

GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



October - December 2004
No. 101



Dear Reader!



According to the old saying, "Time flies when you are having fun." During these days, it seems to me that time in the UNDOF-Mission flies quicker than anywhere else. Why? The reasons I have are not only that I am really having fun at my UNDOF-Mission but also that I feel so due to the reasons below. Firstly, it is because the winter has come again to the Golan Heights. When I arrived at the Golan Heights as Deputy

Military Public Information Officer in HQ-UNDOF about 10 months ago, I was very impressed by the beauty of Mt. Hermon covered with snow. And then, during November 2004, the snow returned once again to Mt. Hermon signaling the coming of winter.

Secondly, the members of UNDOF have changed almost completely from October through December 2004, during which each contingent rotated and many peacekeepers finished their mission in safety and returned to their countries without any incidents. Lots of new faces, so called "Geckos", have arrived.

At last, the year of 2005 has begun. The beginning of the year is a good opportunity to look back to past events of UNDOF and at myself.

Time flies - seasons change, people also change and a new year comes, but I think we haven't changed much in this mission. When it comes to UNDOF, all we have to do is conduct our mission, that is to observe and supervise the ceasefire agreement between Syria and Israel, with the earnest wish for future peace on the Golan.

And also we can say that this year is a new step for both UNDOF and the Golan Journal. It means that this is the 31st year at the end of our 30th anniversary as UNDOF and also this edition is the 101st Golan Journal.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year and all the best for 2005. *See you!*

Capt Daisuke Horiguchi
D/MPIO HQ-UNDOF

| | | |
|----------------|--|----|
| D/MPIO | Editorial | 2 |
| FC UNDOF | Force Commander's Message | 3 |
| COS UNDOF | COS Words / FC Meetings | 4 |
| New People | New People in UNDOF | 5 |
| Visits | Visits to UNDOF | 6 |
| Engineering | Domino Plan for "UNDOF New" | 7 |
| AUSBATT | Survival of the Fit | 8 |
| AUSBATT | Mass in Quneitra / Peace Light | 9 |
| J-CON | Tasks / Reopening of the Club Fuji | 10 |
| POLBATT | Visit of COS / Change of Command | 11 |
| Miscellaneous | Santa on tour | 12 |
| Miscellaneous | KHUKRI - The Nepalese Gorkha Knife | 13 |
| CANCON | UNDOF Vehicle Rodeo Competition | 14 |
| CANCON | Lest we not forget / Donations | 15 |
| SLOVCON | Echoes from the press visit to SLOVCON | 16 |
| MP | Safe driving in UNDOF | 17 |
| Miscellaneous | Bingo / Opening of Gym | 18 |
| Civilian Staff | CPX-Training | 19 |
| OGG | OGG-Training / New Chief OGG | 20 |
| We about us | FC Office | 21 |
| History | Bet Gabriel | 22 |
| Recreation | Recreation Gallilee | 23 |

Front (Page 1): GOLAN the UNDOF Journal / Issue 101
Santa Claus on Posn 80, Photo WO II Gernot Payer

Back (Page 28): Skidoo on Mt. Hermon.....
Photo by 1st Coy / AUSBATT

Editorial Staff:

Editor:
Maj Stefan May
Managing Editor,
Layout Designer and
Force Photographer:
WO II Gernot Payer
Co-Editor:
Capt D. Horiguchi
Proofreader:
E. Lynn Elvaiah

Editorial Office:

UNDOF HQ
Camp FAOUAR
Tel: 6130214-5203
E-Mail: undof-photo@un.org

Unit Press Officers:

AUSBATT - **Capt H. Hutter**
CANCON - **Capt S. H. Usborne**
J-CON - **Lt I M. Fukozawa**
POLBATT - **Capt J. Barczewski**
SLOVCON - **Lt I T. Hunal**
OGG - **Capt D. O'Connor**
MP - **Capt G. Muranski**



The Golan Journal is the magazine of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and it is intended to provide information about the Force and events within it which are of interest to its members. The UNDOF Military Public Affairs Office publishes the Golan Journal every third month. While articles and photographs are welcomed from all members of the Force, the view and opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the United Nations or the Force Commander.

The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications except where an acknowledgment is made to another holder. No articles or illustrations may be reproduced without the permission of the editorial staff.

Happy New Year from the Force Commander!

Dear Fellow Peacekeepers

Well, my first twelve months with all of you in UNDOF have gone by very quickly indeed. It has been quite an eventful and busy year on all fronts, which I'm sure has helped the time to pass quickly for you also. By now, I have had the pleasure and opportunity to meet almost everyone in the mission, both military and civilian.

Let me state, at this stage, my gratitude and recognition for the camaraderie and support which I have received at every turn from all of you, since my arrival. We will continue to work together for the betterment of all and the achievement of the mission and our goals.

Since my arrival in the mission, I am delighted with our achievements, especially with the progress of our modernization plan. We have succeeded in enhancing our operational capabilities and our security. We have also substantially improved



our infrastructure and, most importantly, maintained peace on the Golan. Well done and thank you to all in UNDOF for an excellent team performance.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all the recently arrived peacekeepers. Welcome to the Golan and to UNDOF. I wish also to welcome the newly arrived OGG UNMOs to the UN Golan peacekeeping family. Have a peaceful, enjoyable and successful stay here.

With the arrival of the winter weather, I urge all of you to slow down

and drive carefully on these challenging roads, which we must travel daily. Remember, better to arrive late than never!

Finally, may I wish all of you and your loved ones, wherever they may be, peace, prosperity and all the best for the New Year 2005.

*Thank you
Danke
Arigato*

*Điakujem
Dziękuję
Merci*



Major General B. N. SHARMA
Force Commander UNDOF

Chief of Staff Words

Comrades of UNDOF!

Time flies and the year was over before we realized it. This is probably because the Mission keeps us busy. Whoever claims that this Mission is a quiet one has not served here. At least for myself, I can confirm: Only a busy soldier is a happy soldier.

In recent months, I have witnessed a lot of very good work being carried out. Your commitment to doing your job in a proper and effective way was a pleasure to see and some have deeply impressed me with their motivation and for the trouble they took in the spirit of good co-operation and pursuit of the goals of UNDOF. We have seen many improvements in the Mission and we can say that life is not so bad in UNDOF. No doubt: nothing is perfect and some aspects might be frustrating. But we can and will not give up striving for our common goals, trying to better ourselves, learning from mistakes and fulfilling our tasks in the most professional manner. We should not look at what we are

being provided with, but what we make out of it. This is just the soldiers' life.

In addition to this, in UNDOF we have the opportunity to make contacts with other peoples and cultures and to represent our own countries. With great satisfaction, I saw contingents working together and socializing. Keep this up and make the best use of your time here!

To those who arrived recently, I encourage you to look at UNDOF first. If something is not to your complete satisfaction, don't look away. Take the initiative and change it. Everyone of us - no matter which rank or nationality - can make UNDOF a better Force. We are obliged to pass on a working Force to our successors and a humane and pleasant place in which to live. Looking around, I see space for us all to improve the situ-

ation.

"Performance raises the self-esteem, self-esteem raises the contentment". Isn't this what we are trying to achieve?

