"THE KYRENIAS"

In 1965 a sponge diver from Kyrenia discovered a hull of a sunken ship just off the north Cyprus coast. It soon became apparent that this was an ancient ship dating from about 350 BC. The hull was eventually raised in 1974 and the wood was preserved before being placed in a room of Kyrenia Castle. In 1985 a replica of the "Kyrenia" was built in Greece and named the "Kyrenia II". She sailed to the United States, spent last winter in Limassol and is now in Japan.

A reconstruction of this type of ship showing how the amphora were stored and where the stone hand mills were used for ballast.

"The hull of the wrecked "Kyrenia" on display in the Kyrenia Castle"
THE CYPRUS WALKABOUT

Before leaving Britain, the Battalion had decided that the Cyprus Walkabout represented an ideal opportunity to test mental and physical endurance on a grand scale, whilst at the same time giving teams an opportunity to witness some of the best views anywhere in Cyprus. Thus it was that some four months after arriving in Cyprus, seven teams from 1 WFR lined up with other teams to compete in one of the hardest orienteering courses in the world.

The Walkabout first started in 1966 when it was, as the name suggests, a Walkabout from Episkopi to Troodos and walk back stopping at local taverns and generally enjoying a pleasant couple of days in the Cyprus countryside. However, it quickly developed into something more competitive and is now a very grueling orienteering competition, covering 50 kms on each day with a 2000m climb on day one, of which one third is in the final 2kms. On each day, the teams have to pass five checkpoints, route selection being at the team’s discretion. The Battalion ‘A’ team of Major Bowen, SSGt Billings and LCpl Cooke started training immediately on arrival in Cyprus with early morning and late evening runs when UN duties allowed. This paid its first dividends at the Battalion Trial on August 20, the teams gathered at Bulldog Camp for a twenty mile run to SDC on day one and the return on day two. All the teams completed the 40 mile course with an average time of five hours, so with six weeks to race day the training was obviously progressing. By the time the competition started, the teams had managed a couple of days actually running in Troodos, with most of the training done over the familiar dusty tracks of Sector 2, Ayios Nikolaos or Dhakesia. The start of the competition was staggered at 30 second intervals. Most teams navigated easily to Troodos at a good steady jog, however the terrain and distance took its toll. After the climb of day one, Team A was third, with A Company, C Company and the RE Det packing nicely with 1st, 20th and 21st.

The other two teams each lost a team member through injuries on day one, however the remaining runners completed the course attached to other teams as individuals doing very well to finish.

Overall a very rewarding and well organised event, however, I’m sure all those who took part would agree, it’s great relief knowing we are only in Cyprus for six months and not two years!

At the start of day two, the stiff legs, sore feet and aching limbs complained furiously at the prospect of another 34 miles of torture, but with the descent to look forward to, off we all set. The slowest team first and the fastest last. The organisers’ aim was to get us to Troodos on day one and test our map reading skills on day two. This they did very well, however, all agreed knowledge of the ground turned out to be the key factor.

After two days hard racing five of the seven teams completed and gained very creditable results:

Team A: Major Bowen, SSGt Billings, LCpl Cooke : 2nd, 11hr 06mins 24secs
Team B: Lt Wardner, Ptes Moakes, Tonkin : 19th, 16hr 29mins 45secs
Team C: Lt Erskine, LCpl Rice, Sgt Finlay : 21st, 16hr 57mins 12secs
Team D: Lt Caddock, Cpl Shelton, Pte Welles : 26th, 18hr 34mins 00secs
Team G: LCpl Hicklin, Ptes Bailey, Bean : 36th, 20hr 54mins 54secs
(51 of the 79 teams that started completed the course)

Retreat of the Goldfish camp Company flag.

THE NEWS FROM FORT # 1

October 3rd 1987 - 1000hrs, the tension increases, Maj Jacobsen, CO 1 Coy (Goldfish) SWEDCON holds the UN flag, Maj Haack, CO of Rural Bty, 5e RALC stands in front of him, waiting while the men are still presenting arms. Suddenly, Maj Jacobsen grabs it and that’s it! Sector 4 has been increased by 2 camps, 6 houses, 11 observation posts and 87 kms of patrol tracks from Nicosia to Lymbia.

Rural Bty now have the entire control of the western line of sector 5.

"Advance the colors!" UN flag and Swedish flag enter the parade square at the beginning of the ceremony.

The ceremony took place during a sunny day at Goldfish camp (now known as Fort #1), 24 Swedish soldiers and 24 Canadians soldiers formed the parade. Under the vigilant eye of the Force Commander, the COS and the Commanders of sector 4 and 5, the UN flag was passed from SWEDCON to CANCON.

