HELLO ALL STATIONS...
THIS IS ZERO...

BY: THE BLUE BERET STAFF
(BEATON/SMITH)

Everone working within UNFICYP will be familiar with the sounds of radios, but not so many will know of the small team that work all hours to ensure effective communications for the Force.

UN Radio (Communications Section) is a branch of the New York directed UN Field Service (Field Operations Division) worldwide network based at Blue Beret Camp in the UNPA in Nicosia.

There are two main work areas within UN Radio: Force telegraph Communications worldwide including New York and other missions, and Voice Communications island-wide.

These operations are the responsibility of Ediberto Chiong, the Chief Communications Officer, who, with his staff of six radio operators and three technicians keep UNFICYP in contact with HQ New York, Geneva and other UN missions in the Middle East.

Most of the traffic handled by UN Radio is diplomatic and administrative and a message will take fractions of a second to travel the 48,000 miles to New York via the INTELSAT V an international satellite communications system in stationary orbit some 24,000 miles above the earth. This new facility which will shortly become operational will have been noticed by many outside the UN Radio Shack in the form of an imposing transmitter dish. It is a great advance on the old short wave radio systems. The short wave radio link will, however, still remain for communications with Geneva and other agencies not linked with the INTELSAT system and as a back-up to the INTELSAT facility. The maintenance of island-wide communications comes under the watchful eye of Jerry Connolly (perhaps better known as 'UN Jerry') who, as the UN Radio Senior Technician, with his crew of two, services all the UNFICYP communications equipment from the INTELSAT transmitter dish to the small pocket pagers carried by key personnel.

Consequently the diversity of the equipment the technicians can see in a week is surprising. Working on a shift system they provide 24-hour service and with the good help of specialists from 254 Signal Squadron and REME Workshops, they manage to sort out almost every technical problem.

There are some 250 UN vehicles fitted with Motorola radios offering island-wide communications through the re-broadcast station on Mount Olympus, providing emergency and operational services on the island to both military and civilian elements of the Force.

With effective communications being such an important part of any large organisation work continues to improve the existing facilities, and it is planned to have a new microwave television system installed between HQ UNFICYP and DACON by the end of 1988 and with AUSCON in 1989. This will be a great benefit to us all.
3 PPCLI SAYS FAREWELL

When you finally read this article, most of 3 PPCLI will be on leave in Canada, rejoicing in the little pleasures they have missed for six months. Some will be undergoing advanced training and leadership courses, with a somewhat abbreviated period of leave.

In October, the Battalion will "re-org" and prepare for a busy training year which will include conducting Basic Infantry Courses, Patrol Training, a Multi-National Exercise in California in March and the bi-annual Rendez-Vous 89 Div Exercise in Wainwright, Alberta.

The PPCLI should be remembered for having maintained its fine Regimental traditions on the Line, the sports field and in social events. The installment of "Patricia Way" also known as The One Minute Drive which replaced the Eight Minute Walk near Beaver Lodge was a notable operational achievement. The strong showing of our athletes in Track and Field (2nd), Badminton (1st), Waterpolo (2nd), Swimming (3rd) and the sweeping victory in the UNFICYP Shooting Competition in which 3 PPCLI swept all categories; and various parties, including the CANCON

Coy of the Danish Contingent have been with UNFICYP since 1964, and is now situated at Limnitis, a small village eight miles west of Xeros on the western edge of the Buffer Zone. The landscape there ranges between high mountainous terrain down to the valleys just a few feet above the sea

C Coy have a platoon permanently based at Kokkina, who are mainly tasked in observation and surveillance and

We also have an extremely good relationship with the local civilians around us. Only the other day the entire Coy were invited by the local mukhtar to attend his daughter's wedding!

... AND THE CREW OF OP D11

We like to call ourselves the UN Vikings because of our Danish origin. Our OP (D11) is situated on a western desert hill just above the old road from Xeros to Kato Pyrgos and from here we have an excellent view of Morphou Bay and the Selemani Valley.

OP D11 is one of the most visited OP's in C Coy, manned 24 hours a day surveying the cease-fire lines, farming zone and fishing area. Patrols are sent out daily and we frequently provide escorts.

The OP was established in 1974 when the men of OP D11 lived in huts. Today the accommodation is far more comfortable with a concrete tower and living accommodation. A generator supplies electricity and recently running water has been installed (previously water was transported by truck to the OP).

