

THE Blue Beret

July 1993





CANCON LINE UNIT DEPARTS



The farewell parade for the line unit of the Canadian Contingent took place at the Ledra Palace on Wednesday 16 June at 1900 hours. A large and distinguished audience attended this special occasion at which the Canadian Government was represented by the High Commissioner, Dr Norman Spector, and Maj Gen Brian Vernon represented the Canadian Armed Forces.



2 RCHA, commanded by Lt Col Dave Chupick, had the distinction of bidding farewell on behalf of 59 other Canadian units that had served with UNFICYP. The ceremony, which included a review by the FC, Maj Gen MF Minehane, and a "feu de joie" concluded with a symbolic lowering of the Canadian national flag. The folded "Maple Leaf" was received by Lt Col Murray Swan, Canadian Contingent Commander, and returned to Maj Gen Vernon (see photo above).

In the course of his address to the parade, Maj Gen Minehane referred to the distinguished audience and the historic nature of the occasion in which they were participating. He indicated that though it was a sad occasion for all, it should be seen as a celebration of the huge, generous and selfless contribution made by Canada to peace-keeping in Cyprus and other areas of the

world. Regretting the departure of the Canadian Regiment from the UNFICYP line, he emphasized the positive, firm, fair and diplomatic management of their area in Nicosia. "I have felt it a rare privilege to command three units who have served in Cyprus since my arrival early in 1992. Their Commanders have been remarkable men, each with his own style - the personnel of their units professional, committed to our mandate, having no difficulty in achieving the 'mind change' which peace-keeping asks of the professional soldier. If I were asked to characterize the Canadian peace-keeper, the words which would come instantly to mind would be professional, positive of attitude, friendly, generous of spirit, and generous in matters material, especially to those in need. I could not exclude the description 'straight talking'."

He noted the statistics of Canadian service with UNFICYP and included special reference to the 35,000 service personnel who have served here, commenting too on the price paid - 28 fatalities.

He mentioned specifically the Canadian Contingent Commander, Lt Col Murray Swan, and the inimitable personal style he brought to the job of Chief Humanitarian Officer. He paid

tribute also to the Parade Commander, Lt Col Dave Chupick, and the personnel of 2 RCHA for an impressive ceremony and their unfailing support.



2 RCHA present arms during the CANCON close-out parade.

He concluded by saying "May God go with you and your nation, and your new Prime Minister. You leave us with your reputation greatly enhanced by your long-standing contribution to peace on this lovely island. You leave us too with many good memories of our work together, and most pleasant social meetings."



President Glafcos Clerides hosted a reception for a representative body of the departing Canadian Contingent on 17 June 1993 at the Presidential Palace, Nicosia.

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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 together with captions should accompany 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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Front Cover

Flag comes down
on Canadian Line Unit
Departure
by S/Sgt Phil Cadman

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The period from December 1992 to June 1993 has seen the departure of the Danes from the line, the consequential simultaneous redeployment of the BRITCON line unit and the loss of the Force Scout Car Squadron. With the dust barely settled on these operations, the withdrawal of the Canadian line unit took place, bringing to an end 29 years of valiant service in UNFICYP and a special 23 year association with the city of Nicosia.

The most recent event is covered in this issue with features on the Canadian Medal and Farewell Parades. It is a small tribute which attempts to recognise the formidable Canadian commitment to the United Nations mission in Cyprus and the significance of the withdrawal with Canada now joining the minor contingents of the Force.

As stated in the farewell address by the Force Commander, UNFICYP and Cyprus have benefitted from the generous contribution of men and material by Canada since the inception of the Force in 1964. The expertise acquired by Canadian Armed Forces here in Cyprus and applied in other UN missions has been Canada's gain as it continues its role as a major contributor to worldwide United Nations peace-keeping operations.

UNFICYP notes the departure with regret, but recognises that the United Nations Organisation will continue to benefit from the expanded role that Canadians will play in other peace-keeping operations and theatres.

In effect, UNFICYP's loss is better seen in a positive light as an overall gain for the Organisation.

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POLICE LIAISON

by Station Sergeant Shane Austin



Inspector Stefanou, Sgt Christakis Pantazis, Constable Andreas Loizou and Constable Odysseus Nicolaou from Astromeritis and Evrykhou Police Station have their photograph taken with Police Sergeant Doug Child after the liaison meeting.

The United Nations Civilian Police Contingent in Cyprus performed an important role on the afternoon of Wednesday 19 May 1993 when the Australian Civilian Police (AUSTCIVPOL) detachment at Peristerona hosted a liaison meeting attended by AUSTCIVPOL Officers and Policemen from local Cypriot Police (CYPOL) Stations. In true diplomatic style, AUSTCIVPOL was also represented by 12 Police Officers, headed by their Commander Harry Bryant and his deputy, Superintendent Ken Hunt.

