

THE Blue Beret

February 1992



TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS

YEAR	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS	NUMBER OF INJURIES	NUMBER OF DEATHS	NUMBER OF TRAFFIC OFFENCES
1989	376	98	2	589
1990	331	66	7	468
1991	316	33	1	329

The traffic accident statistics shown above have been collated by the UNFICYP MP Coy and reflect the accident trends of UNFICYP over the past three years.

It is encouraging to see that in all areas, accidents, injuries and fatalities are down on previous totals. This is by no means a reason for units to relax their guard and become complacent, but to continue their efforts in road safety and road education of their drivers.

The fatalities of the past three years show everyone the realities of modern life with motor vehicles. The single fatal accident of 1991 was, in fact, a motor cyclist from Famagusta who was knocked off his machine late at night. Mercifully, no UNFICYP personnel have been killed, but there were most definitely some very near misses and lucky escapes.

On a less sombre note, UNFICYP recently said goodbye and farewell to 34 Tpt Sqn GTR who returned to Hong Kong. The Sqn, drawn from Gurkha and Chinese servicemen, achieved a most unique record. For their entire UNFICYP tour, they were not involved in ANY criminal enquiry by the UN MP Coy.

Of course, they did have some minor traffic accidents, but in most cases, they were the innocent parties. Nevertheless their final figures amounted to



Cpl Heath and Cpl Parent
at the scene of a mock traffic accident

one accident per 111,000 miles, which is another record that this Unit can be proud of, and one which should be the target of any unit committed to road safety.

The UNFICYP MP Coy hopes that all units will continue the very positive trends of the last three years. We must do our utmost to ensure that our mission of peace does not become a mission of tragedy.

WRVS MEMBER REMEMBERED

Jill Dodd, the first WRVS member to serve with UN, went to Waynes Keep Cemetery in Sector Two's area to lay flowers on the grave of Mary Holsten, WRVS.

Miss Holsten was killed in an ambush in 1956 while serving with the Middle East Land Forces in Nicosia. She served a number of years with Gurkha Regiments, hence the presence of a member of the Gurkha Transport Regiment.



HANDOVER OF RSM



Captain Chris Stemp (above right) handed over the post of RSM 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars to WO1 Peter Natrass at St. David's Camp on January 10th 1992. He joined the Regiment in 1971, and since then has served in Cyprus, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, Canada and BAOR.

He became RSM in January 1990 and leaves the Regiment behind in Cyprus to become Second-In-Command of Headquarters Squadron in Detmold. He will also rejoin his wife Linda and their three children. As well as his normal responsibilities, he expects to be heavily involved in the Regiment's forthcoming move to Hohne.

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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 in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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Front Cover

MP Coy
on duty

by SSgt Kev Capon

The
Blue Beret

EDITORIAL

Peace-keeping means different things to different people. For soldiers trained in the controlled application of military force, the concept of peace-keeping is a challenge to find a flexible response to a wide variety of operational situations. The United Nations record around the world and its involvement in conflict control and management highlights this necessity, when each additional area of operations brings with it some new dimension to the military mission.

In Cyprus, the unusual aspect of UNFICYP's mission is its responsibility in the area of humanitarian operations. This is a dimension of UNFICYP's operations all too easily overlooked by many whose only knowledge of UNFICYP is its deployment in specific locations throughout the Buffer Zone.

UNFICYP's humanitarian operations are of necessity low profile but are all the more effective for being so. Additionally, in all Contingents of the Force, there are many soldiers who, having performed their frontline peace-keeping duties and routine humanitarian tasks, give freely of their off-duty recreational time for charitable projects. Ladies, too, play a very important part through their voluntary projects.

All are the "unsung heroes" of UNFICYP and the children of both communities benefit from their endeavours. It is important that such valuable contributions should be fully acknowledged, particularly when a conservative estimate of the money provided in this way puts the total for 1991 in excess of £C15,000.

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SECTOR THREE: BIRTHDAY BASH



Birthdays are always special occasions, but this is especially true when the birthday is that of a regiment. Although not in Canada, the members of Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment celebrated their Regiment's 108th birthday with all the vigor and enthusiasm that usually accompany this festive day.

Christmas holidays usually force the birthday to be celebrated before the actual date of December 21st. But here in Cyprus, the battalion was altogether for the day's festivities. After the normal working hours concluded, all those available in Sector Three gathered on the Wolseley Barracks sports field. Under the direction of the unit sports officer, Lt John Fife, a most entertaining inter-mess "sports" competition was held. It began with



The Commanding Officer, Sector Three, LCol Geburt, cuts the Regimental birthday cake after winning the great "cherry search" competition!

to a win in this competition.

