UNIFICYP ASSIST WOUNDED LEBANESE

Sgt Pat Kehoe

Injured Lebanese citizens in transit to Italy for medical treatment were transferred from a ferry to Larnaca Airport on 20th February with the assistance of UNIFICYP personnel.

UN MP COY PROFILES

SGT PAT KEHOE – TRG NCO

Unifcyp Assist Wounded Lebanese

Mr S MILELLIDES

Mr Savvas Mikellides was born in Paphos, Cyprus. After finishing school, Savvas went to work for the NAAFI in Nicosia, Famagusta, Dhekelia and Akrotiri. Altogether he worked for the NAAFI for a period of 30 years. In 1980 Savvas joined the UN MP Coy as a bartender, employment which he is still holding as of this date. Savvas is a married man with three children, one grandson and one granddaughter. During his 10 years with the Coy, Savvas has made many friends with numerous MPs from different nationalities who have served with the Coy. He is known by several past Canadian MPs as “Bon homme”. Mr Mikellides’ good sense of humour is a contributary factor to the Coy’s morale.

LCPL PAUL STUART - MT NCO

Mr Savvas Mikellides

Lcpl Paul Stuart

Lcpl Stuart was born in Plymouth, England. After finishing High School, Paul worked in the construction business as an assistant bricklayer. In March 1985, he joined the British Army as a transport driver. He served in Aldershot, then in 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment in Bunde, Germany. He also served in Northern Ireland and the Falklands. Paul joined the UN MP Coy on 16 Oct 89 where he is employed as our MT NCO. Paul will be with the Coy until 16 Jul 90 when he will return to England.

UNIT Press Officers

Sector 1 Maj O Wormald
Sector 2 Capt M Cumgian
Sector 3 Capt G Hand
Sector 4 Maj P Townsend MBE
SG Regt Capt C Cherry
MP Coy COOJ J Leneux
AUSTCIVPOL Supt J Cooper
SWEDCIVPOL Insp T Gustafsson

UNIT Press Officers

ARTICLES

The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Peace Force in Cyprus and as such, it is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper only 100mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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Printed in Cyprus by TheNews Ltd Nicosia TEL 444940

March 1990

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 3

The Blue Beret

Over the past number of issues readers may have observed some changes in the layout and content of the Blue Beret magazine. It is hoped that these meet with your general approval and are intended to make the content more interesting and more personal to the reader. To keep it thus however, requires your active participation. Each month the Blue Beret needs a variety of short articles on many subjects which may be of general interest to all as well as lots of photographs and archival material on UNIFICYP which individuals may have in their possession. Not alone does the Blue Beret need articles but also snippets for the En Passant column including information on arrivals, departures, promotions, marriages and other significant events. If there is a photograph to go with it so much the better. The Blue Beret desperately needs the (free) services of a cartoonist, so if any readers wish to have their artistic impressions of life in UNIFICYP expressed in print we would dearly love to hear from you. The editorial staff look forward to your contributions. Thank you in anticipation.

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NEWS FROM SECTOR TWO

MESSING ABOUT ON THE WATER

A small party of intrepid sailors from Sector 2 recently came up with the idea of sailing in the yacht ‘Parang’, specially chartered by 2nd Field Regiment during our tour with UNIFCYP. Led by Captain Barry Moore, the Quartermaster, the eager team assembled in Larnaca Marina for the final preparations for the approximate 1000 km round trip.

At 0830 on the 8th February the crew slipped their moorings and sailed out on the first leg of the journey despite the absence of a long range weather forecast. Working 6 hour shifts by day and 4 hours by night ‘Parang’ at first made good progress with the weather remaining dry. By late afternoon on the 10th February, however, the weather was threatening to break and showing its full force as gale-force winds and choppy seas were contributing to the outbreak of sea-sickness amongst the crew.

The following day again brought grey and black skies and gale-force winds, but as the day drew on Rhodes was sighted. Some 50km off Rhodes a force 7 gale hit the by now cheer-ful team, slowing progress so that it was only at 2300 that ‘Parang’ eventually entered Rhodes’ harbour. A late start the previous day allowed everyone to catch up on undisturbed sleep whilst the two skippers, Captain Moore and Staff Sergeant Bowers, cleared the port authorities.

