UNFICYP CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - WAYNE'S KEEP CEMETERY - 13th NOVEMBER 1989

SUPPORT REGIMENT CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

Support Regiment held its annual Cross Country Competition on Wed 29 November 1989, run over an undulating 6 mile course which started and finished at the sports fields. Teams were invited from all the sub units which make up Support Regiment. 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron, ably led by the eventual individual winner Capt R P Giles, won the team event with many fine performances from other members of the Squadron team.

Front Cover
254 Sig Sqn at work by Sgt K Webster

EDITORIAL

New Year Greetings to all our readers. May 1990 bring fulfillment and happiness to each of you. We at the Blue Beret enter this new year resolved to produce a magazine brighter, more interesting and perhaps more relevant to your needs. In the coming months it is intended to introduce a greater variety of short articles, photographs and pen pictures including a personality column which will reflect not just the different nationalities but the varied skills, trades and professions both military and civilian which make up UNFICYP. These cannot be effected without your cooperation and contributions. Over the coming months either through the pages of the Blue Beret or by means of the MPIO’s conferences we will specify our requirements. Why not have a go?

Contents

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY/UNFICYP CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE/SP REGT CROSS COUNTRY ........................................... 2
EDITORIAL/CONTENTS ........................................................................... 3
THE MELBOURNE CUP ........................................................................ 4
CANCON NEWS .................................................................................. 5
SECOND RETURN TO UNFICYP/CHANGE OF COMD IN SECT 4 ....................... 6/7
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFR TO CENTRAL AMERICA/COS VISITS SWEDCIVPOL/A SAD LOSS ........................................... 8
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CAREER/NEW DOC-UN MP COY MOUNTAIN ENGINEERING AUSTRIANS/FENCING TRIUMPH .......................... 9
FAREWELL FSC SGN/EX APHRIDITES AMBLE ........................................ 10
VISIT TO SP REGT/SWEDCIVPOL V AUSCON ........................................ 11
66 SQN SPONSORED CYCLE/UN MP COY MINI MEDAL PARADE ............... 12
B COY DANCON ............................................................................. 13
BELL'S GOLF/Doubles SUCCESS FOR UN MP COY .............................. 14
UNFICYP SQUASH COMPETITION .................................................... 15
TROODOS CHARITY RUN ..................................................................... 16
THE MELBOURNE CUP

The Melbourne Cup is the richest stake race in Australia and attracts class horses from across Australia and Internationally.

The race is held at Flemington Racecourse, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria and has been run since 13 November 1862. It is traditionally held on the first Tuesday in November each year. However, the first race in 1862 was held on a Thursday, perhaps it was a pay day. For whatever reason the Cup ran for the first time on the first Tuesday in November, Australia virtually stops for the race, almost every ear able to understand is glued to a radio set and thousands of people wait with anticipation for the result. Even at the first running, the Melbourne Cup attracted a deal of attention, as this report of that first race shows:

"THE MELBOURNE CUP of 1862
Flemington Racecourse Thursday, November 13, 1862
Sweeps of 30 Shillings each with 200 Shillings added. Two Miles. Value of Stakes 830 Shillings.
Mr E. DeMestre's b.m. Archer, Byrs, 10 st. 2 lb (Cuts) 1.
Mr E. Keighran's b.b. h.m. Mormon, 9st 2lbs (Simsons) 2.
Mr Jendero's b.c. Camden, 4 years, 8 st. 7lbs (Morrison) 3.

