

The Operations section

S-3

Generally the contingent has been a quiet one, although operations have been carried out by the parties in the area, forcing the battalion to maintain a high degree of alertness at all times. The battalion has performed both efficiently and professionally, at all levels. Operatively speaking, the absorption of an Estonian coy in the battalion in the very beginning of the contingent, replacing the Norwegian Coy B, offered a great deal of challenge. However, all preliminary doubt as to the standard of the Estonian Coy's performance vanished very quickly. The excellent line of communication was partly due to Estonia's own officer of the S-3 section, 1 Lt Vaabel, as well as LO officers Capt Thon and Lt Granhein. In particular, I would like to emphasize the mellow atmosphere that existed within the section; the sharp sense of humour, comradeship and, of course, the quality of the work that each officer produced. "Uncle Lauritz" did his best to remain in control of the "raging war", ongoing operational projects as well as life within the sections itself. Keeping track of internal events within the section at times required as much diplomacy as in that of the battalion's external events. Especially so, upon the return of the young ones in wake of adventurous R&R's in parts of the world ranging from Norway to Rio De Janeiro to Cuba to Cairo.

The Duty Officer assistants *Geir Almedal, Kenneth Laugen, Dag Næss, Petter Helle, Einar Bröske and Arne Hårsvær* were formally a part of HQ Coy, but nevertheless a natural part of the BN-OPS. Their skills and reliability were essential to the good work at the OPS.

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the section, as well as the OPS-assistants, for the time spent together and the good work produced. Good luck and, hopefully, we can get together one day and talk about good old days.



The Logistic section

S-4



Our main task is to provide for whatever the troops need to fulfill Norbatt's mandate. Needless to say, this demands a versatile approach from all the various units – PX, Post, Pay, Accountant and Quartermaster. These professionals are all located in 4-1 Log Base "Steinmyra" – while the Section Head and his assistants – captain Ole Per Kvernes and first lieutenant Thomas Boltovsky – reside in 4-2 Headquarters "Falkehøyden".

Staff-officer no. 4, major Inge Laukslett is responsible for supply and maintenance of the entity of Norbatt's equipment – in close cooperation with all the specialists in the Headquarters company.

The logistic "sparring partner's" are located in UNIFIL HQ – Naqoura and in Norway. The physical distance must be overcome by hard work to create the close contact substantial to bring whatever needed to our door-step. We supply everything – from brand new matches to used APC's!

Post & Pay used to hold the Fort Knox in Ebl esSaqi, but as of this Contingent has moved into their new "Pengebingen" – the MoneyBin – centrally located inside the main gate in 4-1LB, just next to the PX. Manning Norbatt Field Post office are captain Nils-Harald Steinsvik, 1. lieutenant Ingar Romslo og 2. Lt Svein Larsen. Paymaster capt Arve Rovik is assisted by 2. Lt Arve Nerås.

The Quartermaster captain Erling Bruvik serves the troops from his Warehouse crammed with personal issue and articles of consumption. Captain Vidar Johansen and his assistant 1 Lt Ingunn Ekholm account for all equipment issued to Norbatt through the ages – and would be the ones who did the paper work in case you lost some military issue.

The Norbatt PX would still be a main welfare attraction for our soldiers – from liquorice to lingerie or "Snus" snuff to stereo – your wish is our command, says capt Rolf Beckmann and 2. Lt Henrik Sigve.

Logistic is really the place to be – both socially and professionally – we share a good laugh and do our best to provide the best service for all Norbatt personnel.



Maj Tofte Larsen with most of the local staff.

- LEGAL ADVICE FOR CO NORBATT AND OTHER SECTION COMMANDERS
- LIAISON SERVICE TOWARDS CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES
- CONTACT WITH NORWEGIAN EMBASSIES IN DAMASCUS & TEL-AVIV
- PROFESSIONAL ADVISER FOR MILITARY POLICE
- SUPERVISOR FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES
- PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE
- CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY
- REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATION



Capt Knutsen negotiating with local landowners.



Receiving humorous claim warning from Coy A.

HQ Coy CC

Many happenings occur in a coy that consists of many different personal characters, distributed on several positions within the area of operation. That is from the "starving" Pioneers who ate from their emergency-rations after only 10 minutes in shelter, to the two members of the Transport-platoon, who couldn't keep their time after some pleasurable evening excesses, and risked climbing the position fence even though they could have been taken as intruders and shot. Or as the Pioneer who, during his 60-hours in Israel, suddenly experienced acute home-sickness, and came to Metulla-gate at midnight in order to pass on the way home to Norbatt.

This is just a few of those events during the contingent, which at the moment they occurred seemed desperately serious but in the future will be remembered with a smile. Many other situations happen during a period like this in our area. However, what



Major O. A. Anker Rash.

we shall look back upon with the greatest pride is that we have fulfilled our assignment, according to the mandate which the UNIFIL and NORBATT have in this area, and we have done this following the motto we chose in Norway:

STYLE – SERVICE – SOLIDARITY

Last but not the least is the fact that every member of contingent XXXVII and XXXVIII can return to Norway, enriched by experience and maybe by dollars.

Finally I would like to thank each one of you for the great effort you have made in our coy. It is no big deal to be in charge of soldiers who prove their competence like you have done.

Thank you for your effort and best wishes for the future, wherever it may be.

Ole A Anker Rasch

Major

HQ Coy Commander



The CC is also in need of recreation ...



... but is also operational if need be.

KP-KO

Office hunters

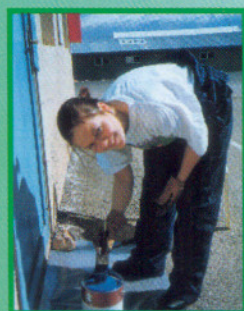
Company staff

What is worth saying about a Company staff that has not been said before? Most people think they know everything about us, but you don't!

Things you never knew about us:

- The company commander always had a box of bisquits stuffed under his bed
- The Adm.Off ate over 50 Snickers every week
- The coy adjutant never ate breakfast
- The Adm. Ass really were mad

We all wish to thank you for the past contingent. It's been nice and we hope to see some of you sometime later.



DCC a good day...

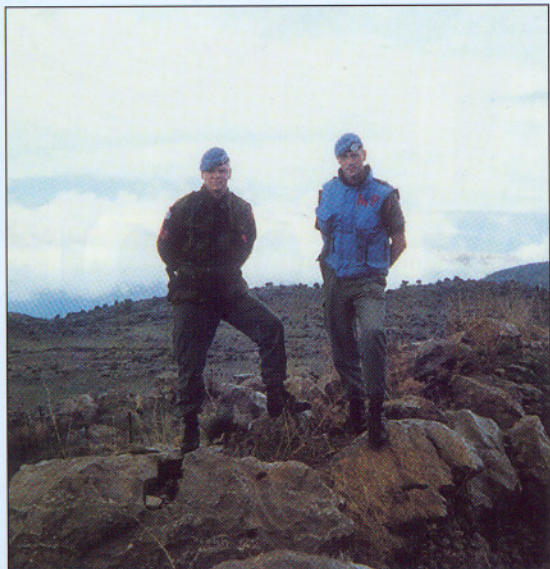


Body language...??!