The crew of OP D11 stay at the OP for fourteen days before being relieved, and then go to Limnitis Camp for a week of training and helping to maintain the camp as well as serving as duty guards.

Everyone serving at the OP have volunteered to do a six month tour of Cyprus and have served at least nine months either as a conscript or regular soldier with the Danish Army.

We all enjoy serving in Cyprus, so much so that each of us have volunteered to do another six month tour.
AUSTRIAN CAMP RENAMED

SUPPORT REGIMENT SWIMMING GALA -
27th JUNE 1988

264 Sig Sqn won the Support Regiment Swimming Competition.

OFFICERS v SERGEANTS MESS CRICKET MATCH

The former Camp Polar in Athienou which the Austrian Battalion took over when the Swedish Contingent left the island was renamed Camp Izyz on the 12th August. The new name was given in the memory of the three soldiers that were killed in the Goshki Area in 1974.

The Austrian Contingent Commander Lt Col E Dalling had the pleasure to welcome the Force Commander, Maj Gen G G Greindl, and also thanked the officers from HQ UNFICYP who attended the celebration.

A welcome party took place at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta on 28th July, where Austrian specialities such as applestrudel and schnaps were offered to the guests from all Sectors and Units.

AUSTRIAN WELCOME PARTY

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

Right:
Presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by General Sir David Mostyn KCB ABE ADC Gen on Friday 15th July 1988 to SSgt Chris Bird ACC and Sgt Jerry Lawson Scots DG.

UN FLIGHT TAKE TO THE WATER

Once a year, Army Air Corps pilots have to carry out Wet Life Raft and Winching Drills in order to practice their survival and recovery techniques in the event of ditching a helicopter in the sea.

This year, the preliminary drills were carried out in the UNPA swimming pool followed two days later by a simulated ditching and winching exercise off the coast of Limassol under the watchful eye of 84 Sqn RAF.

WO2 P Stanton checks out the new aircrew paddling pool.

UNICORNS CRICKET

The UNICORNs Cricket side have been going from strength to strength with wins against the ESBA in the knock-out cup and Akrotiri in the Island League.

The Akrotiri match was played in Nicosia. The visiting team made 154 for 9 wickets in their 40 overs but were quickly overtaken by the UNICORNs with the loss of only 4 wickets. SSgt Willey produced the highest score with 49 runs and Lt Jarrett took 3 wickets for only 27 runs.

Lt Jarrett bowls to Cpl Wheatley whilst Sgt Guade keeps wicket and the COS fields at slip.
4th/7th ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS NEWS UPDATE

As I briefly mentioned in last month's Blue Beret, we have been saturated by various visitors over the last six weeks. Having had a relatively quiet June, they suddenly arrived like a swarm of locusts - some staying a matter of hours, some up to three weeks. So as one can imagine, everybody on the Line has been involved in one way or another. Apart from the numerous military visitors, we have hosted journalists, potential officers, reserve officers and just recently our Regimental pin-up, Miss Sue Simmonds who proved to be the most popular - (you should have heard the formal brief she received at the various OP's!).

Over the last month we have also lived up to our name as being the "first and last" Regiment on the sporting scene. Our two major successes were in the UN swimming competition where we won by a healthy margin and in the UN ten pin bowling competition where again I am informed we swept the board. But the football team were not so lucky. In horrific conditions at the BBC football ground we experienced a re-enactment of Chelsea's performance in the first Division last season when we played Support Regiment. The score, I'm sorry to say, is classified but suffice to say that the team, even with such well known stars as Peck, Fitch and Spink are all now on R & R at a secret location.

LCpl Obern (LAD).

Thursday 4th August was an historical day in the history of UNCIVPOL in Cyprus.

For the first time ever, a joint medal parade was held between the combined Australian and Swedish Civilian Police Contingents - UNCIVPOL.

Ten police from UNCIVPOL were recipients of the UN Medal, and on this occasion were presented by the COS, Brigadier Courage. The Brigadier was accompanied by the Commander Eastern Division, Superintendent Andersson and the Commander Western Division, Chief Inspector Jamieson. One of the members receiving the medal was Sergeant Kathy Burdett, the first policewoman to serve with UNFICYP.

About 200 guests attended a cocktail party after the presentation which, as befits such an historical occasion, was attended most enthusiastically. Thank you to all those who participated.

St Davids Camp MT Troop

Miss 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards at B24 entertaining G15/29th Sqn.