For the next 2 days the crew enjoyed an enforced break as force 9 gales caused the return journey to be postponed again and again. Eventually on the 15 February the weather eased and ‘Moore’s Marauders’ again took to the high seas. An uneventful return journey saw the weary crew draw into Larnaca Marina at 2330 on the 17 February and after mooring up all immediately fell asleep, leaving the clean-up for daylight hours.

The following morning saw the clean-up hindered by crowds of well-wishers unable to understand why 6 crazy Englishmen would want to sail such a long way in February, when if they’d waited 2 months the weather would have been perfect if you know the answer Captain Moore is waiting to hear it!

The eager crew before departure.

FSC SQN NEWS

The Scout Car Squadron has now settled in and established itself, including completing a successful force reserve exercise. The Squadron has entered competitions all over the island and a few which are of particular interest will get a mention. The Sergeant Major’s boat crew with their radical hull design managed to clinch victory despite fierce competition and strong protests at the Australia day Celebrations.

Sgt Churchill (foreground), L CPL Pender and CPL England during the 10km Road Race.

The Tug-O-War team deserve to be congratulated for gaining second place having pulled over a team which included the strongest man in UNIFCYP.

The Cross Country team managed an excellent second place in the UNIFCYP Cross Country competition with Tpr Burkat coming in an overall second place. The Nicosia 10km Road Race gained the Squadron a highly respectable third place.

An interesting phenomenon in Sector 2. Coloured rocks springing up spontaneously into the form of the regimental cap badge! Is this confined to Sector 2 or island-wide?

The Regimental Ski teams which recently took part in a British Forces Ski Competition, winning the Nordic team, individual and novice competitions. Lieutenant Colonel D E Redcliffe, the Sector Commander, also won the veteran’s individual event.
AUSTCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE
2ND FEBRUARY 1990

I know you have all seen a medal parade before but, I doubt that many of you have seen a 'Swaggie'. I will explain.

The swagman was a man who carried a swag or a bundle of blankets and possessions whilst tramping the country roads, usually in search of employment. There were many swagmen in Australia around the turn of the century and the depression years of the nineteen thirties.

Swagmen came from the ranks of shearers, farm hands, fencers, tank sinkers and scrub cutters. In times of depression some became beggars which resulted in aid centres being set up in some areas where light work was carried out in exchange for food and lodging.

The swagman travelled alone or sometimes with a dog. Basically honest, they worked for their keep and food supplies although some did turn to crime. Many became bush characters and a large part of Australian folklore is built around them. Swagmen have been associated with a number of Australian words or sayings; they were said to be 'Walking Matilda' which was later corrupted into 'Waltzing Matilda' or 'Humping Bluey' a name given to them at a time when the Queensland Blue Heeler dog was in short supply in other states. The swagman would obtain a pup in Queensland and, probably because the pup could not keep up the walking pace, he would place the pup on top of his swag or pack and carry (hump) it. He would then sell the pup in New South Wales or swap it for lodging or supplies.

Sorry ladies, female swaggies were rare. They were seen however occasionally carrying their swag in a cart or wheel barrow.

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE

The UN Medal was presented by Col Fritsch, DCOS and CO Sect 4 Lt Peacher-Thainburg to 118 Austrian soldiers who completed their peacekeeping tour in March. Some of the men were decorated with their silver numerals, two soldiers received their number 9 and WO1 Gruber received his number 26 marking his 26th tour of UNFICYP.

FORCE RESERVE EXERCISE

A realistic exercise took place on Nicosia Airport runway recently with 'terrorists' landing a TWA 727 with passengers and crew as 'hostages'. The parts of key personnel aboard the 'plane' (a bus) were played by members of Support Regiment and girls from DANCON and CANCON. Many important lessons were learned as negotiations led to the loss of 'passengers' and 'crew', although the final outcome was the capitulation of the 'terrorists'.

Similar exercises have taken place in the past and are part of UNFICYP's ongoing training programme.
THE SECOND BATTALION PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

On March 6 1990 Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry officially relieved First Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment and assumed operational responsibility for UNFICYP Sector 3 (CANCON). This change of command marked the beginning of Second Battalion's fourth tour with the United Nations Forces in Cyprus - a tradition which began with the unit's first deployment in 1972.