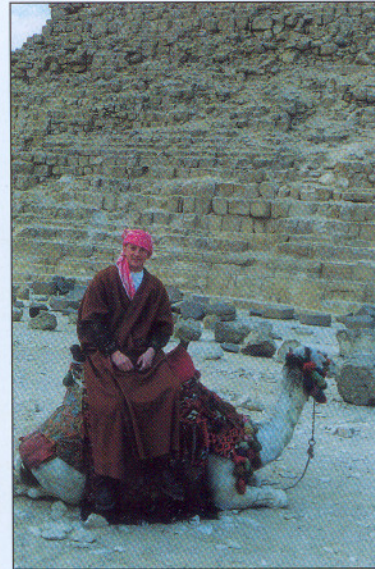
REGULATORS

"You can run, but you can't hide"



The Military Police have many different tasks, including:

- In charge of the guard at 4-2 HQ.
- Assisting in border crossing at Metulla
- Searching / checking luggage
- Teaching
- Weapon handover
- Escort
- Misc. controls
- Investigation
- Emergency alarms





SIGNAL PLATOON



N



...mix the following ingredients...

REFS BAR – The hottest spot in UNIFIL AO

BN chaffeur – Batman never got where he intended ...

ASS PIO – Chief energetic tongue-slipping radio

PLT ASS – Acting in charge and control of EVERYTHING

EDB OFF – Virus contamination all over

EXPEDITION – The btnn staff is left unknowing ...

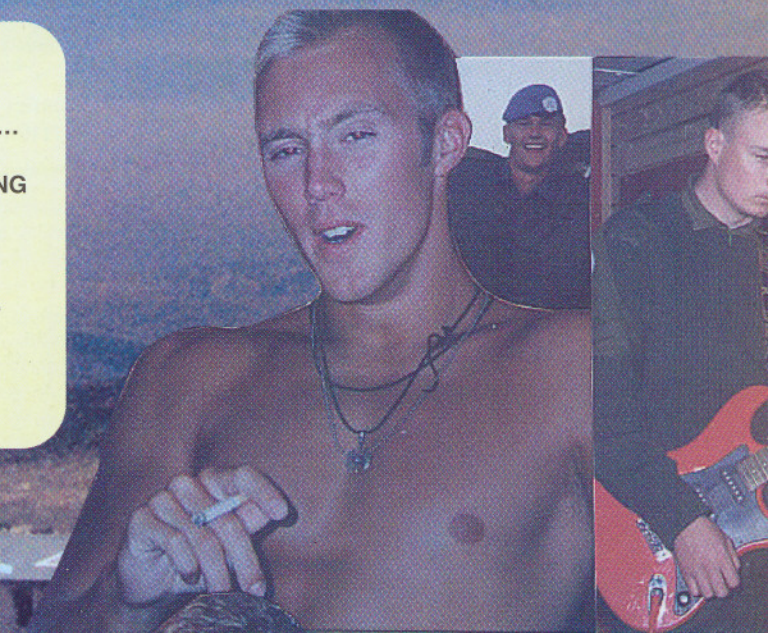
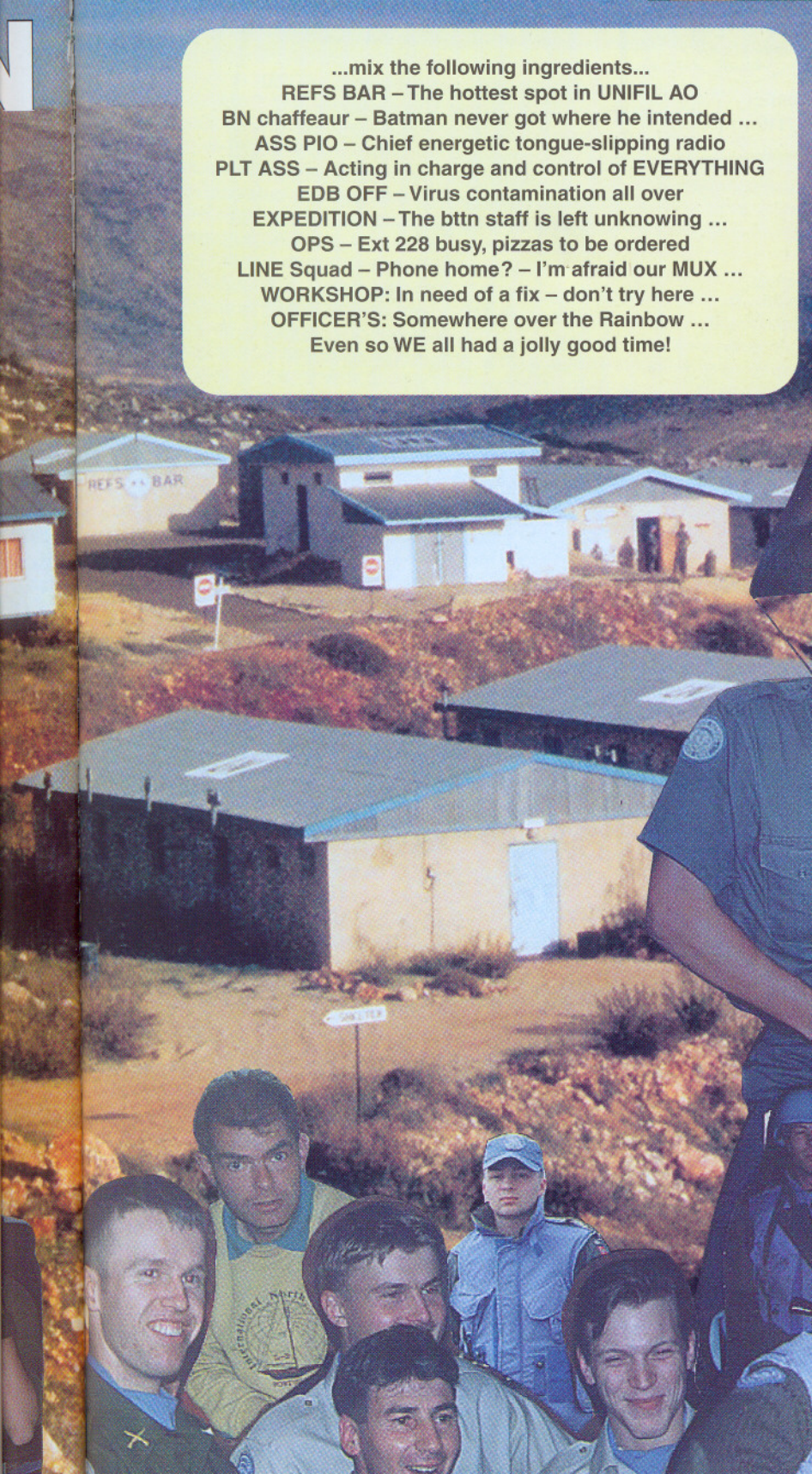
OPS – Ext 228 busy, pizzas to be ordered

LINE Squad – Phone home? – I'm afraid our MUX ...

WORKSHOP: In need of a fix – don't try here ...

OFFICER'S: Somewhere over the Rainbow ...

Even so WE all had a jolly good time!



Catering



"The position of the Catering platoon at 4-2."



"Falkehøydens" most popular fish course – Fishfingers- presented by kitchenboss Pettersen. Marthinsen and Kavli is responsible for the supplies.

