WINDJAMMER'S REGATTA '88

On Monday 29 August the Windjammers Boardsailing Club held their Annual Regatta at Bedis Beach, Salamis. The day was far from typical for the time of year with heavy surf and force 2 to 3 winds. It was a day for guts and determination, and style had to take a back seat. Nevertheless four hotly contested races were held with the fiercest competition being amongst the teenagers. Our thanks should go to the team from HQ BRITCON who ran the event, and all the competitors and spectators who helped make the day such a success.
CAMP FLAMINGO

Down in Larnaca by the seafront, near Larnaca Airport, you can see a UN flag waving in the wind on the top of one of the hotels. On closer inspection you will see the UN logo and the sign ‘Camp Flamingo’.

Camp Flamingo is the former tourist hotel which has been maintained by the United Nations since 1974. During the tenure of the Swedish Battalion, the hotel was used as accommodation for Swedish Army Officers and since their withdrawal from UNFICYP in October 1987, the building has been taken over by new tenants.

UNCIVPOL have an office and accommodation for five police officers working in the Larnaca area. AUSCON have a post office, and Movement Control and the Canadian Movement Control have rooms on the second floor. Unfortunately, only UNFICYP personnel can use Camp Flamingo for accommodation whilst on duty and after obtaining permission from HQ UNFICYP.

SWEDCON have its rotation during October. Nine Swedish members and two MPs have arrived, and take over on the 18th October from the 95th Contingent.

Chief Superintendent Lennart Petersson will be the new COMD SWEDCON and DCOMD UNFICYP. He has already served UNFICYP with the first contingent in 1984 and was also COMD SWEDCIVPOL in 1980. He took over from Supt KG Andersson, who has served in UNFICYP for 20 months.

On 31st December 1899, Strathcona’s Horse was raised from the North West Mounted Police for active service in South Africa. Following active service, on 9th March 1901, the regiment was disbanded, and its members went on to form part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Rifles. In October 1909, the Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) was formed from ‘A’ Squadron, Royal Canadian Mounted Rifles. The Regiment did not become known Squadrons a Reconnaissance Squadron, a Headquarters Squadron and a Ceremonial Mounted Troop. The Sabre, or Armoured Squadrons are equipped with the Cougar, and the Reconnaissance Squadron is equipped with the Lynx. Unique to the Regiment is the Ceremonial Mounted Troop. This past winter, they had the distinct honour of escorting the Governor General (Her Excellency, Madame Sauve), and the athletes, into McMahon Stadium during the opening ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics, in Calgary.

In 1988, the Regiment won the Rams Head Trophy, which is awarded to the Regiment achieving the highest Armoured Gunnery standard, and the Merritt Trophy, which is awarded to the best Reconnaissance Squadron in the Armoured Corps. These results again prove, the Army of the West, is the best.

The Regiment is presently commanded by Lt Col K T Eddy and has commenced its third United Nations Peace Keeping tour in

The Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians), is an Armoured Regiment, of 476 soldiers. The Regiment is comprised of a Regimental Headquarters, two Sabre

Ch Supt Lennart Petersson

The Great War 1914-1918
4th/7th ROYAL DRAGOON

September has been the great change over period. We have said goodbye to G and B Squadrons who have now rotated with A and D respectively, having previously been based in Dhekelia. Not only do we have new faces on the line, but we are well into the final three months on the island before returning to Germany at the beginning of December.

Life for the new Squadrons has been busy as usual, with heavy Sector involvement in the security operations at the recent peace talks being staged in the UNPA, and also due to the fast approaching Britcon Medal Parade being held on the 7th of October. Combined with this operational workload, many still have their wives and families out on R and R, making full use of the good weather before the winter sets in back in Germany.

Guards’ Regimenetal Diary

Visitors to the Sector

As mentioned in previous articles in the Blue Beret, we continue to have our fair share of visitors to the Sector. Two memorable visits so far this month have been from Brigadier M J D Walker OBE Commander 20 Armoured Brigade from Germany, and the Beaver Scouts who spent the afternoon terrorizing the inhabitants of St David’s Camp with their displays in weapon handling, radio procedure and advanced driving techniques.

Having heard unusual noises from the CO’s office, one trigger happy Beaver was convinced that the Colonel was being held hostage by what sounded like a lunatic Scotsman. Immediate action was needed. Unfortunately his plan of rescue was thwarted when he was spotted blacking his face with cam cream, modifying an SLR to fire on automatic and bombing two colleagues on when exactly to throw the stun grenades. His mind was finally put at rest when he was informed that the noise from RHQ was in fact the Commanding Officer celebrating the Chief Clerk’s birthday.

