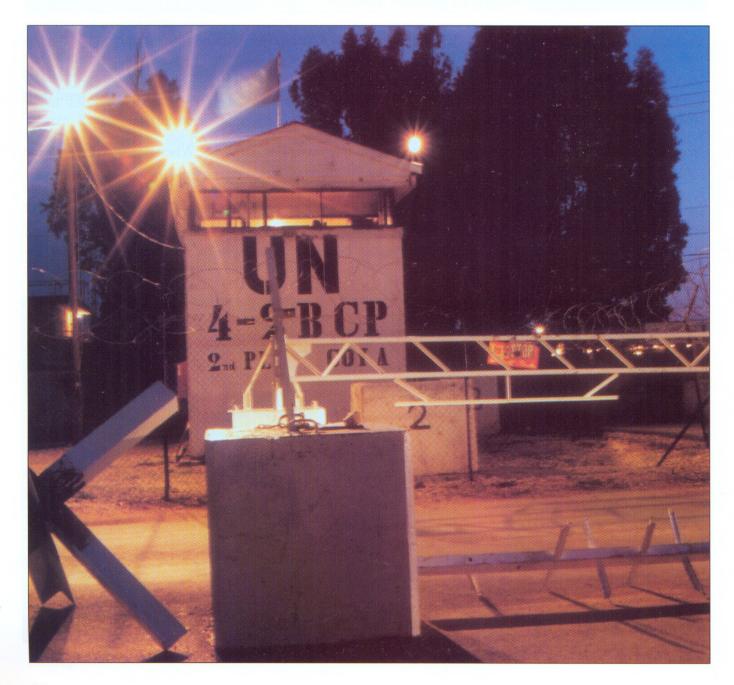


4-2B CP is in general assumed to be Norbatt's largest CP (because it is, ed.), a fact which have led some locals to doubt that it is a CP at all. This has resulted in a new record of "break-throughs" during Contingent XXXVII. Par example by lorries, tractors and pick-ups with an unmistakable odour of agricultural industries.

The CP duty can at times be frustrating, namely when 347 local school-buses downloaded with children eagerly awaiting dinner at home simultaneously find their way into the same CP-file ...

But come to think of the huge size of our CP we'll have to state that the task is performed in an excellent way indeed.

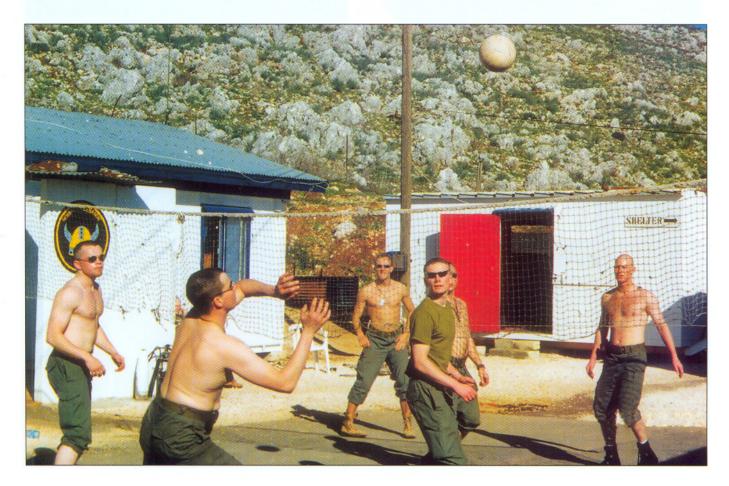
Regards from the two camp-«trynene».



4-2D Camp



In the Squad Camp the commander 2nd lt. Hans Ole Nafstad and his assistant Steinar Berget were joined by a rifle squad in order to man 4-2 B CP and perform patrols. We also hosted Delta Two – or «Veslemøy», well known for being Norbatts quickest rapid response vehicle. Due to 4-2 Delta camps location the so called «puck-faces» are very soon spotted by the rest of the crew after rotation. Blindheim sq. 1 & Groven sq. 4 was always on the spot ... At all times the spirit remained at a peak inside our rampart, hence all memories should be the the very best. Finally, our salute to the rest of the «BATTALION».



4-2 OP Lebanon's Costa del Sol



Operational day ...

