

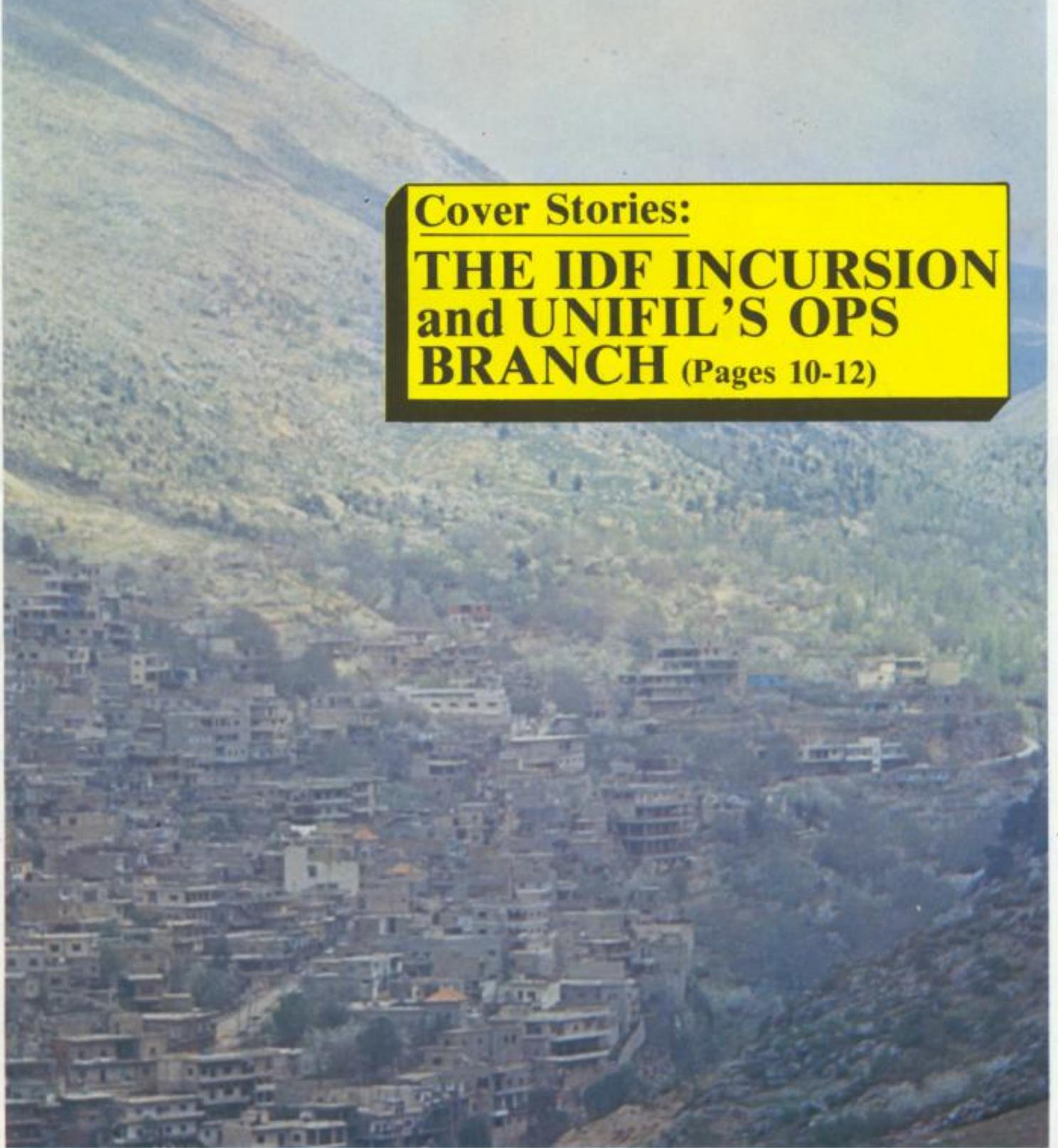
# Litani

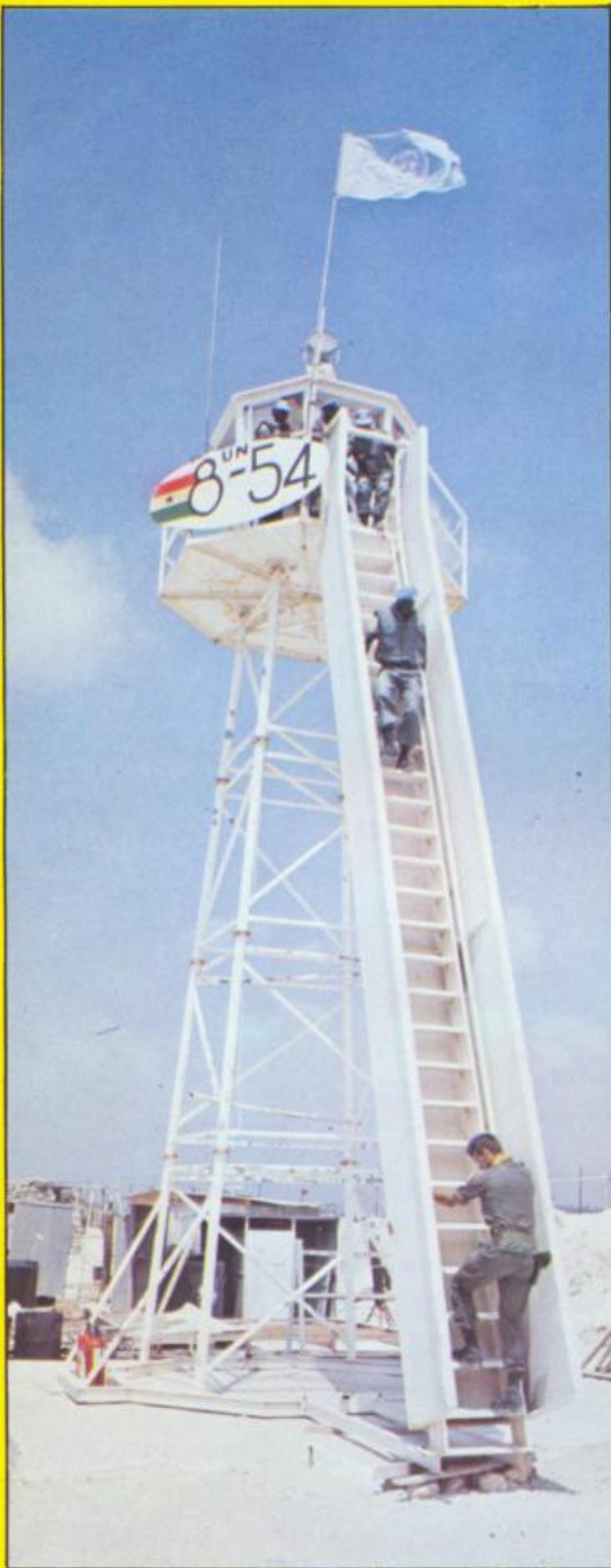
UNIFIL MAGAZINE Volume 14 No.6 June 1988



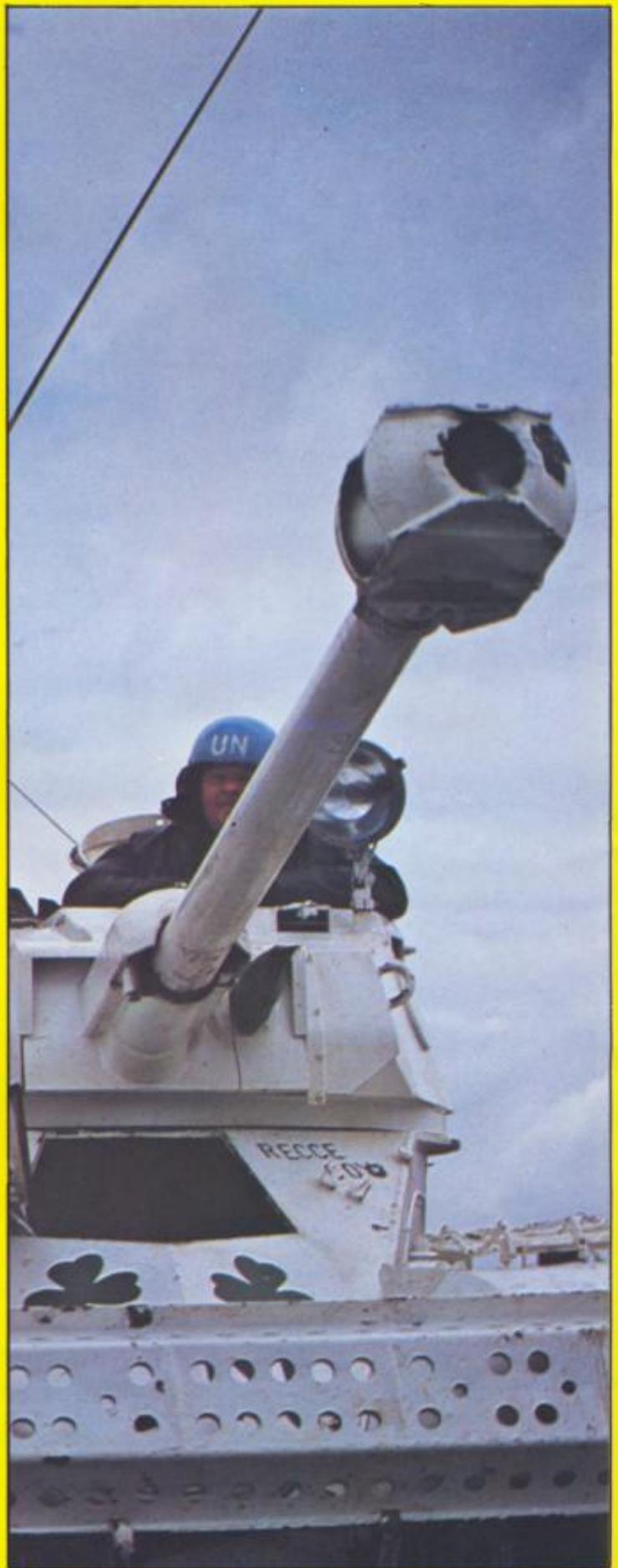
## Cover Stories:

**THE IDF INCURSION  
and UNIFIL'S OPS  
BRANCH (Pages 10-12)**





An Observation Post at a Ghanaian position in the AO.



