

Blue Beret

January 1993



THE MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION A TEAM CAPTAIN'S VIEW

by Lt Peter Duke - Team Capt, Sp Regt A Team



Sp Regt A - Lt Peter Duke and Cpl Jim Reid on the last obstacle of the assault course!

In Squadron and Regimental Headquarters up and down the Buffer Zone, the words "Military Skills Competition" are first heard and used like a threat to keep the subalterns in line.

The task, between the team captains and the team SNCOs, is to develop the squad from their day to day role of clerks, storemen, engineers, signallers, drivers or technicians, not just to the standard of international athletes, but into the ironmen who will not quit under any circumstances. Indeed, the mentality of a military skills competitor should ideally be that of a horse - as long as you tell it to, it will keep on running until its heart stops.

Fitness is a major aspect of training, but not to the exclusion of mental agility. Map reading with pinpoint accuracy is not a simple task under any circumstances, but with competition pressure and the stop watch running, it becomes a real test. Similarly so with the equipment recognition test. Shooting and grenade throwing skills are also important, and in this there is no substitute for

technique and practice. In the end, one keeps fingers crossed for a good performance on the day.

The teamwork and determination become apparent only on competition day. After almost twenty days of training, days that start at 5.00am and include up to eight hours of training (in addition one's normal work schedule which in many cases is fitted between, before and after military skills sessions), competitors could be forgiven for just being glad it is all over. However, that one day is pay-back time, when one tries to show one's mettle and to demonstrate to judges and spectators what your training has been all about.

Hopefully preparation has been timed to give your team their best chance of achieving maximum potential on the day. To do so, they are rested, hydrated, motivated and the eve of the competition has been spent loading carbohydrates at your favourite pasta restaurant in Nicosia. All kit has been checked and rechecked, weapons are clean, oiled and zeroed and every variable has been minimized.

Competition day begins: With a rush of adrenalin, the clock starts and you are away. Ten kilometers to go. Pretty soon you are into a rhythm and for the first six or seven kilometers, your fitness training pays you back. The last three kilometers are run on determination alone. Every sinew of your body may scream at you to stop, but your mind must never let you give up. Eventually, the team is across the finish line and with relief, the first event is over.

As the day develops, one must at each stage put all previous events out of the mind and concentrate on mentally preparing for only the task in hand. It is a constant series of



Lt Peter Duke (Sp Regt A) through the asymmetric bars followed by Cpl Hurd.

highs and lows, of high pressure and relaxation, of disappointments and elation and by 2.00pm, few would deny that it is a pretty weary team that stands on the pallet to begin the assault course.

The whole area is awash with spectators, there is everything to play for, there is beer waiting at the finish line, and adrenalin really starts to flow. Technique is vital, but all competitors will know that one slip, one missed step, one slipped grasp can make the difference between a good time and an "also-ran".

Before you know it, the ten foot wall is behind you and you are sprinting up the hill to the finish line.

The day is over. For some, the Military Skills Competition brings disappointment. For the select few, it brings success. But for all involved, it hopefully brings the knowledge of achieving something worthwhile, namely the chance to do a few of the activities that we originally joined our armies for, and to develop the real military skills - leadership, courage and determination.

With the changes in UNFICYP occurring, let us hope that for the benefit of the soldiers, officers and the overall standards of our units, the Military Skills Competition will last long into the future.

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1
JANUARY
1993

Published monthly by the Military Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, P.O.Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
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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.

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Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-Ell Press
Nicosia
Tel. 350186

Front Cover
DANCON -
A sad farewell

by S/Sgt Phil Cadman

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

At different times since 1964, UNFICYP has undergone major reductions, redeployments and restructuring. 1992 ends with a repeat of this activity, the most significant of recent years, in the course of which a major contingent withdrew, line units rotated and sector boundaries were relocated.

Beginning in November and continuing for one month, the complicated low key relief in place was efficiently and effectively completed in the western sectors. This was done in conjunction with the full rotation of a line unit involved and a partial rotation of the Austrian Contingent, all executed in accordance with the directives of HQ UNFICYP. In the history of UNFICYP, there was no precedent for this operation which involved readjustment, redeployment and simultaneous rotations.

To the staffs who planned it, the units who executed it and those whose positive attitude overcame the problems that arose, congratulations for a job well done.

