

Litani

UNIFIL MAGAZINE Vol. 15, No. 12 December 1999



LEBANESE CHILDREN DESIRING
PEACE, LOVE AND SECURITY

CONTENTS

SEASON'S GREETINGS, CHRIST — THE PRINCE OF PEACE	3
KILLED IN AMBUSH	4
MORE APCs ARRIVE	5
CIVILIAN STAFF MEETING	6
FIRE PUT OUT	7
SCHOOL HANDED OVER	8
NAQOURA EIFFEL TOWER	9
UNIFIL IN TYRE	10-11
WELL DONE	12
SHREE PURANO GORAKH	13
FOCUS ON: GHANA ENGINEER COMPANY	14-15
CIVILIAN EXPERIENCES	16-17
OPERATIONAL REPORT	18
UN IN AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN	19-21
KNOW UNIFIL MEMBER COUNTRIES, KNOW IRELAND	22-23
BASKETBALL CHAMPION	24
MEMORIAL SERVICE	25
PROFILES	26

THE 26TH MANDATE LITANI STAFF. Seated the CMPIO, Lt Col E. B. Sarfo; standing from left the A/CMPIO, Maj. O. Walberg, the REPORTER, S/Sgt H. K. Nyadroh, the EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, Ms. Susan Colopy and the PHOTOGRAPHER, WO II S. Ampaw.



Litani Staff

EDITOR

LT-COL E.B. SARFO
Chief Military Public
Information Officer.

ASSISTANT EDITOR

MAJ O. WALBERG
A/CMPIO

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

MS. SUZAN COLLOPY

REPORTER

S/SGT H.K. NYADROH

PHOTOGRAPHER

WOII S. AMPAW

CONTINGENT

PRESS OFFICERS

CAMP COMMAND

CAPT MJ KIELTY

FIJIBATT

CAPT. ET VOLAVOLA

FINBATT

S/LT S. KATAJISTO

F.M.R.

CAPT. V. BATSE

FRENCHLOG

LT. R. CHEVALLOT

GHANBATT

LT. M. ATINTANDE

IRISHBATT

COMDT. McNAMARA

ITALAIR

MAJ. MULAS

MP COY

MAJ. B.A.K. SHARMA

NEPBATT

LT. PB SILAWAL

NORBATT

CAPT. K.H. SAEVOLD

SWEDLOG

CAPT. TOMMY KLAAR

DESIGNED & PRINTED BY

ELIA SABA

LITANI is the monthly UNIFIL news bulletin. Views and opinions expressed therein, are not necessarily those of the United Nations or the Force Commander. Reproduction of articles and photographs are welcome. But unless expressly authorised by the United Nations, no reproduction may be used in advertising or for other commercial purpose. Address: CMPIO, U.N., POB 7476, Beirut Lebanon or CMPIO POB 75, Nahariya 22100 Israel.

Season's Greetings

As 1989 draws to a close and we approach Christmas, the Season of Goodwill, the time lends itself for celebration and reflection.

This year, many of you will celebrate Christmas and New Year away from home and your families. Many of you will be on duty on the observation posts, checkpoints and patrols or in some other no less important capacity. I would like to assure you that your decision to serve in Lebanon in the cause of peace, particularly at this time, commands the

FROM THE FC



The FC, Gen Wahlgren.

highest respect and appreciation of the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

In 1989, UNIFIL faced many difficult situations. UNIFIL personnel continued to show restraint, discipline and a great commitment in the efforts to pre-

vent the outbreak of hostilities. I have witnessed the fruits of your hard work to improve your conditions and the security of your posts. I have seen you apply and adapt diligently new tactics all of which goes to make UNIFIL a more effective Force. The UNIFIL civilian staff have worked hard to provide the crucial back-up services to the Force. Some of you will also be on duty during this period and will be away from your families.

Sadly, we have had fatalities also in 1989; all of us in UNIFIL, must, during this joyous time, spare some of our thoughts for those who will be spending their first Christmas without their loved ones. We will never forget their sacrifices.

I wish every member of UNIFIL and their families, a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Let us hope that 1990 brings peace to Lebanon once again.

CHRIST THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Some twenty years have passed since three men set off on the longest journey ever undertaken by man. Their target was a quarter of a million miles away. They set off faster than man has ever dreamed possible. The eyes of the whole world were upon them. We waited and watched, hoped and prayed for them and the success of their mission. Thanks to television, we were able to follow every second of it.

Their craft was a rocket, twenty-four stories high and worth millions of pounds. It had some three million components put together by ten thousand skilled workers. I am talking about Neil Armstrong and his two fellow astronauts who in July of 1969 took off to our nearest neighbour in space — the Moon. Can you



Rev. Father Bresnan.

still remember it? It's not very long ago, yet now, it seems so hazy that it appears as if it is fifty years ago, although it made such news at that time.

They landed on the part of the moon known as the Sea of Tranquility. They found it exactly as they expected — lifeless and barren. What did they bring back? Not much, just a handful of rocks and dust. Yet they described their mission as "One small step for man and one giant leap for mankind". Much as I don't want to minimise their achievement, I wish to remark that only two decades later we've almost

Cont on p.7



KILLED IN AMBUSH

A 23-year old Norwegian soldier was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen just south of the small village of Bourrhoz on 29 November. Private Rune Opland who had been with UNIFIL for only six days was on foot patrol with another NORBATT soldier and were being escorted by one M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) when they were ambushed at 1745 hours (LT).

The ambush, which was set up behind some rocks on the side of the road, was sprung with a light machine gun and rocket-propelled grenades from a distance of 60 metres (180 feet). Opland was hit in the head and chest and was medically evacuated by ITALAIR. He was later pronounced dead on arrival at SWEDMEDCOY, Naqoura.

The Islamic Resistance Group in a statement issued in Beirut said its forces attacked an Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) patrol south of Bourrhoz at the same time as Opland was killed to avenge the deaths of two inmates of the Kham Prison in the Israeli-controlled Area (ICA).

Pte Opland is the 167th UNIFIL soldier to die since the Force was established in 1978 and the third



The Chief of Staff, Brig-Gen Johannes Lunder (center) and NORBATT CO, Col Odd Helge Olsen (second from left) at the spot where Private Opland was killed. The attackers hid behind the rocks in the background. (Photo by Capt O. Solvang).

Norwegian to be killed in action. He belonged to NORBATT A Coy based at Tall Quizi.

It is believed that the attack was a mistake and not intended against UNIFIL personnel although the foot patrol was easily identifiable by the lights from

the APC.

The Chief of Staff, Brig-Gen Johannes Lunder, arrived at the scene with NORBATT CO, Col Odd Helge Olsen after the incident and a Board of Inquiry has been set up to investigate it. A light

machine gun and several magazines for personal weapons belonging to the attackers were found in the ambush area the following morning. (See also page 25).

MAJ O. WALBERG
A/CMPIO



COS Brig-Gen Lunder and NORBATT CO Col Olsen with fragments from the RPG 7's that were fired against the Norwegian patrol. (Photo by Capt O. Solvang).



NORBATT CO Col Olsen (second from right) and DCO Lt-Col Gunnar Bruland receive condolences from the population of Etel es Saqi where the Battalion has its HQ. (Photo by Lt. Alf Lervik).

MORE APCs ARRIVE



One of the new APCs being unloaded at the Tyre Harbour.

It was all joy for a team of UNIFIL representatives led by Col C. Fleury, Assistant Chief of Staff responsible for Logistics on 03 December when the team took delivery of six new SISU Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) at the Tyre Harbour.

The six SISU APCs being the first consignment of the ten ordered by UNIFIL from Finland were ferried from Cyprus to the Tyre Harbour in south Lebanon by the UNIFIL chartered ship "MV Evangelia".

Col Fleury told the LITANI in an

interview that it was a command decision to acquire ten more of those SISU APCs to strengthen the security of the troops in the field.

He said that UNIFIL as a Peace-keeping Force needed those APCs to enable it to carry out its role effectively and efficiently.

According to the A COS Log, these new APCs are meant to replace the IRISHBATT's old APCs.

Col Fleury who is the Logistics boss was full of praise for the Force's ability to acquire some more of these vehicles. He advis-

ed that they should be maintained properly.

He pointed out that if these vehicles were properly maintained, they would save UNIFIL from unnecessary repair costs.

Armoured vehicles play a major role in the operations in the AO in the sense that they are used for escort duties, snap roadblocks in the event of anti-hijacking operations, day and night mobile patrols and finally providing fire support to units who may require that assistance.

S/SGT H.K. NYADROH
Reporter



Col Fleury inspecting the new APCs. (Photos WOII 5, Ampawi).