One of the more exciting events seemed to be without a specific name, but it was probably for the best. It simply involved each Mess forming a relay team of five members, all formed up in a single line. The object was to pass water, relay fashion, from a bucket at the head of the line to a bucket at the end of the line, using prophylactics as the sole means of transport. With the padre as their anchor, the officers' team appeared strong; in the end though, the junior ranks' Mess proved the most able at this questionably tasteful event.

Overall, it was the final event, worth 50 per cent of the point total, that proved to be the most exciting. Representing the three Messes, the CO, RSM and MCpl Snyder simply had to pick a cherry up with

their teeth. Unfortunately (only for them), the cherries were buried in huge bowls of whipped cream. LCol Geburt proved to be quite handy at this task and in the end was the first one to find his elusive cherry, bringing the officers' team over the top to win the day's events.



RSM Irvine seems to be having difficulty finding the elusive cherry in whipped cream...

The conclusion to the day saw all ranks depart for their respective Messes. That evening, the officers celebrated the Birthday in the traditional style of a Mess dinner. The Force Commander, MGen Milner, was the guest of honour. The entire evening was a grand success with the "promotion bar chits" keeping the party going until the early hours and the champaign breakfast - a fitting manner in which to celebrate the Regimental Birthday.



WO Harley of the Sector Three Force Reserve, does his part for the senior NCOs team during the Pajero push competition



Cpl Petre, the 2RCR physical education instructor, inspects the eggs just prior to the infamous egg toss contest

the classic egg toss event. Each Mess put forth their best egg-catchers to stand apart from one another at increasingly large distances, whilst gently throwing a raw egg back and forth. In the end, our senior NCOs proved to have the gentlest of hands (surprisingly enough) and captured this first event.

The back-breaking event of Pajero jeep pulling followed. The race course consisted of three short stages, each separated by a rather unusual task. The water balloon toss was quite simple, especially for the officers; however, the same team seemed to have difficulty whistling after eating their share of the peanut butter and crackers. Nevertheless, the officers' team managed to struggle



THE SECTOR THREE ROYAL BOWL



Cpl Robinson of City Company closes in on Pte Downey, Rural Company.

THE SECTOR THREE BOWL

On 11 Jan 92, the companies of the 2nd Bn, The Royal Canadian Regiment competed in the Royal Bowl. This American style football tournament provided the opportunity for athletes of 2RCR to compete in a sport that is considered by many to be brutal and sadistic.

The first game paired City Coy against Rural Coy in a game that would be decided in the final moments. City Coy was leading by three points with just two minutes remaining on the clock when they decided to pass on a fourth down instead of kicking. This fatal tactical decision resulted in an interception and a last minute touchdown by Rural Coy.

The second match of the day lined Adm Coy against Headquarters Coy. This hard fought battle was decided by a single touchdown late in the second half. The victory of HQ Coy in the second match

provided the classic confrontation between two companies that compete with the highest level of intensity imaginable on the playing fields of any sport (fairly intense for touch-football).

Rural Coy posted the first numbers on the board with a "HAIL MARY" pass into the end zone. Shortly after the first touchdown, both teams went into the defensive mode and shut down the opposing offense. The game would have ended with a Rural Coy touchdown if it were not for the last minute heroics of Cpl Hunt, who intercepted the ball with less than two minutes remaining and returned it for a touchdown. This amazing play tied the game and forced a ten minute overtime period which also resulted in a tie. At this point, both teams were required to kick field goals to decide the winner. It was Rural Coy who prevailed in the end, with a narrow margin of one field goal. An enjoyable day was had by all.



Lt Roger Barrett, of Rural Company, gains valuable yards for his team as Sgt Verch gives chase and attempts to limit the damage to City Company.

CANCON SHOW VISITS CYPRUS

The tradition of entertaining troops deployed overseas has been around since at least World War II. In keeping with this tradition, the Canadian Forces overseas Live Entertainment Show (otherwise known as the CANCON Show) paid its regular biannual visit to Cyprus between 30 December to 01 January, packing in UNFICYP crowds for all their performances at the Pasydy Theatre, Nicosia.

