

A silhouette of a watchtower, likely a UN Truce Monitoring Station, stands against a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is a bright, glowing orb partially obscured by the tower's structure, casting a warm orange and yellow light across the sky. The tower has a lattice-like base and a circular observation deck with a railing. A flag flies from a pole on top of the tower. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouette of the land.

PEACEKEEPING MEMOIRS

FROM UNIFIL MANDATE 40/41
ESTONIAN CONTINGENT I
NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT XXXVIII
NOVEMBER '96 – MAY '97

PEACEKEEPING MEMOIRS

from UNIFIL Mandate 40/41

Estonian Contingent I

Norwegian Contingent XXXVIII

November 96 – May 97

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United Nations Interim Force In Lebanons mandate:

extended by the UN Security Council: 40th Mandate 01 aug 96 – 31 Jan 97

41st Mandate 01 Feb 97 – 31 Jul 97

The mission was established to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, to restore international peace and security and to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area. UNIFIL has, however, been prevented from fully implementing its mandate. Israel has maintained its occupation of parts of south Lebanon, where the Israeli forces and their local auxiliary continue to be targets of attacks by groups that have proclaimed their resistance to the occupation. UNIFIL does its best to limit the conflict and protect the inhabitants of the area from the fighting. In doing so, it contributes to stability in the area.

Israeli forces invaded Lebanon on the night of 14/15 March 1978, and in a few days occupied the entire southern part of the country except for the city of Tyre and its surrounding area.

On 15 March 1978, the Lebanese Government submitted a strong protest to the Security Council against the Israeli invasion. On 19 March, the Security Council adopted resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), in which it called upon Israel immediately to cease its military action and withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territory. It also decided on the immediate establishment of UNIFIL.

The first UNIFIL troops arrived in the area on 23 March 1978.

As of 31 December 1996 the force amounts to 4,505 troops assisted by approximately 60 military observers of UNTSO's Observer Group Lebanon, supported by international and local civilian staff.

FORCE COMMANDER: Major-General Stanislaw Franciszek Wozniak (Poland)

PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTORS as of 31 December 1996: Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Poland.

excerpts from: Mission profile for UNIFIL

Prepared by the Department of Public Information, United Nations

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Abbreviations

4 – Norbatts UNIFIL designate	MG – monitoring group, 5 nations group monitoring the April '96 understanding between Israel and Lebanon (Lebanese resistance) – meeting in Naqoura UNIFIL HQ
AIS – typical patrol callsign; company/platoon/patrol	MG – machine gun
AD – area of deployment	MIA – missing in action
ADC – aide-de-camp; CO's assistant	MK – Merkava
AO – area of operations	MOR – mortar
APC – armoured personnel carrier (SISU/M113/VAB/TFM)	MoU – Memorandum of Understanding – 'traffic rules' for behaviour in disputed territory
ARTY – Artillery	MOV – movement
ASAP – as soon as possible	Nahal – Israeli brigade
AT – Anti Tank	NCO – non-commissioned officer
Blue line – line surrounding UN area of deployment	O – Operations or Of
BN/BTTN – battalion	OGL – UN Observer Group Lebanon
C – Chief	OP – observation post
CMR – Company mobile reserve (of SISU)	PAT – patrol
CO – Commanding Officer	PFLP-GC – Palestinian militant faction
CON – contingent	PK – peace keeper (keeping)
COY – company	PLT – platoon
CP – check point (for traffic)	PR – public relations
D – deputy	Pri – priority
D – duty	PX – post & exchange = UN shop carrying western merchandise
Deploy – spread out in terrain	QM – quartermaster
DFF – De Facto Force = SLA – South Lebanese Army	RED LINE – line limiting Syrian presence in Lebanon
Falcon eye – code for UXO	RPM – rounds per minute
FC – Force Commander	RSB – road side bomb
Flechette – tank round exploding into tiny lethal pin fragments	S – staff or senior
FMR – Force Mobile Reserve (Force commanders reserve SISU squadron)	SA – small arms – rifles, automatic gun
Golani – Israeli brigade	SAM – surface-to-air missile
Green line – line surrounding Israeli occupied territory	SC – Security Council (UN)
H-/LMG – heavy-/light machine gun	SISU – Finnish produced APCs
HE – high explosive	SIT – situation
HEAT – high explosive anti tank	sitrep – situation report
HESH – high explosive squash head	SLA – see DFF
HQ – headquarters	SOI – signal operating instructions
I – information	SOP – Standing Operations Procedure
IAF – Israeli Air Force	SQD – squad
ICA – Israeli controlled area – occupied Lebanese territory	SQDC – squad camp
IDF – Israeli Defence Forces	UN NY – United Nations headquarters New York
INCREP – incident report	UNDOF – UN Disengagement Observation Force (Golan)
IR – Islamic Resistance (Hizballah mil ving)	UNIFIL – UN Interim Force In Lebanon
KIA – killed in action	UNMO – UN Military Observer
L – Liaison or Logistics	UNTSO – UN Truce Supervision Organization
LA – Lebanese Army (or Legal adviser)	UXO – unexploded object
Leb – Lebanon	VIP – very important person (colonel & up)
LL – lagsleir – Norwegian for squad camp	WIA – wounded in action
M – military	
MBT – Main Battle Tank	
MEDEVAC – evacuation for medical reasons	

THANKS FOR THE EFFORT CONTINGENT XXXVIII!



As Contingent Commander I am very proud of the effort which the Norwegian sections have contributed with in UNIFIL. All duties are equally important, if it is to fulfill the UNIFIL mandate in the demanding area where NORBATT is situated, contribute to the flexibility of operation by participating in the NORPL/FMR or carrying out one of the many important functions done by the MP-coy, UNIFIL HQ or in the Contingent-office.

Every single one of you should take pride in the work you have done. At the same time you can be content with the way you have represented the Norwegian Kingdom and the United Nations.

The experiences you have made are many and you will find that they might be of use later in life. I have often seen efforts made which have been far beyond what one could expect. I want to thank each individual for their accomplishments.

