UNFICYP WEDDING

On 18 May 1991, the wedding of LCpl Ian Lipsett and Miss Lorraine Lomen took place at St Columba's Church with the service conducted by Reverend Rutherford. The bride was given away by LCpl Colin Hole and the best man was LCpl Graham Holder. A guard of honour was provided by the groom's parent unit, 155 (Westsex) Tpt Regt RCT (V). The groom's parents, members of the Tpt Sqn and guests then enjoyed a reception at St Michael's School. Everyone would like to wish the couple many years of happy marriage.

CAPTIONS COMPETITION

The winner of last month's Caption Competition is LCpl Alan Kerr, RCT from the Humanitarian Branch. Any ideas for the above? All submissions to the MPIO's office by 12 August 1991.

UNPA CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

The children's playground in the UNPA was officially opened by Mrs Shirley Minor, wife of the Force Commander, on Tuesday 18 June 1991. The playground equipment came from the United Kingdom and was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The whole project cost £30,000. The facility is located behind the Community Centre and is for the use of children up to the age of 12.

Pictured are Mrs Minor accompanied by Mrs de Brak-Ferguson with Lt Col Stevens, CO UNFICYP Sq Regt, Major Burke, the UNFICYP Property Manager, and some of the children and staff at St Michael's School who attended the opening ceremony.

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Some months ago, in response to your demands, the Blue Beret re-introduced two old features, the Photographic Competition and the Captions Competition. We did so in expectation of your active participation in both competitions. Alas, this has not been so. Contributions to both competitions have generally been poor to the extent where their continued appearance in the Blue Beret is now in question. In consideration of the faithful few whose monthly input has kept the competitions alive, and because we at Blue Beret believe they are worthy of retention, the competitions have been given a reprieve in the hope that renewed reader interest will fan the flame of active participation. To keep the competitive spirit alive, we have endeavoured to offer modest prizes for the competitions. As the Blue Beret has no funds for this, we rely on units and contingents to provide prizes. We wish to thank the Force Scout, Car Squadron and Support Regiment, who kindly donated the prizes for this issue.

It is also half and farewell time at the Blue Beret. Welcome to Mrs Jouhaida Geissbauer who has replaced Mrs Mary Anderson as Secretary, and Driver Tang Wing Wan who becomes the MPIO's driver in place of LCpl Colin Hole.

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Sector Three

on night patrol

by SSgt Kev Capon
SWEDCIVPOL NEWS

Duty Officer/Station Commander Wim Walchtm making the occurrence log for the day. Wim normally works as a Station Commander in Maltes. He has served four times in Cyprus; twice in SWEDCIVPOL and twice as an MP.

Inspector Anette Pippings discussing a very serious matter with one of our chefs – the weekly menu.

The Swedish Civilian Police was first established in UNICYP in 1964. Over the years, its location has moved from one part of Cyprus to another but since 1977, SWEDCIVPOL has been based in Limassol.

SWEDCIVPOL’s main task is to create good relations with the people of the community, including the local police force, and also to maintain the status quo in the Buffer Zone. This all involves a number of technical, practical and humanitarian tasks, which are hard work but very rewarding.

The Commander SWEDCIVPOL is Ch Supt Hakim Thelin, and his deputy is Supt Curt Larsson. There are 16 men and women stationed in Camp Flamingo, Limassol, with one policeman in Pyla and one in Nicosia.

As SWEDCIVPOL is a rather large part of a small contingent, we receive a fair number of visitors during the year, and we try to make their short stay in Cyprus as informative and enjoyable as possible.

FREZENBURG DAY DRUMHEAD SERVICE

by Capt BC Nelson

On Saturday 11 May the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry held a Drumhead Service to commemorate Frezenburg Day.

The Battle of Frezenburg, 08 May 1915, is a milestone in our Regiment's history. Founded on 10 August 1914 to fight the "Great War", roughly 95% of the men who formed the original battalion had seen service in the Canadian Army, the British Army and Marines and many were Boer War veterans. The Regiment was the first Canadian unit to serve in France and the only one to do so in 1914. It first saw action on 5 April 1915 near Ypres, France.