CIVILIAN STAFF MEETING

Some members of the UNIFIL Civilian Staff had vowed to air their grievances at a rare Civilian Staff meeting at Naqoura on 23 November. But it all seemed to end in peace and harmony after the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr. Govind Prasad, had promised improvements.

The bulk of the Field Service personnel and many other civilian employees in UNIFIL live in Nahariya, and one of their main complaints is about the border crossing difficulties during their movements to and from work. Mr. Prasad promised to discuss the matter with the Chief of Staff, Brig-Gen Johannes Lunder, and said he regretted that his personnel sometimes had to wait for hours on end before they are allowed to cross the Rosh Hanikra border.

He said he was also aware of the high cost of living in Nahariya and said he would try to help out. "To be tuned to two sets of conditions by living in two countries is also very stressful," the CAO said as he defused some of the expected criticisms from the floor.

He encouraged the civilian staff to co-operate with the administration and said a confrontational attitude would not solve any problem.

The Staff Council Representative, Mr. Yoftahe Dimetros, followed up on the goodwill and the promises of the CAO and said that salaries and allowances for Field Service personnel will be reviewed at the beginning of 1990. He also disclosed that a working group would be set up to look into the whole framework of salaries, allowances and other benefits.

In connection with the border crossings, he proposed that only the civilian staff should be allowed to cross between 1530 and 1630 hours.

In spite of the promises from the administration and the civilian union leader, there were signs of dissatisfaction among the staff.



Participants at the civilian staff meeting.



The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Govind Prasad (left); the Staff Council Chairman, Mr. Yoftahe Dimetros; and the Council secretary, Mr. G. Matibag. (Photos by WQII S. Ampaw).

One Field Service professional complained that he had received no uniform although he had requested one a year ago. Other

members of the Field Service also complained that they had to wait up to five months after arrival in UNIFIL before they received their

first salaries.

MAJ. O. WALBERG
A/CMPIO

FIRE PUT-OUT

The Naqoura Fire Brigade saved the Parachute Restaurant at "Mingy Street" from burning down on Tuesday, 5 December when the Swedish fire-fighters arrived at the scene only three minutes after the alarm sounded.

For the fire-fighters it was a matter of seconds as the fire was already licking the roof when they arrived at the restaurant in the southern end of "Mingy."

"The whole place was burning and the atmosphere was tense as it was believed that the daughter of the owner was inside the burning building," an eyewitness told the LITANI. Two firemen, however, went inside and made sure that there were no trapped individuals. In the meantime, the Naqoura Fire Brigade managed to put out the fire and saved a shop and the restaurant which is popular with SWEDLOG personnel living in the south end of Na-



The Camp Naqoura Fire Brigade arrived at the scene only three minutes after the alarm sounded.

qoura HQ Camp.

The cause of the fire was not

immediately known but it is believed to have started from an

electric current leakage in a washing machine.

CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE



Cont from p.3

forgotten that the event ever happened and the men whose names were on the lips of everybody here have disappeared into obscurity.

This month we celebrate the mystery of the INCARNATION, that is, the coming into this world of Jesus, the Son of God. It is the central mystery of our faith, more important than the trip to the Moon. If only we had been allowed to manage it, how differently we would have done things. What

a splash we would have made. Christ would have come with a magnificent display of fireworks. We would, of course, have waited until the advent of TV so that all the world could see and know what was happening.

But this is not how God did it. God's Son came not so much from "above" as from "below". He sprang up among us, born of a humble maid from an obscure village. He was born at a time when communications were slow and in a small country, a country that certainly had no sea of tranquility but a scene of bitter wars and perpetual strife. There weren't many people on hand when he came — just a few and they were simple people like Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds.

That is how Christ's birth happened, yet we still talk about it and celebrate it. Though Christ came among us weak and empty

handed, he brought us priceless and everlasting gifts. He came to teach us that we are not dust but sons and daughters of the heavenly Father.

Neil Armstrong and the early astronauts obtained a view of the earth no-one ever saw before — a view from space. As they looked back at it they exclaimed: "To see the earth as it truly is — small and blue and beautiful in the eternal silence where it floats — is to see ourselves as travellers on earth together, brothers who know that they are truly brothers."

This is the vision the coming of Christ gives us. We truly belong to one another, not merely because we live on the same small planet, but because we have a common father.

goodwill". He is called the 'Prince of Peace' as he came to reconcile us to the Father and to one another. Ever since His coming a bright fire has been burning on our earth, a fire that will never die. At this time we experience the warmth of God's love as well as the glow of human fellowship. Let us not be afraid to come out of the cold and warm ourselves at this fire. A Happy Christmas to Everyone.

**REV FATHER PATRICK
BRESNAN CHAPLAIN,
IRISHBATT**

The message of Christ to the world was "Peace to men of



SCHOOL HANDED OVER

The School that FINBATT has built at Srifa was officially handed over to the Lebanese authorities at a ceremony on 12 December.

Named after the Finnish Cpl Tom Kjallman, who was killed while trying to save a Lebanese war victim in July 1985, the school, with its eight class rooms, should be able to house more than 200 pupils.

The FINBATT CO, Col Pekka Teljamo, said while handing over the school to the representatives of the Lebanese authorities that it was the local population in the Srifa area who took the initiative to have the school built. Finnish authorities accepted to help out with money and building materials and the first school house was completed in November 1988.

It soon became apparent, however, that an additional school house was needed to meet the educational requirements in the area and the building of a second started last Spring.

In spite of all the problems in Lebanon, Col Teljamo told the audience at the handover ceremony that the Lebanese children have both the ability and will to learn. He thanked the FINBATT Engineers and all other personnel involved in the building project and also expressed his gratitude to the Finnish Government and local leaders who have contributed with their support.

Col Teljamo then handed the keys over to Information Ministry Director Mr. Ayoub Humaid who expressed his sincere thanks on behalf of the authorities. Dr. Ruda Saadeh who is responsible for Education in south Lebanon and Mahmoud Kassem, a local dignitary, also praised the spirit behind UNIFIL humanitarian projects.

The school was basically financed by the Development-Aid Department of the Finnish Foreign Ministry while soldiers of FINBATT assisted with self-help schemes together with two local craftsmen. (Refer to our July 1989 issue for the story on the building of the Tom Kjallman School.

MAJ O. WALBERG
A/CMPIO



The Tom Kjallman School building.



Signing the hand/take over document.

NAQOURA



The Naqoura
Eiffel Tower

"I wanted to erect — to the glory of modern science and the honour of French Industry — an arch of triumph as striking as those built by previous generations for their conquerors," Mr. G. Eiffel said when he constructed his famous 313-metre tower to mark the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution.

Two hundred years after the Revolution and 100 years after Mr. Eiffel laid the foundation for his landmark, a replica was erected in Naqoura in connection with the French Medal Parade in July 1989. While the original tower in Paris has increased in height by an additional eight metres and has a weight of 7,300 tons after an antenna was put on top of it, the Naqoura tower is a dwarf in comparison, measuring only 13.10 metres high. However, it consists of no less than 1,355 pieces that were assembled into three sections which were then hoisted on top of each other within a few minutes at the end of the Medal Parade in July.

The replica was later moved

from the parade ground at SWEDLOG to a permanent platform where it can be seen by all who travel along the main road running north-south of the Naqoura camp.

The mini tower was built by 40 men from the French Maintenance Coy who used their spare time during a two-month period to put the pieces together.

CLASSES OF OFFICERS

"I divide my officers into four classes: the clever, the stupid, the industrious and the lazy. Every officer possesses at least two of these qualities. Those who are clever and industrious are fitted for high staff appointments; use can be made of those who are stupid and lazy. The man who is clever and lazy is fitted for the highest command; he has the temperament and the requisite nerve to deal with all situations. But whoever is stupid and industrious is a danger and must be removed immediately."

(Extracts from *War and Peace* by Tolstoy)

COMDT C.J.
McNAMARA
PIO IRISHBATT



Some of the French engineers who constructed the Eiffel Tower replica at Naqoura HQ.

EIFFEL TOWER

UNIFIL

Tyre, a south Lebanese port-city situated on the shores of the Mediterranean sea, forms part of what is referred to in UNIFIL circles as the "Tyre Pocket".

Though the Tyre Pocket never forms part of the UNIFIL Area of Operation (AO), it has recognised the influence of the Force since its inception in 1978. UNIFIL presently maintains a Military Police Detachment and a Logistic Base in Tyre, while the Observation Group Lebanon (OGL) also operates a mobile observation team in the area.

The history of Tyre can be traced 4,000 years back. However, despite competition from Sidon, (the actual capital of south Lebanon), Tyre expanded by leaps and bounds as Shiite and later the Palestinian refugees settled in and around the city from 1948 to 1982. The population of the town is now mostly Shiites who are fishermen, boat-builders and shopkeepers.