It is the operational task of UNIFIL to be on guard for peace in Lebanon, and therefore there is a strong link between the daily OPS functions at the Headquarters and the lads in the area of operations.

# Litani

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### Front Cover:

The Chebaa and surroundings, part of the Norbatt area of operations (AO). This beautiful part of war-torn Lebanon became the arena of increased activity related to UNIFIL in May and June. In early May this area saw part of the IDF incursion through Norbatt.

(Photo: PIO/NORBATT,  
Capt Rolf Kristiansen.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



The months of May and June have seen a number of changing faces within UNIFIL. We have seen contingents rotating among themselves as well as staff officers. As a staff member and editor of this magazine, I would also like to inform our numerous readers that a new staff train will be taking over from us. On behalf of the Force Commander I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new arrivals and hope that they will have a successful tour in Lebanon. To those who have left and are also about to leave, I wish them bon voyage and a successful

career wherever they may be going.

To the new staff of LITANI, it is the wish of those who are leaving that you continue the publication and inject more enthusiasm and interest into the magazine in order to satisfy the numerous readers

and admirers who frequently stampede the office in quest of information and knowledge.

On behalf of the outgoing staff, I take this opportunity to wish you all happy welcome and good publication.



The outgoing CMPIO, Lt Col F.E.A. Quayson.

## FROM THE

# Litani FILES



Lt-Gen William Callaghan, the predecessor of the now outgoing Force Commander said: "We are to enable people who want to stop fighting to do so".

Two years ago Maj-Gen Gustav Hagglund's predecessor Lt-Gen William Callaghan gave his view on UNIFIL after more than five years as Force Commander.

Said the General to LITANI: "Peace-keeping is a mechanism which is used to enable people who want to stop fighting to do so. A peace-keeping force enables the belligerents to retain face while they break off. The main role of a peace-keeping force is to police the agreement. This policing role is not a military role, but it demands people who have professional training, who have

discipline, patience and an understanding of what it takes to make war. Only soldiers have these attributes. Making war is a soldier's job, and making peace is the direct opposite of that. Because of that contradiction, soldiers are the best peace-keepers," said General Callaghan.

LITANI went out from the definition given by the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld that "peace-keeping is not a job for soldiers, but only soldiers can do it". The General's elaboration suggests that the two eminent leaders had views which were perfectly in harmony with one another.

Asked about the casualties that UNIFIL had suffered in carrying out its task in South Lebanon, and whether this is too high a price to pay, General Callaghan answered that he considered the casualties suffered in conflict situations as most regrettable. "But in any operation of peace-keeping there are attendant risks. Our losses, therefore, must be viewed in the context of the situation in Lebanon", said the former Force Commander, Lt-Gen William Callaghan. He emphasized that the acceptance of casualties by the various contingents and the troop-contributing countries demonstrates their commitment to peace-keeping and, to a greater extent, to peace in Lebanon. To him, as Force Commander, such a commitment had been very encouraging. He said to LITANI in April, 1986.



## FOCUS ON

# GHANA ENGINEER COMPANY

The Ghana Engineer Company, one of the two UNIFIL engineer support units was established in 1984 with the strength of three officers and 57 men. The strength was increased to a company which operated under Camp Command, Naqoura. It was later moved to Kafr Dunin (8-1). Presently, the company is co-located with Swedlog Coy at Jwayya (8-46).

**T**he company provides second line engineer support to all battalions serving with UNIFIL including UNIFIL HQ. Specific jobs that the company undertakes include prefabrication, maintenance of existing

prefabs, construction of rubble halls, construction of cesspit tanks, building of generator houses and minor civil constructions. The company also undertakes the installation of plumbing facilities, construction and

maintenance of sewage systems and installation of electrical fittings to prefabs. The company at times assists in the improvement of field defences. Jobs are assigned to the company by the Chief Engineer Officer (CEO).

### ORGANISATION

The company is under the CEO for operational and technical control. Administratively, the company comes under Ghanbatt. The unit is presently organised into a company headquarters and two platoons of three officers and 56 men. The company is made up of mostly tradesmen i.e. electricians, plumbers, masons, carpenters, steel benders, surveyors/Topo draughtsmen just to mention a few. The company is under the command of Captain Musah Brimah and Captain Victor Akladzi as second in command.

There is a detachment located in Naqoura. This detachment comprising one officer and six men of various grades i.e. electrician carpenters, masons etc. is responsible for the provision of engineer support to units in Camp Command. At UNIFIL HQ, the company occupied itself mainly with construction of prefabs. Nepbatt AO also benefitted from company areas of constructional works including improvement of field defences, repair of plumbing works and construction of prefabs. Jwayya Camp which was nothing more than a section post has now been given a face-lift to merit a company location.

Here the line must be drawn between the General Services Section and the Engineer company. The role and task of the General Services Section do not conclusively extend to the area of operations. This implies that the construction of a greater number



Capt Musah, OC Ghana Engineer Company, directing his men at a constructional site.



A team from Ghana Engineer Company attached to UNIFIL HQ, working on a prefab.



Ghana engineers working on a prefab.

of projects in the field is undertaken by the Engineer company instead of General Services. General Services concentrate its activities in the HQ Naqoura. Once again, the Engineer detachment in Naqoura undertakes the construction of prefabs etc as stated in previous paragraphs.

It is important at this juncture to mention the Swed Eng Coy. This unit which is co-located with the Ghana Engineer Company assists the latter with the provision of sophisticated engineering machinery to enable the unit perform efficiently. It must be realised that stores and other general items required for the execution of jobs are provided by the Swedlog unit based in Naqoura. The requisition and provision of all engineering stores are controlled by the Chief Engineer's Office at the headquarters.

Thus, the approvals for works including the initiating of new ones are in the main the responsibility of this office. Ghana engineers, therefore has a responsibility to and respond directly to the CEO.

#### IN THE FIELD

Apart from the detachment in Naqoura, there is an Engineer Platoon attached to Ghanbatt. Even though Ghana Engineer Company has no authority over this unit, a liaison has been established which enables good co-operation and enhances overall efficiency of the platoon.

Since the arrival of the company in Nov. 1987, the company has worked in FMR, Nepbatt AO, NMC, Tyre Barracks/Log base, UNIFIL HQ, Ghanbatt, Jwayya and Humanitarian Projects at SILA.

In FMR, they undertook the construction of generator house, kitchen, prefabs, cesspit tank, erection of water tanks and solar system, laying of sewage pipes, erection of ablation units, construction of concrete base for cold rooms and OP tower plus other minor constructional works.

The company has been able to accomplish satisfactorily jobs assigned them. It is therefore envisaged that in future more constructional jobs like construction of cesspit, rubble hall bases etc will be undertaken by the company to justify its existence as an engineer company.

Capt Musah Braimah  
OC

# GHANA ARMY CHIEF VISITS UNIFIL



The Ghanaian Army Commander, Maj-Gen W.M. Mensah-Wood, who is also a member of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) of Ghana visited UNIFIL from 8th to 12th May 1988.

During the visit, the Army Chief had a working session with the Force Commander, Maj-Gen Gustav Hagglund and toured the Ghanbatt area of operations with a courtesy call on Nepbatt where he had fruitful discussion with the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Chiniya Behadur Basnyat.

The Force Commander (left), Maj-Gen Gustav Hagglund, discussing a point with the Ghanaian Army Commander, Maj-Gen W.M. Mensah-Wood sitting right. (Photo: WO1 T.Y. Musah, press Photographer LITANI)

The Army Chief has since returned home to Ghana.

## Nepbatt hosts DFC conference

CO Nepbatt XIV Lt. Col Chiniya BDR Basnyat, welcomed the participants at the DFC's conference in camp "TRISUL". In his welcoming speech he presented the situation of Nepbatt AO in brief. He said that Nepbatt felt proud to host the conference.

On the photograph, DFC Brigadier N.B. Basnyat (second from left) opening the conference. Extreme left: ACOS/OPS, Col. Peltier (middle) and by his side ACOS/LOG, Col. Alstermark.



# FAREWELL TO FINBATT

**J** ABAL MARUN: Force Commander, Maj-Gen Gustav Hagglund, in an unofficial manner started bidding farewell to units in the AO. In one of such visits to the soldiers of Finbatt before heading for Finland in June, the Force Commander remarked: "I feel a little bad because I haven't visited Finbatt for sometime now. The last time I did was in Christmas. However, I address my priorities rather towards troubled areas than peaceful ones like Finbatt. This proves that your AO has not many problems as compared with others" said the Force Commander.