I am looking forward to working with you in the New Year. There are many challenges, on which I will not go into detail. I am sure, you know them and we will manage to tackle them and succeed, if we work together and even sometimes (!), put duty before personal interests. In this spirit, I wish you all a happy and successful New Year, satisfaction about your contribution to peace, health for you and your families and a safe return home!

Col Andreas Safranmüller
COS UNDOF



FC Meetings



Every half a year FC UNDOF meets diplomats and attaches in both host countries. The main items this time (12th January in Tel Aviv, left, 19th January in Damascus, right) were the incident at the Lebanese border, where one UNTSO-officer was shot, and the rebuilding of Quneitra.



New People in UNDOF



The new CO-AB

LtCol Herbert Pracher joined the Austrian Armed Forces after completing his school examination in 1976. In 1981 he graduated at the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt to officer's rank.

From 1981 to 2001 he served in the 1st Signals Battalion in Villach as platoon commander, company commander and operations officer and was promoted to LtCol in the year 2000. During the service with Signals Battalion 1 he served also in different UN-missions (1988/89 AUSCON/UNFICYP, 1992/93 HQ/UNFICYP and 1996 UNTSO/OGL).

After graduating of the National Defence College in Vienna 2000 and a seven month period in the G6 Section of the 1st Army Corps in Graz he was appointed 2001 to CO of the Signals Battalion 1. Born in Klagenfurt on 10. April 1957, LtCol Pracher is married to his wife Ilse.



The new CMPO

Lt Col Andrzej Tracz was born in BRODNICA on the 29th of December 1961. His military career started in 1980 when he joined the army. After graduating from the Military High School

of Artillery in Poland he started serving as a Platoon leader, Coy Commander and Chief of Staff of the antitank battalion of the 20th anti-tank regiment.

During that time he finished several courses such as technical self guided missile launcher course in Saint Petersburg and the officer's advanced course in Torun. He graduated from the Defense Military Academy in Warsaw. After that he started service as a Senior Staff officer of Intelligence, Chief of Staff, and Deputy Commanding officer of the Artillery

regiment in Zary. Meantime he was assigned as Deputy Commanding Officer of the Polish contingent in the Golan Heights where he has spent one year.

After returning home he was assigned to the new position as an Administration and Personnel Branch Chief of the 11th Armored Cavalry Division in Zagan. He also had the opportunity to serve as an Administration and Personnel Branch Chief in the Multinational Division Central South (MND CS) in Iraq.

He is married with two children Maciej and Marta.



The new FPM

Capt Paul Mellema was born in New Westminster, British Columbia in 1972 and joined the Canadian Forces in 1991 as a Reservist and entered the Regular Force in 1993. After completing his

Bachelor of Arts degree at the Royal Military College, he then concluded his Military Police Officer training, graduating in 1997.

Following his training he served as Operations Officer and then Deputy Commanding Officer of 2 Military Police Platoon in Petawawa, Ontario, providing MP support to 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and Canadian Forces Base Petawawa.

In May 2000, he was promoted to Captain and posted to Ottawa as the interim Commanding Officer of the Military Security Guard Unit, which provides MP guards for Canadian Embassies overseas. Following this appointment, he moved to National Defence Headquarters where he served on the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal's Staff as Staff Officer Security.

In December of 2001 he was posted to Wainwright Alberta and took command of the Base Military Police until his posting to UNDOF.

Visits to UNDOF



Delegation from US-Embassy in Syria on Mount Hermon (12th October)



Meeting of FC UNIFIL, FC UNDOF, COS UNTSO and Civilian Staff (6th December)



Young Danes studying politics visit POLBATT Posn 60 (7th October)



Japanese defense attaché in Teheran, Col KOBAYASHI, with Col IIDA in Quneitra (2nd November)



Group from British embassy in Damascus getting information in UNDOF HQ (26th November)



DivCdr LtGen SAEKI from Japan familiarizing with AUSBATT / 1st Coy (2nd November)

Further visits to UNDOF

8 Japanese politicians met COS (6th September)

Swedish Army Command in Syria and Lebanon visited 1st Coy AUSBATT (20th October)

The new Dutch defense attaché, LtCol ELDERHORST, and his assistant came for a familiarization tour (27th October)

The nuncio of the Vatican, Msgr. MORANDINI, and his first secretary met FC/UNDOF (28th October)

A group of diplomats in Syria from Germany and Great Britain obtained an UNDOF-Briefing (29th October)

A delegation of the Greek embassy in Damascus participated in an AOS-tour (4th November)

Domino Plan for „UNDOF New“



Final cleanup at Posn 67

Without any doubt the main task issued to UNDOF engineers at present is the implementation of the Force Modernization Program (FMP). It consists of 2 camps and 17 positions to be upgraded entirely. A big portion of modernizing deals with communication.

In addition, it includes the construction and improvement of existing patrol tracks and will be finalized by the "Domino Plan" which means the 'Closure of Positions'. In particular the closure of 11 positions throughout UNDOF-Mission.

The main player in this demolition scenario is Capt KAWAMOTO and his J-CON Heavy Equipment supplemented by civilian hired tools. To date four positions have been dismantled: Posn 16B, Posn 61, Posn 67 and Posn 65.

At the end of August 2004 the order was issued to demolish previous Posn 16B in September and Posn 61 in

October. Both positions were abandoned already. On 16B, just the walls were remaining. No other facilities except a shelter were available. For engineers the policy applies that no military assets may remain before the compound can be handed over to Syrian



Shelter destruction (Posn 67)

Authorities. Posn 61 has been previously reduced. It was just a fenced observation tower to be relocated and was a perfect task to train our J-CON operators, who arrived recently to UNDOF-Mission.

For Engineers the first real challenge was presented on Posn 67. First, POLBATT Engineers were the engineering advance party on

the site in charge of preparation of every single building, which required salvaging or dismantling. Second J-CON Heavy Equipment to demolish the structure prior to the last party, our civilian contractor Mr Heizam, stepping into the demolition theatre. He was in charge of disposing of construction waste.

After the last structure was torn down a final major clean up completed this enterprising engineering task on 29th Nov 04 according to the schedule. At this stage, FCEO would like to highlight the bad weather conditions of rainy and stormy weather under which



Removal of the watch tower

engineers of all contributing nations performed their task in November 2004.

In Dec 04, engineers focused on Posn 65 which had been already reduced in previous years and appeared to be the right target for a short term project to allow almost every engineer to take their well deserved Christmas Holidays at the end of a demanding year 2004.

*Text by Maj Roman Zaller,
Force Construction Engineering Officer
(FCEO)*

Survival of the Fit

Preparing to fight winter on Mount Hermon

Some call it Jabal Ash Shaykh, others call it Mount Hermon. AUSBATT calls it the heart of UNDOF. No matter how much Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani grow, no matter how elaborate the administration in Headquarters becomes, the *raison d'être* of UNDOF lies in the craggy peaks that loom in the distance covering the horizon.

Some say little happens in the AOS. The soldiers of 1st Company AUSBATT laugh at them. They know that this is not true. In winter time the mountain happens.

