

STAIR AONDAID

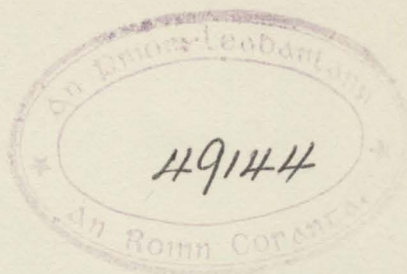
9ú Grúpa Coisithe
Náisiúin Aontuithe
An Chipir



MEÁN - FÓMHAIR 1967 — MÁRTA 1968

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Lt Col M.J. Murphy OC 9 Inf GP with Mr Jose Rolz Bennet special representative of Secretary General Nov. 1967.

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F O R E W O R D

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By Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Murphy

Officer Commanding

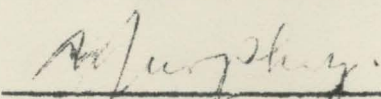
A unit history records facts, describes situations and frequently draws conclusions. The Unit History of the 9th Infantry Group does all three. One of the conclusions drawn is that the District of Cyprus policed by the Group WAS more peaceful, at the end of the Group's tour of duty than it was at the beginning.

Conclusions are often disputable. This one, I am privileged to say, is made unassailable by the evidence of Shotreps and Sitreps and Incident Reports.

It is a special privilege to speak as Officer Commanding the 9th Infantry Group. During the Group's tour of duty the situation in Cyprus deteriorated to the point where the island was confronted with the threat of immediate and massive invasion from the Turkish mainland. The very real threat extended over a period of a month and heightened the already constant strain of a complex and exacting peace-keeping mission.

While working for peace the Group prepared for war in the literal sense of the old Roman proverb. But NO Roman soldier or centurion worked harder or brought such imperturbable good humour to the task of planning and digging.

The Officers, NCOs and men of the 9th Infantry Group have a right to pride in the distinguished service they have given to their Unit, to Cyprus and to Ireland and I am proud to have commanded them.



(M.J. MURPHY) Lt/Cornal

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

Though we feel sure that this document will sell equally well, with or without an introduction, it seems to be customary to include one and who are we to break with tradition.

What we set out to do in this history was to record, in as readable a form as possible, what this Unit did during its six months tour as part of UNFICYP.

To those chroniclers from the various sub-units, and Gp HQ, who produced material, and to Sgts Murray and Cullen who put it in print, a sincere "Thank you".

Roger Campion Lieut
(ROGER CAMPION)

ASST OPS 'B' 9 INFANTRY GROUP

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FORMATION AND PREPARATION

On Monday the 28th August 1967, the Advance Group Headquarters of the 9th Infantry Group opened at Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Training Camp. On the same day the Armoured Car Group of the Unit also concentrated at the Curragh. During the preceding month, personnel selected in Commands for service with the Group, had been undergoing intensive training within their own Command Areas, but with the opening of the Advance Group Headquarters, the first real practical step on the road to Cyprus had been taken, and what to some may have been a dream, now began to assume the guise of reality. This was followed by the concentration of the remaining members of Group Headquarters and Headquarters on Wednesday 30th August. Monday 4th September saw the arrival of 'A', 'B' and 'C' Companies and the unit concentration was now complete. The accommodation, billeting and catering for the Group was most efficiently organised and smoothly effected by the Staff at Curragh Camp Headquarters. Group Headquarters, Headquarter Company, and the Armoured Car Group, were accommodated in Plunkett Barracks while the three Rifle Companies were accommodated in Connolly Barracks.

On the morning of Tuesday 5th September, the Officer Commanding the Group, Lt. Col. M.J. Murphy, addressed the officers and welcomed them to the unit. His address was followed by a most enlightening intelligence briefing by Comdt. J. O'Sullivan of Army Headquarters.

The afternoon of the 5th September saw the officers of the Group assembled at Arus an Uachtarain for a formal reception by His Excellency Eamonn De Valera, where he bade us God speed and wished us success in our mission. Early on Wednesday 6th September the Recce Party, consisting of the CO, and the Commanders of 'A', 'B' and 'C' Companies flew out from Dublin Airport and this was the last some of us were to see of them for another three weeks. The evening of that Wednesday was given over to a detailed briefing by members of the QMG's Staff.

In the forenoon of the 8th September, the Group was visited by the Acting Chief of Staff, Major General Sean Collins-Powell, who inspected a Guard of Honour and addressed the officer body. This was followed in the afternoon by a full ceremonial parade of the Group, when they were addressed by An t-Aire Cosanta, Mr. M. Hilliard and reviewed by An Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch. The parade concluded with a 'March Past'.

From now until the 27th September there followed a period of feverish activity. This included helicopter acclimatisation training, heavy mortar firing practice, and engineer training, with particular emphasis on mines and booby traps. The period was punctuated by the departure of the Adm Party on the 11th, and the OP Party on the 18th September. The departure of the Main Body for Cyprus commenced on the 25th September and the final chalk arrived there on the evening of the 27th September. The complete unit was now in Cyprus, fully operational, and ready for what the future had to offer.

ARRIVAL IN CYPRUS

A Recce Party consisting of CO, and Coy Comds of A, B and C Coys arrived by commercial airline in Cyprus on the 6th Sept 1967. They were received and briefed by the Staff and Coy Comds of the 8th Inf Gp.

Five days later on the 11th Sept 1967 an Admin Party consisting of 106 all ranks with representatives of all Coys and Staffs arrived by a chartered Dutch DC 8. Briefing and handover started on arrival on a well planned and well conducted schedule prepared by the 8th Inf Gp. A corresponding number of the 8th Gp left for Ireland on the same date.

An OP Party consisting of 118 all ranks arrived on the 18th Sept and took up duties in the OP's in conjunction with the 8th Group who had partially repatriated their OP personnel.

On the 25th Sept the first of the Main Body of the Group arrived from Ireland and Group rotation was completed on 27th Sept.

9th Inf Gp was activated at 2400 hrs on 22 Sep '67. 9th Inf Group assumed operational control of LEFKA District at 0900 hrs 26 Sep 67.

Deployment

The organisation of the 9th Inf Gp differed from previous Groups in that there were three rifle Coys instead of two. The third Coy replaced the former ad hoc ICA Coy formed from Cavalry, artillery and Infantry elements. This allowed for the retention at Gp Hq of a strong reserve.

The initial deployment was

A Coy took over KATO PYRGOS area from the outgoing A Coy.

B Coy took over LIMNITIS area from the outgoing B Coy.

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C Coy took over LEFKA area from the outgoing ICA Coy.
The Armoured Car Gp detached a section of two cars to
KATO PYRGOS and LIMNITIS areas. Four Cars remained at
GP HQ as District and Force reserve.

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Kato Pyrgos Camp

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COY AREA

When we received the news on the windswept Curragh that Kato Pyrgos was to be our station for the first two Months of our tour in Cyprus we were assured by the veterans that it was the ideal place to spend the remaining few weeks of the Mediterranean Summer. The most Westerly Coy area in the Lefka District, Kato Pyrgos Camp, was situated right on the sea shore and very quickly its beautiful sandy Beach and the blue Mediterranean waters were fully availed of. The number of visitors we received during those early weeks proved to us beyond doubt that we had received the most attractive location.

The Kato Pyrgos Coy area extends from the village of Kato Pyrgos itself, westwards along the rugged Coast to the village of Pakhy Ammos, a road distance of about eleven miles. From the Coast southwards the area traverses 25 miles of the mighty Troodos range down to the village of Vroisha buried deep in the Mountains. In all it covers about 275 square miles of rugged territory with the attending hazards of perilous roads and goat tracks winding tortuously up and down the almost perpendicular heights.

Outside the Tk Cyp bridge-head at Kokkina (which will be dealt with later) the villages are practically all situated within four or five miles of the Coast. They are all Gk Cyp and are for the most part poverty stricken, and tightly knit communities. The villagers eke out a living from the barren hillsides by some tillage and fruit growing in the Winter months and some vine growing during the Summer. The Shepherds and the goatherds roam the hillsides with their flocks by day.

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The area around Piyenia (a village four miles South West of Kato Pyrgos) is renowned for the making of charcoal, which it sends to Nicosia in fairly large quantities. Kato Pyrgos itself is a relatively welloff area, well irrigated by artificial means and producing large crops of oranges, melons, grapefruit and bananas.

The Tk Cyp Bridge-head at Kokkina, seven miles West of Kato Pyrgos is without doubt the nadir of poverty. Here several hundred men, women and children exist from day to day in abysmal conditions, living in caves and tents and miserable mud huts. There is no tillage, no fruit growing - just people living on some rocks by the sea shore, and waiting for the weekly Red Crescent convoy to bring food supplies from NICOSIA.

One of the interesting things about the area is that all the older villages are built high in the hills facing away from the sea and hidden in the deep narrow valleys. The reason for this according to local tradition, is that the coast was subject to the attacks of pirates in ancient times, and the villages were therefore built where they could not be seen from the sea, and in a good defensive position.

One of the more renowned Blue Beards actually settled on the coast about 5 miles west of the present-day village of Kato Pyrgos. He founded a village there and set up his Headquarters. The village took it's name from the pirate chief - Mansoura. 'A' Coy knows it as OP 4.

KATO PYRGOS CAMP

Kato Pyrgos Camp itself is situated about 2 miles west of Kato Pyrgos village on a small height overlooking a beautiful sandy bay. Undoubtedly the best situated of any of the camps from a scenic and recreational viewpoint, this was further enhanced by the long spell of glorious weather, which we had until our departure in early December.

Our first month was one of feverish activity, repitching tents and making concrete floors for as many of them as our cement supplies allowed, painting, redecorating Messes, whitewashing and winterization of the camp in general, for the onslaught (as we thought) of the Cyprus winter in mid November.

The sudden deterioration in the political situation during mid November added gusto to our already advanced efforts in improving defensive positions and digging new trenches and bomb shelters.

KOKKINA

There was a subsidiary camp in Kokkina itself consisting of a large Nissen Hut, a small but adequate cookhouse and 2 mug tents. The strength here was one Officer and 12 Ors and the tasks were the resupply and relief of the OPs, maintenance of communications between Coy HQ and the OPs, and the provision of a reserve for the Kokkina area. There was a considerable amount of improvements carried out on the defensive slit trenches and shelters both here and on the Observation Posts after 'A' Coy moved into the area. The recreational facilities were limited as the post was in the confrontation area but there was a good table tennis table in the Nissen Hut which afforded keen competition for the personnel of the post.

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE AREA

The economic and social history of KATO PYRGOS area is too large a subject for detailed comment here, sufficient is it to say that the area is a typically mountainous, barren, region with a few isolated villages scattered over the area. Time and progress have passed these villagers by, and they live in poverty and hardship. The political and Military situation since 1964 has remained more or less static. The present BRIDGEHEAD at
KOKKINA

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originated during August 1964 when a strong co-ordinated attack by the Nat Gd on the Tk Cyp villages in the area forced them back to KOKKINA. It was only the intervention of Turkish Jet Fighter Planes that stopped the Tk Cyps from being forced into the sea. The Nat Gd attack was halted and cease fire declared. This was the cause of the KOKKINA enclave.

SITUATION ON TAKE OVER

A Coy, 9 Inf Group took over from A Coy 8 Inf Gp, in KATO PYRGOS area and the rotation was fully completed by the 27th of September. The main body arrived on the 26th and 27th and found that the advance party and OP party were already settled in, and fully operational. The situation in the area was quiet, and we very quickly learned to deal with the routine clearances for Tk Cyps to leave the KOKKINA enclave. Only two shots were reported by the OP's in the first week, and on investigation, they proved to be accidentally discharged by Nat Gd and Tk Cyps. Much digging was reported on both sides and in almost all cases this proved to be routine clearing for Winter. In all, the situation was peaceful and static and this allowed us to move smoothly into top gear operationally.

COY MISSION AND PROBLEMS

The Coy mission in the area was threefold.

1. To prevent a recurrence of fighting.
2. Contribute to restoration and maintenance of law and order.
3. Contribute to return of normal conditions.

The problems in the area were many. The Tk Cyps in KOKKINA surrounded on three sides by the Nat Gd and on the fourth by the Sea had been cut off for the past four years. The soldiers of both sides faced each other in entrenched positions, separated by short distances of NO MANS LAND. Tension was always high. The fact that a Nat Gd soldier had been seen carrying a shovel up to his position would immediately bring a strong complaint from the Tk Cyps to UN that the Nat Gd were building

a new position and behaving in an aggressive manner. A few extra sandbags added to a Tk Cyp position was the cause of a major crisis in the area. Accidental shots by both sides were an ever present source of danger as they could provoke nervous retaliation by the opposing side, particularly at night. Emergency clearances from KOKKINA were a recurring problem. A seriously ill patient had to wait until all the RED TAPE was cleared before being allowed out of the enclave. The economic and social plight of the few hundred refugees was so pitiable that soon it became obvious that most of their problems would be either economic or medical, and so it turned out. The vital factor however was the long standing hatred of the Greeks and Turks for one another in this locality, a hatred begotten in the action here in 1964 and nurtured by successive instances of petty tyranny since the Greeks cut off the KOKKINA beachhead from the rest of Cyprus.

HOW MISSION WAS IMPLEMENTED. OP SYSTEM

A Coy's task in the Kato Pyrgos area was to maintain observation over the ceasefire line at Kokkina beachhead. This task was fulfilled by the manning of six, day and night OP's.

OP 1 was situated on the Nat Gd lines at the Western end of the enclave. Its function was to report all unusual incidents, or breaches of the cease fire in the area. It had the advantage of overlooking the Greek Cypriot village of PAKHY AMMOS, and KOKKINA village itself, and also commanded an excellent view of the road leading to both places. It was accessible by road and re-supply was not difficult. The strength of the OP was 2 NCOs and 4 Men and their/ ^{tour} of duty was for two weeks. Fresh rations and water were supplied daily by Landrover from the main camp in Kato Pyrgos. Despite the loneliness of the nightly vigil, and the sometimes inclement weather the men liked the OP duty and for the NCOs it was an important and valuable

experience. Accommodation at first consisted of 2 Mug tents for sleeping quarters and one tent for cooking. Before we left the area the Engineers had constructed elephant shelters.

OP 2 was in the South Western part of the area in between the two opposing lines. Its functions were exactly similar to OP 1. The OP commanded an excellent view of the area and the cease fire line was accessible by road. A big disadvantage here was that it was very exposed to the elements and consequently took quite a battering in the sudden storms that struck after Mid-November. The strength here was also 2 NCOs and 4 Men and re-supply and rotation were the same as OP 1 and all other OP's. Initially accommodation was two mug tents but the Engineers got two elephant shelters constructed by the third week in November.

OP 3 commanded observation over the South Eastern part of the area. It over-looked KOKKINA village and had an excellent view of the cease fire line, Tk Cyp positions, and the Nat Gd positions. The strength here was also 2 NCOs and 4 men. One disadvantage here was that just a few hundred yards to the East, The Nat Gd were on very dominating ground overlooking the OP. Consequently a build up of force behind this position could not be observed. The OP was accessible by road and re-supply and rotation presented no difficulty.

OP 4 was situated on the Kato Pyrgos - KOKKINA road in the abandoned village of Mansoura, right beside ^a Nat Gd road barrier at the Eastern end of the enclave. This post kept a record of all traffic moving into and, out of the KOKKINA enclave and reported all incidents occurring at the Nat Gd barrier. The 2 NCOs and 4 Men occupied a deserted house in the village which was quite adequate for sleeping and cooking requirements.

