THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT VISITS THE AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT

On 23rd March the Federal President of Austria, Dr Kurt Waldheim visited the Austrian Contingent. First he flew by helicopter from Nicosia to OP AS-18 where he was briefed about the military situation by Lt Col Dallinger, CO Sector 4. His next stop was in Athienou, whose inhabitants gave him a real warm welcome by handing over flowers and a precious icon. Captain Zay received the President with a guard of honour, flags and trumpets. There, at the Command Post/1st Coy, he surprised everybody by personally joining the queue at the field kitchen to get his share of the hot-pot which he ate sitting amongst soldiers of all ranks.

His last station in Cyprus was Goshi where he put down a wreath in remembrance of the three Austrian soldiers who were killed there in 1974 during an air strike. In a short speech the former Secretary General of the United Nations honoured all UN soldiers for their tour of duty in the service of peace.

AUSTRIANS – 25 YEARS IN CYPRUS

The first Austrians on a UN Mission in Cyprus were assigned to the Austrian Field Hospital. This was established in 1964 at St David’s Camp and was operational until 1973. From 1973 to 1976 Austrians were also assigned to the UNFICYP Medical Centre in Nicosia. The first Austrian UN Battalion came to Cyprus in 1973 and was deployed in Paphos and Polis and then Larnaca. In October 1973 UNFICYP was set up and a unit of AUSCON was deployed to Egypt and later to Syria. There an Austrian Battalion, called AUSBATT, with a strength of 510 men, was deployed on the Golan Heights with UNDOF until the present time. Since October 1977 the Austrians were responsible for the Famagusta area. After the withdrawal of SWEDCON in October 1987 AUSCON took over the area west of Dhekelia to Athienou.

Editorial

This month sees changes within the Military Public Information Office. Sadly we lose Mrs Deborah Robinson who, having joined the office in May 1988 now returns to England. In wishing Deborah 'Bon Voyage' we welcome Mrs Mary Anderson as the new secretary.

This month's magazine includes statistics on the Austrian and Australian Contingents which had been held over from the March issue. We are also pleased to feature H.E. The President of the Federal Republic of Austria Dr Kurt Waldheim who visited the Austrian Contingent in UNFICYP.

Congratulations to all who contributed to another successful Spring Fair. Photographs by Sgt Ken Webster are featured on Page 15.

Finally, may we appeal to all UNFICYP personnel to be extremely careful not to be a contributor to a fire either by ignorance or negligence.

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Front cover

One of the oldest vehicles within UNFICYP, the fire engine, seen here being put through its paces by members of Ord Det.

LITTLE BIRD HITS BIG BIRD
Left: Sgt Dave McCaig demonstrates the bird-pulling power of a Gazelle!
UNIFICYP FINANCE SECTION

The UNIFICYP Finance Section forms a major part of the civilian administration of UNIFICYP. Under the general direction of the Chief Administrative Officer the section is responsible for the preparation and control of the mission operational budget of approximately 12 million dollars per year consisting of three parts viz: Headquarters New York portion of $3.5M, the United Kingdom Logistic Support of $6.6M and local cash purchases of $1.9M. Under the delegated authority of the Controller of the United Nations, the section approves the obligation of funds such as contracts, travel authorizations, purchase orders and work orders. Approves all payments for field expenditure (UK Logistic Support and cash purchases) and ensures full implementation of the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.

Joe Morris (Chief Finance Officer)

Dealing with claims

The section has been computerised since 1982 and was in fact the first of the peace-keeping operations to submit computerised accounts to UN Headquarters New York.

The staffing of the section is comprised of 4 International Field Service Officers and 4 locally recruited Finance Clerks.

SP REGT SHOOTING COMPETITION


ROAD SAFETY

The defensive driver is not necessarily a slow driver, except when the conditions demand it. He is a skilled driver as well as a safe driver. No matter what the conditions, whether of road, vehicles or other people’s behaviour, his powers of concentration and observation enable him to ensure that no action, or lack of action, on his part will contribute in any degree to the development of an accident situation. Listed below are some special hazards to watch for when driving in Cyprus, and the remedies to be taken to avoid accidents.