I would especially like to give my best wishes to those who now are returning to Norway without a job awaiting them. I hope you will find possibilities to show your skills and abilities that you have revealed during this peace-mission in Lebanon.

Finally I would like to plead that you take well care of the friends and contacts you have acquired amongst our own national colleagues, as well as among the local population and contingents of other nations. You have experienced how important cooperation and friendship is to solve difficult tasks in order to achieve a lasting peace.

A humble greeting of thanks to you all.

Odd Helge Olsen
Colonel
NORCONTICO

Lebanon –

The complexity of existing groupings and factions fighting for power in Lebanon is enough to confuse most of us. However, the following is an attempt to give a general idea of the present scenario.

IDF – Israeli Defence Force

Within the Israeli Controlled Area (ICA) in South-Lebanon approximately 1400–2000 IDF soldiers are deployed on about 40 compounds. The establishment of the ICA in 1985 with the aim of securing northern Israel is a breach of the UN resolution 425 issued in 1978 and demanding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese soil. There are 17 IDF positions or previously called Permanent Violations (PV's) in the area around NORBATT (the only UNIFIL battalion bordered entirely within the ICA). The Hermon brigade is the cadre of the Golani-division, east of NORBATT. The Galilee-division is responsible for the area south-east of NORBATT. IDF is capable of reinforcing the ICA with about 12000 additional soldiers within 24 hours. Jets and Helicopter support can be launched on very short notice.

IDF's mission in South-Lebanon is to secure the area bordering up to Israel and thus prevent infiltration into Israel from hostile elements. IDF is considered to be one of the most advanced and efficient armies in the world. Its personnel is highly motivated, well-equipped, mobile and well-trained. However, there is an ongoing political debate in Israel on the necessity and productivity of continued military presence in South-Lebanon in the wake of heavy losses inflicted by Armed Elements. South-Lebanon is increasingly becoming a quagmire to the IDF as well as to Israeli politicians. Ironically, the Shia-resistance in South-Lebanon

has now inflicted heavier casualties on IDF-soldiers than the Palestinians, who originally lured Israel into embarking on their military operations in Lebanon. But IDF vigorously deny they are contemplating pulling out of Lebanon, arguing that at the present there is no credible strategic alternative.

DFF – De Facto Forces

DFF is a term applied by the UNIFIL. The proxy-militia supported and financed by Israel calls itself "The South Lebanese Army". DFF was set up in 1976 to counterweight the heavy Palestinian presence in South-Lebanon. Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Dayan installed Major Saad Haddad as the leader. Haddad had a history as a former Leb-Army officer and originated from the Christian town of Marjayoun, just south of NORBATT. Major Haddad died of cancer in 1984 and was replaced by General Antoine Lahad as the commander of the DFF and headquartered in Marjayoun. DFF is made up of about 2500 soldiers and divided into an eastern and a western brigade. In addition there is a more or less independent DFF-battalion in the area of Jezzine, coexisting with the Leb-Army. The officers' corps of the DFF consists of mainly Christians, the privates are recruited from all religious groups, including Shia-Moslems. The morale of DFF personnel has been subject to much talk and controversy, and Israel has been accused of using DFF-soldiers as "sandbags". Certainly, the motives for joining the DFF, are largely economic and pragmatic. In an effort to boost morale, Israel has promised higher wages to their DFF-allies. At the present time DFF-soldiers, signing 3 year contracts, make about 350 USD a month, officers make about 600 USD. There are 30 permanently based DFF-positions in the vicinity around NORBATT. Since

the April Confrontation in 1996 ("Operation Grapes of Wrath"), AE's seem to be concentrating their attacks more on IDF-targets rather than DFF.

GSS – General Security Service

GSS is equivalent to the Israeli Shin Bet, the Internal Security Service. GSS-Lebanon is a paramilitary Security and Intelligence service organized by GSS-Israel, but under formal command of CO DFF. Practically it operates largely independent of the DFF and is responsible for security inside the ICA. GSS Hasbaiya is responsible for NORBATT AO, Blate being the only exception. Blate is under the control of GSS AeL Khiam, the mainly Shia-population being the reason for this. GSS-elements wear civilian clothing and drive civilian cars. GSS mission is to neutralize possible imminent and hostile operations against Israel and IDF/DFF. The second main task is to control the civilian population and to predict those they think might be inclined to assist AE-operations.

Hizbullah – God's party

Hizbullah was established in 1979 encouraged by the Islamic revolution in Iran and Ayatullah Khomeiny's coming to power. Hizbullah is the most able and motivated group in Lebanon dedicated to the liberation of Lebanese land as the main goal. Hizbullah is becoming increasingly professional in their guerilla-warfare due to heavy military and financial support from Iran and Syria. The 1997-budget for liberation organizations in Lebanon is presumed to be 100 million USD. General Secretary Hassan Nasrallah is in charge of the General Assembly with the overall responsibility for the educational, spiritual, financial and political sectors. The Polit Bureau provides the guidelines for the Executive Committee being responsible for the security,

A tangle of groups

ongoing strategy and overall military resistance. Hizbullah has political aspirations in Lebanon and is represented in the Lebanese National Parliament speaking the voice of the Shia-population in Lebanon and competing for popularity with the more moderate Amal-movement. Hizbullah is recognized by the Lebanese government as a legitimate resistance movement. The resistance movement achieved a preliminary break-through as it on behalf of Lebanon signed a truce agreement with warring counterpart Israel after "Operation Grapes of Wrath" at 04.00 hrs. April 26. 1996. Hizbullahs reconstruction company "Jihad al-Bina" is another idealistic sub-unit rebuilding the infrastructure and civilian houses destroyed by Israeli shelling, and thus winning more popularity among the local population.