"It's a hard life in the mountains" - though spoken with absurd irony their battle cry contains a disquieting amount of truth and aptly captures the mood among the soldiers on Mount Hermon. Before winter comes crashing in on them like an avalanche they make their whole area of responsibility winter ready. Some 250 snow sticks are planted along the 18.5 km of patrol tracks. They are orientation marks for the winter when the meters of high snow make all features of the mountain indistinguishable.

Nested between the slopes and on the summit of the Jabal Ash Shaykh, the position buildings of 1st Company need thorough maintenance every year. A single oversight,

no matter how insignificant it may seem, can turn into an enormous problem in the winter when all supply lines are cut off for months. For the



The 1st Coy is allways prepared for a hard winter

mountain is like the restless baby of an ancient Greek god. When its temper changes it can have disastrous consequences. From one moment to the next the weather can shift and reality itself seems to throw a temper tantrum. Winds of up to 230 km/h cut into every nook and cranny of the buildings and can rob the body of all warmth within seconds. They turn ice and snowflakes into dangerous projectiles and the layers on the position buildings into abstract sculptures by a raving mad artist.

The positions Hermon Base, Hermon South, 12 and the highest manned position of the UN Hermon Hotel must be stocked with rations and supplies. The generators must be refurbished to ensure uninterrupted operation for the whole winter. Nearly 300.000 Liters of fuel are stored for heating, oversnow vehicles, caterpillars

and lubrication.

The preparations run to the last days before winter arrives. As the saying goes, there is no bad weather only insufficient preparation.

Pushing the limits of human endurance is very much out of fashion in our coddled society. Nowadays most people want things the easy way, they magnify every little ache and pain into a crushing impediment and misapprehended weariness as "complete exhaustion". These are the postures of those who give up without trying.

The soldiers of 1st Company AUSBATT never give up. They have no choice. No matter how hard the preparations for the coming winter may be, they know that the going will get much harder if winter hits them unprepared.

But sometimes the sky unwraps its colors around the summit and the sun looks like an enormous flashlight with waning batteries, peace comes to Mount Hermon. The Austrian soldiers know never to underestimate it, never to smile down upon it in disrespect. In moments like these when it reveals its true beauty they know why they keep their brightest smiles for the mountain.

It's a good life up there after all.

Article by Capt G. Schmutzler

New Years Service in Quneitra

The celebration directed by the Austrian Protestant and Catholic padres, Susanne Baus and Christian Rachle, took place at an exceptional place: In the destroyed Orthodox church of Quneitra. Three years ago Pope John Paul II celebrated a holy mass there. Rarely believers of the Austrian contingent have the opportunity to attend a divine service in the 1973 destroyed church.

1st January 2005 at 18 hours the ceremony began: Dozens of Austrians and Slovaks entered the church, walking over the clacking pieces of bricks on the floor, illuminated

by the flickering torches in the windows with no more panes, accompanied by the howling of the dogs straying through the ruins of old Quneitra.



Holy Mass in the church of Quneitra

Members of the 2nd Coy AUSBATT had prepared the religious memorial from an empty shell to a living house of God: behind the iconostas

stood a wooden cross, atop an altar were candles placed on some bricks of the dishonoured church.

During the intercessions the small community prayed for the dead and surviving victims of the tsunami catastrophe but also for all who lost their lives in the Service of Peace within UNDOF.

The Catholic padre plans another service next Easter in the church of the "ghost town" because it is a special spiritual experience for all praying within the naked walls that cry out of the cruelty of war.

Article by Maj Stefan May

Peace Light



The "peace light" just arrives from a region, where peace does not exist.

1986 the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) started this activity: A child from the county of upper Austria lights a fire in the grotto of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and brings it to Austria, where it is distributed to people all over the country. 15 years ago the peace light could be brought to the countries of Eastern Europe for the first time. In the meantime this special symbol of Christmas is given to more than 25 countries all over Europe. The prime minister of

the county of Upper Austria, Josef Pühringer, also this time accompanied the child to Bethlehem, and with him 60 people of his county. In November 2004 Elke Wiesmair, a 13 year old girl from the town of Wels, set on fire the light in the grotto of Bethlehem. Also that year the prime minister invited Austrian UN-soldiers who are serving on the Golan to the ceremony of handing over the light in Jerusalem.

On 23 November 2004 six soldiers from Upper Austria under the command of MajMD (Medical Doctor) Angelika Felkl set off for Jerusalem. In the Austrian Hospiz the delegation was welcomed very warmly. The handover of the peace light from Elke Wiesmair to the "soldiers of peace"

from Upper Austria was carried out in a dignified way.

After the official part of the ceremony all of them enjoyed themselves in an easy and comfortable atmosphere. There some comradeship arose and promises were given to meet again, some time in Upper Austria. These promises will be kept for sure. Time passed by very quickly this day.

Next day the small delegation returned back to the Camp, with the light in a little lantern. The activity of the peace light we will keep in mind for the future. For all Upper Austrians We, members of his county, are proud to give a small contribution for the peace in this region.

Text: WO I Engelbert Hager

Task of the J-CON Detachment

Do you know the J-CON Detachment section?



Snow removal at Mount Hermon

Have you met the members of J-CON Det? They are located in CF. The J-CON Det section has only 12 members

and they have many jobs:

Construction (road repair, position demolition, container removal and so on),

Maintenance (heavy equipment, fuel and food, vehicle recovery and so on) and of course, management of J-CON's Club Fuji.

During the winter months you will be seeing these men more often because they will be taking on one more responsibility: snow removal. This year winter arrived earlier than it

has in the past years. So unfortunately the need for snow removal has begun as well.

You may wonder why the snow arrived one month earlier this year?

Well, J-CON has a theory: One of our members, known as the "rain man" (his presence is categorically associated with rain), may be responsible for this phenomenon.

J-CON has vowed not to reveal his name but after a few drinks, who knows? Stop by Club Fuji and try to find out!

Article by Sgt T. Shigemizu

Det J-CON

Reopening of the Club Fuji

On 15 Oct 04, the Japanese Contingent held a reopening ceremony for Club Fuji in CF. The event began at 1600 hrs with the COS present as our guest of honor. Maj Adachi, the S S O L O G and Club Fuji President, welcomed all guests and explained the intention of this event:

"We would like to invite everyone to Club Fuji. J-CON has just completed the renewal so that everyone can join more easily."

Following the COS's toast, the Japanese Contingent and our guests enjoyed drinking and eating Japanese food:

sushi, tempura. And more.

The lottery game, which took place shortly before 1730 hrs, was our final event. A total of 170 persons visited

qualification gift.

Membership benefits are as follows:

For visitor: **\$1 for 1 drink**

For members: **\$1 for 2 drinks**

+ on the last day of your UNDOF mission – drinks are free!



Most of the new members won a prize

Join us in Club Fuji...

Club Fuji and were presented with a t-shirt, a Japanese Club Fuji Original.

Everyone is invited to Club Fuji! We recommend that you join as a member. All you have to do is get your picture taken no charge of course. The Japanese Contingent will give you

Wed 2000-2300 (last order 2230)
Fri 2000-2400 (last order 2330)

Recently we have seen many pictures of new Club Fuji members. T-shirts, "Happi" souvenirs and more await you, so come and join us!