SPECIAL HAZARDS watch for:
- Doors opening in your path
- Unexpected stopping
- Turning without signalling
- Reversing without looking
- Driving in the middle of the road - even on bends
- Excessive speed
- Pedestrians lingering in your path
- Animals
- Dazzle at night

THE ANSWER Care, courtesy and consideration. Avoid accidents by:
- Allowing more time for journeys
- Refusing to be irritated by the faults of others
- Using your horn whenever necessary
- Checking and double checking for danger
- Staying well behind vehicles in front
- Expecting surprises
- Slowing right down whenever there might be danger
- Using the rough verges if the tarmac is narrow, but slow down

TRAGIC DEATH

It is with regret we announce the death of Guardsman Sinclair, Coldstream Guards at 1930 on 20th March as a result of a road traffic accident on the 18th March. Guardsman Sinclair had been employed in the UNIFICYP Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess in Jubilee Camp as Barman since January 1989, he was renowned for his good humour and diligence and will be sadly missed by all members of the mess and those who knew him.

7 Squadron RCT has now well and truly settled down to life in Cyprus. The Son is currently covering over 100,000 miles per month supporting the UNIFICYP. Now that the weather is improving the Son's soldiers are taking the maximum advantage of the delights Cyprus has to offer, in particular Ayia Napa.

The Son has recently just completed a "first for the UN Tpt Sign" in having successfully organised a Junior Military Qualification Certificate Course. The course culminated in a full parade accompanied by the Band of the Life Guards and inspected by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier W.J. Courage MBE.

On the competition front the Son recently won the Sp Regt Safe and Skilled competition and has just completed the first of the DANGON Marches. Most of the participants could be identified the next day by their inability to walk (after all we are trained to cover the ground in trucks). At the time of writing the Son is preparing for the BRITCON Medal Parade and the second part of the Commanding Officer's Shield Competition.
C SQUADRON THE LIFE GUARDS-UP-DATE

Here we are half-way through our tour already. A great deal has happened since the end of January. As the shooting competition had been cancelled, 1 Troop held their own with their Austrian hosts. They used the Austrian rifle, whilst the Australians trial our SA80s.

Next came the UNIFCYP Cross Country competition. Unfortunately our best runner Lt Dominic Mahony had been recovering from a leg injury, so we did not use him in our team. A sad decision as he competed individually and came first by a large margin.

Our Warrant Officer’s and Non Commissioned Officers’ Mess held their welcome party at the end of January and much fun was had by all. In the following week we hosted a visit from Brigadier Courage, took part in the Force Reserve CPX and ran a comparative trial of the Mitsubishi pick-ups versus Landrovers. The week ended with the Officers’ House holding their cocktail party.

At the beginning of February LCpl Knight and Tpr Beech returned from the British Army Skiing Championships in France, where our Regimental team achieved a good result. Tpr Beech was placed 14th overall and just missed a place in the Army team. We hoped that they would be the ingredient for success at the UN Skilling Competition, however we were beaten into 4th place. Tpr Beech was also in our NEFSKI competition team, but unfortunately was narrowly beaten in the individual competition by Capt Barker from the SBA Recce Sqn.

At the beginning of March we entered 3 teams in the BFC Triathlon (the sensible one - Shooting, Fishing and Riding). A fun day was had by all and 1 team (Ma) Doughty, Capt Garrett and Lt Dewnyhouse came 4th overall and 3rd in the riding. Lt Dewnyhouse also took part in the UN v SBA polo match, with Brig Courage, Lt Col Broke (Sec 2) and Maj Foster (Sec 2) and managed to score the UN’s only goal.

The Womans’ Walk Home gave the Force Reserve an exciting day out. Travelling from Nicosia to Athens in convoy. A lovely sunny day, but somewhat dusty for those at the rear of the convoy!

