Benghazi, at the time of the Arab-Israeli War and the Bengazi riots. Flying duties were followed by 6 years at regimental duty, during which time he was a Squadron Second in Command, Adjutant and a Squadron Leader.

He was AMA to the Adjutant General from 1973-75, commanded the Berlin Armoured Squadron for 18 months and was then posted to the British Army Training Unit at Suffield as GSO 2 Training, a post for which he was awarded the MBE.

In 1979, he became staff qualified and after 9 months as a company commander at RMA Sandhurst was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to command the RAC Tactical School at Bovingdon. He commanded his Regiment in Osnabruck until December 1984 and was Colonel A Division at the Staff College Camberley during 1985 where he gained his psc. From December 1985 to May 1988 he commanded 4 Guards Brigade in Munster.

His hobbies and sports include cricket, polo, shooting, fishing and stamp collecting. He is married to Lavinia and they have a daughter, Camilla and a son, Sebastian.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Colonel Wellwood enlisted in the Canadian Army(Regular) in 1963. He was posted to the First Battalion, The Canadian Guards in Picton, Ontario, serving with the unit until 1967 and accompanying them on a tour with the United Nations Force in Cyprus 1964-65. Colonel Wellwood then spent two years as an instructor at the Combat Arms School in CFB Borden, Ontario, followed by one year posting to Soest, West Germany with 2 RCR. Colonel Wellwood then became the Adjutant of 3 Canadian Mechanized Commando in Baden-Soullingen for two years. Upon return to Canada in 1972, he was posted to Headquarters, First Canadian Combat Group in Calgary, Alberta. The year 1973-74 saw Colonel Wellwood working in the Middle East with the United Nations Emergency Force. He returned to 1 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters for a year before joining 1 PPCLI as a mechanized rifle company commander and later as operations officer. In 1977, Colonel Wellwood was a student at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in Toronto, Ontario.

During the period 1978 to 1980 he worked in the Directorate of Land Operations, NDHQ, as a Deputy Section Head and then spent 1980-81 at the Canadian Forces Language School in Ottawa and St. Jean, PQ. Colonel Wellwood assumed command of Third Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry in Esquimalt, BC in 1981. He was posted to the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario as a member of the Directing Staff in July 1983 until his promotion to Colonel and appointment as Director of Military Operation Coordination in 1985. Colonel Wellwood is married to the former Elizabeth Caughhey and has two children.

BRIGADIER WALTER J COURAGE MBE

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER R WELWOOD CD

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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 black and white on glossy paper, up to 150mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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THE UNPA SIGNERER
BY SSgt A. BEATON

Front cover

THE BLUE BERET
From the end of April to the beginning of May, 3 PPCLI was inundated with visitors. Ten members of the Canadian media arrived on 26th April for a solid week of reporting, interviews, press conferences and tours. The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Mr Perrin Beatty, also spent a busy time in Cyprus, where amongst other things he met with the Lieutenant-Governor at Wolseley Barracks Officer’s Mess, addressed the contingent at the Wolsley sports field, took part in a line tour of Sector Three and afterwards witnessed a spirited obstacle course competition between representatives of the Training Platoon.

On the sporting front the Canadian contingent has been making its presence felt in UNFICYP Athletics, the highlight of the meeting was the resounding victory achieved by the 4 X 100 relay team in the last event of the competition. Pte Mota, MCpl Pumphrey, Sgt ‘Hank’ Miller and Lt ‘Spanky’ Andrews all gave 100 percent. Well done lads.

There was no doubt that CANCON were the winners in the UNFICYP Badminton Competition where Lt ‘I’m the Sports Officer so I can play what I want’ with the Beach Boys... over and over and over...

Well, that’s all the news from the Canadians. Return next month for the drama, the broken hearts, the shattered dreams, the excitement of; more hot weather, confessions of an air-conditioning tech, change of command parades. Lash Recce, visits by the Bde Comd, Colonel of the Regiment and finally... the CANCON Show 27 - 29 June.

Andrews, WO Legood, Cpl Forcier and Cpl Tremblay combined to win the team trophy for the Canadians. In other sports related activities, ‘Sundays’ was suitably celebrated in and around the Junior Ranks Mess - affectionately known as ‘The Pit’. The Junior Ranks Mess are apparently compiling some music for the officers dining-ins (what’s wrong with the Lieutenant-Governor’s plan for the officers mess dinner?"