4th/7th RDG Spot The Ball Competition

UNFICYP MP COY MEDAL PARADE

On 8th July 1988, the UNFICYP MP Coy held their medal parade. On this occasion some 200 guests witnessed the presentation of the UN Medal by the Force Commander to UN MP personnel from Austria, Great Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.

Following the ceremony, guests and participants enjoyed an excellent meal provided by Support Regiment.

Special thanks are extended to the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards' Band for having graciously provided the musical accompaniment.

The Force Commander inspecting UNFICYP MP Coy.
VISIT TO RAF AKROTIRI

At the beginning of August fifteen soldiers from 1st Company of the UN Austrian Contingent at Pyla, and ten soldiers from the UN Scout Car Squadron (currently D Squadron 9th/12th Lancers) visited RAF Akrotiri.

The visit began with the Armament Practice Camp Detachment (which at that time were 5 Squadron from RAF Coningsby in UK), who have recently reformed with the new Air Defence Variant of the Tornado. The party were briefed on the role of the Squadron, and were shown around the aircraft.

The party then proceeded to 54 Squadron RAF Regiment, who are equipped with Spartan and Scorpion armoured vehicles which they use in a light tank role. The Austrians had not seen such equipment before, although the 9th/12th Lancers had as they are normally equipped with such vehicles, and so a certain amount of inter-service rivalry followed.

They were then hosted next by 84 Squadron who are equipped with Wessex helicopters. 84 Squadron are primarily a search and rescue squadron and are the only RAF Squadron to have spent all their time (since formation) overseas.

Following lunch all of the soldiers went home happy and educated as to an aviators way of life! There were cries of "Isn't life in the RAF easy!" but any applications to exchange an Army cap badge to an RAF cap badge will be viewed with a pinch of salt.

Men of the Scout Car Squadron and Austrian Contingent pose in front of a Tornado from 5 Sqn RAF.

THE LAST STOP INN

The Last Stop Inn is the name given to the bus-stop where Canadians leaving Cyprus meet at BBC each Wednesday morning for the weekly service flight off the island. It is also known by another name - The Post Office.

The postal clerks do sterling service for the members of the Canadian Contingent and many other nationalities who use their services. Sgt Earl Flarrow, a native of Cornwall, Ont., who resides in Victoria, BC, but who is currently on a two year unaccompanied posting to CFB Petawawa. I is the leader of the Posties and quite familiar with The Last Stop Inn, since he opened it in 1976! Cpl B. Reed, who recently returned to CFB Borden, Cpl F. Leblanc, from CFB Chatham, and Cpl S. Hartlen of CFB Trenton fill out the team roster.

The postal section is also unique in that their quarters are in the same building, which makes their service that much better. As Sgt Flarrow says, "I've never turned a guy away if he really needed something, even if it's after hours." Of course, they do a steady business during normal working hours, but as each tour comes to an end the volume of mail, especially parcels, increases drastically.

The postal clerks provide an essential service which is crucial to the maintenance of morale in the Contingent and communications with Canada. The following is a number of requirements, including selling stamps and Money Orders of various currencies and countries. They also visit Camp Liri and Ledra Palace once a week, in addition to driving to Larnaca early each morning to pick up and drop off mail from international flights. In the tradition of the support services of the Canadian Forces, The Last Stop Inn truly provides: "Service Second to None."

UNFYCP SUPPORT REGIMENT MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

At the beginning of August Support Regiment held its Military Skills Competition.

Six teams took part, beginning at 0500 hours with a four mile forced march, before going on to the range for the shooting phase.

The Transport Squadron (who entered two teams) had demonstrated that they were keen to win the competition by displaying their good physical fitness when they produced times for the march that were many minutes better than the other four sub-unit teams. The second phase of the competition began at 1000 hours with map reading. A Troop just piped at the post. At the end of the competition the victorious Workshop team were presented with their well earned medals and the Support Regiment Military Skills Trophy for the second time this year.


COMMANDING OFFICER'S CHALLENGE SHIELD-SUPPORT REGIMENT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Lt Col McA Pyman Scots DG (CO Sp Regt) included basketball in this year’s challenge shield. The competition took place on the 4th August in the Makarios Stadium, Nicosia.

Six teams were represented, consisting of 254 Signals Squadron, UN AAC Flight/Ordnance Detachment, REME Workshops, Headquarters Detachment and two teams from 1 Transport Squadron. The teams were equally divided into two pools.