OP 7 was on top of a hill at the Eastern entrance to the bridgehead, just in off the Kato Pyrgos - Kokkina road. This was the one OP in the area which was not accessible by road. The daily rations and water were dropped by Landrover at the side of the road and a Tk Cyp "Donkey-Man" ferried the supplies up the hill on his donkey to the OP. It was only about a fifteen minute walk to the top and was a very pleasant climb during the warmer weather with the blue Mediterranean stretching away in the distance and vanishing ⁱⁿ the mists off the Turkish coast.

OP 6 was situated in the village of Kokkina itself. It served as a kind of base camp for the other OP's and was the communication centre for the area. The strength was two NCOs and 10 Men. This included a Medical Orderly, Radio Operator and a Cook. The accommodation was one large Nissen hut, a small cookhouse and a mug tent. Fresh rations were supplied daily from Kato Pyrgos and the Company water car called each morning. The big advantage of having this OP in the village was that we were in constant touch with the Tk Cyp leadership and a lot of problems could be dealt with on the spot, by the NCO i/c the Post. Also the physical presence of UN in the village was a of great psychological importance to the many refugees who lived there.

Generally speaking the Coy experienced no problems in the manning or re-supply of the OP's. The system had been in operation for the past three and a half years and we took over a going concern. The high standard of observation and reporting was maintained by personnel of the Company from the OP's. This combined with prompt investigation of all complaints and incidents helped to maintain peace and order in the area.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH SIDES

From the outset very harmonious relations were established with both sides. On the Gk Cyp side we found Lt Col Panayiodides the local commander of the Nat Gd in Kato Pyrgos to be very agreeable and co-operative man. He was friendly to the UN and all his subordinate Officers proved likewise. Lt Col Onku the Turkish Commander in KOKKINA was very friendly and assisted us greatly in our investigations into various incidents.

INCIDENTS OF NOTE

As a result of the action at KOPHINO and AYIOS THEODHORAS, which is described in some detail elsewhere in this history, firing broke out between the two sides, around KOKKINA, on the night of November 17th. The flare up lasted for fifty five minutes during which rifle and machine gun fire was exchanged. No casualties were reported from either side. Prompt action by the Company succeeded in arranging an immediate cease fire and guarantees were given by both sides that there would be NO further firing. Here a special tribute must be paid to the NCOs and Men on the OP's and in KOKKINA itself who despite being under fire maintained observation and communications during the firing. For the following days the situation remained tense and quite feverish. Diplomatic activity on the International front succeeded in easing the tension and by the last week in November "Invasion talk" had been replaced by "Rotation talk". We bade farewell to Kato Pyrgos and its sandy beach on the 3rd of December and took over Lefka Camp and Lefka Coy area from C Company.

Operationally there was nothing new to learn in the Lefka area. A Coy quickly set about tackling the new problems posed by the situation at Lefka, PERISTERONARI, GHAZIVERAN, AMBELIKOU and LIMEKILN. All ranks welcomed the change of scenery and settled down quite well. The trouble spot in the area was the Tk Cyp village of AMBELIKOU, and two days after our arrival we dealt with our first

incident there - a bomb that had exploded in the village on the previous night. No casualties were reported and the leader HUSSEIN BEY said that it had occurred in no-mans-land. During December the Coy dealt with 26 incidents of shooting and brought them all to a satisfactory conclusion. Christmas provided a happy interlude in our stay in LEFKA and marked the halfway stage of our tour in Cyprus. In January, the much talked of Rest Centre, opened in FAMAGUSTA and members of the Company availed of the opportunity to spend a week in the big smoke. Operationally this month proved rather busy. On the fourth, a home made bomb - a quantity of Gelnite, and hand grenades - was discovered in AMBELIKOU. The Turks alleged that it had been rolled down the hill by the Greeks. The area was cordoned off and later the bomb was dismantled. On the 10th we were called on to investigate a serious incident in which a number of shots had been fired from a Nat Gd position at some defenceless Tk Cyps who were loading a truck near MAVROVOUNI MINE. Fortunately nobody was injured but it caused unrest and tension in the area for a few days. Several shooting incidents took place between the Tk Cyps Fighters and Nat Gd on LIMEKILN and in some cases these proved definite unprovoked acts of hostility. On the 18th January a Tk Cyp Shepherd was attacked and severely beaten near MAVROVOUNI MINE. Our investigations with the local Nat Gd soon brought the culprits to justice and they were dealt with by their own authorities. On the 20th, OC A Coy, met the Tk Cyp leader GORUL in LEFKA. This was the first meeting that the UN had with the leader. Our seven week stay in Lefka had now come to an end and we prepared eagerly for our final move to LIMNITIS.

On 29th January we took over from C Coy in the Turkish village of LIMNITIS. It took only a few days for A Coy to get settled in their new location. Our two month stay there was uneventful. The operational duties went smoothly and as in other areas we set about

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establishing good relations with both sides. The Tk Cyp leader ALI CEZUR came forward to meet our CO, this being the first time he had agreed to meet UN. The duties of the OP's were as in other areas. They were the eyes and ears of the Company and in this way such warlike activities as the shouting of insults, straying of animals, or the breaking of branches on Olive trees, were reported immediately to LIMNITIS.

Some members of the Company made the 5 day trip to ISRAEL during the second week of February and enjoyed the wonderful experience. During the latter stages we were employed principally in the improving of OP's and the Camp at LIMNITIS. Much attention was also being paid to the purchase "Mingies" and the composition of "Chalks" for the airlift home.

Here I must mention a word of appreciation for our Medical, Signal and Cavalry attachments who contributed in no small way to the success of the Coy mission during our six months tour.

COMPANY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A Company's first social function was a buffet supper for the Nat Gd Officers in the Officers Mess in Kato Pyrgos. This proved very successful, and an added attraction on the occasion was the presence of a Beat Group, comprised of local Nat Gd soldiers, who gave a rousing performance. Early in November a formal dinner was held in KOKKINA Camp for the local Turkish leader and his Officers. Both these functions were attended by the Group OC Lt Col Murphy. During our stay in Kato Pyrgos several members of the Company had the opportunity of attending Gk Cypriot wedding ceremonies. Here we tasted KEBAB and "MEZZES" for the first time and enjoyed the kind hospitality and friendship of our hosts. Several outings were arranged to Famagusta for a day and they proved highly popular.

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We were in LEFKA for Christmas and had the traditional Christmas dinner with Turkey and Plum Pudding. On St Stephen's day the OP's were relieved and they enjoyed the same good fare on the day of the Wren. On both nights a most enjoyable sing-song took place in the NCOs Mess attended by Officers, NCOs and Men. On New Years day, A Coy gave a party for the Turkish children in AMBELIKOU and afterwards showed a film. During the month of January invitations were received and availed of to attend Turkish weddings in the area. These proved very successful outings and here again the hospitality and generosity of our hosts were first class. A buffet supper was held for Inspector KAVAS and other prominent members of the Lefka community on the 26th January. Just before our departure from Lefka we entertained the Turkish leader GORUL at a Function in the Officers Mess. This buffet was also attended by Lt Col Murphy. Some members of the Coy went skiing to Mt Olympus during the month and all got back in one piece, despite plenty of tumbles.

In LIMNITIS we had a formal dinner for the Turkish Leader ALI CEZUR which was attended by the Group OC on the 3rd of Feb. A pleasant night was had by all in the convivial atmosphere of the Officers Mess. Several day trips to Kyrenia took place and were highly popular during our stay here. To round off the social life all the Platoons arranged their own formal dinners in the Camp before the end of Feb. A special word of appreciation here for Sgt McDonnell whose skill and energy in the preparation, and cooking, for all main functions was excellent.

SPORT

During the stay of A Coy in Cyprus almost all types of sports were played by members of the Company. They ranged from "Water Polo" played with a Rugby ball (Good old Kato Pyrgos) to "Horseshoes". Most of the Company took an active part in some sport and when not playing

themselves could be relied on to urge their favourites to greater things by witty or sometimes caustic vocal support, but in either event they never failed to add life to the games as Inter Platoon competitions, in Soccer, Volleyball, and darts, got underway.

In Group competitions the Company had not very much success and have no trophies for the side board, but the motto "Not winning but the competing" can be aptly applied. The competitive spirit of the teams and their willingness to fight on, against all odds, should be a source of pride to the Company.

The Company also had matches in Volleyball and Soccer against both Tk Cyps and Nat Gd and while lacking the "Needle" of inter Company competition, the matches were very enjoyable, with honours being shared fairly equally between the Irish and the Cypriots. However I would say that there are now a number of Cypriots with a healthy respect for Irish Footballers.

This also seems to be the place to mention and thank the staff of the Company paper "The Hornets Nest" for their accurate and unbiased reporting of all sports events.

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Limnitis Camp

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B COMPANY

Coy Area. Limnitis is a quiet, remote, backwater on a single lane roadway which runs around the coastal hills of Northern Cyprus. It might be described as a village since it contains a couple of cafes, about two dozen houses and a couple of coffee shops strung along a mile of road. It has a primary school, a harbour without piers, or boats, and a farming co-op. The village, and the area surrounding it, is called Yesilirmak, and it is one of the few places where the Tk Cyps hold an enclave, opening out onto the sea. The area held, measures, roughly, six square miles. The population is about 2,000, and entirely Turkish Cypriot.

It is a rural district and agriculture is the main livelihood. The Limnitis river, which is seasonal, runs out to the sea through the centre of the enclave, and it is in this area that the only real farming can be done. This consists of a very small, but a very fertile strip on each side of the river bed, extending inland for about one mile. This small area produces most of the exportable fruit, such as oranges, peanuts, lemons, bananas and thus most of the cash income for the community. Rising steeply from the river bed, on each side, are high barren hills, which, ten miles further inland become the foothills of the Troodos mountains. It is on these hills that the Turkish Cypriots have dug-in, forming a defensive line, with their backs to the fertile valley. On the Turkish Cypriot perimeter each hill is capped with its own bunker position.

Each hill faces an identical hill capped with its identical Greek Cypriot dug out. Each ridge is pock marked by a line of machine gun positions, fox holes, and bunkers. This situation has obtained since 1964 when the Turk Cypriots were being steadily pushed back into the sea before a UN truce halted the fighting and froze the lines into their present position.

But now the war has almost been forgotten, except for a tense two weeks in November. It has been buried under conferences and peace negotiations. Tension has been turned down to such an extent that now, during the daylight hours, the perimeter is un-manned on both sides, except for the few ever watchful sentries.

Limnitis Camp. It is in this hilly area that the 9 Inf Gp initially deployed B Coy which in turn had five small OPs around the perimeter for the purpose of maintaining the ceasefire. Dominating the road heading into Limnitis, is a high, Turkish Cypriot held hill. Eight hundred yards across the valley in one direction, and a thousand yards in a slightly different one, lie two ridges, occupied by the Greek Cypriot National Guard. On the valley floor, near the base of the Turkish Cypriot hill, and roughly in the potential line of fire between the opposing forces, is an uneasy collection of dusty brown tents. This is Camp Knockanure.

There were roughly seventy men living in this camp, at any one time, in primitive comfort. Living under canvas has its disadvantages. In the still heat of the mid-day the whole camp became dry and dusty.

The brown tents absorbed the heat from the sun, like sponges, and became stuffy ovens, the air inside them thick and heavy, even with the flaps open. The nights were cold and the thin canvas retained nothing from the daylight scorching. We had one Nissen hut and an extension, which housed the NCOs Mess, Canteen, and Dining Hall, while the officers mess was reputed to be the most homely and comfortable in the Group area. As can be seen from the Photo, the camp was a sprawling affair. On one side of a stream lay the administrative area, while on the other side, the Southern side, the sleeping quarters. We were supplied with water from the village mains while electricity was provided by a generator. There was hot water available at all times, which included hot and cold showers. These were much used after strenuous evenings sport on the adjacent playing pitches.

On the whole the accomodation and layout of Camp Knockanure would be ideal for summer months but it certainly was not suitable for a long wet winter.

The daylight hours were crowded with routine but inescapable jobs - guard duties, vehicle maintenance, re-supply of OPs, all the countless petty matters, which are essential to the running of a military community. Darkness came quickly at 6 o'clock and we marked it with the main meal of the day. There was not a great deal to do at night. The village with its two shabby coffee shops had nothing to offer, and entertainment and recreation had to be found within the camp.

There was TV, which came on the air at seven o'clock and showed American features with Greek sub titles. They were all there - The Fugitive, The Dick Van Dyke Show, Avengers and so on. We also had films, three nights a week, and every Monday and Saturday there was bingo. These were simple diversions but they helped, along with the letters from home, to relieve the monotony.

Keeping the Peace. The peace keeping work of B Coy was carried out by the OPs, which were strung out along the perimeter in "no mans land", between the opposing forces. There were five of them in all. Foxtrot, Kilo, India, Juliet and Hotel. Between them they could observe every square foot of the perimeter. The idea was simple; every OP had a sentry on constant observation duty. His job was to report any unusual activity, no matter how slight, which might occur on either side. The OPs were the eyes and ears of the Coy, and so were in a position to deal with potential trouble at its beginning. In this way, such warlike activities as the digging of trenches, and mysterious noise in the night, were reported instantly to the Duty Officer in Limnitis. It was a tedious business with nothing really happening and it was here that our main problem lay, viz: the prevention of laxity creeping into the routine of OP duties. In accordance with the Limnitis Road Agreement, we had to supply a landrover with an escort, nightly, to patrol the road between OP Foxtrot and the Camp, to prevent any annoyance to Greek Cypriots passing through the enclave.

We now had been in Limnitis for six weeks. The newness had worn off, and we had gotten over our sunburn. The camp, after the chaos of taking over, had slipped into a steady routine. We had seasoned nicely as peace keeping veterans, and we were ready for the winter months ahead. The November days idled on, quite warm and sunny, around us. We basked in the heat, wrote letters about the weather to friends, held in the cold windy grip of winter at home. The pundits who had served with previous groups preached warning about the months to come, but they were only half listened to. One week the weather became warm and sticky, and clouds banked up on the horizon. Later that week, a full moon appeared, and then the rains came. With a few preliminary rumblings of thunder, a great piled mass of cloud rushed Westwards across the sky, blocking the sun, darkening the bright afternoon. Then the first heavy drops began to fall; the first cold breeze touched us, and the camp waited. It was a torrential downpour, so heavy on the hard dry earth that the splashes of the drops formed a blanket of mist six inches high on the ground. Lightning flashed and thunder roared and then, as suddenly as it had come, it went. We emerged to inspect the saturated camp in Limnitis. The drains had proved themselves and held the rushing waters admirably and we sat back and watched, caring less what kind of winter we had to endure.

Rotation. Kato Pyrgos was a camp more suited to the heat of summer months but it was unsheltered from the sea gales of winter which eventually tore down the stores and the chapel. We had the distinction of winning the prize for the best OP in the Group area.

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Kato Pyrgos though on the sea, proved to be a very disturbing area as it "broke the back" of the Coy with its six OPs.

Christmas came and went. It was for all a lonely time with a swim the only consolation for being so far from family and friends.

On the 29th January we moved to Lefka District. It was a blessing and a relief. A nice compact camp, with only four OPs, football pitches, volleyball and basketball courts, and above all proximity to Xeros and Nicosia for "mingies". It was in the spacious canteen here that the final of the Ballad Competition was held to a packed and appreciative audience.

Relationships with both sides. Our relationships with both sides were at all times harmonious and friendly during our two monthly spells in each of the locations. In Limnitis we had many an occasion to visit Lt Col Andreou Dimitrios, the Nat Gd Commander at Galini, and also Capt Sophocles at Loutros. Both proved themselves to be very fine officers, who always had a warm welcome for a visiting UN officer. Much the same could be said for the information officers on the Turkish Cypriot side. We had daily contact with these officers, Zihar, Ahmed, Azzim and Shefki, not alone about incidents in the hills but also when we were looking for extra supplies of fruit. As a result of the good relations between Irish and Turkish Cypriots a function was held in the Officers Mess to show our appreciation. Some time later, our hospitality was reciprocated, when some B Coy officers were invited to a similar Turkish function.