Islamic Resistance is the military wing of Hizbollah consisting of about 500-1000 well trained soldiers. Hizbullah has a mobilization reserve consisting of approximately 5000 soldiers. The military wing is organized into a number of different specialized cells and fractions. Fire Support Units, Tank Sniper Teams, disciplined infiltration sections and a very efficient intelligence ground organization concealed among the civilian Shia-population. The professional soldiers are provided with modern combat gear as kevlar helmets, special uniforms, bullet-proof – or flak jackets, commando weapons with sniper sights, NVGs, ICOMs are cellular phones.

Hizbollah warriors now possess modern military weapons and are capable of launching very effective strikes against their enemy using

road-side bombs, mortars and anti-tank weapons. Hizbullah even record their attacks and ambushes and broadcast their operations on their own television channel "Al Manar" in Beirut. Also, recently Hizbullah got their own home-page on the Internet. Their own radio station is called "Voice of the Oppressed".



Amal

AMAL is an acronym and means "Hope" in Arabic. Amal is a Shia-Moslem organization with political ambitions as well as military. Amal was founded in 1974, by Imam Mousa as-Sadr who mysteriously vanished on a visit to Moamar Qadhaffi in Libia in 1978. Amal started largely as a counterweight to the Palestinian presence in South-Lebanon which caused much discontentment in the Shia-population. However, nowadays Amal is concentrating their efforts mostly using political means in their attempt to liberate South-Lebanon. Amal is headed by Nabi Berri, a Shia-Moslem from Tibnin, who is also Member of the Parliament. Amal's military wing is called Believers' Resistance and launches fewer and less professional attacks against the IDF/DFP in comparison with Hizbullah's Islamic Resistance. Historically, Amal and Hizbullah have always been compe-

ting for influence and power, politically as well as militarily. Like Hizbollah, Amal is also supported by Syria.

Palestinian Fractions

The Palestinian soldiers were ejected from Jordanian territory in 1970 after a series of military operations in the Palestinian quest to liberate occupied Palestine. The refugees subsequently established themselves in Lebanon, and primarily in what is known as the Arqoub (NORBATT COY B area), From their Fatah-land – named after the military wing of the PLO – they launched operations against the state of Israel. In the 1978 "Operation Litani" – causing the creation of UNIFIL, and the much more ambitious "Operation Peace for Gali-

lea" the Palestinian military wings were forced to leave Lebanon, thus largely ridding Israel of the problem of Palestinian infiltration into Israel. But in the process of doing so, Israel alienated the Shia Moslem population in Lebanon and created possibly an even more potent threat: The Hizbullah and the Amal.

These days, with PLO no longer conducting military operations against Israel after the peace-treaty between Israel and PLO signed in Oslo in 1993, Palestinian operations in South-Lebanon are rare. However, PFLP, PFLP-GC and DFLP, headed by George Habash, Ahmed Jibril and Naif Hawatmeh respectively, do on rare occasions incite small-scale and semi-professional operations against Israeli targets in South-Lebanon from their bases in Damascus, Syria.

Magne Steiner Malmo
MAGNE STEINER MALMO

CAPT/MIO NORBATT

UNIFIL HEAD



The bunch in NORCONTICO office.
Fr. left: ARNSTEIN, ATLE, STEIN ÅGE og INGE.



Our King is 60 –
Norwegian colours flying.



PER – did well in the kitchen.



OLA, another
useful man in the kitchen.



From left.
JOAR, ROLF og ARNE.



MP-CREW: Top fr. left : ØYSTEIN, TORSTEIN, HENNING, PÅL, KRISTIAN, NILS og GORM. Bottom fr. left: PETTER, VEGARD, YNGVAR, EIRIK og VIBEKE.

QUARTER NAQOURA



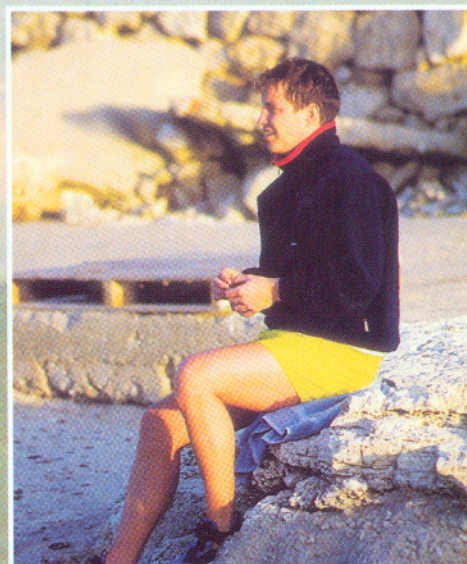
On the occasion of H. M. KING HARALD V 60-YRS, NORCONTICO hosted a dinner for the Norsemen in Naqoura ROLF PAULSEN had the honour of speaking.



LIAISON BOYS.
KJELL in TEAM CHARLIE & KRISTOFFER in TEAM BRAVO.



INE & HER (BOSS'es) NEW PC.



Håkon relaxing after Christmas dip in the Mediterranean ocean.



Every now and then Knut «humanitarianated». Hand-out of clothes etc. in a village close to Nepbatt 5-21.



l. to r. : ØIVIND (a must for catering), TOR og ROLF.



PER OG TERJE on the terrasse outside Norway House. Terje gave us the water back..



UT PÅ TUR, ALDRI SUR. Skiing in FERAYA. KARI-ANNE & ARNE.



REOPENING MP-TYRE (13/2-97).
From left.: ØYSTEN, CO MP-Coy
FAUSKE og FIJI NAMANU.



FOOD ASSISTANT,
CPL. GUNDERSEN,
loved & hated.



STEIN, or STONE? Dart was really his game (he believed).



«Stop bothering us during opening hours ...»



Christmas eve and St. Claus (STEIN ÅGE?) in Norway House. Kristoffer had his luck.



FRANK, always smiling ... use some \$\$, - why not?



KRISTIN & her dog HEBBE.



*DAG TERJE.
Said member of some kind of mix male voice choir.*



*Christmas eve -96.
Compulsory swimming.*



DAG HARALD & ROBIN.

