VISIT OF BRITISH STATE OF SERVICE FOR DEFENCE, THE RT HON MALCOLM RIFKIND, MP

From the left: Sgt Howarth, Brig Lambe, Mr Rifkind, LCpl Gibbons, Dr Swaaney, LCpl Evans and LCpl Aveling
The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind recently visited the British Contingent in UNFICYP.
On 26 Oct 92 at the UNFICYP Headquarters, he made a courtesy call to Maj Gen Minehane, Force Commander UNFICYP. The retired Quarter Guard for the visit was provided by Sp Regt.
He was then taken to Sector Two where he was met by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col RE Freedy, after which he made a visit to OP D-40 where Gnr Tony Lloyd of Q (Sanne's) Posy Battery gave Mr Rifkind an OP brief.

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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. Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs are also welcome, should accompanied the articles. 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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EDITORIAL
On 11 November 1918 at 1100 hrs, the armistice to end the First World War came into effect. That date became "Armistice Day" and was recognised as a time to reflect on the ultimate price paid by the youth of a generation. From the search to find meaningful ways of recognising that supreme sacrifice, the idea of paying tribute to an "unknown soldier" was developed and also the concept of a special Remembrance Day, together with the "poppy" as the poignant symbol of remembrance.

Unfortunately the "Great War", euphemistically referred to as the "war to end all wars", was followed by other conflicts, and the annual November Day of Remembrance evolved as a solemn ceremony to remember soldiers who fell in a variety of wars around the world. Here in UNFICYP, this tradition is maintained in the ceremonies by the British Contingent at Wayne's Keep and by the Canadian Contingent at the Wolesley Barracks memorial, both conducted in the company of a large representation from other contingents. This gesture by peacekeepers recognises the sacrifice of other soldiers; a sacrifice that continues to be required, even in some United Nations operations, because of the continued propensity of man to engage in major conflict.

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UN MP Patrol

by S/Sgt Keve Capon
The Blue Beret

November 1992

BATTERY TITLES EXPLAINED

by Lt T Price-Jones

P BATTERY (THE DRAGON TROOP) ROYAL ARTILLERY

The Dragon Troop was formed at the request of the Madras Government as a Troop of Horse Artillery in 1805.

Between 1840-1842, the Troop took part in the expedition to China (the Boxer Rebellion) and fought at the battles of Canton, Amoy, Tinghai, Chenhia and Ningpo in 1841 and Shanghai and Chinkiang in 1842. This expedition is the major contributory factor in the Battery's present title "The Dragon Troop" which was subsequently awarded in 1926, and the battle of Chinkiang (21 July 1842) is now celebrated as "Dragon Day". As a result of this period, the Troop was granted the honour title 'CHINA' in 1843.

During this time, the Troop was still based in India and it was from India that the 2nd Burmah War was mounted which resulted in the Troop being granted the honour title "PEGU" in 1853. There followed a further period in India and England with many changes in title between 1853 and 1900. The title P Battery RHA emerged in 1889.

Q (SANNA'S POST) BATTERY

Q (Sanna's Post) Battery was formed on 1 March 1824 in Poona, India as 3rd Troop, The Bombay Horse Artillery. Between 1838 and 1857, the Troop saw action in the First Afghan War, the Sikh and the Persian Wars. In 1858, the Battery saw service during the Indian Mutiny.

Following several title changes, in 1869, the Battery assumed the title Q Battery Royal Horse Artillery. The Battery next saw service in the Boer War between 1899 and 1901. On 31 March 1900, it had its finest hour when it saved its guns and the majority of General Broadwater's force from a vicious Boer ambush at the Battle of Kroon Spruit, near Sanna's Post. The Battery fought with such collective gallantry and skill that Field Marshal Lord Roberts ordered four Victoria Crosses to be awarded, in addition to three Distinguished Conduct Medals. It is the most highly decorated action in the history of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. In 1926, the Battery was granted the honour title 'Sanna's Post'.

The Battery's history continued to evolve through the First and Second World Wars with further equipment and name changes. As a consequence of Army restructuring, the Battery comes full cycle when in May 1963 after 169 years of service, it disbanded as a Locating Battery. The title will then move to the Headquarters Battery of 5 Regiment. As such, the proud traditions of the Battery will live on.