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These good relations were maintained in the new locations and we went home with memories of many happy nights.

Recreational Activities. Games, as one might expect, were very popular, particularly those such as volleyball, which required little equipment and limited skills. We had a good team in the Group League which went well in the earlier rounds but bowed under to superior opposition in the final stages. Soccer was played by the more skilful in the Coy. Whilst we went unbeaten in the first eight games against Irish, British, Greek and Turk Cypriot teams, we were finally beaten by the Armd Car Gp, whose superior skill upended us from our pedestal of fame.

Hurling was a great game to let off steam and on many a calm day a warlike whoop could be heard when the clash of the ash rang through the air.

Social Events. By way of social activities we had ample. Every two weeks or so a bus tour was organised, to travel to some part of the island. Most finished up in Famagusta. These were extremely successful, mainly because they provided the only real chance of getting away from the backwood surroundings of Limnitis, and of spending a few hours among the crowds of a big town.

On the home front a very successful ballad competition was organised, which proved to be a great success. On the 5th February we had the presentation of UN medals by Lieut Col Murphy, the Group OC and on the following day Brig Harbottle, the Chief of Staff, was entertained in the Officers Mess and later went to OP Limekiln, wher he was briefed on the situation there.

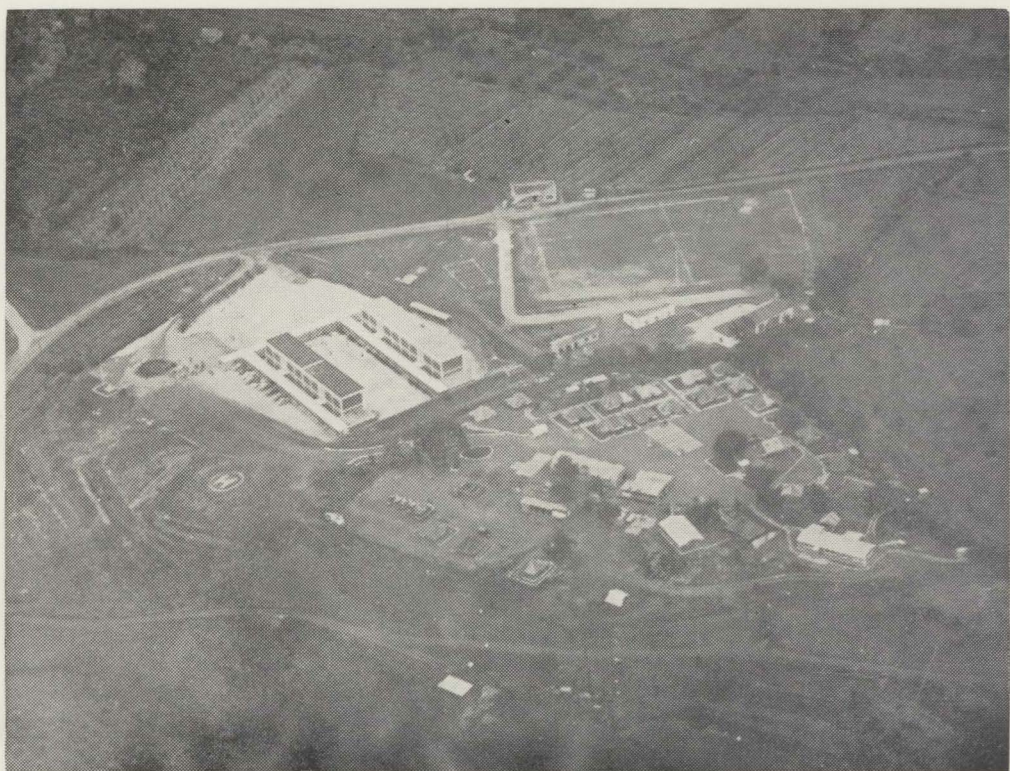
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The Pl dinners signalled that the end was near and indeed it was. The names of those taking over were circulated and "going home" dominated our minds. The new Gp Comdr and his Coy Comdrs arrived on 1 March and it was all over.

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Lefka Camp

RÜNDA

'C' COMPANYLEFKA COY AREA

Lefka Coy area, the first home of 'C' Coy and the most easterly of the Coy areas, embraces about two thirds of the whole Lefka District. Stretching from Morphou bay in the North, to Mt Olympus, and measuring about nineteen miles at its widest point, it covers approx three hundred and fifty square miles.

Topographically speaking, the area can be divided into two parts. In the North and North East, the ground is flat and fertile where the great Mesaoria, or central plain, intrudes itself into the area. It is here that most of the agriculture of the area is carried on, and on market day, the town of Morphou is crammed with its produce. Potatoes, cereals, lemons, grapes, almonds, melons, and of course oranges, for which Lefka District is famous, are the main crops. During the greater part of the 9 Inf Gp's stay in Cyprus, the orange groves were in full bloom and were the object of constant admiration by all.

In the South and West of the area, is the great Troodos range of mountains, culminating in Mt Olympus at six thousand feet above sea level. Here the urban dwellers of Cyprus come in Summer, to seek refuge from the unbearable heat, and in Winter, to find relaxation on its ski runs. This area is mostly wooded and entirely free from trouble, as the villages are all Greek. UN patrols however were not unknown in the area as the mountains harbour a number of Nat Gd training camps, and the scenery is beautiful.

Lefka Coy area is not entirely dependent on agriculture for its income. It also has large deposits of Copper, and the CMC Mines at Skouriotissa, Mavrovouni, and Apliki give employment to thousands.

The ore is transported to Xeros by rail, where it is processed, and then loaded on ships for export.

The villages and towns in this area are among the most picturesque in the island, particularly those nestling in the valleys of the Troodos; -Kakopetria, Kambos, Yerakies, Nikos, and Kykko of monastic fame.

The monastery of Kykko, which dates back to the 12th century, is the most famous monastery in Cyprus. Indeed it is known throughout the whole Orthodox world, for within its walls, is sheltered one of the three icons attributed to St Luke. It was in this monastery that Arch Bishop Makarios, President of Cyprus, received his early ecclesiastical training. Prior to the Russian revolution the monastery held, not only large property in Cyprus, but lands in Russia, Roumania, and Asia Minor.

LEFKA CAMP

The camp itself, small but compact, was situated on a height, overlooking the town of Lefka, the main Turkish enclave in the area, about three miles South/East of Xeros where GP HQ, and HQ Coy were located. It consisted of four permanent buildings, and a collection of tents, erected in square formation, with a Volleyball court in the centre. The Officers Mess, NCOs Mess, Cook House, Canteen, and dining hall were permanent structures. All offices and sleeping quarters were under canvas.

The camp was supplied by water from the town mains but sanitation was by field trench. Electricity was also supplied to the camp from the island power mains.

While the accommodation was ideal for Summer, it was not suitable for Winter, so that much of our time was devoted, during our stay there, to making it proof against the impending cold and rain.

During this period a new ordnance store and fuel dump were erected.

By kind permission of the head-master of LEFKA school, which was situated near the camp, we had the use of the Soccer and basketball pitches during our stay. Swimming was the most popular recreation and the facilities of Blue Beach near Xeros were much availed of.

The political situation which obtained in Lefka area when C Coy arrived there, had been in existence since 1964 and is in existence still. Any changes have been merely superficial and have not touched the core of the problem, which has been, the failure of two peoples, differing in background and allegiance, but inhabiting the same island, to live in peace and harmony with each other. This is not alone the problem of Lefka area but the problem of Cyprus.

There are five villages in Lefka Coy area, where the population is entirely Tk Cyp; Ambelikou, Peristeronari, Ghaziveran, Elea, Angolemi and of course Lefka Town. All these Tk Cyp communities have their own fighters (Lefka Town has approx 500) to protect from the Nat Gd, who man positions all around them, and who have on occasion expressed the desire to wipe them out.

Generally speaking, the inhabitants of these villages do not leave their villages, except to tend their flocks or till their land, nor do they allow any Gk Cyps in. Consequently there are many people in Lefka Town who have not been to Xeros - three miles away - since 1964.

Not all of these villages however, are areas of confrontation, though all of them, occasionally, have their problems. The main trouble spots are Ambelikou, Limekiln, Ghaziveran and Peristeronari.

TAKE OVER

C Coy (9th Inf Gp took over Lefka Camp, and Lefka Coy area, from ICA Coy of 8th Inf Gp, with Comdt William Doheny taking over from Comdt Kevin Noonan. After the take over was completed, C Coy set about the task of settling in, and soon was quite at home in its new surroundings. At this time Lt Brian O'Connor joined the Coy on attachment, from Hy Mor Tp.

COY MISSIONS AND PROBLEMS

The tasks allotted to C Coy in OO No 1 were:-

1. Carry out the aims of UNFICYP in Lefka area.
2. Man OPs and checkpoints at Ambelikou, Limekiln, Peristeronari, and Ghaziveran, and other additional posts, as the situation may demand.
3. Liaise with UN troops in Kyrenia District.

The main problem facing the Coy, was the attitude of the Tk Cyp leadership in the village of Ambelikou, who insisted on adopting an uncooperative attitude towards UN, and an uncompromising and hostile attitude towards the Gk Cyps. It is difficult to say to what extent this attitude was of their own choosing or to what extent it was forced upon them by the Tk Cyp leadership in Lefka Town. In any event it was responsible for most of the headaches, which C Coy had to endure during its stay in the area. In case we should seem less than partial, it should be pointed out however, that it takes two sides to make a quarrel.

HOW MISSION WAS IMPLEMENTED

The main function of the Coy was the manning of OPs, and of these there were four.

OP 11 AMBELIKOU. This OP is situated on Ambelikou Hill, a thousand feet above sea level to the North West of the village of Ambelikou. It has a most commanding view of the Coy area, and was established by UN to deny its use to both Turk and Greek. Its main function was the reporting of shots, or incidents, seen or heard, in the area. The strength of the OP was two NCOs, and four Privates, who rotated each fortnight, as did the personnel in all OPs.

OP 58 LIMEKILN. Situated on high ground to the South East of Ambelikou, this OP took its name from a limekiln situated just beside it, in the no-mans land. On the South side of this OP, overlooking it are the Nat Gd lines. On the other side and below it are the Tk Cyp lines. Confrontation in this area is very close and this caused much friction during our stay there. Few days passed without some incident, or some complaint from one side or the other.

OP 60 GHAZIVERAN. This OP is situated on the main Xeros - Nicosia road at the village of Ghaziveran. There are three OPs here by day and one by night. The main OP is a disused, unfinished, house beside the village and is known as Ghazi House. It had a strength of two NCOs and five Privates. A Secondary OP on the main road about a mile East of Ghaziveran, had a strength of one Private and was manned by day only. It's function was to observe a Nat Gd road OP nearby. The third OP is situated just North of Ghaziveran, and is known as the beach OP.

It is situated beside three bunkers, dug by the Tk Cyps of Ghaziveran, and it also was manned only by day. Its function was to observe Nat Gd and Tk Cyp movement North of Ghaziveran and to ensure that Tk Cyps did not man any of the bunkers. During the night, while these subsidiary OPs were un-manned, the area was patrolled from Ghazi House.

The personnel of Ghazi House were sometimes called on to supply observers for Tk Cyp villagers working in the fields near Nat Gd positions.

There was constant friction to the North of Ghaziveran between Nat Gd in coastal defence positions, and Tk Cyps working their land near the coast. All incidents or difficulties encountered in this area were reported at once to Coy HQ, and investigated by the NCO in charge of the Post, or by the Company Incidents Officer.

OP 57 PERISTERONARI. To the East of Lefka Town is a ridge of hills at right angles to the coast known as AKINTOU. These hills slope down into a rich, fertile, Tk Cyp owned valley. In this valley is the Tk Cyp village of Gengis Koy. On the other side of the valley the terrain rises again to another ridge, ~~more~~ dominating than AKINTOU, called Peristeronari Hill. Here the Nat Gd have deployed a Coy to ensure that the Tk Cyps do not move further East than Gengis Koy. As Peristeronari Hill slopes down to AKINTOU valley it levels into a plateau, overlooking Gengis Koy, and it is here the UN OP is situated.

The OP was manned by two NCOs, and four Privates and their tasks were threefold:-

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1. To provide protection for Tk Cyps in the valley.
2. To observe and report any forward movement by either Gk Cyps or Tk Cyps.
3. Report all shootings, diggings, or other incidents.

The original OP was situated on Peristeronari Hill, but when the Nat Gd occupied this hill, the OP was moved down to a lower position. During our tour this area was quite peaceful, but in the event of a Nat Gd advance on the Eastern Boundary of the Lefka Enclave, it could become a very vital piece of ground.

In addition to the manning of OPs, the peace keeping activities of C Coy during its stay in Lefka, consisted of patrolling all villages in non confrontation areas, and showing the UN flag throughout the area; investigating all complaints made by either side and bring them to a satisfactory conclusion. In this matter the leadership on both sides was usually very co-operative. Observers were supplied for working parties when they had to move outside their own areas, and on some occasions patrols were sent to the CMC Mines, during the change of shifts. Close liaison was effected with the Australian Civil Police detachment who were operating in the area, and to whom all matters of a non military nature were referred. On the occasion of the murder of a Tk Cyp shepherd, which will be dealt with later, the initial investigation was performed jointly by C Coy and UNCIVPOL, and brought to a conclusion by Inspector C.M. Raw.

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Move to Limnitis. In the first week of December the planned rotation of Coys was smoothly effected, after it had been postponed for two weeks, due to the crisis which occurred in November. C Coy took over Limnitis from B Coy, who moved to Kato Pyrgos. During our two months stay in Limnitis apart from manning the OPs, our efforts were devoted mainly to the obtaining of clearances for Tk Cyps to harvest their crops which were near, or on, the Gk Cyp side of the Green Line. In this respect the co-operation of both sides, was sought and at all times obtained. Permission was also sought and obtained for Tk Cyp workmen to open and close the irrigation dams of the Limnitis river, in Gk Cyp territory. The terms of the Limnitis Road Agreement were also successfully implemented. Unlike Lefka area we were seldom called on to investigate shooting incidents, but instances of trespassing by both sides occurred much more frequently. A favourite pass-time here, was the cutting of olive trees by Gk Cyps which the Tk Cyps claimed were their property, or vice versa.

Christmas came and went in Limnitis, marking the halfway stage of our tour. Due to operational requirements our Christmas Dinner had to be held on two separate days, in order to facilitate those on OP duty. As the old year dragged to a close each man felt a little happier now that we were over the hill. As January progressed we looked forward to our final rotation, which eventually took place on the 29th.

KATO PYRGOS

Our main task in the Kato Pyrgos area was the manning of OPs around the Kokkina Enclave. Operationally there was nothing new to learn, and any problems with which we were confronted, were of a similar nature to ones, with which we had already dealt elsewhere. Orientation was soon completed and we settled into our final two months in Cyprus. An important development during our stay in Kato Pyrgos was the abolition of restrictions on movement into, and out of, the Kokkina Enclave. This obviated the necessity of handling clearances, which was time consuming work, and we were enabled to devote more time to mobile patrolling.

A word of thanks here to those Arm'd Car personnel who served with us in Limnitis and Kato Pyrgos and who did so much to lighten our task.