The net result of this process means that UNFICYP bids farewell to the line unit provided by Denmark to UNFICYP for nearly 29 years. Throughout this time, almost 20,000 DANCON personnel have earned the UNFICYP service medal, each one having made a valuable contribution to UNFICYP's peace-keeping operations. DANCON is now a minor contingent of the Force, but Denmark as a nation will continue to be a major contributor to United Nations peace-keeping operations around the globe.

We bid DANCON 57 farewell and "alt godt i fremtiden".

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GUNNERS WEAR SKY BLUE BERET WITH PRIDE

by Lt T Price-Jones AGC (SPS)



The FC presented four soldiers of Sector Two with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Left to right: Sgt Dickson, Bdr Jacobs, Lt Col RE Preedy (CO), the FC, WO2 Mackie and WO2 Astill.

Three batteries of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery have come to the end of their Operational Tour in Cyprus, having left two batteries in role in BAOR.

5th Regiment, commanded by Lt Col RE Preedy RA, formed part of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus. It was responsible for observing and monitoring activity in Sector Two's area of the Buffer Zone which lies in pleasant, if somewhat arid, farmland to the west of Nicosia. The most easterly OPs actually fall within the suburbs of the divided city itself. A hectic schedule of extra work had begun early, following the announcement of the Danish plans to withdraw by 15 Dec 92.

On assuming operational command, everyone had much to do. Soldiers on "the Line" had to cope with learning the detailed tower briefs and getting to know their immediate TAOR. Such skills proved not only essential for the task at hand, but also a useful supplement in the hosting of visitors, which is a regular feature of UNFICYP life. Apart from visits by FC, we have hosted the DRA, Maj Gen MT Tennant, MGRA, Maj Gen GS Hollands, the Indian Defence Attache and Comd Gen Support 1 Arty Bde, Col C Copeland. The Adjutant, Capt AJ Waller, was certainly kept busy with visit programmes.

Life on the line was generally routine except for visits and sudden bursts of activity from either side of the divided line. During summer months, fires within the Buffer Zone were a common occurrence. The soldiers of Sector Two were called out to aid the local fire brigade two or three times a week. Another aspect of the Regiment's role in the Buffer Zone was the fielding of a Humanitarian Team to work on both sides of the divide. This team was headed by Capt D Batholomew RA with WO2 Mackie, WO2 McDougall and S/Sgt Humphries in

support. Their duties ranged from the issuing and checking of farming permits, aiding refugees, the destruction of stray (wild) dogs and the monitoring of various businesses which, despite the troubles, flourish within the Buffer Zone.

The line Btys were supported by an industrious HQ Bty based at St David's Camp (SDC). The Battery Commander, Maj "SDC" Eaton, doubled up as the Operations Officer with the Adj as his deputy. Much of the Bty's daily routine was left in the capable hands of BSM Lucey.

S/Sgt McDermott was responsible for all the clerks and the Regimental Administration Office was commanded by Capt CEL Bratten AGC (SPS). The QM's department was led by Capt TJ Vickers with WO2 Nugent as his RQMS.

HQ Bty had four females on strength, Lt TL Price-Jones as AAdj and Public Relations Officer, Lt FM Batty as Troop Comd, Sgt McLaren, the Pay Sgt and a chef, Pte Walker. They certainly added colour to what would have otherwise been a solely male domain. The doctor, Capt Andy Campbell, took care of all ailments the soldiers developed during the tour. The Bty also supplied soldiers for the manning of both the Morphou and Foxtrot Gates, which lead to and from the UN Protected Area.

The Operations Room, overseen by the SMS Sgt Chris Challinor, was the hub of daily regimental affairs. The operators, some young and inexperienced, followed a constant regime of communication by facsimile, CNR, Motorola and an antiquated and irritating telephone network. They provided the Regiment's link to the Joint Operations Centre, HQ UNFICYP and the world at large.

P Bty (The Dragon Troop), commanded by Maj JNJ Stadward, recently celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its honour title. The Bty has also seen a change of BSMs, WO2 Dawson having handed over the reins of office to WO2 Sheppard BEM. WO2 Sheppard settled into his new role very quickly and both he and his predecessor completed a bungee jump for charity earlier in the tour. The money raised went to the Epilepsy Society of Great Britain, a very worthy cause, not least because WO2 Sheppard's daughter suffers from the illness.

Q (Sanna's Post) Bty, commanded by Maj NJB Slinger, saw out its final tour as a Locating Battery. During 1993, Q Bty are sadly to be disbanded.