4-2 OP is strategically situated at the Northernmost peak of Falkehøyden. Everyday life is far away from parole and physical activities. Neighbouring the catering platoon here in Camp Eagle, we perform the duties (?) and advantages this might lead to. Duties like witnessing staff-members zigzagging their way home after accomplishing their mission in «Sval bar», and frequent patrols to Qana and Tyre.

We take our pride from 4-2 OP's dearly beloved 81mm Mortar, ready to illuminate the vicinity upon request within seconds after dark. Quote from A1M; "Please don't support any more Mortar illumination" – after experiencing that our rapid and precise response almost hit the patrol itself.

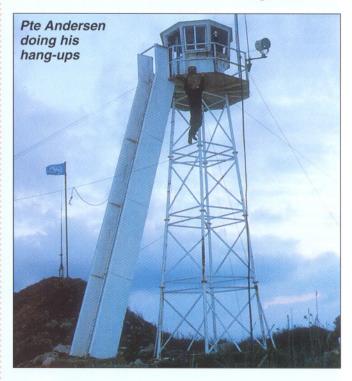
All of us serving for some time must agree; this is a pretty cool location.

Thanks for a really good contingent!

... and night.



4-23 OP The OP God forgot



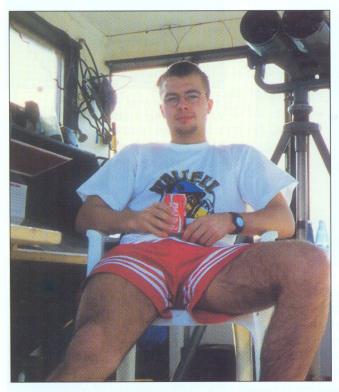
The rehabilitation centre for the mentally disabled hence staying in 4-20 HQ is located in 4-23 OP. Everyone likes it here – away from the stars' and stripes' manipulation of subordinates by means of parole, "closing the door" – instructions and karatekicking. There's great demand for a trip over here but regrettably the capacity is limited to 4 patients at a time. The treatment is intensive relaxation and lots of "Børre". The OP tower will be used for climbing, solitary confinement and not so frequently observation. By the way we're superbly monitoring two of the DFF positions which experience the most frequent attacks of all PVs in Norbatt area of observation, i.e. N 309 & N 329

The centre is hereby recommended!



4-18 OP

Freestate, paradise, Guerilla HQ, Holiday Inn. Loved child has many names, and that applies also to our position. People who have lived here know what that means. It is necessary to personally experience the atmosphere to understand why. The soldiers in platoon 2 can be isolated in two groups, those who have been here and those who want to come. The reason? Freedom and isolation, no stars and stripes in sight (wonder if that's so wise, ed.) on this position, so everything runs smoothly. Everyone joins in on daily tasks and things work out fine.



The outfit in the OP is suitable for a hot position.



"Our friends" from the South pass by a few times a month and spend the opportunity to renew old acquaintances.



4-18, the ideal place to learn the difference between an armed vehicle with and without a cannon.



We do things in our own way. It works and it's fun!



Børve and Grøthe is not present so we mess things up and the food is made in "our special style".

3rd platoon A coy

4-8 HQ

4-8 HQ is located in what used to be first platoon B coy, but during Contingent XXXVIII it has been allocated to coy A, forming the third platoon. One rifle squad and seven staff members are manning the position. The platoon staff consists of our commander joined by specialists as cook, medical assistant, driver, signal and the platoon assistant.

4-8 is a rather large camp, established already way back in 1978. The rumour



4-9 CP

On the Southernmost point of Norbatt AO we find the Blue line CP 4-9, none of it's guardsmen never ever forgetting that Four Niner is really a Bravo coy position. That is, as for 4-8 & 4-10 an exception has been made only during these six months serving under Alpha's black colour. Thus, when this contingent is brought to an end 3rd platoon A coy will be History. 4-9 is beautifully located in the midst of an olive grow just by the town of El Meri. We will not name it the busiest CP in Norbatt, but anyway an even stream of cars are passing through. From our OP on the roof we scan several positions in the nearby area, especially the Halta-plain is viewed with "steel-control", which will be confirmed by any of the OP's in 2nd platoon ...

4-9 is the object of a somewhat timeconsuming renovation, i.e. some work being done whenever the engineer platoon find time...



Celebrating Christmas in 4-8 HQ. From left: Svendgår, Haugen, Ophaug.



A lot of good food – From left: Lt Helsingeng, Avganes, Olsen.

has it that this is a very good position, and during this contingent we've had lots of able men around.