Relationship with both sides of Community. The success of any peacekeeping unit in Cyprus, is dependent on its ability to win the confidence, goodwill, and cooperation of the Cypriot people, both Turk and Greek. This, C Coy did, and on many occasions dignitaries from both sides were guests in our mess. It wasn't one way traffic, however, and many invitations to dinners and weddings were received by personnel of the Coy, and gladly accepted.

Incidents of note. Three serious incidents occurred during our term in Lefka and as might be expected they occurred in the vicinity of Ambelikou.

On the morning of the 8th of November a party of twelve Tk Cyps, armed with shotguns, who were hunting outside their area, were accosted by a party of Gk Cyps, composed of both CYPOL and Nat Gd, who were also armed. Shots were exchanged and a casualty was reported from both sides. Neither was seriously wounded.

Investigations, by both C Coy and UNCIVPOL, failed to determine exactly what took place, as the stories told by both sides were, (not unexpectedly) rather difficult to reconcile.

A week later on the 15th November, the Tk Cyp leader in Ambelikou, reported to OP 58 at Limekiln that a twenty two years old Tk Cyp shepherd, Yildiray Hasan had been shot dead about two miles from Ambelikou, and requested UN to collect the body. This was done by an officer from C Coy with Inspector Raw of UNCIVPOL, and the IRCON M.O. There were two witnesses to the murder, Both Tk Cyp shepherds. Their stories, as interpreted by the leader in Ambelikou, agreed, and were to the effect that they had been attending their flocks nearby, when they saw three Gk Cyps approach Hasan, grab him by the arm, and take him over a hill. They then heard one shot and later saw the three men run towards the Nat Gd positions. Nat Gd HQ in Xeros after questioning those of its soldiers who might be in that area said that none of them had seen or heard anything.

Subsequent investigations by UNCIVPOL brought the following interesting **facts** to light.

1. On 21 September 1966 a seventy years old Tk Cyp shepherd, Mustafa Sahdaz met his death in similar circumstances to , and in almost the exact same place, as Hasan.
2. On that occasion the only witness to the murder was Hasan who told a similar story to that of the witness of his own subsequent demise, namely that the murder had been committed by the Nat Gd, and that he himself had been captured by them.

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3. Hasan was detained for six days but was not charged with the crime.
4. The UNCIVPOL inspector who conducted the investigation into the death of Sahdaz was convinced that Hasan was guilty of his murder.

It is unlikely that the truth, concerning the death of Hasan, will ever come to light, but the concluding sentence in the report of the murder of Mustaf Sahdaz, contained in the History of 6 Inf Gp, may well be used to conclude this report. " If Yildiray Hasan committed the crime he will undoubtedly receive summary justice at the hands of Tk Cyps from Ambelikou."

At 1000 hrs on November 23rd it was reported at Group HQ in Xeros that a Gk Cyp, Charalambos Gauriel, had gone hunting the previous day and had not returned. A fellow Gk Cyp who had been with Gauriel said that they had been in the vicinity of Ambelikou, and some distance apart, when he saw Gauriel being accosted by two Tk Cyp fighters. He immediately left the area and some time later heard a shot. He did not report the matter until the following morning when Gauriel had failed to return. The body was found at 1300 hrs about a mile from Ambelikou village. The deceased had been shot in the leg, and had bled to death. The Tk Cyps denied all knowledge.

An incident occurred during our stay in Kato Pyrgos of a much less macabre nature, but of no less importance. On 12 Feb a meeting was arranged between CYPOL constable Costas, and BORHAN the Tk Cyps information officer in Kokkina. After the meeting, Borhan went with Costas to Kato Pyrgos for lunch. This meeting was regarded as a great break-through because some few months previously, when Borhan was ill, he refused to leave the enclave unless given a strong UN escort.

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Coy Social Activities. Apart from the Coy Christmas dinner already referred to, which was the main Coy function during our tour, there were many other memorable occasions when guests were entertained in our messes. The more notable personalities who visited the Coy during our tour were, the UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Brig Harbottle, Col Parker, American Mil Attache, Col Borner, Force Provost Marshal, Col Cooney, Force Engineer and of course Col Murphy, OC 9 Inf Gp. A bus tour to Famagusta during our stay, proved to be a very successful outing, and many trips to Kykko and the Troodos mountains were also made, by personnel of the Coy.

When the Rest Centre at Famagusta opened it was much availed of and those who spent a while there came back refreshed and ready for the fray, if a little out of pocket.

Recreational Activities. Swimming was the favourite past-time while in Lefka, and the facilities of Blue Beach near Xeros were much appreciated.

Lefka School situated near our Camp had a good sports field, which we were permitted to use. This got our Soccer team off to a good start. Subsequently C Coy was successful in winning the Gp Soccer League beating Armd Car Gp in the final.

However, while in Limnitis we were defeated by the Armd Car Gp in the Volleyball final.

The Coy Basketball Team also went through the Gp League undefeated, beating HQ Coy in a very exciting final after extra time.

C Coy had therefore a very successful record in the Gp sports activities. Besides the many Gp games, we always found time to play against teams from both communities. This helped to foster good relations among all concerned.

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Xeros Camp

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HQ COMPANY

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Xeros Camp. HQ Coy of the 9 Inf Gp, occupied a tented Camp, half a mile South of Xeros village, which is situated on Morphou Bay, on the North Western coastline of Cyprus. This camp also housed Gp HQ, and part of Armd Car Gp.

The camp adjoins, and is to the West of, the Cyprus Mines Corporation, processing and loading plant in Xeros. This installation is used to process the produce of the copper pyrites mines, situated in the Lefka District. It could well be said that the economy, of the whole district of Lefka and of course the village of Xeros - "the dry place", - depends mainly on mining.

The camp area itself is contained within the area bounded by the CMC narrow gauge railway - the only railway in Cyprus - on the Eastern side, and by the Xeros river on the West. In fact the railway line by running in a North Easterly direction also borders the Southern edge of the camp. Along this railway - twenty four hours a day - ran a noisy diesel engine. The drivers playful habit, of sounding his horn "fortissimo sostenuto" in the wee small hours, evoked no little criticism, from the light sleepers of Xeros Camp, some of which went so far as to question the very legitimacy of the man's origin.

A North-South tarmac road runs through the centre of the camp. On both sides of this road were pitched the tents which housed the troops of the Coy. Most of the tents were on the East side of this main road.

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There were, in addition to the tents, some buildings of wood and galvanised iron structure used for the following:-

- (i) Officers Quarters
- (ii) NCOs Mess
- (iii) Combined NCOs and Mens Dining Hall
- (iv) Mens Canteen
- (v) Welfare Office and Stores

The Officers' Mess was located in a former CMC villa, which had been extended to allow dining, recreation, and bar facilities for the 25 officers of Group HQ, HQ Coy, and Armd Car Gp.

The amenities of the camp were as follows:-

- (i) The combined NCOs Mess and Dininghall used for film shows, concerts, talent competitions, and bingo sessions.
- (ii) Comfortably appointed messes for officers, NCOs and men. All messes possessed TV and library. The Mens' Canteen also had a Juke Box.
- (iii) Two Finnish Sauna baths were in use in the camp and were very popular with all ranks.

Swimming. Swimming, which ceased in late December, usually took place at the Blue Beach, two miles West of Xeros. Swimming in Xeros itself is not possible, because of the polluted state of the sea water. The water is polluted by the copper dust from the loading barges of Karavostasi Jetty in Xeros.

'A' PLATOON

The 'A' Pl of the 9 Inf Gp consisted of 1 Offr, Pl Comdr, 1 C/S, 10 Sgts, 10 Cpls and 10 Ptes.

Because of the varied nature of their duties the Pl will have to be divided into different sections according to the nature of these duties.

Asst Adj and Pl Comd. Lt McGreal was the Pl Comd of 'A' Pl. He was also Gp Cashier and as such was responsible for all pay matters of the Gp.

Pipe Band. 1 Sgt, 3 Cpls and 10 Ptes. As has been the case with previous bands overseas the pipers became a prime attraction and performed on numerous and varied occasions. They participated at all Ceremonial Parades within the Group. They also performed when it was IRCONs turn to supply the HQ UNFICYP Defence Platoon in Nicosia. The pipe band was also a prime attraction at Social events in HQ Officers Mess, Xeros.

OPS Staff. 2 Sgts. Sgts Cullen and Quain of the 'A' Platoon were employed as clerks in OPS.

Orderly Room Staff. 2 Sgts and 1 Cpl. Sgt J. McGuire performed the onerous task of Orderly Room Sgt, ably assisted by Sgt Murphy and Cpl Hynes.

Photographer. Cpl Mulcahy, the Group Photographer, was based at HQ UNFICYP. He paid many visits to Gp HQ at Xeros and to the Coy areas and the excellent photographs that he produced for the 'Blue Beret' and the Irish daily and Provincial newspapers are ample evidence of this man's ability, and hard work.

Post Sgt. Sgt John Manning as Post NCO of the 9 Inf Gp, could be rated as one of the most popular men in the Group.

His efficient and cheerful delivery of the mail was admired by all.

Offr Mess Sgt. Sgt Bill Carroll was Bar Sgt in the Officers Mess.

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MP SECTION

The MP Section of the 9 Inf Gp was located in Xeros Camp throughout its tour. Though the personnel of this Section were few their duties were many. They operated the main gate check point in the camp. They carried out mobile, and static speed checks, within Lefka District, and made documentation checks on UN vehicles. A further task of the Section was to make routine disciplinary checks on troops of IRCON when on local leave. A round the clock accident investigation service was maintained. The MP Section provided a pay escort for Cyprus Mines Corporation from Skouriotissa to the mines at Mavrovouni and at Xeros. A daily escort was also provided to the SDS from 9 Inf Gp Headquarters to UN Headquarters in Nicosia. The detention centre was open on three occasions and was staffed by the Military Police Section. Strength decreases were reported when Sgts Jameson and Doyle went to A Coy at Kato Pyrgos for two weeks special duty. In December Cpl Doran escorted a prisoner to Ireland and was allowed to remain there on compassionate grounds. A rest centre was opened in Famagusta for the use of members of the 9 Inf Gp. Capt O'Donnell, MP Officer, was in charge and he had one NCO of the Section on duty each week.

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Q MATTERS

The Q Adm under Capt J. Hall, 9 Gp QM, and Lt.

J.J. Gaffney, Pl Comdr, had the following responsibilities:

Ordnance and General Supply

Clothing

Rotations

Barrack Services

Ord and Gen. The QM in conjunction with the Ordnance Section was responsible for the issue and maintenance of all Ord within the Gp. The issue of arms and eqpt was as per 9 Inf Gp Tables. In addition miscellaneous items such as fridges, fans and cookers etc., were supplied and maintained. A separate paragraph is allotted to the Ordnance Section in this history.

Clothing. Personnel were issued with two sets of tropical uniform before departing for Cyprus. On arrival in Cyprus they received an issue of two sets of Jungle Greens. Prior to departure from Ireland the unit received part of an issue of combat clothing. The issue was completed in Cyprus. The uniform was of Danish pattern. It consisted of tunic, tunic liner, trousers, trousers liner, pancho cape, scarf, underwear, socks and combat boots. The issue was a welcome one for the winter period. It was suitable, serviceable and highly recommended for home issue. Laundry, tailoring and shoe repairs were carried out by civilian contractors arranged by UN. All these services were highly satisfactory.

Rations. The rations for the unit were issued by the British Supply Depot at Dhekelia and were transported by road to Nicosia. Ircon collected and brought them to Lefka District

The ration issue was as per British scale and was very satisfactory. The standard of catering and cooking was very high in the unit.

Barrack Services. These were supplied mainly from National sources. The furniture was supplied from UN sources. The National Barrack Services' were satisfactory and the UN furniture was continually being increased and improved.

ENGINEER SECTION

The Engineer Section consisted of the Engineer Officer, four Sgts, five Cpls and three Ptes. The trades were represented as follows - 1 Fitter, 1 Electrician, 1 Plumber, 1 Plasterer and 8 Captenters. It was soon evident that they could not afford to specialise. They were supplemented by the Heavy Mortar Troop who after a short time proved to be quite useful with tools. This combined group got "stuck in", to the work from the very first.

The greatest lesson this small unit learned was that of "occupational therapy" i.e. the time flies when you are working hard and morale will be at its highest. The Pl 2 i/c was Sgt Barron who with most of the Section could be classed as an overseas veteran. Ten out of the twelve had served overseas before. The two, who had not, were not long out of the Apprenticeship School. These were Ptes Grimes, and Hartley.

It is a small mark of their devotion and hard work that the entire Group benefitted from their labours. Certainly the prospect of facing the rough Cyprus winter in the OPs and camps would be a lot less bearable were it not for the efforts which the Section devoted to the Winterisation programme.

The target was to erect two buildings pe OP and complete 10 OPs before the advent of the bad weather. As some of the Section had worked with the 8 Inf Gp during rotation it became obvious that every method of reducing labour content would have to be investigated.

RÚNDA

In the early stages the possibility of airlifting a completed building by Wessex helicopter was investigated but sanction for the flight was slow in being approved and the experiment was abandoned. At this stage members of the Heavy Mortar Troop were in Dhekellia with Sgt Barron dismantling the ammunition shelters. The curved sheeting from these shelters together with the remainder of the construction materials was being delivered into the Coy areas. Also at this stage the locations for the buildings were decided and foundations prepared.

To keep a proper step by step picture of the individual OP construction progress a large progress chart was kept. This was very useful in that it was possible to ensure that each one progressed at the same rate and 'Parkinson's Law' was avoided. It also proved to be an incentive, when there was harmless rivalry over who was leading or who was falling behind.

The early construction method advocated by the 8 Inf Gp of sitting the shelter on a concrete wall was abandoned in favour of fitting additional sheeting to give the necessary headroom. This additional sheeting was referred to as the skirting, and saved much construction time, and cost. By mid October the exact quantities of materials were airlifted into each site and construction was under way. It was very satisfying to see the spirit with which the men on the OPs and the men from the Coy areas worked long hours under very hot conditions.

RÚNDA

These coordinated efforts led to the completion of the work just in time for the advent of the bad weather. Back at HQ Xeros the officers quarters were finished and habitated.

But the pace did not slacken at this stage during the threatened Turkish invasion. Comprehensive underground shelters had to be constructed in the OPs and Coy areas. With the advent of the bad weather the lack of certain amenities became very evident and the effort continued to provide hot and cold ablutions for officers and men in all the Coy areas as quickly as possible. Windows and doors which had been removed in the summer had to be instantly replaced.

As some of the officers, from their visits to the Finnish Contingent, became keen on Saunas we constructed our own, and this was followed immediately by the construction of one for the NCOs and men at Xeros.

ORDNANCE SECTION

The Ordnance Section was commanded by Capt Kelleher and consisted of seven all ranks. Three had previous service in Cyprus with UNFICYP, and this meant that one of the major initial problems, viz familiarisation with the location of supply depots, and the procedure for indenting and accounting for stores, was solved from the outset.

Our duties were similar to those of any other Ordnance Section which served in Cyprus. Weapons were inspected, ammunition checked, boxed and sealed. Tents were struck and erected when necessary. Tilley lamps, oil heaters, and cookers were serviced when the need arose. A sauna stove was constructed, and placed in the bath house, which had been erected by the Engineers to receive it. A bridge was repaired in Limnitis and a bus in Kokkina. A marquee of 110 ft in length was twice erected for functions held by the OC 9 Inf Gp, at Xeros.

RÜNDA

RÜNDA

MT PLATOON

The Transport Pl consisted of 1 Offr (Capt), 8 NCOs and 15 drivers (Ptes). It was commanded by Capt Christopher McNamara R.I.P., who died in service on 16th January 1968. He was succeeded by Capt M.D. Shannon as Pl Comd.

The Pl serviced and maintained a fleet of 70 vehicles. Major repairs were done by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at HQ UNFICYP.