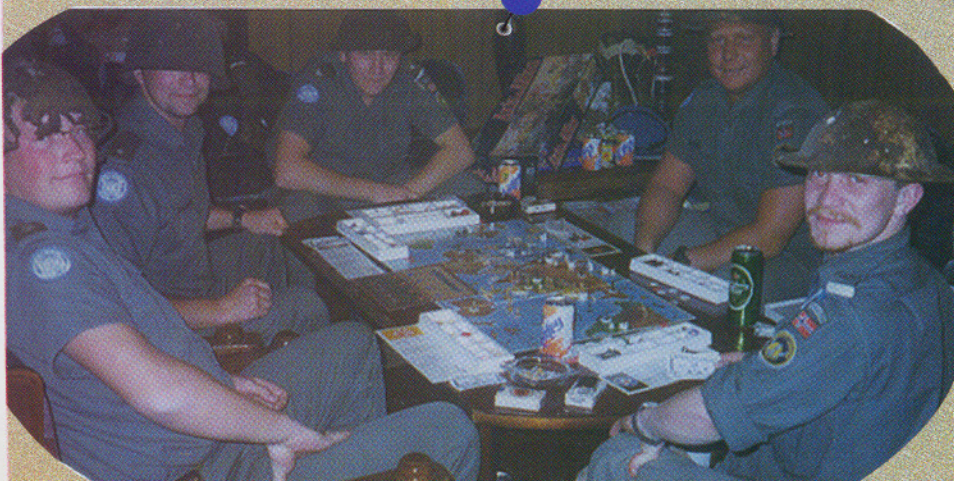


"The christmas rush is finally over ..."

"From left Pettersen, Kavli, Pedersen, Refling, Aune."



"Solbakken with one of his many female acquaintances."



"Catering is planning the next contingents together with members of staff. From left Nordby, Jahren, P.Nilsen, G.Nilsen og Lysholm."



"Confirmant Cont 38; Velle. ID.E."

g Platoon

*"The boss
himself; Terje
"klippfisk" Bruvoll!"*



*"Morning meeting at Steinmyra – The
sergeant distributing the duties ... "*



*"The platoons athletic
phantom Espen Allerød."*



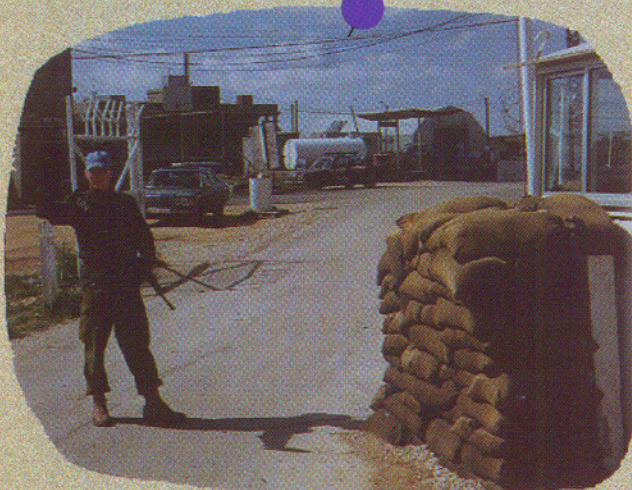
*"Oh, no ...
Not wholly
fried hyena again!"*



"Ulevik with the bread in his hand ... "



"Combatcook Selvåg guarding the gate at 4-1."



"King of the road ... princess Hamre!"





PIONEER PLATOON

The Pioneer platoon of this contingent has been a platoon much like its predecessors: a bunch of rouges with above average practical abilities. Age and personality are vastly varied, proportionate to the intense workload. We have people from pre-historic times; Langhelle, as well as young pups like "Bættre" Jacobsen. This makes being in the platoon even more fun.

1. Staff / Machine squad

Our field includes almost everything, from paperwork on platoon level to maintaining a supply of toiletpaper, welding and working the machines, etc. The squad consists of 2 welders, a depotworker, 2 machine workers, 1 "offroader" and a carpenter from Levanger. In addition we have the platoon CO and DCO.

2. Pioneer squad

This is the operational fist of the platoon, undergoing frequent ALPHA-exercises under the spiritual guidance of 1.Lt. Finnbråten. We take care of mineclearance, "Falconeye" and other dangerous tasks. We also have the responsibility for refurbishing CP's and painting/polishing the ALPHA wagon.

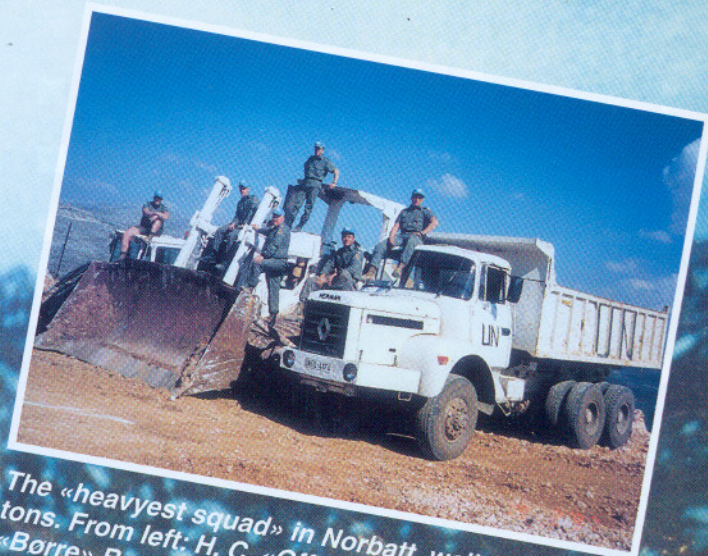
3. Artisan squad

These are the workhorses in the platoon. We are carpenters, bricklayers, etc. The boss himself, 2.Lt. Brenne, is a carpenter and knows his work – just check out the typhoonshed at 4-1. "Borderline" Kalle has had the IDF tennis championship named "Metulla open" by the IDF sportsofficer.

4. Maintenance (fire and water) squad

These guys can stand the heat, after all they are the firefighters of Norbatt. If there is a fire, 8 BRAVO is on the way with its sound and lightshow. If you hear something like a mad cow, get out of the way – there's a good chance it's the siren of the firetruck. We also take care of the water supply for the positions in Coy A and B. This is mainly done by twins, but being a twin is by no means a requirement. Our two plumbers have a motto: "The more you complain, the less water you will get". They don't leave much doubt. The squad is ruled, in an ironfist like way, by 2.Lt. Terje "Naqoura" Stiansen from his offices in Naqoura, Tyre or 4-2 Falkehøyden.

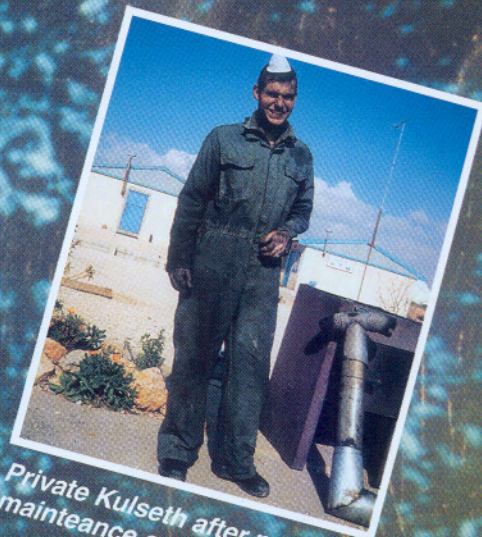
We wish to thank each other for a splendid contingent and a job well done.