Ultimately it is the combined effort of the soldiers on the line and the support elements at Headquarters who made the tour a success. Without them, the Regiment would have been unable to achieve its aim.

THE QUEENS ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS



The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, commanded by Lt Col AM Bellamy, have recently taken over command of the new Sector Two from 5 Regt RA. QRH, based in Fallingbostal, Germany will stay for six months. The Regiment's history is as follows:

On 24 October 1958, amalgamation of the 4th Hussars and the 8th Hussars took place at Hohne. On this parade the Colonel in Chief, HRH Prince Philip, made the presentation of the Guidon on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, and with this the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars began their existence.

The Regiment served in Germany as part of the 7th Armoured Brigade until June 1961, when it left for England in preparation for its move to Aden. Following a year in Aden, the Regiment saw service in Malaysia until it returned to Germany in 1964 as an Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment stationed in Wolfenbuttel.

The Regiment moved back to England in early 1968, converting from their armoured car role to that of an armoured regiment. Later that year the Regiment moved from Perham Down to Bovington to take up its new role as the RAC

Centre Regiment. After two years at Bovington, the Regiment returned to Germany as a Chieftain armoured regiment located at Paderborn.

In 1979, the Regiment returned again to England, based at Tidworth. C Squadron provided the Demonstration Squadron for the School of Infantry in Warminster, whilst the remainder carried out a variety of tasks. These included the provision of both the UN Armoured Car Squadron in Cyprus and a small party to monitor cease-fire arrangements in Rhodesia.

In 1982, the Regiment returned to Germany to form part of the 4th Armoured Brigade, stationed in Munster. From here in 1983, it provided the Prison Guard Force for the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland for a 5 month period. In May 1985 the Regiment celebrated its tercentenary with the presentation of a new Guidon by the Colonel in Chief.

In 1987, the Regiment converted from the Chieftain to the Challenger tank, before moving back to England in 1988 as the new split RAC Training Regiment.

The Regiment moved to Fallingbostal in March 1990 and once again became part of the 7th Armoured Brigade. It was one of the two armoured regiments of the famous Desert Rats that took part in Operation Granby and led the 1st (British) Armoured Division into Iraq and subsequently into Kuwait.

SUPPORT REGIMENT LITTER WOMBLE

by Maj Vince Hazlewood



Some of the rubbish collected by the Support Regiment "Wombles"

So bad was the litter and rubbish which adorned the road leading up to the Morphou Security Gate outside the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) that the Wombles of Wimbledon Common took one look and returned home.

Consequently, Support Regiment decided to clean up its own front door - not that they were responsible for getting it dirty in the first place - and help a "Womble" (derived from the Wombles of Wimbledon Common who, amongst other things, clean up the litter) which was organised by WO1 (RSM) Bill Majors.

As a result, the road is considerably less of an eyesore than before. Can this example be copied by others? Why throw litter from the car when it could be taken home and put in a rubbish bin?

PRINCE WILLIAM CAMP

by Capt C Hedley



The Officers' Mess

For those who have lived and served in Prince William Camp (PWC), there will be many good memories. PWC has an interesting history which unfortunately is not very well documented. The local civilian workers who do such a sterling job, however, have a great depth of knowledge.

Those same individuals, renowned for their various talents, are still on camp such as Chris, the "Demon Barber", who will give you any hairstyle you wish (as long as it is a short, back and sides) and a wonderful head massage, as many of you may remember.

Further up the camp is the canteen, known locally as the "Choggy Shop", run by Chris

PWC is of course the hive to which all our little "Bs" return and the camp offers some excellent facilities, boasting two floodlit tennis courts, two squash courts and is situated right next to the UN pool. Nicosia too is only a 15 minute drive away. The Camp's location made it central to operational and recreational areas; its facilities also made it a memorable billet for many squadrons.

Now of course, there will no longer be a Scout Car Squadron in UNFICYP or at PWC, and the camp, with its memories, awaits other tenants.



George "for you, anything" the tailor

and George Andreou who have provided an excellent service in PWC for the last 18 years and have seen many come and go.

The occupants of PWC are fortunate to have the UN tailor, Savvas Georgiou, on camp who always has a "special UN price" for the Scout Car Squadron and who can knock up anything from shirts and shorts to uniforms. For entertainment and for the more practical essentials of life, Sarkis Sarkisian also provides an excellent service.



