



The Blue Beret

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1975

ST PATRICKS DAY - IRCON



In our photograph the Force Commander, Lt. Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM poses with a few Irish members of UNFICYP.

They are from left to right: Lt Col G O'Sullivan, Chief Economics Officer, Miss J Mercier, UNHCR, the Force Command-

der; Mr. J. Kelly, UNHCR; Comdt J Ryan, LO to National Guard.

On Monday 17th March 1975 members of the Irish Contingent celebrated St. Patrick's Day which is a National Holiday. This was also celebrated by the members of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and several members of the United Nations Secretariat. The following message was received from the Irish Minister of Defence, Mr. Paddy Donegan, TD to all members of the Irish Defence Forces:

"I am very pleased on this our National Feast Day to be able once again to greet the officers and men of the Defence Forces who are serving under the United Nations flag in the Middle East and in Cyprus. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Irish people I would like to convey to all of you, our very best wishes for a happy and peaceful St. Patrick's Day. We are all very proud of the fine work which you are doing in helping to maintain peace in these troubled areas. The diligence, goodwill and strict impartiality which you display in performing your duties has done much to enhance the reputation of our country abroad. I hope and trust that your efforts and sacrifices will one day make possible a lasting and just peace. May God bless and keep you all".

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFICYP

During the last month Guyana Government contributed \$2,150 towards the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus.

UNFICYP SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS



"Someone has to be last". WO2 Pat Hopper holds aloft his trophy for being the slowest competitor to actually complete the slalom courses. There were, of course, others who did not finish. The Force Commander, Lt Gen D Prem Chand, who presented the prizes, is in the centre of the photograph. (See page 4 also).

AUSTRIAN COMMENDATIONS



Nine members of the Austrian Civilian Police were awarded commendations by the Austrian Government for their skillful operations during the events in Cyprus in July and August last year. The picture shows the handover of the commendation to POLOPS Major Gottlieb Latschenberger, former OC of the Substation Kyrenia, by CO AUSCIVPOL Colonel H Fuchs. DCO Lt Col L Maier is also enjoying the scene.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING PART III

Speed: The rule is that vehicles must be driven at a reasonable and prudent speed according to traffic, road and weather conditions. If there is a choice between maintaining a schedule or driving at an unsafe speed, the safe speed must be selected. It is better to be a few minutes late than to be involved in an accident.

Alertness: Keep alert in areas where children or pedestrians are to be expected. Each child is a living caution sign. Restricted zones are danger areas.

DANCON - march.

Dancon-marchen er efterhånden blevet en tradition. I år holdtes den i to omgange, nemlig 8-9 MAR og 22-23 MAR. Foruden de danske deltagere var der deltagere fra SWEDCON, FINCON, AUSCON, CANCON, BRITCON, MP-COY/HQ UNFICYP og UNCIVPOL.

Marchruten var lagt i det smukke terræn fra XEROS til LIMNITIS og videre til vendepunktet før man nåede KOKKINA og længden var på 25 km hver af de to marchdage.

Arrangementet må betegnes som en succes med de mange deltagere (200 stattede den 8 MAR, heraf gennemførte 125 den 9 MAR). For de, der deltog, var selve marchen selvfølgelig en oplevelse omend ikke alle viste det ved at have de store smil på ved passage af målstregen. For de, som bare så til, var det en oplevelse at se deltagerne komme i mål i mere eller mindre nedslidt stand. Der var mange fødder at reparere på undervejs og bagefter. Fødderne blev imidlertid i orden på få dage og tilbage var, foruden medaljen og diplommet, mindet om en dejlig week-end.