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THE GREAT AUSTRIAN MEDAL PARADE

On the 11th May the Great Austrian Medal Parade took place in the ancient Roman theatre in Salamis, followed by a reception at Othello’s Tower where Austrian Cuisine showed its best.

With more than 400 guests, the Austrian Medal Parade has become an outstanding social event, the fitting atmosphere of the amphitheatre with representatives and guests of at least ten countries and a British Band performing the Grand Austrian Tato.

Even nature made a memorable contribution to this festive occasion when, shortly after dusk, an eclipse of the moon could be witnessed in the starry sky of the Mediterranean.

One can say that it had been a most memorable and appreciated evening for all attending, an evening that demonstrated the firm union of all the nations participating in the peace keeping operations in Cyprus.

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THE TRADITIONAL AUSTRIAN TATTOO

The Medal Parade with the Force Commander’s Address and Inspection found its conclusion in the Grand Austrian Tattoo, magnificently performed by the Band of the 1st Battalion King’s Own Royal Border Regiment with their Bandmaster WO1 RMB J Martin.

The tattoo which took approximately thirty minutes holds great significance for Austrian soldiers. A few notes on its origins are as follows:

Since the Middle Ages the military tattoo has indicated the beginning of the night rest for the soldiers. Originally a drum was beaten. Later when the bugle call was introduced a bugler sounded the Last Post, the butler then hit the stopper into the wine cask and the camp guard had to ensure that the soldiers obeyed the orders.

Gradually the military tattoo was sounded at big Austrian military events, and the ceremonies were extended. Usually military musicians went out of the garrisons and played in front of Honourables residences. After the Honourable had sat down a drum signal indicated the beginning of the ceremony.

Usually an ancient theme was presented. After a short musical interval the same theme was repeated and the military tattoo was played by the whole band.

Following this a religious theme was played and then the tattoo was continued by a soloist and last of all the flares were put out.
1 KINGS OWN BORDER WIN NESAM

1 Kings Own Border put in an outstanding performance in the Near East Small Arms Meeting, destroying all opposition in what can only be described as a triumph for the shooting team.

Under the guidance of Lt Norton, Sgt Smith and Cpl Humphries the team won more or less everything over 4 days of hard shooting, in the stifling 100 F heat. Overall champion shot went to Lt Norton (the first Officer to win it ever!) and in second place was Pte Edmondson, also of 1 Kings Own Border. Top Young Soldier went to Pte Barnett, who out-shot all other soldiers in his age group.

The climax of the day was the falling plate-shoot. A run down of 100m's followed by 10 metal plates at 200m's made a very exciting finish to the match. After a fiercely contested match the final was between Kings Own Border 'A' team and Kings Own Border 'B' team. A needle match if ever there was one! Final result, a victory for Kings Own Border 'A' team, as predicted by the bookmakers.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DRIVER GARLAND

On Thursday 5th May a Memorial Service was held for Driver Lee Garland who tragically died exactly a year ago. Dvr Garland was a member of the UNFICYP Transport Squadron. He died on duty whilst supporting the Royal Engineers carrying out patrol track maintenance in Sector One. About 40 soldiers attended the service including members of 15 Sqn RCT, DANCON and Royal Engineers from 62 Support Sqn RE.

PRESENTING
HQ UNFICYP'S SECRETARIAT

Mr Anders Tholle is a UN veteran with 31 years of UN service. Prior to his appointment as CAO, UNFICYP, he held the post as Assistant to the Director of Administration in the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG), a major UN Conference and Secretariat Centre, with 3,000 staff members. He also held a variety of important positions in the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Work in the peace-keeping mission is nothing new to Mr. Tholle. He has over ten years field experience working with peace-keeping missions in Middle East and Africa.

As the senior civilian staff member in administration, he acts as principal adviser to the Force Commander in the management of administrative resources, to ensure that the requisites administrative support is provided to carry out the substantive work of peace-keeping effectively and economically with the minimum of bureaucracy. He forwards recommendations to UN Headquarters New York for budgetary provisions.

UN GOLF COURSE TAKES SHAPE

People walking in the trees near the NAAFI will have noticed much activity taking place as WO2 Dent's dream of a UNPA golf course becomes a reality. It is hoped to build a 6 hole course by next winter with the possibility of extending it to 9 holes in due course.

streamlining of logistic support and other organizational matters, and ensures provisions of food, accommodation, transport and communications in close cooperation with the CPLO for UNFICYP.