Our closest neighbour is the Dog platoon, and with a pretty good view towards a lot of the nearby towns we are confident that we keep in touch with the development in our AO.



4-9 CP. From left: Sjølstad, Rydningen, Lundeker.

On our way from 4-8HQ to 4-9CP on road-clearing patrol "VK 6" we've exercised our legs and thighs while scanning the hilly landscape to reveal any suspicious objectamong the heaps of rubble.

The rifle squad is a noisy crew from all over Norway, with Norbatt's probably oldest rifleman ruled by Norbatts presumably youngest squad-leader. Nevertheless this has woven us together in good spirits, lots of laughter and high morale.

4-10 CP

The Checkpoint is also a squad-camp, both of utmost qualities – located between Fraidiss and Ain Jerfa with the nicest view towards Hebbariye.

A rifle squad of 9 men conduct the daily duties in the CP, town-patrolling in Fraidiss, roadclearing "VK 8" – and in addition mortar illumination support for Coy Bravo in the Hebbariye-valley patrol-points.

The fact that 4-10 during cont. 38 is an A coy position has been difficult to reconcile for Bravo old-timers. LOTS of routine work would have had anyone crumble under the strains, but the crew presently serving in 4-10 finds this only adding to their strong mental motivation and perseverance.

The fact that 4-10 is so small has made tears run from the eyes of soldiers in their sleeping prefab whenever onions



are cut in the kitchen. Our only welfare offer is the dinner (sic! ed.) brought from 4-8HQ, and the videocar every forthnight.

Due to our size and location we're forgotten by 9er. However we never forget why we're here, and thanks to the Chefs in 4-8HQ we keep motivation strong, and contribute to the peace-keeping efforts in the most convincing and excellent way. And we will continue to do so ...







Mortar firing by Sølna, Langhelle.

BALTBAT PROJECT

The Baltic Battalion is a joint project between several nations in Europe to provide a new peace keeping battalion for the United Nations. The Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania recently regained their independence and, looking Westwards, took the idea from the Nordic UN cooperation which enables small countries to assist the World Body in peace keeping efforts.

The Estonian company will be a part of the Baltic battalion, which may receive a mission from the United Nations some time in the future.



UNIFIL FC's inspection.



Estcoy attracted Lebanese media's attention.

The six-month stay in Norbatt is the first mission for an Estonian company abroad. Judging from the unison positive response it will not be the last. Estcoy's history dates from the 8th of July '94 when the ministry of Defence ordered its formation. After leadership training the period from January to September '95 saw Basic military training course under the British Royal Marines instruction. The soldiers were trained in Estonia before the whole company was fitted with Norwegian equipment and training in the end of September '96.



Guard of honour showed the Flag.

BRAVO COY/ESTCOY



"Captain Asson – looking out for more peace-keeping missions?"

BALTBAT A-COY is NORBATT B-COY is also ESTCOY

We like to say in Estonia: "A good child has many names." Many names a lot of chiefs, a long training period and very important tasks and missions to solve – this is "B" company. A unique situation for 136 soldiers, NCO's and officers from Estonia.

Only some years ago we gained independence and now we are part of UN forces and ready to help other countries. It is a great feeling. We have done a lot of training in multinational environment under international command. It has been a long way from Estonia to Lebanon. Officers & NCO's have been together for two years and soldiers nearly a year. And now we have an important job to do. It is a big challenge for the company and for our country. We are the first diplomats and ambassadors in Lebanon and in the whole Middle-East. We are here to introduce ourselves, our country, culture and traditions. We are not "super- or ironman." We are just normal people.

It is a pleasure for me to say special thanks for all Norwegians who helped and supported us during preparations, training and mission. It was for all of us an interesting and important co-operation. It is a good feeling to have friends around and it is a special experience to serve in one battalion shoulder by shoulder. The time is running very fast here in Lebanon. Soon rotations will start and we have to leave. Of course we feel sorry to go, but we will always remember our most important mission – the first peacekeeping mission for ESTCOY. With special thanks and with best wishes for everybody:

Capt. Tõnis Asson B Coy Commander coys mobile reserve – two SISU APC rifle squads, 24 men together, ready for

action in 5 minutes. The SISUs are armed with 12.7 mm HMGs. The rifle sections have LMG-s, recoilless guns and automatic rifles. It makes CMR close to a motorised infantry battle unit, a demanding and challenging service. CMR executes the UNs will to resist violent actions by supporting B-COY (ESTCOY!) with strengthening CPs/OPs, establishing roadblock positions or a mobile CP, patrolling, area surveillance, tailing of suspect cars and medevac, reconnaisance and armoured transportation in day and night. A reserve unit however takes part in active duty. We are also responsible for boring camp guard. If anything happens somewhere, well be there – but as a peacekeeper, it is not good to ask for excitement.

