



The Blue Beret

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1970

UNFICYP CHILDRENS PARTY

British, Danish, Finnish and Irish children belonging to personnel serving with HQ UNFICYP enjoyed a Christmas party on 23rd December, and helped to entertain a number of Cypriot children from a local orphanage.

The children were first given a film show, and then taken to see the arrival of a traditional "Father Christmas" by helicopter. After the distribution of gifts and a tea in the Sergeants Mess, the children sang carols in different languages.

The Deputy Chief of Staff,

Colonel D. E. Thornton and Mrs Thornton visited the party and joined in the fun, and everyone had a good time.

The success of the occasion was largely due to the efforts of the organiser, WO II P. C. Wood and his helpers, Sergeants Dave Guy and Bill Male.



● Sergeant Bill Male leads the children in carol singing.

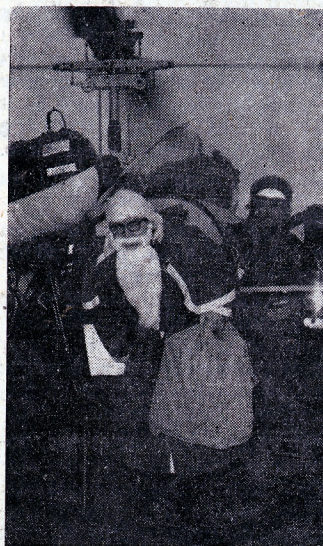
Exchange of Telegrams Between the Secretary General and UNFICYP

From U. Thant to the Special Representative and the Force Commander.

"I extend to you and to all civilian and military personnel of UNFICYP my warm Christmas greetings, good wishes for 1971, and heartfelt congratulations for the invaluable work done by you during the past year. We all know that UNFICYP under your guidance will continue during the coming year to carry out with skill and devotion the task of keeping the Peace and to exert every effort to further the objectives of the United Nations in the Republic of Cyprus.

Reply from Mr Osorio Tafall and Major General D. Prem Chand to the Secretary General.

"Deeply appreciative of your kind Christmas and New Year message, we would like to express to you, on behalf of all civilian and military personnel of UNFICYP and ourselves, our profound gratitude for your unflinching support and inspired guidance to promote in this island the lofty ideals of the United Nations for Peace and Prosperity. We extend to you and your family our very best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.



● "SANTA" arrives at HQ UNFICYP in 1970 style.

CAROL SERVICE

A congregation of nearly 500 attended the UNFICYP interdenominational carol service which was held in St George's Church Dhekelia on 22nd December.

Each of the eight lessons was read by a member of the eight different national contingents which comprise the Force, and during the service the contingents each sang a carol in their own national language.

A service of this nature must be unique, and the Force Commander in his message of welcome, reminded the congregation of the special significance of the occasion, and its appropriateness to their mission.

The band of the 3rd Battalion the Royal Green Jackets played during the service.

MASS ON THE GREEN LINE

Members of the UN Contingents serving in UNFICYP were invited to join in a midnight Mass celebrated on Christmas Eve in the 14th Century Ayios Iakovos Chapel situated on the "Green Line" in Nicosia.

The Canadian Contingent, in whose area the chapel is situated, were responsible for refurbishing the building which had fallen into a bad state of repair since it was last used in 1963. Father Hasselt, the

Canadian Padre who conducted the mass, commented "I felt it was appropriate to celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace here, where men are living and working to maintain Peace".



JULE INTERVIEW

Da vi nu i en uges tid har haft hustruer og pårørende på besøg synes jeg at det kunne være meget sundt gennem et kort interview at høre hvorledes en delvis udenforstående så på landet og på vores forhold hernede. Derfor benyttede jeg lejligheden til at tale med to af de hustruer vi har på besøg i lejren og søgte gennem små spørgsmål at få deres meninger frem om visse generelle spørgsmål.