During the Second Battle of Ypres, 22 April to 17 May 1915, the Patroons served with the 8th Brigade of the British 27th Division. The battle honour of "FREZENBURG" was won in bloodshed during the second assault by German forces against the Ypres Salient, officially called "The Battle of Frezenburg and Bellewaerde Ridge". The Regiment suffered 122 casualties before moving to the front of the Brigade to relieve the Shropshire Regiment on 6 May 1915. During the battle, the Patroons suffered 700 all ranks killed, wounded or missing in action, the longest casualty list in the 27th Division. The Regiment fought on, on three sides with five officers and 150 men, commanded by a wounded Captain, and then a Lieutenant.

Relieved on 8 May by the 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, the battle marked the end of the "Originals" as the core of the Regiment.

The Battle of Frezenburg is remembered annually on 8 May.

The Colour, the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour parade for the Drumhead Service.

There were medals presented on the Drumhead Parade as well. Seen here is the Hum WO, WO Colvin with others receiving their Canadian Decoration (CD) for 12 years of meritorious service.

RSM M. Rédey at the end of the line during a General Salute. Besides him is MWO Smith, CSM City Coy.

The Force Commander, MajGen C. Millner, does a reading during the Drumhead Service. Before him are the Colours laid on an altar formed by plugging the drums of the unit.
COMMANDER OF THE ARMY SAYS HELLO

On 10 June 1991, Lt Gen K Foster, Commander of Canada's Force Mobile Command (FMC) — the land forces of Canada — came to Cyprus to say hello to his old Battalion, Lt Gen Foster visited 1 PPCLI after stopping in at HQ UNFICYP to say hello to his friend and fellow Canadian, GGen Minner. Not having been to Cyprus for a few years, he commented on how things have developed recently. The Comd FMC also spoke with the Senior NCOS, Officers and men on the line about the challenges facing Canada's soldiers. He outlined his set of priorities for grappling with the changing times in the Canadian Forces and encouraged the members of the Battalion to carry on serving with the professionalism and dedication that have made them well known.

EX RAPID AID

over complete with six casualties. The realism was enhanced by Capt K Singh and the 1 PPCLI UMS staff who did an excellent job of mury simulation on the casualties. The personnel from Recce platoon and Rural Coy Central, who had to react initially and administer first aid, were hard pressed to remember this was only an exercise. It is hard, delicate work administering first aid inside an AVDP, not to mention removing serious casualties when the rear doors are jammed, all this being done in the dark while preparing night landing points for the helicopters.

SECTOR THREE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

1 PPCLI held their inter-company soccer competition as a part of the battalion team sports programme. The end of the season was 11 May 91, at which time LCpl R Romsey presented City Coy with the coveted trophy.

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

Winning Australian team

Australians are sports mad and play a wide variety of games but the truly national game is cricket. At no time is national fervour higher and competition fiercer than when Australia and England meet on the cricket field to play for the Ashes. So on a Sunday in May, AUSTCIVPOL and a team from the British High Commission in Nicosia played cricket at the UNPA sports ground. The BHQ batted first and made 66 runs, which was overtaken by a strong Australian batting side. The conditions were far from ideal but nevertheless, the day proved enjoyable for what should be a busy cricketing season for the Aussies.

EXERCISE APHRODITE'S DELIGHT V

The UNFICYP Tennis Competition was held this year at Prince William Camp and was hosted by the FSC Sign. It was played over one day only, which meant that a straightforward singles and doubles knockout competition was the only possible option. Despite this and the sweating heat, the tournament ran smoothly with some extremely good tennis exhibitions. The finals were held at the end of the day with Col de Bôe-Ferguson presenting the prizes. The Australians were the overall Contingent winners with strong contestants in both draws. Lt Kern (Austrian) won the singles after some hard fought matches, especially against Alex Thurgar (AUSTCIVPOL) and 2Lt Eliehr (BRITCON) in earlier rounds. The doubles was won by Lt Jones and Lt Joss Kent of the FSC Sign.