Maria, one of Prince William Camp's LECs



MP COY SECURITY PLATOON

by Sgt J Robicheau, Pl Comd, Security Pl



Gnr M Balls (BRITCON) checking passes at Foxtrot Gate

The MP Coy Security Platoon was formed to control access into and out of the UNPA, a most important task, leaving the Military Police free to carry out their policing activities. The Security Platoon draws personnel from all Sectors.

The Platoon Commander, a Canadian Sgt, is responsible for training, manning, dress and deportment. Each soldier is trained in the proper handling procedures of the many passes and regulations covering access into the UNPA.

Foxtrot and Morphou Gates are manned on a 24 hr, seven day a week basis, Foxtrot being the busiest and best known of the two gates. During the morning rush hour there is a continuous line of traffic entering this gate. Vehicles may have to wait a short time during rush hour, but this delay is unavoidable if the gate guard is to carry out his duties correctly. Registers must be completed and passes checked if access is to be controlled. However, at the end of the day, everyone working or living in the UNPA can feel protected and safe, knowing that the Security Platoon soldiers are vigilant.

In addition to these duties, the Security Platoon provides one guard to HQ UNFICYP, where he has a variety of duties to perform. Because of the nature of the HQ, this soldier comes in contact daily with high ranking senior officers, diplomats and politicians; they must be able to converse easily and with courtesy to all. The way in which he carries out his duties reflects the professionalism of the Platoon and he must be alert at all times.

The members of the Security Platoon are the first UN members met by visitors to UNFICYP and the last to be seen when they leave. The impression given by these young soldiers will reflect on UNFICYP as a whole. We believe they leave a lasting impression of effectiveness, both for UNFICYP and their national contingent.

The Security Platoon forms a vital link in the protection of the UNPA, both on a daily basis and during times of tension. So the next time you enter through one of the gates, be patient. Remember that a short delay means the gate guard is doing his job correctly, keeping a strict control of access into the UNPA, so that those of us who work and live in the UNPA can do so in safety.



KS Sorensen (DANCON) at Morphou Gate



Access Control HQ UNFICYP, Gnr Melmoth (CANCON)

NEWS FROM CANCON



A MONTH IN THE FORCE RESERVE



by Gnr AS Gee, 1 Troop Rural Bty, 1 RCHA

Last autumn, the duties of the CO's Force Reserve were carried out by 1 Troop Rural Bty under Lt Marchinko. While in this role, they were kept busy with a variety of tasks and activities. The first came only one day after the Troop was on the ground at Ledra.

Removed from their beds by a 3am call out, the Force Reserve deployed to BBC to provide additional security for the UNPA. Accordingly, local defence positions were occupied and patrolling commenced.

On return to Ledra, the Troop spent a couple of days preparing for the upcoming driver's course. A number of drivers were required for the Force Reserve Grizzlies. Ten people were selected and began training, with the only mishap being Gnr Gartner's Grizzly-bitten jaw!

One morning in November, the Troop Reserve took the carriers to the Dhekelia firing range. The turret-mounted 50s and GPMGs were put to use, with everyone in the Troop putting a couple of belts down range.



Members of Force Reserve fire the C-9 Light Machine Gun

The Troop then returned to Dhekelia for another range practice. Starting with the 60mm mortars, a rare treat for gunners, the Troop fired the M72 LAW and the 84mm Carl Gustav.

In late November, the Advance Party prepared to move to Camp Berger. However, those remaining still had more range time ahead of them as well as an opportunity to drive the Ferret Scout Cars. All in all, plenty of good training was conducted by 1 Troop in their time as Force Reserve.



Members of Force Reserve on driving skills training.

Sector Three
Humanitarian Effort
Baris Psychiatric Institute

by Capt J Fortoloczky



The Head of Nursing of the Baris Psychiatric Institute presents the CO of 1 RCHA with flowers in appreciation of the Regiment's efforts.

Clearly by the joy on the faces of both patients and staff, this effort was well received and left a warm spot in our hearts.

Of the many charities and humanitarian efforts supported by Sector Three, one of them is the Baris Psychiatric Institute in Northern Cyprus. It is a treatment centre (short and long term) for those suffering from mental illness. Located on the outskirts of Nicosia on the Kyrenia Road, it is home to some 100 patients.