The «heaviest squad» in Norbatt, well above 100 tons. From left: H. C. «Offroad» Heum, Anders «Børre» Børøund, Magne «Bættre» Jacobsen, Wiggo «Fixern» Langhelle, Kjell «Warning» Sara. On top: Helge «Bottom up» Botnmark. Not present: Fred «Hulken» Nordheim.



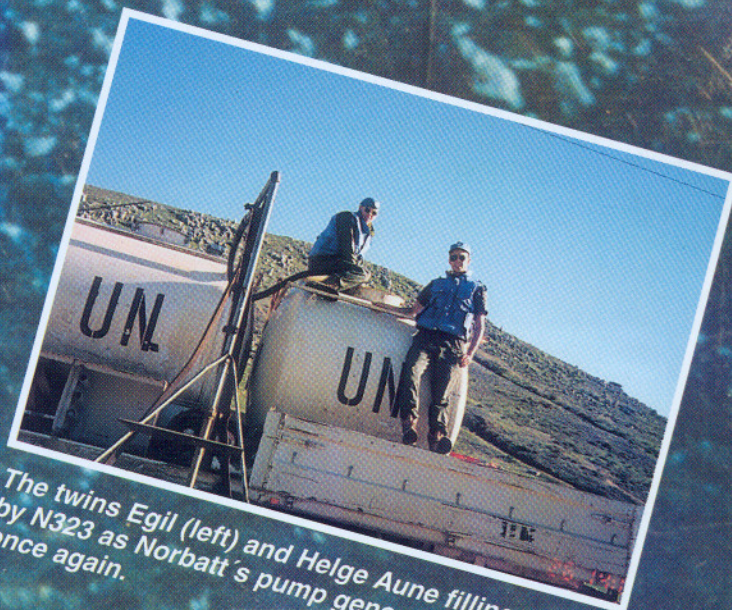
Cpl Fricker and 1st Lt. Delphin resting and lunching during mine clearance mission.



Private Kulseth after periodic maintenance on Sauna oven.



Cpl Fricker «mine clearing» the Eastern valley in Chebaa.



The twins Egil (left) and Helge Aune filling water by N323 as Norbatt's pump generator broke down once again.



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Medical Platoon

– best known
for first aid and white
clogs

Imagine you have been on a 60 hours leave and you suddenly got diarea. You move to the hospital a little shy. Turning to the switchboard-guard. From there you are directed to a medic who shows you the way to the court. You wait in anticipation and sweat runs from the forehead while awaiting the doctors decision. They put you in a bed. The dinner of the day is 1 liter of infusion-liquid that drop by drop goes into the blood. You are really taken good care of. Exactly then, you are about to discover why God created health-care personnel. Because, only two days later you have got rid of the diarea.

Why we move around in white clogs is only because we care about our own health.

If you've seen us sitting on the sofa in the waiting-room, it's just a coffee-break from the hard work.

Every 14th day we travel on ICA-patrols. This is both educating and exhausting.

In the evenings we are gathered in Sansibar, playing music and making ourselves cozy. A catch-word is Jam session.

We are known as the ones with the finest shelter in Norbatt, and it's for sure true.

Especially our mice think so. They make themselves cozy with the sweets in our rucksacks. The shelter is frequently used as music-room, a place to talk, and not to forget as a shelter.

We use the ambulance whenever we drive to the dining hall. The ambulance was given, from some well-intended majors in Naqura, without asking the users. So we felt we got a lorry for bakery-goods, with red cross on the sides and a red light on the roof.

Facts about the medical platoon, and some more !!

- The infirmary & the medical platoon is on Falkehøyden, position 4-2 HQ.
- The platoon consists of 19 men and women. We also have the bttn-doctor, maj. Erik Engebretsen



and the veterinary, maj. Johan Aursjø.

These two are actually in the battalionstaff but we think about them as belonging to the medical platoon, as they have most of their work here, and they also spend much of their spare time here.

- The front man in the platoon is capt. lt. Asgeir. He is a tall guy basicly with beard (but he is now shaved). He is also filled up with a lot of good comments and humour.
- As deputy commander we have lt. Håvard Malmedal, a small guy with big ambitions. He also functions as the platoon commander when Asgeir is away, we therefore call him "fungus" (in Norwegian it also means mushroom).
- The doctors are: ass. bn-doctor maj. Olav Kjerland. If you didn't know him you maybe would have used the word absent-minded. He also have this tendency to forget the rest of us, but on the inside he hides a man of steel control. He got the nickname motorOlav because he always carries a Motorola.
- Emergency doctor is capt. Ellen C. Tveter, she is really beaming with joy and is always happy. When she wants to relax she plays trumpet, we are all greatfull for her using our sound insulated shelter.
- The nurses are lt. Else Haneseth, witch is the clinnurse. In addition to most of the responsibility

of the infirmery, she also pretends to be the mother of all the platoon, thereby "mother Else".

- The material nurse is lt. Anna Roer, she's responsible for the medical equipment that we deliver out to the coys. She also has the responsibility to order the material from Naqura - a very big challenge. But Anna doesn't take "no" for an answer.
- Educational nurse is lt. Barbro Fjellstad. Her mission is to educate all the personnel in Norbatt in everything from first aid, to how to do things when you are on leave in Tel Aviv.
- Hygiene officer is lt. Egil W. Berg who makes sure that we take care of our personal hygiene, as well as food and water containing a minimum of bacteria. It is also him you call if you are bothered with vermins or other creatures. That's why he has the nickname "Terminator", but that can also be because he crushes most of the people in running.
- Our dentist maj. Jostein W. Eikeland, is the man you are looking for if you have pain in your teeth. He is probably the most "fit for fight" dentist you have ever seen, if you ever see him without his gun you must be the first.
- Cpl Stig Aardal is the dentists assist as well as the platoons assist. He is an experienced guy in this game, he was here in contingent I, II, XXXVII and has now recap in cont. XXXVIII.
- Then we have the ambulance

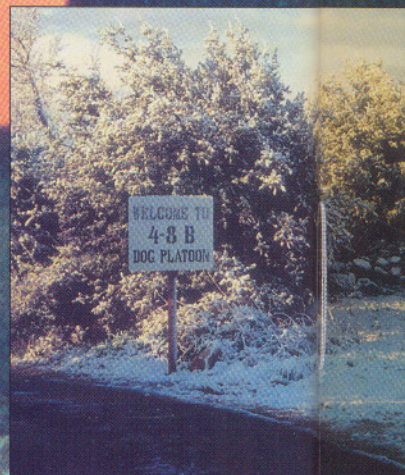
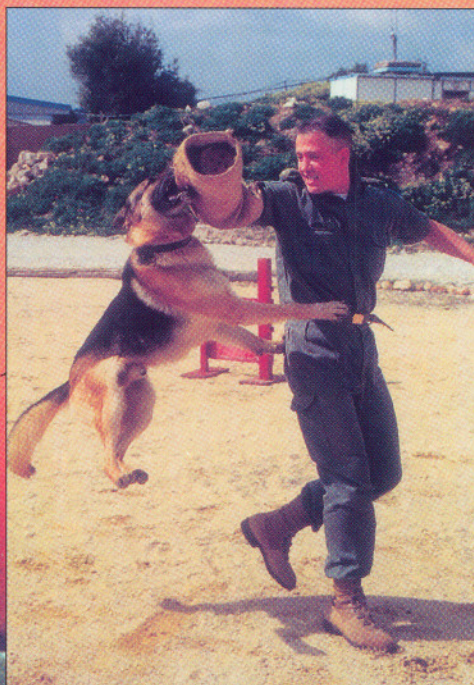
drivers and the medics, who should have a chapter of their own, but very shortly:

- Cpl. Glenn K. Lauvik is squad leader of the ambulance drivers. He is very definitely a guy who is sometimes older than himself, his disciples are; Lars O. Pettersen, who has found his place in radio-Norbatt together with Leif, there they can expire there speaking disease. Kine Andersen together with Siv constitute the duo "shopping babes". Jon C. Skjerstad should actually had his own page with his expressions: "jau, jau" and "vart du skræmt no". Birger Kvam, if you wonder about something, ask him, he surely was in CMR/coy B in the last contingent.
- Squad leader of the medics is cpl. Fred Pedersen, he is a person with a lot of rhythm, and he likes to sing, especially when he is in sleep. His subjects are: Siv F. Skailand popular called the "shelter woman", say no more. Geir Kjetil Nerland you will find by the pasien's bed, or in his own, as long as he doesn't work out. Leif W. Brandt is the tallest person in the platoon with his feet planted high in the air.
- Here in the medical platoon we have many different persons and personalities, but after all we have a good relationship and friendship! Here you are always welcome, either you are sick or not.

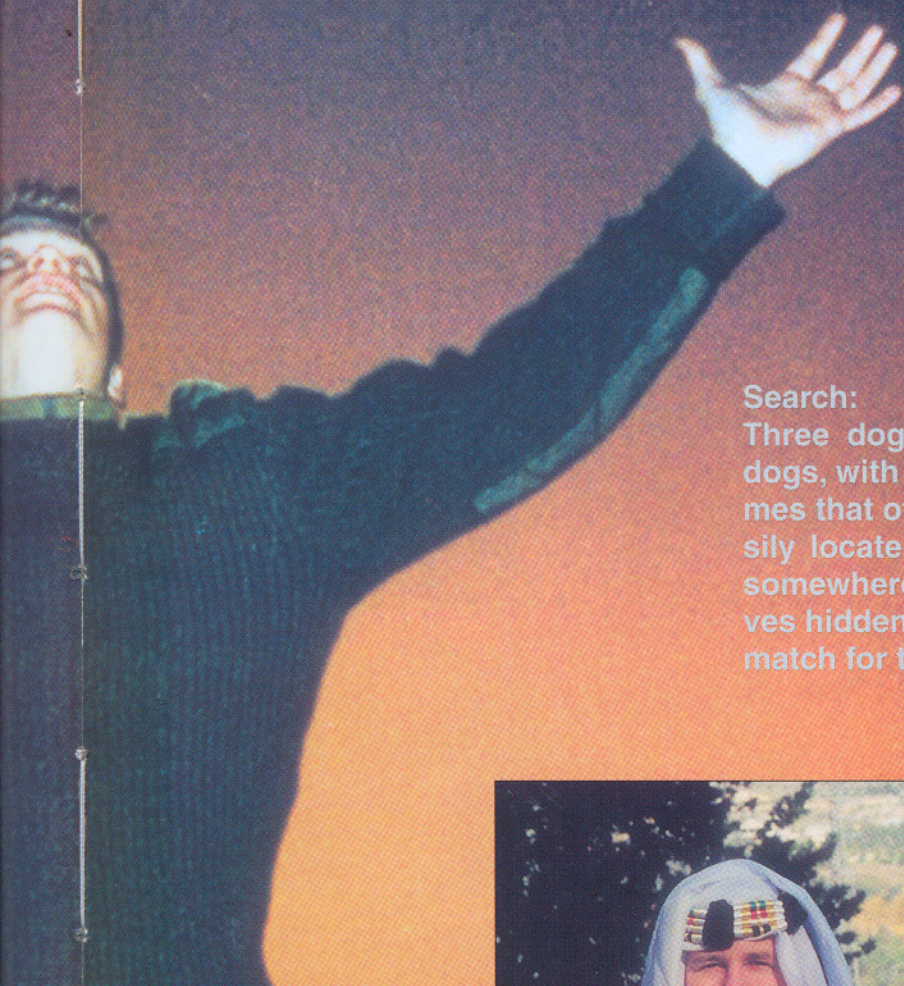
WE OWN TH

Patrol:

When darkness set, four of the ten patrol doghandlers of the platoon make ready to go out. Nobody get more "bush" than these men and women, beeing the eyes and ears of the battalion at night. All the dogs are also trained to search for equipment, and can furthermore provide valuable assistance in the event of problems in a CP.

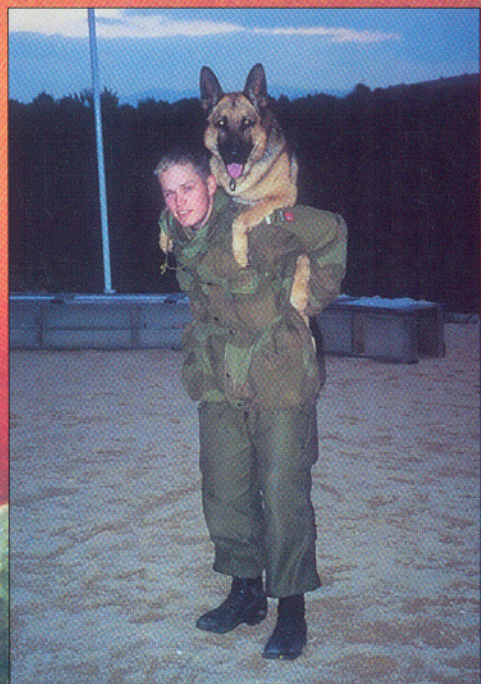


THE NIGHT



Search:

Three dogs in the platoon are dedicated search-dogs, with a smelling capability several thousand times that of Man. The dogs Hebbe and Robin can easily locate one gram of drug hidden under a rock somewhere in a area measuring 30m x 30m. Explosives hidden in the engine compartment of a car is no match for the dog Aiko.



MATR / AMMO

Another contingent is drawing to an end, and the platoon will split once more. Some are making ready for another contingent while some will leave for home. You have been a good, though sometimes a wild and unruly, bunch – I want to thank you all for the cooperation and I hope we will stay in touch with each other.

With regards from the platoon commander



THE WORKSHOP



"Play-sergeant" Kjærvoll with TFM. Often heard; "F....off!"



Oppen and Langballe in action! Does it come in order this time, I wonder? Often heard on leave: Off-roaders or F....TRM-shit...."



AMR-hunters in front of new aggregate units. From left: Lynghamar, Lund, Ystad, Johansen, Lydersen, Eraker, Sætern and Johansen. Often heard: "What happens ...?"