Force Mobi I

FMR is a multinational force which supports all the UN-positions in South Lebanon. It becomes involved if a conflict cannot be solved by a battalions own mobile reserve. (Un) Fortunately so far in contingent 38 FMR has not been needed. Instead we have spent hours cruising about in the different battalions and in the ICA, becoming familiar with South Lebanon through the hatch cover in the Sisu.

The patrols usually meet in the HQ of the different battalions either at six o'clock am, twelve thirty pm or six o'clock pm. What we remember best from the patrols are all the "wadies" with the masses of stones and the smell of garbage; the narrow streets with tiny, cute children who wave feverishly; the beautiful, darkeyed young girls; the many originally constructed cars; the colourful Hezbollah posters; slaughtering of animals in the streets; and all the different OP's and CP's, where the boys on the Sisu put their pride in giving small funny remarks when passing soldiers of the different nations, who were stiffly standing in their position of greeting.

Ghanaian version: Mjau, Mjau – Voff, Voff
or Boho

Fijian version: Which way ? – anyway,
Norway, Fiji highway

Nepalese version: Ram, ram Sati – very pain

Finnish version: Terve

A few times per month we had both "Night convoy patrol" and "Day convoy patrol". The whole of FMR went out in a row of eight Sisu's and showed all the flags of the force around in all the battalions. We then had the chance to practice skills in coordination, leadership and communication towards the battalions.

We also spent some nights in Norbatt where we made shopping in Saqi, followed by hair-"dressing" and pizza-eating. It was nice to visit Norbatt in the sense that we had a chance to speak Norwegian with both friends and strangers.



Preparing for Day convoy patrol.



The boys relaxing before a trip in AO.



A happy time in the sun.

i le Reserve

We also had some interesting visits to the OP's of OGL inside ICA. They gave us briefings and we had the chance to see Israelian soldiers. Once we visited OP Mar and met a patrol with 30 soldiers.

Through helicopter-training we were able to see the area of operation from above. We were picked up in Naqoura and were taken to another position where another team was situated. Places were swapped with the waiting team in a Sisú. In this way we could support a position that lies far away from FMR. The flying experience was a nice change from all the regular patrols.

FMR Contingent 38 also participated in the UNIFIL championship in shooting which was organized by FINBATT. True to tradition medals were won; Pte Guldbrandsøy won a bronze medal in the team contest in riflshooting, Cpl Simonsen and Fagerland won a bronzemedal in the falling plates competition and Pte Taraldsen won bronzemedal in the team contest in gunshooting.

We also had many merry moments in Camp Grotle. Who doesn't remember the endless hours of sunbathing after tough athletic activities in competition with the other nations in the camp; football, volleyball, especially land-hockey, and lifting old metal garbage for those with special interests.

Famous quotations; "Have you seen the tattoo of the boys that have come back from leave?", "Why isn't coffee made?", "Tomorrow it is Standby III – first in the Finnish sauna and then in the bar".

FMR/Norplatoon is mostly known in Norbatt for "the boys with all the parties" – which some women of Norbatt participated in. These were happy occasions due to efforts made in decorating the bar, gathering supplies and dressing up.

Finally we would like to thank ourselves for a wonderful time spent in a group that was welded together during long patrol hours.



Leaving for Night convoy patrol.



Gathering on the 3rd of February to honour Pte Arild Grotle. "Grotle day". CO, DCO and an Irish chaplain stands in front of the Norwegian section.



Brief given by Rittmester Søreide before an exercise "Call-out".

Force Mobile Res e



Serious peacekeepers ...



... transition ...



s erve/Nor Platoon



... to not so grave ...



... or rather serious ...



... party animals.

Peace keepin' memory

Having served with the UN we all know how brief the collective mind is. It has been said that the human individual's greatest gift is the ability to forget.

"It is regrettable, but the course of history is set not by justice, but by the law of the jungle".

E. Salem



Some even say that the Interim Force itself has been forgotten – by the politicians. But we won't forget Lebanon and hope to return as civilian tourists after an implementation of UNIFIL's mandate. Comradeship and a positive tone of cooperation and friendliness has been typical for our service during the contingent – that's the true UN spirit.

Our experience has also been that of a mixed unit with Estonian and Norwegian soldiers together. Thereby we have learnt from each other also things we didn't know about ourselves. The diversity has been a strength which both nationalities have taken lessons from.