During the visit to Finbatt, the FC Maj-Gen Hagglund inspected thirteen positions in one and a half days. It was a tight schedule, but the visit was very pleasant and worthwhile. He was hosted by the CO Finbatt Col. H. Paronen and his deputy, Lt Col. J. Pollanen.

On the visit, Force Commander took the opportunity to meet Lt Gen Essemann, Commander-in-Chief of the Danish Armed Forces for a brief discussion at Posn 9-40. The C-in-C paid a visit to his Danish countrymen serving with UNTSO.

WOIII J. JUONALA  
PIO FINBATT.



Force Commander having a chat with the men at Position 9-50. Behind him from left to right: Col H. Paronen, CO Finbatt, Sr Lt M. Ahopetio and Mai T. Haikonen, OC B Coy.

## Assistance to the people:

### *New School for Lebanese Children*

**SRIFA:** Finbatt builds a new school for the Lebanese. In a town of 6,000 inhabitants near Srifa a building project has been launched for the benefit of the local people. New school for about a hundred pupils is expected to be ready in autumn.

— "The aim of the project is to build a complete school with all the necessary equipment, ready for the teachers and pupils before

the next academic year. Funds for the project is being provided by the Finnish Foreign Ministry funds for developing countries," explains Captain Timo Lahtinen, intelligence officer from Finbatt.

The task for the construction of the school was given to Sgt Arto Huovinen, foreman and supervisor of the building project. This is what he had to say:

"This job was given to me to complete my last four months of service. Floor area of the school will be about 200 square meters. There will be three classroom. UN colours will be pretty well visible when the school is ready, because the prefabricated elements are white", Sgt Huovinen says.

In Srifa area, there is a definite need for a school for the education of young people between the

ages of 16 and 18. The new school will serve all the people living within ten kilometres of the school. Teachers will be recruited locally, but everything from chalk to desks will be supplied by Finland.

Estimated costs of the project will be about 150,000 US-dollars.

WOIII J. JUONALA  
PIO FINBATT

# FOCUS ON FIELD LIAISON TEAMS

The year is barely half-way through but UNFIL has gone through a lot of "plastic surgery" to change its complexion and outlook. As our interim force whose mandate has been extended continuously for ten years UNIFIL has had to improvise, albeit on an ad hoc basis, to fill in gaps and loopholes that its "impermanent" nature may have created. Such "cosmetic" change came in the formation of the Field Liaison Teams to replace OGL personnel who were withdrawn from certain parts of the UNIFIL AO on the wake of the kidnapping of the COGL Lt Col Higgins in February this year.

There are currently two teams operating in the AO — Field Liaison Team No.1 located at Nepbatt HQ and responsible for Nepbatt and Irishbatt AOs and Field Liaison Team No.2 located at Ghanbatt HQ and responsible for Fijibatt, Finbatt and Ghanbatt AOs respectively.

Due to lack of personnel the teams were drawn up from personnel from the Ops Branch whilst the withdrawn OGL personnel filled in the positions vacated by the officers in the Ops Branch.

The teams are under the command and control of the DCOS Liaison with a Team Coordinator appointed by him to serve as a normal point of contact between the teams Liaison Branch and UNIFIL HQ.

The missions assigned to the Field Liaison Teams are to:

- a. Provide another agency to assist battalions in the investigation of incidents within the battalion AOs.
- b. Assist newly rotated battalions become familiar with their AO.
- c. Assist newly rotated battalions become familiar with UNIFIL SOPs, especially in operational, liaison and reporting systems.
- d. Establish and maintain contacts with local Lebanese authorities (Mukhtars, Sheiks etc.) Lebanese Army, Gendarmerie located in battalion AOs, and local security organisations.



Deputy Chief of Staff Liaison, Col. J. Kelly, at his desk in UNIFIL HQ. The head of the Liaison Branch is in charge of a very important job of contact and communication.

(Photo: WOII ISAAC OKYERE)  
LITANI: Press Photographer

le. Arrange and record meetings as requested by battalions or Liaison Branch. Copies of all reports or minutes are to be forwarded to Liaison Branch through battalion headquarters.

These missions may be initiated by the battalions, by Liaison Branch or by teams themselves. Teams are also required to work in close cooperation and coordination with the battalion commanders and staffs in their assigned areas.

A quick glance at the role or missions assigned to the Teams will reveal that they are different from that of the OGL before them. What then makes the Field Liaison Teams different from the OGL Teams?

There are two basic differences that this writer can discern from a comparison of the modus operandi of the two different organisations. The first lies in the composition: The Field Liaison Teams are drawn from nationals of the battalions in whose area they operate.

Perhaps with the teams composed as of now the battalions see themselves as being well represented and are now more eager to cooperate.

The second and perhaps most significant difference is that whereas the UNMOs of OGL go about unarmed the Field Liaison Teams are armed and can also operate with armed escorts. This is to give them a measure of self-protection.

There are other differences that can be added but these two are perhaps the most significant.

Since the teams started operations on the 21st March all has not been rosy. There was the initial scepticism from all quarters both from within and without UNIFIL. However, with time the teams have come to be accepted by the local population who are willing to cooperate directly or indirectly with them. Field Liaison Team No.2, for instance was involved in delicate negotiations to cool tempers following a traffic acci-

dent at Jwayya on 22nd April involving a UNIFIL vehicle and local Lebanese vehicle in which one prominent local religious leader lost his life. That no serious incidents have occurred to date point to the success of the mission of the Field Liaison Team No.2 in that delicate and potentially explosive situation.

Despite the many pluses that can be assigned to the Field Liaison Team the future is still not clear.

The Operations Branch is also well justified in wanting back their staff officers who had well settled into their jobs. At the time of going to press the debate still goes on with no light at the end of that long and dark tunnel.

**CAPT B.F. KUSI**  
Field Liaison Team No.2

# Norway's National Day

**N**orway's National Day — 17 May — was celebrated traditionally in Norbatt, Normaintcoy and at the UNIFIL Headquarters at Naqoura. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed the pleasant Norwegian night at the Officers' Club of the HQ, where part of the celebration took place. Already from the morning the programme proceeded smoothly with brunch on the patio of Norway House, attended by Norwegian soldiers and families, their children beautifully dressed for the occasion and all carrying flags and rosettes in national colours.

At eleven in the morning the Norwegian Contingent Commander, UNIFIL's chief of Staff, Brig Gen Trond Furuhovde, laid a wreath on the remembrance monument of Norwegian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the service of UNIFIL.

In Norbatt HQ at Ebel es Saqi the celebration was equally eventful and joyous, with more than 200 children from the entire Norbatt area of operations partaking in games, dances and children's party.

In the Norwegian Maintenance Company special games were arranged for the children of Tibnine. Usually there are about 250 children in Tibnine, but because the last day of the Ramadan happened to be the day before, there were a lot more people present and about 500 boys and girls participated in Normaintcoy's arrangement!

The company vehicles collected the children in Tibnine and brought them to the camp named Scorpion. Before this, the chaplain made a short speech at the Tibnine market place. One of the civilians working in the camp translated the speech into Arabic.

In the afternoon there was arranged a ski-jump competition with costumes. And when darkness fell on the camp at night there was a barbecue party for 160 Norwegians living in the camp.



The Norwegian contingent commander, UNIFIL COS, Brig Gen Trond Furuhovde at his remembrance address in front of the Norwegian monument in Naqoura. Standing to attention with the wreath (right) is SOA to COS, Maj Stein Aarnes. (Photo: Sgt Eirik Olsen)

Being away from our native country on our National Day the Norwegians in Lebanon are aroused with rather special feelings. Warm thoughts are sent from young fathers in Lebanon to those small ones at home and the old grandfather is thinking of his wife and the small grandchildren. On such a day everyone's heart is in Norway. Norwegians are lucky because they live in a country where peace has lasted for more than 40 years. We are sending many thoughts to the people of Lebanon who have not experienced peace for the last 10-15 years.

Compiled by Capt J. Elvemo  
(PIO/NMC) and  
Maj E.K. Holtet, D/CMPIO.



The children from the Tibnine area participated in the Norwegian programme throughout the National Day. More than 500 were inside the camp of Normaintcoy on the 17th of May. (Photo: Capt J. Elvemo)

## Media attention at UNIFIL OPS:

UNIFIL OPS

*IDF's Sweep Operation*

Monday 2 May: The Israeli army (IDF) initiated a large scale sweep and search operation North of the Norbatt area.

In the OPS room of UNIFIL there was a hectic monitoring, as the situation developed. Already in the afternoon hints of

the Israeli incursion into Southern Lebanon were coming to UNIFIL OPS but at that time the IDF operation was still largely unknown, said Major Jan Kristensen, Deputy Senior Ops Officer to LITANI.

The press "leakage" from Israel was succeeded by an official Israeli statement later in the evening, saying that the operation was well under way and referring to it as a sweep operation to secure the control of areas after a number of infiltration attempts at the Israeli border in the foregoing week. More than 1500 IDF soldiers moved in. And as usual the "nerve centre" in UNIFIL monitoring, the fundamental body for decisionmaking inside the peace-keeping forces, was the OPS Branch, headed by the ACOS/OPS, Col Bernard Peltier from France.