Sector Three has undertaken to improve the conditions for those in the Institute. The CANCON engineers installed a new water cooler/dispenser in October. Also on 5 November, the Sector Three rock and roll band (made up of 1 RCHA personnel) took part in an afternoon of entertainment for the inmates.

The patients enjoyed listening to both rock and roll as well as a set of country and western tunes. Soothing music encouraged some patients to get up and dance. Between sets there was an interlude of dance by Miss Abdurrahman and the distribution of soft drinks to all involved.

NEWS FROM CANCON

UNITED NATIONS HEADS OF MISSION
VISIT SECTOR THREE

by Capt J Fortoloczky



Maj AJ Howard discusses relations between all involved with the UN Heads of Missions. Op Century is in the background.

Sector Three recently hosted some of the VIPs in Cyprus for the UN Heads of Mission Meeting, during which Lt Gen Thapa (Nepal), MGen Misztal (Poland), Brig Gen & Mrs Aatrek (Norway), Lt Cdr Sorensen (Sweden) and Capt Hrempl (Austria) were scheduled to visit the "Green Line".

The hosts and guides for this tour were the 2ic Maj JA Gosbee, BC City Maj AJ Howard, BSM City MWO WK Rogers and UPIO Capt JE Fortoloczky. The tour was conducted in two parts; a drive from B-18 through the embassy area to the Ledra Palace, followed by a walking tour from OP Jeep to Maple House.

Of course, these VIPs are not unfamiliar with UN duties, but they still enjoyed the tour.



Maj AJ Howard explains the monument to Regiments serving Sector Three, located in Maple House, to visiting UN Heads of Missions.

DIRECTOR ROYAL ARTILLERY
VISITS SECTOR THREE

In November, Sector Three proudly hosted a high ranking fellow gunner. The Director Royal Artillery, Maj Gen TM Tennant, took time out of his schedule to meet with the Canadian gunners in Cyprus.

The tour started with a sector briefing by the 2ic, Maj JA Gosbee, and ended with Maj Gen Tennant being shown much of the City Section of the Buffer Zone by the 2ic and the Battery Capt (BK) of City Battery, Capt SDJ Vahey. The General was very impressed at the way in which gunner regiments are carrying out their UN peace-keeping duties.



Maj Gosbee points out one of the many interesting areas within City Battery's area to Maj Gen Tennant while Capt Vahey looks on.



REFLECTIONS ON DANCON SERVICE

by Capt Erik Arildslund



DANCON has now been in Cyprus for more than 28 years, with the first Danish unit arriving on 14 May 1964.



Capt Erik Arildslund

The Battalion staff and a part of the medical platoon were originally set up at the Ledra Palace. A camp with tents accommodated Headquarters Company, reinforced by 12 Ferret Scout Cars and an infantry company. This company also had a platoon in Louroujina. Four companies (A, B, D and E) were placed on the Green Line in the Nicosia area.

I arrived in Oct 64 to take over the position as the Motor Transport Officer, and I stayed until May 65. My next tour in Cyprus was from Dec 87 to Mar 89 as the Quartermaster. Now I am coming to the end of my latest - and last - duty with DANCON, this time as the Administration Officer, after which I return to Denmark to retire. Therefore I find it fulfilling and unique to have been involved with DANCON 1 in 1964 and DANCON 57 in 1993.

The present DANCON 57 was planned to be released in Nov 92, and the next unit should have been DANCON 58 - but I prefer to call us "DANCON CEASE".

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PRESENTATION - UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT - 12 NOV 92



From left to right: WO2 (YOS) Kelly, S/Sgt Smith, S/Sgt Rennie, S/Sgt Mason and WO1 Newbon

The Chief of Staff, Brigadier RM Lambe MBE, recently presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to five BRITCON SNCOs. Extracts of their citations are:

WO1 NEWBON S RAMC

WO1 Newbon enlisted as a boy soldier in Sept 75. He has served in the UK, Belize, Australia, the Falklands, Berlin, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. He is currently serving in UNFICYP as the Force Health Inspector.

S/SGT RENNIE WM RAOC

S/Sgt Rennie enlisted into the RAOC in Sept 75 as an apprentice. He has served in Germany and the UK before being posted to UNFICYP, where he works in the QM's Dept, Support Regiment.

S/SGT MASON AG RAOC

S/Sgt Mason joined the RAOC in 1975 as a Junior Leader and an apprentice. He has served in the UK, Germany and the Falklands. He is currently working in the QM's Dept, Support Regiment.