A beautiful start was effected at the first attempt, and the whole twenty came along the Course proper at a slashing pace. The Colonel and Dandolo slightly in advance as they came up the straight running, with Cedric, Camden and Mormon just beating the track. Archery lying on the rear, and next before Lady Constance, who was at no time in the race. At the river side the field began to spread, and at a quarter of a mile past the river turn there was nearly a distance between Archery and the leading horses, who was in the background for nearly the whole of the first part of the journey. The Colonel carried on the running at a severe with Dandolo on his quarter to the old stand, by which time Archer had passed Lady Constance and was rapidly gaining upon the cluster of horses behind the rear run. Before reaching the abattoirs the Colonel gave way and Dandolo also retired, leaving Mormon and Camden in possession of the lead, the young horse was having slightly the advantage. At the gate turn Archer closed upon Mormon, and directly after passing Camden, who made a short effort to live with the favourite and dropped back beaten. Half a mile from home the race was over, Archer coming away from his toiling followers and winning with the greatest of ease by six lengths. Mormon beat Camden from the distance and finished second. Tailleyrand fourth, Cedric, Archery, Attila, O.K., Ithurbul, Musidora, Ebor, Dandolo, Flatcatcher, Dauntless, Bray and Lady Constance finishing in the order named. Time: 3 min. 46 secs."

I have been informed by those who attended the 'Cyprus Melbourne Cup' that it was great success and a most enjoyable day. The following is a report of that event in the 'modern style'.

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION

Racehorse trainer, Les Freedman managed to win the Quinella in the 1899 Melbourne Cup when Tawiriff (30-1) and Supertrimposie (25-1) came first and second in the $1,65 Million race. Tawiriff, raced by Brian Avery of New Zealand and Mr and Mrs Barrie Griffiths of Avenel and Shepparton Bloodstock Agents, has raced 48 times for wins, seven seconds, seven third placings and has won $1.5 Million in stake money. The connections of Tawiriff picked up $1,179,750 and trophies valued at $30,000 for winning the Cup. Third place in the race went to the United States horse, Kutz.

Meanwhile, lucky punters here in the UNPA managed to raise money for both local charities and themselves when a total of CE2,000 was amassed through ticket sales and Calcula on Saturday and Tuesday. The prize money was split, after recovery of cost, between prize money (60%) and charity (40%). As a result of the activities relating to the Melbourne Cup, CE600 will be distributed between nominated charities in the north and south.

For visitors, we were very pleased to receive our Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Strome Galloway. Colonel Galloway was appointed Colonel of the Royal Canadian Regiment only last year. This was a special visit for the Colonel because it was only the second time he had visited the Mediterranean Island. The first time was Sicily in 1943, where he commanded Bravo Company (now City Coy) during the Italian Campaign. Colonel Galloway is also the author of several books on Canadian Military History and Regimental History. For those who may be interested, they are highly recommended.

The Colonel was also present at our Medal Parade, which was held on 16 December 1999.

Photos by Ple Rob Taylor

CANCON NEWS

November and December marks the half way months for the first Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. They were also two of the busiest. Not only did December include the Christmas season (we call it the "silly season" because of all the functions, parades, parties and such), they also saw numerous visits, the CANCON Show, our Medal Parade as well as the usual and unusual incidents on the line.

Earlier in the month, Sector Three hosted the CANCON Show. The ensemble tours all foreign stations where Canadian troops are deployed and puts on several shows for the Christmas season. For those in other sectors who were lucky enough to have the chance to see the show we hope you enjoyed it. Continuing into the Christmas season we held our Regimental Birthday on the 21 December and the normal run of Christmas and New Year's parties and receptions.

For the New Year, the first Battalion looks forward to, hopefully two more incident free months, and to winding down its tour. All members of Sector Three hope that you had as interesting and enjoyable Christmas as we did.
SECONO RETURN TO UNIFICYP FOR SILVER JUBILEE TOUR

All over Cyprus local farmers are cautiously beginning to smile in relief. Can it be true? It seems too much to hope that what was previously terrising the island is no more. Never again, at least for the next six months, will the wall of the baugpipes be reported as another ceasefire violation, for the 4th Royal Tank Regiment have departed!

In 1964 2nd Regiment was stationed in England and was mobilised when the United Nations established UNIFICYP. The regiment are, therefore, delighted to return on this, the Silver Jubilee, of our first tour of duty with UNIFICYP.

We look forward to a close and friendly liaison with all members of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

SWEDISH ROCKETS ON THE GREEN LINE?