— Whatever happens, the OPS room and the branch is always at the centre of events, making every effort feasible to achieve results in accordance with the United Nations UNIFIL mandate, said Peltier in an interview with LITANI. What is the course of action when things like the "May incursion" occurs? Major Kristensen, an experienced OPS officer from Norway, explained: — Normally we are informed through UNIFIL channels. For instance, the duty officer of Norbatt despatches briefs and the same is of course being done at every battalion headquarters. Special

events will attract special attention — and sometimes there are developments which have to be acted upon.

The log book in the OPS room at UNIFIL Headquarters reads a massive lot on developments in the Area of Operations (AO) on a daily basis.

From 3 May, the day after the Israeli incursion, the general assessment read: "Calm, Tense in Norbatt".

A special assessment went as follows: "The operation is assessed as a sweep and search of areas

North of Norbatt AO... There is also reported rounding up of young men in villages of Chebaa and Hebbariya in Norbatt AO and in Kfar Chouba immediately South of Norbatt AO. Norbatt is monitoring developments. The Operation is still continuing at the end of reporting period at 0500".

On 5 May the general assessment was also: "Calm but tense in Norbatt area". On 6 May, however: "Calm". The withdrawal of IDF/DFP troops had begun.

Text: D/CMPIO  
Maj Einar Holtet

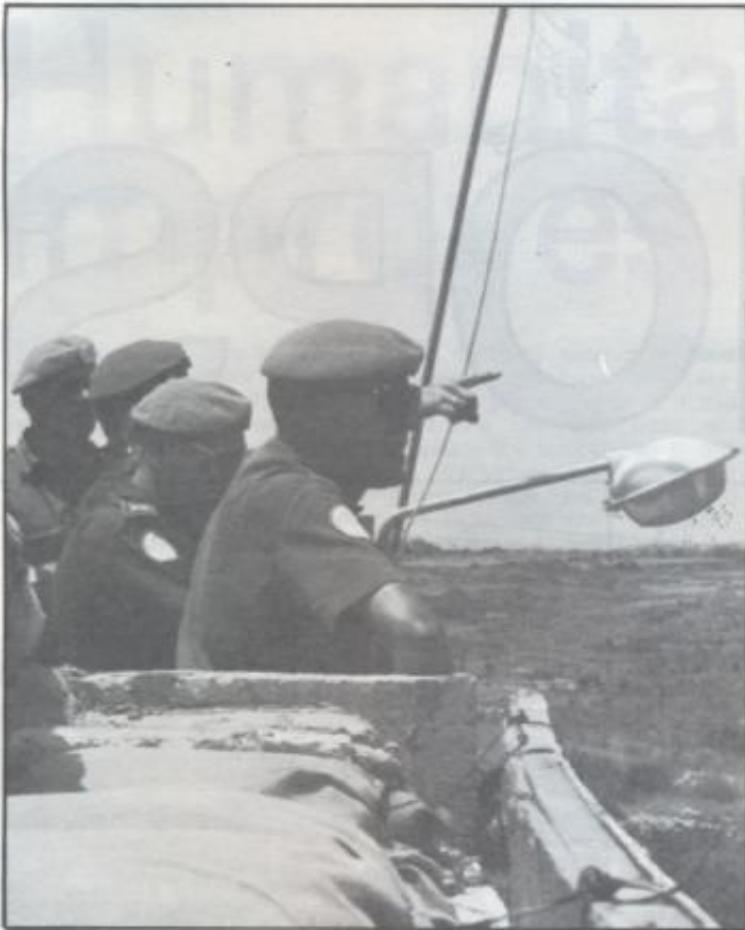


Deputy Senior Operations Officer, Maj Jan Kristensen and signal man R. Lynch receiving hot news from the Area of Operations. (Photo: WOT Y. Musah).

## COVER STORY

## OPS

## The Search for Higgins a Difficult Challenge:



The ACOS/OPS, Col Bernard Peltier visiting the HQ of Force Mobile Reserve (FMR). To the right, Col Peltier, the top man at UNIFIL's OPS Branch.

Sometimes we are tightly involved with the battalions, and there is team-work all over. The field aspect of UNIFIL operations is essential, says Col Bernard Peltier, the UNIFIL Assistant Chief of Staff/Operations (ACOS/OPS) to LITANI. His most difficult professional challenge up to the time when this interview took place in his office, was the abduction of the US Marine Lt Col William Higgins. This offered immense operational task.

It is our duty to do what we could to find him and in fact we conducted a military operation of large scale. But so far the Chief of Observer Group Lebanon has not been found.

Anyway, has UNIFIL done all that was actually possible? Yes, and in high spirit. The operation lasted more than one week, with UN personnel from different battalions sealing off certain areas, patrolling and controlling wide areas. — Apart from the Higgins search operation, what is your general view of UNIFIL achievements? With all the sacrifices we must be permitted to say it is a pretty good job, not least in preventing the local people from suffering more from the atrocities in Lebanon. However, as I look at it, we have a very heavy responsibility when it comes to UNIFIL's personnel as well. The security of UN personnel has always been a basic con-

sideration in UNIFIL operations," said Peltier.

And he concludes: Thank God we have had no casualties in UNIFIL action since I arrived here. We must keep alert. For even if it seems calm now, the situation in Lebanon is far from stable and atrocities or military conflicts may flare up any time."

Colonel Bernhard Peltier has had the overall responsibility for operations since he arrived in the headquarters in October last year and took up duty as ACOS/OPS. In this position, as "commanding officer" of the main body within the operational UNIFIL, he has benefited vastly from his previous

duties and experiences. He has served as officer in several areas abroad, such as Algeria (twice), Madagascar, Saudi Arabia, Berlin, Strasbourg.

I have had to learn the real values of team-work, he says. In UNIFIL there is, as a matter of security, very good teamwork between OPS and other branches. The OPS branch is the main body, but we could not do much without a close cooperation with others, the battalions in particular. This is crucial for us, both personnel-wise and when it comes to UNIFIL obligations as such," says Col Peltier.

Interview: D/CMPIO  
Maj. E. HOLTET

# Col Peltier: — Security First!

## UNIFIL

The "Nerve-Center"  
that Never Sleeps


 OPS


Senior Operations Officer, Lt. Col. McMahon in his office at UNIFIL HQ.

The UNIFIL "nerve center" is the current Ops, a well equipped unit which takes care of the continuous contact with the units. Here, at the heart of UNIFIL, is the one place within the peace-keeping force which at any given time is to have a comprehensive overall picture of the situation in the entire Area of Operation.

Just a glance inside during hectic hours of heated events will convince you that the saying about the OPS branch is true: — It's really alive! These lads are in control. The man in charge is Lt col G. McMahon, Ireland.

The Branch itself comprises much more than the OPS Center. Working in close cooperation with the current OPS is the Signals Office, headed by Lt-Col P. Coughlan, also from Ireland. The cell is responsible for all operational communications.

From Itair four officers make up the Air Staff headed by Maj A. Caltabiano. The office stays in

close contact with OPS, with regards to all helicopter flights. The OPS also maintains a very close cooperation with Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) and their observer teams.

Three officers make up the Plans office, which takes care of evacuation plans, redeployment, the SOP, and is headed by Lt Col G. Kadavulevu of Fiji.

Seven men work in the MIO cell, the Military Information cell.

The duty officer of the MIO cell gives a daily briefing at the OPS morning brief, and stays in regular touch with the military information officers in the battalions, coming together once a month for a SMIO conference. The Senior Military Information Officer is Lt Col M. Rigot from France.

Responsible for the entire OPS Branch is the Assistant Chief of Staff Operations, Col Bernard Peltier (see interview). Col Peltier is from France. Obviously he and his deputy, Lt Col J. Haikio from Finland are in continuous touch

with all parts of operations. He is also responsible for the daily OPS morning brief at the UNIFIL headquarters.

The Headquarters of UNIFIL might be quiet and apparently abandoned at nighttime and during weekends. But don't be mistaken — there are always a number of men on duty at various levels. At the OPS Branch many people are on duty around the clock, with a Force Duty Officer on top of the command ladder below the Force Commander himself. The Operations Branch thus constitutes a vital part of UNIFIL and its operations in the field.

Lt Col Planting on "The machine gun obsession":

# Humanitarian work improves relations

This is not only to give a hand to needy people in "our" UNIFIL area. I should think it's a reasonable means whereby we may be entrusted with the confidence and friendship of Lebanon.

So says Lt. Col Tor Planting of Finland, a Liaison Officer with UNIFIL since January 1987 and already an experienced aid worker in the area. Humanitarian work can improve relations, is Col Planting's firm belief and he wants to put it into effect through personal commitment. He has succeeded.

Since his arrival a shipment of 5000 kilos of clothes has been distributed among poor and needy people in nearly all battalions' area of operations. A total of US \$5000 worth of medicines have been provided likewise and distributed in a perfectly controlled manner. And some weeks back the energetic liaison officer — all of a sudden — came up with about 600 kilos of toys for small Lebanese children.

Certainly you must have noticed the many small boys playing with plastic guns, as if this were the best and most appropriate toy for children in this country. What we did was to give some of them new and different toys. They got more peaceful things to play with, while we gently received their plastic machine guns in return," said Tor Planting in an interview with LITANI.

## MACHINE GUN "OBSESSION"

"The machine gun toys reflect generations' attitudes. Personally I am convinced that it is no coincidence that this type of toys have had such a widespread distribution and success in this country. For small children the plastic machine gun has been a highly valuable and welcome present to receive. We want to turn the tide and make the boys of Lebanon want to have other interests as well. The machine gun obsession has to be replaced somehow," said



Col Planting's "friendship family" who will be looked after also in the future. — This is a type of work which I feel is really personally rewarding says Planting.