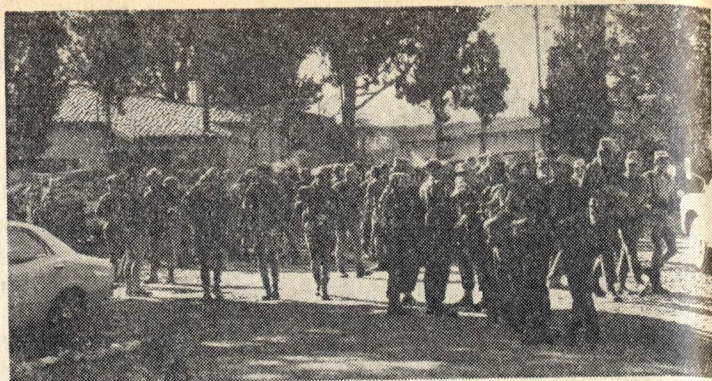
DANCON NEWS



Et team fra BRITCON undervejs.



Et sted på ruten, mens der stadig var samling på feltet.



Inden starten fra VIKING CAMP.....



..... holdt idrætsofficeren, PRLT F. Jensen, og KVO, KN O. Blindbæk, øje med at alt gik rigtigt til. De deltog iøvrigt selv i marchen.



Og et DANCON-hold.



Kantinetjenesten var uundværlig (også den dag).

ÄNTLIGEN HAR DE KOMMIT - BILDERNA FRÅN GYPSOS

Äntligen har dom kommit - bilderna från evakueringen av Gypsos! De har tagits av FN-fotografen Y Nagata och tills nu befunnit sig i New York. Även om de minst av allt kan kallas dagsaktuella, vill Blue Beret ändå visa dem, eftersom de illustrerar en av bataljon 55 C:s största humanitära insatser. Flera bilder kommer att publiceras i den bok som delas ut till alla innan vi lämnar Cypern.

Det var under de tio sista dagarna i november som andra kompaniet evakuerade fångarna från Gypsos, totalt 1 123 människor. De levde under mycket miserabla förhållanden, bevakade av turkfighters. Byn betraktades som en av de största skamfläckarna inom vårt distrikt, och redan våra företrädare på 53:an hade börjat arbeta för att få evakueringen till stånd. Även turkarna själva såg Gypsos och de andra fånglägren som "en sanitär olägenhet".



Det var rörande scener som utspelades både vid avfärden från Gypsos och vid ankomsten till Nicosia, där fångarna togs emot av väntande anhögria.



Före evakueringen delades "biljetter" ut till samtliga invånare i byn. Biljetterna kontrollerades noggrant av turkfighters innan människorna fick gå ombord på bussen. Väl ombord visste alla att de aldrig skulle få återse sina hem....



De flesta i byn var gamla och många svårt sjuka. De fick transporteras till Nicosia i ambulans. En gammal man - han var så gammal att han inte visste hur gammal - tålde inte påfrestningarna. Han avled under transporten.

SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS



Lt Gen D Prem Chand, the Force Commander, gets in the mood as the ski lift operator, Michael, gives an impromptu violin solo.



Lt Mike Samuelson of 41 Commando Group manages a grin — or is it a grimace — as he speeds down the North Face at Troodos whilst taking part in the slalom event of the UN Skiing Championships.



Sgt 'Snowy' Snowden relaxes and enjoys the long pull up the ski lift at Troodos.

SALE OF RECORDS

Due to the closure of RAF Nicosia Broadcasting unit, the following records are for sale:

Long players: 600 long playing records pricer at 500 mils each. All records are in fair condition.

Extended players: Also for sale are approximately 2000 extended play records at £C1 for ten, also in fair condition.

Many the records are collectors items having been in the library for a great number of years. All records can be viewed at PBX RAF Nicosia between the hours of 8 am and 12 noon. The majority of records have been catalogued for easy selection.

Do not miss this golden opportunity to obtain, at give away prices, records for your disco or personal use. It is regretted that dispatching of records or correspondence cannot be entered into. Contact Master Airloadmaster DJ Pearce on Ext. 6180 or at RAF Nicosia for more information.

VISIT OF COMMANDANT GENERAL ROYAL MARINES



During his brief visit to 41 Commando Group, General Sir Ian Gourlay, KCB, OBE, MC, started his tour with a visit to the Force Commander, Lt Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM at Headquarters UNFICYP accompanied by Col PI Chiswell, OBE Commander BRITCON.