Sgt N. Mulryan, the Pl Sgt, accounted for all POL and zero sups in the Group in addition to his duties as Pl Sgt. Sgt J. Walsh took charge of the fitter element in the Pl. He was ably assisted by Cpl O'Reilly.

Cpl "Archie" Moore looked after the servicing of all the 9 Inf Gp vehicles and he got through an enormous amount of work, in the six months period.

Cpl "Ritchie" O'Neill was MT stores Cpl. He issued almost a thousand spare parts in the six months, which helped in no small way to bring the 9 In Gp vehicles up to a high standard of mechanical efficiency. A complete vehicle maintenance inspection of all 9 Inf Gp vehicles was completed by a REME team in late February 1968. This thorough and complete inspection was reported on by the Force Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, Major Iven Parker, and an excellent report was received.

A few statistics are pertinent. The Pl completed 60,000 miles each month. The Pl had the lowest accident figures of any contingent in UNFICYP. The vehicles got an 80% efficiency rating from REME. This is considered very good.

Cpl Condon of the Air Corps was MT details Cpl and performed a very difficult task with patience and courtesy. He was ably assisted by A/Cpl "Busty" Egan.

The Pl was hardworking, efficient, and possessed good esprit de corps despite the fact that they lost their respected commander, half way through the tour of duty.

BUNDA

SIGNAL PLATOON

The Signal Pl, of the 9th Inf Gp, was responsible for communications in the Lefka District.

No trouble was experienced from the beginning, because quite a number of the Pl had already served in Cyprus, and some had even served in the Lefka District. Within a short time all operators were familiar with all equipment at Group HQ. The only difficulty experienced was the operating of the Switchboard at Gp HQ. This was due to wrls operators not having sufficient practice at operating a switchboard prior to serving in Cyprus. It only took them a few days to become familiar with the Board and before the end of the tour all were experienced operators.

Throughout the six months wrls and line communications were at all times satisfactory.

Wrls Comns. Both VHF and HF comns were provided between Gp HQ at Xeros and HQ UNFICYP in Nicosia. The rear link equipment was a C 43 (VHF) set and a C 11 (HF) was the standby. A morse practice was carried out on Sundays and during the week all non-operational messages were passed by CW on the HF net.

The CO's rover was equipped with a C 42 for working on the UNFICYP VHF COMD net and a standby C 11 for the HF COMD net. The CO's saloon was fitted with a motorola which worked on the UNCIVPOL net. This net was island-wide and each District HQ, (including Lefka District), HQ UNFICYP, and all UNCIVPOL landrovers were equipped with motorolas.

BUNDA

The Group net consisted of C 12's with Gp HQ as control. The following sub stations were on this net:-

Three Coys

Kokkina (which was some distance from its Coy HQ at Kato Pyrgos)

CO's Rover

Coy Comdrs Rovers

Stand-to Pl at Gp HQ

Armoured Car Gp when on patrol

This net was checked daily at 0800 hrs, 1100 hrs, 1700 hrs and 2300 hrs. The net was in continuous use during the tension in November 1967 and worked satisfactorally.

Batteries were charged at Gp HQ, but because movement by road was restricted during the tension, each Coy HQ, and Kokkina, were responsible for their own charging. All the battery charging plants stood up well to this test, and not one breakdown was experienced.

Line. There were two direct lines between Gp HQ and HQ UNFICYP. There were also two lines through the local exchange at Lefka. The Lefka Coy was also on the local exchange. All these lines were operated and maintained by CYTA (Cyprus Telecommunications Authority). There was also a teleprinter circuit to HQ UNFICYP. These circuits gave a considerable amount of trouble, and as a result of many complaints to CYTA, things did improve slightly.

The Gp HQ was connected to the three Coys and all Coys in turn were connected to their own OPs, which means that Group HQ was in direct contact with every OP in the District. There was a total of 80 miles of D 10 cable laid in the area. Approximately 15 miles of cable were replaced. Many breaks in line comms occurred during the winter storms and the line Sgt with the aid of wrls personnel always managed to repair the breaks quickly.

Films. It was the responsibility of the Signal Pl to show films within the Group. Film shows were provided three times weekly in each location. Great credit is due to the Radio Mechanics for the manner in which they managed to keep the projectors serviceable.

On arrival in Cyprus, the Troop was based in Nicosia from late September to November 17. The Troop worked hard, and was well received by the local population. The Troop was "operational" in the Nicosia area from November 17 onwards. The Troop was well equipped and well supplied. The Troop was well organized and well trained. The Troop was well led and well supported. The Troop was well equipped and well supplied. The Troop was well organized and well trained. The Troop was well led and well supported.

The Troop provided the ration Sgt and drew rations for the Group each day. Sgt "M" Connolly, DMC, performed this task with his usual efficiency. Sgt John Ryan was Officers Mess Sgt in Nicosia. The "Lancers" provided the bulk of the Mess Staff and virtually staffed the Mess. The functions held there.

HEAVY MORTAR TROOP

The Heavy Mortar Troop, 9 Inf Gp, was raised mostly from 1 FA Regt, Ballincollig, Co. Cork.

It first saw the light of day in Ballincollig when it was assembled and commenced training on 16th Aug 67. Training was intensive and full time, except for short breaks to complete the medical preparation for Cyprus. All the personnel of the troop were experienced gunners and with the extra training, they succeeded in putting on some excellent shooting, in Glen Imaal on 7 Sept 67. The report on the shooting by the Director of Artillery and School Staff lauded the efforts of the new troop, both from the tactical and technical aspects of artillery.

On arrival in Cyprus, the Troop was based in Xeros. From late September to November 67, the Troop took up hammers, chisels, and saws and assisted the Engr Section in the winterisation programme. The Troop sent "specialists" to the SBA Dnekelia to knock down and transport galvanised ammo shelters to Xeros. This important task was carried out with speed and efficiency, and Sgt "Peeny" Walsh did great work with Sgt Dick Barron of the Engrs in this respect. Due to hard work, intelligent application, and wonderful Arty/Engr co-operation, the twenty or so huts were constructed and occupied, one clear month ahead of schedule.

The Troop provided the ration Sgt who drew rations for the Group each day. Sgt "Mo" Connolly, DSM, performed this task with his usual efficiency. Sgt John Ryan was Officers Mess Sgt in Xeros. The "heavies" provided the bulk of the Mess Staff and virtually staffed the Mess for the functions held there.

The gunners had a hand in all camp activity over the six months. They renovated the Mens Canteen and here Sgt Andy Lawton's motto was "give us the tools and we'll get on with the job". There was never a scarcity of MT drivers at Group HQ. The gunners, who carried a big percentage of MT drivers, provided a ready and willing supply of safe drivers, in addition to the MT Platoon. The quality and design of dug-outs constructed by the Troop in the November crisis raised many an eyebrow. The Troop was ready for action during that tense period with firing mechanisms, dial sights, etc fixed and ready if required.

If the Troop is to be remembered by other personnel of the 9th Group, it will be surely remembered for the high standard of discipline it set itself, for the tremendously hard working personnel of the troop and for its great loyalty all through the six month's tour.

MEDICAL PLATOON

The establishment of the Medical Platoon of 9th Inf Gp conformed to that of previous Medical Platoons which served overseas. It consisted of two medical officers, one C/S, one Sgt, four Cpls and six Ptes.

The Pl was commanded by Comdt O'Shea who took responsibility for the Xeros and Lefka areas, while Comdt Cahill took over the Limnitis and Kato Pyrgos areas. One NCO and one man were stationed in each M.A.P. When the rifle coys rotated these NCOs and men moved with them. When the Rest Centre was open at Famagusta each of the four Cpls spent fourteen days on duty there.

The incidence of sickness in the Group was the lowest of all contingents over the period, and we were fortunate that no serious injuries were incurred as a result of road accidents.

Medical assistance was given to both Greek and Turkish Cypriots as it was required and deemed necessary. The weekly visits of Dr Izett from Lefka Hospital to Limnitis and Kokkina was a great help and took much of the burden from the shoulders of the Medical Platoon.

Towards the end of their stay in Cyprus some members of the Pl took time off to pay a visit to the Holy Land on the first pilgrimage since the war of June 1967.

In December '67 Comdt O'Shea was replaced by Comdt D.F. Sheahan and in January 1968 Capt M. Kiernan replaced Comdt T. Cahill.

ARMD CAR GROUP

Normally, almost every Cavalry unit in the Army is represented in an Armd Car Gp that serves overseas. The Armd Car Gp of the 9th Infantry Group was no exception. Consequently when concentrated for training at the Curragh on 29 August, 1967, its main task was to achieve a high standard of teamwork, first among the individual crew members, and thereafter among the sections and troops. Fortunately most of the personnel of the unit had known one another through previous service abroad, and this team work was quickly effected.

On the 11 Sept 1967 the C/O, Comdt T.B. Kelly, accompanied by the Technical Officer, and the SQMS, moved to Cyprus as pathfinders with the advance party, and the unit continued refresher training on Wireless, Gunnery and Driving, in the Curragh.

One misty morning, in the Glem Imaal on the 13th Sept 1967, many of the 9th Infantry Group saw the weapons of the Panhard in action for the first time. The accuracy and rate of fire of the machine guns, and the plunging fire of the mortars, evoked considerable unrest.

At a formal parade on the 22 Sept, the unit pennant was presented to Capt B. Smyth, by the Director of Cavalry and the unit then prepared for the move to Cyprus on the 26th.

ARRIVAL IN CUPRUS

The employment of this Cavalry Gp differed from that of previous groups, in that it was not formed, with an Infantry Platoon and the Artillery element into an ICA Coy, with its own particular area of responsibility. Instead it was decided that two sections would be held in reserve in Xeros, while a section would be detached to each of the outlying Coys in LIMNITIS and KATO PYRGOS. However the disappointment of having our command structure

disrupted was tempered by the fact, that the crews would be working with the Panhard cars, and would also join the sections in Xeros for the long range patrols. This arrangement prevailed during the whole of the mission. The outlying sections were rotated monthly and the change was welcomed by all members of the unit.

OPERATIONAL DUTIES

Immediately it arrived on the island, the unit was operational and soon the whine of the Panhard was a familiar sound in even the remote villages of the area. The sections in Xeros conducted a daily patrol with village visiting or route recce tasks.

In LIMNITIS and KATO PYRGOS the terrain does not lend itself to patrolling, so the Cavalry personnel there, performed normal regimental duties in addition to routine maintenance patrols. Every Cavalry Section in KATO PYRGOS did a tour of duty at the MANSOURA Barrier. This proved to be an interesting and popular station with the men.

LONG RANGE PATROLS

Several long range patrols were carried out during the tour. All districts in the island were visited in the course of these patrols, the object being to exercise the unit in map reading, Wireless telegraphy, route recce and driving. In all a total of 20,000 klms was covered by the Cavalry Group.

THE NOVEMBER CRISIS

The Cavalry Group was maintained in full state of readiness during the crisis. Sieze and hold tasks allotted in Operation Backfire were reced. The sections in Xeros reced various alternative routes for the same operation and Cavalry personnel in Kato Pyrgos discovered a torturous road in the hills to the rear of Limnitis as an alternative route to Gp Hq at Xeros.

In addition to these operational duties, the Cavalry Officers in the outlying Coys, shared with their Inf counterparts in the normal mediation between the opposing communities.

LIAISON WITH OTHER CAVALRY UNITS

Our tour of duty with UNFICYP coincided with that of two foreign Cavalry Units. These were the Fort Garry Horse Regiment (Canadian), and B Squadron 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards (British). The armad Car Gp got to know these Units on an operational and social level during the tour. Joint patrols were carried out with the Fort Garry Horse in the Lefka District. The unit was accommodated overnight by the 4/7 RDG at their camp in ZIYYI. Their hospitality was reciprocated when they visited Lefka District on two occasions and were briefed on the situation in this area.

RANGE PRACTICES

The question of expending ammunition arose during the tour and the opportunity was taken to exercise the unit in Gunnery. On two occasions, the 3rd and 9th of January, all sections moved to Goshi to fire range practices. On the second occasion targets were also engaged by the 60 mm Mortar. an innovation in Goshi was night firing, where it was gratifying to learn that targets could be engaged very effectively at ranges up to 400 yards.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Considering that the unit numbered a mere thirty eight all ranks, its record in the field of sport is remarkable. They took the prize in the Volleyball from C Coy in a hard fought final. In Basketball the semi final stage was reached before defeat and in soccer after a hard fought semi final against B Coy, the unit

prepared to meet its old rivals C Coy in the final. Here again defeat was tasted, but only after a hard fought and exciting struggle when C Coy got the winning score in extra time.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The social highlight of the tour was the Christmas dinner. The OC of the 9th Inf Gp together with the 2 i/c and Company Commanders, as well as anybody on the island with Irish Cavalry connections, attended this function. The revelry took place in a civilian restaurant near Blue Beach, and an excellent night was had by all. At a most enjoyable, final function in Xeros Camp on the 2nd March, the officers, NCOs, and men of the Armd Car Gp presented Comdt TB Kelly with an inscribed silver coffee set.

IRISH OFFICERS AT UN HQ

One of the prerequisites for a successful and pleasant stay in Cyprus is the establishment and maintenance of good relations with HQ UNFICYP. Our success in this respect was due, in no small part, to the calibre of the Irish Officers serving on the HQ Staff.

Comdt Pat Sheeran was Liaison Officer for the Contingent and it was always a pleasure to go into his office, whether with a problem, or when paying a social call.

Lieut Col Cooney was Force Engineer and was a very useful friend to have on our side. He was at all times most helpful and ensured that when engineer materials were being allotted IRCON were not left out.

Comdt Steve Leech with his photographer, Cpl Mulcahy, at all times saw to it that the Gp got its share of the publicity, both in the home papers and in the local "Blue Beret".

A frequent visitor to our HQ was Comdt Tommy Roche, the District Economics Officer, whose untiring efforts to alleviate the plight of the Tk Cyp community in Lefka District could well be the subject of a separate volume.

Comdt E.D. Doyle did much to smooth any difficulties which occurred in the way of communications, and Capt Frank Dunne and his replacement, Capt Tadgh O'Neill, in OPS, were always pleasant and helpful.

All these officers were most hospitable when officers of the Gp visited the HQ Mess, and also included here are Capt Enda Ryan and Capt Paddy Goggin, during their stay and Capt Luke Mullins who was a member of the Gp, but whose duties kept him permanently in Nicosia.

UNCIVPOL ELEMENT

The UNCIVPOL element composed of Austrian and Australian civil police, in support of the 9 Inf Gp, was located at Kakopetria approximately 11½ miles due South of Xeros.

The UNCIVPOL element was commanded by Inspector Ron Lawlor, assisted by Inspector Mike Raw, both Australians.

The strength of the police element at Kakopetria usually stood at

16 Australian Sgts and Constables

4 Austrian Sgts and Constables.

They were responsible for the following tasks:-

- (a) Manning UN OPs, if required, in sensitive areas.
- (b) Carrying out patrols as required.
- (c) Observe CYPOL searches at road blocks, etc.
- (d) Carrying out checks as required in the Limnitis area.
- (e) Liaising with CYPOL and Tk Cyp police.
- (f) Providing escorts if required.
- (g) Inquiring into incidents in which Gk Cyp, or Tk Cyp, civilians were involved.
- (h) Making special inquiries e.g. missing persons.
- (i) Carrying out surveys, observations, and making assessments of a special nature.

This police detachment performed its duties with diligence and courtesy at all times and greatly assisted the Irish Contingent in the performance of its task. They are mentioned many times throughout the history.

WELFARE

Equipment. An ample supply was provided by Army Welfare and distributed to Coys.