March ended with a visit from Maj Gen S C Cooper (the Commandant of Sandhurst, a former Commanding Officer of The Life Guards). During his visit he went to Wayne’s Keep Cemetery to visit the graves of Life Guards killed in Cyprus.

The Squadron Open Day on 1st April raised £500 for charities in both North and South Cyprus. The Squadron enjoyed the day and thanks go to all members of the UN and their families who came and made the day go well, by confiding in the Mini Pentathlon.

C Squadron's Life Guards-up Date

THE SWEDISH DEFENCE UN TRAINING CENTRE

Following a decision by the Swedish Government in 1984, the Swedish Defence UN Training Centre was organized.

The background to the Government’s decision was to centralize all military UN-training in the same location as well as providing more efficient training.

The UN Training Centre today is organized into four different units: expedition, training, courses and administration.

The training aims at providing such comprehensive education that the troops, after an intense period of two to three weeks, are able to participate in any of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

During the first two years of the Training Centre’s existence, two stand-by battalions were educated each year, prepared to be posted anywhere in the world where a peacekeeping force was required. One of the stand-by battalions was then sent to Cypr- bus to serve with UNIFIL, while the other one remained in Sweden. It should be noted that the personnel of the latter battalion was demobilized after completing the training, but remained under contract to take part in any possible future missions within the twelve-month contract period.

The education of the stand-by battalions consisted of general knowledge about the United Nations; its organization, purposes, "modus operandi" and means of working as a peacekeeping force. Naturally experiences from previous missions were taken into consideration.

Due to the Swedish Government’s decision in 1986 to provide a Logistics Battalion for UNIFIL, the training conditions were changed. The Swedish Army Commander-in-Chief ordered that all training of stand-by battalions should cease, and that all training should be aimed at the new task in Lebanon.

The Swedish UN Training Centre not only trains units for service in the Lebanon. It is responsible for the training of the personnel that are chosen to serve with UNIFIL; staff officers and NCO’s, military and civilian police. The Training Centre provides training for the Swedish officers that are to serve with the different observer missions as well as organizing staff course for Scandinavian officers that are supposed to work within the various UN staffs around the world. Though it is not a UN mission, Sweden also has officers serving with UNIFIL in Korea.

Women are playing a more important role in the society of today, and are nowadays a vital part of peace-keeping missions. Approximately 70 women serve with the Swedish Logistics Battalion in the Lebanon. They are picked through extensive tests and thereafter do an intensive training period in military matters. The aim is to give them the same basic knowledge as their male colleagues.

The Swedish UN Training Centre today train and educate approximately 2000 troops each year, a task that is only made possible because of the spirit and experience of the Training Centre’s staff.

When the decision of organizing the Swedish UN Training Centre was made, it resulted in something quite unique that has been met with a lot of positive response from other countries involved in the United Nations peacekeeping missions, and last, but not least, it shows Sweden’s determination and ability to participate in United Nations striving for peace and security.

Left: COH Barry as he is on patrol.

Right: Major General S C Cooper visits the Grave of COH Brown LG killed in Cyprus in 1956.
NEWS FROM SECTOR THREE

The Royal Canadian Dragoons are well into their six month tour, assuming control of Sector Three from the Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) on 9 March. To date the tour has been an interesting and challenging experience for the force. Sector Three is divided into City and Rural Squadrons. City Squadron, commanded by Major R. Richards, lives in numerous troop and section houses as well as the “Leisure Palace.”

A number of clubs have been formed for people that enjoy something a little more exciting and adventurous than Ayia Napa (Is that possible?)

Sgt Nickerson is in charge of the scuba club which has already run a diving course with another course planned.

Instruction in unarmed combat under the watchful eye of WO Gosse is planned for those people who enjoy being kicked, punched, thrown and choked. Throughout Sector Three facilities are available for weightlifting. This is probably the most widely used activity to pass the time and you can walk by the Wotley Barracks Gym at any time of the day and hear the grunting and moaning of people who will “pump you up.”