After that, a well executed presentation by the Swedish precision drill squad took place. Everybody in the UN forces have seen these men at one time or another along the UN road executing an intricate salute. The execution was well done and very appreciated. At the same time, the Ops Bty did a radio check and all along the line. Canadian voices answered it.

For the next six months, the artillery flag from 5e RALC will wave over Fort # 1.
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

A Remembrance Service conducted by the Rev Christopher Cook was held on 8 November at Waynes Keep Cemetery.

OBITUARY

In November 1987 Padre Peter Brooke was tragically killed in a motoring accident in England whilst being driven from his home in Tidworth to a military exercise in Scotland. Padre Brooke was the British Military Chaplain with UNFICYP until July 87. He will always be remembered for his vitality, humour and pastoral care. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Muriel, and his sons at this time.

TASKS IN THE MEDICAL SERVICE

Within Camp Duke Leopold, which is situated at Famagusta, the medical centre not only deals with the health and hygiene of their Austrian comrades based on the camp and along the buffer zone, but have also been called upon to help Austrian tourists and Turkish Cypriot civilians in emergency cases. The local people request our assistance not only in medical matters but also in many other humanitarian ways. Medical goods are now being supplied satisfactorily. We are pleased that our services have helped to give significant support to the local medical services.

ROUNDERS MATCH

WIVES CLUB 'V' WO'S & SGT'S MESS

The above game was held on the Sports Field on 17th October. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, the weather staying fine. The final score was:


By: Mrs Carol Biddle

The Old Girls Team of St Trinians

Centurion Michael Jorius (Mick Jory) from the Toga Team

The Wives Club raised approx £150 on sponsorship, cake stalls, BBQ, raffle and two stalls set up by the Girl Guides. Our thanks must go out to all who participated and especially to the ladies Coach/ Umpire Paul Bevan, without who's hard work (at looking the wrong way at the right time) we would not have won! Many thanks to everybody who helped out and also to our wives who made us really lovely cakes and pies etc to sell and help boost our funds.

CARTOON

By: Tpr Dick Lowe

THE JUNTA MEETING - NOVEMBER '87
BRITCON PARADE FOR THE PRESENTATION

On Friday 2nd October the British Contingent welcomed guests from all parts of UNICYP to their biannual medal parade. The parade, incorporating a "Feu de joie" and an intricate march past, was the most ambitious in recent years. The participants consisted of the Colour Party, Band and Drums and two guards from 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the Band of 9/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales’s) and Ferret Scout Cars from that Regiment's 'A' Squadron, the St George's Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 60 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, the UNICYP Flight of the Army Air Corps and a medal party supplied by all components of BRITCON. The Force Commander took the salute and addressed the parade, Commander BRITCON - Col J G Hamilton-Russell MBE was parade director and CO Sector 2 - Lt Col J P Weller MBE parade commander.

Marshal Hayr and officers and men from all UNICYP Contingents. Highlights of the parade included a spectacular flypast by the Alouettes of the Army Air Corps, one of the first "Feu de joie" with the new SABO rifle, the well-known Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Drums display and a sunset ceremony in which the last post, the lowering of the flag and the disappearance of the sun behind the Troodos mountains coincided with split second timing. After the parade almost 350 guests were entertained to dinner in the Officers Mess at Blue Beret Camp. The presence of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and the 9/12th Royal Lancers together on parade called to mind the historical associations of their predecessor regiments. In 1806 both the 48th Regiment of Foot and the 9th Lancers took part in the assault on Montevideo and in 1851 they served together in the Kaffir wars. In more recent times the 9th Lancers 12th Lancers and Worcestershire Regiment took part in the withdrawal from Mons in 1914.

The BRITCON Medal parade provided an opportunity for the British Contingent to display the ceremonial skills of which they are so proud and on its conclusion those who took part felt that it had been well worth the long rehearsals, spit and polish. 

OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

The three Alouettes of the UNICYP Flight Army Air Corps burst onto the scene during the Flypast.

The Force Commander presenting Medals to a representative group drawn from all elements of BRITCON.

The vehicles and men of 9 Sqn 9/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales’s) provide a backdrop to the parade.
SWEDISH HANOVER

The Swedish Contingent in UNFICYP on 8 October handed over its area of responsibility in the Buffer Zone to the Austrian and Canadian Contingents.

The Austrian and Canadian Contingents in UNFICYP increased in order to provide the personnel required for their extended areas of operations. Following approval of the Governments of Austria and Canada, an additional 100 Austrians and 60 Canadians joined UNFICYP.