1. Hvilke forventninger havde De om livet og forholdene hernede, da De ankom?

Fru R: Jeg havde gennem breve fra min mand og gennem lektüre ventet mig et mere "sydlandsk" landskab, mere friskt og frodigt end tilfældet var. Vi har jo altid når vi hjemme taler om Middelhavslande en vis idé om at disses natur er præget af appelsin- og olivenlunde.

På den anden side vil jeg da sige at blot den ene uges ophold fuldt ud har indfriet mine forventninger til naturen og omgivelserne hernede.

Fru P: Ja, jeg tror nu nok også, at jeg havde forventninger om et mildt og venligt klima, og desværre landede vi jo i gråt og trist dansk regnvejr, men på vejen ud til lejren blev jeg dog klar over, at landskabet var netop lige så fremmedartet og særpræget som jeg havde ventet. En ting, der slog mig, var den, måske efter dansk opfattelse, ringe forståelse for orden og omhu i naturen.

2. Hvad var umiddelbart det, der overraskede Dem mest?

Fru R: Vi vidste jo at soldaterne boede i telte, og det glædede en dansk husmor meget at se den orden og næsten kvindelige måde hvorpå soldaterne havde indrettet sig og forstået at skabe hygge under disse trods alt primitive forhold.

Fru P: Jeg havde måske ventet mig lidt mere af de faciliteter man kunne byde soldaterne, men så

meget mere synes også jeg, at det er overraskende at se den vilje og energi, man har lagt for dagen i indretningen af lejren, at se den vilje man udviser for at få tingene til at gå, idet hele taget synes jeg at soldaterne har fået en virkelig hyggelig ramme om deres daglige virke.

3. Hvilke mener De indtil nu er Deres største oplevelse?

Fru R: For det første, det rent personlige, at gense sin mand og høre om hans oplevelse; og i forbindelse dermed sammen at opleve den storslåede natur og ikke mindst de mennesker der bor her. Vi er overalt blevet mødt med den største gæstfrihed og venlighed, der på mig har virket ægte og velment.

Fru P: Det var en meget stor oplevelse, at vi sammen kunne "opdage" landet. Det jeg har hæftet mig mest ved, er den omhu og kærlighed man udviser overfor børnene. Vi har jo set de nydeligste og mest velklædte børn selv i de små landsbyer, og har aldrig, selv om vi bor blandt befolkningen, set eller hørt en barsk eller hårdhændet irrettesættelse.

4. Hvad vil De først fortælle om, når De kommer hjem?

Fru R: Jeg vil fortælle om mit indtryk af befolkningens levevis og især sige til mine børn, "børn I har det godt, skøn på de fordele og de behageligheder I trods alt har, frem for de forhold vi lige har set"

Fru P: Jeg vil tage hjem med en absolut trang til at alle mine pårørende skulle have den samme oplevelse; en oplevelse som man føler næsten er for stor til at man kan være ene om.

5. Kunne De tænke Dem at være cypriotisk husmor?

Begge: (I munden på hinanden) Bestemt nej.

6. Synes De vi fik en "dansk jul"?

Fru R: Jeg synes julen lå ganske tæt op til den danske. I de lejre og enkelte OPer, jeg har besøgt, har jeg haft det indtryk at alle har sagt til sig selv; nok er vi ude, men vi vil gøre alt for at julen må kunne fejres som vi er vant til, og det synes jeg er lykkedes. Jeg personligt finder at forberedelserne lillejuleaften fik et forløb og et indhold af hygge og hjemlighed, så at de mange km's afstand blev fjernet.

Fru P: Jeg var meget glad for julegudstjenesten, der gav en virkelig god optakt til julen. Julemidagen og alle omgivelserne medvirkede til at man følte sig hjemme, selvom man jo nok gennem selvsyn og samtaler kunne erfare at julen for enkelte vel ikke var den samme uden ens kone eller kæreste derhjemme.