Capt T. Kawamoto, CO Det J-CON

Chief of Staff of the Polish Armed Forces visited POLBATT

On the 29th of November 2004, the Polish Military Contingent on the Golan Heights was visited by the Chief of Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, the "SOLDIER NUMBER ONE" of the Republic of Poland - Gen Czesław Piątas.

A delegation accompanied by the Chief of Staff was led by BGen Bogusław Samol. After the official welcome, Gen Piątas took part in the briefing and asked detailed questions. He was especially interested in working conditions and POLBATT

tasks as well as the UNDOF Modernization Program. POLBATT CO - LtCol Rajmund T. Andrzejczak briefed him on



Gen Czesław Piątas greets the Polish soldiers

the military and political situation in the mission area and presented the main manda-

tory tasks conducted by Polish soldiers. Then, Gen Piątas met with UNDOF FC, MGen. Bala N. Sharma and both generals visited the Traditional Hall of the Polish Military Contingent.

After lunch with the UNDOF FC and POLBATT CO, members of the delegation met with POLBATT soldiers. During the meeting, Gen Piątas wished all Polish Soldiers a quiet Christmas Eve, Happy New Year and a happy return to their homeland after finishing their duty in this UNDOF Peacekeeping Mission.

Change of Command

Articles and Photos by Capt J. Barczewski



The ceremony took place at Camp Ziouani

On October 7, 2004 POLBATT celebrated a Change of Command at Camp Ziouani. The outgoing CO, LtCol Wiesław Orkisz handed over the command to the incoming CO - LtCol Rajmund Tomasz Andrzejczak. Among many of POLBATT's special guests were Force Commander

imierz Palasz - representative of the Polish Defence Ministry. The outgoing and incoming COs and distinguished guests presented their addresses. MGen Bala N. Sharma in his address gave special thanks to LtCol Wiesław Orkisz for a well-done job and appreciation for his support to the

MGen Bala Nanda Sharma, Charge d'Affaires Embassy of Republic of Poland in Tel Aviv - HE Janusz Omietalski, Defence Military, Naval and Air Attaché - Col Andrzej Markowicz and from Poland - Col Kaz-

UNDOF mission. The FC gave an encouraging welcome to the new CO - LtCol Rajmund T. Andrzejczak. When the official part of the ceremony was over, all honorable guests and POLBATT soldiers were invited to a very tasty lunch and to spend some fine time in a pleasant atmosphere.

Planting an olive tree



*From left: MGen Bala N. Sharma, HE Janusz Omietalski, LtCol Wiesław Orkisz, LtCol Rajmund T. Andrzejczak
Foreground: Representative of Polish Defence Ministry Col Kazimierz Palasz*

Santa On Tour

Being Santa is getting more and more stressful the closer Christmas comes, as we know. Once again, I had so many obligations all around

the world, but this year I also wanted to come to see the peacekeepers in the Middle East. I was sad to hear that many of them had to stay on

duty during the main festival season of the year and could not be with their beloved ones at home. Therefore my Lord and myself have decided to honor their important and noble duty by paying a courtesy visit to them and by rewarding them with presents and our sincere thanks for their service of peace.

Since Santa is coming from Finland, as you may know, he had to plan a long, long journey. He was quite confident to make it, because this year's reindeer that have been chosen were very strong. Furthermore the sleigh had been serviced to the smallest screw and most importantly, Saint Petrus, the main weather forecaster in heaven had reported cold winter weather with lots of snow and slippery road conditions. So this seemed to be ideal for a smooth and quick run to the Golan.

But there the unexpected happened and on our way to Camp Faouar we got stuck in Arne, so close to our final destination, because of lack of snow, unbelievable. Due to the professional and helpful attitude of the local peacekeepers however, Santa managed not to fail. He changed his means of transport and continued the tour in an UNDOF vehicle guided by FC UNDOF.....

PS: His reindeer were "parked" in a local farmers stable, while he was on tour with the peacekeepers.

Article by Maj S. Perr, FWO

Photos by WO II G. Payer



KHUKRI - THE NEPALESE GORKHA KNIFE

Khukri is kept in every household of Nepal and every Nepalese feels proud of it. The Khukri is kept inside a leather scabbard and made from frog skin leather which has a metal cape. The Khukri typically has two sharp curves. Many Nepali Hindu followers believe that it is the symbol of Gorakhnath, the God of the Gorkhas; however in reality the curves were designed simply to prevent the blood from flowing towards the handle after the weapon is used to kill the prey and to avoid making the fist slippery. There are other such curved grooves in the khukri at the top and the main blade of the weapon which are said to be a Trident of the Hindu God Shiva, the destroyer. The shape also resembles a hoof of the cow which constantly reminds the person not to use it against a cow. The practical reason for the grooves is also to allow the blood to drip efficiently. The blood groove is the buttcap of the knife which resembles the eye of GOD and represents his omnipresence.

The sheath contains, beside the Khukri, two small knives: one to make fire and the other to sharpen the Khukri. Every brave and fighting race must

have one particular kind of weapon uniquely its own and so the Nepalese have their own Khukri. Besides, groups



inhabiting in hilly regions and dense forests areas full of ferocious animals are forced to possess some kind of weapon for self protection from unexpected adversaries. The original Khukri was believed to be like a dagger. Later on, out of necessity and experience, people made it a little curved like a sickle.

After the Anglo War of 1815 and the recruitment of the Gorkhas in the British Army, the Khukri got wider publicity. It was created for the sole purpose of self defense not only from ferocious animals but also from thieves and robbers. Later, the Khukri became the main weapon of the Gorkhas against enemies. It is a part of the uniform of the Royal Nepalese Army soldiers. This is also the case with the British

Gorkha and the Indian Gorkha regiments.

The Khukri can be used in various different ways; such as to cut down a tree, trim the branches, cut grass, dig a hole, kill animals, cut meat and vegetables and start a fire. People in the latter half of the twentieth century think that the famous Khukri then had outlived its use, that it had become an old fashioned

weapon like a dum dum bullet; however, the Gorkha soldiers again used it successfully during the Falkland war. This proved that the Khukri had not become obsolete.

Furthermore, religious sacrifices of animals like goat and buffalo, etc., are accomplished with Khukris. The belief is that the cutting of the sacrificial objects must be done with one blow. Once taken out, the Gorkha soldiers return the Khukri in its sheath only after the performance of the proper religious ceremony called "Kharo Jagauni".

The Khukri has undoubtedly proven to be a useful tool and is famous all over the world. It is a symbol of art, culture and tradition, all rolled into one.

Article by Maj Himadri Thapa

ADC to FC

THE VIII UNDOF VEHICLE RODEO COMPETITION

The 8th UNDOF Vehicle Rodeo Competition took place in Camp Ziouani on the 1st and 2nd of November 2004. The competition focused on driving skills in two categories, the Toyota 4 Runner and Medium Truck. There was a total of 32 competitors from four teams, one team each from: J-CON, POLBATT, AUSBATT, and LOGBATT.

required to perform the Daily Inspection of a vehicle, which had a number of intentional defects they had to discover. The competitors were also required to undergo a written test based on the UNDOF drivers' handbook.