General Gourlay is shown speaking to Capt Adi Berger, OC No. 1 Rifle Coy whilst visiting Marine Commandos attached to AUSCON.



On his return to Polemidhia Camp General Gourlay presented a 'Long Service and Good Conduct' medal to Sgt T Lee. C/Sgt Markes looks on approvingly.

Knapp suedlich der Cypriotischen Ortschaft GOSHI, im LARNACA District, wurde im Beisein der Vertretung saemtllicher UN-Kontingente am 14.3.75 die Gedaechnisstaette fuer 3 oesterreichische UN-Soldaten eingeweiht.

Oblt IZAY, ObWm DECOMBE und Kpl ISAK waren am 14.8.74 des Opfer eines Luftangriffes geworden. Sie starben als oesterreichische Soldaten im Dienste der UNFICYP deren Auftrag und Ziel die Erhaltung des Friedens ist.

In ergreifender Weise wurde durch den Kdt des UN Baon 6 Obstlt RIEGER, welcher selbst die schweren Zeiten des vergangenen August mitgemacht hatte, jener furchtbaren Ereignis-

nisse des 14.8.74 gedacht, die den Soldaten des AUSCON das Leben kosteten. Oblt IZAY und sein Observer Team hat-

ten Auftrag gehabt, im Kampfgebiet vermittelnd in die Geschehnisse um das tuerkisch zypriotische Dorf einzugreifen.

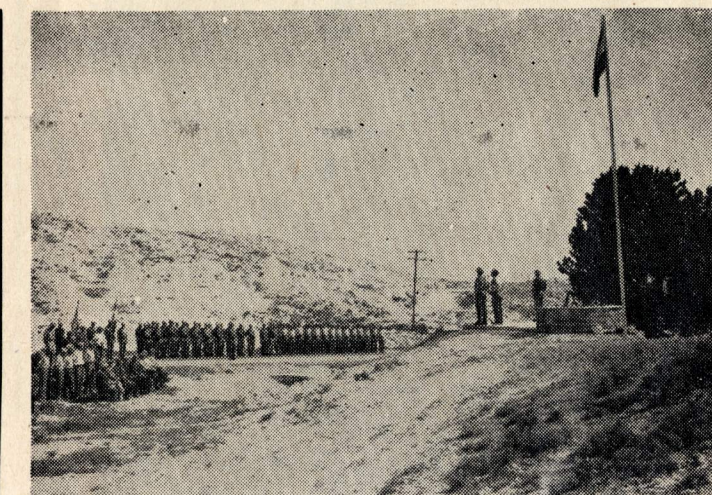
Ein Jagdbomberangriff setzte jedoch unmittelbar neben dem nun errichteten Mahnmal ihrem jungen Leben ein Ende.



AUSCON NEWS



Bereits etwas ermuedet, trotzdem aber zuversichtlich marschiert die Abordnung des UNAUSCON am p.Tag des DANCON — Marsches zuegig dem Endziel entgegen. Trotz einer hohen Ausfallquote die auf die erschwerenden Bedingungen unter denen der Marsch absolviert wurde, zurueckzufuehren ist, erreichten fast alle Oesterreicher das Ziel in der vorgegebenen Zeit.



Neben der heissbegehrten DANCON — Marsch — Medaille fassten alle Teilnehmer eine handfeste Ration "Blasen" nebst der dazugehoerenden sanitaeren Behandlung aus. Im Bild Kpl HAIDENHOFER bei der vorbildlich organisierten recreation im WIKINGERCAMP.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

Too often we tend to forget that those who man the OPs or patrol the Green Line Area not self sufficient. While many bask in the sun and fresh air, there are still others whose job keeps them indoors,

behind the scenes and the counters. Those formidable counters that few are allowed to pass behind, over which our food, clothing, tools, pay mail and a multitude of other essentials must pass.