S/SGT SMITH A AGC

S/Sgt Smith joined the RAPC in Dec 76. He has served in the UK, Germany, Oman and twice in UNFICYP. He is currently the Service Fund Accountant with Support Regiment.

WO2 (YEOMAN OF SIGNALS) KELLY B R SIGNALS

WO2 Kelly joined the Army in Oct 76. He has served in the UK, Germany, UNFICYP (three times), the Ascension and Falkland islands, Denmark and Norway.

All were awarded the LS&GC for 15 years' exemplary conduct and service with HM Forces.



UN TPT SQN TAKE TO THE WATER



by Capt S Hawley

During 1 Sqn RCT's tour as UN Tpt Sqn, S/Sgt Steve Haughton has managed to complete his daily routine as B Tp MT S/Sgt and develop his interests in diving which began with a BSAC novice diver course in the UK. Shortly after arriving in Cyprus, he made contact with a local BSAC diving club in the North of the island in Kyrenia, and has pursued his new hobby with vigour. This has culminated recently in the award of BSAC Dive Leader and Advanced Diver status.

On the weekend of 21/22 November, he organised a dive weekend in the Karpas for other divers in the UN and enlisted the help of the SCUBA Diving Club in Kyrenia. All diving took place in the "Panhandle" area and although the weather precluded any diving on shipwrecks as originally intended, some night and coastal dives did take place. Along with S/Sgt Haughton for the dive weekend were Lt Mark Austin (UN Tpt Sqn), WO2 Nielson (Ops Branch) and Sgt John Campbell (AAC Flight).



The team embark for another dive.

WORKSHOP FOOTBALL TEAM

At the end of October, the UN Workshop entered the REME 6-a-side football competition held in Happy Valley. The A team went on to win the competition. From the winning team, two players, Cpl Warren Liptrot and Cfn Gaz Waters, were selected to represent the Cyprus REME team against the RAF Regiment at Akrotiri on 19 November.

The match against the RAF Regiment was very even with numerous opportunities available to both teams. Warren Liptrot was first to score with a neat chip over the RAF goalkeeper. Gaz Waters was responsible for a number of spectacular saves for which he was later nominated "man-of-the-match". Unfortunately an equalising goal made its way into the REME net, resulting in a full time score of 1-1 from a hard fought game.



Top Row: Cpl Warren Liptrot, LCpl Paul Axon, LCpl Steve Cunliffe, Cpl Bob Marley
Kneeling: Cpl Tim Thompson, Cfn Gaz Waters, Sgt Stevie Jennison, Sgt Chris Byrne

VISIT OF COS TO ORD DET



Brig Lambe MBE, speaking to LCpl Nicholls

The Chief of Staff, Brigadier RM Lambe MBE, recently visited the Ord Det at Support Regiment and spoke with all the soldiers working there.

He is seen here (above), speaking with LCpl Nicholls. LCpl Nicholls has been with the Ord Det since July. He is a Petroleum Operator and works at the UNPA Petroleum Depot. His recent input into the Ord/Flt football team has injected enthusiasm and the will to win amongst the other players.

NEWS FROM AUSCON

THE TRANSPORT SECTION

by Capt F Wanka



The Transport Section and the different kinds of vehicles.

Many of us in Sector Four spend a lot of time on the road. It is, of course, the responsibility of the Transport Section to ensure that all vehicles are in good working order. Needless to say, our MTO, Maj Botzenhart and his team do a very good job in this respect.

There are two types of Puch G, a short wheel base and a long wheel base version, each having either a hard top or a tarpaulin. The motor has a 65 kw engine and a torque of 172 Nm with a 5 cylinder diesel engine. The Puch G has the ability to climb an 80% slope.

The SDP (Steyr Daimler Puch) 12M18 truck is one of the most modern vehicles in the Austrian Army. The maximum load is 11.5 tons, either cargo or 18 + 2 soldiers. It has a 6 cylinder turbo diesel engine with 130 kw and a torque of 630 Nm. This truck can also climb an 80% slope.



Puch G

SECOND AUSCON TRIATHLON

by 1/Lt T Heim

At the beginning of November, 2 Coy/AUSCON held the AUSCON Triathlon for the second time. Competitors have to swim 500m in the sea at OP A-28, cycle 22 km from OP A-28 to the end of the Buffer Zone in Ayios Nikolaos and back onto the communications track with their mountain bikes. Then there was the 5.2 km run.