Tyre now witnesses an economic boom as trade and tourism bring new life. To any visitor or casual observer, UNIFIL has contributed very greatly to the present economic boom in Tyre. This is true because the city attracts UNIFIL personnel looking for bargains and adventures in the relics of centuries old settings of the city.

Presence

UNIFIL's presence in Tyre dates back to the very establishment of the Force in March 1978 when troops from the various contingents of the Force took turns in the guard duties at the military barracks known as Tyre barracks during every six-months tour of duty.

Tyre Barracks is situated nearly a kilometre from the city centre observed from the main Tyre-Naqoura road.

Arriving in Lebanon in March 1978 as part of the pioneers of UNIFIL, French troops were the first UN troops to occupy the Tyre Barracks, establishing their first headquarters there.

In May of that same year, barely two months after occupying the Barracks, they were attacked by the PLO resulting in several casualties among the French troops.

MP in Tyre

Presently the UNIFIL Military Police Company (IMP Coy) in Naqoura has a detachment still stationed in Tyre Barracks. MP Tyre Barracks, as the detachment is known, presently consists of five men — one Irish, a Ghanaian, a Fijian and two Nepalese. The strength of the detachment may however be increased depending on the prevailing circumstances.



The gate of the Tyre Barracks.



UNIFIL MPs at the Tyre Barracks.

C/Sgt J. Noonan of Ireland, the present Commander of MP Detachment in Tyre, told LITANI that their main task is the enforcement of UNIFIL Command policies and directives in the Tyre Pocket Area.

"All UNIFIL troops visiting Tyre, for example, are to deposit their weapons with MP Tyre Barracks as the carrying of weapons in the area is prohibited," C/Sgt Noonan told LITANI.

To ensure that UNIFIL Command directives concerning visits by troops to Tyre are complied with, the MP

Tyre Barracks conducts patrols at regular intervals in the area.

According to the Detachment Commander, the MPs are also responsible for the investigation of complaints by the local population, against UNIFIL personnel as well as traffic accidents involving UNIFIL vehicles.

Furthermore, the Detachment has the task of over-seeing police duties in NEPBATT and the FMR AO.

"And so until 1800 hours every day when the gates of the Tyre Barracks

are closed, we are the representatives of the Force Provost Marshall in the Tyre Pocket," C/Sgt Noonan said. "In short, we report on all incidents and accidents and when required provide escorts."

The MP in Tyre Barracks share the Barracks with a unit of the Lebanese Army. The Barracks covers approximately six acres of ground and is rectangular in shape with its perimeter wall measuring nearly ten feet in height with a round observation tower at each of its four corners.

IN TYRE

One of the more pleasant features within the Barracks must be the beautiful aroma one notices while taking shelter under the trees growing around the compound.

Tyre Barracks remains a stopping off point for many UNIFIL troops visiting the city of Tyre to take advantage of souvenir shopping or just to have the pleasure of visiting the old Phoenician ruins of the old city.

Logistics in Tyre

Apart from the Military Police Detachment, UNIFIL maintains a Logistic Base in Tyre which has been operational since 10 February 1986.

The Tyre Log Base, as it is known, presently falls under the control of Assistant Chief of Staff Logistics and is managed by the Movement Control (MovCon) Section. The Base will fall under the control of Swedlog by January 1990.

The Base consists of one main building, a number of prefabs, a shelter, a storage and parking area. Some of the prefabs on the compound are offices of the UNIFIL Press Information Officer and Procurement. Lt Sven Lyden, the Officer-in-Charge of Tyre Log Base, told LITANI that the general purpose of the Base is "both logistical and operational."

He said the logistical task of the Base is to handle all cargo in transit through Tyre for UNIFIL; these, according to him, include goods coming by sea from Cyprus and by road from Beirut.

The Base co-ordinates with SWEDLOG HQ in clearing all cargo that comes through the Tyre Harbour. The Officer-in-charge informed LITANI that civilian-hired trucks with goods from Beirut are unloaded and reloaded onto UNIFIL vehicles for onward despatch to Naqoura.

The total strength of the Base is 22 consisting of 19 military and three Lebanese. Two of the military staff belong to the MovCon Section — one of them, the Officer-in-Charge. Five staff members come from the SWEDLOG and constitute an effective supply team at the Base. Twelve men from GHANBATT form a reliable guard and have the responsibility of securing the inner perimeter of the Base and UNIFIL properties within the compound day and night, controlling the entry and exit points and manning an Observation Post.

Shelter

WOII Edward Badu-Awuah, Commander of the guards, wished a new shelter would be built for the Base to house the offices, the com-



The gates of the Tyre Log Base are open to all UNIFIL vehicles on visit to Tyre.



Making sure that the electric power generator at the Tyre Log Base is in proper working condition. (Photos WOII S. Ampaw).



Lt Sven Lyden, Officer-in-charge of the Tyre Log Base.



WOII Edward Badu-Awuah, Commander of the GHANBATT guards at the Tyre Log Base.

munications centre and the guards resting rooms.

According to WOII Badu-Awuah, the location of the present shelter is unsuitable as it is far from the guards duty area and offices.

Asked to comment on some problems facing the Base, the Officer-in-Charge, Lt. Lyden said: "I do not like the word 'problem', ours is to perform our duty to the best of our ability."

He informed LITANI that the Base maintains a very good relationship with the local population.

S/SGT H.K. NYADROH
Reporter

WELL DONE

On 9 November, ITALAIR produced yet another set of spectacular results in their exercise with OGL. This was an exercise which was conducted in the Israeli Controlled Area (ICA) — at a lonely and almost God-forsaken place in that part of south Lebanon. The exercise, which was organised in conjunction with a medical team of SWEDMEDCOY and the Rescue Team of SWEDLOG, aimed at practising MEDEVAC in the ICA. This is an area where flights are restricted and when they do take place they are under intense radar control.

The exercise was initiated by OGL and UNIFIL OPS which sought authorization for the Air Staff and ITALAIR to execute. It must be noted that in real life situations, the Air Staff can liaise with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) at Rosh Hanikra, plan courses, altitude, reporting points, appropriate map references (AMR) and timings for to/from the working and landing area.

In this exercise, OGL simulated a lost radio contact with a UN patrol car travelling through south Lebanon, close to the Lebanon/Israel border. Sensing that the lost car might have been involved in an accident, they started a search all along a road in two directions, later finding the car upside down with two injured UN personnel.

They urgently requested a MEDEVAC which was immediately planned by the Air Staff and given to ITALAIR, whose task it was to execute.

After a few minutes, the Heli MEDEVAC with its crew — Capt. Napolitano, Capt. Stricchiola and WO La Notte, including the Medical and the Rescue Teams, took off. After 15 minutes of an uneasy flight because of the nature of the terrain, and without radio contact or radio beacon auxiliary, and using only chart and timing, they arrived at the area of

the accident.

After the Rescue Team had stepped down from the Heli, the pilots decided to take off again to simulate a rescue winch with the Doctor.

It was a very beautiful day, with a light cold wind blowing from the hills towards east, making everybody comfortable.

In the final stages of the exercise, while hovering, the Heli winched up the Doctor and the stretcher with the patient. When both came on board, the Heli returned to Naqoura Camp where an ambulance was waiting to carry the patient to the hospital. After the last radio contact "Have a Good Day" with Israel Control, the Heli landed on the main Helipad in ITALAIR.

After the main rotor stopped, all the teams stepped down from the Heli, tired but very satisfied with the good results obtained. Everybody was smiling. It is most gratifying to be helpful to all, for the peace and the friendship of everybody. That is the spirit UNIFIL aims at achieving in south Lebanon.

**MAJ VITTORIO MULAS
PIO ITALAIR**



ITALAIR in action.



ITALAIR helicopter — 209.

SHREE PURANO GORAKH

NEPBATT 17 is better known as Shree Purano Gorakh back home in Nepal. Of the two Battalions whose soldiers are enlisted on the caste basis in Nepal, this Battalion is one whose members are made up of the Magars, one of the many castes in the country. The Magars are particularly short, strong, cheerful, brave and are Mongolian in appearance.

It was the late King Prithibi Nayayan Shag Dev, the first Shah monarch of Nepal, who, using the Magars, conquered the petty states (Baisi-Chaubisi) and formed the unified Nepal. During his campaign, the Magars demonstrated a good sense of patriotism, enthusiasm, discipline, dedication and honesty especially while conquering Nuwakot and Makawanpur. Following their impressive achievement, the late King Prithibi Nayayan Shag Dev raised the Shree Purano Gorakh company in 1762, in commemoration of Guru Shree Gorakh Nath, which was to be composed of only the Magars. In 1804, the name was changed to Shree Purano Gorakh company and later in 1962, during a reorganisation exercise, the Shree Purano Gorakh company and the Banda Bahadur company were merged to form the present day Shree Purano Gorakh Battalion which forms the nucleus of NEPBATT 17.