To increase the anxiety, these scores were not revealed until after the driving portion of the competition.

Here are the final results:

Toyota 4 Runner Event

(Individual top 3 ranking)

- 1st - KPR Piascik - POLBATT
- 377 points;
- 2nd - Sgt Isechi - J-CON
- 351 points
- 3rd - Sgt Hyodo - J-CON
- 349 points.

Medium Truck Event

(Individual top 3 ranking)

- 1st - AIC Fukuda - J-CON
- 349 points;
- 2nd - Sgt Berger - AUSBATT
- 325 points
- 3rd - SFC Maruta - J-CON
- 324 points.

Toyota 4 Runner Event

(Team top 3 ranking)

- 1st - POLBATT
- 1393 points;
- 2nd - J-CON
- 1258 points;
- 3rd - AUSBATT
- 885 points.

Medium Truck Event

(Team top 3 ranking)

- 1st - J-CON
- 1237 points;
- 2nd - AUSBATT
- 1098 points
- 3rd - POLBATT
- 1048 points.

Overall Contingent Ranking

- 1st - J-CON
- 2495 points;
- 2nd - POLBATT
- 2441 points;
- 3rd - AUSBATT
- 1983 points
- 4th - CANCON
- 1696 points.



All competitors from four contingents

The aim of the UNDOF Vehicle Rodeo Competition is to encourage all contingents to develop and perfect their driving techniques and abilities, but also to provide an arena in which to demonstrate these skills during a challenging competition. Such a competition provides the opportunity, not only to gain team recognition, but also that sense of personal achievement, which comes when professionals compete with the best of their peers. It was also an excellent way to promote esprit de corps and safety awareness within the UNDOF Mission area.

On the first day of the competition the 32 competitors took part in the Vehicle Defect Test, where each driver was

The second day of the competition was the actual driving portion on the courses laid out on the LOGBATT parade square and baseball field. The skill of the drivers was very much in evidence as they all navigated the complex twists and turns.

The competition was very close, but unfolded in a friendly and professional atmosphere. All involved found the experience challenging, rewarding and culturally enriching.

Congratulations to J-CON for their very good show as this year's overall winner. Congratulations also to all who participated, including judges and organizers, in making the VIII UNDOF Rodeo a success.

Article by WO Bruno Rainville

Photo by Sgt Mike Pearso

LEST WE NOT FORGET

At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, Canadians pause to remember those who died in war.

Services of Remembrance are held in every city and town across Canada. The Canadian contingent also commemorated the 11th of November, Canada's Remembrance Day.

Our parade on 11th November was presided over by the CO of LOGBATT, LtCol Myers. The parade was held in front of the Camp Ziouani cairn, which bears the names of all Canadians who have died in peacekeeping missions in the Middle East. The Canadian service also had prayers from the Padre, the laying of wreaths by the CO and by officers representing the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force. A very touching moment of the service was the reading of the names of the 54 peacekeepers killed in the Middle East. Touching as it was done as the parade participants listened to the tune of Amazing Grace on the bagpipes.

The Canadian Contingent also represented other Commonwealth nations during several ceremonies across the



Religious Leaders of Aleppo with Major D.W. MacGillivray, Chaplain CANCON

Middle East, to recognize the sacrifice of their soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the two World Wars. On 14th November our contingent provided the vigil party for a service at the Commonwealth Cemetery near Tel Aviv, hosted by the British Ambassador to Israel. The Canadian Ambassador to Syria, His Excellency Brian Davis, hosted Services of Remembrance at two Commonwealth Cemeteries, one in Aleppo on 19th November

and the other in Damascus on 21st November. The service at Damascus also included a Canadian honour guard. Further, at these services it was not just Commonwealth countries that were laying wreaths, but also representatives from many other Embassies as well.

The climax of all Canadian Remembrance Day services, whether it is in Canada or celebrated by Canadians overseas, can be said to be the two minutes of silence. This is a time when each person in attendance reflects on the enormity of the sacrifice of those Canadians who have died in War or in peacekeeping missions around the world.

Canadians want to remember their sacrifice, to give thanks and to pray for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We want never to forget.

*Article by Maj Donald MacGillivray
Chaplain CANCON
Photo by Sgt J. Olasz*

DONATIONS TO SYRIAN ORPHANAGE

The Shrine of Saint Paul on the Walls dates back to the First Century AD and commemorates Saint Paul's passing through Damascus. A mosque replaced the church in the 12th century. By 1909 the Melkite-Greek Catholic Patriarchs had purchased the land with the idea of rebuilding the former shrine of Saint Paul.

Since 1964 the Melkite-Greek Catholic Patriarchate has maintained the orphanage and home for the aged under the direction of the Basilian Sisters of Aleppo. The current residents include three Sisters, 35 orphans, ranging in age from 5 to 18 years old and 25 elderly residents. Donations are their only source of income. On the

6th of November 2004 members of the LOGBATT Curling Club Association travelled to Damascus to make a \$2,000 USD donation on behalf of all members of LOGBATT. The Curling Club was founded in 1974 and is a voluntary organization that helps to raise funds for charities.

Article by PO2 W.E. Dymond



Echoes from the press visit to SLOVCON

Utmost hospitality straight treatment and friendly atmosphere – these are the expressions I would use to characterise the attitude of the staff members and all the other soldiers serving in UNDOF, mainly within the Austrian-Slovak battalion. All of these my colleague, Mrs Lenka Chovanec, and I felt during our one-week press visit on the Golan Heights in December 2004. We both would like to express our thanks from Slovakia to all those involved.

These words are not just a phrase, I can compare. As a Chief Editor of a military magazine I have visited once, or several times, missions where Slovak soldiers have been serving in the last two years: African Eritrea, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. Before that I visited our missions as a Spokesman of the Ministry of Defence and going even further into the past I went to see Slovak soldiers abroad as a civilian journalist – I specialized in problems concerning defence for a prominent non-tabloid newspaper.

Especially during those years (btw. 1996-98) I had an excellent opportunity to admire the activity of the Austrian military attaché for the Slovak Republic, BGen Roland Vogel. He played a significant role in the integration process of the Slovak Armed Forces to actively rejoin the big fam-

ily of all nations united under the UN after our mandate had expired in the former Yugoslavia. I must admit that during the week on the Golan I remembered several times this jovial, sociable and highly



Slovak soldier on duty

respected former doyen of the military diplomatic corps in Bratislava.

An agreement between the Austrian and the Slovak Ministers of Defence had been signed in Vienna about a joint battalion within UNDOF in May 1997. It can be added that after the successful creation of the Austrian-Slovak cooperation on the Golan Heights, Slovak troops took over command from their Austrian colleagues in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in 2001. When I was there last year I met only positive response to the whole system and material base handed over from Austrian soldiers. These are definitely the best examples of how to build up a very good partnership between bordering countries. My impressions and experience from our short stay in UNDOF have been

already presented in several private and state media in Slovakia as well as in magazines published abroad: in "The Slovak Canadian" (compatriotic weekly paper published in Toronto) I described the cooperation between Slovaks and Canadians, "The Slovak Spectator" informed the English speaking community in Slovakia about the life of our soldiers serving in Syria (there is also a photo of Japanese and Slovak soldiers displaying their tight friendship). So I could continue to list the high-standard relationships among Polish and Slovak soldiers.