As a regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry is no stranger to overseas duty. Since the forming of the Regiment on 14 August 1914, the officers and men of 2PPCLI have over the years served in both World Wars, the Korean conflict and a multitude of United Nations Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Operations worldwide.

Second Battalion was formed on 15 August 1960 in response to Canada's commitment to assist the United Nations operations in the Korean conflict. It was at Kapyong, Korea on 29 April 1961 that 2PPCLI made its heroic stand on Hill 677, holding off overwhelming enemy forces to assist in the halting of a major enemy breakthrough on the Allied Central Front. For this distinguished action, Second Battalion was awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation and to this day it is the only Canadian Forces Unit whose members wear the distinctive Distinguished Unit Citation on the shoulders of their uniforms.

In 1951 following its Korean service, Second Battalion returned to Canada and fulfilled an airborne role. Since 1953 the unit has completed a number of tours with the Canadian Brigade in Germany as part of Canada's contribution to NATO. Presently configured as a mechanized infantry battalion, 2PPCLI completed its most recent tour in Italy and Cyprus in July 1986. Once again stationed at its home base of Kapyong Barracks in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada, The Battalio

tion now serves within 1 Canadian Brigade Group as part of Canada's Force Mobile Command.

The members of Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry are looking forward to their six months of peacekeeping duty with UNFICYP. For many of the Battalion's younger soldiers, peacekeeping will be an interesting and challenging new experience - a challenge for which the unit as a whole is well prepared and eager to meet. All ranks of 2PPCLI are determined to maintain the high standards that our CANCON predecessors and the other UNFICYP contingents have set.

Over the next six months we look forward to meeting and working with both the Cypriot people and the rest of UNFICYP in the common pursuit as fulfilling our peacekeeping mandate in Cyprus.
SWEDCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE

Members of SWEDCIVPOL are seen here receiving their UN Medal from the Force Commander, Major General Milner.

THE MAN BEHIND THE PEA SOUP

Who is Antonakis Demmetrou? Not many people know but if you were to mention Tony, many present and ex-SWEDCIVPOL members know their chief of almost twenty years.

Tony has cooked the meals for SWEDCIVPOL almost continuously since 1971. He makes the most wonderful Swedish dishes - even better than many Swedes. He also has an excellent singing voice and is not slow to sing a tune or two when requested.

CHIEF INSPECTOR HOLMBERG

Ch Insp Aka 'Slim' Holmberg is the most experienced member of SWEDCIVPOL. He joined UNFICYP for the first time in 1987 as a Military Policeman. In 1971-72 he joined SWEDCIVPOL and served at the substations in Angastina and Larnaca. In 1975-76 he served with SWEDCIVPOL in Larnaca, Pyla, Ayios Theodoros (near Kophinou) and Famagusta.

In October 1989 Ch Insp Holmberg was posted back to HQ SWEDCIVPOL where among his other duties he is the bar tender at Camp Flamingo.

NEW UN TRANSPORT SQUADRON

The new UN Tp Sqn, 8 Sqn RCT took over from 66 Sqn RCT at the beginning of this year. They are the third consecutive sub unit from 27 Regiment RCT based in Aldershot, England and will remain in UNFICYP until late July this year. The change-over was smooth and efficient and the Sqn soon settled into its task.

The Sqn is commanded by Maj I K Wright RCT who can be seen receiving the customary key from Maj G T Collinson RCT. The Sqn were brought up to full strength for the tour by retaining some members of 66 Sqn and with the inclusion, amongst others, of members of the UK Territorial Reserve who have become regulars for the duration of the tour.

FATHER AND SON IN SECTOR 4

Captain Rudolf Burger of AUSCON is pictured here with his son Sergeant Hans-joerg Burgar. Capt. Burger came to the island last June and is platoon leader in 2 Coy and Sgt Burger (who will be commissioned shortly) is currently the leader of ASQPO1 and came to Cyprus in November 1989.