Anglo-Nepal war

In 1767, the Gorakh company defeated the British troops under Major Kinlock, in Pauwa Garhi.

In 1806, Purano Gorakh fought bravely with British troops under the leadership of Kaji Amar Singh Thapa and expanded the country up to Sutlej in the far west, thus showing the world that the Gorkhali were good fighters as well as fearless and brave people.

In 1814 under the leadership of Capt Bala Bhadra Kunwar, they defended Fort Kalanga. Heavily armed British troops with 43 officers and 12,000 soldiers under General Jilespe's command were defeated. This battle reflects the bravery of the soldiers of Purano Gorakh.

Nepal-Tibet war

In 1885, this Battalion fought with Tibet in Kerung and foiled the attack of the Chinese troops.

World War II

During World War II, it fought in Ranchi operation in the north-west frontier of India in support of the Allied Forces.

Peace-Keeping Mission

Purano Gorakh Battalion was sent to Sinai in 1973 as part of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) to maintain peace in the Sinai after the last Arab-Israeli war.

Participation in Other Actions

There is no doubt that the Purano-Gorakh Battalion has a glorious past before the unification of Nepal, to sum up: in 1767 this Battalion defeated the British troops under Capt Kinlock, who was a reinforcement to support King Jaya Prakash Malla of Kathmandu. In 1768, 1769 and 1785, Patan, Bhaktapur and Parbat were respectively conquered, in conjunction with other troops. Likewise, in 1790 they fought in Almorha and participated in action in Haidrabad in 1948; both places are now in Indian territory.

In 1957, the Unit actively contributed to maintain peace and security in the Hindu-Muslim conflict. In 1960 it also helped in the historical revolution under the leadership of the late King Mahendra, father of the present King, Birendra Bir Bikram Shahdev. As a result, the officers and soldiers of this Battalion were honoured with various medals and promotions.

The Shree Purano Gorakh Battalion is now running on its 226th year of glorious history. It has the motto "Janani Janma Bhumisha

Sworga dapi Gariyasi" (the Latin translation of which is Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori, and the English of which is Mother and Motherland are Greater than Heaven).

This Battalion is serving for the second time in a peace-keeping mission and is determined to add a golden chapter to its history under the command of Lt-Col M.B. Shah.

LT. P.B. SILAWAL
PIO NEPBATT



Troops of Shree Purano Gorakh training in Nepal.



FOCUS ON

The idea of the Ghana Engineer Company was mooted in 1982 after it had been decided to increase the representation of the Force Engineer Resource. This was as a result of the need for the construction of more prefabricated (prefabs) office and living quarters facilities in the UNIFIL area of operation (AO) for units.

The lot fell on GHANBATT and IRISHBATT which were required to provide an additional engineer platoon each to augment the already existing Ghanaian Engineer Platoon.

Consequently, in 1983 the new Ghanaian Engineer Platoon joined up with its counterpart to form what was to be known as the Ghana Engineer Company, while the Irish Platoon reported to

IRISHBATT to beef up the latter's engineer resource instead. The engineer company that was envisaged had to be maintained at Camp Tara (Naqoura) although it was less than one platoon.

This marked the birth of the Ghana Engineer Company (GEC), as it is today. The Company was located at Camp Tara in Naqoura and placed under the operational and technical control of the Chief Engineer Officer (CEO) but under the administrative control of Camp Command.

Their tasks were numerous and enormous, but the Unit was never found wanting. The daily routine was to move out every morning into the AO to work, yet the handiwork of the personnel became the envy of many and they were the darling chaps of the battalions they supported.

However, the daily movements into the AO from Naqoura

became the concern of the CEO who felt that the travelling time was a loss in working time. The chief then decided to relocate the company at Kafr Dunin, then GHANBATT HQ. After a short time the company had to move again, this time to Jwayya where it is presently co-located with the Swedish Engineer Company (SWEDENGCOY).

The idea of relocation at Jwayya was to have the GEC centrally placed to enable it to undertake its numerous tasks within the AO.

This has yielded dividends and the Ghana Engineer Company has succeeded since its relocation to undertake projects spread out in the AO, and during the period between May 1989 and now, quite a number of units have benefited from their expertise.

GEC in NEPBATT

The biggest beneficiary during

the first three months since May 1989 is NEPBATT, with the main effort concentrated at Posn 5-30, where a total of four large prefabs (each approx 120 sq m), three small ones (each 20 sq m) and a generator house have been erected. Plumbing and electrical assistance has been provided while work is constantly going on in the laying of ceramic tiles in one of the main prefabs which is to serve as a mess for a Company Headquarters.

Other NEPBATT positions where the company undertook jobs included 5-14, 5-18 and 5-24 where prefabs were dismantled and re-erected at 5-2, 5-24A and 5-30. Extensive plumbing works were also carried out at 5-18.

In fact, since maintenance of facilities is a continuous process the GEC continues to work within the NEPBATT AO.

GEC at NORMAINTCOY

With improvisation being the hallmark of its business, the GEC has been able to employ its skills very effectively and efficiently at NORMAINTCOY (NMC) where the Unit was able to erect a very large rubble hall in good time after successfully correcting the manufacturer's faults on its superstructure, modifying some of its parts. It was quite an arduous job, but the end result was commendable. Apart from the rubble hall, the company also rehabilitated a bunker in the same place.

GEC interacts with OGL

When a few months ago it was decided to construct a helipad at the Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) position at OP Kham, near NORBATT, the task was once again assigned to the Ghana Engineer Company. The preparatory job was however carried out with the Swedish Engineer Company which cleared the area of mines and levelled the



Our engineers at work.



Sgt William Bofo and Spr Agvapong Boateng reinforcing the barbed wire fence of Camp Tara, UNIFIL HQ, Naqoura.

site for the construction of the pad.

On the construction of the pad itself, the GEC despatched a team of nine (including one officer) to NORBATT HQ and within a matter of six days the 8 sq m concrete pad with the 60 m long concrete footlane leading up to the pad was handed over to OGL at OP Khiam, completed and ready for use.

FIJIBATT, GHANBATT, FMR, Tyre Log Base and UNIFIL HQ also enjoyed the services of the Ghana Engineer Company during the period between May and

November.

At FIJIBATT, the Company dismantled some prefabs at Posn 1-9 and is awaiting the delivery of materials to construct the two generator houses at 1-9A and 1-26.

In GHANBATT, fire positions have been constructed at 8-47 and 8-53, some prefabs dismantled and others erected; whilst at the Force Mobile Reserve (FMR) two prefabs and a road in the south-western corner of Camp Grotle were constructed and a septic tank repaired.

At Tyre Log Base, the Company will be remembered for its security fence along the beach road as well as a new gate and a concrete drive-in. UNIFIL HQ (Naqoura) the original home of the Company, was also a beneficiary. Here the Company repaired a security fence at Camp Tara and assisted in the facelift of the International Mess in conjunction with the J & P of Cyprus, experts in prefab structures.

In Camp Sappers

Within Camp Sappers, present home of the Company, plenty of work has also been done to im-

Cont on p.21



Major Seth Yao Dordunoo, the Officer Commanding the Ghana Engineer Company, was born on 13 January 1948. He did his elementary school education in his home town, Dzodze, and Accra in Ghana. From Accra he entered St. Augustine's College at Cape Coast for his Secondary Education from 1965-1970. He continued his secondary school education at the Ghana Secondary Technical School at Takoradi from 1970-1972, under the sponsorship of the Ghana Armed Forces, as one of the pioneers of the Regular Officer Students Training Scheme (ROSTS). This ushered him straight into the Ghana Military Academy for Officer Training from 1972 to 1973. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant into the Field Engineer Regiment of the Ghana Army where he has served in various capacities as a Troop Commander, Intelligence Officer, Squadron Commander for the Field and the Construction Squadrons of the Regiment. He did his Young Officers' Course, Company Commanders' Course, Junior Staff, and later graduated from the Senior Staff Course.

Maj Dordunoo served with UNEF in Sinai in 1977 and in 1983 served with UNIFIL as the Engineer Officer of GHANBATT 20.

He is married with children and enjoys listening to all kinds of music as well as gardening.



Putting up a defence wall.

CIVILIAN E

BIG GAME HUNTING

One would not normally regard the land of Israel, with its religious centralization and archaeological importance spanning thousands of years as one of the most impressive but least known places for 'dangerous game hunting'.

Having hunted wild boars in Israel for 12 years, I know from first hand experience that they are, as the name implies, very wild, very tough and wily critters who become extremely aggressive when cornered, wounded or when protecting family. They can run at high speed over rough terrain and jump higher than any olympic athlete. Their sense of smell is so acute that several police departments frequently use their abilities for sniffing out drugs.

