WINNERS OF THE UNIFICYP CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Pictured here with the Force Commander are the prize winners of the UNIFICYP Christmas Card Competition. The winning card was designed by Major Peter Townsend (left). Bottom left is Mrs Elizabeth McNally who was the runner up, and bottom right is the winner of the children’s section, John-Paul Mercer, aged 9. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to everyone who participated in this Competition.

The Editorial Staff of the Blue Beret would like to take this opportunity to thank Major Townsend for his outstanding contribution as Press Officer of Support Regiment. His beautiful drawings submitted for the Blue Beret did much to enhance this magazine.

Major Townsend is to be congratulated on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. He will take up his new appointment as Deputy Provost Marshal in Headquarters SHAPE.

We wish him, his wife Paula and his two lovely daughters bon voyage.

EDITORIAL

As I write, dramatic events are unfolding in the Gulf region with the commencement of the long expected outbreak of hostilities. In expectation of war, many UN personnel and dependants have been temporarily relocated to Cyprus from other UN missions in the Middle East. The members of UNIFICYP welcome their colleagues and families to Cyprus, and hope that their stay here will be a pleasant and peaceful one. We also wish that those separated from family members may be reunited with them as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, here at the Blue Beret, post Christmas lassitude appears to have smitten many of our contributors, and the magazine is currently facing a shortage of suitable material for publication. Since no journal can thrive without a regular input of features and articles, we are appealing to our errant contributors to reach for the pen once more. The Blue Beret will also welcome new ideas or constructive criticism. If the magazine is not serving your needs or if you feel it can be improved, write to us or, better still, come in and discuss it. Our aim is to ensure that our readers get a magazine that is enjoyable and relevant — we can only achieve this with your active help.

Contents

WINNERS OF THE UNIFICYP CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION .......................... 2
EDITORIAL .................................. 3
SECTOR TWO NEWS ......................... 4
CANCAN NEWS .................. 5
SUPPORT REGT NEWS .................. 6
UNIFICYP SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION/ EXERCISE APHRODITE’S AMBLE .......................... 7
ABOUT THE UN (continued) .................. 8/9
SECTOR FOUR NEWS .................. 9/10
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR .................. 11
SECTOR ONE NEWS - DANISH GENERAL ELECTIONS/ CHRISTMAS IN DANCON .................. 12
LARNACA MP DETACHMENT .................. 13
FAREWELL TO C SQN 13TH/18TH ROYAL HUSSARS/ SWEDCON NEWS .................. 15
EN PASSANT .......... 16
SECTOR TWO NEWS

Lt Col Charles Carter

while the 7th served in Mesopotamia in 1917-18. The 3rd fought in North Africa 1940-42 including the Battle of Alamein in 1942. The 7th took part in the desert campaign fighting on the Egyptian frontier. In 1944, both Regiments took part in the Italian Campaign. After the war, the 3rd served in Palestine as an Airborne Reconnaissance Regiment and in Germany, while the 7th served in Italy, Germany, England and Hong Kong.

Since the amalgamation, The Queen's Own Hussars have served as an Armoured Regiment in England and Germany and as an Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment in Aden, Sharjah, Hong Kong and Singapore. The Regiment is currently serving in Hohne, North Germany as an Armoured Regiment equipped with both Chieftain and Challenger tanks.

The Royal Tank Regiment evolved from the Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps, which was formed on 16 February 1916, and the title Tank Corps was given to the Heavy Branch on 28 July 1917.

On the 20 November 1917 tanks were used at Cambrai for the first time in massed formation and won a resounding victory. It was on the eve of the Battle of Cambrai that the Regiment received its colours when General Sir Hugh Elles picked the colours brown, red and green to fly from the leading tank which he was personally commanding. These colours can be interpreted as signifying "through mud, through blood, to the green fields beyond". The anniversary of Cambrai is celebrated by the Regiment every year.

The prefix "Royal" was granted to the Tank Corps by King George V on 17 October 1923. On the formation of the Royal Armoured Corps in 1939 the title Royal Tank Regiment was adopted. During the 2nd World War, the 1st Royal Tank Regiment was involved as part of the Desert Rat 7 Armoured Division in Battles at Beda Fomm (with the 3rd and the 7th Hussars), Tobruk, Alamein and Tunisia before taking part in the Normandy landings in 1944. The Regiment also took part in the battle for the liberation of France, Belgium and Holland and the capture of Hamburg in 1945.