I understand that there is a rumour spreading along the green line that the Swedish Army returned to Cyprus in force, and what's more, that they are equipped with rockets. Newly arrived in Sector 2 (East) Battery (The Rocket Troop) part of the Royal Artillery's Second Field Regiment and worn behind their cypher is the distinctive blue and yellow flag of Sweden. If you are puzzled permit me to explain.

The Rocket Troop was raised in 1807 to develop Colonel William Congreve's new rocket system which could fire a 12kg shell to a range of 1100 metres. This was quite revolutionary as the 'Gallopper Gun' of the day could only manage a 3kg shell out to 700 metres. By 1813 the

CHANGE OF COMMAND IN SECTOR FOUR

In a hand-over parade at the end of November, Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg assumed command of the Austrian Battalion and Sector Four. He succeeded Lt Col Dallinger who was the Commanding Officer for 17 months.

In a symbolic ceremony, Lt Col Dallinger handed over both UN and Austrian flag to the Force Commander, Maj Gen Milner who presented them to the Contingent Commander Col Fritsch from whom Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg took over both flags.

The new CO stressed in his inauguration speech to his officers and men that their duty shall be honourable for both the United Nations and their home country, the neutral Republic of Austria.

Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg is commissioned as an armoured infantry officer and is the commander of the HQ Battalion in the province of Syria in Austria.

Up to now he has served five times with the UN, both on the Golan Heights and in Cyprus where he was ADC to the former Force Commander, Maj Gen Quinn. His first tour in UNIFICYP was in 1974.

Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg is married with two children. He enjoys tennis and has a country house with a small vineyard in the southern part of Syria. He is interested in culture and history.

The Rocket Troop action not only started the collapse of Napoleon's defence at Leipzig but it ensured the ascendancy of the Swedish Royal Family. In recognition of the action the Crown Prince ordered that the Rocket Troop should wear the blue and yellow of Sweden on its cypher which they do to this day. Each year on the anniversary of the battle telegrams are exchanged between the Rocket Troop and the Royal Palace, and the Troop toasts not the Queen of England, but the King of Sweden. In Aquavit of course.

All ranks of the Rocket Troop cherish their close association with Sweden and would be delighted to meet any members of the Swedish contingent with the UN.
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER MOVES TO CENTRAL AMERICA

Edilberto Chiong (popularly known as Chiong), who had been UNFICYP’s Chief Communications Officer since June 1987, was transferred to the new UN peace-keeping mission ONUCA on 3 December 1989. Chiong is already busy out there, with the building of a new communications network between the six countries where ONUCA is stationed.

He leaves behind UNFICYP not only a large group of friends, but several concrete and lasting improvements of Force communications, such as the new microwave links to Sectors 1 and 2, the interministant connections to UNPIL, UNDOF and UNTSO, a safe link to Northern Cyprus, and the satellite link to New York. Chiong’s contribution to those projects was outstanding.

He is seen here bidding farewell to the CAO, in front of the satellite antenna which carries UNFICYP’s messages and telephone calls to UN Headquarters in New York.

COS VISITS SWEDCIVPOL

On 14th November the Chief of Staff, Brigadier Courage visited SWEDCIVPOL at OP AS20 on the Pylos plateau where he was met by Comd SWEDCIVPOL, Chief Superintendent Theelin and was taken to the SWEDCIVPOL sub-station in Pylos.

In Pylos, the mixed village in the Buffer Zone, he was briefed by the Liaison Officer, Chief Inspector Hans Jacobsson on the current situation in the village. The COS took a walk through the village and had the opportunity to meet some of the villagers.

The COS was introduced to the daily SWEDCIVPOL podcast which featured about their duties in Pylos as well as all the other villages along the Buffer Zone in Sector 4.

Later the Brigadier was taken to HQ SWEDCIVPOL at Camp Flamingo in Larnaca for lunch. At the camp he met other members of SWEDCIVPOL and was able to inspect the other functions at the unit.

A SAD LOSS

Her husband was killed in a motor traffic accident in 1956 when the youngest son, Michael was only 10 days old.