The main part of the 353-member Swedish Battalion left Cyprus in stages beginning 8 October, when a farewell ceremony was held at Swedish Headquarters in Camp Victoria, Larnaca. The withdrawal will be completed by the end of the year, ending 23 years of Swedish battalion-level participation in UNFICYP. However, a number of Swedish officers and military police, as well as the Swedish civilian police unit, will remain in UNFICYP.

VISIT OF FINNISH COMMANDER IN CHIEF

General Jaakko Valtanen, Commander in Chief of the Finnish Forces came to visit UNFICYP on his way to UNDOF and UNTSO in October. He inspected a Guard of Honour provided by soldiers of all contingents at HQ UNFICYP before doing a line tour along the Buffer Zone.

THE CHANGEOVER - ATHENOU/PYLA

The first Swedish Peacekeeping soldiers came to Cyprus in 1964 and now, after 23 years, have handed over the UN flag in their sector. Neutral Austria, remembering her international responsibility for peace and security in the world, is now sending 100 more soldiers to Cyprus to man the Buffer Zone.

A number of Swedish soldiers will remain behind to ensure a smooth takeover as the rest prepare to go home to their country and their families. For the next few weeks those remaining will serve side by side with the Austrian soldiers under the command of Austrian officers. This unique situation is an outstanding example of how tasks can be met and problems solved when good will and mutual understanding exists.

The Handover/Takeover Ceremony was conducted on 8 October in Athienou, where the Command Post of the new Austrian 1st Company will be established. A great number of prominent persons attended the celebrations including the Force Commander and the Swedish Chief of Defence, Staff Lt Gen Torsten Engberg. The Swedish Commander Lt Col Hultin thanked the Swedes for the outstanding preparations of the handover in operational, logistic and administrative matters and mentioned his appreciation of their excellent achievements during the past.

The ceremony ended with a speech by the Force Commander who also thanked the Swedish Battalion for their cooperation, especially during the last few weeks. He said, "It is a very unique experience that an operational unit in a peacekeeping force is made up of two different contingents, where soldiers of another contingent are subject to the command of a fellow contingent". Further, he commended the flexibility and open minded attitudes that prevailed during the preparation of the redeployment of UNFICYP.

Thus, the main task of UNFICYP, 'Peacekeeping', continues.
**BRAVO COMPANY**

**DANCON**

Bravo Company, B-Coy, which is responsible for the eastern part of Sector 1, is situated in Skouriotissa. The Greek word, Skouriotissa, means "Our Lady of the Slag Heaps".

As in many other places on the island, you'll find the remains of copper production in Skouriotissa too. We know that mining has been carried out in Cyprus for approximately 2000 years. In the early days, the Skouriotissa mine was an underground mine. It was excavated step by step over many years, and now it appears as an open mine, the inside looking like enormous steps. In 1911 the Cyprus Mining Corporation, which was an American company, leased the mine for 99 years by hiring the area around Skouriotissa from the church. At that time there was an old monastery with an old church in Skouriotissa.

Mining stopped in 1974, B-Coy was formed in 1975 and accommodated in the houses formerly used by the mining company.

B-Coy consists of 93 peacekeeping soldiers, 5 officers, 7 sergeants, 14 corporals, and 67 privates. Of these, 25 are constantly manning our OPs along our 34 km line. We have 6 OPs and 1 Checkpoint.

The terrain of our responsibility area changes from flat agricultural land in the easternmost part of hilly country to mountains in the west.

Our westernmost OP, D-38, is the second-highest situated on the island. Because of the hilly country, we have a lot of dead ground, which necessitates an extensive patrolling in Land Rover's, carried out by our RECCE-SECTION, which consists of 10 men. Apart from the operational assignments, the RECCE-SECTION also carry out humanitarian tasks. Escorting farmers and antimalaria-spraying takes up a lot of time and manhours.

B-Coy has good accommodation facilities compared to other UN camps, among other things a swimming-pool, which naturally was used a lot during the summer. Camp Skouriotissa is really a pearl on the island.

Mr David Turner with his wife Sylvia and 2 boys arrived in late August from England. Mr Turner took over from Mr Roger Brown as Headmaster of St Michael's School.

**NEW HEADMASTER**

**THE GAME OF "AUSSIE RULES"**

The Australian Civil Police Contingent, as a lead up to the Australian Bicentenary Celebrations in 1988, would like to introduce the great 'down under' game of 'Aussie Rules' into the UNFICYP sporting programme.

To assist other contingents who have been deprived of participation in the sport, this article will attempt to explain the basic rules and skills required by players.

As depicted, the field is oval shaped with four goal posts at either end, resting in three scoring zones. The ball must be kicked through the middle zone to score 6 points or through 1 of the other two zones for one point.