Common to us is the open relations

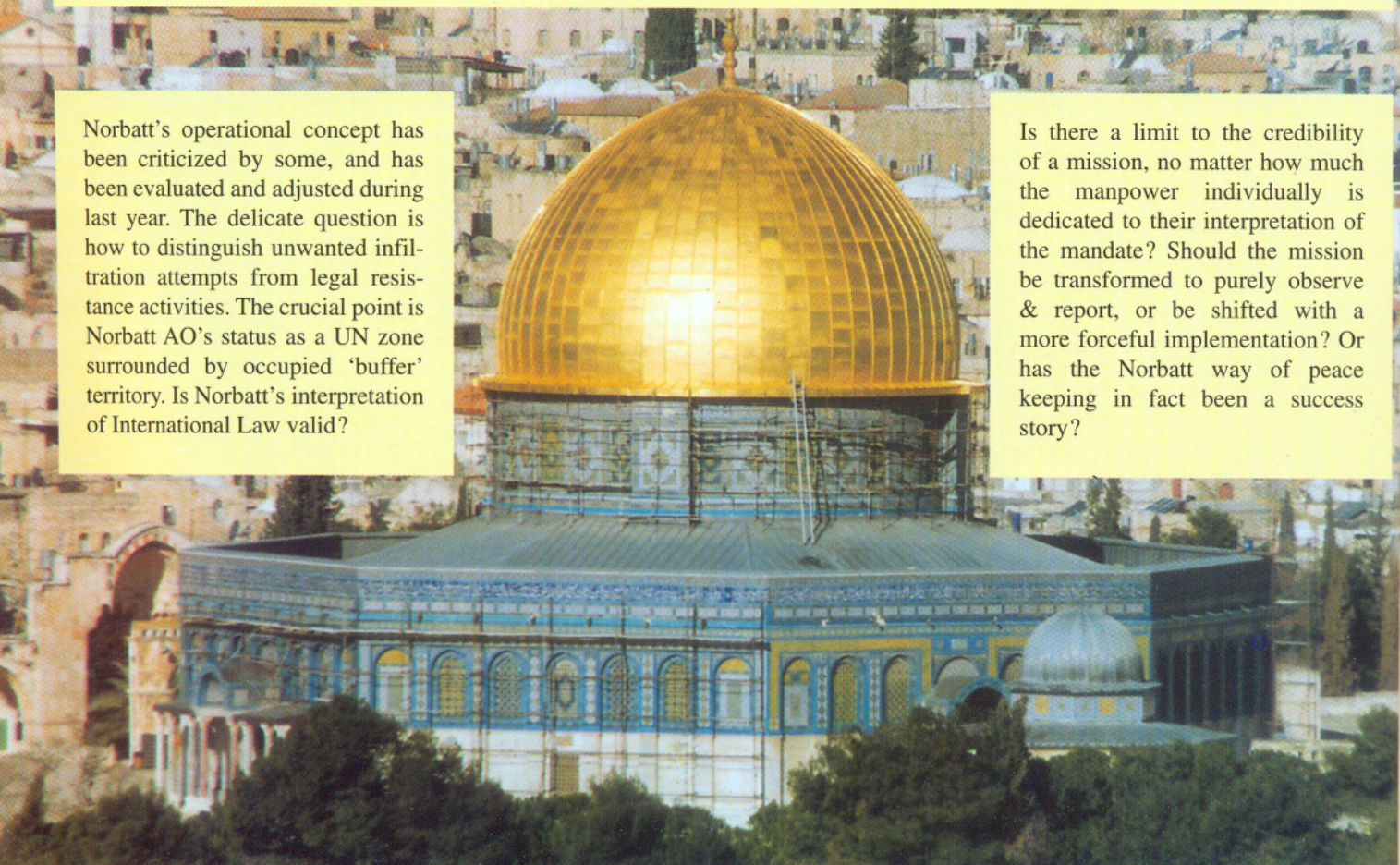
we've had with the local population. Though this was more widespread earlier on, it is ever more appreciated when we have the possibility to spend time with the Lebanese citizens. Not as keepers of peace only, but as fellow human beings. Admiring their ability to cling to the fragile peace in the area, reconstructing their homes and societies. Sharing the same 'gut' feeling about political development in the region, no matter the 'Oslo channel'. Next year the Interim Force is due to mark the 20th anniversary.

The Arkoub area has changed since the first Norwegian UN-soldiers dug in here back in 1978. The Palestinians were forced out in '82 and the 'radical' South has

been overturned in the mean time by the Israelis and their proxy militia. The political climate has been crude and continues to stay so. The Gulf War in '91 established a new political map in the region, and the relative stability in Beirut due to the taboo-declared Damascus connections has in some aspects tranquilized also the South. The powers that be have changed the 'terrain' in Norbatt AO, but even so we keep up our work on the ground as the only UN battalion bordering Lebanon's southern border. To actively keep potential military targets away from the AO has been Norbatt's objective. To what extent would we have managed if it weren't for the facts listed above?

Norbatt's operational concept has been criticized by some, and has been evaluated and adjusted during last year. The delicate question is how to distinguish unwanted infiltration attempts from legal resistance activities. The crucial point is Norbatt AO's status as a UN zone surrounded by occupied 'buffer' territory. Is Norbatt's interpretation of International Law valid?

Is there a limit to the credibility of a mission, no matter how much the manpower individually is dedicated to their interpretation of the mandate? Should the mission be transformed to purely observe & report, or be shifted with a more forceful implementation? Or has the Norbatt way of peace keeping in fact been a success story?



SALUTE TO NORBATT XXXVIII



The Contingent is drawing to a close and a hectic and eventful period of our lives is soon history.

UNIFIL and NORBATT stabilizes and eases the situation to enable continued negotiations. Our presence and ability to take on responsibility will also be useful when a deal is finally brokered between the parties. Norbatt's AO is steadily growing calmer, and so is our control in the area. Norbatt's solid and steady pulling from the early days up till now has clearly contributed vastly to the tranquil situation of today.

Also Norbatt XXXVIII can look upon our effort with pride, solving the task in a very good and professional way. We are respected by all parties, by the civilians and by UNIFIL from the way we have solved our difficult task.

NORBATT XXXVIII is also historic in the sense that we have been two Nations within the unit. This has surpassed smoothly beyond all expectations and in a true UN spirit.

I want to thank our Estonian friends in the Bravo company for their will and ability to cooperate, and a job very well done indeed.

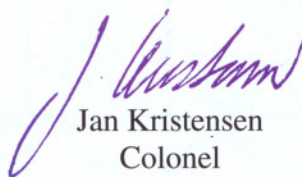
You who are about to take on Contingent XXXIX will be responsible for educating the new contingent. You will be a few chosen and I know you will perform the task with brilliance.

The ones decided to go home after serving for one or two contingents will bring a lot of memories and experiences. I am confident that the large majority will remember the time spent with NORBATT XXXVIII as one of joy and fond memories.