On request a new set of Rugby jerseys was supplied in November, 1967.

Gifts. Cigarettes, Guinness, Whiskey, Chocolates and reading material were received and distributed to Coys on strengths basis.

Films. These were controlled by Signal personnel. Each Camp had three films per week.

Rest Centre. This was established at Famagusta for January and February and 160 all ranks had a holiday there.

Tours. Six officers and nineteen other ranks went on a tour of the Holy Land from 11 February to 15 February 1968. All participants rated it a success.

Individual officers travelled to the Lebanon and Israel for holidays. All returned satisfied and agreed that such trips were good value.

Canteen Goods. Normal purchases and sales of duty free goods were made. Bulk sales to individuals, prior to repatriation, were organised at Coy level and proved satisfactory and helped the Welfare Staff.

General. On assembly at the Curragh the Welfare Staff consisted of one officer and one NCO. Shortly after arrival in Cyprus this was supplemented by an NCO and man.

Devaluation of sterling in 1967 caused an increase in the prices of liquor and tobacco in January and February 1968.

On the whole, Welfare of this Unit fared the same as its predecessors, and while other factors changed, the cribs remained the same.

GROUP SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Group social round began with a very successful all-Irish Officer function at H₄ Mess, Xeros on 1st Oct '67. The attendance included Officers from HQ UNFICYP and all available Officers of the Group.

LUNCHEON GUESTS - OCTOBER

During October luncheon guests included Lt Col Cooney (Force Engineer) and Mrs Cooney on the 5th; Lt Col Clarke, Force Logs Officer, on the 17th; Lt Col Bornor, Force Provost Marshal, on the 20th and the Force Deputy Chief-of-Staff, Col Elliot, on the 31st.

"WELCOME" FUNCTION

250 guests were invited to the first big Group function held on the 15th November, 1967 at Xeros. The list of invitees included members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from HQ UNFICYP and all contingents, local National Guard Commanders and friends of previous Groups. Preparations included the erection of a 160 foot marquee in rear of the Mess. Unfortunately, due to an outbreak of fighting in the villages of Kophinou and Ayios Theodoros that evening and the consequent state of tension, only some 110 guests arrived. A wonderful "esprit" was immediately evident and an excellent night was had by all due in no small measure to the second helping of Gaelic Coffee. Rumours has it that quite a few non-attenders regretted they had not "kicked their radios" and taken a chance.

VISITORS - NOVEMBER

November saw such varied visitors as Mr and Mrs Cavey, hoteliers from Bray; Col Rusanen (Finnish Contingent Commander) and Mrs Rusanen; a "prayer" of British Chaplains and a brace of OPS "B" types from HQ UNFICYP.

On 7th December we were hosts to a Force Signals Convention. Its success no doubt gave rise to the reports that other staff sections were hurriedly trying to organise "Conventions" on an island basis.

PRESENTATION TO THE QMG & MEDICAL OFFICER

On the 12th December at a farewell function for Comdt H. O'Shea (Medical Officer) the Commanding Officer sent a silver bowl from the Group to Colonel Curran (QMG) to mark the occasion of his retirement from the Defence Forces early in 1968. Comdt O'Shea was the recipient of presentations from the Group Commander and Inspector Lawlor and Raw of the Australian UNCIVPOL element in Lefka District.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas was celebrated in traditional manner, both from the religious and gastronomic points of view. Those NCO's and men who manned OP's on Christmas Day were relieved on St Stephen's Day and sat down to their well deserved turkey, ham and plum pudding belatedly but gratefully.

Irish Officers of HQ UNFICYP joined the members of GP HQ Mess at Xeros for Christmas dinner on the night of the 25th. The plum pudding was piped in, the chef quaffed his tot of whiskey in one swallow without as much as trace of a grimace. nice things were said in speeches, toasts were drunk and the festivities went on into the early hours of the 26th.

CHOIR

In mid-December a choir was raised by Fr McCabe and put under the baton of Capt M. Shannon. With the exception of Capt D. Flood (A Coy) the choir was drawn entirely from personnel of HQ Coy and the Armd Car Group. It participated in the interdenominational service held in the RAF Church, Nicosia on 22nd Dec. It also rendered

at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at Xeros and again at Mass on Christmas Day in St Barbara's Church, Karavostasi.

SAUNA BATHS

The Group's first Sauna Bath was opened at Xeros Officers' Quarters in December. The framework was erected by "forced Officer labour" under the harsh and critical eye of the Engineer Officer, Lt P. Brunkard. It was left to the Engineer Section to rectify the mistakes and put things on the level again.

In mid-January a second Sauna for other ranks was opened in Xeros. It proved most popular and was reputed to be more efficient than the first one.

CONCERTS

Lefka Camp (then occupied by A Coy) was the location for the first Group concert on 28th December. A slightly pruned version visited Limnitis (C Coy) on the 29th Dec, Xeros (HQ and Armd Car Gp) on 7th January and Kato Pyrgos (B Coy) on the 11th January. A wealth of talent was discovered in each Company and the concerts proved a huge success in all locations.

PRESENTATION OF UN MEDALS

The Force Commander, Lt Gen A.E. Martola, presented UN medals to the Group Commander and a representative body of Officers on Friday 19th January, 1968.

General Martola was met at Ghaziveran by a troop of armoured cars under Lt T. Stapleton and escorted to Xeros Camp where he inspected a Guard of Honour drawn from Hq Coy and the Armd Car Gp under Lt J. Mortell. The Officer i/c Colours was Lt T. O'Connor. After the presentation General Martola addressed the parade. In the course of his speech he praised the contribution of Ireland to the UNFICYP mission and he also stressed the importance which should be attached to the UNFICYP Medal by those entitled to wear it.

On Sunday 4th February Lt/Col Murphy entertained all the Contingent Commanders to lunch in the HQ Mess, Xeros.

The Chief-of-Staff, Brigadier M.N. Harbottle, visited Lefka District on 6th February. He inspected a Guard of Honour under Lieut. T. O'Connor at Xeros Camp and then toured the District visiting various OP's.

IRISH NIGHT

February 18th marked the beginning of a series of farewell parties. On that date an Irish night was held at Xeros Officers' Mess. After a sherry reception in the Mess, the guests partook of a cold buffet in a special marquee and then returned to the Mess for dancing or drinking or singing or any combination of all three.

VIP PARTY

A very distinguished gathering attended the VIP party held at HQ Mess, Xeros on 22nd February. It included the Force Commander, Mr Osorio Tafall (U Thant's Special Representative), members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Chief of Staff UNFICYP, Contingent Commanders, Military Attaches and members of the secretariat.

Fortunately, it was not as formal a party as the name might imply and a good time was had by all.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S DINNER

Lt Col Murphy used the occasion of his dinner on the 26th February to publicly thank all the Officers of the Group for their work and loyalty during the tour.

2/Lt D. O'Keefe, the youngest Officer in the Group, presented the Commanding Officer with a pair of inscribed silver bowls on behalf of all the Group Officers.

THE NOVEMBER CRISIS AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS

Reference has frequently been made in other parts of this history to "The November Crisis".

The "November Crisis" is the term applied to the outbreak of fighting, which occurred in the Ayios Theodoros/Kophinou area of Larnaca District, between the National Guard and the Turkish Cypriots, and the subsequent involvement of Turkey, Greece, UN and the United States in the affair.

Like most international crises it had very small beginnings. At 1400 hrs on 15th November 1967, a Cyprus Police Patrol and a platoon of National Guard infantry attempted to go through the mixed village of Ayios Theodoros from the Greek Cypriot sector. They found a tractor and a plough drawn across the road. When they reached the obstruction, the National Guard soldiers debussed, removed the road block and deployed in the vicinity of the road junction, at the Northern end of the village. Almost immediately there were about three shots and a burst of automatic fire; the evidence on hand points to these shots having been fired by the Turkish Cypriots. The National Guard and Cyprus Police immediately opened fire, and this was the signal for firing to spread throughout the village, involving not only small arms but also the heavy machine-guns and 2-pounder guns of the National Guard armoured cars. During the next hour or so the firing became intense as the National Guard engaged the village with both artillery and mortars and launched a ground attack on it at approx company strength.

At about the same time some armoured cars and infantry moved against Turkish Cypriot fighter positions covering Kophinou, a village some two and a half miles away, and unrelated to the patrol issue, but where tension had been high for some time. Towards the evening firing died down at Ayios Theodoros and only sporadic firing was reported, although at no time did it cease for any appreciable period. By this time most of the Turkish Cypriot positions around the village had been overrun, and the National Guard were in the village and virtually in control of it. At Kophinou the firing lasted longer and it was not until about 2030 hours that the last real exchange of shots took place. By this time the National Guard had cleared nearly all the positions on the features overlooking the village and were in the village itself, though not in complete control of it.

A ceasefire was arranged at 2145 hours between the Force Commander, UNFICYP and Mr Kyprianou, Cyprus Minister of Foreign Affairs. Yet late in the night of the 15th and into the early hours of 16 November sporadic firing continued. This was largely due to the National Guard carrying out house clearance operations in Ayios Theodoros after the ceasefire, and it did not stop until they received orders to withdraw to their original positions. The National Guard withdrew at 0445 hours on 16th November.

When UNFICYP moved into both Kophinou and Ayios Theodoros they found, by 1000 hours on 16th November, seventeen unidentified dead and seven wounded. Arrangements were made for the wounded to be evacuated by UNFICYP to Nicosia.

Permission had been obtained from the Cyprus Government early in the night 15/16 November to send medical teams into the village to give immediate aid and to arrange evacuation of any wounded they might find. However UNFICYP's ability to do this was somewhat hampered by the fact that the National Guard clearance operations were continuing. The final toll was 24 dead, including two Greek Cypriots. Nine Turkish wounded had been evacuated by UNFICYP to the Turkish Cypriot Hospital in Nicosia.

In addition to the hampering of the medical teams referred to above, much of the UNFICYP forces in the area was also under fire by the National Guard for most of the afternoon of the 15th November, and UNFICYP observation posts, buildings and tents were struck by bullets. In one case the cookhouse of a UNFICYP observation post was destroyed by mortar fire, and many mortar and artillery shells fell extremely close to the UNFICYP Headquarters in the Kophinou compound. Fortunately there were no UNFICYP casualties. In addition there were instances of deliberate damage by the National Guard to UNFICYP radio equipment so as to render it unserviceable, while at one UN post UNFICYP soldiers were forcibly disarmed by the National Guard.

The magnitude of the Ayios Theodoros operation and the speed with which it was carried out clearly indicate that the National Guard had planned in advance to carry out this operation in the event of any show of opposition by the Turkish Cypriots. "(Text of Secretary-General's report to the Security Council, 17th November 1967)".

The first inkling 9 Inf Gp had of impending trouble was the following rather cryptic message received from UN HQ at 1230 hours on the 14th November - "Increase vigilance in the District as there is unusual National Guard activity in other parts of the island and report immediately any unusual movement with particular reference to Coastal Defence".

On the 15th itself final preparations were in train for a big "welcome" party at HQ Officers Mess, Xeros Camp. At 1520 hours a message was received from UN HQ to the effect that fighting had broken out in the Ayios Theodoros/Kophinou area and that we were to report any unusual air activity especially in the North of the island. A flood of regrets began pouring in to the function committee, as officers at UNFICYP Headquarters and Contingent Commanders were ordered to stay at their posts. The function went ahead with only 110 of the 250 guests in attendance.

9th Inf Gp had its first taste of inter-communal strife only two nights later. At 2045 hours on 17th November there was an exchange of fire between the National Guard and the Turkish Cypriots in the Kokkina enclave area. The total exchange amounted to approx 150 rounds of small arms fire. Firing ceased at 2200 hours. An earlier report that the National Guard were advancing from their positions towards the enclave proved to be unfounded. There were no casualties, although reports of this incident increased tension elsewhere in the island and especially in Nicosia.

At 2318 hours on 18th November firing broke out in the Limnitis enclave and quickly spread to other areas around the enclave. The firing lasted about 45 minutes. The UNFICYP local commander reported that firing was initiated by the National Guard, although the latter subsequently denied it. Approx 300 rounds were fired, most of them by the National Guard. No casualties were reported.

By this time (18th November) tension was high on the island. Every day Turkish Military jets made low sweeps over Lefka and other Districts.

During the next ten days Turkey began to concentrate large military forces on her South coast in addition to a fleet of troop-carrying ships.

As the likelihood of a Turkish invasion grew, bunkers were dug in all camps in Lefka District, all vehicles and buildings were stencilled with the letters "UN", and contingency plans revised.

The bunkers were mainly intended to ensure the safety of personnel in the event of camps being caught in crossfire between the Gk Cyp and Tk Cyp communities. They were also intended to give some measure of protection should the Turks decide to bombard the National Guard coastal defences prior to a landing in the Morphou Bay area. During these tense days Reveille was moved back to 0530 hours in all camps and excitement was at a high pitch as people realised that they were at the centre of an international drama.

By the beginning of December, however, Mr Rolz-Bennett (U Thant's Special Representative) and Mr Cyrus Vance (President Johnson's "troubleshooter") had succeeded in inducing Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to reach an agreement.

Under the terms of this agreement the Greek Government undertook to withdraw all Greek National military personnel in excess of the 900 which it was legally entitled to maintain on the island. In addition, the Cyprus Government agreed to send General Grivas back to Greece and to compensate the villagers of Ayios Theodoros and Kophinou.

Between the 8th December, 1967 and 17th January, 1968 a total of approximately 6,800 Greek National troops and 60 armoured vehicles, including tanks, were repatriated.

As a result of the "November Crisis", President Makarios introduced normalisation measures on the 12th January 1968. The efforts of these measures on Lefka District were manifold. The number of incidents dropped off considerably; the National Guard withdrew from some of their trenches especially in the Peristeronari and Limekiln areas; it was no longer necessary for Turkish Cypriots to obtain clearances to leave their enclave in Kokkina; National Guard road barriers were dismantled and, in general, an air of calm prevailed once again.

Undoubtedly the "November Crisis" was the highlight of 9th Infantry Group's tour of duty with UNFICYP. When all else is forgotten the men of the 9th will remember the air of excitement that pervaded the atmosphere, the digging and sandbagging of bunkers, the pre-dawn rising and occupation of bunkers, the sight of the supersonic Turkish Air Force jets flashing by overhead and the bonds

RUNDA

of fellowship engendered by men who calmly and resolutely prepare to face a common unknown danger.

REGIMENTAL STAFF

1st Lt	0.7500	1st Lt	...
2nd Lt	0.7200	Capt	...
Operations Officer	0.7400	Capt	...
Adjutant	0.7300	Capt	...
Quartermaster	0.7600	Capt	...
Intelligence Officer	0.7700	Capt	...
Medical Officer	0.7800	Capt	...
Legal Officer	0.8000	Capt	...
Chaplain	0.7900	1st Lt	...
1st Aid Officer	0.7400	1st Lt	...
2nd Aid Officer	0.7300	1st Lt	...
...
...

REGIMENTAL COMPANY

1st Lt	0.7500	Capt	...
2nd Lt	0.7200	Capt	...
3rd Lt	0.7100	Capt	...
4th Lt	0.7000	1st Lt	...
5th Lt	0.6900	Capt	...
6th Lt	0.6800	1st Lt	...
7th Lt	0.6700	1st Lt	...
8th Lt	0.6600	1st Lt	...
9th Lt	0.6500	1st Lt	...
10th Lt	0.6400	1st Lt	...
11th Lt	0.6300	1st Lt	...
12th Lt	0.6200	1st Lt	...
13th Lt	0.6100	1st Lt	...
14th Lt	0.6000	1st Lt	...
15th Lt	0.5900	1st Lt	...
16th Lt	0.5800	1st Lt	...
17th Lt	0.5700	1st Lt	...
18th Lt	0.5600	1st Lt	...
19th Lt	0.5500	1st Lt	...
20th Lt	0.5400	1st Lt	...