The teams for the UNFICYP competition will consist of 10 players each side instead of the usual 18. The field placings are simple, with the teams distributing themselves around the 'oval' with players marking each other.

The game is commenced by the umpire bouncing an egg-shaped ball (similar to a rugby ball but longer and thinner) in the centre of the field. It is a game of individual contests and ball skills. The ball can be kicked or punched to another player, or it can be bounced on the ground whilst running, however the latter can prove somewhat difficult. The player in possession of the ball must immediately release it when tackled.

Naturally, this description is brief but all will be revealed during a demonstration game and the distribution of videos in early December.

**THE UNPA CABLE TV SYSTEM**

The UNPA Cable TV System is one of a very limited number of family amenities in HQ UNFICYP. It provides every family and the three main messes on Jubilee Camp with a nightly dose of typical English programmes including some imports, like 'Dallas'!

The system was established in 1984 with a £3000 grant from UK Army Funds. UNFICYP Support Regiment provided the remainder of the capital required to start up a small system on Jubilee Camp. 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron were given the task of expanding the system to encompass the married quarter sites and by the close of 1985 the UNPA's patch had been included. This was a very costly expansion and so the families were invited to contribute £1 each month towards the installation, maintenance of the cable system and of course the nightly films.

In 1986 the Officers patch was connected into the system and by June 1987 all families were watching a reasonable picture.

There is room for improvement all over the system particularly in Jubilee Camp. The Signal Squadron personnel are actively engaged in trying to effect the improvements. However, the cable TV system is very labour intensive and places considerable strain upon the Squadron. It is also a very expensive business to be in, so any changes can only be small ones. In this case, instead of "Swift and Sure", it is "Softly Softly, Catchy Monkey".
ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

It was a very warm afternoon when six teams lined up to compete in the Support Regiment Orienteering Competition. The course, set by Lt Daly, UN Flight AAC, was a testing one containing 12 control points, but most of the competitors managed to find their way round.

There were no serious mishaps, although some runners, including RSM Support Regiment, were misled by the clues. The cliffs turned out to be rather small, while the only depression SSM Angus Whitton found was his own, when he found out his finishing time.

The Team Positions are shown below:

254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron 1st
REME Workshops 2nd
ORD / Flight 3rd
RHQ Det 4th

A Tp Transport Sqn 1st
B Tp Transport Sqn joint 5th

The Team Prize went to 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron, who had trained long and hard for this event, and deserved the win. Second was REME Workshops, followed by ORD / Flight. At the close of the competition, both A and B Troops Teams, from Transport Squadron, were incomplete, and so they share last place.

Further factor in their favour was the increased glamour and also the unlikelihood of Sector 4 complaining about their spending in the inner city. The old Scout cars are likely to be used as childrens runabouts around the UNPA. Clearly some adjustment on the logistic side has had to be made; stables and looseboxes are now in the latter stages of construction, and the REME fitter section is shortly to be replaced by vets, farriers and blacksmiths. The mounting for the 7.62 GPMG is also to be discarded, the old lance drill will be readapted as this is quieter and less likely to frighten the chargers. Due to a shortage of available greys at such short notice the MOD has sent out a pot of white paint with every horse, UN stickers will be placed front, side and rear.

DID YOU KNOW?
We thought perhaps the opening times of the following unit shops may be useful to our readers:

| XEROS CAMP     | - Mon/Sat       | 1000-1200 hrs     |
|               | - Wed          | 1700-1800 hrs     |
| CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD | - Mon/Wed/Fri | 1930-2100 hrs     |
|                | - Tues        | 0730-0930 hrs     |
|                | - Sat         | 0900-1100 hrs     |
One of the highspots of A SQN 9/12 Lancers UN tour has been the recent appearance of the regimental band. They arrived the day before the BRITCON medal parade and by way of acclimatization training had to step into their full dress uniform and entertain the crowds before the start of the parade. That they seemed to be able to do so without any apparent discomfort show the very high standards that they keep. The music was faultless throughout the whole tour, which involved playing at all the outstations for informal concerts, as well as a big band spectacular notable for the 1812 overture finale which came complete with fireworks and cannon fire which brought the audience to their feet.

The band’s versatility was brought out by the excellent jazzband, The Sultans of Swing, which played during the latter and more informal stages of many an evening producing some historic moments. At Sector 1 the Sqn Ldr tried to use an open tomato sauce bottle as a maracas and succeeded in covering the mess at Skouriotissa. While at the Scout Car mess, the Force Commander, allied with the Comd Sector 4 proved through their tambourine playing that the UN really does come together in perfect harmony.

The bandsmen, who in wartime are trained medical orderlies and stretcher bearers, certainly provided the highest standards of entertainment for which the Squadron is very grateful.