The winning Australian team

LCol Steve Anderson and Sgt Jason Foroughi mastered the arts of sea-canoeing.

Exercise Aphrodite’s Delight V was a four day adventure training exercise which took place over the period 29 April - 3 May 1991 at the UN Watersports Club, Salamis.

254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron sent two groups of 15 soldiers, each for two days of water sports. All those who participated took part in sailing, windsurfing and canoeing and for once, we were able to provide instructions from our own resources.

Everyone who took part enjoyed the break away from the UNPA and partook in a new form of adventure training. Our thanks go to Sector Four for accommodating and feeding us during the exercise.

Sgt Zwiznak, Pte Coke and Cpl Langbe hand to Cpl Wicks (wounded) while the MEDIVAC is on its way

The complete spectrum of evacuation was exercised; from the initial first aid to the dispatching of the injured by helicopter and ambulance to both military and civilian hospitals.

The exercise took on a dimension of unexpected realism when the ambulance summoned to the accident site flipped over while en route. Luckily there were no real injuries and a valuable lesson was learned.

The end result, giving practical experience to the personnel involved, met with the aim. As such, everyone came away a little more confident in the medical support and evacuation system in place.

Left to right: The Arrival Guard at BBC: Sgt Gemmell, Lt Gen Foster, Cpl Holmes, Cpl Evans

Left to right: Cpl Henderson, Pte Sandenbergh, Cpl Evans, Cpl Trudel, MCIV Coy

Sector 3 conducted a casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) exercise on 22 May, named EX RADIAL AID, to practise basic first aid and CASEVAC SOPs.

Cpl Trudel receives a helping hand from Sgt Zwiznak after a simulated accident where Cpl Trudel had his arm burnt
AUSCON MEDAL PARADE

On 31 May, the Austrian Medal Parade took place at Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta. UN medals were presented by the Force Commander to the soldiers of Sector Four, and also to troops from Sector Three and the FSC Son who are assisting AUSCON.

This Medal Parade was a little different for two reasons — first, four Ferrar Scout Cars were brought to Camp Duke Leopold especially for the occasion, and second, it was quite unusual for the large number of guests attending to hear the parade commands in two languages — English and German.

After the ceremony, a spectacular buffet of typical Austrian food was offered to all our guests. Since a number of them stayed until very late in the evening, we gather they enjoyed themselves!

AUSCON'S best 4x4 cross-country vehicle, the Mercedes Puch G

NEW CHAPLAIN AMONG THE VIKINGS

In Denmark, the saying is that chaplains should take care of "whatever belongs to the air or heaven." But the new Danish Chaplain, Vilhelm Vaerge, soon discovered that he had to come down to earth.

Chaplain Vaerge is both vicar in a Danish parish, and also the Air Force Dean (i.e. one of the three principal military chaplains) in the Royal Danish Air Force. This normally keeps him pretty busy! Chaplain Vaerge arrived in Cyprus looking forward to the next few months with DANCON 55.

However, after only four days in Viking Camp, he fell over and broke his ankle and now moves slowly around on two crutches. You could say that this Air Force man landed on the ground just a little too quickly. Or perhaps, as we said to begin with, chaplains are so busy looking at heaven that they forget they live on earth!

GOODBYE TO CYPRUS

By Capt Erik Mortensen, DANCON QM

I first joined the UN as a Sgt in the Gaza in 1962/63 and my first duty in Cyprus was in 1968 as a 2/Lt in HQ UNFICYP. I returned to Cyprus as MTO/DANCON in 1978 and then again in 1984. On promotion to Captain, I served as QMO/DANCON in 1987, 1990 and 1991. In between these postings, I served as Mov Con Officer in Namibia in 1989.

As you can tell, I love the UN and yes — I love Cyprus! I will not forget the relationships developed between nations and especially between the individuals I have met.