Play-offs of the 2 pools (A & B) progressed throughout the morning to select the best four teams. At 1500 hours four teams, who’s members were, by now, tired after many exhausting matches, continued. Headquarters managed to beat the Transport S Team by only 2 buckets, ensuring a place in the final. Signals Squadron went all out against the REME Workshops team to guarantee their place in the final and eventually won with a score of 16 to 9.

The final between the Signal Squadron and Headquarters team began at 1700hrs. The game remained close until the final two minutes where both teams were in foul situations with only two points between them. At the final whistle Headquarters were the winning team with a final score of 27 to 25.

Signalman Rick Harpar, the highest scorer of the basketball tournament.
3 PPCLI’S REGIMENTAL DAY

On 10th August 88, the Third Battalion celebrated its Regimental Day with a variety of events.

At 10 am, the soccer finals kicked-off between Headquarters Company and Administration Company. HQ earned the victory despite the best efforts of Doctor Doug “Shoefly” MacIntyre (“I need the work,” he claims; when asked about his aggressive playing style - see photo.) Bruno “Hack-Beater” Ruef, and Ted “God-is-on-the-side-of-the-ones-left-standing” Möller, (intruders were incredulous at the “spirited” play of these three men, unable to believe that the unit Doctor, Priest, and Padre were capable of such nefarious and aggressive play!

After this duel of fitness (won by soft-spoken, polite, quiet lads of HQ), the focus shifted to the baseball diamond where the combined Senior NCO’s / officers team played against the Junior ranks combined team. The Junior ranks ran circles around their superiors, effortlessly bashing home runs and grand slams. With leadership from Pte “Canada, Thanks for coming out”. Grant, how could they go wrong?

Down but not out, the Senior NCO’s and Officers cunningly continued competing at the BBQ, regaining their composure by downhill hamburgers, hotdogs and “refreshments”, while Capt Hans Brink graciously handed out prize after prize in the Charity Raffle Draw, which raised about five hundred pounds. MCpl Lovett discovered that his ten pound investment paid off handsomely as he won several prizes. Quite a few prizes were won by our locally employed civilians as well.

Regimental Day concluded following the presentation of sports trophies to winning companies: A Coy won Flag Football and Volleyball, B Coy won Basketball. Adm Coy won Baseball, and HQ Coy won soccer. The overall results were a tie between A Coy and HQ Coy.

An excellent distribution of sports and an excellent day as 3 PPCLI wins up it's Cyprus Tour.

The Terry Fox Run

It boggles the mind. In 1980, a 21 year old Canadian named Terry Fox ran a marathon almost every day for over four months. An amazing feat by anyone’s standards. But what made it all the more amazing is that Terry Fox was a cancer victim, and he undertook a run across Canada, over 5,000 miles, on an artificial leg.

Terry Fox had a dream - to defeat cancer for all time by raising money for research. On September 1st, 1980 Terry’s dream came to a crushing end. After 3,339 miles, Terry had to stop running, ironically near a small village called Marathon in Ontario. Cancer, his old nemesis, was back and had spread to his lungs. He died a short time later, but his dream lives on. Every year, Canadians and friends, wherever they may be, take part in an annual Terry Fox Run in honour of a true national hero and to keep his dream alive by raising cancer research funds.

On 1st October 1988, CANCON will hold its eighth Terry Fox Run. Help us make it a success by registering and obtaining sponsors before 1st October 1988 or registering between 0700 hrs and 0745 hrs at the Nicosia Airport on the day of the run. Why not make it a family outing? The cost has been set at £1.00 for persons over age 16 and £0.50 for children. Registration forms and pledge sheets are available at your Unit and at the Nicosia MP Det.

BRITISH SAPPERS REPAIR AUSCON/CANCON PATROL TRACKS

Support Troop of 53Fd Sqn (Construction), have just completed 7 weeks work repairing over 40 km of UN patrol tracks with assistance from 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sqn RE. The 29 British Sappers, based at Waterbeach near Cambridge in England also assisted in a role that has become familiar to the Sappers in Cyprus by helping to put out a dangerous fire in the buffer zone in AUSCON.

The Troop Commander Lt C. P. Wilson RE has enjoyed his task. “It’s been very good trade experience for the men and it makes an enjoyable change from the Airfield Damage Repair role that we normally work on in Europe.”