7. Synes De, der er forskel på soldaten her og hjemme?

Fru R: Jeg synes soldaterne hernede virker mere fri og voksne. Det er mit indtryk at alle bestræber sig på at hjælpe hinanden, ligesom jeg finder, at der er et betydeligt større sammenhold og hjælpsomhed soldaterne imellem.

Fru P: Soldaterne virker mere som mandfolk, de er velsoignerede og stolte af deres arbejde. Jeg

synes, at det der virker mest positivt, er den hjælpsomhed og villighed man møder. Jeg har endnu ikke set de sure miner og den "laden stå til" mentalitet, som er så moderne hjemme.

8. Ville De, hvis Deres mands tjeneste muliggjorde det, bosætte Dem her?

Fru R: Det ville helt afhænge af hvor lang tid der var tale om. Hensyn til børnenes skolegang og deres hjemlige miljø, ville for mig nok betyde, at et længere ophold ikke kunne komme på tale. Og mon ikke det trods alt også ville være en belastning for min mand og hans arbejde, såfremt forholdene skulle forværres. Vi hustruer kræver jo familieliv der hvor vi bor, og surhed kunne jo opstå såfremt man syntes at tjenesten krævede for meget.

Fru P: Helt uenig. Jeg synes det ville være skønt eksempelvis at kunne tilbringe et år sammen hernede. Vi er jo gift med en soldat, og ved at vi kan komme til at være alene nogen tid. Men mon ikke dette vil finde sin løsning såfremt andre boede hernede; så ville man givet finde sammen og få en omgangskreds også her.

9. Paa hvilken måde mener De, De bedst kan støtte Deres mands ophold hernede?

Fru R: Ved ikke at plage med daglige smaa og ligegyldige bekymringer hjemmefra. Lad ham være, hvordan dagen gaar og ved at skrive saa tit som muligt, om det ogsaa er om smaa ting.

Fru P: Ved at give ham opmuntning og forståelse hjemmefra, saaledes at han ved, at vi paaskønner og er stolte af det arbejde, han udfører.

10. Har De nogle ønsker om den nærmeste fremtid?

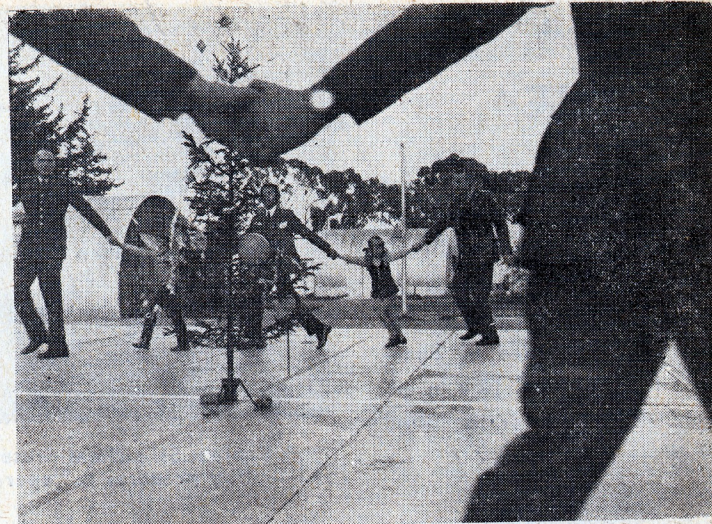
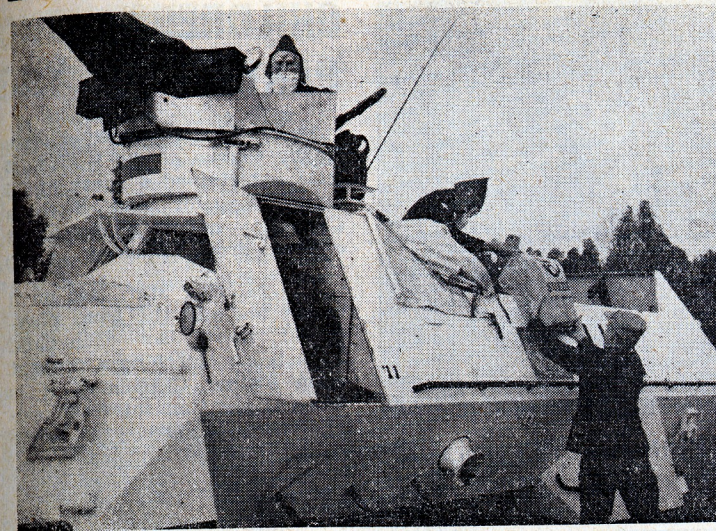
Begge: Ja, at komme herned i en periode igen.