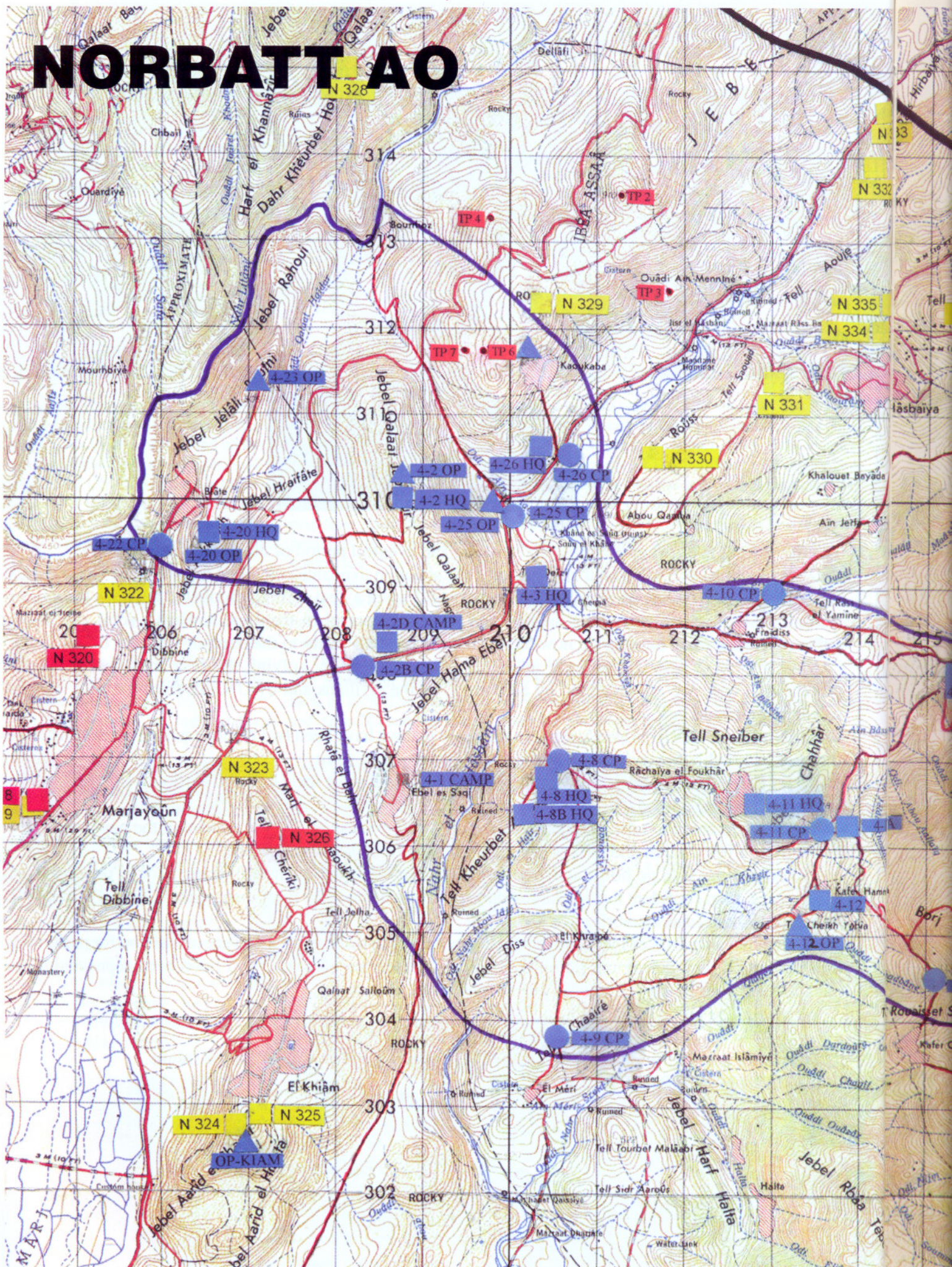
As Commanding Officer I will use this final opportunity to thank each and every one of you for performing in a very good way during our common effort in the service of peace. You have been representing the battalion and your mother country in an excellent way.

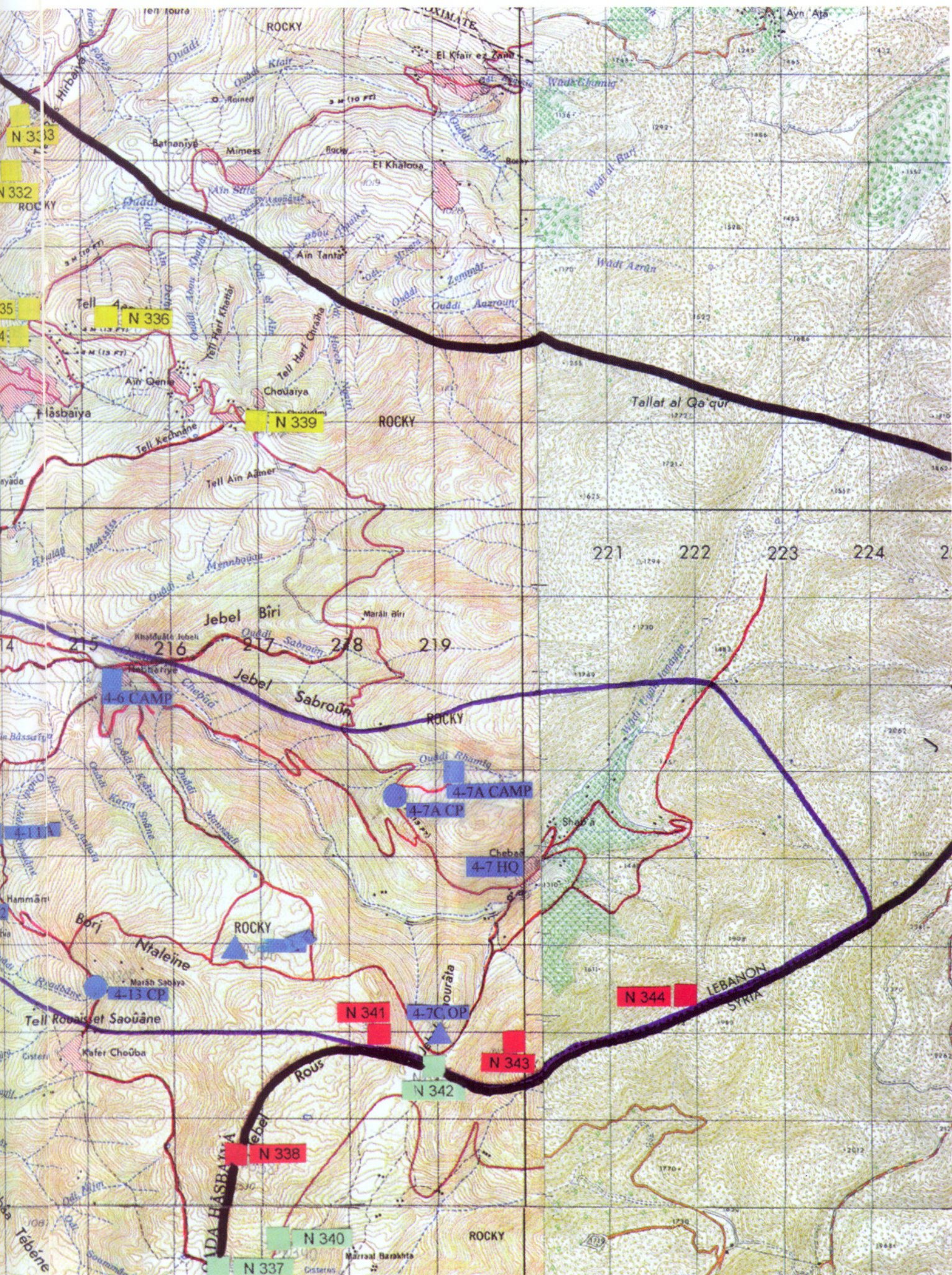
We may all be proud of our own and NORBATT XXXVII's performance.