Col Planting.

By gentle cooperation he has been able over time to attract people's interest and their keen collaboration.

his pragmatic way. "And remember, when we help the Red Cross, we will help many. Besides, this way we can work hand in hand with Lebanon also in the humanitarian field."

## FRIENDSHIP FAMILIES

The capital needed is not something which we may receive from generous Finnish foreign aid budgets," said Planting. For my particular purpose I have had to mobilise my "beggar bowl" in which some fine Finnish people have chosen to put some surplus money. But altogether this comes to small — however very profitable investment. Right now a new programme is initiated: Friendship families in Lebanon — for families in Finland."

## ENJOYABLE

"It is really enjoyable," he concluded. "I feel like having such a splendid opportunity to get closer to the wonderful Lebanese people. And it pleases me to see that our small effort gives results. Naturally this type of thing is specially suited for liaison people like me to carry out. Our contact is with the people, and things in the humanitarian line come almost automatically. But I think there are ample opportunities for many others as well, and many a good project is definitely carried out in the battalions. There is a lot of good examples, and it's a pity that so many of them seem to go largely unnoticed," said Lt. Col Tor Planting.

## FOR THE RED CROSS

Among the institutions now finding themselves in receipt of Col Planting's "coins in the beggar bowl" is the Lebanese Red Cross, an institution which is always working hard for people. "They need much help," Planting said in

Maj E.K. Holtet  
D/CMPIO



Mr. Akeel and his family receiving food from Lt. Col Tor Planting and Mr Hassan Sikiawi.

# CHRONOLOGICAL DIARY OF EVENTS IN GHANBATT



18 Dec 87. Change of command at Ghanbatt AO. Lt-Col Nguah (left) CO Ghanbatt 29 says "well done" to Lt-Col Okae CO Ghanbatt 28



27-28 Jan 88. A/COS Log and Logistics Staff paid a two-day inspection visit to Ghanbatt. Capt Gbevlo-Lartey (in cap) OC Charlie Company explains a point to the team



24 February 1988. Ghanbatt vehicle ran into AE's ambush, Major Aryiku (second from right) 21C Ghanbatt pays a visit to Cpl Amankwaah in hospital at Swedmed Cov.

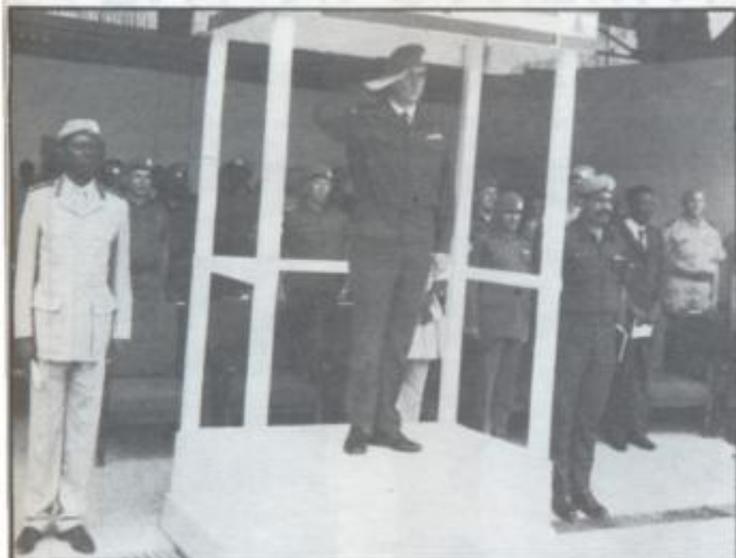


20 March 1988. The new Ghanaian Contingent Commander Col RB Comney paid maiden visit to Ghanbatt AO. Capt Osumanu 21C Bravo Company explains a point to the commander at posn 8-48.



28 Mar 88. The FC Maj-Gen Gustav Hagglund visited Ghanbatt. The FC at Alpha Headquarters.

AO (Dec-June) CHRONOLOGICAL DIARY OF EVENTS I



FC takes the salute.



Lt-Col Donkoh Irtldinspects a Guard of Honour commanded by Maj Owusu-Ababio, CC HQ Coy.



Reviews the parade.



A cultural Display by the GA Group/Akan Group



13 April 1988. Ghanbatt won the UNIFIL Soccer Championship trophy at the Inter-Contingent Soccer Competition held at Irishbatt.



Mr Garnapas inspects a Quarter Guard mounted by a detachment of the HQ Coy.

Compiled by MAJ. J. K. AGBOTSE (PIO Ghanbatt)

# FORCE COMMANDER INSPECTION TOUR OF UNITS AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE AOS AND UNIFIL HQ.

For the second time in the year the Force Commander Maj.Gen Gustav Hagglund conducted an inspection tour of units and departments in the AOs and UNIFIL HQ. We bring to readers pictures of the FC's activities at the AO's



25 April, 1988 FC inspects Swedlog. At one of the centry posts the FC inspects a rifle belonging to one of the soldiers.



On 27 April, 1988, the FC visited Fijibatt. He is seen inspecting a quarter guard formed by Fijibatt Hq.



At Force Mobile Reserve (FMR) 2 May, 1988 the FC was given a demonstration drive on an armoured car. With him right is the CO, FMR, Lt. Col H. O'Connor Left is the 2i/C Maj L.A.D. Normanyo.



On 6 May, 1988, the FC paid an inspection tour of the MP Coy. Picture shows FC inspecting personnel of the Coy.



FC discussing a point in an Irish position during his visit to Irishbatt AO.



The FC inspecting the French Defence platoon



At Itair the CO Lt.Col A.Ometto explains a point to the FC. The heli above demonstrates how a casualty can be evacuated from a place which is inaccessible to vehicles.

## FC INSPECTS NEPBATT

It is the tradition of Nepbatt to welcome FC after the occupation of AO by the new battalion. This time the new battalion known as DEVIDUTT honoured the Force Commander Maj Gen Gustav Hagglund. DEVIDUTT feels proud to be in UNIFIL for the second time.

The visit of the Force Commander started with the introduction of the officers present in the battalion headquarters. The Force Commander was presented with the Guard of Honour in Nepbatt HQ. After the inspection of different quarters and stores of the battalion, CO Devidutt, Lt. Col Chiniya BDR Basnyat, briefed the Force Commander on the organisational, operational and administrative functions of the battalion and was followed by NIO Maj. R.B. Vaidya and Maj. Pawan Pandey respectively. When the briefing was over, the Force Commander toured the following posts 5-4, 5-7, 5-12B, 5-15, 5-30, 5-27 and 5-18. During his inspection Force Commander discussed the operational readiness of each post. At the same time he discussed the problems facing the various



On 12 April, 1988, the FC visited Nepbatt (5-18) D Company. He was conducted round by CO of Nepbatt Lt.Col C.B. Basnyat.

positions. During his visit respective Coy Commanders were also present. The Force Commander took off from Tibnin for 5-18 D Coy HQ as programmed earlier. At 5-18 he inspected with keen interest. Lunch was served after the inspection.

At the end of the visit, Maj Gen

Gustav Hagglund expressed his great satisfaction towards professional approach and high morale of Nepbatt XIV. Also he wished all the Nepbatt members a happy and successful stay in South Lebanon.

Nepbatt XIV feels very much honoured by the FC's visit and

very much thankful for spending his valuable time inspite of his heavy schedule. This is an inspiration given to all ranks and for his commendation for good work.

Maj. R.B. Vaidya  
PIO NEPBATT



# Finbatt



Finbatts danger man No4 smashes a ball which was blocked by two forward players of Nepbatt. This was during one of the exciting moments of the match.

## CHAMPIONS IN VOLLEYBALL

After a gruelling and energy exhausting volley ball match between Nepbatt and Finbatt at Nepbatt volley ball pitch on Wednesday 4 May, 1988, Finbatt beat Nepbatt by three games to one to emerge the 1988 champions of the UNIFIL inter continental volley ball competition. Nepbatt won the first game by 15 points to Finbatt 7. However in the second, third and fourth encounter Finbatt won by 15-12, 17-15 and 18-16.

It was indeed a tough and close battle, but since in a game of this nature one should win, by all means one has to bow to the better side.

In the first game Finbatt won the toss and Nepbatt took the first service and without much a-do shot ahead by 6 points to

Finbatt's nil. Nepbatt quickly capitalised on this early lead and made light work of Finbatt by beating them 15 points to Finbatt's 7.

In the second encounter Finbatt awoke from the slumber and proved that she is a force to be respected. Both teams fought neck to neck for a time when suddenly Finbatt pulling all the tricks and tactics under their sleeves went ahead from 12 points to beat Nepbatt 15-10.

The third and the fourth game was full of tension and excitement. With each team having one game advantage both teams were determined to edge each other out. They both have the fighting spirit and the ability to locate a loophole and strike. Besides

having a balanced striking power both teams could dribble, block expertly and baffle opponents before smashing a ball. The weakness in the Nepbatt team however is the tendency at times of creating a vacuum at the rear or midfield. This Finbatt capitalised on and consequently accounted for the defeat of Nepbatt.

In the third game Nepbatt in the first three minutes led Finbatt by 3-0. Finbatt levelled up at 3-3 but was over taken again by Nepbatt 7-3. Finbatt levelled up a 7-7, and went ahead of Nepbatt 8-7. From here the game became a ding-dong battle. At 15-15 Finbatt finally had the edge over Nepbatt by beating Nepbatt 16-15.