Mr. Tholle finds peace-keeping more difficult today than it used to be. The United Nations is passing through a difficult period due to the continuing financial crisis, with drastic budget cuts, staff reductions and liquidity problems, particularly because of delayed payments by the major contributor to the United Nations.

He has emphasized to the Blue Beret that UNFICYP like all other UN missions is not immune to these serious problems and it must observe maximum financial restraint and prudent management of resources.

Mr. Tholle is married with three children. He is accompanied in Cyprus by his wife, Wanda, and one son, Lars. Another son has settled in America and his daughter is living in Switzerland. He is a great sailing enthusiast and a happy owner of a yacht in Limassol. Other hobbies include skating, mountainearing, windsurfing, and he has begun learning tennis in Cyprus. He participated in the DANCON March.

The Blue Beret welcomes Mr. Tholle and his family, and wish him every success and happiness during their tour in Cyprus.
THE 48th DANISH BIDS

by: 1Lt Pereira Holmboe

The 48th Danish Contingent are leaving in mid-June after spending seven months here in Cyprus.

At Christmas the local children came to Viking Camp for a taste of Danish Christmas.

THE DANCON MARCH. A taste of the harsh and inhuman weather conditions governing the mountainous (OK hilly!)
area of Sector 1. Each morning as the march was about to commence a deluding sun shone beautifully, in anticipation
of a hot day on the tracks many left their sweaters and coats
behind only to find that this was just a teaser.

One of the many examples of true viking spirit: who else
would go bathing on Boxing Day in their underwear?

One of the other highlights of the period - the many marriages
- the soldiers and their brides shown here married near
Paphos Gate in Nicosie.

The contingent chaplain gave a divine service for the HQ Coy
in Xeros. Due to the hordes of people, the service was
conducted in the nearby Soli theatre.

A lucky strike! Sector 1/HQ Coy team won the Military Skills
Competition - this was totally unexpected and the only
explanation is that the other teams arranged for DANCON to
win - just once! Thank you for the gesture!

The preparations for the Women Walk Home March in
November 1987 were extensive. Lots of barbed wire, wine,
food and coloured lights, but no women!

There is not much opportunity for skiing in Denmark, where
the countryside is fairly flat, however, the Troodos northern
slopes offer excellent skiing pistes (for a lowlander).
DANCON won the bronze in the UNIFICYP Competition and
at the DANCON Competition in February, everyone finished
in style - standing-up!

Presentation of the UN Medal by the Force Commander to
members of DANCON 48 this was the only occassion where
members of DANCON were wearing the same uniform.

The next Danish Contingent are DANCON 49 and
all the members of DANCON 48 wish them all the
best for their stay in Cyprus and may it be as
enjoyable as ours.
THE UNKNOWN SIGNWRITER

The signs around the UNPA in Nicosia are mostly accredited to the hard work of two members of the RE Yard - LCpl Pawley and Mr George Floyrentzoy.

George Floyrentzoy started working for the UN in 1963 as a waiter for the Canadians in the Troodos Area. In 1964 he transferred to the RE Yard as the signwriter.

DINGHY SAILING COURSE

The second dinghy sailing course of the year was held at Deniz Kiz Beach in April. All 12 students shown in the photo are from Support Regiment, Sector 2 and FSC Sqn.

UN LADIES AND MIXED DOUBLES BADMINTON COMPETITION

SALAMIS BAND CONCERT

The Band of the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment held a concert at Salamis Amphitheatre on the 10th May

UN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Above: Lt Col Rolf Borggren, Runner-up

WO2 Bill Herlihy - UNFICYP Tennis Champion
NEWS FROM THE LIFE GUARDS

During May the Scout Car Squadron began to relish all that an UNFICYP tour is famous for: sun, sport and what the British Army in its infinite wisdom has seen fit to describe as "Rest and Relaxation". This forms an essential antidote to the crucial, occasionally repetitive, if not monotonous life along the Buffer Zone.

Here in Cyprus 'A' Squadron The Life Guards placed wreaths on the graves of the soldiers of the Household Cavalry buried in Wayne's Keep, and then attended a joint service with the 17/21st Lancers in Episkopi.