All who had the privilege of viewing the Show agreed that it was a collection of truly outstanding performances from

entertainers such as Sylvie Boucher, Wes Zureck, John Allen Camero (who was also the Show's producer), not forgetting the country western music, a variety of pop and rock songs, comic clowns and many talented dancers.

At the end of their stay, the entire group expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the hospitality shown to them by 2RCR and CANCON. We only hope that they realize our gratitude for their time and talent, which they shared with us here in Cyprus.



The French Canadian singer, Sylvie Boucher, delights the spectators with an emotional performance.

AUSTCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE

The 35th Australian Civilian Police Contingent assembled at the BBC Officers' Mess on 17 January to receive the UN medal for service in Cyprus. The Acting Australian High Commissioner, Mr Peter Edwards with his wife Anne, attended the parade which was led by Superintendent KJ Hunt.

The AUSTCIVPOL chief, Commander HW Bryant, was on hand to greet friends and official guests. The medals were presented to 9 recipients by the Force Commander, Major General C Milner, who officially welcomed Commander Bryant and praised the contribution made by the civilian police to UNFICYP over the past 28 years. He commented on the vital role played by AUSTCIVPOL in its liaison function, interacting with civilians and authorities of both sides while providing community feedback to the United Nations. His speech was couched in an appropriate blend of Australian-style informality and humour which won the admiration of the Contingent.

Special appreciation goes to Station Sergeant John Love who planned and organised the event, the Contingent members responsible for



AUSTCIVPOL medal recipients at the BBC Officers' Mess

catering and Patrick Wilde who carried the medals.

Drum Major B Baker ably directed the pipes and drums of the Second Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment during the parade. Later

in the AUSTCIVPOL Mess, where presentation of the numbers to the remainder of the Contingent was made by Commander Bryant, it was proved that "Waltzing Matilda" could be played on bagpipes.



Sgt Dave Hall receiving his medal



Sgt Dave Mackey receiving his medal



Sgt Tim Pitman with the Force Commander and Comd Harry Bryant



Sgt Colleen Dixon having her medal pinned on



Sgt Kate Hay shaking hands with the FC

FROM BIKE HELMET TO BLUE BERET

Members of AUSTCIVPOL are often asked what they did with the police back in Australia. Sergeant Tim Pitman, currently working from Peristerona, can claim that he spent his time riding mountain bikes around the hilly terrain of Australia's capital city, Canberra. The bike Tim rode was a "Stumpjumper Comp" mountain bicycle made in the USA. Fitted with high-tech lighting and six-function computerised speedometer, each bicycle cost over £CY700.

The concept of using mountain bicycles to negotiate areas inaccessible to cars originated early in 1991 when it was recognised that, together with patrol cars, the bikes could effectively cover large areas when searching for criminals or lost children. The patrol traverses most of the 800km of Canberra's cycle paths which connect over 40 suburbs.

Each day Tim patrolled an area chosen because of current criminal activity, generally youth related crimes of vandalism, under-age drinking or school break-ins. Tim says "by using the cycle paths, we came across a number of young people loitering around schools and other public property". He tells of one case where a young girl was stopped as she was about to throw a bucket



Tim Pitman (right) starts a bicycle patrol of Canberra

of red paint over a school wall.

Since inception, the bike patrol has gone from strength to strength. An amusing incident at the scheme's inception was that before the media were able to release details of the new patrolling methods, members of the public - including a bus driver - rang the local police station complaining of two young boys

dressed in blue police uniforms who were carrying guns.

Since Tim commenced duty in Cyprus he has had little time to cycle, but he continues to maintain an interest in the unit back in his home town.

(Original material and photographs courtesy of AFP News, Canberra, Australia.)

AUSTCIVPOL PROFILE - SUPT PETER WILDE

Superintendent Peter Wilde arrived in Cyprus on 11 October as the final member of the 35th AUSTCIVPOL Contingent and the replacement Operations Officer. In Australia, Superintendent Wilde had a number of years general community policing experience. He also worked in specialist areas such as Legal Services, the Special Branch and as Director of Recruiting for the Australian Federal Police. His job prior to joining UNFICYP was as the Officer in Charge of Personnel Administration.

In early December, his wife Caroline and son Patrick, who recently completed his secondary studies, travelled from Australia to join him.

On the sporting side, Superintendent Wilde says that he will continue to jog while his knees can take the strain and he has already hit it off with the golfing fraternity.



DANCON NEWS... DANCON NEWS... DANCON NEWS...