UNFICYP MEMBER WINS CAR

Sgt Kimmance of UNFICYP Workshop REME receiving the key to the new Daihatsu Charade from Mr Tassos Anastasiou and Sqn Ldr A G Dingle from the RAF Akrotiri Catering Sqn. The Draw was held at the Pickled Onion Club, RAF Akrotiri on Sat 20 Jan 90 in aid of the RAF Akrotiri Swimming Pool Fund in which £2000 was raised for the fund.
SP REGT WIN UNFICYP CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

The Cross Country competition took place at Skou-riotissa on the 19 Jan 90. It was organised by DANCON and was run in perfect weather conditions.

The Start.

Dvr Conaghan winner of the event.

The island of Ireland is situated in the extreme north-west of the continent of Europe. The total area of Ireland is 32,595 square miles (84,421 square kilometres). Ireland Republic comprises 27,136 square miles (70,282 square kilometres) and Northern Ireland 5,459 square miles (13,159 square kilometres). The greatest length of the island from north to south is 302 miles (486 kilometres) and the greatest width, from east to west, is 171 miles (275 kilometres). There are 1,970 miles of coastline (3,172 kilometres).

The island comprises a large central lowland of limestone with relief of hills and a number of coastal mountains, the highest of which, Carrantuohill, is 3,144 feet (1,040 metres). The Shannon is the longest river (236 miles or 370 kilometres). There are many lakes of which Lough Neagh is the largest.

Climate

The climate of Ireland is dominated by the moderating effects of the surrounding seas. As a result, snow is rare in most winters except in the mountains. Average temperature in January and February, the coldest months, is between 4 degrees C and 7 degrees C. July and August, the two warmest months, have average temperatures between 14 degrees C and 16 degrees C. Average annual rainfall lies between 800 and 1200 mm over most of the country.

Population

According to the 1986 census, the population of Ireland (Republic) is 3,573,195. A high proportion of the population is concentrated in the younger age groups, with approximately 47 per cent being under 25 and about 29.5 per cent being under 15. The population of Northern Ireland in 1984 was estimated at 1,578,500.

Economy

Ireland is an open economy, heavily dependent on international trading. Overall economic growth was about 6.5 per cent in 1986 but output of manufactured goods increased by about 2.6 per cent in 1986.

The Political Structure

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. Its law is based on common law and legislation enacted by Parliament under the Constitution. Regulations of the European Communities have force of law in Ireland.

The Constitution of Ireland sets out the form of government and defines the powers and functions of the President, both Houses of Parliament (Oireachtas) and the Government. It also defines the structure and powers of the Courts and sets out the fundamental rights of citizens.

The President is the head of State. Where there is more than one candidate for the office, the President is elected by direct vote of the people. There are two Houses of Parliament, respectively known as Dail (House of Representatives and Seanad (Senate). The Dail has 166 members. Elections take place at least once every five years. Every citizen over the age of 18 has the right to vote.

The Seanad has 60 members. It may initiate or amend legislation, but the Dail has the power to reject any such amendments or proposed legislation. Executive power is exercised by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) who is Head of Government responsible for the Dail.
SOCCER:
HQ SECTOR 4 v HQ UNIFICYP

At the UNPA sports field in Nicosia recently, the AUSCON football team won 3-0 against HQ UNIFICYP. LCpl Koller scored 2 goals and LCpl Bauer scored 1. The winning team was coached by HQ Coy Comd, Capt Trummer, and are seen pictured here during half time.

AUSCON TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The AUSCON Table Tennis Championships were organised by Section Head 1Lt Klimpfinger. Forty eight members of AUSCON entered the competition, nine of whom reached the finals. Each Coy played the best three players of the other teams and were placed by the awarding of points.

Col Fritsch, DCOS presented Sgt Specht, 2IC of the Camp Guard Platoon with the winner’s cup.

Left: AUSCON Table Tennis Champion - Sgt Specht.

THE DANCON SHOP

UN soldiers from every contingent are familiar with the DANCON Shop based at HQ Company in Xeros.

The Shop is part of the Main Canteen in DANCON. The Main Canteen supplies all messes and grocery shops throughout DANCON with anything from soap to electrical equipment the majority of which are bought locally mainly from Nicosia. The Shop’s stock is usually fairly limited apart from the things that sell well but special items will be ordered for individuals from Denmark and after a deposit has been placed the item will take about four weeks to arrive in Cyprus. The Main Canteen adds around 10% to goods for sale which goes towards welfare.