Airport CQ Ross and storemen MCpl Duke Connors and Cpl Roger Corbin take a few seconds from their gruelling agenda to pose for our photographer.

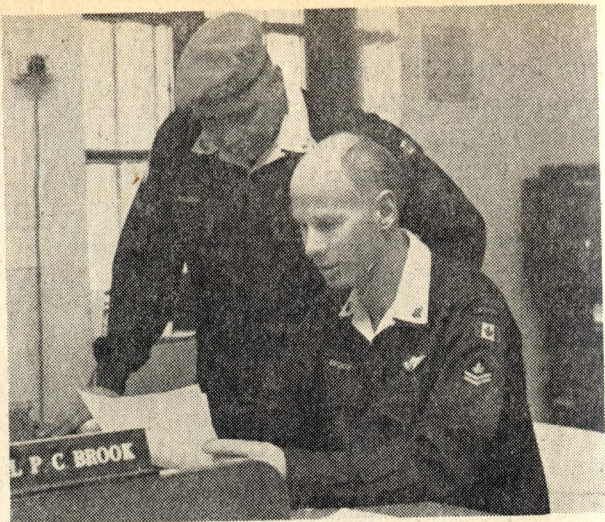


Sgt CW Hardy showing some tricks of the administrative trade to Cpl Bob Joliat.



MCpl "CEC" Kay inspects the latest in fashionable UN Headware as displayed by Sgt 'ED' Mazerolle.

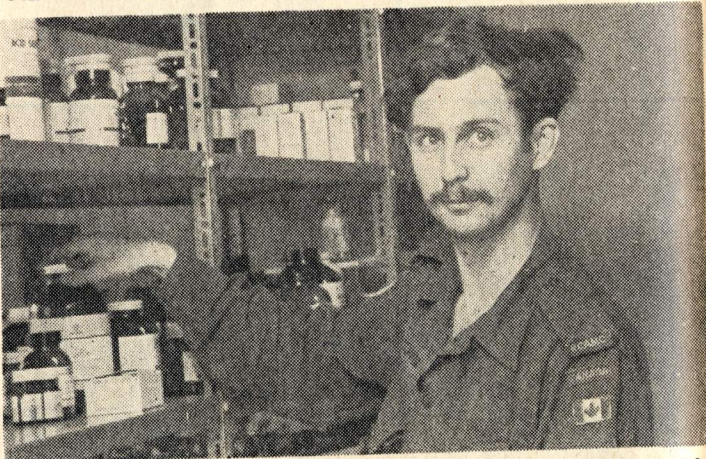
Cpl Wayne banks or more commonly called "THE SPADE" due to past exploits prepares homebound mail.



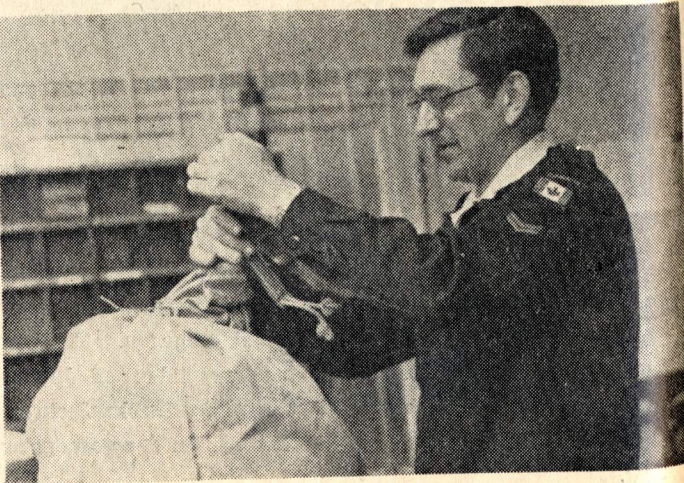
MCpl Pete Brook of CANCON orderly room inspecting some interesting incoming mail as Cpl Balasiuk looks on.



Two of the more popular personalities around CANCON are our paymaster Capt GY Garant and his able assistant Cpl AL Williams.