VISIT TO UNIKOM by Chaplain Jørgen Dolmer

In the middle of December 1991, Commander DANCON, Lt Col K Bache and Chaplain J Dolmer travelled to Kuwait on a four-day visit to the Danish soldiers in UNIKOM. The purpose of this visit was to discuss areas of support from DANCON, and for the Chaplain to hold the Christmas service.

The Danish Contingent in Kuwait consists of 45 men, most of whom live in the DOHA Base approximately 25 km north of Kuwait



Signs of war

City. The Contingent supports the UN observers, who are on duty on the border between Kuwait and Iraq.

There is a lasting impression of the scars and wounds left behind after the Gulf War. The clean up is well under way, but there is a tremendous amount to be done as yet. Shattered vehicles and tanks still flank the sides of the roads, barbed wire entanglements have still to be dismantled and minefields are yet to be cleared. Mass graves are scattered everywhere, rarely with any type of marking. War has left its mark.

As Chaplain, it was an unforgettable experience to hold a Christmas service for those Danish UNIKOM soldiers who were able to attend. Many Christmas carols were sung, and the service ended with greetings from the Commander - "God save the Queen, God save Denmark".



Chaplain Jørgen Dolmer arrived in Cyprus on 29 Oct 91, replacing Chaplain Vilhelm Vaerge. The Chaplain, who is on leave from his parish of Stoering (a small town near Aalborg in Jutland), will remain with the Danish Contingent until May 1992. He is 53 years old, married with three adult children.



A ROYAL VISIT TO DANCON

As tradition claims, King Neptune and his wife Queen Aphrodite travelled from the cold North to the milder climes, to emerge from the ocean on the north western coast of Cyprus!

Once again, Morphou Bay was chosen as the annual baptismal site for the King's servants in DANCON.

A great deal of trouble was taken by the King's servants to

dress themselves up and decorate the vehicles in true Viking fashion, much to the amazement of the local community! In DANSBORG, King Neptune and his Queen were well supported by their two bodyguards. Only a few avoided the dreaded "baptism mousse", a pungent mixture which sticks to the hair and clothes, and which is only removed by being thrown into the sea. Not even the Commander, his wife and children escaped the persuasive armlock of the bodyguards...

However, King Neptune must have talked to the Sun God, Ra, because on this day, the temperature rose to about 18°C in the shade. After the baptismal ceremony, a special Danish lunch was served in the Camp, accompanied by some of the Vikings' national drink...



King Neptune with his wife (right) and his bodyguards (left)!

UNFICYP MP COY FUND FOR BLIND CHILDREN 1991



Members of both Cypriot communities receiving the equipment for the blind associations donated by the UNFICYP Military Police Company.

It has become a tradition within the UNFICYP MP Coy to raise funds each year for the benefit of the blind children of both communities in Cyprus. 1991 was no exception, and the variety of fund raising activities, which included such means as straight begging letters and the "Daylight Robbers" of Security Platoon at the gates of the UNPA, eventually netted a total of £C1379.96.

Rather than just present a sum of money to the respective blind associations, it was decided that the MP Coy would purchase pieces of equipment

that would be of specific use to the blind. After visits and consultations with both communities, a GRAFF high speed tape copier was purchased for one group. Currently, copy talking newspapers and books on an ordinary cassette machine takes an inordinate amount of time. The GRAFF copier reduces the time drastically and therefore allows a much greater output of tapes. GRAFF Electronic Machines Ltd of Nottinghamshire, England deserve a special mention, as not only did they agree to co-operate with the special delivery requirements, but they generously donated fifty audio cassette tapes free of charge.

The Cyprus Blind Association supports a school for the blind in Nicosia and one of the many facilities there is computer studies. A decision was made to purchase an Uninterrupted Power Supply Unit which ensures a continuous even supply of power to the school's computer. A Samsung printer was also purchased and is able to be linked up to the computer and a braille typewriter, thereby allowing blind students to produce computer studies work in both braille and in a form which is readable by sighted teachers. Once again, thanks are due to a civilian firm, this time Galatariotis Brothers Ltd of Nicosia, who provided the equipment at a generous discount and subsequently installed it free of charge.

The presentation took place on Friday 27 Dec 91 at the UNFICYP MP Coy Lounge when the equipment was formally presented by Maj P Cloutier, FPM, in the presence of Mrs P de Broë-Ferguson, the Chairman of the UNFICYP Families Social and Welfare Committee. All present were entertained by some of the children from the School for the Blind who sang several songs.