AUSTCIVPOL members are responsible for the provision of Civilian Police services within Sectors Two and Three of the Buffer Zone. To facilitate this task, it is important to maintain a close liaison with all organisations that may be able to assist them in this role. Close and friendly co-operation with the

Civilian Police is particularly important over a wide range of matters, and is essential during investigations into trespass, thefts, farming disputes, fires and public disturbances that occur within the Buffer Zone.

The excellent relationship already enjoyed by AUSTCIVPOL members at Peristerona with local CYPOL Officers was demonstrated during the liaison meeting and afterwards when a typical "Aussie" lunch was provided.

Meanwhile, Police Sgt "Spud" Murphy, still developing his undercover disguise as a bearded goat herder, was seen in deep conversation with Constable Andreas Roushias of Evrykhou Station regarding goat thefts near the Buffer Zone. This was only one of the many investigations which were discussed as the afternoon progressed and as personal contacts were initiated and strengthened.



Local CYPOL member "Chris" enjoys some refreshments with Pol Sgt Melita Zielonko during the BBQ.

MP ELEMENT CHANGE OF COMMAND

by WO1 G Zudik



The incoming and outgoing FPMs

A new man recently arrived in the UN MP Element and we are happy to welcome him as the new Commander.

Capt Stefan Karlsson was born in 1966. He is a regular MP Officer in the Swedish Army and normally serves in Stockholm. It is his Unit's responsibility to train Military Policemen, in addition to which they are tasked to guard the Royal Palace in Stockholm. His home unit is also the King's Life Guards, and they have special duties and privileges, including the ceremonial right of entry on horse back to the Palace inner yard.

Stefan is a successful sportsman, having competed in several orienteering competitions during the last nine years. The MP Elm is happy to have such reinforcement in the shrinking sporting strength of this Unit!

The departing FPM, WO1 H Dahlqvist, returns to Sweden into civilian life again where he will re-assume his duties as a police officer in Stockholm. The Unit is sorry to see him go, but this is the UN way of life. Well done, good luck and all the best to you, Hans, and your family.

July 1993



THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS

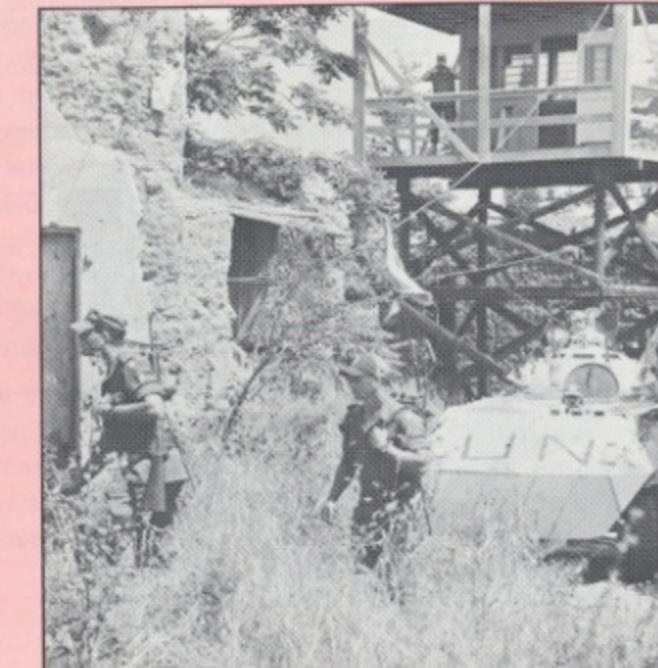


The first Canadian peace-keepers arrived in Cyprus in 1964 in response to the official request of the United Nations Secretary-General to maintain the peace in Cyprus.

The Canadian Contingent first deployed in Kyrenia and remained there until 1970. With the reductions in the Force and the withdrawal of some of the contingents, the Canadians assumed responsibility for the Nicosia District in early 1970. On the conclusion of the 1974 fighting, the Contingent sectors were re-aligned, with each Contingent being assigned a portion of the Cease Fire Line and the United Nations Buffer Zone. The Canadian Contingent was responsible for the city of Nicosia. At the conclusion of its mandate, the Canadian Contingent was responsible for the United Nations Protected Area west of Nicosia, the city of Nicosia and southeastward into the countryside as far as the village of Louroujina.