VISIT OF PADRE TO SECTOR TWO

The Padre, Captain Ray Hayter, recently paid a visit to 5 Regiment Royal Artillery, Sector Two.

Ray, who is the Regiment's Padre back in Dortmund, Germany, came over to Cyprus for a fortnight. As well as holding a field service, he visited many of the soldiers on the line and learnt a lot about the work of the United Nations. This was the Padre's first visit to the UNFICYP.

Padre Hayter prepares for his field service.
Day to Day for Bravo Troop, Eastern Battery

by 2/Lt M White

OP B-26 is home for 22 soldiers who man OPs B-27, B-28 and B-40 on a 24-hour rotation. A typical day starts at 0800 hrs with routine slipping into gear as the water truck arrives and duty personnel ready themselves for another day’s work. The personnel at B-25 are also part of Bravo Troop, and the function of all these OPs is to oversee the rural area of Eastern Battery within Sector Two.

Meals preparation is taken care of by the hobby cooks. However, their absence, Troop salads by L/Bdr Edmunds are becoming legendary, and roasts are definitely Sgt Snell’s specialty!

After lunch, sports kit can be worn instead of uniform for off-duty personnel and throughout the afternoon, Troop projects can continue with greater ease. Currently, B-24 is building a recreation and Bar-B-Q area, and B-25 are also constructing their own Bar-B-Q. The afternoon tasks, other than continuing to observe our area, include painting the 45 gallon drums that indicate the Farming Security Line.

As the temperature falls at night, there is a variety of leisure and recreation pursuits for off-duty personnel. Of course, letter-writing is also actively encouraged.

For the future months, several events are planned to keep us occupied in ways other than manning the OPs along the line. The rugby season is well underway, as is the orienteering which also helps in maintaining fitness.

Bravo Troop has a large area to cover from its four OPs, however spectacular panoramic views are an added bonus within our TAOR.

Logistics Conference

The Force Commander’s Logistics Conference, which was hosted by Sector Two, recently took place in St David’s Camp. The Conference, which was organised by Sector Two’s Quartermaster, Capt TJ Vickers, ran smoothly.

Once the Conference was over, the Commanders were taken on a line tour and then they all participated in a mini assault course which was devised by the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, WO2 T Nugent.

Search and Rescue - An Improved Service from Flight

by Lt P Duke

A for more than one task this summer to search for missing sailors and windsurfers caught out at sea by strong winds, the UNIFICYP Flight decided they would attempt to improve their service by putting themselves into the position of those unfortunate yachtsmen in trouble.

During the summer months, the pilots practised wet dinghy drills and roping techniques, successfully “rescuing” at least four victims each. In addition, each one of the pilots subjected himself to a turn at the other end of the rope, so they now all know how it feels to be stranded.

So relax in future! It is, of course, better to be careful and avoid taking risks when out on the open waves, especially with the change in season. However, should the AAC Flight discover a would-be seaperson in danger, the present team feel they are in position to tackle any problem which may arise.

Capt A Hackford delivers the general salute

HE Mr Camilion presenting Sgt Kibble with his UN medal

The Adjutant, Capt A Wallace, on parade

AAC F12 at work

The Troop Comd, Mr. White

Sgt Snell

L/Bdr Edmunds

Logistics personnel on a line tour of Sector Two
LIMNITIS CAMP
by WOL L. Larsen, Admn SNCO, C Coy, DANCON

Limnitis Camp is situated in the western part of Sector One's area of responsibility. The Camp, formerly the Irish Contingent's location, was taken over by DANCON in 1970. It is currently home for C Coy, totalling 118 men who man the OPs in the Lefta area. The Coy HQ and two rifle platoons are quartered in the Camp, and the third rifle platoon is placed in Kokkina which is further west.

The command post, C Coy, situated in the centre of the Camp armoury, the local shop and last but not least the kitchen are also run by this Platoon.

One rifle platoon at a time takes care of OP duties. The second platoon, which is not on OP duty, is stationed in the Camp in a reserve role. As part of such tasks, they carry out sentry duty, fire pickets and are also part of the Force Reserve.

The Command Post, C Coy, situated in the centre of the Camp armoury, the local shop and last but not least the kitchen are also run by this Platoon.

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The Privates' quarters.

Of course, the soldiers of DANCON do avail of leave during their tour. However, even after a stay in Ayia Napa, OP duty is actually what the Danish soldier looks forward to - or so we are told!