Since the war the 1st Royal Tank Regiment have served in Aden, Malta, Hong Kong, Germany, the Middle East, England, Northern Ireland and Cyprus, and are presently stationed in Hildesheim, North Germany.
SUPPORT REGIMENT NEWS

Sergeant Howarth rehearsing for Colour Guards. From left to right: Cpl DC Campbell, Cpl P Thornton and Cpl A Adams.

Sergeant Howarth makes his point clear to Cpl Campbell.

Cpl Greg Hagel, Canadian Signals, is on a 6 month United Nations tour with 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron line detachment, and is currently working in the communications system and faults control at the UNPA telephone exchange.

In 1988 Cpl Hagel got married, after which he was posted back to Calgary for further upgrading courses. He was then detached to UNFICYP for 6 months.

Sgt Steve Kinmane, the Chief Clerk of UNFICYP Workshop REME, arrived in Cyprus in September 1989 for a 2 years continuity tour. He is accompanied by Josie, his wife of 10 years, who works as the Practitioner's Nurse in the Families Medical Centre. He is a keen sailor, a sport which he took up while in Cyprus, and hopes to gain higher qualifications next summer.

Sgt Paddy Connelly enlisted as an apprentice technician with the Royal Signals in 1972. He was posted to UNFICYP Flight as the Unit Qualified Helicopter Instructor in November 1989.

Cpl Nigel Metcalfe (above) is half way through his tour with 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron working as the MT NCO. He is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the Squadron's vehicle fleet and the running of the PRI vehicles.

UNFICYP SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION

On Tuesday, 20 November 1990, the UNFICYP Safe and Skilled Driving Competition took place on the Nicosia Airfield, UNPA. A high standard was achieved by the drivers from all Contingents on what was a difficult and often taxing competition.

The winning team from 60 Tpt Sqn, UNFICYP Sp Regt, consisted of Sgt Hawkins; LCpl Brown (556); Brown (979) and Lowes and Dvr Pingel.

AN EAGER BEAVER IN ORD DET

LCpl Tim Simpson currently serving with the Ord Det has of late been putting his driving skills to good use. When not keeping the Det fleet on the road and processing the paperwork to achieve this task, he has been practising for and taking part in the UNFICYP Safe and Skilled Driving competition, proving his worth as a qualified Driving Instructor.

He is pictured here putting one of his other talents to good use, that of a MHE Operator.

EXERCISE APHRODITE'S AMBLE

Exercise Aphrodite's Amble is a bi-annual military skills exercise conducted by 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron in the EVDHIMOU BAY and PAKHNA area which ran over approximately 3 days. The overall winning team from Radio Tp consisted of MCpl 'Gyp' Beaupre, Cpl 'Timmy' Mallett, LCpl 'Steve' Rose, LCpl 'Ted' Heath and Sgt Paul Parsons.
ABOUT THE UN
(continued)
By Ms Susan Matthew

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Only States may refer cases to the Court; however, both the General Assembly and the Security Council can ask the Court for an advisory opinion on any legal question. The Court consists of 15 judges chosen on the basis of their qualifications and not on nationality. No two judges can be nationals of the same country; each serves for a term of nine years and may be re-elected. The Secretariat, with an international staff of more than 14,400 men and women from over 150 countries, carries out the day-to-day work of the United Nations both at Headquarters in New York and in offices and centres around the world.

The Economic and Social Council.

A view of the United Nations Headquarters from the east bank of the East River in Manhattan.

A section of the granite wall facing built by the City of New York as part of its programme of improvements in the United Nations Plaza area.

The United Nations Bookshop, located in the public area beneath the main lobby of the General Assembly Building.

The Secretary-General is designated under the Charter as the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations. The work of the Secretary-General is as varied as the list of problems dealt with by the United Nations. It includes good offices and formal mediation in resolving international disputes; planning, managing and administering peace-keeping operations; surveys of world economic trends and problems; studies in such fields as human rights and natural resources; organizing international conferences; compilation of statistics; gathering information on the extent to which decisions of the Security Council or other bodies are being carried out; interpreting speeches, translating documents and servicing the world’s communications media with information about the United Nations.