The whole day was a great success and good fun for all involved, and plans have been provisionally made for members of the Sector to visit a demonstration given by the Beavers on aircraft hostage releasing operations, to be held in the aircraft hanger opposite Support Regiment in early October.

Brigadier Walker’s visit was comparatively quiet, visiting the whole Regiment in both the United Nations and in Dhekelia over a seven day period. He managed to meet the majority of people including Pte Fox who is on attachment from the Brigadier’s former Regiment, 3 Royal Anglian.

Pickhead

LCpl Roper and Tpr Limbert - Caged!

A Beaver demonstrates to LCpl Tipping the capabilities of the SLR.

Brigadier Walker talking to Pte A Fox

LCpl Keating Signals Tp

"Hello Mummy? Radio check, over."
HEADQUARTERS

To run a Headquarters Company with a contingent deployed in the bush, can be something of a mixed bag.

There will always be plenty of work to do, but this fact seldom gets noticed. Everybody expects everything to work just out of nothing, but this is sheer folly on their part.

The Headquarters Company has three sections and three platoons inherent to it, all extremely varying in character and role.

The Admin Platoon amongst other things has a "Camp section." They are the hotel managers of DANCON; and are responsible for the housing of guests and the extermination of mosquitoes and flies - or is it the other way round?

The Kitchen with its five cooks and seven mess members to assist them are mainly responsible for affording every soldier in camp with a generous UN bonus - distributed weight around the hips!

The Maintenance Platoon must be amongst the busiest sections. Overworked with an aging car pool, they are often held responsible when vehicles spend more time there than on the road. The vehicles that do run are the responsibility of our motor section. However vehicles are scarce and not all requests can be met, but the daily patrol trips to the beach, and the weekend inspection tours of Sector Four have never failed as of yet.

The Quartermaster Section makes sure that everything everyone needs is stored - and remains stored. There is no need for extravagance, is there?

The Staff and Signals Platoon are the "shady guys" of the company. They stuff themselves in dark rooms and sit, changing cables and microphones so that all radio checks can be met on time and the telephone lines are open and functioning. The staff section provides the necessary manpower for the JOC and staff. They are kept busy by a constant influx of people in need - but they cope in what must be the vital nerve centre of the contingent, excluding all the bars, of course!

Our Welfare Section ranges amongst the most important in the company. The few (often nighttime) hours where we can possibly find just a couple of hours off work and duty are filled in with the compliments of this section.

The responsibilities vary from sending flowers to someone's grandmother, arranging trips around the world, and to extradite the money for such favours from the delinquent in question.

Our Pioneers are always kept always busy. Lets face it, the camps were not built yesterday. Construction of OP towers and ammunition bunkers are not among the daily features - but gives an example of their responsibilities.

The Finance Section must be as important as the welfare section. They are responsible (amongst other things), for running the "shop" or PX. Once in a while they sponsor these "open house" arrangements with a free flow of beer, cleverly construed to have a lot of beer-filled customers feel free to buy whatever they want in the shop - before they suspect what's going on!

The Medical Section is always busy. Their responsibilities include treating our soldiers for every possible disease. (The question arises: Is beer a disease?) and to help the local population in times of need.

From this you must be able to realize just how varied and busy Headquarters Company can be. So if you happen to pass the premises of our company again, give a nod in understanding appreciation - you will have gained friends for life and left behind the common horde of ignorants!

UN SWIMMING AND WATER POLO TEAM

Results of the Cyprus Services League:

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The overall positions were undecided until the last race of the final event - a really exciting climax to the competition.

The UN Swimming and Water Polo Team who were runners-up in the 1988 Cyprus Services League.
YOUTH ACTIVITIES - SUMMER 1988

This year’s youth activities were run by Mr John MacMillan, a student from the United Kingdom. Some of the children are shown here on a visit to Caledonian Falls near Troodos.

UNIFICYP DARTS COMPETITION - 24th AUGUST 1988

The winning team after a close final was Support Regiment, consisting of: Sig Rick Harper, Sgt Roy Hughes RADC, Dvr Barry Thorp. Winner of the singles was Sig Harper who beat WO Lederic (CANCON) 3-0, and winners of the pairs were Sig Harper and Dvr Thorp who beat FSC 3-1.