The Camp's keep fit room.

The Privates' quarters.

In September, 714 persons participated in the DANCON March. The two 25km marches took place as usual in the Troodos mountain range. Of the 714 participants, only 640 finished the March with the Medical Section working hard to tend to blisters, heatstroke and cramp.

The Danish Contingent would like to thank all participants for their fighting spirit during the very last "DANCON March".

Footnote: The spirit of this major mass participation UNFICYP activity surely demands that it be continued as a unique, biannual feature on the UNFICYP social, recreational and training calendar. Will it continue??

One of the high climbs on the second day, 1.5 km after the start.

1 RCHA AND BRANDON MANITOBA SHOW SOLIDARITY
by Capt J Fortolozczy

The 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery and the City of Brandon, Manitoba formally exchanged flags at a parade in front of the Brandon City Hall on 31 July 1992. Many of the Citizen's, along with the local media, were present to take part, both at the parade and the following reception. This reflects the close cooperation between the City, the Canadian Forces Base Shilo and 1 RCHA Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

Brandon is the second largest city in Manitoba with a population of some 40,000. It is located in the southwest part of the province. The Mayor is Mr R Borotak who, along with the Base Commander of CFB Shilo, Col JHLHP Boucher, will visit the Regiment here in Cyprus in January 1993. The Base and City are closely intertwined economically which is a real plus to all of southern Manitoba. Many Brandonites hold jobs at the Base and vice versa. In addition, the City provides amenities which would be sorely missed by the families of Shilo, had the Base been located in a very remote location.

Brandon is also home to the 26th Field Regiment, which is one of the militia (reserve) units contributing soldiers to 1 RCHA while here in Cyprus. 26 Fd Regt has been a source of soldiers and support for the Regiment since it has been in Shilo. Soldiers of 26 Fd Regt are counted on for augmentation to the Regiment during exercises, both in Shilo and abroad. The Regiment also supports 26 Fd Regt by providing expertise, training and equipment.

Whilst the Regiment is on United Nations service, the UN flag is flown daily in front of the Brandon City Hall, hence the Regiment flies the Brandon City flag in front of the Contingent Orderly Room at BBC. When the Regiment returns to Canada, the flags will be returned with a ceremony marking the continued support and pride of both communities.

SECTOR THREE PARTICIPATES IN THE LAST DANCON MARCH

All the participants had a good time, even if it seemed to be "uphill both ways". Sector Three would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Danish Contingent for their sponsorship of these events, which were a highlight of many a tour.

Sgt B E Partridge thinking "be careful how you put that thing on" while receiving his DANCON March Medal.

Once again, the much anticipated DANCON March was undertaken in the Troodos Mountains. Sector Three carried on the long tradition of Canadian participation in these marches with the Recce Troop and AUNR Troop taking part.

Sgt P J Dick pipes the Sector Three group to the finish of the DANCON March.
AUNR TROOP RAPPEL, IN TROODOS

It was just another sunny Cyprus day - or so many of the AUNR (Augmented United Nations Reserve) troops thought. However, it was a day for them to travel into the Troodos mountain range and partake in some serious but enjoyable military training - rappelling.

After the somewhat long yet scenic ride, the 22 soldiers arrived at the chosen location and setup. The rappel master, Sgt M Mimmis, together with Lt Plourde, WO Wells and Bdr Trowbridge, quickly had soldiers going down the mountainside. Rocky cliffs certainly added the element of danger, which soon got the adrenalin pumping! Throughout the day, no major accidents occurred, although WO Wells did take a small tumble and ended up upside down... After lunch, the soldiers continued honing their skills and increasing their fitness levels by both climbing and rappelling.

AUNR would like to thank S/Sgt Mimmis and his able assistant from the FSC Sqn for their help in making the training most successful.

THE AUSCON SPORTS CLUB (ASC)

The AUSCON Sports Club (ASC), originally founded towards the end of 1989, has not been very active of late. However at the end of July, it suddenly found new life. The Club was set up to organize sports for the troops of AUSCON in their spare time.

The ASC offers a lot to all members of AUSCON and their families - there are about 15 sections including tennis, table tennis, riding, sailing, surfing, diving, soccer, volleyball, etc. The President of the ASC, the DCO, Lt Col Wildberger, is an active supporter of the Club and is always looking for new activities.