The DANCON Shop which is next door to the grocery shop in Xeros is open to all members of UNIFICYP. The opening hours for both shops are:

Monday 0900-1130
Wednesday 1500-1700
Thursday 0900-1130
Friday 0930-1130

UN 10KM ROAD RACE

The UN 10km Road Race was held on 7 Feb 90 in atrocious weather conditions. Despite this, 86 runners took part from all over the island. The event was won by Mr Keogh in a time of 31 min 32 secs. Dvr Conaghan (Sp Regt) was second and SSgt Whittingham (HQ Dhekelia) was third.

The team prize went to Sp Regt and the ladies team from Ayios Nikolaos beat three other teams from the Sovereign Bases.

Mr Keogh the winner of the event.

Dvr Conaghan (left) came second.

SSgt Goss (without his glasses).

Dvr Conaghan with Col Smedley.

Capt Giles (left) with Sgt Burdis.

Left: 1st Female - Mrs Lang

Last man in! (CO SP Regt, Col Smedley.)
en passant...

DEPARTURES
1st Bn The Royal Canadian Regiment
(Sect 3)

ARRIVALS
Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light
Infantry (Sect 3)

VIP VISITORS TO UNFICYP
IN FEBRUARY
Japanese Foreign Ministry Officials
led by H E Mr Kikuchi (former Perma-
nent Representative to the UN) to
UNFICYP

Brig Anderson MBE, 3 Armoured Di-
vision, to BRITCON

Comdre Moore, Director General of
Postings and Careers, to CANCON

Lt Gen Foster, Mobile Force Com-
mander of Canada, to CANCON

Brig Bartlett MBE, Director of Move-
ment (Army), to BRITCON

Marshall of the RAF, Sir David Craig
GCB, OBE, Chief of Defence Staff, to
BRITCON

Col De Broe Fergusson (DCOS Des)

WELCOME
Maj Philip Piper
(SO2 Ops Info)

Maj David Day
(SO2 Ops (Current))

Capt Ian Stark
(Ad Sp Regt)

Lt Edward Ross
(ADC to COS)

FAREWELL
Maj Graeme-Ratcliffe
(SO2 Ops (Current))

Maj Robin Wolfenden
(SO2 Ops Info)

Capt Tim Clarke
(2IC Ops O)

Capt Charles Davies
(ADC to COS)

Capt Alan Othen
(Ad Sp Regt)

Lt Barry Costiff
(PA Comd)

Lt Marc Mazzer
(DO UN HQ)

UN SECRETARIAT WELCOME:
Miguel Lopez
(Procurement Officer)

Michael McNally
(Chief Communications Officer)

Gert Schmidt
(Inventory Control Officer)

Alberto Tuset
(Radio Operator)

Jose Viteri
(Radio Operator)

UN SECRETARIAT FAREWELL:
Bryce Adams
(Procurement Officer)

Margaret Barton
(Secretary to Spokesman)

‘WELSHCON’ CELEBRATE
Members of ‘WELSHCON’ were seen
celebrating St David’s day (1st March)
in style over a cup of tea without a leak
in sight!

NEW ASSISTANT EDITOR TO THE
BLUE BERET

The Assistant Editor of the Blue Beret changes this month
and we welcome Mrs Linda Horne who will be taking over the
post from Mrs Angela Smith. Angela, who has been Assistant
Editor since February 1988 will be greatly missed. Her resource-
fulness, cheerful determination and technical expertise ensured
the production of 24 editions of the Blue Beret. We wish Angela
and her husband Vic success and happiness.

THE PYLATHON

The SWEDCIVPOL Pylathon race is open to everyone in UNFICYP. It
runs 15.3km from the SWEDCIVPOL sub station in Pyla to the HQ at
Camp Flamingo in Larnaca. The race has become an increasingly
popular event and last year hundreds of UNFICYP members ran
or even walked the distance.

The fastest runner during 1989
was the AUSCON Platoon Leader of
Pyla, Capt Joseph Del Marco, with a
time of one hour and eight seconds.

If you are interested in taking part
please contact the SWEDCIVPOL
sports officer - Insp Bucklund at
Larnaca.

Capt Joseph Del Marco is pictured
here with his Pylathon diploma which
every participant receives after com-
pleting the race.