The

CMR is located in 4-11HQ in Rachaiya El Foukhar and our company commander Capt. Asson can keep his strict eye on us most of the time. As the house where most of us are living has been a cloister before, some parallels to monks or crusaders could be found for a humour. In the monastry we found a TV-room and comparatively well equipped room for body-building downstairs. Soldiers Spreng bar is wisely placed in the far corner of the territory, thanks God.

The small and friendly town was last time heavily bombed in 1985 – many houses are still in ruins. PLO and the Palestinians made a lot of katjusha-attacks from here against Israel and the town was destroyed by Israeli bombers with a vengeance. About 250 people still live here permanently, most of the previous inhabitants have left or come here only for holidays.

One more thing – kitchen is good to have nearby for a soldier. In Rachaiya we have the best kitchen in Norbatt without any doubt not only due to its good food and our professional cooks but also because its picturesque view down to the valley.

text: M-Sgt Soonsein 2-Lt Moora



Happily – no roadside bombs ...

SISU patroling narrow coy B roads



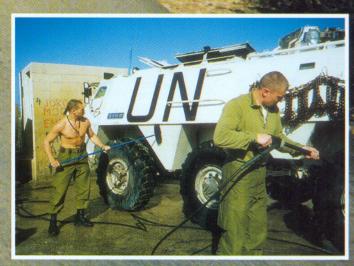
Alfa-SISU squad. A. Soonsein, J. Kasre, P. Tnisoj, M. Meste, J. Knlov, V. Palre, Soosand.



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I.M.R.

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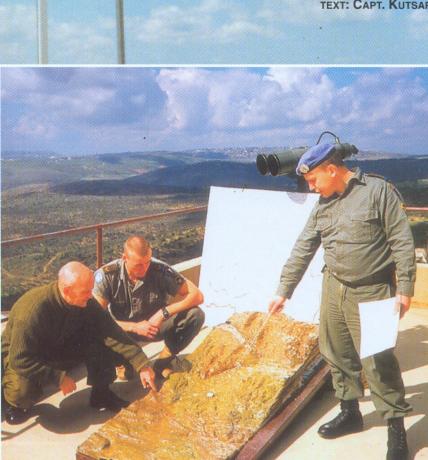
Finbatt workshop demands cleaning.

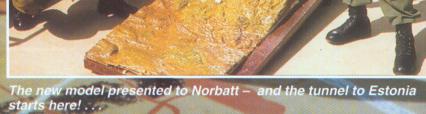
4-11HQ

B-COY/ESTCOY's "heart and brain" was in Rachaiya El Foukhar. With staff, administration group and CMR we were all together 50 men. In 4-11HQ everyday life was busy. Activities varied from filling the watertanks (by watertruck for all positions) and food preparing to the operational work in OPS and CO's or DCO's commanding tasks. CMR alertness and shooting training's, medical treatment of staff and humanitarian-medical aid to local residents, attempts to keep radio and telephone connection constantly working and all the equipment regularly maintained were some of the activities. We were visited several times by the UNIFIL Force Commander and local authorities and they all enjoyed Estonian food and hospitality. Some enthusiasts built up a fantastic Estonian sauna which was too hot even for Finns. At the end of February Estonian soldiers relished Lebanese snow which turned in some days into sunbathe with lot of blossoms. Unquestionably 4-11HQ in Rachaiya El Foukhar is the nicest and busiest position in Norbatt.

> Farewell Rachaiya El Foukhar, nice to see you again!

> > TEXT: CAPT. KUTSAR







Capt. Kutsar treating civilian.



M. sgt. Laasma on duty.



Smiling guardsmen.



Morning parade.