To draw a conclusion to my contribution to the Golan Journal I would like to mention that correctitude and openness

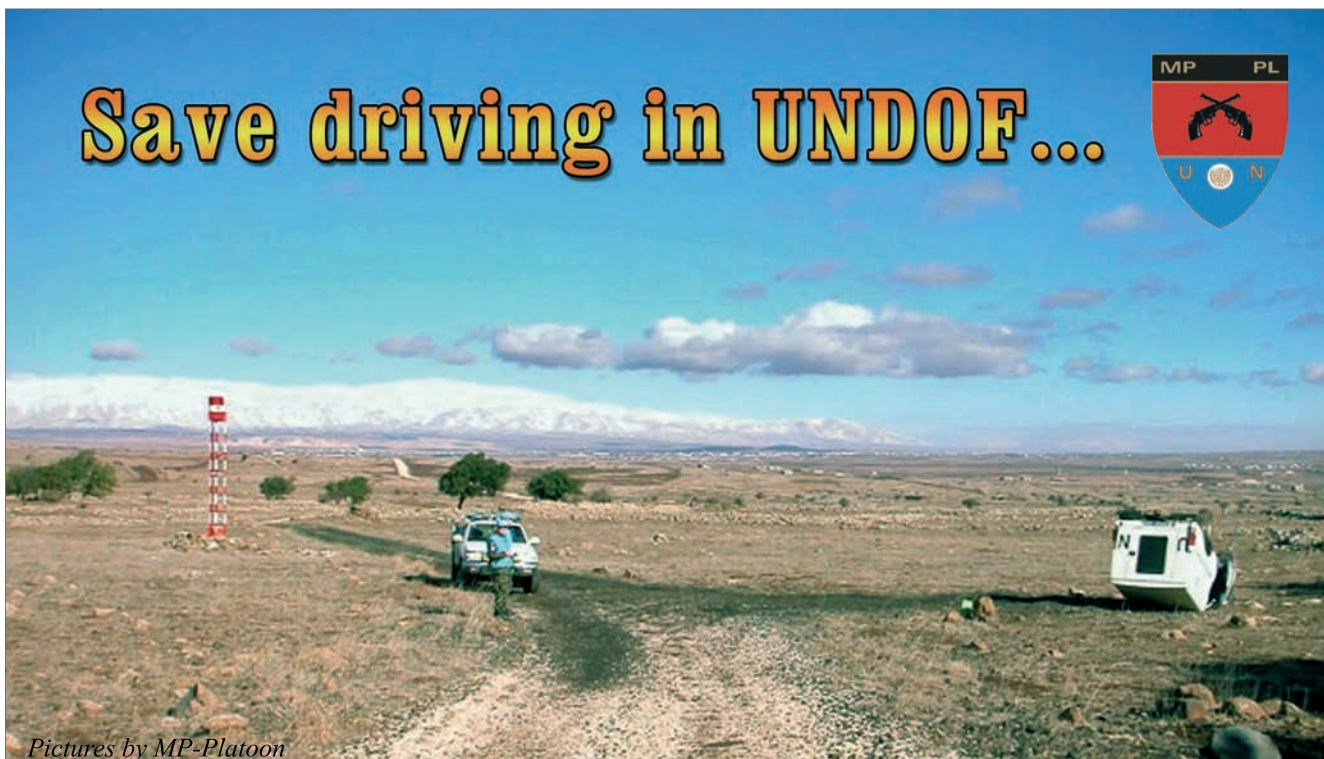


CO SLOVCON, COS, Slovak Journalists

towards journalists should be a natural way of communication between military personnel and the public, and each of these, and more, I met here on the Golan Heights. Thank you very much again.

Text by Mgr. Pavol Vitko, Chief Editor of military magazine "OBRANA" (Defence), Bratislava, Slovakia. Translated and abridged by Janecek Slavomir, Lt II

Save driving in UNDOF...



Pictures by MP-Platoon

During the month of December you may have noticed more MP alcohol checkpoints and speed check points. This is part of our increased focus on safe driving in UNDOF. The majority of UN accidents within the mission area are preventable and are due to speed and driver inattention or carelessness. Keeping to the speed limits and driving with proper care and attention to the traffic and weather conditions will prevent accidents. Here are some examples of accidents that could have been prevented.

Luckily no one was killed in these accidents and only one resulted in serious injuries, however, it could have been very different. The driving regulations are not set to hinder you, but as a way to keep you safe.

Text by Capt P. Mellema

Remember, it is not your driving skills that matter, it is the skills of all the other drivers as well. Only by driving defensively will you ensure you have done all you can to prevent an accident.



New Years Eve Bingo Charity

When the idea of hosting a charity fundraising event on New Year's Eve was presented by the wife of FC UNDOF, Mrs Bibhu SHARMA, mid -December last year, no one would have imagined that such an event could have such an unprecedented significance so soon with the terrible "tsunami" catastrophe. Therefore it was clear to whom the funds should go.

It was a pleasure for me to see how positively and actively people involved in the planning and execution of the Bingo charity engaged themselves and what we finally achieved.

Not only the financial result, but also the positive spirit and the good atmosphere of that evening would not have been so great without the outstanding contribution of some worth mentioning.

There were all the contingents and Quelle/Chamil shop and Marko shop from Khan Arnhabé that provided prizes. AUSBATT engineers built a podium, the AUSBATT Welfare Officer 1st Lt Groeppel showed a professional Power Point presen-

tation for the explanation of the Bingo game, the MPIO Maj May and Radio Gecko covered announcement and music, the AIK crew provided an excel-

but not least, there was Mrs. SHARMA, who herself ran the show that night as the main speaker.

The result was great and 937 tickets had been sold providing the same amount in USD as funds. This amount has been augmented to over 2500 USD by additional donations and a second Bingo game during J-CON Day in CF on 7th January 2005.

It was right and fitting to see that a soldier from the Japanese Contingent, who were the most generous prize donors, won the main prize of the game, a Nepalese Gorkha knife, sponsored by FC UNDOF.

Article and Photo by Maj S. Perr



all concentration on the game

lent buffet and the ADC FC Maj Thapa was our professional advisor.

Hanna Desta and the Austrian female Padre Susanne Baus sold so many tickets. Last

Another new Gym

Only eleven months after AUSBATT has opened a new fitness-room, it was ordered to move that institu-

tion. The Force gave us five weeks for changing the location. When I received the key for the future training-center, there was only a simple recently built hall – without heating or electricity in it. After the first rain, water came through the walls, so it would have been easier to make a swimming hall out of the building. Our daily morning-roll-call became a sort of labour market, because I was

always looking for volunteers: The EOD-team of AUSBATT developed into specialists in preparing the new gym.

On 16th December 2004 at exactly 1400 hours our new fitness-center was opened officially by FC. With the necessary understanding of sports and enjoying fitness, this training center for all will hopefully keep its value for a long time.