I have been involved in hunting boars with an assortment of fond and frightening memories on which I usually relax with a few beers in the company of friends and fellow hunters. Boar hunters rarely need to exaggerate their claim of dangerous encounters.

Like all good wives, my wife Suzy occasionally has an urge to come along with the 'men's sport', but one particular hunt scared her forever.

As it happened, we were on a hill overlooking the river about three kilometres before it joins the Sea-of-Galilee, the valley floor some 200 metres below. As the first rays of light filtered across the valley, we saw several boars moving fast. I followed their movements with a powerful zoom lens. Then I spotted exactly my

favourite — a big black shape at river's edge. "The sound of the rushing water would cover my stalk," I said to myself. Grabbing my auto — a Remington shotgun — I loaded 5 hollow-point slugs. I headed towards my prey, with wife and a dog in tow. As I approached him, he either heard my movements above the water or sensed my approach. He snorted the air as I eased off the safety catch. I aimed at its forehead. I pulled the trigger and through the flash I saw the boar jump high in the air.

Certain that it was a good hit, I neglected one of the most important rules of dangerous game hunting (which is to keep the gun up and sights on the animal and keep shooting until it's down for keeps, particularly with boars who are highly dangerous bulldozers with heads like concrete blocks). On later reflection, that boar could have made my future son fatherless.

My second shot got him in the back but he was up again fast out of the water. I was certain that pain and breathing difficulties would cause it to drop.

The far bank revealed splashes of bright red. We followed, but this was a definite no, because an intelligent badly wounded animal could lay in ambush in the bush. Our trail took us to a large bamboo and bramble thicket where we crawled through on our hands and knees, a difficult task for my wife with infant son aboard causing her abdomen to drag along the ground.

We rested for a few minutes. All of a sudden there was an ear-splitting roar. My heart stopped. We found ourselves eye level with a huge frothing snout full of white gleaming teeth. I did not even recall pushing the safety catch or



Mr. Derek Coggon, the big game hunter.

pulling the trigger. With the gun angled upward from my sitting position I destroyed his heart, lungs and spine, the tremendous knockdown power of 6 tons of muzzle velocity counteracted the boar's forward momentum and saved us.

— it was the last we saw of him for quite awhile. I trudged off back across the valley to get my vehicle. It had been a very long day for us, even though it was only 1000 hours!

DEREK COGGON
CIVILIAN STAFF MEMBER
INVESTIGATION UNIT

Our dog took off like lightning

XPERIENCES

TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES

Elena Sollewijn Gelpke, who is a Dutch, is a very international person. She is fluent in Dutch, English, French, Spanish and German. Before joining the UN, she worked as an English/Spanish interpreter for the U.S. Air Force in Spain, and worked in private industry in Canada and the UN. The UN had previously selected her to work in UNROB (Bangladesh), UNFICYP, UNTSO and UNAR-DOL (Beirut).

Interviewed by the LITANI on some of her experiences in mission life, Elena answered promptly:

• "This is UNAR-DOL in West Beirut, 1983, and on this particular Sunday afternoon I was in the Summerland Hotel pool doing my lanes. Suddenly, I surfaced and noticed all other swimmers had disappeared. The grounds were deserted as if they knew something was going to happen. I want to run, but mortar fire starts

impacting and I felt very vulnerable in my swimming suit."

• "On another afternoon, I was just about to enter the Riviera Hotel in West Beirut to do my lanes when I saw lots of tracers from gunfire flying from one end of the boulevard to the other and I had to return. Meanwhile, dusk fell and it started to pour with rain. Unexpectedly, there is this complete electricity blackout. In the pitch dark I had to find my home in Jeanne D'Arc Street feeling my way step by step at edges of houses and gates. All of a sudden I cut my leg on a dustbin and this huge rat jumps out! I was so terrified that to this day I scream when I see a tiny mouse."

• "There was this moment, after two days of continuous bombardment in West Beirut, when I was sitting in the jeep of the Italian Multinational Force, with their machine guns on the alert, on my way to be evacuated to Cyprus. Then, as we are racing towards the harbour to embark their warship, I am nearly crushed by my Italian protectors as mortarfire rained on us. I felt sad having to



Mrs. Elena Sollewijn Gelpke.

leave, but happy for the safe escape."

Asked whether she liked her job, Elena said: "I like the CMPO cell very much. The days pass by so quickly. I can use my

languages and I feel very much involved in all aspects of the military personnel work."

ELENA SOLLEWIJN GELPKE
CIVILIAN STAFF MEMBER
CMPO

NEEDING RADIO STATIONS?

Do you ever listen to the radio without knowing what station you have tuned into? Do you hear some nice music but only a weird language that you do not understand?

For your answers, look at the list below for the more popular radio stations that you can tune into in the UNIFIL Area of Operation:

AM:

BBC London	1323 KHZ
BFBS Cyprus	1089 KHZ

Radio Monte Carlo
Radio Mediterranean
Voice of America
Voice of Peace

1233 KHZ
1557 KHZ
1260 KHZ
1540 KHZ

FM:
BFBS Cyprus
Magic 102 Beirut
Radio Malish (SWEDLOG)
Radio Mount Lebanon
Radio NORBATT
Radio One
Radio Scorpion (NORMAINTCOY)
Voice of Peace

92.1 or 96.4 MHz
102 MHz
104.5 MHz
99 MHz
98 MHz
105.5 MHz
96 MHz
100 MHz

OPERATIONAL REPORT

30 OCT - 19 NOV

● On 7 Nov at 0835, an SLA bulldozer backed by a tank and an APC arrived at Kusayr saying they had orders to block a track UNIFIL had opened for its own use only. Finnish troops resisted the attempt and an SLA officer fired to a Finbatt armored car and over the heads of soldiers. The bulldozer damaged two UNIFIL APC's and blocked the road with an earth wall. Finbatt and Force Mobile Reserve reinforcements arrived and UNIFIL engineers reopened the track to UNIFIL traffic.

● On 12 Nov, two Amal men escorting a senior cleric refused to identify themselves and threatened the Irish soldiers at a Checkpoint on Haris-Tibnine by cocking their weapons and Pushing the muzzle of a rifle into an Irish soldier's chest. This unprovoked behaviour which could have had very serious consequences was protested with AMAL.

● On 15 November at 0915, two SLA men in uniform travelling in a civilian car arrived at a Norwegian Checkpoint at Ebel Es Saqi, but refused to obey the instructions of the guards and took the wrong lane. A Norwegian sentry fired three warning shots into the air. Both SLA men disembarked. One fired his rifle inside the Checkpoint and the other armed his anti-tank weapon. One of them threw a grenade. Norwegian troops continued with their warning fire while taking cover. One SLA man was wounded and evacuated to Marjayoun hospital by other SLA personnel who had arrived on the scene. UNIFIL was informed of his death by SLA Commander Gen. Lahd and IDF Brigadier Zahgarin who came to NORBATT HQ to discuss the incident.

● On 18 Nov at 1600, a blind man armed with a submachinegun refused to surrender his weapon to a Fijian Checkpoint near Qana. When told he could not pass through with his weapon, he threatened the Checkpoint personnel and went back.

● On 19 Nov around 1930, Amal militiamen blocked the roads at Qallawiyah and Ghandouriyah to UNIFIL traffic. Aggressive militiamen threatened Finnish soldiers who tried to find out the reason for the blocks. After pro-

tracted negotiations, Amal men lifted their Checkpoints at 2045 and withdrew from the area.

● During the past three weeks 30 Oct to 19 Nov, individuals of various affiliations surrendered to UNIFIL personnel in all sectors 11 anti-tank weapons, 40 hand-grenades and 423 rifles/machineguns before entering the UNIFIL zone.

● Col. P. Untaniemi (Finland) took over on 5 Nov from COL. J. Hautamaki (Finland) as Assistant Chief of Staff /Operations.



*Mine-clearing
at new Camp site
(Photos Alf Lervik).*



Busy at the firing range.

UN IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) was one-and-a-half years old last October. Therefore, in our effort to inform our numerous readers about other UN Peace Missions, we bring you an article on the conflict and the UN's role in Afghanistan.

The following article comes from the Irish Defence Forces Magazine, An Cosantoir, and we give credit to Lt-Col P.J. McHale who wrote it.

For many centuries the mountainous country of Afghanistan, populated by fiercely warlike and independent-minded tribes, formed an effective barrier between the Czarist (and later Soviet Empire to the north and the Mogul (later British) Empire in India. Attempts by both these powers to encroach into Afghanistan proved disastrous on several occasions. In addition to their intense dislike for outsiders, the Afghans never really liked each other, with tribe fighting tribe, clan fighting clan and brother fighting brother. Warfare became the national pastime.