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ANNEX 'A' TO UNIT HISTORY9th INFANTRY GROUPNOMINAL ROLL - 9TH INFANTRY GROUPGROUP HEADQUARTERS

OC	0.4968	Lt Col	Murphy, M.J.
2 i/c	0.5167	Comdt	Callaghan, Wm.
Operations Officer	0.7406	Capt	Parker, J.
Adjutant	0.7408	Capt	Farrell, B.A.
Quartermaster	0.7676	Capt	Hall, J.
Intelligence Officer	0.7732	Capt	Murphy, T.A.
Welfare Officer	0.7807	Capt	Nowlan, P.F.
Legal Officer	0.6208	Comdt	Liddy, P.J.
Asst OPS Officer	0.7904	Lt	Mortell, J.A.V.
Asst Int Officer	0.7944	Lt	Campion, R.J.
BSM	75444	BSM	Jackson, W.
Chaplains (2)	Rev Fr		McCabe, P.
	Rev Fr		Swan, C.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANYCoy Headquarters

Coy Comdr	0.6852	Comdt	Crawford, V.
MP Officer	0.7730	Capt	O'Donnell, M.B.
Ordnance Officer	0.8117	Capt	Kelleher, R.P.
Engr Officer	0.8126	Lt	Brunkard, P.A.
Tech Stores Officer	0.7127	Capt	Mullins, L.A.
Coy Sgt	78524	C/S	Cousins, J.
CQMS	91308	CQMS	McCarthy, R.
Clerk (Telep)	816441	Cpl	O Buachalla, D.
Storeman/Dvr	802932	Cpl	Brennan, F.

RÚNDA

'A' PLATOON

Asst Adj & Pl Comd	0.8033	Lt	McGreal, P.M.N.
CS (MP)	435871	Sgt	Barron, J.
Band (& Mess Duties)	424081	Sgt	Davis, N.
Sgt Clerk (Ord Room)	96712	Sgt	McGuire, J.
Sgt Clerk (Int)	89521	Sgt	Quain, S.
Sgt Clerk (OPS)	803636	Sgt	Ryan, J.
Sgt Clerk (Telep Op)	814283	Sgt	Cullen, G.
Sgt (MP)	98397	Cpl	Sheehan, A.
Sgt (MP)	803511	Cpl	Doyle, M.
Sgt Offrs Mess	89931	Sgt	Carroll, W.
Sgt Post	97192	Sgt	Manning, J.
Band (& Mess Duties)	814134	Cpl	Noone, Ml.
Band (& Mess Duties)	816123	Pte	Jinks, P.
Band (& Mess Duties)	813271	Pte	Kelly, J.
Cpl Clerk (Telep)	801129	Cpl	Hynes, T.
Cpl Int (photographer)	817843	Cpl	Mulcahy, T.
Cpl (MP)	817616	Cpl	Jameson, C.
Cpl (MP)	816646	Cpl	Scales, P.
Cpl (MP)	814211	Cpl	Doran, J.
Cpl (MP)	813588	Cpl	Balfe, P.
Cpl (MP)	815773	Cpl	Kelly, H.
Cpl (MP)	813494	Cpl	Roche, W.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	816645	Pte	O h-Eidhin, P.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	816725	Pte	O Loidean, S.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	815035	Pte	O Meachair, N.C.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	816261	Pte	Madden, P.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	816191	Pte	O Riain, M.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	815493	Pte	Sammon, M.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	816684	Pte	Mac Donncha, C.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	814710	Pte	Stephens, C.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	816701	Pte	Kiernan, A.
Band (& Ord & Mess Duties)	814307	Pte	Smollen, D.

RÚNDA

'Q' PLATOON

Asst QM & Pl Comd	0.7989	Lt	Gaffney, J.J.
BQMS	82957	BQMS	McAlister, C.J.
CQMS	87159	CQMS	O'Brien, M.J.
CQMS (Welfare)	803975	CQMS	Flanagan, T.L.
Ammo Exam (Sgt)	810613	Cpl	Feeney, J.
Arm Art	804741	Sgt	Scanlan, M.
Armourer	810920	Sgt	Hogan, W.
Cook	78890	Sgt	McKenzie, P.
Engr Tech	807672	Sgt	Conroy, P.
Engr Tech	811240	Sgt	Brereton, P.
Engr Tech	804034	Sgt	Gibbons, J.
Engr Tech	86727	Sgt	Barron, R.
Storeman	804237	Sgt	Murray, P.
Storeman/Dvr	801787	Sgt	McCarthy, T.
Tent Repairer (Sgt)	402644	CQMS	Dunne, W.
Armourer	811966	Cpl	Nolan, J.P.
Armourer	807245	Cpl	Flynn, J.W.
Clerk (Telep Op)	811348	Cpl	Darby, J.
Cook	803695	Cpl	Kearney, J.
Cook	808763	Cpl	Duffin, T.
Cook (Cpl)	816568	Tpr	Hoare, E.
Engr Tech	805719	Cpl	Brannigan, J.
Engr Tech	813409	Cpl	Copeland, B.
Engr Tech	807422	Cpl	Coleman, B.
Engr Tech	816687	Cpl	Whelan, T.
Engr Tech	801257	Cpl	Coll, F.M.
Storeman/Dvr	808946	Cpl	McLoughlin, M.
Barber	813561	Pte	Broe, T.
Cook	814884	Pte	Byrne, W.
Cook	817577	Pte	Harvey, T.
Cook	815590	Pte	Kelly, G.

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'Q' PLATOON (CONTD)

Cook	813638	A/M	Bowe, A.
Engr Tech	809564	Pte	Grimes, T.
Engr Tech	814345	Pte	Hartley, L.
Engr Tech	815732	Pte	Courtney, J.
Tailor	812577	Pte	Flood, J.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Pl Comd	0.7817	Capt	McCarrick, S.
Linesman	91674	Sgt	Crocock, J.
Op W & L	805254	Sgt	Hurley, T.
Op W & L	804624	Cpl	Dwyer, K.
Op W & L	806951	Cpl	Geraghty, D.
Radio Mech	809579	A/Sgt	Tobin, B.
Op W & L	812296	Cpl	Twamley, K.
Op W & L	812772	Cpl	O'Donnell, D.
Op W & L	814761	Cpl	Mullins, F.
Op W & L	814668	Cpl	McCormack, D.
Radio Mech	813137	Sgm	Swinburne, P.
Op W & L	817111	Sgm	Martyn, T.
Op W & L	817113	Sgm	Finnerty, S.
Op W & L	817112	Sgm	Williams, J.
OP W & L	816384	Sgm	Garry, F.
Op W & L	809262	Sgm	Weldon, J.
Linesman	816043	Sgm	Roche, T.
Storeman/Dvr	816166	Sgm	Simpson, P.

TRANSPORT PLATOON

Pl Comd	0.7778	Capt	McNamara, C.
Driver MT	81799	Sgt	Mulryan, E.
Fitter MT (Sgt)	95225	Cpl	Walsh, J.
Driver MT	813910	Cpl	Smith, M.
Driver MT	809726	Cpl	Moore, L.
Driver MT	809979	Cpl	Condon, J.

RUNDA

TRANSPORT PLATOON (CONTD)

Fitter MT	807791	Cpl	Walsh, P.
Fitter MT	810934	Cpl	O'Reilly, S.
Storeman/Dvr	99139	Cpl	O'Neill, R.
Driver MT	808725	Pte	Clarke, J.
Driver MT	812579	Pte	Egan, C.
Driver MT	803104	Pte	Kavanagh, F.
Driver MT	801533	Pte	Quearney, W.
Driver MT	812837	Pte	Harris, P.J.
Driver MT	816905	Pte	Nally, W.
Driver MT	809837	Pte	Murphy, J.
Driver MT	814609	Pte	Sheehan, W.
Driver MT	814597	Pte	McDonagh, J.
Driver MT	815686	Pte	Cassidy, J.
Driver MT	815084	Pte	Holligan, R.
Driver MT	813642	Pte	Hogan, J.
Driver MT	813710	Pte	Gilchrist, J.
Fitter MT	813110	Pte	Grace, P.J.
Fitter MT	813124	Pte	McKevitt, F.

MEDICAL PLATOON

Pl Comd	0.6745	Comdt	O'Shea, H.P.J.
Pl Officer	0.7343	Comdt	Cahill, M.D.
Coy Sgt	99926	Sgt	Durney, P.
Med Orderly	86605	Sgt	McEntee, C.
Med Orderly	94173	Cpl	Foyle, J.
Med Orderly	806699	Cpl	Murphy, T.
Med Orderly	814087	Cpl	Delaney, J.
Med Orderly	810801	Cpl	Lackey, M.
Med Orderly	809279	Pte	Gardiner, P.
Med Orderly	813779	Pte	Hunt, F.
Med Orderly	816995	Pte	Steemson, J.
Med Orderly	817021	Pte	O'Shea, M.
Med Orderly	817032	Pte	Condon, G.
Med Orderly	817558	Pte	Coyne, C.

RÜNDA

HEAVY MORTAR TROOP

Troop HQ

Troop Comd	0.7719	Capt	Shannon, M.D.
Troop Sgt	94778	Sgt	Lawton, J.
Penciller OPA	811286	Cpl	Ryan, J.
Penciller GPOA	811317	Gnr	Cassidy, H.
Signaller	814311	Cpl	Codd, N.
Storeman/Dvr	806591	Cpl	Keating, W.
Penciller	812939	Gnr	O'Connor, M.
Signaller	815731	Gnr	Fitzgerald, M.
Signaller	807903	Gnr	Duggan, J.

NO 1 SECTION

Sec Comd	0.8151	2/Lt	O'Connor, T.
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'A' SUB SECTION

Mortar No	91282	Sgt	Deegan, J.
Mortar No	809498	Gnr	O'Connell, P.

'B' SUB SECTION

Mortar No	92680	Sgt	Connolly, R.
Mortar No	806469	Gnr	Walsh, D.

NO 2 SECTION

Sec Comd	0.8138	2/Lt	O'Connor, B.J.
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'A' SUB SECTION

Mortar No	814852	Cpl	Walsh, T.
Mortar No	817146	Gnr	Barry, Wm.
Mortar No	817457	Gnr	Mangan, D.
Mortar No	812640	Gnr	O'Donnell, W.

'B' SUB SECTION

Mortar No	87448	Sgt	Skehan, P.
Mortar No	811122	Gnr	Fitzgerald, W.
Mortar No	817314	Gnr	O'Rourke, D.
Mortar No	812924	Gnr	Stanford, M.

RÜNDA

RÚNDA

'A' COMPANY

Coy Headquarters

Coy Comd	0.5903	Comdt	Hyland, J.
2 i/c & Adm Officer	0.7680	Capt	Flood, D.
C/S	93143	C/S	McCullagh, P.
CQMS	86458	CQMS	Dynan, J.
Clerk	85984	Cpl	Phelan, P.
Cook	94712	Cpl	Norris, F.
Driver MT	816081	Cpl	McNamara, J.
OP W & L	814986	A/Cpl	Durcan, J.
Sig	812566	Cpl	Brady, B.
Storeman/Dvr	803899	Cpl	Mooney, P.
Cook	809341	Pte	Moran, T.
Cook	810010	Pte	Maher, P.
Cook	815958	Pte	Lennon, F.
Cook	815734	Pte	Brennan, E.
Driver MT	816247	Pte	Downey, R.
Driver MT	813209	Pte	Floyd, P.
OP W & L	816158	Sgm	Synott, J.
OP W & L	816198	Sgm	O'Shea, J.
OP W & L	815161	Sgm	Kavanagh, J.
Storeman/Driver	811357	Pte	Archbold, J.

RÚNDA

No 1 Rifle Platoon

RÚNDA

Pl HQ

Pl Comd	0.8024	Lt	Saunderson, J.E.
Pl Sgt	809418	Sgt	Mannix, D.
Sig	817161	Pte	Hogan, J.

No 1 Section

Sec Comd	816673	Cpl	Morgan, A.
2 i/c	87999	Sgt	Hughes, P.
R/Man	817329	Pte	Condon, M.
R/Man	817126	Pte	Cummins, G.
R/Man	805796	Pte	Winters, J.
R/Man	817615	Pte	McGrath, J.
No 1 LMG	817771	Pte	O'eill, N.
No 2 LMG	95326	Pte	Brady, D.

No 2 Section

Sec Comd	805293	Cpl	Gorry, D.
2 i/c	813583	Cpl	Sullivan, T.
R/Man	817848	Pte	O'Sullivan, M.
R/Man	815737	Pte	Burns, P.
R/Man	816944	Pte	Heary, H.
R/Man	810061	Pte	Brown, J.
No 1 LMG	817449	Pte	O'Brien, M.
No 2 LMG	816209	Pte	Dundon, J.

No 3 Section

Sec Comd	814953	Cpl	Doran, J.
2 i/c	810601	Cpl	Brennan, J.
R/Man	817819	Pte	Tyrrell, P.
R/Man	815482	Pte	O'Meara, P.
R/Man	817901	Pte	Fitzpatrick, E.
R/Man	810600	Pte	Redmond, C.
No 1 LMG	813971	Pte	Cudden, J.
No 2 LMG	800688	Pte	Richardson, E.

RÚNDA

RÚNDA

No 2 Rifle Platoon

Pl HQ

Sec Comd	0.8081	Lt	Kellett, C.
Pl Sgt	803674	Sgt	Crosbie, T.
Sig	816087	Pte	Higginbotham, P.

No 4 Section

Sec Comd	808371	Cpl	O'Neill, K.
2 i/c	93009	Cpl	Doherty, B.
R/Man	817104	Pte	Brennan, S.
R/Man	815715	Pte	Nolan, B.
R/Man	817058	Pte	Cogley, J.
R/Man	815627	Pte	Rooney, M.
No 1 LMG	815353	Pte	McCarthy, J.
No 2 LMG	817671	Pte	Gordan, B.

No 5 Section

Sec Comd	814128	Cpl	Crosby, P.
2 i/c	815011	Cpl	Poland, J.
R/Man	816591	Pte	O'Neill, J.
R/Man	817537	Pte	O'Donoghue, B.
R/Man	86000	Pte	O'Brien, J.
R/Man	816940	Pte	Murphy, P.
No 1 LMG	817579	Pte	Griffin, T.
No 2 LMG	817780	Pte	Turner, L.

No 6 Section

Sec Comd	803670	Sgt	McDonnell, P.
2 i/c	805244	Cpl	Carthy, J.
R/Man	816956	Pte	O'Hagan, F.
R/Man	816541	Pte	Noctor, C.
R/Man	817247	Pte	Glass, R.
R/Man	805857	Pte	Doyle, J.
No 1 LMG	816030	Pte	Kenny, J.
No 2 LMG	815496	Pte	Casey, M.

RÚNDA

Support Platoon

RÚNDA

Pl HQ

Pl Comd	0.8095	Lt	Sreenan,
Pl Sgt	808194	Sgt	Carroll, N.
Sig	816165	Pte	Denton, P.

MMG Section

Sec Comd	809033	Cpl	Hendrick, J.
MMG No	816076	Pte	Gethings, P.
MMG No	815325	Pte	O'Brien, M.
MMG No	815909	Pte	McCarthy, M.
MMG No	814004	Pte	Murtagh, D.
MMG No	813911	Pte	McQuaid, C.