Article by WO I Othmar Wohlkönig



WO I Wohlkönig demonstrates for the FC

International & National Civilian Staff CPX

The day, 24 November 2004, dawned bright and clear. After the unrelenting rain, sleet and snow of the previous days, 37 UNDOF and four UNTSO civilian staff (both international and national) including three dependents were bundled up against the cold and ready to tackle whatever lay ahead. Sunshine mercifully peeked through the clouds and everyone anticipated an exciting day outdoors.

Initiated by the UNDOF Mission Training Cell (MTC) and coordinated jointly with the Personnel and Travel Section, the Command Post Exercise for civilians was designed with a view to equipping staff with necessary survival skills while being trained to save other lives as well. It aimed to bring trainers and trainees



Live enactments of fire extermination

together, encourage cooperation and cohesion and demonstrate how effective interaction could help achieve success especially during life-threatening situations. These objectives were met beyond expectations as each participant triumphantly came away with new knowledge and skills, not to mention the sense of camaraderie and adventure that

each one experienced with his/her colleagues.

Participants were divided into three teams – each with an appointed team leader who simply had to insure that his/her group knew exactly where



Training is the key to preparedness!

the next activity would be. Timings were perfectly organized beforehand and each team had a designated activity at a given hour and on a rotation basis. The activities included (a) practical and live enactments of fire extermination using various types of chemicals; (b) demonstration and application of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR); (c) how to approach a scene of a car accident and treat an injured person, (d) briefing on landmines, detection and how to react when accidentally trapped in the middle of a landmine-infested area; and (e) the proper use of gas masks. Some courageous volunteers donned and tested their gas masks in a supervised but authentically simulated “chemical warfare agent container”. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the camp bunkers, fully equipped to sustain individuals during an emergency. All

activities were packed with non-stop action, complete paraphernalia of state of the art gadgets, not to mention the excellent trainers, fully competent in their line of work and expertise. Our UNDOF Staff Officer for Plans/Training, Maj Utz Kuras was extremely gratified at the response of the civilians whose “interaction, liveliness, and dedication made the CPX a huge success.” The civilians on the other hand, appreciated all the efforts made for the planning, development and execution of this exercise. On behalf of UNDOF/UNTISO international and national civilians, I’d like to thank all the UNDOF contingents that provided their time, equipment and knowledge, who painstakingly set up perfect simulation scenarios and patiently answered all of our questions, no matter how trivial.

Special thanks to Capt Abfalter, WO I Wohlkoenig (NBC & shelter drills), WO I Buergler (EOD), MD Bjornson & MD SSKA (first aid), WOI Stuhlmayer (fire fighting), MP Sgt Edward (traffic accident) and their assisting Staff for all their hard work and commitment.

Let’s all hope that there will never be a need to actually use these new-found skills; but as the saying goes – *training is the key to preparedness*. See you at the next CPX!

Author: Chinkie Ani with contributions
from Maj Utz Kuras
and Ms. Noi Jirapokakul

OGG Training

- the most important issue to prepare our personnel to carry out their job!

Since last May, OGG with the outstations Damascus and Tiberias has been carrying out 33 training events (an average rate of 4.7 events/month).



"Training? I'm lovin' it"!

These activities included Lost Vehicle Procedure, CASEVAC Procedure (better known as MEDEVAC or AMB training), Fire fighting training, Rapid Reaction Group Call Procedure, Mine awareness / Mine field Extraction, Line Tour to Mount Hermon area and, not

included here, comes also the UNMOs initial training. There are frequent rotations within OGG and this is an important reason why the training cycle has to be ongoing.

One aspect of training is coordination between Duty Officers should a situation occur: Duty Officer at the outstations, Duty Officer Golan and Duty Officer UNDOF. Safety of UNTSO personnel is another important aspect. In our specific environment hazards due to the traffic situation, poisonous snakes etc. require in-service training to be able to be prepared to act.

The most appreciated and enjoyable training is, without any doubts, the Line Tour in the area of 1st COY AUSBAT up at Mount Hermon. It is a goal to give each UNMO serving in OGG an opportunity to go here. The hospitality provided

by the Austrians is really outstanding! This line tour is important not only because it is a nice place to visit, but also it provides an overview of the whole AOR/AOL where the UNMOs do their inspections and patrols, the Blue Line and



Break on Mt. Hermon

Lebanon. Furthermore it gives a better understanding of the work carried out by UNDOF.

To conclude this little article we would suggest to create a new training motto:

"Training? I'm lovin' it"!

Capt Luigi Sambin, PlansO/OGG

The new Chief OGG



Lt Col Willem J.M. Steijlen was born 1950 in Maastricht. After completing his military training at the Royal

Military Academy and the Infantry school, he started in 1972 as a Platoon Leader in 43 Mechanized Infantry Batt, during his career he has been serving as a Coy and Batt Co. He also served as an instructor in the Infantry school and in the Officers' school, in

between he has been serving as Snr OpsO in a mechanized Inf Batt and in a mechanized Brigade preparing units from Coy to Batt level for the former Yugoslavia, Cyprus and Kosovo missions. From 1995 to 1997 he has been leading teambuilding for Coy-Batt-Bde and various training centre staff levels. UN missions are not new to him; 1981 UNIFIL DUTCHBATT Aops/ C Force Mobile Reserve, 1988-1989 UNTSO; BUNMO in Finbatt on the Golan, Team Sierra in OGL, 1993 UNPROFOR HQ in

Ops Planning, 1994 UNPROFOR MA to Chief Military Observers and UNMO, he has participated in the Danish/Norwegian Research Project at the UN Mission in the former Yugoslavia from 1995 - 1998. Before coming to this mission on the Golan on 15 November, he was Defense Attaché for the Netherlands in Damascus from 2001 until October this year and had the accreditation in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Lt Col Steijlen is not married; his hobbies include history, sports, music and painting.

Force Commander's Office

The job of the FC's Office is to assist our Force Commander (FC) MajGen B. N. SHARMA in his daily work in UNDOF. This means to coordinate both military and civilian matters in the overall responsibilities of the FC. For example, arranging and coordinating itineraries, time-tables and protocol matters, act as personal aid and carry out special assignments for the FC as directed or required by the FC, in close cooperation with each member.

Commandant Patrick J. Doherty is from Ireland and has been serving as the Military Assistant to the FC (MA FC) for nearly 18 months now. Prior to this, he served with OGG in Tiberias for 6 months. He has previously served with UNIFIL on four separate occasions between 1988 and 1995.

He also served in BOSNIA / Macedonia for 12 months in 1998. He said, "I can honestly say that I have enjoyed

each and every day that I have worked here with UNDOF and OGG. I have made many friends and I have great admiration for the professionalism and co-operation of all my colleagues, both civilian and military."