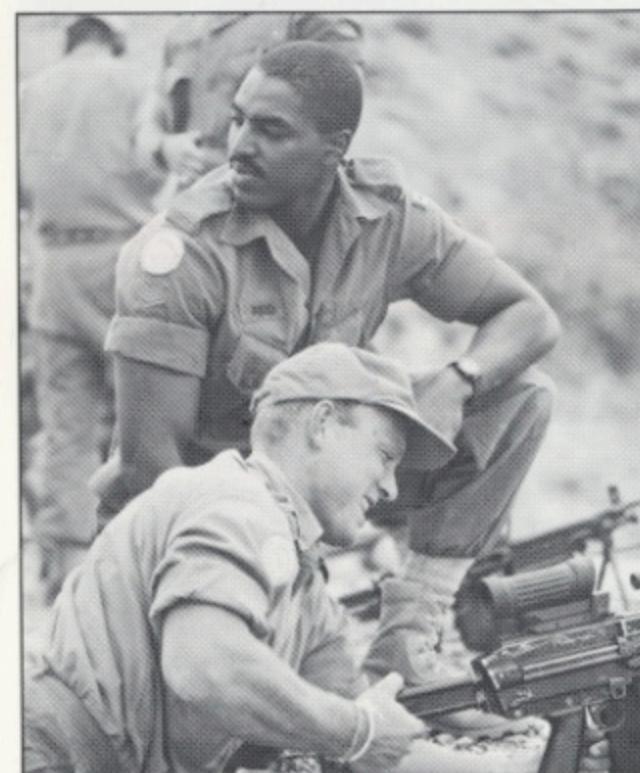
In December 1992, the Canadian Government announced that it had decided to withdraw its peace-keeping Contingent from Cyprus in mid-1993. There have been 59 Contingent rotations since 1964. All Canadian combat arms Regular Force battalions and regiments have served in UNFICYP. 28 Canadians have died while on UN duty in Cyprus.

2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, which paraded as the last Canadian Contingent, was formed on 7 August 1950 for United Nations service in Korea. Since then, it has served in various



Canadian operations in the Ayios Kassianos area.

parts of Canada and in Germany. It has had a previous UN tour in Cyprus from September 1985 to March 1986. 2 RCHA was responsible for Sector Three since 19 February 1993.



Cpl Reed and M/Cpl Michelits with the Canadian LMG C-2A1

SECTOR THREE VERSUS SECTOR FOUR

In an old copper mine near the village of Troulli, an exciting shooting match took place. Sector Four invited Sector Three to this derelict mine, which is currently used as a range by the Austrians.

To begin with, each contingent used their national weapons in order to demonstrate their expertise. The weapons were then exchanged and further comparisons were made.

While the rifle competition was in progress, a pistol match was also conducted nearby. Although members of each contingent scored well, one Swedish policeman present at the competition had an outstanding result. Besides a number of military guests, a press visitor from Austria, Mr R Kuzmicki, also took part.

This shooting event was not only an opportunity to give UN soldiers an idea of weapons they are not familiar with, but they each had the chance to enjoy a rather rainy afternoon in an international atmosphere.



UNFICYP EXERCISE IN PETROPHANI



by Maj W Boone



The primary aim of the exercise.
UNCIVPOL/military cooperation at its best.

This exercise was conducted in the village of Petrophani, situated SW of Athienou in the BZ, and marked the final involvement of the Canadians in the Force Reserve (FR). In all, an FR platoon from each Sector and the Support Regiment, as well as UNCIVPOL and the AAC Flight, participated.

In the early hours of 4 May, all FR elements received the order to move. By the time the FR platoon from Sector Three arrived at the Rendezvous point in their "Grizzlies", one Coy and the FR platoon from Sector Four had already manned a number of checkpoints around Petrophani and begun mobile patrols in the village. The Deputy Commanding Officer of Sector Four, Lt Col Wildberger, had already set up Area Command Petrophani (ACP), which, along with



The exercise director, Maj W Boone, briefs Chief Inspector K Robert on the scenario, while the Higher Controllers look on.

After a short break, the exercise resumed, this time focusing on incidents within the village. One staged altercation resulted in a simulated wounding of an individual, which demonstrated the difficulties in preserving a crime scene. The culmination was a concerted effort by two large groups to mix it up, requiring timely intervention by the UN forces, utilizing their anti-demonstration drills. The exuberance of the "players" certainly injected realism into the fray!

This exercise more than any other exemplified the close working relationship between the civilian police and military members of UNFICYP under very trying circumstances. The FR platoons practised their soldiering skills, learned some valuable lessons, and had fun. By any country's standards, that constitutes a successful exercise.



Force Reserve patrol Petrophani



CANCON MEDAL PARADE

by Lt D Buchanan



Col His Honour JA Jacobson CD, presenting the UN medal.



Marching on parade



Special Service Force Pipes and Drums from the Canadian Forces Bases, Petawawa.

THE 1993 UNFICYP FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The 1993 UNFICYP Football Competition was run over a period of approximately five weeks with the final being played on Thursday 27 May 93.

Seven teams entered the competition and were split into two leagues of three and four teams. The winners of the two leagues were Sector Four and Support Regt HQ team and they went on to contest the final.