Oak Apple Day in May has a special significance for The Life Guards. It is the anniversary of the day in 1649 when the future King Charles hid in an oak tree after the battle of Worcester before escaping into a decade of exile on the European continent with some loyal companions. When Charles returned to Britain as king in 1660, these loyal companions formed his personal bodyguard, which was later to be named The Life Guards. All Life Guard ceremonial helmets and armour have an acorn motif to commemorate the Royal Oak. "The Acorn" is also the name of the Regimental magazine.

On the sporting front the Squadron Leader, Major Scott and 2Lt Mackenzie-Hill played for a Cavalry polo team which beat the 'rest' of the island team. 2Lt Mackenzie-Hill has also been a stalwart member of the UNFICYP athletics team with LCpl Davidson and Tpr Bebbington. 2Lt Mackenzie-Hill is an accomplished hurdler and high jumper while Tpr Bebbington is a consistent middle-distance runner. The UNFICYP team currently leads the All-Island Athletics Championships.

UNFICYP CAVALRY TAKE THE RISE

Early May has traditionally been the time that the British Cavalry remembers its fallen comrades. The British newspaper 'The Times', featured the conventionally clad Life Guard contingent leading the annual Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park, London. One member of the contingent was interviewed by a news reporter from the US ABC TV network, who was understandably bewildered by this strange spectacle. The Life Guard managed to convince the gullible American that it was, in fact, a parade to commemorate the late lamented British Comedian Tommy Cooper.

May also witnessed one of the better practical jokes so far during A Squadron's tour here in Cyprus. The Squadron's recovery mechanic Sgt Castle is renowned for his talent to amuse. As an a deep impression he masterminded a very entertaining revue. Some of those who were more outrageously lampooned decided to wreak their revenge.

One morning Sgt Castle received a signal from The Life Guards British base in Windsor reluctantly summoning him home urgently to replace a colleague, who had suddenly fallen ill. Quick telephone calls confirmed the signal so Sgt Castle spent a nightmarish few hours rushing to catch his flight home from Akrotiri. However the minibus first took him to the NCO's mess. Here he appeared very touches to discover his colleagues had remembered his birthday. This was an event he had been trying to keep secret. Yet it seemed a very considerate farewell gesture. It also proved an ideal opportunity to inform him that the Squadron had taken him for a proverbial ride.

Sgt Castle starts his farewell party.

The moment of truth: Sgt Castle realizes he has been well and truly 'had'!

TRANSPORT SQUADRON'S ATTEMPT ON GREEN LINE RUN

On Friday 29th April 1988 at 0300hrs, Dvr Hammond of 15 Sqn RCT began the latest attempt to beat the Green Line Run record of 3 hrs, 54 mins, 26 seconds. The run is a 41.9 mile relay run by a team of 10 runners from Troodos to Jubilee Camp. Each runner runs between 3.5 and 5 miles with the whole team running the last mile together. On this occasion the team had to consist of 1 Officer, 2 SNCOs and 7 other ranks.

Just before 0645hrs the team started on the last mile together giving their best to come in with a final time of 3 hrs, 58 mins, 32 seconds (just 4 mins, 6 seconds outside the record), making C£320 for charity. Needless to say the Sqn will attempt the run again before the end of their tour.

UNPA LIBRARY GETS NEW LIBRARIAN

For three years Mr Fred Harrison has been keeping an eye on the UNPA library helped by Miss Clare Oxley, Mrs Borggreen and Heather Eggleston. At last we have been granted authority to employ a part-time Librarian and have recruited Mrs Anthoulia (Anthy) Yiannouliou. Mr Harrison is still assisting three times a week. The library opening times are now:

MON to FRI 0900-1130hrs and 1700-1900hrs
SAT 0900-1100hrs

Athony trying to persuade Signalman Symon Merritt to take out more books!
THE 52nd SWEDISH POLICE CONTINGENT

by: Chief Inspector Edvinsson

Tuesday, 3 May, 1986, saw the rotation of the Swedish component of UNCIVPOL. Eleven promising members of the Civilian Police Force in Sweden arrived in Cyprus, most of them for the first time.

One week prior to their arrival in Cyprus, the eleven members attended a UN course of instruction in Sweden, under the expert guidance of the current Deputy Commander of UNCIVPOL, Superintendent K.G. Andersson. Following their arrival in Cyprus, they were further briefed by their predecessors for one week.

But in spite of lengthy briefings, on the official hand-over day, 10 May, the new members, still a little apprehensive of their new undertaking, ended the day with a party including champagne and a special Swedish song.