MCpl Rick Schryer keeps medical stores neat and tidy, while displaying the Schryer look in hair styles.



Nicosian nilkuttajien tunnus-kuvan suunnittelukilpailun voitti ylikersantti Vuorenmaan 'tyylitelty' leijona. Nilkuttajien kuviolla varustetun jellonapaidan mallierä saadaan messien myyntiin tämän lehden ilmestymisen oikoihin ja lisää saadaan tarvittaessa jo ennen huhu-rotaatiota.

V — ja U-seura Nicosian Nilkuttajat on jokaisen YK SP:n supa- sekä tosinielisen nilkuttajan ikioma seura — jellonapaitaiset hankkikoo! kuntoa kotikontingentissa ja mai- netta muualla.

NICOSIA NIMBLES

If ever you see a fellow running or playing any kind of a game and at the same time wearing a shirt with this picture, you have to know, that he is a member of the unofficial sport club of Fincon, 'Nicosia Nimbles'. Mostly this chap can be seen in Fincon areas, but when ever he goes out to other contingents, he will be

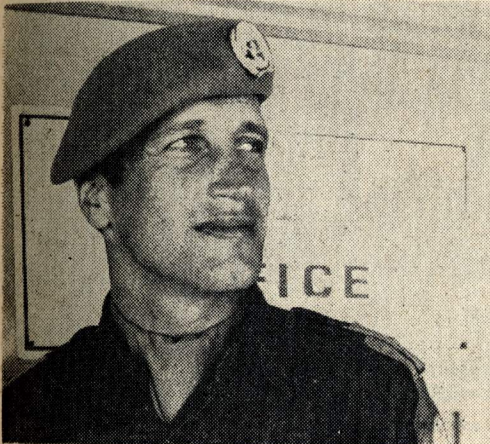
a very dangerous competitor: he will let out the Lion that is hiding under his bulk — and then buddy, you're in trouble.



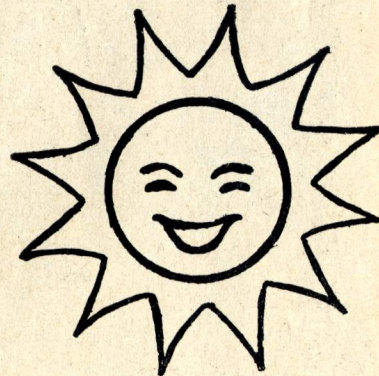
CO
2ND COY
FINN BN

CO/2nd Coy
FinnBn eli kak-
kosen päällikkö
majuri Markku
Esko: — Olen
suunnitellut pal-
velevani Kyprok-
sella nyt vain puo-
li vuotta. Tulen
kyllä myöhemmin
uudelleen koska
arvostan erityisesti
tällaista kenttätö-
tä.

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Huipulla aina tuulee. YK:n lippu liehuu korkealla vesitornin huipulla OP Lonassa. Tarkastuskierroksiaan suorittaville kenraaleille Finconin läntisin OP on kiusallinen, 39 askelman nousun jälkeen sotilashousut tui- sevat muunkin kuin tuulen ansiosta.



Vielä voi vihreällä nurmella maaten lukea vaikka The Blue Beret-lehteä. Kesän myötä luon- to valitettavasti ruskettuu YK: miesten kanssa kilpaa. The Blue Beret toki ilmestyy sääs- tä huolimatta SUPASETin kanssa vuoroviikoin. Lehtien tehtävänä on pataljoonan sisäi- nen ja ulkoinen tiedottaminen ja työnjako on: The Blue Beret-ulkoinen ja kuvallinen sisäinen, SUPASET-sisäinen, ilman kuvia.