The final was a very tough contest with both teams giving 100% despite the hard bumpy pitch. In the end, this hard-fought contest, with both teams at two goals each, came down to the last



The two teams together after the prize-giving.

five minutes when Sector Four scored the winning goal. The prizes were presented by Lt Col Heaslip, MPIO, HQ UNFICYP.

SPORTS EVENTS IN AUSCON

FIRST FAMAGUSTA "OLD CITY RUN"

The President of the ASC (AUSCON Sports Club) recently had an excellent idea. Impressed by the gothic walls and using the castle moat around the medieval city of Famagusta, he organised the first Famagusta "Old City Run". This took place on 8 May, and was attended by 67 UNFICYP competitors, including one woman and two children.

The result showed us to be "unsympathetic" hosts - because all the winners came from AUSCON! Our champion, M/Cpl Leo Schrottenbach, won the race ahead of 47-year-old WO1 Hans Plasch, and only third place was left for a guest in the 10km race, Sgt Anders Folkesson from SWEDCIVPOL. 1st and 2nd Team places also went to the Austrians in HQ Coy and 3rd place to Sector Two.

Our thanks to the local authorities for traffic control, etc, and to Chris Michael for his sponsorship.

THIRD OPEN AUSCON TRIATHLON

This event took place on 22 May in the area of Dherinia, and involved a 500m swim, a 22km cycle and a 4.5km run.

Once again, the winner (as you may have guessed) was M/Cpl Leo Schrottenbach. Second place was taken by Sgt Karl Heinz Docker and third place by Maj Robert Kraus. Team winners were 1st HQ Coy and 2nd Coy.

Disappointingly, although it was a fine day and the competition was well prepared, only a few competitors arrived at the start point. Maybe the weather was so good that everybody went to the beach? Nevertheless, well done Leo!



Sgt Marianne Pålsson in action



Three - Two - One - Go! Start of the first "Old City Run"



The winner: M/Cpl Leo Schrottenbach, HQ Coy/AUSCON

SWEDISH HIT IN HORSE SHOW JUMPING

by Police Sgt Ronald Kranz

Between 30 April to 2 May 1993, Sgt Marianne Pålsson, SWEDCIVPOL, took part in the "Fei Samsung International Jumping Competition" at Lapatsa, Nicosia, competing in UN uniform.

In this contest, she was riding a horse called Gingernut, owned by Mr Mike Zacharias. After a competition of six rounds, with two rounds each day for the 17 participants, Marianne was declared the overall winner.

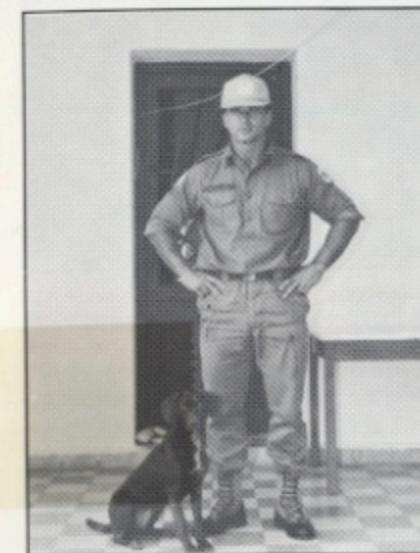
In Sweden, she serves with the Mounted Unit Branch at the Göteborg Police Dept.

SECTOR FOUR'S NEW SERIES

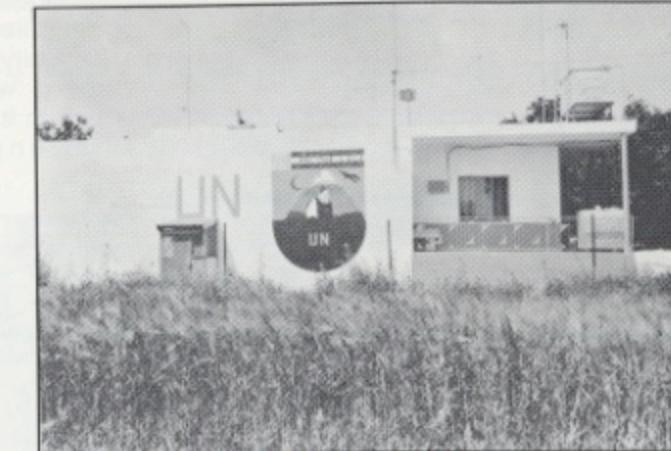
PART II: LPs KARPAS AND STROVILLIA

LP-02 KARPAS is located in the town of Leonarisso and is permanently manned by two NCOs from HQ Coy who liaise with the 550 Greek Cypriots living in this area. Sector Four's Humanitarian Section conducts the resupply and "Northwind Patrol" once a week and makes personal visits to their homes.

During the rest of the week, the two NCOs have only radio contact with HQ Coy in Famagusta. Every now and then, a tourist or a soldier on leave pays a visit - such visits are very welcomed.