SUPPORT REGIMENT TUG OF WAR COMPETITION - 1ST SEPT 88

Winners of the Heavy Team Competition were Workshops, coached by WO2 Ramsay REME (middle, back row).

Winners of the Light Team Competition were RCT Sqn, coached by Cpl Walker RCT (middle, front row).

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CRICKET LEAGUE

UNICORNS vs EPISKOPI - 10 SEPTEMBER 1988

The UNICORNS XI achieved revenge for an early season defeat by Episkopi with a fine victory by 59 runs at Nicosia on Saturday 10th September.

The UNICORNS first having won the toss, made 193 with notable performances from Cpl Glean (47-not out) and Sgt Quade (38). Williams was the only bowler to have any real success, returning 5 for 29 from his 8 overs.

Episkopi, failed to make the real impression upon the UN bowling attack, and at one stage were 87 for 9 wickets, with only a creditable stand of 47 for the last wicket by Last and Scanlon producing a respectable score of 134 all out.

The UN’s bowling attack was led by SSgt Sharpe (4-22) and Glean with a fine 3-18 to add to his notable batting performance.

UNICORNS - 193 (Glean-47, Quade-38, Williams 5-0-28)

EPISKOPI - 134 (Last-38, Sharpe 4-0-22, Glean 3-2-18, Jarrett 2-2-29).

CYPRUS SERVICES SWIMMING LEAGUE

The UNIFICYP team came second overall after 5 events. Team Coach was SSgt Clive Grant APTC and Swimming Team Manager was Capt Charlie Manning.

UNIFICYP DINGHY SAILING CLUB

The UNIFICYP Sailing Club ran a Sports Boat Handling Course from 13th to 15th September at Deniz Kizi Beach.

Left to Right:
Cpl Bob Conroy CANCON, Cpl Dave Richardson 4/7 DG, LCpl Andrew Boyer 15/19 H, Dvr Alan Reed RCT, LCpl Martin Nunn 9/12 L, Sgt Grame Bossell R Sigs, Tpr Darren Shaw 9/12 L, Sgt Dave Hartshorne R Sigs, Flt Lt Tony Crew RAF, Major Nigel Oxley GORDONS.

VISITORS TO AUSCON

Cpl Mark Smith RCT, Chairman of the Nicosia Kart Racing Club handed over his duties to Mr Ken Ericksson in September.

NICOSIA KART CLUB

Dr P Hohenfellner and his assistant Dr Hajnoczi (two observers from Austria at the recent non-aligned conference in Nicosia) took advantage of their presence in Cyprus to visit the Austrian Contingent along the Line in Sector 4.

Cpl Mark Smith RCT winning a recent race on the airfield.
THE AUSTRIAN KITCHEN CREW

Each day at 0530 hours whilst most of the camp are sound asleep four men dressed in white, head for the kitchen like ghosts in the moonlight.

These men are the Austrian cooks. Lead by the chef they begin to prepare specialties for lunch and rations for the observation posts. At 0900 hours they have their first break and by 1230 hours the second shift take over.

After dinner at 2100 hours they exchange the heat of the kitchen for the heat of the night at Ayce Napa!

VISIT TO
1 SQUADRON RCT

Brigadier A W Freemantle MBE, Commander 19 Infantry Brigade based in Colchester arrived in Cyprus on 1st September 1988, to visit his units serving with the United Nations and those on Exercise Lion Sun.

On 2nd September Brigadier Freemantle visited 1 Squadron RCT currently serving their seventh UN tour as the UNFICYP Transport Squadron. During the morning he met Squadron personnel based in the Transport Hanger, Alamo and those attached to UNFICYP Workshop REME in Jubilee Camp. Lunch was taken in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess with all the Officers and Senior Ranks of the Squadron. Brigadier Freemantle then presented Staff Sergeant Harris of A Troop with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and framed citation, in recognition of his 15 years exemplary service in the Army.

Right: Brigadier Freemantle presenting Staff Sergeant Harris with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

PATROLMEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Often, the average citizen will assume that if a police officer is not patrolling, investigating offences, operating the speed radar gun, issuing traffic violation tickets, attending accident scenes, etc, he has nothing to do. Wrong! Wrong!