Not long ago the ASC party took place in Camp Duke Leopold V, and everyone joined in the celebrations, participating in the many and varied activities. At the end of the day, a raffle was held and the winner received a mountain bike.

NEWS FROM “A” SQUADRON
16th/5th THE QUEEN’S ROYAL LANCERS

A Squadron is now firmly adjusted and settled into its new role. The Admin Officer, Capt Dai Davies has hosted the Staff Liaison visit of Maj Bill Wiseman and his logistics team from the Headquarters. As we are still being housed, clothed and fed, all parties must have been pleased!

This was followed by the visit of the Chief of Staff and Commander BRITCON, Brig Dick Lambe, for his introductory visit to the Squadron. After a briefing, he was given a tour of Prince William Camp with the opportunity to chat to soldiers at their place of work and meet some of the Squadron personalities over coffee in the Sergeants’ Mess.

The Force Commander, Maj Gen Michael Minehan, paid a similar visit which started with the inspection of the Lance Guard, followed by a tour of the various departments within the Camp.

Another highlight of the “top brass” visits was that of General Sir John Waters, Commander in Chief UK Land Forces. With a very hectic schedule, which also included seeing other units, part of his line tour involved flying in to see 5th Troop based at Skouriotissa Camp. He was met by the Troop Leader, Lt Pownall, and Sgt Naven, who briefed him on the role of a Scout Car Troop. On returning to Prince William Camp, a Lance Guard, which is a traditional honour conferred upon high ranking visitors, was awaiting and in turn inspected by the General. This was followed by drinks in the Sergeants’ Mess, where he presented Sgt C Tuffley, REME with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Finally before he departed, lunch was held in the delightful surroundings of the Officers’ Mess garden.

On the adventure training and sporting front, the Squadron’s participation has been exceptionally active. 52 members were recipients of the DANCON March medal, after successfully completing the two day arduous hike in the mountains. It has also been pleasing to note the interest generated in sailing and diving. In addition, the Squadron has now recorded two soccer victories over 1 RCHA, while L Cpl Duroe and L Cpl Woodridge were part of the plate winning Unicorn Rugby Team at the Dhekelia Sevens.
**LIFE AT OP A-28**

**THE GUARD OF THE SEA**

by Capt F Wanka

This OP is usually manned with seven soldiers, four of whom are always on duty. Now what does their day look like? Well, at 0630 hours, reveille is called and they turn to for their duties. First priority is to take care of the body - so, breakfast is taken and finished by 0730. This is followed by a training programme while those resting from duty are responsible for cleaning the OP. Of course, the sentry post is continually manned and observation is maintained over the area all the time.

![2/Cpl Scheri at the Watch Tower](image)

Sgt Hammerer, Pte Auzinger, M/Cpl Unger, L/Cpl Binder, Sgt Koeppn and L/Cpl Trampitsch.

Our area includes the three-mile Maritime Security Line. The Post Commander has the responsibility to ensure that observation is maintained over our area on a 24-hour basis.

Observation Post routine chores and training continue throughout the morning while our part-time cooks take their turns to prepare lunch. This we have about 1330 hours, having endured the appetizing aroma from the kitchen area as we go about our tasks.

Those not engaged on duties are free for sport and recreation activities in the afternoon. This means swimming during the summer months, because the Post has its own beach close by. This amenity means we get many "guests" from other OPs along the line. All are welcome because it makes a change to the daily routine. The unfortunate sentry oversees all these activities during his tour of duty, longing for his turn in the Mediterranean when his duty ends.

No wonder OP A-28 is a popular OP for those who serve here.

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**A SPORTSMAN IN AUSCON**

One of the best sportsmen in AUSCON is M/Cpl Schrottenbach. He comes from Karinithia where he was serving as a soldier in the WSR 72.

M/Cpl Schrottenbach has taken part in many competitions, for example in the military pentathons during world championships. Since he arrived in AUSCON, he has come third in the Episkopi Triathlon during September. This event involved a 1,500 m swim, a 40 km bike ride and a 10 km run. All this he achieved in 2:17 - the winner finished in 2:13. At the cross-country relay in Akrath, he recorded the best time of the day, and helped his team to reach second place.

Keeping fit requires a lot of hard work. Every day when his duties are over, M/Cpl Schrottenbach starts his training. Sector Four wish him a lot of success in the future.