Cpl Eduard Kelenc with the LP dog currently assigned to duty in Strovillia.



LP KARPAS in Leonarisso

Another Liaison Post, AS-20, is located in the village of Strovillia on the main Famagusta-Ayios Nikolaos Road between the 2½ Mile and Black Knight Checkpoints. Greek Cypriots still inhabit houses in this area. The post has a special manning arrangement, and its task is to monitor the maintenance of the status quo and to give reassurance to the Greek Cypriot inhabitants.

No doubt there are some of you who have often passed these LPs, but did you know anything about those who perform their UN duty there, or what was the function of these posts?

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE AT CMT

On 14 May, AUSCON celebrated the semi-annual award of the UN Cyprus Medal.

The event took place at Camp Marie Therese, which lies outside of the Buffer Zone on the SBA Road. The OPT is close to two Greek Cypriot



Col Peter Resch (DCOS) presenting the UN medal to MCpl Korak. In the centre, WO2 Pandur.



The Colours marching off in front of the FC and guests.

factories which were destroyed in 1974. The camp is named after the famous Austrian Empress, who reigned from 1740-1780.

A reception followed and was enjoyed by all guests.



Gunner D Johnson and Gunner T Barron fly the UN flag at Saint David's Camp.

At 2359 hrs on 15 June 1993, the Commanding Officer of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery, Lt Col RJS Smith QGM RA, assumed command of the newly established Sector West. It is a sector that stretches from the Kokkina Enclave on the west coast of Cyprus to the eastern limits of the city walls of Nicosia at the Bastion OP C44. Sector West is the combination of the old Sectors One and Two together with the City Battery area of the old Sector Three.

The first impression is of the great variety in terrain and tasks



in Sector West; from the foothills of the Troodos Mountains, to the citrus groves and farming land of the Ovgos Valley, to the narrow streets and city life of Nicosia. Altogether it will present the Regiment with a very interesting and challenging area of operations.



Major Stuart Beare, 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, hands over the City Battery area to Major Nick Lipscombe, Battery Commander of 132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop) Royal Artillery.

Camp. In addition, an Adventure Training Team has been established at Dhekelia which will organise climbing, diving, parachuting, canoeing and sailing courses for the soldiers over the next six months.



Vice Admiral The Honorable Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton KCB, DCDS(C), Major General A G H Harley CB OBE, Commander British Forces in Cyprus and Brigadier R M Lambe MBE, Chief of Staff UNFICYP visited OP D11 on 15 June 1993. The Vice Admiral is seen here meeting Sergeant J L Brown.

Major Gareth Pugh, Battery Commander of 176 (Abu Klea) Battery Royal Artillery, describes the ground from OP D11 to (right to left) the British High Commissioner, His Excellency David Dain and Mrs Susan Dain and the Permanent Secretary to the Queen, Sir Kenneth Scott KCB.

The changeover of the Regiments and the transition to Sector West took place in two phases. On 9 June 1993, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars departed Cyprus and 39 Regiment became operational in Sector Two. This area of the Buffer Zone is now manned by 176 Battery Royal Artillery, commanded by Major Gareth Pugh. Battery Headquarters are in Viking Camp at Xeros.

On 15 June 1993, 39 Regiment took command of the City Battery area from 2nd Regiment Canadian Horse Artillery. 132 Battery Royal Artillery are deployed here with Battery Headquarters in Wolseley Barracks. The Battery Commander is Major Nick Lipscombe.

Regimental Headquarters is also in Wolseley Barracks with the Logistics element of the Regiment based at Saint David's

by Capt Fy Long



Lt Col RJS Smith QGM RA, taking over Sector West as the Canadian Contingent depart, seen here with Lt Col DM Chupick

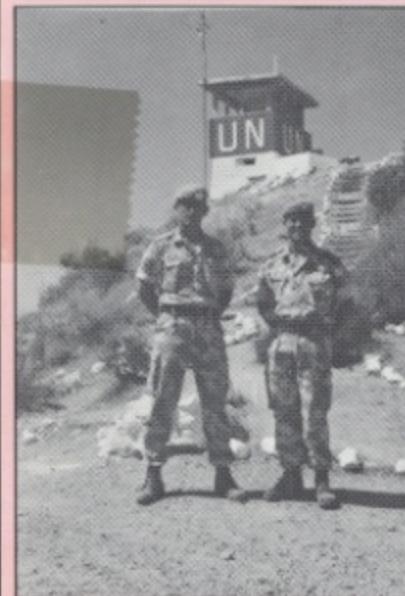


OP Paphos C-73: The last Canadian soldier leaves the line at 23.59 hrs, 15 June 1993. From the left: Gnr Justin Frye, M/Bdr Joe Murdoch and Gnr Paul Nixon.



39TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY BECOMES SECTOR WEST

IF IT MOVES, PAINT IT!



The Troop Commander and Troop Sergeant, Second Lieutenant David Aplin and Sergeant J L Brown proudly present a newly painted OP D11.



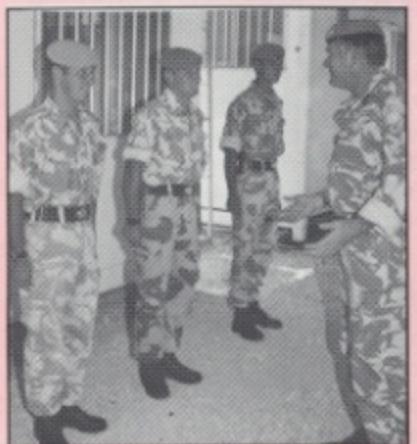
The porta-cabin at D11 before...



... during ...



Sapper B Price puts a few finishing touches to the cold water tank.



... and after. Brigadier R M Lambe MBE speaks with the Engineer Detachment (left to right) Sapper M Fleming, Sapper M A Lindsay and Sapper B Price.

FAREWELL TO THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS

BALAKLAVA SQUADRON

by L/Cpl Duffy, D-17

Balaklava Squadron took over its UN duties in Cyprus on 7 Dec 92, its area stretching from OP D-17 in the west to OP B-28 in the east.



Sgt Naivalurua and Tpr Miller from Balaklava Sqn on foot patrol

The regular foot and landrover patrols have been a very useful experience for all, especially the latter because most of us have never had an opportunity to drive a wheeled vehicle over such testing terrain. It is also unusual for us to have a high profile, and this made an interesting change from our usual training.

OP life itself was by far the biggest challenge for the men concerned. To get the OP up and running efficiently necessitated a lot of effort on the part of all those concerned and involved establishing communications, patrol routes and learning the local area. Once established, there were the countless other tasks necessary to ensure that the OP ran smoothly and effectively.

In addition, dealing with local people has also been interesting, as this is not what we are used to or trained to do.

Any way you look at it, each man has benefitted a great deal from his tour with UNFICYP. In the end in my view, this is what the Squadron has achieved - better trained and more experienced men.

ALAMEIN SQUADRON

by Cpl KM Davidson

Our six-month tour of duty with UNFICYP saw a lot of "firsts" for the Squadron, mainly due to our takeover of that part of the island formerly under DANCON.

Alamein Squadron was based in Skouriotissa with the QM's Department and LAD detached to Viking Camp, Xeros. It was the conversion of Skouriotissa Camp from a Company base to a Regimental Headquarters that proved to be our first mammoth task. This wasn't made any easier by a flash flood that visited itself upon us in our first week of occupation. However, with plenty of hard work and the much appreciated help of 9 Para Sqn RE, we soon had the place up and running.



Tpr Mark Devonshire on duty at his OP

We then settled into the routine which, no matter where it finds itself in the world, any Headquarters Squadron will find familiar. Ours is the world of MT details, vehicle repair, communications and administration.

It wasn't all routine however. The organisation and administration of the DANCON Memorial March was one task which is unique to Cyprus. This was carried out very successfully, despite some last minute crises.

Despite the workload, a great many members of the Squadron were able to participate in activities such as Adventure Training. It was an unforgettable tour.

DETTINGEN SQUADRON

by Lt E Coram-Wright

Although, as a whole, Dettingen Squadron was well briefed by the recce parties as to what to expect on the operational side of the tour, few were prepared for the enormity of the refurbishment programme



OP D-12 from the air

of camps and OPs that awaited their arrival in Cyprus. In addition to fulfilling their role as monitors of the now enlarged Sqn area, everyone found their painting, decorating and repairing skills severely tested in the first few months.

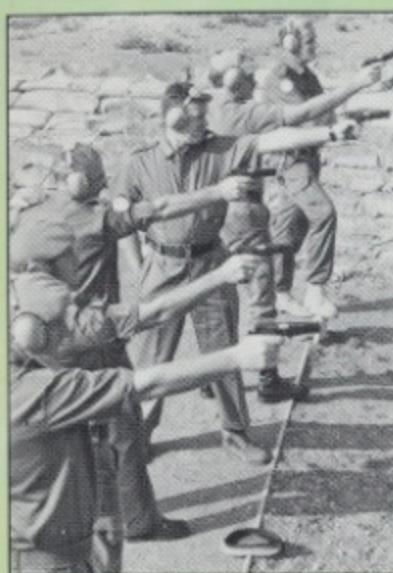
Four-man teams staffed the six OPs on the line. The views were spectacular and, mercifully, incidents were scarce. The hunting season provided a challenge for foot and vehicle patrols alike and highlighted the importance of the soldiers' presence. When not manning the OP towers and radios, briefing visitors or on patrol, others turned their attention to culinary activities, reading or other miscellaneous chores.