DANCON NYT



En situation vi andre ikke er bekendt med! Evakuering af såret med helikopter, her, fra OP3. Den sårede er dog her erstattet af en dukke.

Koret i kirken i Xeros. Kirken dannede rammen om lejrens julegudstjeneste og var i dagens anledning smykket med juletræ og levende lys. Som altid ved julegudstjenester var kirken fyldt til sidste plads.



JULAFTON

Julafton firades som sig bör med besked inom den svenska kontingenten. Redan vid morgonuppställningen på julaftonsmorgonen inleddes julfirandet av kompanichefen major Forssblad, som iförd tomtemössa kommenderade fram jultomtarna. I svensk FN-version anlände jultomten per KP-bil med julklapparna skyddade av pansarplåt. (Bilden överst till vänster).

Sedan kom julbegivenheterna slag i slag. En traditionell svensk FN-julövnig är julbadet, som den här gången var förlagd till Mimosa Beach. Cirka 200 personer; FN-soldater, svenska, kanadensiska, danska och finländska, de sistnämnda MP och signalister, kvalificerade sig tillsammans med anhängarna för medlemskap i Polar Bear Club. (Bilden längst ned).

Det högtidligaste inslaget under dagen var julföreläsningen, som hölls i den gamla teaterbyggnaden i Salamis—en fantastisk miljö för en svensk julföreläsning. (Bilden mitt på sidan).

Julen är barnens högtid, så även vid en FN-bataljon. Därför var det dessa som hade huvudrollen när dansen kring julgranen trädde på det som i vanliga fall är tennisbanan. (Bilden överst till höger).



WHISKERS FOR SALE

Captain C. Streatfield and Corporal Tom Chisolm both lost their moustaches to a good cause over the Christmas period. For this supreme sacrifice they were rewarded by donations totalling £31-10-6 in aid of the "Wireless for the Blind Fund".



● Captain Streatfield presents a stiff upper lip as Corporal Fred Gadsby prepares to "operate".

SMILES ALL ROUND

It was smiles all round when Major P. Marzetti and SSM J. Smith were serving lunch to members of 60 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport on Christmas Day.

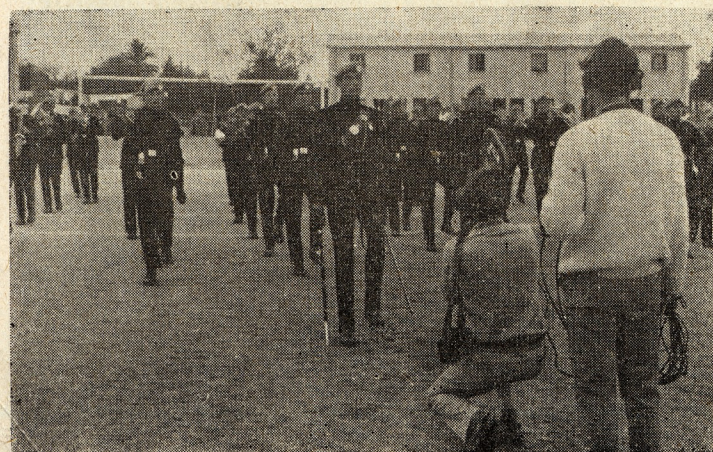


IN THE NEWS

3 RGJ have just received a visit from BBC television who came to spend a week with the battalion. They were compiling feature articles for the news magazine produced by Southampton studios.