Thanks for serving for peace in NORBATT, and accept my best wishes for the future.
Good luck to NORBATT XXXIX.


Jan Kristensen
Colonel
CO NORBATT

NORBATT AO





Chronology of events Contingent XXXVIII

There has been low tension inside Norbatt AO during this contingent. Throughout the beginning of this contingent IDF carried out a number of patrols in the Chebaa-area in order to test the Estonian company and its state of readiness. From time to time N 329 north of Kaokaba has been exposed to AE mortar shelling. On some occasions IDF have fired into Blate - Litani area and 2. platoon has sought cover in shelter. IDF have increased their patrols both inside the sensitive Litani-wadi and in some villages. It has been reported about some firings close and a number of «Falcon eyes» have been detected and eventually detonated. The battalion have achieved skillful training in different medevac-scenarios.

NB! The deadline for this calendar of events was set to April 1. Consequently the months of April and May are not covered on this page.

November 30 – 1996

2 AEs were killed by IDF in a clash in the area of Jebel al-Rafi, near N312.

During October and November indications of a significant reinforcement in the eastern ICA were made. UNIFIL confirmed later that there has been an significant increase in the number of troops, weapons and vehicles inside ICA in general.

December 4

CO IDF Northern Command Major General Amiram Levine made it publicly known that the IDF for

the past 18 months has been operating in South Lebanon with the so-called EGOZ. This is a special unit tasked with carrying out anti-guerilla missions against Hizbollah.

December 6

Lebanese military court sentenced to death in absentia the commander of Israel's surrogate militia in South Lebanon, DFF, General Antonie Lahad, on treason charges.

December 7

AEs launched a RSB-attack towards an IDF-patrol in the vicinity of Chateau de Beaufort. 1 bedouin-tracker was killed and another 2 IDF-soldiers wounded. As a part of the retaliation an IDF Main Battle Tank used flechette ammunition. 7 civilians from Kafra Tibnite were hit and injured.

December 13

2 katyusha-missiles were fired from a site near the village of Al Qulayah in Fijibatt. The impacts were monitored in the area of Nahariya. It is reason to suspect Palestinians from the Rashediyeh refugee camp near Tyre being responsible for the breach of the April Understanding.

December 14

2 AE-soldiers were killed in an IR-ambush in the area of Rihane E of N 316. CO ILTS BrigGen Eli Amitay and his radiooperator were slightly wounded.

December 19

BrigGen Amitay is wounded for the second time in less than a week, while on field inspection! AEs carry out a mortar attack against W144.

December 24

On Christmas eve Islamic Resistance detonates a RSB against an EGOZ-patrol in the area of Markabe, E of Ghanbatt. 2 elite soldiers were killed and another 2 wounded.

January 2 – 1997

AE carry out a combined attack against a rotation convoy to E 207 in eastern Finbatt. RSB and mortar are used in the attack where 4 DFF-soldiers are wounded.

31/12 – 9/1-1997

IRs Fire Support Unit carry out daily mortar attacks against N 309, the IDF-reinforced frontal position near Sojoud. 6 IDF-soldiers and 1 DFF-soldier are injured.

January 8

2 katyusha-missiles are launched from from 1,2 km NE of Nepbatts 5–10. The impacts are monitored both by OGL and IDF 1,5 km SW of OP LAB. 2 Palestinians are arrested by Lebanese authorities.

In a clash between IDF/DFF and an AMAL-patrol near E 203 in the eastern Finbatt 3 teenage AMAL-soldiers are gunned down by IDF. An IR-patrol from a nearby fire base subsequently fire a number of AT-3 Sagger missiles against the IDF/DFF-patrols. The result is 1 killed and 5 wounded IDF-soldiers. All IDF-soldiers belonged to the Nahal-brigade.

3 Egoz elite soldiers were wounded in an IR-ambush NW of N 328 while moving into an old mine-field.

January 27

Amal carry out, for the first time monitored in this area, a minor attack against N 322 near Zemraya gate.

January 29

Hizbollahs military wing, Islamic Resistance detonates a big road side bomb in the vicinity of E 203 against a Nahal-patrol. 3 IDF soldiers are killed and one wounded.

February 4

The worst accident in Israeli military history. 2 Sikorsky CH-53 helicopters (Super Stallion) crashed in the air while transporting soldiers to ICA. Due to bad weather and improper routines the transport helicopters crashed 8 km S of Norbatt, close to the Kibbutz at Moshav Shaar Yishuv. 73 soldiers, most of them Nahal and Golani, were killed.