Welcome relief was provided by the many UN sponsored activities to which the Squadron submitted teams, and few will forget the blisters of the two-day 50 km DANCON Memorial March - a tradition left by our predecessors.

The Squadron has now departed for Germany and reverted to its heavy armour role - a complete contrast to our tour in Cyprus which offered us all very different and challenging experiences which will not be forgotten.

IRCON MARCH 1993

by RSM Pat Nolan



Sharp shooters all!

The system used by the Irish Defence Force for evaluating the physical fitness level of personnel is called Lifestyle Improvement and Fitness Evaluation (LIFE). It is a series of annual tests designed to accurately evaluate the basic components of military fitness, which are "Cardio Respiratory Endurance" and "Muscular Endurance".



COMIRCON checking the scores

A GIFT FROM STYRIA



During a press visit to Sector Four, Mr Rudolf Kuzmicki, PR head of a well known Styrian publishing house, presented a video camera as a gift to AUSCON.

This camera was sponsored by the township of Graz, the capital of Styria, the federal state of Styria, a trade agency and the Styrian publishing house.

Mr Kuzmicki also visited the soldiers and took part in their daily routine. He is always searching for Styrians and this time, he found quite a few of them. Apparently there were some rather late evening functions - right activity which was not related to official business!

← Mr Kuzmicki presenting the video camera to Lt Col Helmut Hossinger, CO Sector Four, in Camp Pyla.

the line troops of QRIH and, for the more weary ones, a few words of encouragement. It proved to be an overcast day, so the heat was not as much a problem as originally expected. However we did have to endure the jokes and wit of Sgt Frank Rickard (MP Element) all the way, which meant that the walk was completed within the target time, as everyone wanted to keep ahead of him!

The walk ended at D35, where we were met by Major Noone and transported back to Xeros to rejoin our transport.

In conjunction with the physical training schedule, the Contingent also completed its annual weapons training requirements. Both the 30m and 200m UNFICYP ranges were used to fire our personal weapons, namely the Browning Automatic 9mm Pistol (BAP) and the Steyr Aug A1 5.56 Assault Rifle.

This Contingent is due for rotation in July 1993 and will return home having enjoyed its UNFICYP tour of duty and the "guided tours of the Buffer Zone"



SWEDISH NATIONAL DAY

by Police Sgt Ronald Krantz

with research by Pte Ingvar Krantz and S/Sgt Sigvard Krantz, Swedish Army

On 6 June 1809, Sweden introduced its very first constitution on the occasion of the coronation of King Gustav Wasa I of Sweden on 6 June 1523. This constitution was in use until 1974, however, Sweden had no official national day until 1983. Before that we only had the "Swedish Flag Celebrations" which took place annually on 6 June.

However from 1983, Swedes celebrate "Flag Celebration Day" as the Swedish National Day. Every year, King Karl Gustav of Sweden presents a Swedish flag to honourable citizens and organisations at a ceremony in Stockholm. This year, the 10th anniversary of the Swedish National Day was formally celebrated by the Swedes in UNFICYP at the Officers' Mess, HQ UNFICYP.

When asked to write an article about the Swedish National Day, I didn't want to write just about the celebrations which normally take place. I wanted to describe the history of Sweden and, in particular, its military history.

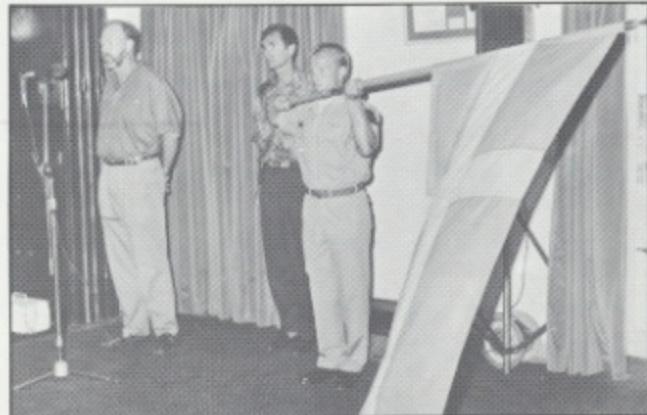
Sweden, the largest country in Scandinavia, but with only 8.5 million inhabitants, has a geography which varies from the high mountains in the polar circle, through the forests and the industrial central region, to the farming areas in the south. 1,000 years ago, Sweden was split up into several kingdoms, inhabited by the Vikings: warriors and explorers. During the following centuries, Sweden evolved as a country but the borders changed many times and it took many years - and wars - to build the Sweden of today.

On 6 June 1523, Gustav Wasa was crowned King of Sweden. In his memory, Sweden holds the "Wasaloppet" skiing competition, more than 80 km long and running along the same route that King Gustav followed whilst escaping from threat just before his coronation.