Paras was first employed by the UN as a labourer, with CANCYN from 10 September 1974 to 8 November 1975.

On 24 November 1975 she was re-engaged as a labourer, this time with the Australian Civilian Police Contingent. Her promotion to Batwoman came in July 1988.

Paras, all who met you loved you, thanks for being our friend.

NEW DCO - UN MP COY

Capt S Matz DANCON, took over as DCO UN MP Coy on the 1st December 1990. Capt Matz from Copenhagen, Denmark joined the Danish Military Police in 1980. It is his first tour in Cyprus. He is looking forward to spending the next 12 months with the UN MP Coy. Capt Matz has just completed a UN tour in Namibia and came to Cyprus after a short stay in Denmark. Members of UNFICYP MP Coy wish Capt Matz an enjoyable tour on the Island of love and UNFICYP.

MOUNTAINEERING AUSTRIANS

At the end of November the DCO of AUSSON made a special farewell challenge to the departing CO Lt Col Dalinger. He invited him to climb the ridge of Pentadeskyllos in the Kyrenian Mountains.

The climb lasted five hours and was led by WO1 Lasnig who is a mountain guide in the Austrian Army. Although the Pentadeskyllos ridge is only 2222 feet high, all climbing levels up to the maximum of 6 can be found.

After this adventure the participants agreed the first crossing of this mountain by members of UNFICYP was a memorable event.

FENCING TRIUMPH

Pictured left are Capt Davies and SSgt Smith who came first and third respectively in the foil section of the Cyprus All-Island Fencing Competition.
FAREWELL TO THE 13th/18th ROYAL HUSSARS

B Sqn 13/18 Royal Hussars depart Cyprus to return to the UK with much sadness after a very memorable and enjoyable six month tour as the Force Scout Car Squadron.

We arrived in July at a very hot summer and almost permanent gate duty with the Force Reserve. Fortunately by August life had returned to normal and the first troops went on leave. The Sqn made maximum use of its R&R with trips to Egypt, Jordan and Israel and one trooper even going to Australia!

We then settled into life in the autumn with the BRITCON Medal Parade at the end of September and the celebration of our main battle honour ‘Balaklava’ in October.

The monthly Force Reserve exercises ‘Pandora’s Box’ were held with success and we all learned a lot.

In November much hard work was done on the Ferret Scout Cars for the PTE which was at the end of the month. A team came out from England to inspect the vehicles and we were very pleased giving the squadron a good report.

In December we were very busy handing over to the new Scout Car Squadron C Sqn the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales’s). There were also the endless Christmas parties which of course were very enjoyable.

In sports and military competitions, for a small unit of only 100 men, we have carried ourselves well. Worth a particular mention is the Squash Competition in which we came 3rd and the Falling Plate Competition where we reached the semi-finals. The United Nations Polo team which consisted of the COS Brig Courage, Maj Fishwick, Capt Scott-Masson and Capt Peel flew the flag in Episkopi in the Inter-Regimental and can be proud of their performance losing gallantly to undoubtedly the best team in the competition.

Our tour was only as enjoyable as it was because of the many friends we have made out here and for all the help and cooperation we have had from the Sectors. Finally, we would like to wish C Sqn 9th/12th Royal Lancers all the best for their tour as the new Force Scout Car Squadron.

EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE

254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron held its own military training exercise, APHRODITES AMBLE, over the period 23-28 October 1989. Activities included a range day, map reading march which involved a number of stands such as NBC and First Aid.

The aim of the exercise was to practice routine military skills and also endurance and these were severely tested over the two day march.

The exercise was run as a competition between inter troop sections with points being awarded for individual and team results. The eventual winners were ‘S’ section comprising of Cpl Jim Clancy, LCpl ‘Perky’ Parkes, LCpl ‘Rick’ Wood, Sig ‘Ash’ Ashworth and Sig ‘Clem’ Clements.