United Nations People: The United Nations Secretariat employs some 14,436 people world-wide. About 5,259 of these employees are in the Professional and above category. They are, for example, economists, administrators, sociologists, lawyers, agronomists, medical doctors, physicists, bankers, translators and interpreters, and technical assistance experts who work for international aid and development projects in developing countries. The General Service and related categories include workers who perform the clerical, secretarial, security, trades and crafts, and related functions essential to the work of any organization. These employees, who number 8,877, make up about 60 per cent of all staff. The Field Service category, comprising about 500 persons, handles communications, technical and specialized maintenance tasks, security and some general administrative duties, for peace-keeping operations.

Of the 14,436 Secretariat staff world-wide, 4,692 work at United Nations Headquarters in New York (1,832 in the Professional and above category and 2,760 General Service and related categories). There is a system of nationality quotas for hiring United Nations staff. This system of "geographical distribution" affects some 3,000 Professional posts which are considered to be the core of the Secretariat, and each country which belongs to the United Nations is assigned what is called a "desirable range" of posts based on the country’s assessed share of the United Nations budget.

This concludes the 4-part article "About the UN" by Ms Susan Matthew.

Soviet Statue at the United Nations (North Garden area)

SECTOR FOUR NEWS

TACTICAL CONFERENCE

On 6 December, the Force Commander’s Tactical Conference was held at Sector 4. After the Conference, various briefings were given, including one by the SHO about special features concerning our Humanitarian Section, and one on Varosha by the Platoon Leader of Varosha, after which all the participants had the opportunity to "rope down" from the roof of OP A-15.

Lt Col Holzer roping down.

Coffee break in Sector 4.
SECTOR 4 HANjOVER / TAKEOVER

Lt Col K. Holzer assumed command of the UNAB and Sector 4 at a symbolic ceremony on 6 December 1990. He succeeded Lt Col Pacher-Thunberg, who was Commanding Officer for 12 months. In Austria, Lt Col Holzer is an instructor in logistics and staff duties at the National Defence Academy in Vienna.

To date, Lt Col Holzer has been on two tours with the United Nations, one in the Golan Heights and one in Cyprus. His hobbies are mechanical engineering and cooking.

Lt Col Pacher-Thunberg returns to Vienna for a short stay and in late January, he assumes command of the Austrian Battalion serving with UNDOF on the Golan Heights.

On 18 December 1990, a Buffer Zone ride was held in the area of the city. Seven riders followed the patrol track from Ayios Nikolaos to OP A-28, a distance of approximately 30 km. At OP A-14, they were briefed by the platoon leader on the tasks of the Dherinia platoon. (Right - FPM Schwarzenberger).

AUSTRIAN KRAMPUS NIGHT

Above: Lt Col Strohschneider, Commander Austrian Contingent, kneeling before St Nikolaus.

Right: Will the Commanding Officer of the Austrian Battalion be punished?

On 8 December, a Krampus party, organised by the Austrian Contingent, was held in HQ UNICOFYP with approximately 150 guests attending. In Austria, it is an old tradition to celebrate Krampus night because on this occasion, all the bad are punished by the Krampus (a kind of devil), and St Nikolaus hands over gifts to the good.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FARE

The early explorers and pioneers of outback Australia usually lived in primitive conditions and used simple implements and methods for preparing meals. Men living alone in the bush often cooked with little more than a billy can and a camp oven. It was from those early bush camps that the traditional Australian bush fare of billy tea and a simple bread called damper were born.

On 18 December 1990, a Buffer Zone ride was held in the area of the city. Seven riders followed the patrol track from Ayios Nikolaos to OP A-28, a distance of approximately 30 km. At OP A-14, they were briefed by the platoon leader on the tasks of the Dherinia platoon.

The traditional billy can could be bought from a tinsmiths or ironmonger and carried in the bush. More often the billy was improvised, using common bush items like the seven pound treacle tin. Holes were punched in and fencing wire threaded through to form a handle. A handful of tea and coarse sugar were boiled together in the billy to make a strong brew. Sometimes the billy was swung in a wide arc to aid the brewing process.

TYPICAL BUSH OVEN

DAMPER

The skill of making damper is in the cooking, as the ingredients are simply flour, water and a little salt. There were gradually refinements, such as adding bicarbonate of soda. Today we can make damper with self-raising flour and bake it in foil. Here is the recipe:

6 cups self raising flour
pinch of salt
water

Make a stiff dough with the ingredients and then flatten out until about 25 millimetres thick. Wrap the dough loosely in foil with room to rise and place it in a warm oven or in a bed of ashes in an open fire. It should be cooked in 30 minutes. The open wood fires used for winter heating in Cyprus produce the glowing ashes for a perfect damper. It makes an ideal supper on a cold night, accompanied by a pea soup. Try it.