February 7

Hizbollah is responsible for a coordinated attack in the western ICA on at least 14 DFF-compounds and one additional RSB in the village of Houle. This special day is called «Leilat al Qadr» when Allah revealed himself for the prophet Mohammed and gave him the Holy Book; the Koran. The intention with this attack is to gain PR and signify their ability to carry out large-scale coordinated operations.

February 9

7 Nahal-soldiers are wounded in an IR-ambush S of 5-3A in the area of W 123.

February 11

IAF attacked suspected AE-targets in the Bekaa-valley and S of Beirut. 4 rockets hit the buildings of Hizbollahs radio station «Voice of the Oppressed» in Baalbeck. In a compound belonging to PFLP-GC the local commander and 2 of his soldiers were injured.

February 18

Islamic Resistance launch a coordinated mortar attack against N 302, N 303 and N 329. 1 civilian



woman was killed and 2 other locals in the village Kafra Tibnite was injured by IDF's retaliatory artillery fire. Several civilian houses were damaged in Kafra Roummane.

February 28

Islamic Resistance attacked an IDF-convoy in the area of Rihane, close to N 316. In the exchange of fire 4 AEs and 1 IDF-sergeant were killed and 3 IDF-soldiers wounded. 1 Merkava MBT was hit and damaged.

IDF carry out a search operation in the village of Blate inside Norbatt AO. More than 70 IDF-soldiers took part in the «manhunt» looking for AE evidence. Norbatt tried to limit the military operation inside blue line by blocking roads with 6 APCs and 2 jéeps.

March 9

A crew member of a MK MBT was injured while hit by an anti tank missile. IAF strikes suspected AE-targets for the 23th time this year.

March 10

One IDF-soldier and 2 children are wounded in a RSB-attack in the vicinity of E208, E of Irishbatt. 2 Gendarmery-policemen are wounded in a bomb explosion in Jezzine.

March 19

An IR-team attacks a rotation convoy with missiles and 4000 MG-rounds in the vicinity of N 307. A comcar is hit with a AT-4 Spigot missile and 1 IDF-soldier is killed and 3 others are wounded.

March 22

High temperature occurs among Coy A while a high ranking IDF-officer and his 10 soldiers carry out a meeting together with civ adm, GSS and other VIPs in Ebel es Saqi. The ltcol from Eastern Bde, ILTS didn't have any permission and the Norbatt soldiers were denied to monitor the meeting.

Casualty toll within 1/4

	killed:	wounded:
1997:		
IR:	5	2
Amal:	3	0
IDF:	6	28
DFF:	1	6
CIVILIANS:	2	4

76 UN-soldiers have lost their lives while conducting their duty as peacekeepers in UNIFIL.

Magne Steiner Malmo
Captain/MIO Norbatt

Bttn command

– always on top – at Falkehøyden



From left: Lt col Flesvik, Zuhat and 1st Lt Mortensen.

The battalion's leadership consists of the Commanding Officer, colonel Jan Kristensen, his deputy Lt col Amund Flesvik and his Aide de Camp, 1 Lt Rune Dalsbø Mortensen. Lt col Flesvik will replace the CO whenever necessary and is also the Chief of Staff. Aide de Camp is Personal Adjutant for the CO. In addition these two in cooperation plan all the visits to the battalion – quite a lot as you all will know by now.

Who are these two? Lt col Flesvik originates from a small village in Gudbrandsdalen and is married to Elsa who has also given birth to his three children.

Flesvik came from a job as CO of Royal Norwegian Home Guard District no 15; HV-15. After one year of service in Norbatt he will return to this job.

PA is a peculiar noisy bigmouth deriving from the North of Norway. 1st Lt Mortensen originates from Tromsø CITY, where he will be living upon his return to service as Intelligence officer in the Reconnaissance battalion /6 DIV.

To all of you we want to thank for great cooperation, nice relationship and our best wishes for a happy life in the future.



Lt col Flesvik behind his desk.



1 Lt Mortensen in Tyrili.

The Personnel section

S-1

On the upper shelf we find major Sverre Dalhaug, whose main hobby seems to be collecting clothing from the Weekly run-contest – “Where’s my T-shirt”. Anyhow – on the desk just beside his is the main hatch for the battalion-staffs leave-schedule – the one and only “runner” of these affairs is captain Elin Ofstad. Questions are always answered “No” – she thinks, while the balance is kept by S-1 always replying “Yes” – he thinks.

Radio Norbatts early morning shows are hosted by either PIO captain Gunnar Grut or his assistant corporal Geir Egil Myhre. The two “recaps” together create a dynamic team with their never failing will to bring live on-air instant updates on current development.

The travel officer Ole Brændsrød seems to be interrupted only too often by travellers to his office – wondering if his assistant corporal Lars Wie has settled their itinerary to leave-travels world wide. Anyhow, “the Hitch-hiker’s Guide to Norbatt” may very well one of these days be written by the above mentioned captain.

The bicycle addicted Sports-officer – 1st Lt Jan Bratland – could be spotted by a blind man without his four-legged guide on the formers “all-gearred and ready to roll” two-wheel trips across the AO and elsewhere. The incredible Mr. Smile – corporal Danilo Suarez – never fails to let his enthusiasm include anyone around as he enjoys his latest “score”.

Emperor of video-tapes & players, guitars without strings – i.e. the Welfare Officer himself would be captain Kenneth Johnsen. In his eternal struggle to keep anyone away from his kinda large budget, he is joined by first lieutenant Tone Melhuus. A clear-minded lady never failing in her loyalty to the troops, she brought them the best she had to offer – her husband as a platoon commander!

Situated on the Holy-pad at Falkehøyden, major Steinar Moe exerts his educational skills on the Norbatt populace in various fora. Assisting him from a somewhat less elevated Log Base level captain Birgitte Bentzrød really goes out of her way in trying to have good folks involved in verbose debating.

How come no one ever complained about the services rendered?