4-12HQ in KAFR HAMMAM, a small town inside NORBATT AO on the western hillsides in the end of small wadi, is a platoon camp for 1-st PLATOON in COY B. The camp is located in a civilian house in the centre of the town, rented from a local authoritative family and remarkably has even some space around it. In one corner of the courtyard the prefabs for kitchen and mess are placed, behind the house is just enough space for a volley-ball court. In the house there is an operational duty room and accommodations for platoon staff and one squad, 2-3 men are living in the same room. Shelter is in basement and "luxury" cabins for toilet and shower are outside by the ulterior side of the house. Platoon staff is mostly occupied with supply, from food to all tiny things there is a need for out in positions. From this position city patrols are being carried out, teams in 4-12OP and 4-13CP are changed from here. Various training to refresh military skills in accordance with the training schedule are conducted, but the camp is also the place where men have to rest when not on duty. In spare time it is possible to watch TV, listen to music, train your muscles, sleep or just have a lazy time taking a sun-bath up on the roof.

There are about 500 inhabitants in Kafr Hammam, all sunni-Moslems. Most people are sunni-Moslems also in the neighbouring villages Kafr Chouba and El Hebarrie. As the mosque with loudspeakers in the top of its minaret is just in 50 meters across the road from 4-12HQ, all personnel in this position have to hear all the islamic prayers five times a day in arabic in the manner the local "mulla" sings them in his stretchy voice. The younger generation from all the surrounding area work mostly in Beirut, and spend only their summer-holidays at home. In summertime the number of civilians in Kafer Hammam increase to over 2000.

Relations between UN personnel and locals are friendly, old people are reserved and unassuming. They seem really peaceful when working on the hillsides with their olive trees and grape-wines. As none of us speak arabic, only negotiation using interpreter have taken place, aiming at introducing the leadership to local authorities (with arrival of new contingent). Also visits with some gifts for schools in Kafer Chouba and in Hebarrie are traditional in Christmas time. We find great help in the UN interpreter Achmed Barakat, who assists us and Norbatt with valuable ad-vice at all hours. As foreigners, it is not easy to understand all of Lebanon even in half year.



The permanent staff at 4-12HQ

4-12 HQ



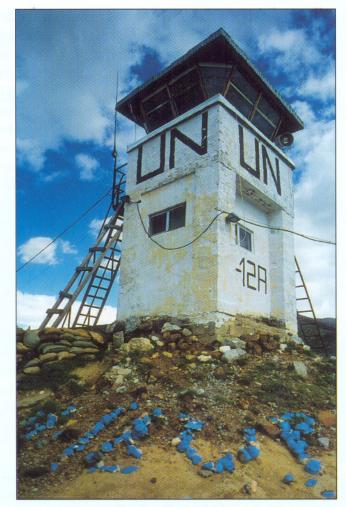
Weapon maintainance is crucial. Having a patio as large as this to work on makes is easier.



A room with a view ...

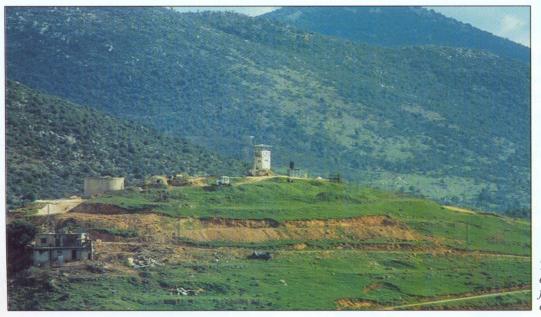
4-12 OP

4-12 OP is manned from 4-12 HQ. Usually the service here is 24 hours, but longer if necessary. The OP is manned with 2 soldiers. One soldier in duty and the other one is sleeping. In 4-12 OP we have not any TVs, GYMs and kitchens, so, it is very boring to be in the OP. We must to prepare our food in 4-12 HQ and take with us to the OP. From our OP you can see lots of UN, IDF and DFF positions, also many cities. Longest distance from our OP to DFF position, is up to 18 km. It is possible to see the very



Constructed in XXVIII and still standing!

famous prison around the world – EL KHIAM prison. Before the mission we had heard so much about it and the finally we can to see the prison with our eyes. After the 24 hours duty we are very tired but we had see so much!



The OP is situated on a hill outside Kafr Hamman, affording it an excellent view of the surrounding terrain.

4-6 Camp

4-6 squad-camp is a patrolbase for the 1st platoon. The position is situated in the village El Hebbariye. In the village live 2000 people, mostly Sunni Moslems. All patrol in and outside Hebbariye is doing 4-6 camp. Every patrols outside the village carried 4 members.