Thanks are due to many people involved in making the 1991 appeal successful, too many to mention individually. However the UNFICYP Military Police Company and all the Cypriot blind children wish to thank everyone for their support.

TRADITIONAL SWEDISH GENEROSITY

For SWEDCON, it is an old tradition every Christmas to give money to two orphanages in Cyprus - one is in Larnaca and one in Famagusta. The money, sent by the Swedish Government, is used to buy gifts for the orphans. Seen right is Commander SWEDCON, Ch Supt Claes Johansson, holding one of the happy children.



SECTOR TWO NEWS

G SQUADRON (WESTERN)



Preparing for an historic voyage

G Squadron 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars arrived in Cyprus during late November/early December, replacing Cambrai Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment. While the official handover went very

smoothly, smooth is not necessarily the adjective one would apply to the unofficial handover: the "nightspots" of Nicosia!

G Squadron soon settled into the job, and morale was boosted by our Force Reserve running away with first place in their initiation to Exercise PANDORA'S BOX. Morale was further increased by the celebration of the Regiment's major Battle Honour "Sahagun" on 21st December. A sports competition was held in the "Box Factory", the tyre relay producing many a grubby, smelly competitor.

Bad weather seems to have come out with us. On returning from patrols, we find that the Cypriot clay has stuck to our boots, giving the impression of a pair of Garry Glitter style platform heels! The roads become icy and the "Irish" bridges fail to withstand the force of oncoming water. The only advantage has been the early arrival of skiing in Troodos, which most have enjoyed on their days off.

We in G Squadron have now settled down into life on the line, and are looking forward to the rest of our tour.

H SQUADRON (EASTERN)

Every year on 21 Dec 91 the 15/19H celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Sahagun, a notable victory of the Regiment over a Napoleonic cavalry brigade in the Peninsular war. Whatever the conditions or circumstances the Regiment finds itself in (NI, BAOR, UK, Cyprus), we attempt to retain as many traditional features of the day as possible. Along the line, sentries were serenaded with loud, if off-key, verses of the Sahagun Song and The Bold King's Hussars.

By mid-morning of an unusually warm day, the sentries would have seen at B-18; a mass of soldiers forming human pyramids, eating boiled eggs with no hands, pouring Coca Cola on their hands and running the patrol track, each with pillowcases over their heads or tied to several comrades by the legs. This was followed by the reading of telegrams by the Commanding Officer and a final mass run around Elizabeth Camp, after which the troops dispersed back to the OPs where Officers and SNCOs were waited on at a traditional Sahagun lunch.

The quiet of the afternoon was punctuated by troop sports events until, as the sun went down on Nicosia, the Sahagun Address was



H Sqn going for their lives on Sahagun Day

read out by the youngest trooper in the Squadron, to be followed by more Sahagun songs and a selection of the world's worst renditions of "popular" Karaoke numbers.

Despite the difficult conditions on the line in which to celebrate Sahagun, 15/19H ensured that the day did not go unmarked. Given

that this may have been the last time the Regiment celebrated their Battle Honour before amalgamation, it was perhaps appropriate that it should have been on an operational tour, and in both a location and circumstances that will ensure it is remembered for many years.

A HISTORY OF THE 3RD BATTALION ROYAL 22e RÉGIMENT

The 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment was formed at Camp Valcartier, Québec in December 1950 in order to take part in the Korean War. Following training in the USA and Canada, it relieved the 1st Battalion in Korea on 21 April 1953 as part of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade serving with the United Nations, where it distinguished itself.



The Royal 22nd Regiment on service in Korea, 1951-1953

At the end of the Korean War, the Battalion returned to Canada in April 1954, where it remained until 1957 when it went to Germany as part of the Canadian contribution to NATO.

In December 1959, the 3rd Battalion returned to Canada, where in January 1962, it specialised in airborne and air transported operations.

The Battalion has been part of the 5e Group-Brigade du Canada since this Brigade-Group was formed in 1968 and has taken part in all of the major operations/exercises held by the Brigade since then. The Battalion was transformed into a mechanised unit in 1980.

The Battalion has served four times in Cyprus with the United Nations, namely from October 1968 to April 1969, March to October 1973, March to October 1979 and February to September 1985.



The Battalion's colours on parade in July 1991

This time again, from February to August 1992, men of the 3rd Battalion will serve in Cyprus, well prepared and motivated to accomplish their mission which is in accordance with the mandate.