In 1973 the King, Mohammed Zakir, was overthrown by his cousin and brother-in-law, Mohammed Daud, who declared a Republic. Having survived several coup attempts he was finally ousted in 1977 by the pro-Soviet Mohammed Taraki. However, Taraki's regime proved most unpopular and armed revolt spread throughout the country. Coup followed coup until Soviet forces intervened in massive strength in December 1979. Learning nothing from history they tried to impose a Communist style government on the Afghans. A bitter civil war followed. Despite

deploying over 100,000 men and all the modern military equipment at their disposal, the Soviets and the Afghan Army failed to subdue the Resistance or the Mujahideen. The reasons for this failure are as follows:

- The fighting attributes and spirit of the Mujahideen.
- The suitability of the Afghan terrain for guerilla warfare.
- The natural dislike of the Afghans for a strong central government.
- The disillusionment of the Soviet soldier.
- The huge support given to the Mujahideen, especially by the United States, the conservative Arab countries and China. With the coming of the Gorbachov era in the Soviet Union good relations with the United States became an important consideration.

But, arguably, the most important single factor in the failure of the Red Army and their Afghan allies to overcome the Resistance was the latter's acquisition of the Stinger anti-aircraft missile. No longer was Soviet control of the skies unchallenged. The Mujahideen, no longer defenceless against the Mi-24 gunships, could move around the countryside with greater freedom. Soviet losses mounted. Opposition to the Afghan involvement increased at home and was freely reported in the recently unfettered Press, which was enjoying the fruits of 'Glasnost'. The Soviet leadership decided it was time to re-appraise their Afghan policy.

The Geneva Accord

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 outraged not only the West but also the Third World. Year after year, condemnation followed in the General Assembly with the Soviet Union getting little support outside the Eastern Bloc. Eventually peace talks began in Geneva in 1982 between Pakistan and the US on one side and Afghanistan and the USSR on the other. The talks were held under the chairmanship of Senor Diego Cordovez. Pakistan's involvement came about as it had become the home of millions of Afghan refugees from the fighting. In addition, it had become, with the full support of the late President Zia, the distribution centre for almost all the arms and equipment destined for the Mujahideen. Pakistani military officers also provided training and guidance.

Finally, after six years of bargaining, the Geneva Accord was signed on 14 April 1988. The signatories were Afghanistan and Pakistan (the High Contracting Parties) and the US and the Soviet Union (the Guarantors).

In brief, the Accord contains seven provisions comprising four Instruments, two Understandings and one Memorandum.

Instruments

- A bi-lateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on NON-INTERVENTION and NON-INTERFERENCE in each others internal affairs.
- A bi-lateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the voluntary return of the refugees.
- A declaration on the withdrawal of foreign (i.e. Soviet)

Cont on p.20



Position of Afghanistan on the map.

UN IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Cont from p.19

troops according to an agreed time-scale.

- A declaration on international guarantees signed by the USSR and the US.

Understandings

- SYMMETRY whereby the two guarantors undertook to restrict the level of supply of war material to their respective clients to the level of the other side.

Note: This particular 'Understanding', called in the jargon POSITIVE SYMMETRY, followed the failure of the two Superpowers to agree to discontinue the supply of arms (NEGATIVE SYMMETRY). The Understanding was contained in an exchange of letter which have never been published. Indeed the Soviet Union refuses to comment on their existence.

An Understanding by the United Nations in the person of the Representative of the Secretary-General (Senor Cordovez) to attempt to create a viable government in Afghanistan which would be acceptable to all parties.

Memorandum

The establishment of a Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan which would monitor the implementation of the Accord on the ground. This Mission was subsequently called UNGOMAP. United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

1. To ascertain any violation of the NON-INTERVENTION and NON-INTERFERENCE Instrument.

2. To confirm the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within the agreed time-frame, i.e. 50 per cent by 15 August and the remainder before 15 February 1989.

It should be noted here that the Resistance were not a party to the

Geneva Accord and have refused since to recognize it. They regard it as an attempt to thwart their struggle to establish an Islamic State in Afghanistan. UNGOMAP, therefore, was immediately faced with the prospect of carrying out their mission in an area where a vicious civil war was still in progress and where one of the protagonists refused to give guarantees of safety.

Setting Up UNGOMAP

The first elements of UNGOMAP arrived in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, on 25 April 1988. They included the Deputy Representative, Maj Gen Rauli Helminen (FINLAND) with his political advisers, an advance party of military observers (UNMOs) drawn from UNTSO and some Field Service Personnel. A temporary HQ was established. Before long, the remainder of the UNMOs had arrived. In all, fourteen had come from UNTSO while the remaining thirty-six came directly from their home countries. Contributing countries were Austria (5), Canada (5), Denmark (4), Fiji (4), Finland (5), Ghana (6), Ireland (5), Nepal (6), Poland (4) and Sweden (6). A station was opened in Kabul, occupying premises supplied by the Afghan Government. By D-Day, 15 May, UNGOMAP was ready to commence its mission.

Operations

Both stations adopted the usual UN military structure with an Officer-in-Charge and three staff cells, Operations, Liaison/Military Information and Administration. The remaining personnel were divided into teams of three UNMOs. Establishing such an organisation from scratch was facilitated by the fact that with a lone exception all officers had previous UN experience.

Operations in the two stations differ completely. In Islamabad allegations of interference or intervention by one party against the other are investigated by one of the teams. These allegations, which are never-ending, generally concern the illegal passage of personnel, arms and equipment across the border, the presence of



Afghan fighters displaying SA7 — STRELA shoulder fired AA missile.

training camps near the border, hostile shelling, bombings, overflights, etc. The investigation teams usually spend five or six days covering several complaints in the area. For the duration of the trip, they are under the protection of the Pakistani Army or Frontier Force. These escorts are essential if inconvenient. The border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan is tribal and law and order in the normal sense does not exist. Crimes committed, and there are many, do not come under the jurisdiction of the Federal or State Governments but are dealt with in most cases by the tribal elders. Interference from outside is not tolerated. Furthermore, these tribesmen are generally pro-Mujahideen and, as such, anti-UN in so far as they are aware of its existence.

Accommodation and rations for the Team members are provided in Pakistani military posts. Hospitality is lavish, if temperate, as befits a strict Muslim society.

Soviet officials complain bitterly

of the continued supply through Pakistan of war material for the Mujahideen in contravention of the Geneva Accord. The US respond by stating that under the POSITIVE SYMMETRY Understanding they are entitled to maintain supplies as long as the USSR supports the Afghan Army. This apparent contradiction has yet to be satisfactorily explained.

Kabul station has a different role. Their task, apart from conducting city patrols, is to monitor the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. On the signing of the Geneva Accord, the US estimated Soviet strength as 115,000 spread throughout the country. Fifty per cent of these forces were to be withdrawn before 15 August and the remainder by 15 February 1989. UNGOMAP established a number of Observation Posts at the major crossing points on the Amu Darya (Oxus River) which marked the border between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. In addition, UNMOs were located in the main

Soviet air-bases. In this way UNGOMAP were able to report to the Secretary-General that as on 15 August the withdrawal was on schedule.

Life for the UNMO is not easy in Kabul. Most of the embassies are reduced to a minimum staff, limiting the possibilities for social contacts. Offices and living quarters are located in a compound which, after several months, becomes claustrophobic. Due to increased Mujahideen activity, movement outside the city is inadvisable and within the city a curfew is imposed at 2200 hours daily. Shelling of the capital has intensified with the airport being the chief target. The only foreign airlines using Kabul Airport which also serves as a Soviet air-base, is Aeroflot and Air India.

The Future

On the signing of the Geneva Accord most Western analysts predicted that the Government of Dr. Najibullah would not long survive the withdrawal of his Soviet allies. This view was supported recently by a former commander of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. However, over the

past few months the expected string of Mujahideen military successes has failed to materialize. The Afghan Army has proven to be a more formidable force than expected. With few exceptions they have held on to all the major cities and at the moment look far from being an army on the run.

The reasons for the failure of the Mujahideen are two-fold. Firstly, true to their history, they have failed to weld their several units into a cohesive force under an effective central command. Theoretically, they are controlled and co-ordinated by the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen (IUAM) — a loose amalgamation of seven different political parties opposed to the central government. This alliance was formed under intense American and Pakistani pressure in 1985. Those who ran the American support operation in conjunction with the Pakistani Army, were dismayed at the in-fighting which was taking place between the various Resistance factions. The IUAM is based in the city of Peshawar at the foot of the Khyber Pass. This body, however, is deeply divided between the fundamental parties

favoured by Pakistan, and the moderates. Not usually, these 'political' leaders are despised by the Mujahideen military commanders in the field who accuse them of corruption in that they sell the weapons they receive rather than sending them into Afghanistan. These deep divisions and jealousies within the ranks of the Resistance preclude a co-ordinated strategy.