The fourth game which was equally energy exhausting and

tension-packed was also keenly contested and was again won by Finbatt at 18 points to Nepbatt's 16.

On the whole the match was very exciting and entertaining. Both teams understand the game and did really show that volley ball is as entertaining as any other game. But perhaps the greater credit must go to the Ghanaian Umpire WOI Joseph Huze who expertly handled the game to the admiration of both the players and the spectators.

WOI E. ADIH  
LITANI REPORTER

Photograph by  
WOI TY MUSAH,  
LITANI Photographer



# GHANBATT WHIPPED BY FIJIBATT

**S**ince the exit of Senbatt from UNIFIL arena Fijibatt has slowly but surely established itself as master in basket ball. This assertion has been confirmed when they humiliated Ghanbatt on their own grounds before their supporters in the finals of UNIFIL inter contingent basket ball competitions. The weather that fore noon was appropriate for both teams and the spectators. Ghanbatt first appeared on the pitch and by their warm up exercises one could see that they were determined to win the match at all costs. Fijibatt on the other hand looked relaxed and took things easy as if to say that victory was a foregone conclusion. The match

began with Ghanbatt bringing the fight to Fijibatt. They were fast, crisp and slippery in the initial stages of the match and it came as no surprise when they registered the first basket and led by 4-0 after five minutes of play. Ghanbatt continued hunting for more baskets but could not penetrate the Fijibatt defence to register the needed points. Fijibatt took things easy and allowed Ghanbatt to exhaust itself before switching on the fire works on Ghanbatt.

Meanwhile Ghanbatt was leading by 10 plants to Fiji 5. At the fifteenth minute of the match Fijibatt levelled up matters and was running neck to neck with

Ghanbatt with the scores at Ghanbatt 10 Fijibatt 10. Ghanbatt sensing danger quickly made a change but this could not halt the onslaught of Fijibatt and it was no wonder that at the end of the first half Fijibatt beat Ghanbatt by 15 baskets to 10.

Boldened by this first victory, Fijibatt resumed the second half with vim and vigour. Ghanbatt on the other hand with their defeat came back in the second half resolved to win the second match and quickly led by a baskets to Fiji nil. This early lead however could not last long. Fijibatt quickly levelled up matters and led by 9 baskets to 4. At this stage Fijibatt became master of the pitch and could do anything with the ball.

The height advantage and the robust structure of the Fijians completely dwarfed the Ghanaians, and the only thing the Ghanbatt players could do was to be effective at the midfield. The Fijians adopted a strategy of building a stalwart defence around their net which did not only [make] it impossible for the Ghanaians to score but also made them to commit many faults which cost them dearly. Try as they did the Ghanbatt team could not get a balanced posture and were beaten by 26 baskets to 12. Final scores were Fijibatt 41 Ghanbatt 22.

**Text: WOI E. ADIH  
LITANI REPORTER**



*A Ghanbatt player is about to throw the ball into the net while a Fijian player checks him from scoring.*

# UNIFIL Library

The UNIFIL HQ Library is a powerful communication centre of knowledge and entertainment. From the initiative of Col. R.B. Commey, the then CMPIO and the current Deputy Chief of Staff A & P and also Ghanaian Contingent Commander, the seed of UNIFIL library was sown in 1980.

The first stock of 1,000 books was purchased to lay a firm foundation for the growth of the library. From such humble beginning the library continued to grow bigger and richer with additional interesting and educative books, periodicals and other related materials in French and English.

The library now has a video section which has a sizeable number of video cassette tapes covering adventure, action, war, espionage, suspense, horror, Western, musical, erotic, comedy, etc. It is interesting to note that this section of the library is heavily patronised by a majority of HQ staff officers as well as the civilian staff. It is also important to mention that the Reference and Periodicals sections are richly stocked with quick reference material, periodicals and newspapers ideal for a medium-size library serving a cross-section of the population in UNIFIL: civilian and military alike.

There is enough accommodation in the ante-room with a seating capacity for twenty readers at a time.

Since the inception of the library the clientele has increased tremendously with the Irish at the forefront followed by the French and Fijians.

The purpose of the UNIFIL library is to provide access to recorded information and ideas to both UN servicemen on peace-keeping operations in Southern Lebanon.

As a communication medium the library has a tremendous role to play in developing military strategies capable of breaking with old methods as knowledge continues to change rapidly.



Miss Mary Roth of Finance Section in UNIFIL HQ donating books to the library.

It is appropriate to reiterate that in the provision of military knowledge the library plays a unique role in the moulding of servicemen to improve and develop their skills and promote innovation in military activities.

The library should therefore not be seen or regarded as a mere place of relaxation but should be seen as an investment in personnel and community development since without its services it will hardly be possible to get full value from a vastly greater investment in military education and research programmes.

Not only does the UNIFIL library serve soldiers with its rich stock of books, periodicals, newspapers, films, etc. but it also brings servicemen in the peace-keeping area to explore, discover and share together the wisdom and experience accumulated in books and other related materials.

With the continuous increase in stock, the UNIFIL HQ library will be doing all that it can to eliminate the boredom that peace-keeping entails.

As an outgoing librarian I wish to seize this opportunity to render on behalf of the CMPIO, Lt. Col. Quayson, and on my own behalf sincere thanks to the following for their personal donation of books to the UNIFIL library to augment the stock:

- Miss Mary Roth - Finance Section
- Comdt. Schappascher - Logistics Branch
- Capt. Hynes - QM Sect.
- C/Ch Howard Philips - Fr. OPS Room
- C.Ch Nicolas - Fr. Def. Coy

I wish also to pat the shoulders of the following servicemen for displaying high standard of discipline and courtesy any time

they came to the library for films or books:

- WO1 Sosivets Bolla - CMPO Office
- Cpl T. McKay - UNIFIL Ops
- Sgt. P. Quigley - MP Coy
- Pte. S. Murtagh - QM Stores

The statistics of the library record book indicate a large number of readers but the following are the fast readers:

- Cpl. McKay; Sgt. Quigley; Major Daniel Mayeras; Capt. Sanchez; Lt. Pequinot; Lt. Col. J. Martin, WO1 Samuel Yeboah and Lt. Col. D.B. Karki.

Finally my profound gratitude to all and sundry who patronised the library during my tour of duty for their maximum cooperation accorded me. Wishing all the readers happy and enjoyable reading.

WO1 S.C. Koranteng  
UNIFIL Librarian

# THE STORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL MESS

**T**he history of the International Mess occasionally referred to as the "HQ Mess" can not be complete without the name of Mr. Christos Eleftheriou, a Greek Cypriot. This is his story..

"The Mess began with the establishment of UNIFIL in 1978. It was located in its present place with a small bar, dining room and something comparable to a kitchen. The Mess started feeding about two hundred military and civilian staff and all the services were done in tentage outside. It will interest readers to note that at the initial stages, the resources available to run any meaningful mess was far from satisfactory. For instance there were no other kitchens apart from the Frenchlog kitchen which was in tents. It was a period of innovation and the inexperienced local staff had to be given in-service training at least to bring them up to an appreciable standard of acceptance.

"The HQ camp was not secured and everything was at the mercy of thieves and the weather. The situation became more alarming due to indiscriminate shelling and firing at the camp. The winter was unbearable and work had to be done without all the facilities we see around today. The uncertainty of the staff reporting for duty was always entertained by the authorities and every day that passed was a blessing.

"It was during the month of November 1978 that changes were gradually seen taking place. The construction of new prefabs to house the dining room and other important facilities were provisioned. The recruitment of the international staff to man the mess began in this period together with accelerated training.

"How were supplies obtained in these difficult periods? This is a question a lot of us will ask. Frankly, UNIFIL had a big depot at Akko in Israel where dry rations were collected. Meanwhile, fresh



The manager Christos Eleftheriou to the left, discussing today's menu with his staff (from left to right: Sibini Housen, Aminimi Ateneyam, George Doody, Samuel Aninikora (all cooks) and to the right Michael Muller (mess supervisor). (Photo: WOII Isaac Okyere).

vegetables, milk and bread were collected from Nahariya, with the Frenchlog supplying frozen meat which was stored in small deep-freezers mounted on vehicle trailers.

"In the operation of the Mess itself, the methods employed were but conventional. Everything was done practically by hand. The peeling of potatoes, vegetables, etc. was all manually done not excluding washing. To recall the history of the International Mess will be as if you are telling a fairy tale but it is true. The Mess you see today has gone a long way since March, 1978. Today, one could easily say with pride that the outfit has served the purpose for which it was established.

"It goes without saying the countless functions the Mess has undertaken. Apart from provision of normal meals, it has, and continues to offer catering services for VIPs, national days and special occasions. It also used to cater for emergencies as was done in November 1981 when the main

road from Rosh Haniqra and the swing gate were closed and both military and civilian staff had to stay in Naqoura for three days and also no local staff allowed to enter. On this occasion, the mess became indeed the "saviour" as well as home for the confined staff. All the same, arrangements had been made with HQ Camp Command to assist in such emergencies as it happened recently when the local staff went on strike.

"Looking into the future, we see a very bright light at the end of the tunnel. It is the hope of the Mess to satisfy all nationalities if possible and prepare to meet the various religious and sectarian requirements of all military and civilian staff working both in the HQ including casual visitors from the AO.