At the outset, the 37 athletes formed nine teams, two from DANCON, one from CANCON, three from HQ Coy/AUSCON, two from 2 Coy/AUSCON and one from 1 Coy/AUSCON. Following an excellent performance by everyone, 33 athletes finished but everyone was a winner. The results were as follows:

Individual Winners:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Sgt Schrottenbach | HQ Coy |
| 2. MCpl Prock | 2 Coy |
| 3. Sgt Begusch | 1 Coy |

Team Winners:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Team Capt Khoddam-Hazrati | 2 Coy |
| 2. Team Sgt Schrottenbach | HQ Coy |
| 3. Team DANCON 1 | |

After a barbecue and the prize giving ceremony, everybody left satisfied. This well organized competition will be held as an UNFICYP competition in spring 1993.



CO/UNAB, Lt Col H Hossinger, presenting the prize to the winner, Sgt Schrottenbach

ROTATION OF UNAB

by Capt F Wanka

In November, AUSCON bade farewell to comrades who were returning to Austria. 64 of them will not be replaced, due to the reductions in UNFICYP. At the same time, we welcomed our new soldiers whom, we are sure, will do just as good a job as their predecessors.

Maj Adam, OC HQ Coy, is replaced by Maj Steinbuchel, who was OC of an HQ Coy in Vienna and who also served with UNDOF.

We also say farewell to our SMO, Capt Rainer, who took care of our wounds which, thank God, there weren't many of! His replacement is Lt Col



Maj H Steinbuchel



Lt Col Dr V Klein



FPM G Meisthuber



Chaplain E Faktor



Capt J Menzl



Maj H Pracher



Capt A Steubelmuller



Capt E Kopitz

Klein, who has a lot of UN experience.

Field Postmaster Kneiszl is replaced by FPM Meisthuber, who also has a lot of UN experience. Chaplain Lochner is replaced by Chaplain Faktor from Lower Austria. The Signals Officer, Capt Fercher, is replaced Capt Menzl. Maj Pracher has replaced Maj Chavanne as the LO TF and also as the Force Signals Officer.

Duty Officer, Capt Ecker, is replaced by Capt Steubelmuller who was the Duty Officer for Sector Four from Nov 91 to Jul 92. Last but not least, our Engineer Officer, Capt Breitfus, is replaced by Capt Kopitz.

120 YEARS OLD

Three Austrian soldiers celebrated their birthday together in HQ UNFICYP.

Maj KM Hruza, Ops Branch, celebrated his 40th birthday; Ops Branch Chief Clerk, WO W Müller, celebrated his 50th birthday and the driver to the DCOS, Sgt G Stromberger, celebrated his 30th birthday.



From left to right: Maj Hruza, WO Müller and Sgt Stromberger.

GOODBYE TO THE CHAPLAIN

In the middle of November the AUSCON Chaplain, Sigi Lochner, celebrated his last church service in the small chapel of CDL V. Many soldiers of all ranks attended this ceremony. The highlight of the event was the confirmation of two soldiers.

Sector Four would like to thank Sigi for everything he has done during his tour with UNFICYP, and wish him every success in his new job back home.



Chaplain Lochner at his last church service.



A SPORTSMAN IN SWEDCIVPOL



by Sgt Per Jystrand

Wherever I am, be it out for a walk, swimming or just sitting in Camp Flamingo, I meet my friend, Lars Göran Plagman (right), wearing his sports kit. He is either out for a 10 km run, swimming to the airport or lifting weights in the gym.

Who does he think he is - Superman? No, he is training for the World Police and Firemen Games in Colorado Springs in July 93. Although he has cut down on the serious training of 20-25 hours a week of a few years ago, he still manages about 10 hours a week.

He has always been interested in training. After his military service he tried middle distance running, archery, boxing and volleyball. At the Police Academy in Stockholm during 1982-83, he broke the special physical school record and other running and shooting records. He was asked to try the police pentathlon (pistol shooting, 300 meters swimming, shot put, long jump and 3 km cross country running). He reached the top in Scandinavia, but did not receive any medal in the European Championships. After a year's hard training, he tried another type of pentathlon at the Police Olympics in Sydney in 1988. It involved shooting with a service pistol, 200m swimming, 110m hurdle, long jump and 1500m running; for this he received a bronze medal and another one in Edmonton in 1990.