As the Danish Quartermaster, I didn't always manage to get what I wanted, but with a smile and a lot of patience, I was usually able to solve the problems which arose. I would like to thank all those who assisted me during my posting to UNFICYP and to wish all the friends I have made good luck in the future.
Operation Blue Blazer is a bi-annual operation in engineer support to UNFICYP by 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, who are based locally in Dhekelia. Operation Blue Blazer's primary concern is the maintenance of 60km of patrol track in Sector One (DANCON). The maintenance is carried out during April/May (spring) and August/September (autumn) each year to C Coy and B Coy areas respectively.

The main reason 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sgn RE carry out the maintenance is to ensure continuity and to take advantage of the experience they have gained and the difficulties they have overcome in the extensive mountainous terrain. 62 Sgn plant operators have become very able to cope with the somewhat dangerous conditions on the track.

Operation Blue Blazer 91/1 started on 22 April and ended on 28 May. It entailed:

- patrol track maintenance of C Coy (approximately 49km of track between OP’s D-11 and D-34);

- the construction of three culverts and one Irish Bridge (a concrete structure which prevents the erosion of the track);

- refurbishment of Skouridissa Bridge located in the village of Ayios Yeorgios; and

- refurbishment/renovation of the Ablution Block (Building 424) in Camp Maple Leaf.

During the operation, the Squadron was visited by the Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal AFC Hunter, the Deputy Chief of Staff UNFICYP, Col EN de Broe-Ferguson, the Garrison Commander Dhekelia, Col MAG Watts, and several times by the Officer Commanding 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sgn, Maj R Swanson.

Without the assistance in maintaining the patrol track, UNFICYP’s problems of re-supply and logistical support to OPs in Sector One would undoubtedly increase in difficulty. Our thanks are therefore extended to 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sgn RE for their very valued help, both in the past and — hopefully — in the future.
SUPPORT REGIMENT NEWS

LANCE CORPORAL COLIN HOLE

Lance Corporal Colin Hole enlisted into the Junior Leaders with the Royal Armoured Corps in 1977. On completion of his basic training he joined 17/21 Lancers at Tidworth, Hampshire and went on to serve in Norway, Denmark, Canada and the USA. In 1984 he was posted to the Armoured Trials and Development Unit at Bovington. During 1985 he was part of the team that was sent to Saudi Arabia to promote the sales of Challenger Tanks and Warrior APCs.

He left the Regular Army in 1988 and joined 155 (Wessex) Transport Regiment RCT(V) in Taunton, Somerset.

During the tour of 15 Sgn RCT, LCpl Hole was employed as the MPQs driver and describes himself as happily single with interests in swimming, driving and collecting militaria.

Lt Col IPG Stevens RTR assumed command of Support Regiment on 8 May from Lt Col John Smedley RTR.

Lt Colonel Stevens was commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment in Dec 1969 and served with 1 RTR until 1980 when he attended Staff College at Camberley. After Camberley he was MA to COS NORTHAG. He then commanded a Tank Sqn in UK and BAOR before becoming SO2 in MOD UK. Prior to his posting to Cyprus he was SO1 G3 Ops at UKLF. During the Gulf war he became Chief Land Ops at JHQ High Wycombe.

He is married to Mary and they have two daughters (12 and 10) and one son (6).

At the time of writing, we have clocked up some 500,000+ miles with only five accidents to our name. If this trend continues, we are well on course to achieving and surpassing the accident to mileage target set by HQ UNFICYP.

We are all now looking forward to returning to the UK, with all the TA volunteers on "S" type engagements going back to their civilian jobs and the four corners of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Although the tour has passed very quickly, we have all benefited enormously from our experience serving with the United Nations in Cyprus, and we now leave you in the very capable hands of 34 Squadron, Gurkha Transport Regiment.

FAREWELL TO 15 SQUADRON, THE ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

The end of the tour for 15 Sgn RCT looms ever closer and by the time this article is published, our replacements as UN Tpt Sgn, 34 Squadron, Gurkha Transport Regiment, will be very much in the driving seat. We all feel the tour has been very successful for the Squadron, and more than a few people have been surprised at our success rates, given the unique make-up of the Squadron.