THE PLATYPUS

The platypus has been adopted by the Australian Federal Police as a symbol representing the diverse requirements placed on members in the execution of their duty. This unique and tenacious little Australian mammal is a survivor against increasing pressure from today's environment.

It leaves no stone unturned in its daily pursuits and has equipped itself with a range of features to adapt to changes over many years. It is capable of passing unnoticed, if required, yet demonstrates an unfailing dedication to explore all possibilities in an effort to maintain its special place in Australia's wildlife, at times against large and more powerful opponents - a quality admired and respected by the Australian Federal Police.
SECTOR ONE NEWS - DANISH GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Danish general elections (the "Folketing") were held on 12 December 1990. One week prior to the elections, members of the Danish Contingent were invited to vote by proxy. CO DANCON and the Company COs were appointed as receivers, and the whole exercise was kept strictly under control. Approximately 95% of the Contingent voted.

During the Christmas period, several children from the elementary schools of Lefkas were invited to Viking Camp - for some years an annual tradition. Their entertainment with songs and plays was excellent. They met Father Christmas, and were given chocolate and a small present each.

A tradition for the Vikings of the Danish Contingent is to go to the beach just after Christmas.

Left: the lesson being read by one of King Neptune's men (Pte T L Smidt, C-Coy) is "Oh, you mighty warriors from Dania, your great hero and example, King Neptune has risen from the sea today together with the most lovely of all goddesses, Aphrodite, to see how many of you are made of the right mould. Those selected are to be baptized by King Neptune himself, and after that become "real men" - VIKINGS."

End of the Christmas period in the shop in Viking Camp.
WO1 J B Bendixen and his "crew", Sgt Rækjaer, LCpl Matier (Kafuer), PV Graversen and PV Jepsen relaxing after a busy Christmas period - but they still have a lot of good bargains, they say.
WO1 Bendixen will be replaced by WO N B Christensen at the end of January.

UNFICYP UNIT ROAD SAFETY CERTIFICATE

On 22 November 1990, the JLC awarded ANCON the UNFICYP Unit Road Safety Certificate for the period May to October 1990. The picture shows the drivers of HQ Coy, Pte K Skovfoged and Pte L C Knudsen - proud to be presented with the certificate.
LARNACA MP DETACHMENT

The UN MP Company is composed of a Head quarters, located within the UNPA Nicosia, and five MP Detachments located in Xeros, Nicosia, Famagusta, Aya Napa and Larnaca. It has a total strength of 53 personnel from Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden. This article will help to familiarize you with the Larnaca Detachment.

The UN MP Detachment Larnaca is conveniently located near Larnaca International Airport and is within close proximity of Larnaca's sea front. Its jurisdiction encompasses a host of cabarets, discos and other exotic places where many of our soldiers spend some of their off duty hours. All main roadways into the city are well sign-posted, and if you follow the blue UN MP signs, they will guide you directly to our home away from home.

The Detachment is manned 24 hours a day, and its personnel are well trained to assist you in any way. This unit is unique in some ways, as it is the only Detachment within the Company that does not have a main UN camp near it. This does not mean that it is not very busy - quite the opposite. In view of the fact that this area is visited by soldiers of every nationality, the Detachment is currently manned by five MPs - two from Canada (including the Det C/C), one from Austria, one from Denmark and one from Britain.

Its primary task is to conduct preventive and disciplinary patrols in addition to traffic regulation patrols of the Larnaca area. In this capacity, its members conduct a wide range of investigations such as investigating the loss of UN ID cards, traffic accidents, assaults, requests for assistance and personal injuries.

Since Jul 90, this office has been tasked to provide security for all UN and Fokker flights which arrive at and depart from Larnaca International Airport. To accomplish this duty, we are assisted by the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit from Dhekelia, who provide us with two dogs (one for detection of explosives and the other for searching people). In order to properly search persons, we conduct approximately 40 such searches.

Yet another task of this Detachment is to conduct periodic patrols of the Aya Napa area. The personnel at this Detachment also deal with many other incidents daily during duty hours. As you can see, this Detachment has a diversified and busy schedule and keeps its personnel well occupied. However, our personnel are always willing to provide you with assistance, should you require it.