Left to right: Sig ‘Digger’ Dickinson, LCpl ‘Perky’ Parkes, LCpl ‘Rick’ Wood, Sig ‘Ash’ Ashworth and Sig ‘Clem’ Clements.

The QMG talks with CO Sp Regt and the REM before receiving a brief on current projects when he visited Sp Regt on 20th November.

The SQM with the VSM and CSM.

The Meritorious Service Medal was presented by the QMG (centre) to WO2 Tam Donaghy, BEM (2nd from right) which marks 27 years service with the British Army. The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was presented by the QMG to WO2 John Olepihak, SSGt Vic Smith and SSGt Jim Goss.

VISIT TO SP REGT BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR EDWARD JONES KCB CBE QUARtermaster General (QMG)

On 23 November a sports competition took place at Camp Flamingo the SWEDCIVPOL HQ in Laracna, between SWEDCIVPOL and our Austrian colleagues from the Pyla Platoon. The day was our way of saying farewell to the Australians who, after having completed their UN service here in Cyprus, were on their way back to Austria.

Three competitions were held during the day, with both Swedes and Austrians providing teams of 6 for each contest - volleyball, darts and weightlifting.

After a hard and even match the Swedes won the volleyball match 3-2. They also won at darts and in the weightlifting competition they beat the Australians with a total of 350 kilos to 350. The strongest man of them all turned out to be the Swedish sports officer, Insp Johan Backlund who managed to lift 130 kilos.

Insp Johan Backlund receiving the winner’s cup presented by Commander SWEDCON, Ch Sup Pltn.

SPORTS COMPETITION-SWEDCIVPOL v AUSCON

Full concentration during the darts match.
66 SQN RCT SPONSORED CYCLE

Twelve members of the UN Tpl Sqn (66 Sqn RCT) plus a member from AUSTCIVPOL, successfully completed a sponsored cycle ride from Foxtrot gate to Kyrenia. The cycle was in aid of the Troodos Accident Appeal, and raised a total of $5350.00. The Squadron would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped and donated to this event and special thanks go to Sgjt Grinton for collecting the largest amount of sponsorship money.

UN MP COY MINI MEDAL PARADE

A Mini Medal Parade was held in the Force Commander’s Office on 6 Dec 89 where the Force Commander presented UN Medals to (from left to right) Sgjt Crease, Sgjt Hazen, MCpl Blackburn, FC, Cpl Gray, Cpl Bryant and Cpl Moffat.

SOCcer - AUSCON/UNFICYP v AUSBATT/UNDOF

The Austrian battalion was visited by a recreation party of the second Austrian UN battalion from the Golan Heights recently.

The guests from UNDOF were given a guided tour to interesting tourist sights and two soccer matches were held which the AUSBATT team won 4-2 and 4-0.

In Spring 1990 representatives of AUSCON will pay a return visit to AUSBATT in Syria. Hopefully AUSCON will be better prepared!

B-COY DANCON

The new B Coy in DANCON took over at the beginning of November and would like to introduce itself.

The personnel of B Coy come mainly from the Danish Army, and also from the Danish Navy and Airforce. Some are regular servicemen, others have done their national service and then applied to serve with DANCON in UNFICYP. For regular soldiers and SNCOs it is compulsory to serve with DANCON in UNFICYP or another UN mission once in a while.

B Coy is stationed in Skouriotissa in buildings which once housed the ‘Cyprus Mine Corporation’. The camp provides excellent accommodation for the coy, which is envied by the other companies in DANCON. We are an open camp because there is a church in the middle of the place, which the local population often visit.

In B Coy’s area there are six OPs all of which have their own history which the men are very proud of. D18 for example started off as an old VW van which was converted to an OP in 1974, it is now being built to accommodate four men.

With B Coy we have members of the Force Scout Car Sqn (at time of writing members of 13th/18th RH). We do all that we can to make them uncomfor-
table, but they continue to claim that they love to be here. One of the ways in which we misguide our guests is to drag them through the same unpleasant ceremonies as we have to go through when we arrive in Cyprus.