April was a particularly busy month with teams entered for the Military Skills, SAA and Athletics Competitions as well as involvement in the Spring Fair and BRITCON Medal Parade.

AUSTCIVPOL HEADQUARTERS NEWS

AUSTCIVPOL is one of the smaller contingents in UNFICYP with a total strength of 20 personnel. Despite that, the Australian Civil Police are generally well known and highly visible as they go about their operational tasks in support of Sectors 1, 2 and 3. About half of the Contingent operate out of AUSTCIVPOL HQ on the UNPA. As well as providing an operations room, the HQ accommodates the Administration Unit and is a base for the AUSTCIVPOL Humanitarian Officer. The Administration Unit has three personnel providing administrative and logistical support to operational members.

ADMINISTRATION SERGEANT

Sergeant Toni McNeill is the current Administration Sergeant. Toni joined the Australian Federal Police in 1989 and has been employed in community policing in the national capital Canberra. She also spent some three years as a physical training instructor at the AFP training college. Her interests include travel and sport, which accounts for the fact that soon after arriving in Cyprus, she purchased a top mountain bike with the aim of touring Europe at the end of her service with AUSTCIVPOL. Toni's duties keep her very busy as she carries out those seemingly endless tasks in keeping the Contingent operating smoothly.

Melbourne Cup Update

Those in UNFICYP who took part in AUSTCIVPOL's activities for the 1990 Melbourne Cup may be interested to know that as a result of their participation, the Camperdown Children's Hospital in Sydney has received a cheque for $17,276.00. In March, Sgt Tony Pethbridge (above) presented the cheque to the Children's Hospital fund, which provides specialist treatment to young patients.
FSC SQN's TRIP TO EGYPT

Ensuring that the officers and SNCOs of the FSC Sqn numbered sufficiently and were able (disputable!) to cover their brief absence, the WOs and CsOC organised a Mess function which took the form of a two-day cruise to Egypt.

The members of the group were in high spirits when they arrived at Port Said. From there, they proceeded to Cairo by coach and toured the main sites. After some fine exhibitions of camel control, whilst at the pyramids, the men stripped off their travelling attire (much to the delight of all worthy female tourists) and donned their Mess Dress for a photo. This proved to be one of the highlights of the trip, and of far greater attraction to all the tourists than the surrounding scenery.

The return journey was uneventful, other than the effects of the rough sea. The Mess members docked at Limassol in fine fettle and returned to Prince William Camp to admonish all with tales of ventures far and wide for weeks to come!

VISIT OF LT COL PETER ROGERS

For the last six months the FSC Sqn post has been filled by a Squadron from The Blues and Royals. Their Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Rogers, paid a visit to his "boys in the sun" from 23-30 May. He managed to see all members of the Squadron, visiting most parts of the line. He was actually here in 1982, as a Squadron Leader of the FSC Sqn, so there was little that missed his eye!

Xeros Detachment is located at Dansborg, a former Beach Hotel, approximately 3.5km west of Xeros. The area of responsibility stretches from Kormaki in the North to Episkopi in the South, including the Troodos mountains and Paphos — as you can imagine a vast area. The distance from Xeros to Paphos is 110 kilometers.

Xeros Detachment is manned by four MPs, presently commanded by a Danish Staff Sergeant and his staff which includes one Danish, one Swedish and one Canadian MP.

The Detachment is manned 24 hours a day, apart from when the area is being patrolled.

The most common taskings are preventive traffic control, speed checks, disciplinary patrolling and reports concerning traffic accidents. The road conditions in this mountainous area are very difficult and a major part of the work done by the Detachment is to prevent serious accidents.

The Detachment provides direct support to the Danish Sector including escorts, traffic control and other MP related duties to assist the Danes.