During their stay they saw every aspect of the battalion

at work both in the base camps and on the outposts. One of the features they are compiling concerns the relations between the battalion and the local communities. Cameraman Ron Longman is seen here filming a band display for the Turkish Cypriot community of Episkopi, with Ian Killian of the BBC recording the sound.



**BRITCON
NEWS**

CHILDRENS PARTY

Under the auspices of Mrs Kathy Clarke of the WRVS, 3 RGJ entertained a party of 55 Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot under privileged children from Limassol.

The catering staff laid on a lavish tea and the band played for them. As each child went home clutching a present from Father Christmas, it is to be hoped that inter-communal relations have to some extent been strengthened.



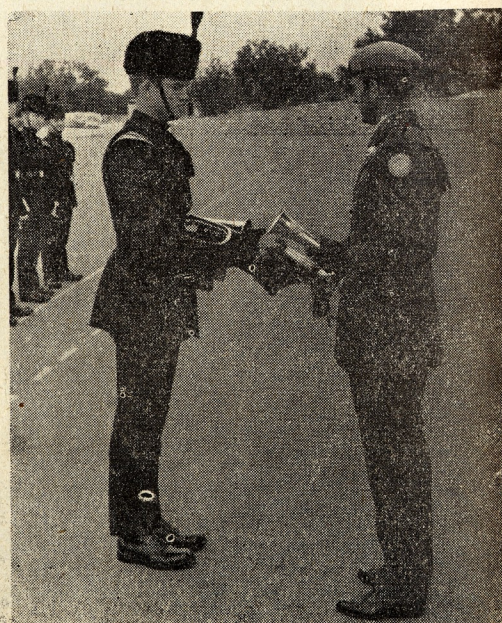
BEST BUGLER

A tradition in the Royal Green Jackets is that once a year, each member of the bugle platoon competes for the coveted award of Commanding Officer's Bugler.

After a rigorous inspection by the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and RSM, each bugler is tested on a number of regimental calls. The

quality of bugling is judged by the Band Master hidden discreetly behind a screen. Marks are awarded for turn-out, bugling and drill. This years winner was newly promoted Lance Corporal Brown, who narrowly beat Lance Corporal John Chadwick, a previous holder of the title. Lance Corporal Brown now has the privilege of being excused all regimental duties for the next six months.

● The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. Glover, congratulates the winner. For this purely regimental occasion, the buglers wore their regimental Shakos instead of the Blue UN Beret.



CHRISTMAS DAY

It was a Christmas with a difference for many of IRCON this year. The weather was gloriously sunny with temperatures reaching 70°F. The day commenced with the choir singing at Midnight Mass at St Patrick's Church Zyyi and at the Mass in Kophinou and in Larnaca.

The Christmas Morning Swim at Governors Beach was

a great success. Certificates were not handed out this year to those who took the plunge as the organiser, Commandant Frank Dunne felt that conditions were not sufficiently difficult to warrant the issue of them. Officers and NCOs served the traditional Christmas Dinner to all the men of the Group. All the wives and

● Personnel at Zyyi reading Christmas greetings from Ireland. Left to right CQMS Jim Power, Private Tom James, Gunner P. Hughes, Corporal Christy Flynn and Corporal Tom Victory.



families of the Officers at present accompanying their husbands attended the Officers Christmas Dinner in Zyyi and afterwards Christmas gifts were presented to the children.

The Group Sergeant Major, Christy O'Shaughnessy, was also a guest at the Officers Dinner. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Tom Tracey had a very busy day, visiting all the personnel on OP duty.

He also found time to be present at the mens dinner in

Larnaca, Kophinou and Zyyi. Our personnel in hospital were not forgotten. Company Quartermaster Sergeant Barney Maguire in the Austrian Field Hospital and Private Christy Keogh in the RAF Hospital, Akrotiri were in great form when we visited them and we wish them a speedy recovery for the New Year.