The average UNFICYP Military Policeman is indeed often away from the public eye. He is sometimes behind a door, buried in mounds of paper, trying his darndest to complete the police reports he has to submit to authorities. To compound the issue, the working language is not always his mother tongue. Police reports are time consuming and involve several persons before they reach their final destination. Reports must be drafted, reviewed, typed and mailed.

Moreover, reports must meet the stringent quality control standards required by Courts, Disciplinary and Administration Boards, Claims Office and other authorities.

Next time you see a police car parked in front of the duty room, it is more than likely that the MPs are desperately trying to meet deadlines.

SUPPORT REGIMENT BASKETBALL COMPETITION

Regimental Headquarters were the winners of the Regimental Basketball Competition beating 254 Sqn 254 in the final in Makarios Stadium on 4th August 1988.

Winning Team: Back Row, Left to Right: Sgt Hughes, Cpl Panley, Sgt King, Sgnt Goff, RDMs Long.
9th/12th ROYAL LANCERS

Members of Squadron Headquarters Troop doing what they do best.

LCpl Pick - one of Motor Transport Section's stalwarts!

Capt Crewdson dreams of being in a tank.

LCpl Wells shows off his insect bites.

Squadron Leader Major Mackaness greets his Brigade Commander, Brigadier Freemantle, on the occasion of his visit.

SHQ Troop's other favourite pastime.

AT WORK AND PLAY

LCpl Winter and Tpr Kearney in deep meaningful discussion.

Ssgt Burnett: "What's that white thing Tony?" - Sgt Gent: "It's a Ferret, Kev!"

CHILDREN VISIT SCOUT CAR SQUADRON

On Wednesday 24th August, 47 children from the UNPA were entertained on the airfield by D Squadron 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's).

They were split into groups and sent to different parts of the airfield to participate in various activities. The most exciting activity proved to be riding up and down the runways and taxiways in the turret of a Ferret Scout Car! LCpl Pick and LCpl Wells kindly drove all morning under instructions from their temporary commanders!

Many of the youngsters improved their skills of Land Rover driving after a few lessons from Cpl Joyce, though he now has a few more grey hairs! Although we provided several manpack radios for the children to communicate with, there was still a lot of shouting going on, and voice procedure was non-existent! (Christian names were used as call-signs).

Coordination was tested to the full by LCpl Nankivel who brought along the Light Aid Detachment's Bedford wrecker, and the children practiced moving 'dangerous cargo' (an oil drum) from place to place.

After consuming gallons of squash, everyone went away happy. We are not sure who enjoyed themselves most - the children or the soldiers!

"Go ten miles that way and see if you can still talk to me."

You would never guess there were 3 Ferrets and a Landrover under there!
THE VIENNESE AND THEIR COFFEE
- A LOVE STORY

by: WO2 NEMETZ

The Viennese and their coffee and cakes are inseparable and it would be very unfortunate for visitors to Vienna not to be tempted into a taste of the Viennese cakes (or Mehlspeis) and the innumerable varieties of coffee.

However, for those of you who have not had the chance to sample these delights here is an introduction to some of the typical Viennese terms you will come across on typical restaurant menus and in pastry shops to whet the appetite.

Thus the Viennese say:

RIBISEL red or black currants
POWIDL plum jam (used for Golatschen)
KIPFERL croissant
BUSSELRN small biscuits made of gingerbread mixture or coconut (the Viennese also use this term for ‘intensive kissing’).

EINSPAENNER coffee served in a tall glass with lots of whipped cream and powdered sugar.
PHARISAER (However, a carriage drawn by a single horse is also called ‘Einspaenner’).
SCHAUMROLLE coffee with rum, sugar and whipped cream.
(KNote that a guest who apparently is ‘only’ drinking coffee but in reality consumes alcohol is also called ‘Pharisaer’ meaning hypocrite.
KAFFEE KIRSCH a pastry roll filled with cream, then dusted with powdered sugar.
GOLATSCHEN a glass of cherry brandy mixed with a cup of black coffee.

butterleaf or flaky pastry filled with cottage cheese, plum jam or similar.

A SHORT HISTORY

During the 14th and 15th Century sailors and travellers returning from Arabia to Europe reported their discovery of coffee.

By the end of the 15th Century the first coffee shops appeared in Mecca (Arabia).

In 1615 coffee was being imported from Istanbul (Turkey) through Italy to France and the rest of Europe.

In 1770 the first coffee plantations were growing in Brazil (South America).

Nowadays more than 80% of the world’s harvest of coffee is exported by Brazil from the Parana and Sao Paulo districts.