Major Himadri Kumar Thapa as the Aide-de-camp to the FC (ADC FC) arrived in the mission in February 2004 and this is his second UN mission. He had served with UNIFIL in 1995 as the Press Information Officer of NEPBATT and

was awarded the best press information officer award for his achievement. Maj Thapa besides being an Infantry-officer, was trained as an air traffic controller (Indian Air-

she is a Permanent Employee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) headquartered in the Capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Before she

joined UNDOF on 10 May 2000, she had served in four peacekeeping missions, in Asia and Africa. Since she joined UNDOF, she has worked as Personal Assistant to four FCs. She says that she is enjoying the challenging duties in the FC's Office



from L to R : Cpl B. Basnyat, Comdt P. J. Doherty, Maj H. K. Thapa
in front: Ms. Hanna Desta

force), an aircraft accident investigator, flight ops officer (Thailand), flight safety officer (Inst. of Airsafety, Pakistan Airforce) and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Tribhuvan University. Maj Thapa is a graduate of the Royal Nepalese Army Command and Staff College. He says that he is fond of this assignment here and finds it very challenging.

Ms. Hanna Desta as the Personal Assistant to the FC (PA FC) is from Ethiopia and

and the relations she is having with military and civilian personnel of the mission.

Corporal Baburam Basnyat from Nepal is the FC's driver and started his tour of duty in February 2004 and has previously served in the transport platoon in UNIFIL and UNAMSIL. He has completed his Army training of Motor Transport Basic, Heavy Vehicle Driving, VIP driving and so on. He is a professional transport soldier.

Text: Capt Daisuke HORIGUCHI

Ten Years of Peace

In November 1994, ten years ago, the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan was signed in Aqaba at the Red Sea. The negotiations leading to this treaty were held not far from our mission area: In Beit(=house) Gabriel at the utmost southern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

When driving the street along the sea, one does not realize the modern building that is behind the wall in a garden area, neighbouring the "Jordan High School". Today it is well known and a frequented cultural and

social center in Israel. It was built in 1993 by the Gabriel Sherover Foundation with Gita Sherover as the head. She died half a year ago. Her vision was to make this building, with the self-willed architecture by Ulrich Plesner, a meeting-place for peace negotiations of Israel with its neighbour-countries. Until now that only succeeded with Jordan a decade ago.

The Urimare-room (every room of the house has a name of a hero of Venezuela, the home country of Gita Sherover) in one corner of the building was the place of the peace negotiations. The carpeted-floor is grey, the table in the middle has six sides, each of the twelve red leather-chairs around the table is equally sized, no special place for a chairman is provided.



The room of the peace negotiations next to the Sea of Galilee

Two rows of windows reveal the Sea of Galilee, beginning some meters outside, beyond some palm trees in the garden with colorful flowers. The beautiful view goes from the quietly hidden Tiberias at



Doves of peace in Beit Gabriel

the left to the Golan Heights on the right. Two mirrors on the walls reflect this picture, so everyone at the table can see the lake. The flags of Israel and Jordan are standing in the room, near the busts of the negotiation team leaders, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

for Israel and King Hussein of Jordan. When the talks had reached a dead point, the two are said to have gone for a walk together along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. When they returned they had found a solution.

After the death of King Hussein his

Kaffiah was laid on the table before the chair where he sat ten years ago. Since a visiting tourist group tried to steal the Kaffiah, the remembrance room which is filled with other precious symbols of peace is not open any more to the public. Doves of peace made of metal are kept there, Photos of Gorbachev visiting Beit Gabriel and a knife as a donation from the former president of Argentina, Carlos Menem, who was born in Syria.

People can visit several other places within Beit Gabriel (named after the son of Gita Sherover): Galleries, patios, amphitheatres, a cinema and a restaurant with a wonderful view to the lake and the hills around it.

Article by Maj Stefan May

Photos by WO II Gernot Payer

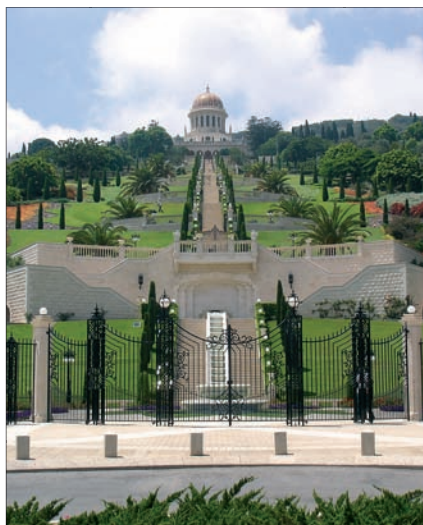
A Tour through Galilee

Situated on the coast, a few meters from the Lebanese Border, a cable car carries people in less than one minute along the white cliffs of Rosh Hanikra down to grottos, which the sea has washed out over the centuries.

Anyone who likes the quiet, will like Achziv best, half way between Rosh Hanikra and Nahariya, a town, which offers many possibilities for swimming. Achziv's white-sandy beach is very flat, clear water lies calmly in a natural pool, marked off by big stones, opposite the ruins from the crusader time. More examples of the cruel centuries are hidden inside Galilee: The Montfort castle and Yehi'am Fortress.

Further south, Akko, which has been the maritime capital of the Crusader Kingdom is surrounded by thick city walls. The visitor strolls through the cornered streets of the bazaar, passes small churches and admires the atmosphere of former days in the old harbour with its sailing boats and the mighty Khan. In the vicinity, a one hundred meter long tun-

Some streets further, Israel's only metro connects the upper parts with the quarters beneath. The main attraction



The Baha'i shrine in Haifa

is the shrine of the Baha'i sect in the center and the garden around it. The street leading to the shrine is flanked with houses in a special style: People from Germany settled here in the 19th century.

Following Mount Carmel, where Haifa is built, passing the Catholic Carmel Cloister one reaches, down in the plain again, Beit Shearim, a Jewish necropolis of the 3rd and 4th century. It is a site of impressing caves with many coffins of stone for the defunct inhabitants of the adjacent town. Some kilometers to the east Tzipori, the ancient capital of Galilee, and Nazareth on a hill, where Jesus grew up, but today a place smothered with traffic, are situated. Nearby the

characteristic Mount Tabor, with the Church of Transfiguration on top. If you like to hike, head for the Gilboa Mountains. At their end Beit Shean is worth spending a night in the new Youth hostel with its interesting architecture – and to dedicate the next day to the excavations: from the Tel of the Canaanites, one has the best view on the Roman town at one's feet, with cracked and broken pillars, lying across the main streets like bricks since the earthquake of 749 AD.

Further north the Crusader castle of Belvoir offers a wide view over the Jordan valley. Having reached Lake Kinneret, sites with biblical reference increase: Tabgha, the place of the Feeding of the Multitude, and Capernaum, where Jesus lived a long time in the house of Saint Peter. Some hundred meters above the church on the Mount of Beatitudes reminds us of that famous Sermon of Jesus.

Further north, remaining stones tell the story of the old Jewish town of Korazim. Up the hill, the old town of Zefat gives not only a spectacular view: with its small ways between tiny houses in white and blue, it is also one of the holy towns of the Jews, and one of these numerous places of interest which Galilee offers the visitor.

Text and Photos: Maj Stefan May



The harbour of Akko

nel of the Crusader period has been recently discovered.

Some kilometers to the south in the busy, picturesque town Haifa another cable car leads down to the harbour.