Our task is to prevent infiltration of NORBATT AO. Also we have in duty radioman and campguard. Others may have a rest, make sports, watch TV or make food.

In patrols we have a Doghandler, with dog, of course. We are "borrowing" them from 4-8 Dogplatoon. They live here one week at a time and after that they will go back to their platoon. Thanks, to that, Doghandlers are Norwegians, we are learning the English language. It is a very good point of 4-6 squad-camp!



One of the Norwegian Doghandlers at the patrolpoint B1B.



Back from patrol - soaked!



4-13 CP is situated on the Blue Line, approximately 700 meters North of Kfar Chouba. The CP is an entrypoint to Norbatt AO, situated 1000 meters above sea-level. About 500 meters downhill to the south lies the village of Kfar Hamman.

A very nice view can be seen from the CP, the lowlands dotted with Lebanese cities and villages. Many UN and DFF positions can also be seen.

Our mission up there is to check all vehicles and personnel entering into, or leaving, the Norbatt AO. This includes the prevention of any weapons, ammunition and explosives transport into, as well as within, the Norbatt AO.

The manning of the CP consists of one check post and one securing post. Changing of the guards will be done in the CP. Also, if it is necessary, we will man our OP-tower. When we have time off, we can watch TV, do sportactivities, etc.

Usually we must to make a food by ourselves, but it is a very good practice for us.



Kâmrets outside the security post. The OP can be seen in the background.



Kâmrets in the checkpoint. This is the Blueline – beyond lies unguarded ICA.



The winter is harsh in Chebaa, and flakjackets are actually warm!

Evening in Chebaa. The HQ is in the middle of the town, and parking can be a problem.



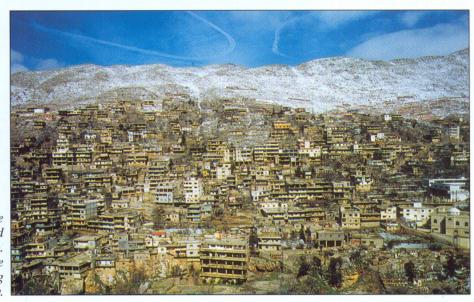
Chebaa

Chebaa is the biggest, farest and highest village in Norbatt area, built on the western hillside of Mount Hermon, holy mountain for many local tribes in history. Houses are built gradually on slopes around the end of a valley which leads westwards to Hebarrie. To the North is the entrance to a gorge leading to Syria, often used by smugglers. A valley leads to the Israeli border to the south, previous Syrian territory. IDF has some strategically important positions on hillsides of Mount Hermon, just up over Chebaa.

There are approximately 3500 inhabitants, mostly Sunni-Moslems and some Christians. During the summer this number increases to 7000 for some months. Due to the mountainous climate and mild warmth it has been a well-known spot for summer-holidays in past. However, due to war and a persistent uncertain situation, it has lost the status as a vacation spot. 4-7 HQ, the headquarter for 2nd platoon in B-COY, is on the top of a civilian house on the northwestern slope of the valley in the middle of town. HQ is manned by the staff and one rifle squad. Their main task is to conduct daily city-patrols in Chebaa, and they often have to support the other patrols in the area of the platoons responsibility.

In Chebaa there also works a doctor, the only female in ESTCOY.

Twice this winter there was so much snow that even SISUs were unable to drive on some of the roads for several days. Living conditions on the most isolated positions, especially in 4-7C OP, became really shabby for many weeks with frozen water system and lack of supplies. But don't worry - you can probe this excitement when being in some future contingent in Chebaa.



Chebaa is a large village, neatly spread out on the hillside. – The trails in the sky are from Israeli jets violating Lebanese air territory.



An early winter morning at 4-7C OP. (occupied Syrian territory).