On 15 May, the new Swedes met their Australian counterparts for a volleyball "grudge match" with the result that the new Swedes might never need more practice! The match was followed by a welcome swim and a barbecue, where the cook seized the opportunity to take a couple of days off work by burning his hand. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

UNCIVPOL welcome the new Swedish members, wish them well in Cyprus and hope that they have a memorable tour.

EX BLUE
BLAZER - DANCON

Base camp at Varisha for Plant Tp of 62(Cyprus) Sqn RE.

Ten men from Plant Tp of 62 (Cyprus) Sqn RE based in Dhekelia have just completed the first of their twice yearly track maintenance projects for the UN, and assisted with the fire fighting whilst there.

The Troop, living at Varisha have repaired 37km of patrol track in the mountainous Sector 2, in spite of 2 appearances by “The Ghost of Varisha” - an old man carrying a lamp (the ghost is a frightening character - ask Cpl Wood and LCpl Tickle who jumped in the same bed to escape him!) As they were recovering their equipment the call for help with the fire at DANCON came and 5 men were rushed to Sector 1 to cut fire breaks. About 8 km of fire breaks were dug and the fire was contained by close of play on Monday 16 May. Operators and machines remained on standby incase of further fires.

Sgt Gears, Plant Sgt, explained that the track repair project utilised a mixture of earthmoving plant machines from crawler tractors to wheeled graders and dumper trucks. “It’s a nice little job out here” said Sgt Gears “that is if you don’t mind heights, wild dogs, snakes and of course the odd bonfire.”

The boys have been well looked after by the legendary ‘Boris’, a cook from the UN during their 5 week deployment. They even found time to play DANCON at football. Although 3-0 up at half-time the penalty system of drinking a beer per goal scored allowed DANCON to rally and beat the British Sappers 5-3. The Troop consisted of: Sgt Gears, Cpl Solomon, Cpl Mayne, Cpl Coleman, Cpl Wood, LCpl Shute, LCpl Gray, LCpl Hardman, LCpl Tickle and Spr Risborough. Attached personnel Cpl Ford (Boris) and Cpl Marsh, Dvr Ball, Dvr Burnet, Dvr Dixon and Dvr Aldous - all from UN Sp Regt.

UNIFICYP ATHLETICS TEAM

So far the UNIFICYP Athletics Team has competed in 2 of the 5 Cyprus Services Athletic League matches and won them both. In the first at Nicosia on 5th May the results were:

Position Team Points
1st UNIFICYP 311.5
2nd Epikopi/Garrison 240
3rd Ayios Nikolaos 172

In the second match at Episkopi we did not win quite so convincingly but to beat Episkopi on their home track is no mean feat. Results were:

Position Team Points
1st UNIFICYP 304
2nd Episkopi/Garrison 298

We are trying to raise a ladies team as well and so far are having some success. The photograph (left) shows the backbone of the team.

Left to Right: Annette Berggren, Clare Oxley and Judy Warren.

VISIT BY
SOLDIER MAGAZINE

One of Soldier Magazine’s newest reporters, Mrs Jennifer Griffiths, on holiday in Cyprus, kindly gave up some of her free time to visit Support Regiment on 16th May. She arrived by helicopter and was given a briefing about our role here in Cyprus, a lightning tour of the Workshops and Transport Squadron.

LEFT:
Mrs Griffiths arriving by helicopter.
AYIA NAPA BEACH

Once again, it's the time of year that Ayia Napa beaches have become the main attraction for UNFICYP personnel in Cyprus. Hundreds of lonely and bored UN soldiers will gather daily along Ayia Napa's soft sands and peacefully appreciate the refreshing sea water, view and cloudless blue sky. However, there will be those few UN individuals who will, unfortunately, get carried away and into trouble.

As a reminder, the Force Provost Marshal and his MP staff would like to take this opportunity to provide UNFICYP personnel with the following constructive advice:

- Avoid confrontation with the civilian population and behave in an exemplary manner at all times;

- Control consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas;

- Park UN vehicles only in authorized parking zones;

- Properly secure UN vehicles at all times, especially during overnight stays;

- Report all accidents and suspicious incidents to the local UN MP Detachment; and

- Abide by all local laws and UN rules and regulations.

Remember, if in need of assistance, do not hesitate to contact or visit the Ayia Napa UN MP Detachment at 41 Ayia Mavri Str, Palm Apt 4 and 5, Ayia Napa, or call 037-21240.