84 MM A/TK Section

ATK No	808720	Cpl	Gregan P.
ATK No	95302	Cpl	Parsons, J.
ATK No	815789	Pte	Carey, E.
ATK No	815914	Pte	O'Regan, J.
ATK No	816077	Pte	O'Neill, P.
ATK No	816094	Pte	Mulhall, D.

81 MM Mor Section

Sec Sgt	806827	Sgt	O'Brien, C.
Mor No	815135	Cpl	Cosgrave, N.
Mor No	808412	Cpl	Nolan, J.
Mor No	817782	Pte	Maxwell, P.
Mor No	816534	Pte	Fitzpatrick, J.
Mor No	816446	Pte	Ryan, T.
Mor No	817549	Pte	O'Rourke, B.
Mor No	813608	Pte	Hughes, P.
Mor No	816067	Pte	Murphy, P.
Mor NO	812638	Pte	McGovern, F.
Sig	814280	Pte	Holohan, A.

RÚNDA

RÚNDA

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ANNEX 'A''B' COMPANY

<u>Coy HQ</u>			
Coy Comd	0.6397	Comdt	Heffernan, M.
2 i/c & Adm Officer	0.7628	Capt	Dunne, T.
C/S	87286	C/S	Kane, W.
CQMS	801477	CQMS	O'Sullivan, J.
Coy Clerk	807192	Cpl	Ryan, C.
Cook	803356	A/Cpl	Delaney, D.
Driver MT	803427	Cpl	Hegarty, M.
OP W & L	815055	Cpl	Scott, J.
Signaller	816006	Cpl	Bradshaw, J.
Storeman/Dvr	817209	Pte	Birmingham, R.
Cook	813356	Pte	Mullane, W.
Cook	812065	Pte	Sheehan, L.
Cook	810491	Tpr	Clifford, J.
Cook	815919	Pte	Sheehan, C.
Driver MT	812783	Pte	Ryan, P.J.
Driver MT	807300	Pte	Houlihan, B.
Storeman/Driver	802396	Pte	O'Brien, M.
OP W & L	811910	Sgm	Caulfield, H.
OP W & L	813283	Sgm	O'Donovan, J.
OP W & L	813370	Sgm	Mullins, M.

RÚNDA

No 3 Rifle Platoon

RÚNDA

<u>Pl HQ</u>			
Pl Comd	0.8150	Lt	Cregan, M.J.A.
Pl Sgt	802457	Sgt	Gray, P.
Signaller	816991	Pte	O'Brien, W.
<u>No 1 Section</u>			
Sec Comd	814796	Cpl	Drohan, P.
2 i/c	803961	Cpl	Grace, P.
R/Man	816941	Pte	Byrne, P.
R/Man	817134	Pte	Ludden, J.
R/Man	816898	Pte	Cahill, J.
R/Man	816373	Tpr	O'Hara, L.
LMG No 1	816976	Pte	Daly, M.
LMG No 2	816929	Pte	Fitzgerald, P.
<u>No 2 Section</u>			
Sec Comd	90613	Cpl	Murphy, P.
2 i/c	814805	Cpl	O'Shea, W.
R/Man	817015	Pte	Foley, M.
R/Man	817592	Pte	Healy, M.
R/Man	815672	Pte	McCarthy, J.
R/Man	815576	Pte	Ryan, E.
NO 1 LMG	817091	Pte	McCarthy, J.
NO 2 LMG	817005	Pte	O'Dwyer, B.
<u>No 3 Section</u>			
Sec Comd	815781	Cpl	Cremin, S.
2 i/c	815442	Cpl	O'Sullivan, D.
R/Man	817467	Pte	O'Sullivan, T.
R/Man	817447	Pte	O'Callaghan, T.
R/Man	814781	Pte	Innes, P.
R/Man	809635	Pte	McSweeney, T.
LMG No	815877	Pte	Feighery, J.
LMG No	817530	Pte	Walsh, J.

RÚNDA

No 4 Rifle Platoon

Pl HQ

Pl Comd	0.8171	2/Lt	O'Rourke, L.C.
Pl Sgt	808993	Sgt	Hunt, J.
Signaller	815577	Pte	Lordan, F.

No 1 Section

Sec Comd	813059	Cpl	Kelly, M.A.
2 i/c	815170	Cpl	Cronin, D.
R/Man	816016	Pte	Sheehan, D.
R/Man	816211	Pte	Linehan, B.
R/Man	815890	Pte	Hurley, P.
R/Man	803760	Pte	Daly, M.
LMG No	815535	Pte	McGann, J.
LMG No	816021	Pte	Brennan, M.

No 2 Section

Sec Comd	805737	Cpl	Coffey, R.
2 i/c	808612	Cpl	Kealy, J.
R/Man	816893	Pte	O'Riordan, E.
R/Man	800840	Pte	Power, M.
R/Man	803668	Pte	Hogan, R.
R/Man	815320	Pte	Kirwan, T.
LMG No	813865	Tpr	O'Mahony, D.
LMG No	805966	Pte	Kiernan, J.

No 3 Section

Sec Comd	813384	Cpl	Radford, J.
2 i/c	808655	Cpl	Butler, R.L.
R/Man	816237	Pte	Coleman, B.
R/Man	817680	Pte	Keohane, M.
R/Man	817657	Pte	Wrenne, J.
R/Man	813766	Pte	McCann, M.
LMG No	817063	Pte	McNamara, J.
LMG No	817818	Pte	O'Keeffe, D.

SUPPORT PLATOONPl HQ

Pl Comd	0.8166	2/Lt	Browne, T.M.
Pl Sgt	86784	Sgt	Fogarty, M.
Signaller	817717	Pte	Burke, J.

Anti Tank Section

ATK No 1	815754	Cpl	Scott, C.
ATK No 1	816086	A/Cpl	Treacy, M.
ATK No 2	815976	Pte	O'Fraherty, C.
ATK No 2	815304	Pte	O'Dwyer, D.
ATK No 3	813386	Pte	McMarlow, C.
ATK No 3	810556	Pte	O'Brien, M.

Mortar Section

Sec Comd	93538	Sgt	McGivney, F.
Mor No	816727	Cpl	McCoy, M.
Mor No	808366	Cpl	Sheehan, M.
Mor No	815522	Pte	Dorney, J.
Mor No	810743	Pte	O'Dwyer, J.
Mor No	812819	Pte	Fanning, J.
Mor No	816841	Pte	O'Brien, J.
Mor No	815575	Pte	Askins, E.
Mor No	816857	Pte	Colfer, K.
Mor No	816378	Pte	Curran, M.
Mor No	805448	Pte	Daly, A.

MMG Section

Sec Comd	802343	Cpl	Gammell, F.
Gun No	806219	Pte	Burke, G.
Gun No	803635	Pte	Looby, T.
Gun No	806191	Pte	Burke, G.
Gun No	816536	Pte	Donnelly, J.
Gun No	814118	Pte	Walsh, D.

RÚNDA

'C' COMPANY

Coy HQ

Coy Comd	0.6882	Comdt	Doheny, W.
2 i/c	0.7678	Capt	Maher, M.A.
Coy Sgt	87704	C/S	McCarthy, R.
CQMS	87542	CQMS	Daly, M.A.
Clerk	815438	Cpl	Mullin, A.
Cook	94829	Cpl	O'Flanagan, T.C.
Driver MT	810935	Cpl	O'Rourke, M.F.
OP W & L	811258	Cpl	Quigley, J.N.
Signaller	810794	Cpl	Finglass, S.J.
Storeman/Driver	94821	Cpl	Cummins, J.
Cook	806009	Pte	Gaffey, T.
Cook	815613	Pte	Carty, B.
Cook	815589	Pte	McConnell, D.
Cook	816913	Sgm	Kiernan, F.
Driver MT	811135	Pte	Fogarty, C.
Driver MT	816832	Pte	O'Connor, O.
OP W & L	816982	Sgm	Cullen, P.M.
OP W & L	815300	Sgm	O'Brien, J.P.
OP W & L	814878	Sgm	McCormack, P.J.
Storeman/Driver	815889	Pte	Kelly, T.P.

RÚNDA

No 5 Rifle Platoon

RÚNDA

Pl HQ

Pl Comd	0.8131	Lt	Dunleavy, C.J.
Pl Sgt	93757	Sgt	Moore, J.
Signaller	815539	Sgm	Hamill, M.

No 1 Section

Sec Comd	97961	Sgt	Foran, J.
2 i/c	807225	Cpl	Moriarty, E.
R/Man	816954	Pte	Quirke, P.
R/Man	812813	Pte	Anderson, M.
R/Man	814675	Pte	Courtney, J.
R/Man	813401	Pte	Talbot, N.
LMG No	817330	Pte	O'Reilly, F.
LMG No	816115	Pte	McAlister, D.

No 2 Section

Sec Comd	816323	Cpl	O'Connell, F.
LMG No (2 i/c)	815544	Cpl	Brady, Wm.
R/Man	815842	Pte	McEvoy, S.
R/Man	815946	Pte	McMahon, T.
R/Man	816319	Pte	O'Leary, J.
R/Man	810027	Pte	Hynes, E.
LMG No	817153	Pte	Matthews, J.
LMG No	811226	Pte	Browne, M.

No 3 Section

Sec Comd	816321	Cpl	Behan, P.
2 i/c	813631	Cpl	Davis, J.
R/Man	817898	Pte	Larkin, N.
R/Man	811341	Pte	Browne, J.
R/Man	811509	Pte	Kelly, R.
R/Man	814681	Pte	Doyle, T.
LMG No	812928	Pte	O'Riordan, M.
LMG No	816105	Pte	Fitzpatrick, B.

RÚNDA

RÚNDA

No 6 Rifle Platoon

Pl HQ

Pl Comd	0.8173	Lt	O'Keeffe, D.E.
Pl Sgt	808502	Sgt	Loughman, J.
Signaller	814757	Pte	Enright, W.

No 1 Section

Sec Comd	813617	Cpl	Cody, P.
2 i/c	803391	Cpl	O'Neill, R.
R/Man	808383	Pte	Carroll, S.
R/Man	815551	Pte	Troy, S.
R/Man	815642	Pte	Dunne, C.
R/Man	808386	Pte	O'Brien, J.
LMG No	816107	Pte	Fitzpatrick, J.
LMG No	817062	Pte	Kelly, J.

No 2 Section

Sec Comd	812917	Cpl	McCabe, C.
2 i/c	814030	Cpl	Shelley, M.
R/Man	817056	Pte	Dermody, J.
R/Man	816838	Pte	Cullen, M.
R/Man	817039	Pte	Coleman, R.
R/Man	812933	Pte	Mortimer, A.
LMG No	806854	Pte	Connolly, J.
LMG No	817042	Pte	Dempsey, R.

No 3 Section

Sec Comd	807852	Cpl	Harman, J.
2 i/c	813616	Cpl	Phelan, T.
R/Man	817621	Pte	Quinn, M.
R/Man	815772	Pte	Stokes, V.
R/Man	817618	Pte	McGrath, D.
R/Man	813335	Pte	Dowling, T.
LMG No	810100	Pte	Kavanagh, D.
LMG No	817747	Pte	Marum, J.

RÚNDA

SUPPORT PLATOON

RÚNDA

Pl HQ

Pl Comd	0.7964	Lt	Taylor, D.J.
Pl Sgt	802312	Sgt	Murphy, W.
Signaller	810945	Pte	Regan, D.

MMG Section

MMG No	813257	Cpl	Donohue, J.
MMG No	816203	Pte	McPadden, M.
MMG No	816202	Pte	Buckley, C.
MMG No	816287	Pte	Lennon, M.
MMG No	816439	Pte	Sweeney, E.
MMG No	810489	Pte	Curry, B.

84 Anti Tank Section

ATK No	809084	Cpl	Feery, J.
ATK No	811528	Cpl	Flanagan, T.
ATK No	816228	Pte	Fuery, J.
ATK No	815263	Pte	Gilligan, M.
ATK No	816272	Pte	Finn, W.
ATK No	816264	Pte	Fallon, E.

81 mm Mortar Section

Sec Sgt	94318	Sgt	McManus, R.
Mortar No	99830	Cpl	Nicell, P.
Mortar No	803974	Cpl	Irwin, P.
Mortar No	815328	Gnr	Mulvihill, J.
Mortar No	814589	Gnr	Daly, W.
Mortar No	817802	Gnr	O'Reilly, E.
Mortar No	815701	Gnr	Sweeney, M.
Mortar No	815698	Gnr	Flaherty, R.
Mortar No	804870	Gnr	Nugent, J.
Mortar No	817557	Gnr	Gallagher, J.
Signaller	804869	Gnr	Mangan, P.

RÚNDA

RÚNDA

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ANNEX 'A'ARMD CAR GROUPGp HQ

GP Comd	0.6313	Comdt	Kelly, T.B.
2 i/c	0.7569	Capt	Smyth, B.P.
Tech Offr	0.7886	Lt	Leaney, C.P.
C/S	91198	C/S	O'Sullivan, M.
CQMS	425362	CQMS	Carroll, J.
Fitter MT Sgt	811965	A/Sgt	Gleeson, P.
Fitter MT Sgt	811931	A/Sgt	Hayes, J.
Cook Cpl	98583	Cpl	Maguire, J.
Cpl Fitter MT	813128	A/Cpl	O'Brien, T.
Cpl Fitter MT	814339	A/Cpl	Dunne, P.
Driver APC	815941	Cpl	O'Neill, J.
Driver APC	809454	Cpl	Deegan, R.
Driver MT	812737	Tpr	Breen, M.
Storeman Driver	804027	Tpr	McManus, D.

No 1 Section

Sec Comd	0.8045	Lt	Stapleton, T.
Comd Armd Car	417782	Sgt	White, P.
Gnr OP	808602	Cpl	Keegan, D.
Dvr Armd Car	812315	Tpr	O'Hara, P.
Dvr Armd Car	815060	Tpr	Povey, W.
Gnr OP	815656	Tpr	O'Mahoney, A.

No 2 Section

Sec Comd	92590	Sgt	Byrne, J.
Comd Armd Car	809449	Cpl	Ginty, J.
Gnr OP	815088	Cpl	Hogan, D.
Dvr Armd Car	814059	Tpr	Keenan, E.
Dvr Armd Car	817192	Tpr	Carroll, M.
Gnr OP	802987	Tpr	Maher, S.

RÚNDA

No 3 Section

Sec Comd	0.8172	3/Lt	Nash, P.J.
Comd Armd Car	805278	Sgt	Evans, D.
Gnr OP	95924	Sgt	Kenefick, M.
Dvr Armd Car	813081	Tpr	Hayles, J.
Dvr Armd Car	812516	Tpr	Reid, R.
Gnr OP	815770	Tpr	Moore, C.

No 4 Section

Sec Comd	435980	Sgt	Morris, D.
Comd Armd Car	812927	Cpl	Hayes, G.
Gnr OP	808513	Cpl	McEvoy, J.
Dvr Armd Car	816475	Tpr	O'Meara, F.
Dvr Armd Car	816751	Tpr	Callaghan, J.J.
Gnr OP	816697	Tpr	Cowman, S.

REPATRIATIONS

0.6745	Comdt O'Shea, H.P.J.	MO, 9th Inf Gp
0.7343	Comdt Cahill, M.D.	MO, 9th Inf Gp
815438	Cpl Mullin, M.	'C' Coy, 9th Inf Gp
814211	Cpl Doran, J.	Hq Coy, 9th Inf Gp
817901	Pte Fitzpatrick, P.	'A' Coy, 9th Inf Gp

DIED

0.7778	Capt McNamara, C.	Tpt Officer, 9th Inf Gp
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REPLACEMENTS

0.6671	Comdt Sheahan, D.	Medical Officer
0.8122	Capt Kiernan, M.G.	Medical Officer