Winter warfare, an important part of 3 "Vandoo's" training



WO1 WILSON

WO1 Mark Wilson joined the RAOC Apprentice College in 1975. After successfully completing training, future postings saw him in service in Germany, Norway, Denmark, Turkey and Italy as well as completing two operational tours in Northern Ireland. Prior to arriving in UNFICYP, he saw action in the Gulf War as part of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment, 1 UK Armoured Division in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait.

Mark was posted into Support Regiment as 2i/c Ordnance Detachment last April, and in October 1991, he was promoted to WO1. A keen diver, he has the good fortune to indulge in his hobby off the coast of Cyprus. He is accompanied by his wife Jackie and children Justin and Leonie.



AUSCON NEWS... AUSCON NEWS... AUSCON NEWS...



Capt Polli and his fiancée Andrea Moderinsky

ENGAGEMENT IN THE BUFFER ZONE

Recently, a special ceremony took place in a Greek Orthodox Church situated in the area of 2 Coy, UNAB. AUSCON's Quartermaster, Capt LLM Gert-Rene Polli, got engaged to Andrea Moderinsky from Vienna.

Their love story is a special one. Five years ago, Gert met Andrea at a dance. Following that evening, he and Andrea never saw each other for four years. Then, three months before he was due to arrive in Cyprus, they unexpectedly met each other again. This time it was love at first sight!

Gert joined the Austrian Army in 1978 and was commissioned in 1987, after attending the Military Academy of Wiener Neustadt. He arrived on the island in March 1991 for a one-year tour.

Gert and his lovely fiancée, who works with handicapped children, intend to marry next summer. We wish them all the best.



BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT



One of our newly arrived Duty Officers, 1/Lt Steubelmüller, recently organised a backgammon competition in which many members of Sector Four participated, together with personnel from HQ UNFICYP.

The competition lasted several hours. Both experienced players and newcomers to the game participated, with many of the "veterans" being unexpectedly knocked out by beginner's luck.

2HO Capt Knauseder, Fieldpostmaster Kneiszl and DO 1/Lt Steubelmüller managed to reach the finals. In the end, 2HO Capt Knauseder won the tournament, and is pictured (above centre) with his prize - a special backgammon board. On the right is Fieldpostmaster Kneiszl who gained second place, and left is 1/Lt Steubelmüller who came third.



Sgt Schweigher (left) and Sgt Warscher discuss their scores

ARCHERY IN CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V

Visitors to Sector Four may occasionally have the opportunity to observe some rather unusual training taking place at Camp Duke Leopold V. At the beginning of December 1991, an archery range was constructed in the Camp by Sgt Harald Warscher and Cpl Hans-Peter Fröhlich.

Four archers and one cross-bowman regularly keep their training and concentration abilities up to scratch. Sgt Warscher, who is an archery instructor in Austria, is willing to train anybody interested in this sport - all are welcome. If sufficient numbers learn to hit the target, maybe an archery competition will be arranged!

AUSCON NEWS... AUSCON NEWS... AUSCON NEWS...

CULINARY PLEASURES OF THE HOTEL SACHER IN PYLA

Since March 1991, the quality of life of the Austrian soldiers stationed in Pyla, the only mixed village insided the Buffer Zone, has improved considerably. 24-year-old LCpl Johann Marschik, who serves as a cook there, was employed in the world-famous Hotel Sacher in Vienna for two years prior to his deployment to UNFICYP. Both the military personnel and visitors to Camp Pyla have appreciated the experience he has acquired. On special occasions, he offers specialities like the famous "Sachertorte" for dessert.

Not only in Pyla, but all over the world, many restaurants serve their own version of the chocolate delight, but there is only one "real" Sachertorte. In fact, the original version is still made in the kitchen

of Vienna's Hotel Sacher in exactly the same manner as it was first baked in 1832. The inventor was 16-year-old Franz Sacher, who was instructed to create a special dessert for an elegant dinner being hosted by Prince Metternich, Austria's post Napoleonic state chancellor. The order was originally given to the Prince's head cook, but he fell ill that day. Therefore, Franz, a second-year apprentice to the cook, took the opportunity of creating this chocolate delight.

The cake itself became the focus of much controversy which led to a heated trial and a seven-year court case. It finally ended in 1962 with a compromise between the two rivals, the Sacher Hotel and Demel, another well-known confectionary in Vienna. The "original" Sachertorte may only be sold by the Sacher Hotel.