4-7C OP

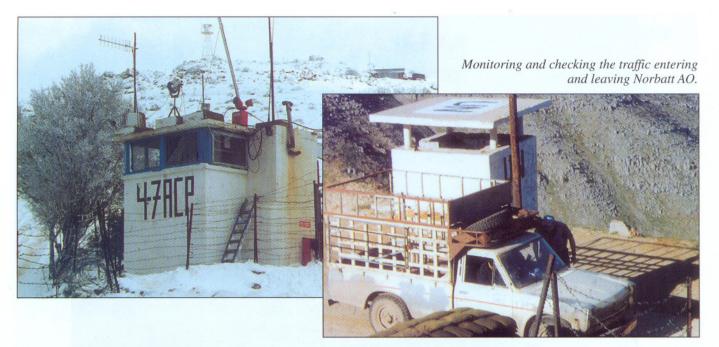
The last position, 4-7C OP, is manned by 3 men, one from each squad. They observe the situation in the south-eastern part of Norbatt AO from the OP tower, where the blue-line meets with the Israeli border (occupied Syrian territory). Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) conduct their regular patrols along the border, often entering Norbatt AO through gate N342. The gate is just some hundred meters from 4-7COP, and the IDF patrols entering have various intentions. Sometimes the IDF patrols enter Norbatt AO starting from positions up on Mount Hermon, where they can use the cover of wadis and are not so easy to detect . To prevent armed conflicts, to show the presence of UN and our will to stand for peace in our mission, all reports from OPs have to be done correctly and in time. "Yes, but what if in clouds or just the foggy weather", some newcomer will probably ask.



The scenery is magnificient. Notice the IDF position on the mountain above us.



Our powerful binoculars makes us able to see everything that goes on. We are the eyes of Chebaa!

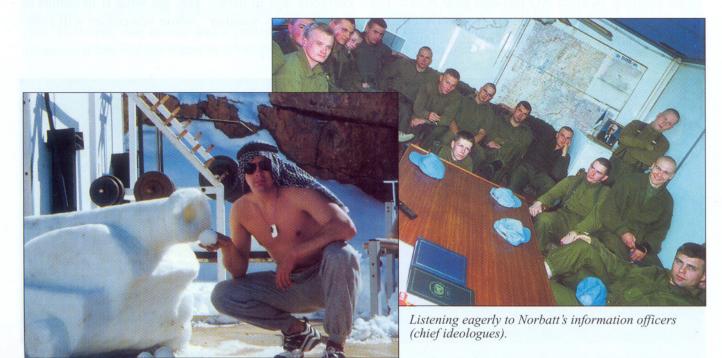


4-7A Camp/CP

Two other rifle-squads live in 4-7A LL, called Alpha-camp, up on the hills in direction NW from the town and not far from the only "asphalt" road connecting Chebaa to the rest of the world. Their main task is to man 4-7A CP, a blueline check-point down on the road. There are also SISU- and foot-patrols in Alpha-camp ready for action, mostly used by order during night-time. When IDF, GSS or armed DFF soldiers enter Norbatt AO in the Chebaa area, these groups will be tailed according to MOU on softskin vehicles or with SISU, depending on situation.



Patrols are an integral part of our duties at 4-7LL.



We DID have some time off – and a lot of imagination!

4-14 OP

4-14 OP is the highest position in UNIFIL. The OP is situated 1480 meters above sea-level, between the villages KFAR CHOUBA and CHEBAA.

Our mission is to observe all activity in and outside NORBATT AO, with special attention to traffic on the roads. The OP is manned by a squad of 10 men, 3 men on duty for 24 hours at a time. One individual shift consists of 4 hours OP duty followed by 4 hours camp duty, then 4 hours rest. This cycle is then repeated once. We enjoy lots of spare time on this position, enabling us to watch our favourite TV channel – MTV and work out to build up our bodies.

During the wintertime we had lots of tourists from other positions coming to visit us, because up here we experienced a real winter. Snow was up to 60 cm – we loved it!

On guard at 4-14 OP. Let them come!

Duty life



Israeli air-bombs and

arty shells on expected

Islamic Resistance targets attacking N 329 next to 4-27 OP and the village Kaoukaba.



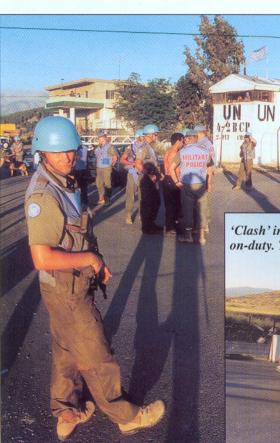
Everyday life in Norbatt is DUTY – and again. DUTY makes the man (and woman) it is said – and it sure makes you sick and bored at times. But then again you never know what will happen. So you have to be alert – en garde – on DUTY !



Italair for heli-medevac after dark – did Berntsen ever break a leg?



Norbatt Coy A line-up before 'Busk'-patrol.