MILITARY POLICE AID THE BLIND

The UNFICYP Military Police Company has completed its 1990 annual 'Blind Fund Drive' for the benefit of both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Voluntary donations were collected from all elements of UNFICYP, their families and UNFICYP employees realising a sum of £2,500. The photographs show the Force Provost Marshal (centre left) and Lt Col Mansonneuve CD, CO Sector 3, and the presentation to Mr D. Yuceturk (left), President of the Turkish Cypriot Blind Association and Mr P Theoaphylactou (right), Director of St Barnabas School for the Blind. The Turkish Cypriot Blind Association proposes to use the money to assist in the development of a workshop and learning centre for the blind, which is currently under construction within the centre for handicapped people. St Barnabas School hopes to offset the cost of audio equipment, which will be used to record written media information onto cassettes for the education of blind children.

FAREWELL TO C SQN 13th / 18th ROYAL HUSSARS

C SQN 13th/18th Royal Hussars depart Cyprus to return to the UK in preparation for the Regimental move to Germany in April. It is with great sadness that we leave after such a rewarding and enjoyable six-month tour.

On our arrival in Cyprus, we settled into life on the line and the enjoyable job of meeting each of the Contingents. Our primary task of patrolling the Buffer Zone was an education to us all, and the 3-weekly troop turn around gave us the chance of getting to know all four Sectors extremely well.

Our other task, of providing the core of the Force Reserve, often proved to be a challenge and on two occasions, one in October and one in November, we managed to get ourselves face to face with demonstrators. It would be wrong to write an article summing up our tour without mentioning two tragedies that befell us. At the beginning of the tour, LCpl Rimmer was accidentally killed whilst on patrol, and on 7 September, four of our soldiers, Cpl Garrad-Cole, Cpl Easter, LCpl Shrubsole and LCpl Owen, were killed in a car accident. These five men were very close friends of us all, and our condolences go out to all their other friends and relatives.

Finally, we would like to thank all those members of other Contingents whom we have had the pleasure of meeting, and only hope that you will look after the Blues and Royals Squadron as well as you have looked after us.

SWEDCON NEWS

In 1987, the Swedish Contingent withdrew from UNFICYP, taking with them the bell from the Swedish Church in Camp Victoria. Just before Christmas, Commander SWEDCON, Ch Sup Hakan Thein (bottom right) decided to return the bell tower to Cyprus, and it was reconsecrated in Camp Flamingo during a special service conducted by the Swedish priest, Harald Elleberg. The unveiling took place on Sunday 23 Dec, just in time for the Christmas celebrations.
en passant...

If you have any information you would like to see published in this section please telephone extension 2235 by February 8th.

VIP VISITORS TO UNFICYP IN DEC 90

General Gustavsson
Supreme Commander of Swedish Armed Forces

WELCOME to the incoming:
Sector Two
The Queen’s Own Hussars
Tpt Sqn
15 Squadron RCT
FSC Sqn
The Blues and Royals
Maj Wellesley
OC AAC Flt
Maj O Wedel
LO NG
Maj V Horatczuk
LO TF
Maj F Riley
FSO/OC Sig Sqn

FAREWELL to
Maj P Townsend
2IC Sp Regt
Maj J Peck
FSO/OC Sig Sqn
Maj M Fokdal
LO TF
Maj K Hoechtl
LO NG

PROMOTIONS - BRITCON
WO2 (SQMS) J R Olejnik, RAOC promoted to WO1 (SSM)
Cfn Hinchcliffe REME
promoted to LCpl

PROMOTIONS - SECTOR 4
Lt Benko
promoted to Capt
2/Lt Punz
promoted to Lt
Cpl Benzur-Juris
promoted to MCpl
Cpl Rohrbacher
promoted to MCpl
LCpl Gaiszbauer
promoted to Cpl
LCpl Gepp
promoted to Cpl
LCpl Regenfelder
promoted to Cpl
LCpl Valentinitisch
promoted to Cpl

WELCOME BACK to Charles Davis, formerly ADC to COS, returning as Humanitarian Officer Sector Two.

He is pictured here with his handler, an eminent canine character of this HQ, the renowned Sarah, fondly known as S03 Ops (Current).

Sgt Adams briefs DCOS, with Maj Ciesham and Maj Ledger in the background.

Another visit shortly before Christmas was that of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Col EN de Broë-Ferguson MBE. DCOS toured the eastern part of Sector 2 speaking to many of the soldiers. Col de Broë-Ferguson also made a welcome visit on Christmas morning to all Sector 2 OPs before attending a carol service with the Headquarters element in St David’s Camp.