A second reason for the lack of major Mujahideen success is their dislike for formal military training. While their personal bravery and skill with a rifle is unquestionable they are not disinclined to undergo the more formal military instruction which the modern weapons at their disposal requires. And, of course, the vast majority of them are illiterate. In the overall analysis, the outcome of the war could depend on the amount of Soviet aid, in the form of weapons and advisers which the USSR decides to give to the Afghan Army after the final withdrawal on 15 February. On the other hand, if the Resistance does achieve a final victory and set up an Islamic Government in Kabul, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that, even then, peace

will not be at hand. Moderate will fight extremist, Shiite will fight Sunni, Royalist will fight Republicans and Communist will fight Capitalist.



GHANA ENGINEER COMPANY

Cont from p. 15

prove the lot of the sappers. At the time of writing, the Company had completed a Company office complex, rehabilitated the main gate leading into the camp, constructed a drainage gutter in the western end of the camp, a three-chamber septic tank and a soakpit with detached grease trap, as well as an ironing bay and officers' accommodation summer porch.

In all its dealings, the GEC is grateful to the Swedish Engineer Company for its co-operation without which the job would not have been smooth sailing.

The main problems the company faced during the period were the delay in obtaining materials on site by recipient units and the under-estimation of requirements which invariably led to shortages during construction. But we appreciate that nothing good comes easy.

Nonetheless, the GEC is confident that its tour will end on a very good note because it arrives to live up to expectation always.



Repairing the roofs of the International Mess, UNIFIL HQ, Naqoura.

KNOW UNIFIL MEMBER COUNTRIES KNOW IRELAND

The island of Ireland is situated in the extreme north-west of the continent of Europe.

The total area of Ireland is 32,595 square miles (84,421 square kilometres). Ireland Republic comprises 27,136 square miles (70,282 square kilometres) and Northern Ireland 5,459 square miles (14,139 square kilometres). The greatest length of the island from north to south is 302 miles (486 kilometres) and the greatest width, from east to west, is 171 miles (275 kilometres). There are 1,970 miles of coastline (3,172 kilometres).

The island comprises a large central lowland of limestone with relief of hills and a number of coastal mountains, the highest of which, Carruntuohill, is 3,414 feet (1,040 metres). The Shannon is the longest river (230 miles or 370 kilometres). There are many lakes of which Lough Neagh (153 square miles or 396 square kilometres) is the largest.

Climate

The climate of Ireland is dominated by the moderating effects of the surrounding seas. As a result, snow is rare in most winters except in the mountains. Average temperature in January and February, the coldest months, is between 4 degrees C and 7 degrees C. July and August, the two warmest months, have average temperatures between 14 degrees C and 16 degrees C. Average annual rainfall lies between 800 and 1200 mm over most of the country.

Population

According to the 1986 census, the population of Ireland (Republic) is 3,573,195. A high proportion of the population is concentrated in the younger age-groups, with approximately 47 per

cent being under 25 and about 29.5 being under 15. The population of Northern Ireland in 1984 was estimated at 1,578,500.

Economy

Ireland is an open economy, heavily dependent on international trading. Overall economic growth was about 0.5 per cent in 1986 but output of manufactured goods increased by about 2.8 per cent in 1986. The rate of inflation for 1986 was 3.1 per cent while unemployment at the end of 1986 was approximately 17 per cent of the workforce.* In the period 1977-1986, GNP grew at an annual average rate of 1.1 per cent. In recent years the rate of growth has slowed considerably due to the general recession. GNP for 1986 stood at £ 16,190 million.

Industry

Manufacturing industry accounts for about 40 per cent of Ireland's national income, over 75 per cent of total exports and about 30 per cent of total employment. The Irish industrial sector has developed rapidly over the last two decades and Ireland now has a modern industrially-based economy. This has been achieved mainly by offering special encouragement to foreign investment through tax exemptions, capital and training grants and other facilities.

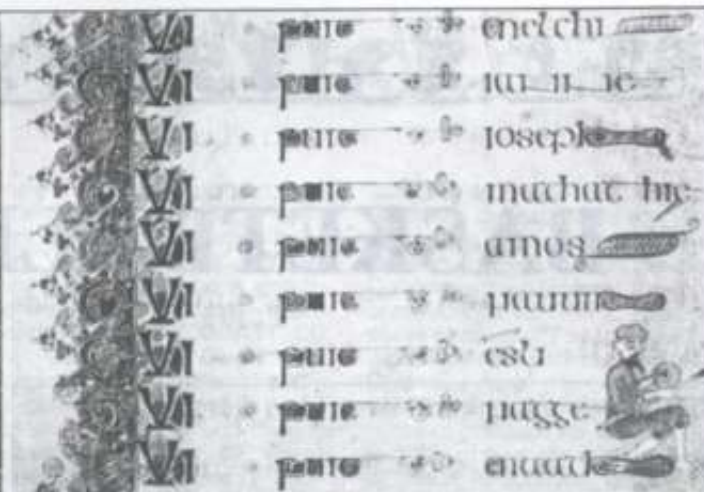
The Political Structure

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. Its law is based on common law and legislation enacted by Parliament under the Constitution. Regulations of the European Communities have the force of law in Ireland.

The Constitution of Ireland sets out the form of government and defines the powers and functions of the President, both Houses of Parliament (Oireachtas) and the Government. It also defines the structure and powers of the Courts and sets out the fundamental rights of citizens.

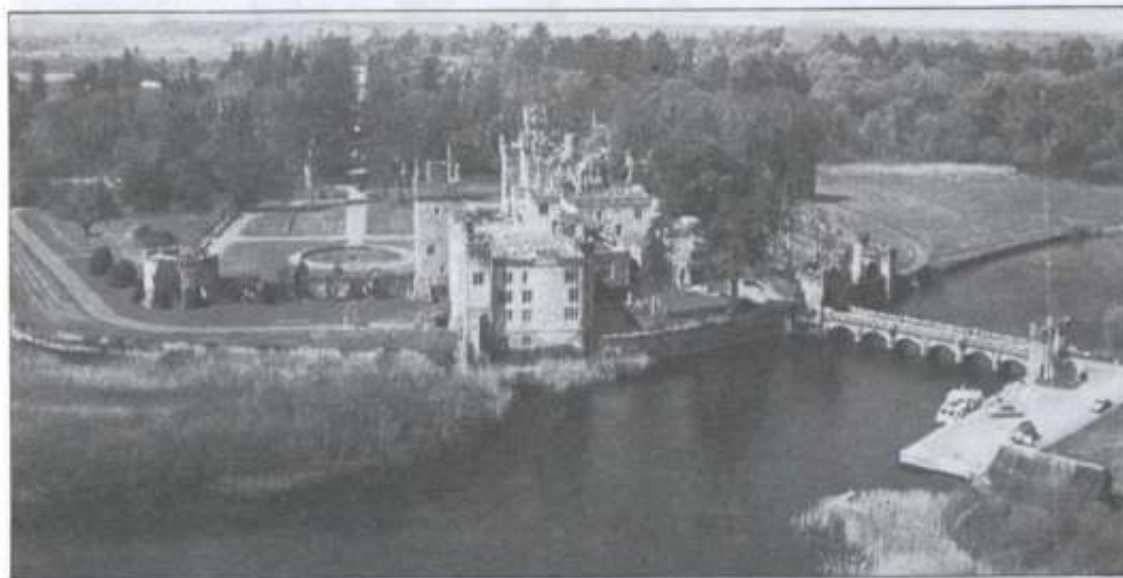


Saving the hay against the background of historic Doe Castle, Co. Donegal.



Detail from the exquisite 8th century Book of Kells, housed in Trinity College Dublin.

Glendalough, Co. Wicklow — glen of two lakes and a 6th century monastic site.



History is everywhere in Ireland — from the earliest stone age to the wonders of mediaeval times and beyond. To visit man's treasures is to walk in history itself and better understand the beauty of the land.

The President is the Head of State. Where there is more than one candidate for the office, the President is elected by direct vote of the people. There are two Houses of Parliament, respectively known as Dail (House of Representatives) and Seanad (Senate). The Dail has 166 members. Elections take place at least once every five years. Every citizen over the age of 18 has the right to vote.

The Seanad has 60 members. It may initiate or amend legislation, but the Dail has the power to reject any such amendments or proposed legislation. Executive power is exercised by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) who is Head of Government responsible for the Dail.