Since he hated getting sand in his shoes in the long jump, he changed to TCA (Toughest Cop Alive)! This involved a 3 mile run, shot put, 100 yard dash, 100 yard swim, 6,1m rope climbing, bench press, pull-ups and an obstacle course. This is all held in one day, with a new event every hour. TCA is a very big event all over the USA, and firemen are also permitted to participate. These games include most of the Olympic Games programme, plus some special police events. At the TCA he won a silver medal and was also the team winner.

Training for these games is very tough and could cause many knee and back problems. However, he is lucky because his wife is a physiotherapist and looks after any necessary treatment.

In Memphis 1991, he again won a silver medal and his team became the overall winners.



Sport is not his only love: he is also interested in history, antiques, travel and singing love ballads.

Now you can understand why 32-year-old Lars Göran Plagman is SWEDCIVPOL's Sports Officer. Lars, good luck in the games in Colorado Springs 1993!!

NEW UNDP REPRESENTATIVE



The newly arrived UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Charles Perry, paid a courtesy call to the Special Representative of the Secretary General Mr Camilion, and the UNFICYP Force Commander, Maj-Gen Minehane, on 8 December. Mr Perry arrived in

Cyprus on 2 December to assume duty as Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme. He has served for 25 years with the United Nations and his previous experience includes service as UN Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Netherlands, Antilles and Aruba. Mr Perry also served as the Director of the UNDP Office in Washington and as UN Observer to the Organization of American States for 22 years. Moreover, he served as a Senior UN Inspector and has visited 41 nations. Mr Perry holds a BA in History from Bethany College and an MA from Georgetown University.



THE PENNY DROPS

by Sgt John Straskye



From the left: Stn Sgt Brian Whinnen, Supt Geoff Hazel and Stn Sgt Bob (Wally) Edwards.

"A tenner he heads (or tails) em". "Set in the centre, set on the side". "Come in spinner". These are such catch words of that great Australian game called "Two-Up". Anyone who has visited an outback Australian pub, has been in the company of Australians during Anzac Day, or any other

occasion where servicemen or ex-servicemen congregate to have a quiet ale or retell old war stories may wonder where this strange colonial game played with old pennies (pre-decimal currency) originated.

From the time the first fleet arrived in Sydney Harbour, tossing coins in the name of gambling has been firmly entrenched in the Australian psyche. The uniquely Australian game of Two-Up has always been the game of the lower classes, from the serving soldiers and convicts of the first settlement to the diggers in World War 1 and the Depression battlers.

By the 1890s, Two-Up was firmly established in its present form and is known either as Two-Up, or the lesser known name of swy (from the German word zwei, meaning two).

The game is illegal in all states in Australia. Legislation passing a law allowing Two-Up to be played on Anzac Day came about following the disregard of the law and the police turning a blind eye (in country and outback pubs, the ringmaster was generally the local police sergeant) except where a breach of the peace occurred.

In the outback town of Broken Hill in Western New South Wales, the record of the top win is \$34,000 and the longest run of heads or tails is 24 and 21 respectively.

Most Australians believe Two-Up to be the fairest game in the world. You have even chances, either heads or tails. You win or you lose. You can't get fairer than that!

HELLO POSSUMS

by Supt Ken Hunt



Eight members of AUSTCIVPOL were recently presented with the Police Overseas Service Medal (POSM) by the Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, HE Mr Eddie Stevens. The medal, known affectionately as the "Possum", has been newly issued by the Australian Government. It is given in recognition of civilian police service in overseas

countries where war has not been declared, but where an element of danger exists.

The medal recipients are shown in the picture left, from the left: Sgt Bob Corrigan, Supt Ken Hunt, Stn Sgt Lloyd Schmidt, Stn Sgt Brian Whinnen, Mr HE Eddie Stevens, Supt Peter Wilde, Cmdr Harry Bryant, Stn Sgt Bob Edwards and Stn Sgt Ray Carlin.

Each has received a letter from the Australian Minister for Justice, Senator Michael Tate, which said in part:

"(the medal) is a token of Australia's appreciation of your dedicated service which has not only enhanced Australia's reputation overseas, but has also contributed to peace on the troubled island of Cyprus for 28 years".

Mr Stevens invited the police and their guests to the Australian High Commissioner's residence for the presentation.

CANCON PATROL

Bdr KJ Armstrong and Gnr BC Embro conduct another foot patrol in Sector Three's new area of responsibility.