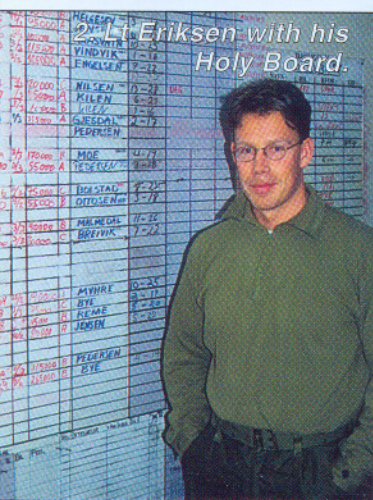
Corp Karlsen and 2nd Lt Rambraut. Karlsen is forced to listen to the boss ... Often heard : "ZZZZZZ".



Lt Holmberg with his slave; Corp Olsen. Often heard: "We don't have any left...". "Where is the ping pong ball now?"

TRANSPORT TEAM

The few, the proud, the totally insane



2nd Lt Eriksen with his Holy Board.

Everyday duty here in Lebanon removes the difference between weekends and workdays. Whether it's Christmas evening or an ordinary Monday, there's always some need for transportation. Our team transports bits and pieces all over south-Lebanon and to Israel. Our drivers are widely known for their driving. We always participate in the Chebaa-march. As drivers, of course.



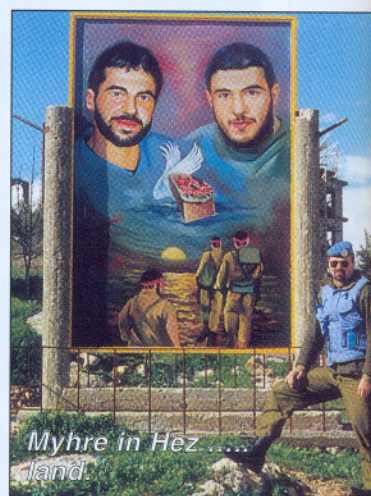
Kilen fit for fight.



Pedersen with his f..... TRM 2000.



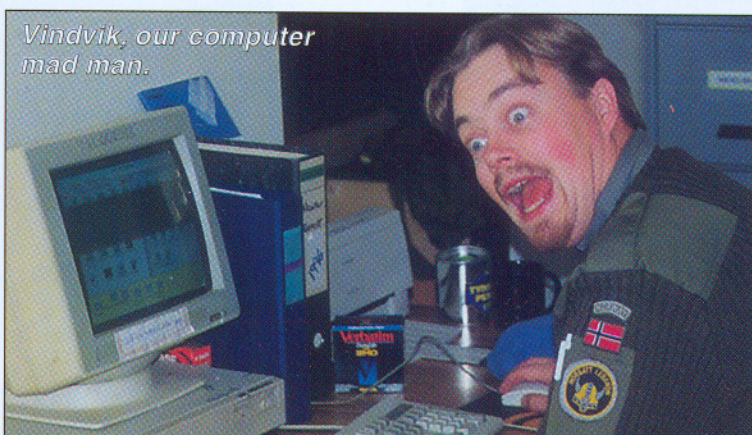
Some of the team. - Awaiting missions ...



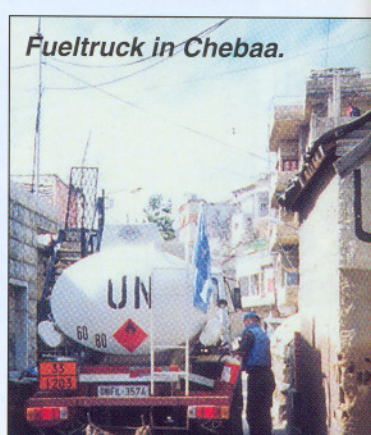
Myhre in Hez land.



Local "kompator".



Vindvik, our computer mad man.



Fueltruck in Chebaa.

A COY



The Alpha coy has also this contingent made a great accomplishment both operationally and administratively. Operational activity in our area has maybe been less than some have expected. I choose to see this as a result of the job we do both patrolling and manning the CP's.

This job is so well done that our authority is respected within the "Blue line".

This is due to the correct and professional work done by many contingents, followed up by the present Contingent XXXVIII. To me it has been a great pleasure working together with you in a contingent characterized by cheerful spirits, enthusiasm and competence in performing the job as UN-soldiers.

Finally I would like to thank every one of you for your efforts and wish you the best either for a new contingent or for the return to Norway.

E. Sandland
Major
A Coy commander



4-3 Bærtene, from left: 2nd LT Eilertsen, PTE Fallson, 2nd LT Haarde, CPL Heidemann.

4-3 HQ

Tell Qeizi as the locals name is one of the oldest Norbatt positions, est.1978. Much have changed since then. Today 50 souls live here in a friendly atmosphere. 14 officers and 36 private/corporals are split between Coy staff and the CMR platoon. The headquarters contain the nerve center OPS where the VO-section stay on top of what's going on in Coy A AO. The coy CO and his sections may be found in their offices. The Adm.Off and the Adm.Ass administrate the coy from their offices. Our 3 cooks feed 90 men – doin'well considering the resources available.

The most vital (?) section is the coy adjutant and scribe, handling all personnel affairs, post, travel, etc, etc. Our drivers are very service-minded, assuring water and wheels when needed. The signal guys maintain landlines making sure everybody reach 9er (the OPS). 4-3 HQ has the biggest pool in Norbatt, its 80 000 liters generally considered welfare



Sun-downing duty in January PS. CMR in majority.

no 1 during summertime, just ask our visitors. The TV room is next to Truls bar and a reasonably equipped gym.

CMR

26 more or less peculiar soldiers led by the capturing handcuff-masocist 1st Lt Råen, pistol-guru & platoon CO. The somewhat more combat like, lofty and rapidly descending paratrooper 1Lt Pettersen is deputy Plt-CO. Leading the two squads were the blueprint 2.Lt's flower-Bryn, cactus as his own speciality, and Grønset-"bakken", who had a knack for finding & trying previously unknown roads in the Coy's AO and elsewhere..

1st consisted of the following ("motivated") guys:

Cpl Innbjo found it very important to know the function of a "avtrekkerhakestopper" on a 12.7 mm Browning (?!).

Akselsen, Haldens "Gla'gutt" kept us preoccupied with innumerable & unprobable stories, impulses and sordid questions to medic-Flage.

Esbensen, also named HOWDY and KAUTO, the smiling and permanently happy "BI" student from Freezing North.

Fallsen: Cherished girl from Åsegarden, whose first name is TANJA, not to be mixed with her name-kind from Jessheim!

Johansen: Kenneth is our MIKE MANSER clone, went by the callsign CK!! His motto: "Trene mye, men hvile er best".

Cox A championship in-(out)door bandy.



Frøberg: Driver from the "warzone" in Bosnia & a grim past as a hunter-killer; he ran over wildlife in Pe'c with his car at every opportunity.

Bothun is our "Sogne-kriger" and SISU-fighter pilot – really made us feel the G-force & actually got a turn at 4-3 named after himself.

Berntsen – the only ever immigrant in Tynset. A veteran in LEB, but ice-fishing, sippin' an "enhanced" XL-1 is his ultimate joy.

Dahl: Executive Shopassistant with a crush on M113's, used to be in the Mek.plt. "The Godfather" of the SISU drivers in CMR enjoyed the nickname "DAS FÜHRER".

The 2nd squad consisted of the following ("high-strung") guys:

Cpl Sund: Narviking with 7-mile boots, also an ex-Mek.plt with an apparent taste for speed & action. His motto "WHEN THE GOING GET TOUGH – KUTT SYTT! (9-1 lavo papa på plass i Ferdiss !?)".