Slow pitch softball is very popular with teams organized by the Officer’s Mess, Warrant Officer’s and Sergeant’s Mess, Master Corporal’s Mess and the Junior Ranks Mess. The Officers remain unbeaten against the Junior Ranks in two games but may have trouble defeating the Warrant Officers and Sergeants who have been practicing in preparation for the big game.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons have enjoyed the start of their first UN tour as a Regiment (previous tours only involved Squadrons of the RCD) and look forward to the remaining months.

After the Work is Done

The RCD have found that occupying your spare time is a major part of a Cyprus tour. After the work is done many people enjoy jumping on a bus and spending a day power tanning at Ayia Napa. Welfare Section not only organizes the weekly buses to Ayia Napa, they also arrange tours of Kyrenia, Limassol, Paphos and numerous other locations on the island.

Cpl Rodden of RHQ Recce Troop on duty at Wotley Gate

Wotley Barracks Gym at any time of the day and hear the grunting and moaning of people who will "pump you up".

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3RHA'S NEWS SINCE ROULEMENT

It would be very strange if an article in the UN Blue Beret did not start with the mention of visits. The visit season is definitely upon us in Sector 2 - it must be the good weather in Cyprus! The first of the three main visits to Sector 2, was that of Brig Willcocks who is the Commander Royal Artillery 4th Armoured Division, the division 3 RHA supports back in BAOR. This visit coincided with the battery roulement within the Regiment. D and J Batteries have now moved down to the Eastern Sovereign Base Area whilst C and 9 Batteries have taken over B18 and the Box Factory respectively.

The second visit was that of the Women's Royal Army Corps Officer Cadets who were in Cyprus for their final training exercise. On two separate days two platoons visited SDC and were then shown the line. This physical and mentally for the onslaught on the Troodos Mountains.

Also with the last weekend of DANCON Marches looming on the horizon, teams from each sub unit are putting in their final preparations, concentrating mainly on toughening their feet!

The St David's Camp DANCON March team preparing themselves physically and mentally for the onslaught on the Troodos Mountains.

Gnr Ross (9 Battery) helping the officer cadets view the Buffer Zone from B23 during their visit to Sector 2.

turned out to be quite an eye opener for them all.

Lastly Sector 2 took part in the hosting of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during their tour of UNFICYP.

In between all these visits Sector 2 has still taken a keen interest in the sporting side of life. Prior to D Battery leaving the line WO2 Kallos, Ldrs Chak, and Inglis, and Gns Jones and Soulsby took part in the UN rugby tour to Israel. All had a very enjoyable time with the UN team which won every game played.

Gnr Morris, C Battery, briefs the CRA 4 Armd Div, Brig Willcocks, on the ground whilst the BSM, WOII Docherty looks on.

The new Force Commander, escorted by Lt Gunning, inspects the Sector 2 Quarter Guard supplied by members of 9 Battery.

The QM, Maj Armitage and WOII (BSM) Muir hosting the ACABQ visit in St David's Camp.

The CRA, Brig Willcocks, inspects the Force and Sector reserves.
UN MP COY NEWS

Two significant events occurred during the month of March. One, the new Ayia Napa MP Detachment was officially opened on 10 Mar 89 and secondly on the same date the Force Commander, Maj Gen Greindl paid a farewell visit to the MP Det at Larnaca. A delicious lunch was hosted by the Det Commander WO1 Leif Andersson. On the Force Commander’s insistence he prepared the steaks on the BBQ to everyone’s taste.

Force Commander presents MCpl Walia (CANDCON) UN MP Det Larnaca with his UN Medal.

New MP Det located in Ayia Napa.

FPM, Maj Nault, hands the keys to the Det Comd, Ayia Napa, Sgt K Bhyman (SWEDCON) accompanied by the DOC, UN MP Coy, Capt KO Bendi xen.

Force Commander preparing the steaks at Larnaca MP Det assisted by Det Comd, WO1 L Andersson (SWEDCON).