The Troop started their project in AUSCON by repairing the track from OP 28 ("the best coffee on the island") to Ayios Nikolaos, followed by the section north of Athienou and east to Trouli before moving into CANCON. The section from OP C/S 65 through Camp Berger to the UN road was followed by the track from C/S 55 north to C/S 64. Access to rubbish burning pits were also dug for UNEF/CYP in Nicosia.

The lads from “The Beach” also had their first taste of fire-fighting at the 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sqn RE Zulu Warrior Club happy hour. As the first pint was pulled the OC Maj P A Wallace-Terry paraded everyone to be found in camp and rushed them up to Perigam to fight a dangerous fire. It always happens on a Friday afternoon at knock-off time!

Left 5pTp of 53Fd Sqn (construction) RE from Waterbeach in England.
PADDLING FOR PEACE

Over the weekend 13-14 August 1988, intrepid canoeists from the Scout Car Squadron threw away all notions of fear and with their courageous heads on went forth to conquer the might and power of the Mediterranean Sea at Bambri Beach.

Demonstrating their surfing skills, including their Troop Leader Pilot Officer Borthwick demonstrating his capsize drills. They were joined by several swimmers and paddlers on lilo, including the Chief of Staff who refused to oblige our photographer with a photograph of him falling off his powerboat towed banana.

The windsurfing was slightly less successful due to a shortage of wind (and skill) and the sail spent more time being dragged through the sea back to the beach by canoeists, than it did catching wind.

The new depth gauge - Cpl Joyce supported by some of the team.

The valiant band of men boarded their Bedford which chugged off towards the beach just west of Kyrenia. The men had no qualms as the view of Nicosia, framed by the canopy of the Bedford, disappeared into the distance. Essential rations for the task such as grapes, watermelons and bread were purchased en route, together with special expeditionary stores such as snorkles and lilo.

On arrival at Bambri they debussed and off loaded the kit onto the beach. This is where it started getting serious. The waves at Bambri that day were a good 7 feet tall - no fisherman's tale! They were breaking between the rocks with a great deal of power, noise and foam. Perhaps they would need their courageous heads after all.

The team strapped themselves into the kayaks and went forth into the surf. A marvellous canoeing session followed, with everyone lilo.

Much to the delight of the weaker members of the team the sea subsided by midday and Bambri Beach returned to its normal mill pond like state. That afternoon and the following day saw the team off on paddling trips to nearby bays such as Deniz Kiz beach where the canoeists battled for space amongst dinghies, windsurfers and a large lilo.

The team also spent some time extending public relations with tourists by giving small children rides around the rocks as well as demonstrating Eskimo rolling.

All in all an excellent weekend was had, well worth all that swimming pool training! The whole team was thoroughly exhausted by Sunday night, not to say a little “pink”!

Kayak versus lilo - the lilo always seemed more seaworthy.

UNIFICYP SWIMMING GALA AND WATER POLO COMPETITION

RESULTS

WATER POLO
1st Support Regiment
2nd Sector 3

SWIMMING
1st Sector 2
2nd HQ/TSC/UNCIKP

THE 1988 CHARITY RAFT RACE

The 1988 Charity Raft Race took place on Saturday 9th July at Cessac Beach, Dhekelia in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal. The UN Workshop entered two crafts. 'The Whale' to concentrate on sabotage, and 'Mark II' to win. After the first marker and many flour bombs 'The Whale' was hunting its third kill, later confirmed, whilst 'Mark II' was consolidating third position. However, approaching the finishing line one of the rafts fell apart (probably because this one was not built by the UN Workshop), and it was discovered that hopes of a win had been dashed by a polystyrene hovercraft (whos crew will need to look out next year when 'The Whale' takes its revenge!).
IN MEMORY...

On the 10th August 1988, at the St. Barnabas Chapel at Blue Beret Camp, a stained-glass window was dedicated to the memory of Private Thomas Trottier, who tragically died following his collapse in April during a forced march in the UNPA. Pte Trottier's brother, who is also in the Third Battalion, and his father were flown out from Canada to visit the Battalion and attend the ceremony. The window is the sixth to be installed since the initial dedication in February 1983 by the Colonel-in-Chief, Lady Patricia Brabourne. It was designed and made by Mr and Mrs J Welch from Limassol.

Pte Trottier and his father, Mr Trottier.

THE GOSHI COMMEMORATION

On the 12th August a ceremony was held at the Goshi monument, where the Austrian Contingent paid their respects to three comrades who were killed in 1974.