Torgersen – small Egersund potatofarmer with a certain preference for Bergen. An insistant and uncompromising "Aide de Barracks" with an acute sense of time. "Time is at 10 (ten)". His favourite car is a "Panzer-TOW w/forhaustar".

Rugsveen: Inventor of RUG-jaiwen; a dance totally uncomprehensible to anyone else. Not the noisiest boy in class.

Ulvestad – an "ex-waracademy-guardsoldier (!)" expatriate and talkative. The Sunnmøring had his second home at the PX, spending money on "climbing stuff" etc ...

Johansen: Arnt – the Hi-Tech guy – worked in a lab before coming to LEB – causing permanent damage? An avid SISU driver who knew how to enjoy life.

Reien – by far CMRs tall guy. Hated spiders, scorpions etc. Stayed close to his idol and dep. Squad-Commander; EINAR.

Gleditsch: Our very own car salesman, Ford his speciality. LEB was no challenge as he had toured the blackest of Africa as a UN soldier in.

Medlie: Old BMR man & SISU driver – his best memories from the time when speed was an unknown phenomena. His great passion: HD (is that contagious?)

Kopperud - a storming young guy with a Trandum past. He had a hidden talent and rock stardom dream. He thrives at the pool – is he the new sun-guru ???

Podsada - our small "Trønder", perhaps the neighbour of "Skrømmeren". Got his own SISU in LEB – used for drilling "change-of-tire & engine". NB! Finbatt Workshop beware!!

Lund: "Strilegutt", SISU driver and Wizard of Os, thought is very amusing whenever people from east Norway told him how annoying people from Bergen are. "Eg e'ikkje fra Bergen, men fra Os".



4-26 HQ



The heart, brain and spine of First platoon, A coy is in Kaoukaba, just about "lefselig" close to Melhem & Samih's restaurant. The two of them has provided tons of "lefse", cinnamon tea and Al Maza (against coughing) to HQ and other Norbatt pos. during contingent 38.

The Staff home is located in a really solid (?) old brick-house, housing the Høvding and his Deputy-høvding together with their 8 good helpers. If these actually work or are merely employed is still to be argued, but anyway "The stab rules at 4-26 HQ". Added to this will at all times be a rifle squad to man 4-26 CP.



The three vehicles serving First platoon are rolling from their base here on their patrols, tailing, AIS or food supply routes. 1st plt are dependant upon their cars!!

HQ has witnessed a desperately needed face-lift during this contingent - the riflemen enjoy a new toilet-prefab, and we've finally made a shelter in the kitchen; "Skrotnissen" has "added armour" to doors and windows. The "Arnold"-chamber has also been "lifted" aesthetically, resulting in more iron-pumping from the inhabitants.

On the roof we run all our big platoon operations from the OPS centre. And there's a direct line to Melhem frequently in use. In case of visitors from outside we serve delicacies from our own fruit-garden. Take care of 4-26 HQ in order to make it the ever lasting base camp for First platoon!



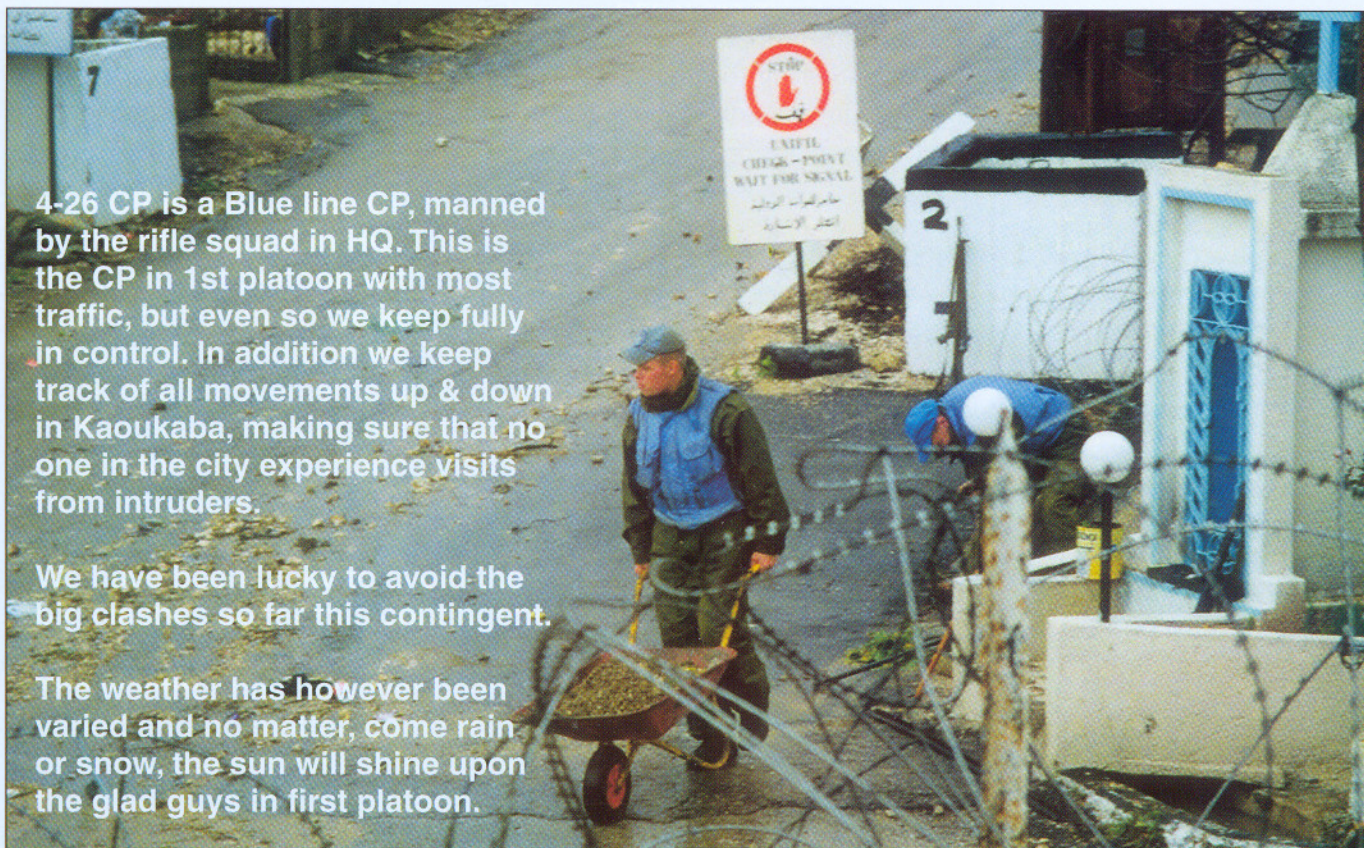
4-27 OP

4-26 CP

4-26 CP is a Blue line CP, manned by the rifle squad in HQ. This is the CP in 1st platoon with most traffic, but even so we keep fully in control. In addition we keep track of all movements up & down in Kaoukaba, making sure that no one in the city experience visits from intruders.

We have been lucky to avoid the big clashes so far this contingent.

The weather has however been varied and no matter, come rain or snow, the sun will shine upon the glad guys in first platoon.



4-25 Camp

The rifle squad camp (nick-named flea-camp “loppeleir”) is probably the greatest point of gathering for well-trained and sophisticated Norwegian UN-soldiers. Two rifle squads, one position assistant and a dog-handler are serving in the camp, counting 22 in all.