LUE SUPASET —
PYSYT AJAN TASALLA

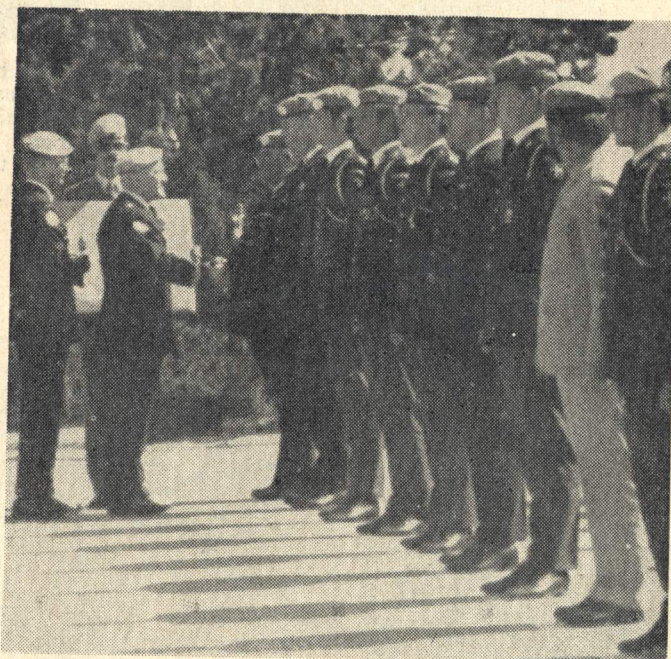
UN MEDAL PARADES

On Friday 7th March 1975, the Force Commander Lt Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM presented United Nations Peace Keeping medals to the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and 'F' and 'G' Company of 41 Commando Group. He first attended the Force Reserve location in Nicosia presenting the QRIH detachment with their medals and then flew by helicopter to Paphos for the joint parade of QRIH and 41 Commando Companies. The sun shone throughout both these parades.



Lt S Franklin of the Force Reserve being presented with his UN medal by the Force Commander in Nicosia. Maj R Hoare accompanied Lt Gen Prem Chand on his presentation.

— MP COY PARADE



Whilst on Saturday 15 March 1975, the Chief of Staff, Brig Gen CE Beattie, CD presented United Nations Medals to a mixed parade of Military Police at their location in UNFICYP Blue Beret Camp.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS UNFICYP

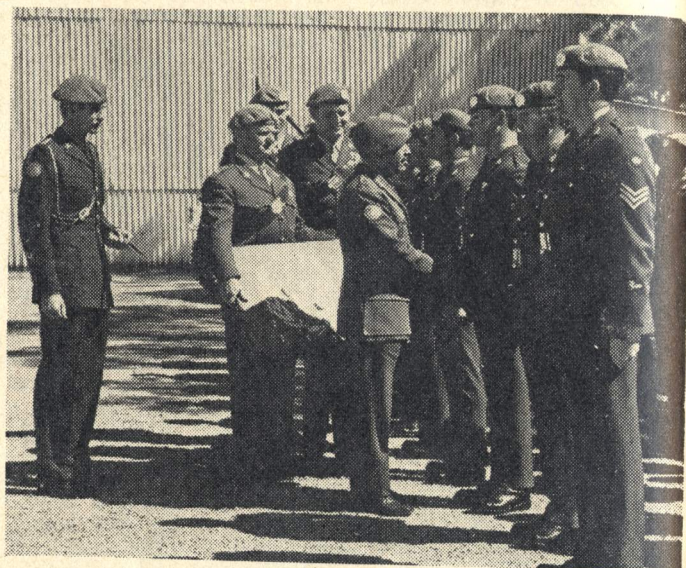
Week ending 19 March	9
Same period last year	14
Total for period this year	65
Total same period last year	53

LESSON OF THE MONTH

Accidents don't just happen — there is a cause.



Lt Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM has a few words with the Adjutant of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Captain RFA Crichton, after presenting him with the United Nations Peace Keeping Medal at Paphos.



Lt Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM presenting the medal to L/Cpl Patterson, QRIH at Paphos.



NEW OPERATIONS OFFICER

Prior to his departure Maj D Bamford the ex Operations Officer, kindly consented to having his photograph taken with his relief Maj RKF MacDonald. Maj Bamford in fact left on the 9th March 1975 having completed his tour with UNFICYP.