There are two Kings who did much to establish the Swedish borders as they stand today: King Gustav Adolf II and King Karl XII.

King Gustav Adolf was the man who modernised the forces by organising it into regiments. He was involved in the 30 Years War, fought mostly in present day Germany where on 6 November 1632, he died on a battlefield outside Lützen. However during his lifetime, King Gustav developed a new Constitution, established universities and courts as well as developing industry, in particular mining and smelting. He founded Göteborg, today the second largest city in Sweden.

Karl XII was crowned King of Sweden at the early age of 15. With a young, inexperienced regent on the throne, Poland, Russia and Denmark joined forces



The Swedish Commander, Ch Supt Kent Robert, giving a speech on 6 June at the HQ UNFICYP Officers' Mess.

and attempted to conquer Swedish territory but failed. By then, King Karl was no longer known in Europe as a young and inexperienced warrior. In fact, he went on to take part of Poland but he made one big mistake and, as history has shown, he was not the last to do so. He felt obliged to strike deep into Russia, but he had not counted on the very cold winter and the age-old Russian strategy. Eventually, the exhausted Swedish forces lost the Battle of Poltava, and as a result, King Karl fled to Turkey where he stayed at his court, first as a guest and later as a prisoner. Eventually, after a narrow escape, he arrived in Sweden and established a new HQ in Lund. In 1718, he attacked Norway but was killed on 30 November by an unknown assassin: either a Norwegian rifleman or possibly a Swede who wanted an end of all these wars.

Subsequently, Sweden was no longer a great power - a new era had begun, and following the 1808-1809 war with Russia, when Sweden lost Finland, the borders of today were confirmed. Since then, Sweden has not been involved in any war.

It took a lot of diplomacy and appeasement to maintain neutrality and keep Sweden out of World War II. However, Sweden did its best and managed to smuggle supplies of precision ball bearings to the allies, and also to assist in the escape of some 20,000 Jews at the end of WWII. From this highly humanitarian service, the step to service with the United Nations was not so far!

The first large UN Swedish force was in the Congo in 1960. From there, the Swedes moved to Cyprus in 1964 and we have been here ever since. Other places where Swedish soldiers and civilian police have worn the blue beret are Gaza, Lebanon, Namibia and most recently Yugoslavia.

Sweden had completed its evolution from fighting warrior Vikings to world peace-keepers.

VISIT BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEFENCE COMMITTEE

by Maj JMK Erskine, COS BRITCON

On 26 May 1993, the House of Commons Defence Committee visited UNFICYP with the intention of increasing their knowledge about peace-keeping operations. The party consisted of six Members of Parliament and was led by Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the Chairman of the Committee.

The day began with a briefing by COMBRITCON, Brig RM Lambe MBE, after which the Committee had a chance to ask the Force Commander a few questions about peace-keeping. CO 2 RCHA, Lt Col Chupick, then gave them a whistle-stop tour of the line in Nicosia followed by a Grizzly ride, delivering them to Sp Regt in time for lunch. That over, the afternoon was spent visiting the line in the Eastern half of Sector Two. A series of drink stops (non alcoholic) along the line prevented them from becoming parched during what was a warm afternoon.

In the evening, the MPs were very kindly invited to the CANCON Medal Parade and after a quick drink at the reception they left for dinner in Nicosia, a late bed in the city and an early departure to Dhekelia the next day.

The visit had been frenetic but the MPs certainly saw a large part of life here and they went home with a greater understanding of UNFICYP than they had before they arrived.



Lt Col D Chupick, CO Sector Three, taking the MPs through Nicosia

PYLA AND ITS SWEDISH MUKHTAR

by Sgt Ronald Krantz

Insp Bengt Ramäng has been living and working in Pyla for almost two years. Bengt is 48 years old and has been a police officer since 1968. He worked for six years in uniform and then started with the Swedish CID, in

After working

within all units of the CID, he joined the Aliens Office in 1976. He has been working for that same unit since 1989, apart for the one month period he spent working at the Swedish National CID.

His first tour with SWEDCIVPOL was in 1985/86 where he started as a Duty Officer in Larnaca but then took over as Det Comd in the mixed village of Pyla.

Insp Ramäng at work at Pyla Police Det, probably reading the SOPs!

then took over as Det Comd in the mixed village of Pyla.

Bengt spent one year in this job before going home, and here he is, back again in the same job for another year. Bengt is married with two children.



Shown above is Mr John Maresca, US Special Co-ordinator for Cyprus, during his recent tour of the line with FC UNFICYP, Maj Gen Michael Minehane, prior to recent New York talks. The aircraft was flown by OC AAC Fit, Maj Tim Sharp.



CANCON MEDAL PARADE



FC presents the UNFICYP medal to departing soldiers of 2 RCHA, the last Canadian Contingent.