Loppa bar is THE Place, if you are up to UN-soldiers discussing today's mishaps or watching dubious TV-programs.

The squads primary tasks are duty in 4-25 CP and patrol in the Bourghoz area.

We also enjoy the service in our small OP, dechifferring messages on a pretty “difficult” radio. The po-

sitive part of the “shut down” OP-duty is however that this is the place where we find an occasion for philosophic contemplation, writing letters to dear

ones or do just what we wanna do, sort of. Our camp assistant should also be mentioned, as he provides the food, the diesel and electricity; the bare necessities of life as a UN-soldier. A pretty cool fellow, but he keeps getting upset over us using too much toilet-paper...

Anyway – a new prefab for sanitary purposes has recently

been installed, indicating that the camp's still a part of Norbatt's future plans.



4-25 CP



4-25 CP is just a stone's throw away from 4-25 Squad Camp. From here we control all traffic between the Main road and 3rd platoons area.

Our main tasks is to make sure that DFF personnel hand in their guns when departing the Main road, that the GSS is tailed whenever in the area and finally that any civilian leaves his Kalashnikov at home...

Significant features of the CP is petty driving to and fro, Melhem-food, Tetris gaming and plenty of time to think about post-peacekeeping life.

Whenever rain drops the guardsmans shelter is transformed into an aquarium with drowned mice and frogs performing medley and crawl...

4-27 OP



Should the food supply for some reason fall short we may use our own cook – Elias – just down the road. Neglecting his ever increased fright of patrol dog's, he provides excellent food and service for the men in 4-27 OP. This is really a nice place to be, especially when sun-tanning duty is on.

4-27 OP is situated "on top of" Kaoukaba and is 1st platoons highest position with a fabulous view all over the platoon's AO. It's the patrol base for a rifle squad. Our only (?) neighbouring position is the (in)famous DFF N 329. Thanks to these or their "kinmen" we have experienced a lot of shelter-duty also through out this contingent. However affected during their sleep the riflemen in 4-27 never complain.

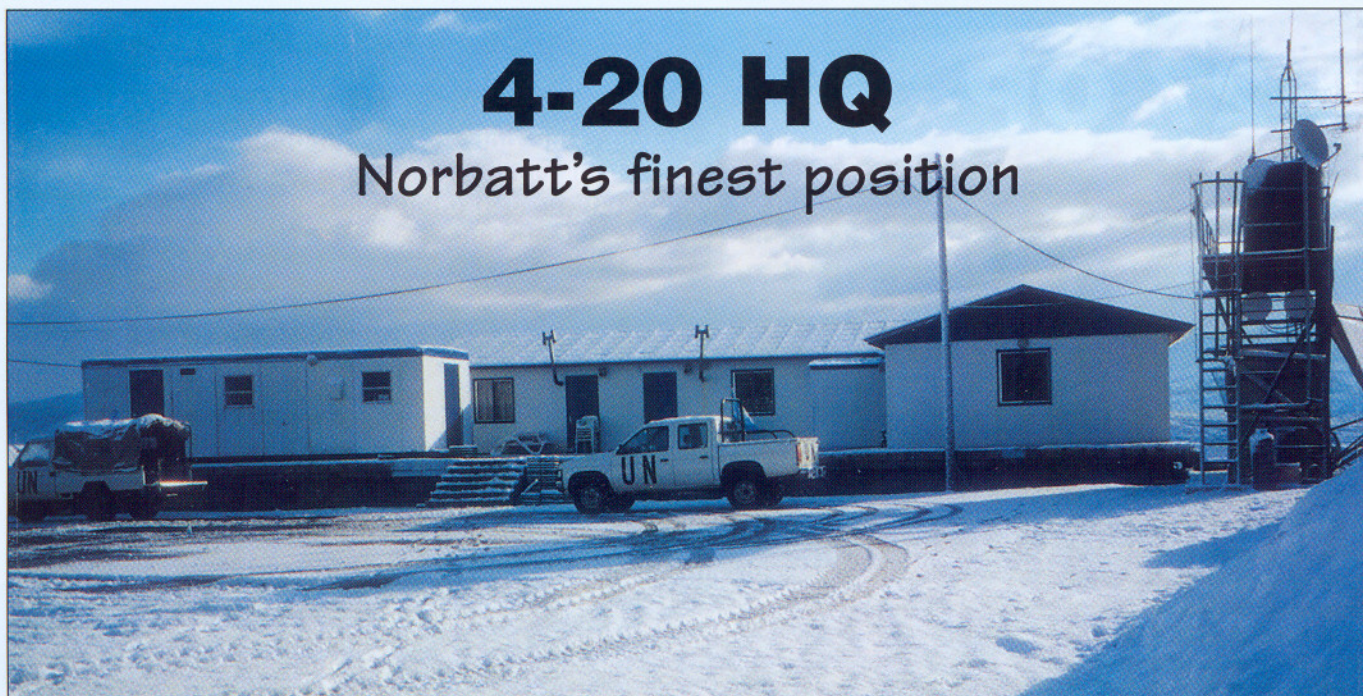
From time to time we patrol the Bourghoz area, and we'll use this opportunity to thank "9" for their liberal practise concerning allowing the return to base during fierce weather conditions.

The legend tells the tale of a CP which should be around, manned by our position, but our attempts to track it down has been futile. We have however found an OP-tower in the camp, but the visibility is normally "zero, 360 degrees around the circle".



4-20 HQ

Norbatt's finest position



4-20 HQ, a day in February.

It rises above and is well known for the Litani-peacekeepers fierce kicking and push-ups at the daily parole. Guest from afar have made pilgrimage to observe the phenomenon. Visitors who have dared to enter the cellar and been unlucky enough to slam the door have experienced another phenomenon; the sound of silence. Respecting the sleep of those who have been on night duty is a holy principle, which is emphasized no matter which rank the poor sinner represents.

The Contingent began with several shelter alarms. There were also some firing close at 4-20 OP. ENOUGH OF THAT! Some civilians in Blate found it hysterically funny to shoot with small arms in the village, which caused us to confiscate a shotgun. Paint was miraculously extracted from the system which led to an intensive activity, training the soldiers in house painting. As if that isn't enough, we experienced the driest winter in local history, when it comes to rain. Snow, however, fell several times and we felt unusually privileged to be sunburnt in February.



4-20 HQ, view from East. Blate originally means "castle" in Arabic.



Mortar HE impact West of 4-22 CP: SHELTER, SHELTER, SHELTER.

Contingent 38 was also the time when IDF rediscovered our dear village. They visited frequently and every time we did our best to disturb their activity. Especially amusing was the time they gave a notice that they would make an operation and we were laying waiting for them. In spite of the mild chaos which 70 pairs of arms and legs created, the boys in Blate, with some support from CMR Coy A and B, managed to spoil their ransacking day inside AO.

In other matters the contingent has passed in peace without any major incidents. When this is written we are only halfway so it must be read with an addition of some kilos of salt.

The authors believe that the majority of the Blate Group members have thrived and will look back at this period in time with some longing back. Thank you all for your contributions which made the platoon what it became. I hope you have found the experience worthwhile.

PEACE BE WITH YOU!



4-20 OP and another fantastic sunset.