"It is our wish to modernise our kitchen by refurbishing and replacing old and obsolete equipment. But here it must be noted that the Mess had not been able

to install a washing machine since its inception because the power produced by the generator cannot sustain it. As such washing is still done by hand. Furthermore, no structural developments are envisaged in the near future but hopefully some renovations are possible options.

"I as an individual, despite the hardships and other problems encountered in the early stages conclude by saying I have enjoyed working in UNIFIL since I arrived in 1978. I have also believed that having the welfare of people entrusted to you at heart is half the battle won in any establishment. I have confidence in my staff and they have the same in me.

"I appreciate the cooperation I have received from all sections of UNIFIL to make the Int. Mess what it is today. I have been in this type of job since 1952 and have served in various countries but I think here in UNIFIL has been more exciting and full of thrills."

Maj May Carlsson is the new Force Medical Supply Officer (FMSO). She took over the appointment from Lt Col Rolf Ivan Sjoquist who has left UNIFIL for home. Maj Carlson was born in Sweden and graduated as a pharmacist in 1980 from the University of Uppsala.



Even though she has no military background, she had previous UN service in UNIFIL as Chief Pharmacist at Swedmedcoy from February 1985 to February 1986. She took up the present appointment on 15th April, 1988. LITANI welcomes her to the "big family".



**S** /Sgt David Dok Dong popularly known as DD in short was born on 22nd April 1946 at Congo, a village 10 miles on Bawku road near Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region of Ghana. He was enlisted into the Ghana Army on the 24th day of June 1964 after completing his elementary education in the year 1963 at Zuarungu Middle Boarding at the age of 16 years. After his basic Military Training at the Armed Forces Training Centre in Kumasi, he was posted to 4 Infantry Battalion on 25th January 1965 at Michel Camp, Tema.

In 1980, he served with Ghanbatt 13 in Blatt from April-December. He is presently with Ghanbatt 29, UNIFIL Headquarters (SMIO) as Chief Clerk for that Cell. This is what he had to say

"To me, working side by side with foreign soldiers from different parts of the World has afforded me the chance to gain a lot of experience which a formal education could not have given me. My advice to serving troops in UNIFIL is that the mission which has been given must be accomplished and therefore everybody must work hard, be fair but firm and also courteous at all times. I also advised my fellow soldiers to learn a lot of lessons from the present Lebanon situation".

He is married with six children, four boys to defend the country Ghana and two girls to increase the population of Ghana. His hobbies include closing late from office, listening to world news, music and viewing pictures especially video.

#### DEPARTURES

The under-mentioned officers left UNIFIL during the month of April and May, 1988. UNIFIL

wishes them the best of everything in their new careers and appointments.

1. Col RE McCorley
2. Col V. Yrjola
3. Lt Col G. Jervas
4. Col A. Carlstrom
5. Lt Col Dunne
6. Lt Col E.J. Ek
7. Lt Col G. Torresi
8. Lt Col JJ Farrell
9. Col J. Lundgren

- MA to FC
- DCOS (Liaison)
- Chief Humanitarian Officer
- Chief Medical Officer
- Force Welfare Officer
- Chief Supply Officer
- Chief Air Staff Officer
- CO Irishbatt
- Swedlog

Lt. Col. Rolf Ivan Sjoquist, the Force Medical Supply Officer, has left UNIFIL for Sweden. Lt. Col. Sjoquist arrived in Naqoura in March 1987 and took up the appointment of Force Pharmacy Officer. During his tour of duty in UNIFIL HQ, he devoted his entire time to restructuring the Medical Cell within the Logistics Branch in a more pronounced staff position in the organisation, administration and planning for the medical units. He also changed the medical procurement from Swedish sources to Lebanese to save money in this era of tight-controlled budget. We wish him bon voyage and success in his new appointment at home.



### TRIBUTE TO LATE MR OSEI BONSU AGYEMANG — FSO

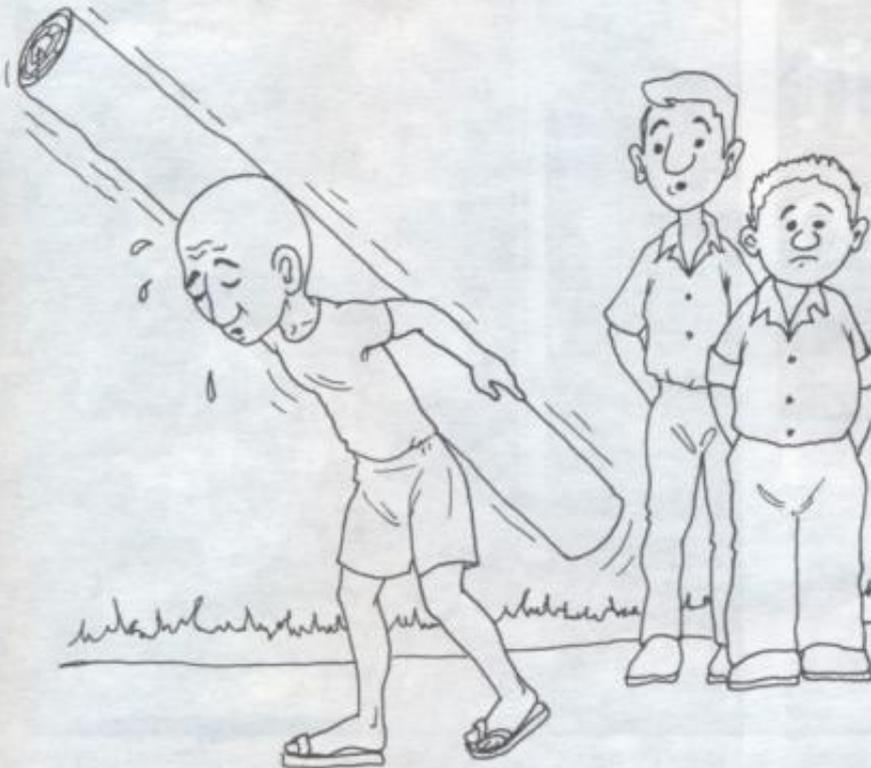
The above-named FSO died at his home in Nahariya, Israel on 12 April, 1988. He was forty-seven years old.

Mr Osei served with the Ghana Armed Forces for eighteen years before being recruited by the UN to serve in UNIFIL in 1979. He was assigned to various Sections including Procurement, Operations and Engineers where he last worked.

In a short tribute in his honour at a pre-burial service held on 20 April, 1988 at UNIFIL HQ, Naqoura, the CAO, Mr Rotticci Vitore said among others that Mr Osei endeared himself to all his colleagues and that he will not be forgotten.

Mr Osei Bonsu left behind a widow Mrs Faustina Osei Bonsu Agyemang and four children. May his soul rest in peace.

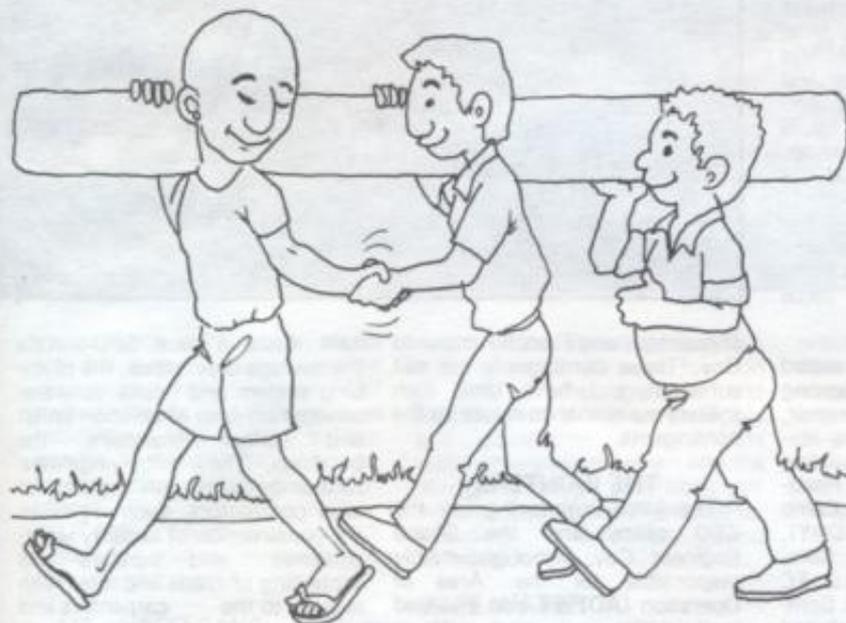


The Poet's  
CornerShared  
Burdens

Democracy, Bureaucracy, Plutocracy  
They all mean nothing to me.  
Socialism, Capitalism, Communism  
They never ring a bell in my ears  
All I know is that one and one is two  
That the sun rises in the East and sets in the West  
That North and South are Poles apart  
And South — south the new order.

I also know that a hungry stomach has no ears  
And a hungry man is essentially an angry man  
I have also concluded that my roof must not shelter only me  
That my farm must not bear for only me  
Whatever I have I must share with my needy neighbour  
That is the essence of communal living  
Each being his brother's keeper  
One man's sadness is everybody's sorrow  
One man's joy is everybody's ecstasy  
That is the way we are  
That is how we were  
And that is how we shall be  
For we know that where heads are many  
The burden is easier to bear

Capt B.F. Kusi  
(GHANA) UNIFIL HQ



Send

Litani

Home



# Special Projects Unit — attends to our needs!

— Who takes care of the technical equipment and installations needed for keeping up the everyday life in UNIFIL? Who carries out the repair works when the toilet gets out of order? Who are responsible for checking the taps in the showers? And the prefabs of Camp Tara?