Pioneer Blomberg during one of several attempts to clear a new 4-18 OP. Didn't quite work out with the "red tape" on top.

'Clash' in 4-2B CP; – 3 drunk soldiers off-duty met with UN soldiers on-duty. Tension, escalation, spectators, defusion and finally control.





Medical – and observer – teams link up before patrol.

ICA patrol

Norbatt has a long standing tradition in humanitarian work. The medical patrols in the Israeli controlled area South of UNIFIL area of deployment is coordinated with OGL Teams Sierra and X-Ray. The youth has fled and the natural development is thus stalled due to the front-line situation of attacks and forced recruitment. A political solution is needed, but till then UNIFIL assist legal authorities with medics, dentists and veterinarians patrolling with interpreters twice a month when possible.



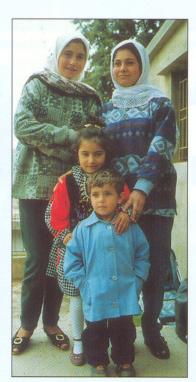
The dentist helps out !



An old farmer explains his grievances.



Veterinarian Aursjø found friends.



Queing up in Houle.



First graders in Blate.

Norbatt AO

Humanitarian committee funds local efforts, amongst others supplying diesel for heating the Arkoub schools during winter. The Blate school is one of many inside Norbatt AO.



Not a branch, but a whole olive-tree from A coy peacekeepers...



Agg mek made sure Field Service left another generator in 4-2!

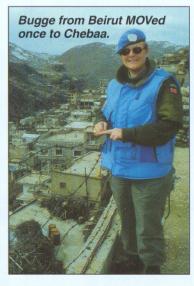


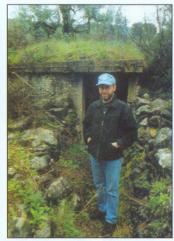
Coy A guard of honour.





Colonel questioned by Canadian TV.





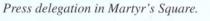
Martin Yttervik PIO Hebron by PLO bunkers in Hebbariye.



Coy B guard of honour.



HQ coy line-up for FC.

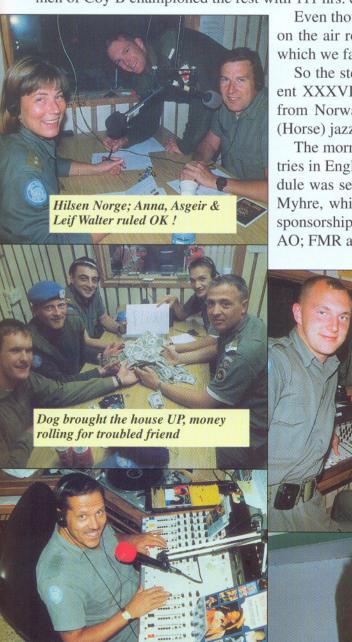






Radio Norbatt

Used to be the only Norwegian language radio station in the whole Middle East. It still is, but during this contingent it was also the only Estonian station! Coy B was steady goin' regulars on the air with shows every Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays. To be in Rachaiya or elsewhere in Coy B dominion was no problem – the information was brought to you via Frequency Modulated signals whatsoever. The Marathon men of Coy B championed the rest with 111 hrs. continuous endurance!



Ken 'Hestejazz og lassopop' Vestli.

'Delta 2' paradoxically became 'Nedtur' – Absolutely Akre-Aas.



Mr. Myhre cleverly contrrroling.

Even though the technical equipment is ageing, we managed to be on the air round the clock, though not with Norwegian NRK Petre, which we failed to receive from the satellite during 3 months ... So the steady going of our faithful live show sould from conting

So the steady going of our faithful live-show souls from contingent XXXVII was also very welcome – the Medics with 'greetings from Norway', and A coy individualists with 'Nedtur' and 'Heste (Horse) jazz & Lassopop'. Welfare and clergy not to mention.

The morning briefs were given in Nor & Est language after initial tries in English failed to achieve positive reactions. The Radio schedule was sewn together by the corporal in charge, assPIO Geir Egil Myhre, while the PIO capt Grut was busy promising – and getting sponsorship for – new antennas to bring the signal to the Western AO; FMR and Naqoura. It became a 39-problem...

Lt Vaabel with ops news.

Virtuos technician & showman. Hallik & Tuvike seriousl

humourous.

Estshow was cpls Saarma, Raudsepp & Laasma.