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**SHOOTING COMPETITION IN UNAB**

The winner of the rifle match, WO1 Inkoz (left) and the winner of the pistol match, Capt Kettler.

A Shooting Competition was recently held in Sector Four including the pistol match, the rifle match and the falling plates. At the end of the Competition, the CO presented the prizes to the happy winners.

The pistol match was won by Capt Kettler, the Sector Four Quartermaster. WO1 Inkoz was the winner of the rifle match, and the champion of UNAB was the team from HQ Coy.

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**VISIT BY COS UNIFICYP**

COS UNIFICYP, Brig RM Lambe, recently visited UNAB.

The helicopter carrying Brig Lambe arrived during the morning at Camp Duke Leopold V, where he was greeted by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Hollinger. The COS then inspected the guard of honour in front of the Mess. He was later introduced to the officers of the camp, after which he received a briefing and inspected several OPs on the line.
Australian Civilian Police Contingent

CYPUS

TIME TO WELCOME ANOTHER CONTINGENT

The 11 new members of the 37th AUSTCIVPOL Contingent with three "older" members:-

Back row (L to R): Peter Murphy, Charlie Wright, John Straske, Patricia Reynolds, Bob Corrigan, Paul Southen, Sergio Aquilante.

Front row (L to R): Jamie Bellisante, Brian Whinnen, Peter Wilde (Papua), Harry Bryant (Commander), Geoff Hazel (Administrative), Robby Robinson, Shane Bloomby.

Bob Corrigan have worked with AUSTCIVPOL before. Brian was here with the 19th Contingent in 1982 and continued a long tradition by marrying a British girl he met on the island. Seven of the arrivals work in Australia's capital, Canberra - the remainder come from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. We welcome you all to Cyprus.

FURTHER TRAVELS OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, Mr Eddie Stevens, continued his travels of the Island by visiting the Danes in Sector One. Avid readers of the Blue Beret will recall that in June, Eddie was seen in Sector Four visiting SWEDCIVPOL. Following a line tour, Mr Stevens was met by a guard of honour at C Coy Camp. Later, he and his entourage were entertained in high style by members of DANCAM at Limnitis Camp.

AUSTCIVPOL VOLLEYBALL GAME

It was a close game, but the Aussies scraped in to win the new Contingent volleyball match against SWEDCIVPOL. Held twice yearly between the incoming contingents of both civilian police elements, the AUSTCIVPOL victory gave them successive wins since recapturing the cup in April this year. Played over the best of five sets, the guys from Oz clinched the game in the final round.

A neutral umpire, Geoff Hazel gave no indication of which team he supported in the UNCIVPOL volleyball match.

Although there was a degree of rivalry during the game, the true reason for the competition was for the new contingents to meet. After the match, the Aussies hosted a "Fair Drinkum" B-B-Q at their Mess, where the odd glass of amber fluid was downed by both sides.

Military Police Detachment Xeros is located about 4 km west of Viking Camp (HO Sector One). The manning of the Detachment is carried out by the Detachment Commander, SSgt Simonsen (DANCAM), the 2u/c Sgt Arsovski (SWEDCIVPOL) and two patrolmen, Sgt Friberg (SWEDCIVPOL) and Sgt Jakobsen (DANCAM).

Xeros Detachment has the biggest Military Police area of responsibility on the Island. We deal with incidents on both sides of the Buffer Zone, some of which involve civilians. In such cases, the Detachment works together with civilian police with whom we have evolved good working procedures and relations.

In the Xeros area, you will find some of the worst roads on the Island that cause many accidents. Our tasks necessitate a lot of time on the roads, but we don't mind because the landscape is so beautiful. People who have completed the DANCAM March in the wonderful scenery of Troodos will probably know this. For some, Xeros is boring but in fact for MPs, it is one of the best places on this island.

FAMAGUSTA DETACHMENT

by SSgt J Horvath

In the heart of Famagusta, there is a detachment of the UN Military Police Company. Four self-sufficient Military Policemen work here together: two from Denmark (SSgt Christensen (Conq) and Sgt Roelvink) and two from Austria (SSgt Horvath (CQ) and Sgt Pagutsch). A variety of duties are performed, occasionally involving close liaison with local police elements.

In spite of a busy schedule, participation in UNCYP sport is also important to the detachment.

The working arrangements and team spirit within the crew is very good, and all members of this Detachment enjoy working hard to accomplish their mission.