The answer is: Special projects units (SPU) of the General Services Section.

**T**he Chief Projects Officer in charge of the Special Projects Unit (SPU) is Mr. Jack Vogelsang, who is a mechanical engineer by profession. He was born in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1930 and educated in Holland, where he studied and obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After having worked in Holland for several years, he emigrated to the USA 30 years ago and lives in San Jose, California, near San Francisco. He is married and has two married children. He has worked in the Middle East since 1978 in Iran, Kurdistan and Saudi Arabia as Construction Manager and joined UNIFIL in 1983.

The Special Project Unit of the General Services Section has been in existence for quite a time. Many hitherto have confused this unit with the various force engineers, units.

**LITANI:** Mr. Vogelsang, Can you brief us on the function of this unit?

**MR. VOGELSANG:** First I would like to mention that in my opinion the name "special projects" is a misnomer. There is nothing special about this unit. It provides a basic, yet essential service. It carries out repair, maintenance and alterations of building structures and premises in the Camp Command area of UNIFIL HQ in Naqoura. It further-

more operates and maintains the entire UNIFIL water supply and distribution system, the water chlorination system and the sewage drainage and treatment system. The unit consists of 36 members of which 30 are local staff members, and 6 international staff members. All building trades are represented and headed by an international staff member. At present, Mr. Beci Tagi, Asst Projects Officer from Fiji is in charge of the weld shop, the welders/iron workers, the masons and the heavy equipment operators. Mr. Abdul Azis, from Ghana is in charge of the plumbers the water system and the sewage system operators. Mr. Tony Talemimaloya, from Fiji, is in charge of the carpenters shop, the carpenters, painters and the stores.

**LITANI:** What are your responsibilities in headquarters as compared to that of the force engineers?

**MR. VOGELSANG:** As stated before, SPU carries out among other things, the repair, maintenance and alterations (except electrical work) of building structures and premises in Headquarters, specifically Italair, Camp Tara, Camp Martin (MP COY), French Def Coy, Camp Command, Buildings A, B, C and D, FC compound, Transport and Communications. The areas excluded are Swedmedcoy, Swedlog, Fren-



chmaintcoy and French Armoured Coy. These contingents are self sufficient and have their own military maintenance crews at the contingents.

## THE PAINTERS

The force engineering i.e. the CEO office and the Ghana Engineer Coy, although mainly responsible for the Area of Operation (AO) are also involved in the HQ area in work such as erection of new prefabs and rubb-

halls. Once in place, SPU installs the sewage drain pipes, the plumbing system and hooks up water services (in case of ablution units) and further maintains the buildings. The force engineers further carryout with the help of local contractors, such works as the construction of security walls, pillboxes and bunkers and asphaltting of roads and lots. With regards to the carpenters and painters work, aside from carrying out the essential repair and



maintenance work, these trades are full time occupied in the construction and painting of myriad of odds and ends such as cabinetry, map and bulletin boards, shelving units, signs etc. for the various military and civilian offices.

**LITANI:** Water and sewage system is a vital cell in your outfit. Can you elaborate?

**MR. VOGELSANG:** However important the maintenance and

repair of the buildings are, the most essential, yet basic function of SPU is the operation and maintenance of the water supply and distribution systems, the water chlorination system and the sewage drainage and treatment system, throughout all of UNIFIL, including Swedlog and Swedmedcoy.

#### SAFE WATER

For obvious reasons, it is essential that safe water is continuously

provided and that the outbreak of disease is prevented. Therefore, close cooperation in these areas is required between SPU, the Force Hygiene Team and the GS building maintenance unit (BMU), i.e. SPU to ensure that all the above systems and equipment are functioning properly, the Force Hygiene Team (FHT) to continuously inspect the quality of the water, the prevention of environmental pollution and that the general 'good house keeping'

practices are adhered to the BMU to collect and dispose the rubbish and to keep the buildings and grounds clean. Water is provided from two deep wells, i.e. Bore Hole 1 on the hill near Naqoura village and Bore Hole 2, on the hill above the UNIFIL gas station. Each deep well pump station has a chlorination plant which is operated and maintained by SPU. The chlorine content in the water is checked daily to ensure that the specifications are met. The Force Hygiene Team inspects the quality of water for the specified chlorine content at various points throughout HQ. Too little chlorine will be reasons for complaints from the FHT and hospitals; too much chlorine in the water will be reasons for complaints from all of HQ, especially from the kitchens about the bad taste of the water and the coffee. Water is also provided by UNIFIL, for humanitarian reasons, to the local population in Naqoura village and the Mingi shops. Water is hauled away in tank trolleys to as far as Alma a' Shab. And that water is used by the villagers for flooding and irrigation of the fields. The total water consumption is astronomical. Some 700 to 1000 cubic meters is consumed per day. That is, some 700,000 to 1,000,000 liters per day, depending on the time of the year.

#### AN ARTS PAINTER

**LITANI:** I understand you are besides an engineer also a fine arts painter. Is this not unusual?

**MR. VOGELSANG:** I am a fine arts painter. It is more than a hobby. It is a philosophy that reminds a person that there is more to life than what gets people excited in their daily struggles. The practise of arts has great therapeutic powers, it improves ones self discipline and enables a person to entertain himself, rather than being entertained by others and therefore be less dependent in this respect on others or things in his private life. To be good at art (any form of art) requires not only hard work. One must live it. There are no set working hours. There is a continuous inter action between the conscious and sub conscious mind, which enables a person to be critical of himself and of his work and be honest to himself. An artist perhaps the most of himself and his work. He must satisfy himself in the respect before he can satisfy others. He can not help but that some of these attitudes are reflected in his daily responsibilities towards his work and fellow man.



IRISHBATT new Battalion Commander is Lt Col. Stephen Anthony O' Grady. He was born in Ballylongford, Co Kerry, and joined the Irish Army as a cadet. He was commissioned and posted to the Infantry Corps and stationed in the Gurragh as a subaltern in the 3rd Infantry Battalion. Lt Col. O' Grady has served in many appointments both staff and line. Apart from experience gained while working in Army Headquarters, Lt Col. O' Grady's last number of appointments were noteworthy. He commanded the 27th Infantry battalion based in Dundalk. This battalion is commonly known as a border battalion because of the proximity of Dundalk to the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The operational tasks carried out by the border battalions are seen as a vital part of Irish National Security. Prior to

his Overseas posting Lt Col. O' Grady commanded the 5th Infantry Battalion. This Battalion is based in Ireland's Capital City, Dublin.

Lt Col. O' Grady has also served with the UN in several mission areas. In 1961 he served in the Congo with ONUC. In 1968/69 he served with UNTSO on the Suez Canal. He is on his third trip to South Lebanon. He served as a Company Commander with the 44th Infantry Battalion in 1978/79. In 1986 he served with the 59th Infantry Battalion as Second in Command. Some two years later, he is back as Battalion Commander. He brings a wealth of experience to the mission area and looks forward to spending the next six months in IRISHBATT AO working with UNIFIL. He is married and has three children.

Col Kari Hoglund is the new Commanding Officer of Finbatt. He assumed this office on 4th June, 1988.

Col Hoglund was born on 3 February 1943 in Kemi in northern Finland. After a year's compulsory military service, he attended the Reserve Officers course and graduated in 1962. He then undertook the Field Artillery course at the Cadet School. After graduation from the Cadet School in 1965, Col Hoglund undertook the Captains course in 1970. He also attended the Staff Officers course from 1974-77. He has held many appointments in the Finnish Defense Forces. He was a Battery Section Commander in a Brigade in Kainun province.

Col Hoglund is not new to UN missions. He served in UNIFIL as



Deputy Commanding Officer in Finbatt from 1985-86. Before then, he had served as a military observer in the Middle East.

He is married with a daughter and son

The new Chief Humanitarian Officer is Lt Col Seppo ILVA from Finland. He was born on 17th June 1940. He went through various stages of Finnish educational system. He enlisted into the Finnish Armed Forces on 9th October, 1962 and was commissioned on 20th March 1965 into the Infantry.

In his military career, Lt Col Ilva attended various courses including Captain, Staff officers and UN military observer courses.

He also held various appointments including Platoon Leader and Company Commander in an infantry battalion. Signal Officer in the HQ of a military district. He was also a leader at a training office in a mechanized battalion as well as in a military police school. He was awarded the Order of the Knight of White Rose of Finland, a medal for military units.

Lt Col Ilva is a UN veteran. He served in UNTSO from 1972-73 as



a military observer and in UNEF II first as a company Commander in 1978-79 and eventually as a Commanding Officer. He was Chief Operations Officer of Finbatt in UNIFIL from 1982-83. He is married with two sons and his hobbies are skiing and tennis.



Capt S. Raivoce, the former AO. Litani wishes him the very best in his new appointment as ADC to the FC has been promoted to the rank of Major and is now serving with Fijbatt in the OC HQ Company.



*The FC, Maj-Gen Hagglund, chatting with Ghanaian soldiers who have dressed as traditional chiefs during Medal Day Parade activities.*



*Fijibatt's Medal Parades are always regarded a great attraction, with colourful and exotic folklore performances.*

**On guard  
for peace**