B Coy have many more traditions, one is the B Coy track-run, in it the Company Commander, one officer, one sergeant, one corporal, one private and one free choice, run the 28.6 km B Coy track as a relay. The present record is 2 hours and 1 minute.

At B Coy we enjoy having visitors and anyone is welcome to drop in and join us for a glass of gammel dansk, just give us a call.
THE BELL'S UNIFICYP GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 1989

By: Major (QM) M Anderson AAC

The annual UNIFICYP Golf Championship was held at the Joint Services Golf Club, Dhekelia on Tuesday 21st November. The Championship’s main sponsor this year was Bell’s Whisky (Wrights Ltd-Nicosia) with the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS), Pharos Travel, Phivos Motors, Astra Golf Drive Cars Ltd, Petsas Car Hire Ltd and Sarkis Bros contributing other prizes.

This year the competition was played over 18 holes and the player who completed the course in the minimum gross number of strokes would be the UN Golf Champion of 1989.

A second competition was played at the same time and the winner of the “Nett Competition” would be the player who after his handicap had been deducted from his gross score had the minimum strokes for completing the course.

A total of 35 entrants assembled for the competition and after breakfast in the Clubhouse the first 3-Ball teed off at 0830 hrs and were followed at 10 minute intervals by the other 3-Ball and 2-Ball groups.

The weather at the start of the competition was excellent and happily so continued throughout the day. With all players out on the course no one would know who had won until the last group had completed the course.

It was the longer holes which gave the less experienced golfers the most trouble but they also tested some of the better golfers. All competitors agreed that it had been a most enjoyable, if not trying at times, day’s golf.

At the end of the competition the winner of the gross competition and the 1989 UNIFICYP Golf Champion was Sgt Carl Tourigny, 2nd LCpl Mark Peploe, 3rd Sgt Alan Pibworth, 4th Sgt Brian Sommerville. Nett competition: 1st Cpl P Miller, 2nd Cpl J H M Boyle, 3rd WO2 T Donaghy PIB, 4th Commandant Sreenan. Pairs competition: 1st Cpl P Miller and Commandant Sreenan, 2nd Mr J O’Donaghue and Sgt B Sommerville. Full prize winners were: Nearest the Pin (Hole 1) Sgt D Evens, and (Hole 18) Commandant Sreenan. There were two prizes for the most honest golfers but the winner’s names are withheld to protect the innocent.

Much work is in progress on the Golf Practice Area in the UNFA and it is is hoped that next year’s competition will take place there.

DOUBLE SUCCESS FOR UN MP COY

The 21 November proved to be a lucky day for two members of the UN MP Coy when our Chief Clerk Sgt Tourigny won the UNIFICYP Golf Competition and our departing DCO, Capt Bendixen won the singles competition in the UNIFICYP Table Tennis Competition, Capt Bendixen and his partner Sgt Jensen also won the doubles.

The champions, Sp Regt A Team: Lt Cpl Bennett, SSgt Wright, WO1 Hammett, Sgt Broadback and Maj Matthews.

The runners-up, Sp Regt B Team: WO3 Thomas, LCpl Peploe, OMSI Grant and SSgt Baldock.
RUN IN AID OF THE TROODOS ACCIDENT FUND

On Sunday 10th December a sponsored run took place with over 1,300 participants completing the 6km course. Some ran, others cycled, or walked and a team from FSC Sqn played polo all the way round. Over £2,800 was raised to help support the families of those who lost their lives in the accident.

Mrs Nan Thomas receiving the 'pret-tiest' prize as first lady from the CO.

The CO presenting the winner of the Junior Event with his cup.

Mrs Goss and Victoria.

The MPIO and 2IC Sp Regt catching their breath.

Sgt Airley RAF - test flying his machine before take-off.

Centre stage for the event organiser RSM Taylor, Sp Regt with CO and RSM Sect 2.

SSt Sgt Baldock feeling the pain.

The winner - Capt Giles crossing the line with his young lady.

Lt Col John Smedley presents the veterans prize to Mr Stuart Smith - BHC.