**COMDT C.J. McNAMARA
PIO IRISHBATT**



BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS



The SWEDLOG basketball team had certain problems with the Irish team but won the match to reach the final where they finished off the Fijians in the last second.

SWEDLOG won the UNIFIL 26th Mandate Basketball Championship in late November after defeating FIJIBATT 48-47 in the finals. But the trip to the top was not easy as the Fijians gave the Swedes a tough time and were holding the lead until 30 seconds to the end of the game. Determined to win, the Swedish team managed to level-up through a penalty as time was about to run out. In the penalty throw, the first attempt failed but the second ball hit the basket to give SWEDLOG a 48-47 victory.

In the preliminary, the Swedes beat GHANBATT in the first match, then crushed FINBATT before they finished off IRISHBATT in a tough match.

In the final against the tall Fijians, SWEDLOG had a 28-18 lead at half-time. But after the break, FIJIBATT made 17 straight points and was about to bring the championship home when SWEDLOG finally regained the lead in the last second of the match.



The Swedish UNIFIL champions.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A glowing tribute was paid to Private Rune Opland who was killed in an ambush on 29 November, at a memorial service held at UNIFIL HQ, Naqoura on Monday, 4 December 1989. Lt-Gen Lars-Eric Wahlgren, the Force Commander, said that the 23-year old Norwegian was the "victim of an irresponsible, brutal and cold-blooded act of violence." Pte Opland had been with UNIFIL for only six days when he was gunned

down while on foot patrol.

"Our thoughts and grief are with the parents and we pray that they have fortitude and courage in their time of grief", the FC said. "We share the profound sorrow and pain and understand the grief of Rune Opland's family and fellow peace-keepers in the Norwegian Contingent and in all UNIFIL", he said.

Representatives of all the nine UNIFIL nations carried their national flags at the ceremony at the Fallen Heroes Memorial Square,

where a Norwegian platoon formed a guard of honour. Wreaths were laid at the monument by Lt-Gen Wahlgren, COS Brig-Gen Johannes Lunder who is also the Norwegian Contingent Commander and by NORBATT CO, Col Odd Helge Olsen. The Chaplain, Geir Gundersen, said in his sermon that Opland was a popular, industrious and cheerful individual who will be deeply missed by his comrades.

On behalf of the UN Secretary-General, the Force Commander gave his most sincere con-

dolences to the 24th Norwegian Battalion in particular and the Norwegian Contingent in general. He also thanked the people and Government of Norway for their contributions to UNIFIL and the cause of peace. "To Mr. and Mrs. Jess Opland, parents of Rune Opland, I send my own and all UNIFIL's sincere condolences and sense of gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice of your son in the service of peace in southern Lebanon". Lt-Gen Wahlgren concluded.

MAJ O. WALBERG
A/CMPIO



The late Pte Rune Opland.



The FC, Lt-Gen Wahlgren (centre) pays his last respect to the late Pte Rune Opland.

UNIFIL'S 166TH DEATH

A Memorial Service in honour of the late Comdt Michael O'Hanlon was held at the Fallen Heroes Memorial Square at UNIFIL HQ, Naqoura on 24 November. Comdt O'Hanlon died of an accidental shot at IRISHBATT three days earlier.

At the ceremony was the Force Commander, Lt-Gen Lars-Eric Wahlgren, other military and civilian officers as well as representatives from the nine contingents carrying their national flags.

Father Patrick Bresnan who officiated at the service prayed that the Almighty and Eternal God who called Comdt O'Hanlon would give him peace. The Force Commander then laid a wreath at

the cenotaph.

Wreaths were also laid by the Irish Contingent Commander, Col S. Mac Niocaill and the IRISHBATT CO, Lt-Col V. Blythe.

Comdt Michael O'Hanlon was the 27th Irish soldier to die while serving with UNIFIL.

O'Hanlon who was 38, left behind his wife Valerie, daughter Laura (4) and son Robert (1).



The late Comdt O'Hanlon.



On 10 October 1989, Lt-Col Aage Berg took over as the Chief Maintenance Officer.

Born on 15 January 1947, at Vardo, northernmost Norway, close to the Soviet border, he was enlisted into the Ordnance Corps of the Norwegian Army in 1966.

After attending the Army Military Academy of the Ordnance Corps he was commissioned in 1968 and entered the War College in 1973 for a three-year study. Lt-Col Berg attended the Swedish Administrative Officers' Course from 1984 to 1986.

During his military career, Lt-Col Berg served for six years as a Platoon Commander, two years as a Company Commander and a year as the Second-in-Command of the Reserve Officers' School. For another period of a year, he was the Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Centre of the Norwegian Army from where he was posted to the Norwegian Army HQ. Before his assignment to UNIFIL, Lt-Col Berg was the Logistics Officer of the Defence District No. 6 in the east of Oslo, Norway.

He served with UNIFIL from May 1983 to June 1984 as the Deputy Commanding Officer of NORMAINTCOY where he was decorated with the UNIFIL medal.

Lt-Col Berg is married and has a son of 19 years.



Colonel Odd Helge Olsen, who has already served half a year as Commanding Officer NORBATT 23, is continuing for another six months as CO NORBATT 24 with effect from 27 November.

Colonel Olsen was born at Lohnestrand in Soer-Audnedal in southern Norway 44 years ago. He graduated from the Infantry Reserve Officers' School in south Norway in 1967 and graduated from the Norwegian Military Academy four years later. In 1981-1982 he attended the Norwegian Army Staff College, and also attended a series of other military courses.

From 1971 to 1974, Colonel Olsen served at the Garrison at Porsanger in the very northern part of Norway, near the border with the Soviet Union. He then served with the Norwegian Infantry Training Centre No. 2 until 1977 when he was appointed CO Infantry Coy in Battalion No. 1/Brigade North.

In 1979 he served at the office of the Inspector of the Infantry at Army Staff/Headquarters Defence Command Norway.

Colonel Olsen went back to Porsanger for a new tour of duty in 1982, first as Operation Officer and then as Deputy Commander of the Garrison. From 1984 to 1989 he served at the Norwegian Military Academy at Gimlemoen, first as DCO and then as Commanding Officer. He took over as CO NORBATT in May this year.

Colonel Olsen is married and has twin daughters. He enjoys football, especially when he can play as a goal-keeper, and he also enjoys singing Norwegian folk songs originating from the place of his birth.

Lt-Col Alf Palmer Brun Svinnsset, who took over as the Force Provost Marshall on 28 November, was born in Molde in western Norway in 1942. After High School and College he entered the Norwegian Army and was commissioned as an officer in June 1966.

Serving in the Army Transportation Corps which includes the Military Police, Lt-Col Svinnsset attended the Officer School (the Military Police Branch), the Army



Military Academy and the Staff College of the Norwegian Army. He has also attended a paratrooper course, a company commander course, a staff officer course, the UN Military Observers' Course and the UN Military Police Course.

After being commissioned, Lt-Col Svinnsset served as an instructor at the Officer School and was later appointed DCO and then CO of MP Coy at the Norwegian Army Transportation Corps. He was then appointed Commanding Officer of a Transportation Company before being appointed Chief Transportation Officer at the Headquarters of the Brigade of Northern Norway. He later served as the Chief Transportation Officer for the Commander of Southern Norway, and before his tour of duty with UNIFIL he served as the CO Log Branch at the 11th Defence District, western Norway.

Lt-Col Svinnsset is not new to UN Peace-keeping operations for between 1986 and 1987 he served with UNTSO. During his military career he has been awarded the Falcon Order of Iceland, the Army Service Medal, the Norwegian Defence Medal and the UNTSO Medal.

The new Provost Marshall has been married for 24 years and has a grown-up daughter living in West Germany. Lt-Col Svinnsset told the LITANI that he is too busy to have time for any hobbies.



Lt-Col Giambattista Nani was born on 02 January 1948 in Rome, Italy. He enlisted into the Italian Army in 1963 after his Secondary School Education.

Seven years after his enlistment, Lt-Col Nani was granted a full commission into the Cavalry Corps of the Italian Army.

During his career, Lt-Col Nani attended several military courses and training exercises pertaining to his arm of service and finally graduated successfully from the Staff College.

Some important appointments held by Lt-Col Nani during his service in the Army include Tank Platoon Leader, Recce Squadron Commanding Officer and Army Staff Officer (Logistics).

Lt-Col Nani who has been with the Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) and attached to UNIFIL OPS as the Deputy Plans Officer since 10 July is married with two sons aged nine and three, now living in Nahariya, Israel.

His hobbies include skiing, tennis, fishing and horse riding.

The Editor and Staff of the LITANI magazine wish all UNIFIL personnel and our readers worldwide a prosperous New Year.



THE UNIFIL HQ GYMNASIUM MASTER
(IN BLUE JOGGING SUIT) INSTRUCTING