A delicious lunch was had by all at the Larnaca MP Det.
Since the departure of Commandant Campbell Thomson for greener pastures, the responsibility for command of UNCIVPOL has passed to the Commander of SWEDCIVPOL, Chief Superintendent Lennart Peterson. Chief Superintendent Jim Jameson has more than capably acted in the position of AUSTCIVPOL Commander.

The period covered by March and April 1989 has seen many comings and goings including the change over of Force Commanders, the manager of the Blue Beret Camp Officers Mess Bill Baker and our smiling Swedish POLOPS officer Chief Inspector Rolf Hurtig, who will return to Sweden on the 1st of May.

The arrival of ten Australian police took place on the 9th March and all attended the Women's Walk Home demonstration on the 19th March, which was a good initiation to Cyprus duty. The Swedish police will rotate between the 17th and 27th April and the briefing at UNCIVPOL Headquarters at Nicosia Airport will take place on the 21st April, followed by the traditional volleyball match between Australia and Sweden.

At UNCIVPOL Headquarters there was evidence of a form of torture known as the Dancon March from the number of walking wounded in existence during the early days of April.

On the 25th April all Australians celebrated “Anzac Day” with a dawn service at Waynes Keep Military Cemetery and the traditional two up game during the afternoon. (To be featured in June’s Blue Beret).

At a small country school somewhere in Australia, years ago, every Tuesday morning used to be set aside for a period of religious instruction. The Minister of Religion was telling the pupils of the miracle of Jesus walking on the water and concluded with the statement “Isn’t that wonderful children?”. When a red haired, freckle faced young boy with a speech impediment said, “Aw that’s nuthin, I seen a man eating fire in the circus”.

SP REGT MIL SKILLS

The winning team was Workshops who were first in every phase and gained maximum points. Pictured from left to right are: Lt Col Smedley, Cpl Millward, Cpl Low, Mrs Smedley, SSGT Goss and Maj Mathews. Kneeling are Cpl Martin and Capt Bennett.

ORIENTEERING RESULTS

WINNING TEAM: UNFICYP Support Regiment
2nd: Sector 1
3rd: Sector 2 (9 Battery)
1st Individual: Maj Peck – Sp Regt – 38 Mins
1st Veteran: WO1 (RSM) Hood – Sp Regt – 43 Mins

Support Regiment Winning Team: from left to right: Capt Rob Nitsch, WO1 (RSM) Robin Hood, WO1 (Y of S) Nick Himmelt, Maj Gerry Peck and Maj Tom Mathews.
# 25 Years of UNFICYP

## Commanders of the Australian Contingent

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr G Habermann</td>
<td>May 1968–May 1969</td>
<td>Supt T Davis</td>
<td>May 1979–May 1980</td>
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## Commanders of the Austrian Field Hospital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lt Col Dr. R Wech</th>
<th>May 1964–Nov 1964</th>
<th>Lt Col G G Greindl</th>
<th>Jul 1978–Sep 1979</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Dr. B Nussbaumer</td>
<td>Nov 1964–Apr 1965</td>
<td>Lt Col H Satter</td>
<td>Sep 1979–Jul 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Dr. E Narodoslavsky</td>
<td>Aug 1965–Sep 1965</td>
<td>Lt Col A Pienegger</td>
<td>Sep 1980–Sep 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Dr. O Renth</td>
<td>Sep 1966–Dec 1966</td>
<td>Lt Col A Troezmueler</td>
<td>Sep 1982–Sep 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Dr. H Schallaboeck</td>
<td>Oct 1972–Apr 1973</td>
<td>Lt Col S Wieser</td>
<td>Sep 1988–To Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Dr. J Mayer</td>
<td>Apr 1973–Oct 1973</td>
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## Commanding Officers of the UNFICYP Medical Centre

| Col Dr. J Mayer | Oct 1973–Apr 1976 |

## Commanding Officers of the Austrian Contingent

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