For anyone who wants to try it, here is the recipe:

- 140g chocolate
- 140g butter
- 70g icing water
- 6 egg yolks
- 6 egg whites
- 70g sugar
- 140g flour

Melt chocolate and butter in a dish over boiling water, stirring until it has all dissolved. Add icing sugar and beaten egg yolks. Whisk egg whites with sugar, and fold in the flour. Mix everything together and bake at 170°C for 45-60 minutes. Allow cake to cool. Slice it in half, and sandwich together with apricot jam. Cover top with apricot jam and put chocolate glazing all over. Bon appetit...



The cook, MCpl Marschik, with fans of his culinary delights!
From the left: Wm Paul Barbic, Kpl Dietmar Entner, Kpl Jürgen Ebner,
Gtr Thomas Biermaier Gtr Johann Marschik, OStv Werner Wieser

AUSCON's New Year Reception at HQ UNFICYP

Shortly before the end of 1991, AUSCON held a reception in typical Austrian fashion - goulash soup, beer, red and white wine, mulled claret and a stuffed pig's head! The reasons for this event were two-fold - first as an opportunity to meet and talk to each other, and second to see

what the future holds in store for everyone. In Austria, there is a New Year's custom of pouring molten lead into water. The resulting figures and symbols tell you your fortune. The background music for this reception was the New Year's concert of the "Wiener Philharmoniker".



The stuffed pig's head!

FSC SQN NEWS

Lately life has been very quiet for the Scout Car Sqn, like it has been along the Buffer Zone. The vigours of parties now over, the Sqn is in the throes of handing over to the 16/5 Lancers who arrived on 4 February.

There have been some memorable times over the past six months, one of which was the Force Reserve Training Day which we recently hosted. It turned out to be a most useful exercise which incorporated slightly unusual training in the form of kit building, pistol shooting, an obstacle course, go-karting and command tasks. For some, the day was a little wetter than expected, having failed their barrel crossing of the UN pool, but even so, the entire day was enjoyed by all (especially the organisers).

The weather has been kind to us over the summer, and now again over the winter. We have, for the first time, managed to complete some skiing courses in the Troodos mountains, due to unexpected early snow. It is not exactly the Swiss Alps, but sufficient for the novices among us to try their hand at being Franz Klammer for a day! (We hope to return to Germany without too many legs in plaster.)

Finally, and always sadly, we must say goodbye to the UN here in Cyprus until our next tour. The last months have passed so quickly it feels like only last week we arrived. However, with our packing boxes piled high and Messes looking bare, A Squadron heads back to BAOR to the remainder of the Regiment.



LCpl G Ackermann go-karting

We wish the 16/5L a successful tour, and hope they have as good a time as we had.



Whoops... the water obstacle



Having fun at bicycle polo

7 SQN RCT

7 Sqn RCT was formed at Shorncliffe, Kent, in 1870. Since then, it has served in every major British campaign, including the recent Gulf War. This will be the tenth tour with UNFICYP for the Sqn.

In July 1974, the Sqn were based at Nicosia International Airport near the UN HQ. On 20 July that year, the Airport came under intense and prolonged rocket and bomb attack. OC 7 Sqn was made Airport Guardian with orders to defend UN property. Contemporary dispatches mentioned that "throughout the crisis, RCT troops were in considerable danger, but operated coolly and efficiently". It is hoped that this tour will be considerably more peaceful.

7 Sqn took over from 34 Sqn GTR on 17 Jan 92 for six months. The OC, Maj IS Campbell, is ably assisted by his 2ic, Capt AD Firth and WO2 (SSM) MP Tonks. Lt SC Fleming is OC A Tp, assisted by SSgt Appleby, and OC B Tp is Lt RJ Greatorex, with SSgt Woolley as the SQMS.



Handover between the outgoing OC 34 Sqn GTR, Maj Underhill (right) and OC 7 Sqn RCT, Maj Campbell.

THE BRITCON MEDICAL CENTRE

The BRITCON Medical Centre is situated in Blue Beret Camp. It is staffed by a number of personnel who are on either a two-year or a six-month tour.

The ebullient figure of Lt Col John Skipworth, having arrived in UNFICYP fresh from Kuwait, assumed the post of Chief Medical Officer at the end of 1991. Maj Amanda Pugh, on loan from the Territorial Army, is the first female TA SMO, who incidentally is also the first RMO to successfully apply for a six-month extension to her original 12-month tour of duty.