Furthermore, the Detachment provides initial briefings for all newly arrived Danish personnel, in order to inform them of the conditions under which they are expected to perform their duties and to spend their off duty time.
During the Drumhead Service in Sector Three, a visit was made by a long-time serving member of the Regiment, Captain Rudy Raaidt, presently the Regimental Adjutant, started his career in the ranks as a private soldier. After his visit to the unit in Cyprus, Rudy will be retiring after 30 years of service with the Regiment. Seen here, he is receiving a statuette from Comd CANCON, LCol R Romses.

FAREWELL TO:
15 Sqn RCT
FSC Sqn, C Sqn, The Blues and Royals
Col R Strohschneider COO/CO AUSCON
Lt Col J Fottier CHO
Lt Col C Heggie CPLO
Comdt J Sreenan SO2 Co-ord Hum Branch
Cpt R Macintosh Tn O, Sector Three
MWO P E Bailey CSM HQ Coy, Sector Three
Sgt Morris Recce Pl, Sector Three
Sgt Gill City Coy, Sector Three
Sgt Graveine City Coy, Sector Three
Sgt Boland Rural Coy, Sector Three
RSM J Keating Chief Clerk, Hum Branch
CMQS D O’Callaghan SNCO Ops Room
CMQS T McCann Asst Chief Clerk, Hum Branch
Coy Sgt B Weldon Crime Reader, MP Coy
Sgt J Cunningham Patrol NCO, MP Coy

WELCOME to
34 Sqn RCT, The Gurkha Transport Regiment

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON’T

On a pleasant summer evening in June, all the members of the Austrian HQ Element gathered for a social evening. As the evening wore on, the less hirsute members of this noble gathering decided it was time that uniformity was the rule of the day for HQ AUSCON. The challenge was made, the bet was laid.

All moustaches had to come off! In the case of SSGt Simon, this was no problem, but in the case of CO AUSCON, Col Strohschneider, this fine specimen, nurtured over the years, would take some shaving - but, a bet was a bet.

The next day, puzzled looks greeted the members of HQ AUSCON. Lips that hadn’t seen the light of day for years were now bare to the elements.

The end result is that certain members of the HQ AUSCON Element will now be a few Schillings short, as another evening is planned at their expense. It is a fact that champagne is an expensive drink!!!

FSC Sqn, The 13/18th Royal Hussars
Lt Col P Resch COO/CO AUSCON
Lt Col M Swan CHO
Lt Col M Hodson CPLO
Comdt F Bushell SO2 Co-ord, Hum Branch
RSM J Guidera Chief Clerk, Hum Branch
CMQS C Delahunt Asst Chief Clerk, Hum Branch
CMQS M Whelan SNCO Ops Room
Coy Sgt A Ryan Crime Reader, MP Coy
Sgt P Polan Trg NCO, MP Coy
Lt R Carson, Tn O, Sector Three
WO F Booth Slider, Sector Three

PROMOTIONS (Military)
L1 B Nelson, Sector Three to Captain

LCol Ibbotson (SHQ) to LColH
LCol Hagan (SHQ) to LColH
Tpr Habgood (1 Tp) to LCol
Tpr Nixon (1 Tp) to LCol

PROMOTIONS (Civilian)
To FS-7: Mr P Morris, CFO
Mr M McNally, CC0
To FS-5: Mr B Wikstrom, PCIO
Mr R Chamorro, R/Sup
Mr M Lopez, RMO
To FS-4: Mr G Schmidt, Finance Ck

VIP Visitors
Lt Gen Sagren, Comdt in Chief of Army (SWEDCON)
Maj Gen Harley, OBE, ACDS (O) (BRITCON)
The Venerable Robin, QHC Dep
Chap Gen (BRITCON)
Brigadier Jones, DDE ILE (A) (BRITCON)
Maj Gen Pj Boale, DGAMS (BRITCON)
VAdm RE George, Dp Chief of Def Staff (Canada) (CANCON)
Lt Gen KR Foster, Comd Force Mobile Command (CANCON)
Mr Minora Tamba, Dr Gen for UN Affairs (Japan)