Two more "firsts" are Sgt Michelle Clydesdale QARANC (Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps) (Practice Manager) and Cpl Karen Hilton QARANC (Radiographer). Prior to 1991, no QARANC personnel had served with UNFICYP. Also on the



Cpl Karen Hilton, Radiographer



Maj Pugh applying a "P.O.P."

Medical Branch

This small department, situated close to the Medical Centre, is responsible for much of the paperwork which constantly threatens to overwhelm us. It is in this department where you can find (if you are lucky and the Golf Course is closed) Sgt Alan "chubby" Brown, who masquerades as the Chief Clerk, and WO1 Steven Newbon, who is the Force "drain sniffer" and chief talent spotter for the UNFICYP Sailing Club.

Medical Centre staff is Cpl Allan Skinner. Regimental medics are supplied in the shape of LCpl Phillip Derbridge and Pte Webster from 4 Armd Fd Amb, Minden. FSC Sqn also provide staff to the Medical Centre, formerly Cpl Michael Mashford and Tpr Phil Pearson, now LCpl Morgen and LCpl Zunde.

The Medical Centre is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is the main British Contingent Medical Centre. In addition to treating BRITCON, we also look after HQ UNFICYP, UN MP Coy, AUSTCIVPOL and dependants of all nationalities, as well as assisting UNFICYP humanitarian operations. The Centre has its own X-ray department where Karen Hilton is employed, and this X-ray facility is available to the whole Force. The Centre includes a seven-bed ward and most days of the week, you will be able to find many a patient watching endless videos and "lying" about his symptoms in order to secure an early discharge!!

Finally, this article would not be complete without a mention of the former drivers, LCpl Prem, Dvr Santa, Dvr Amber and Dvr Lekh of the Gurkha Tpt Sqn who gave first-class support driving the ambulances. They have since been replaced by LCpl Stephen Mead, Dvr Stephen Stockman, Dvr Martin Singer and Dvr Phillip Kennedy who will provide this service in the months to come.



LCpl Zunde in the dispensary

HUMANITARIAN BRANCH, HQ UNFICYP

For a soldier, peace-keeping with UNFICYP adds a new dimension to his military life. While "maintaining the cease-fire" calls on all his inherent skills, this portion of the mandate which seeks restoration of "normal conditions" demands a new skill not usually expected of military personnel.

Nevertheless, using the Humanitarian Branch as a focal point, UNFICYP personnel carry out a host of economic and humanitarian activities which day by day contribute to the restoration of normal life on this island.

With approximately 3% of the total land mass lying between the cease-fire lines (CFL), UNFICYP strives to restore both normal farming and small businesses to these areas. To date, 85% of the arable land has been returned to agriculture, and every soldier has in some way been involved, whether in control of entry or the provision of security for the farmers from the various communities. The island resources of water and electricity are also areas where humanitarian efforts can be focused. Regardless of the point of origin, both these vital resources criss-cross the CFLs, and UNFICYP's humanitarian teams ensure that they do so with minimum problems and without the raising of tensions between the two sides. Indeed, intercommunal co-operation is the byword for these activities.

In every conflict there is suffering caused by division and the isolation of some people from their homes and loved ones. UNFICYP, through the provisions of an agreement signed in Vienna, endeavours to ease this

tragic problem. This is done through the organisation of activities such as the following:

- Basic Supplies, provided by the government and the Red Cross, are transported (weekly) in UN vehicles to the Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas and the Maronites living in Kormakiti area;
- Family Meetings for both communities are arranged at the Ledra Palace Hotel;
- Permanent/Temporary Transfers are arranged for Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the North;
- Medical supplies are transported to the North and emergency medical evacuation to the South is arranged and often provided by UNFICYP. An AUSTCIVPOL ambulance transports patients on a daily basis across to the Nicosia General Hospital; and
- Pension/Welfare payments are relayed to Greek Cypriots in the North by SWEDCIVPOL patrols.

There are many other activities which are equally important and UNFICYP has many members working in the important, necessary and rewarding humanitarian services area. Often, tremendous effort is expended to provide even a simple service; however, the overall effect of these efforts provides a better way of life for members of both communities in Cyprus. The Humanitarian area is one where UNFICYP's impact and tangible accomplishments can be readily seen on a daily basis.



Top Row, from the left: RSM J Guidera, Supt L Jakobsson, CQMS C Delahunt, Sgt S Svensson
Seated, from the left: Lt Cdr T Seppala, Comdt F Bushell, Lt Col M Swan, Ms D Olsson, Maj L Ericsson