A very enjoyable function was held in the Mens Club, Zyyi on Christmas Night.

● Cooks at Group Headquarters preparing turkeys for the Christmas dinner are left to right, Private McHugh, Corporal M. Boyce, Cook Sergeant Paddy Walsh and Private G. Geraghty.

INTER UNIT SOCCER LEAGUE

'B' Company emerged winners of the Inter League Competition at Zyyi on Wednesday 23rd December by beating 'A' Company 5 goals to nil.

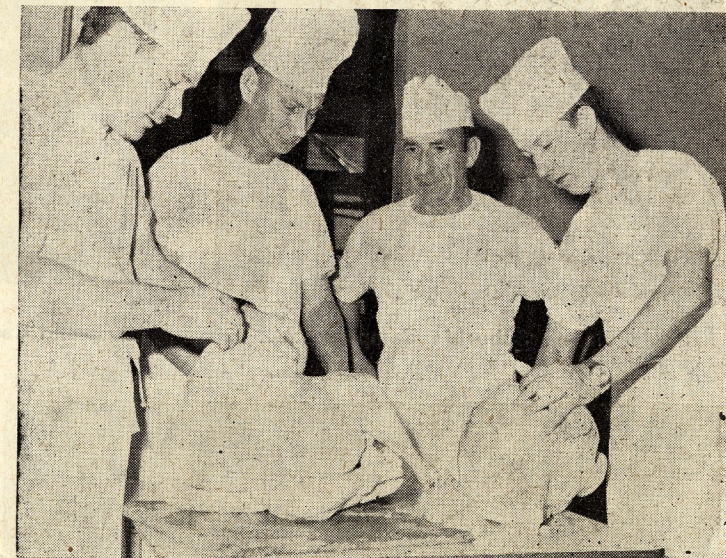
Although the final score suggests the superiority of the 'B' Company team, 'A' Company fought every minute of the game, and it was not until the second half that 'B' Company really got on top with goals by Privates J. Fallon and S. Frawley, Corporal H. Barclay and Private McCracken.

● Corporal H. Barclay (Athlone) Captain of 'B' Company team receives the Cup from Lieutenant Colonel Tom Tracey. Also included in the picture are Commandant Pat Harte, Officer Commanding 'B' Company and Commandant M. O'Shea, Officer Commanding 'A' Company.

St. Stephens Day

Everyone enjoyed the Soccer Challenge game between the Officers and NCOs played on St. Stephen's Day. Although the standard of football was not exactly World Cup class, the spectators and players had a very enjoyable afternoon, and everyone was happy with a one all draw.

The Group "Wren Boys" performed on St. Stephens Night, and collected donations for the Kyrenia Child-



ren's Hospital. All at IRCON agree Christmas Day was a great success. We have another reason for being happy as we have now reached the half-way stage in our tour.

**IRCON
NEWS**



CANADIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

CANCON NEWS

Canadian Forces Photos



Santa visited Suburbia Company.....

There were church services.....



..... and Camp Maple Leaf.



.....as well as the children's hospital.



There were turkey dinners.....



But at the OP it was business as usual.

Suomalaisjoulua Kyproksella



Oman värinsä tilaisuuteen toi paikallinen joulupukki suomalaisissa kumiteräsaappaissa - väärissä jaloissa tosin. Lahjarunsauskini osoitti, että pukki oli paikallinen, eikä siten saattanut täysin tuntea kykkolaisten kiltteyttä. Ilta jatkui iloisissa merkeissä, ja suomalaiset joululaulut kajahtelivat etelän yössä pitkään.



Jouluaattona kello 15.00 ilmoitettiin EK:n päällikkö, kapteeni Risto H Luukkanen "pykälään". Samalla jääkäreille alkoi joulurauha, sillä perinteen mukaisesti suorittivat upseerit ja aliupseerit kukin vuorolaan oman "pykälänsä".

Tämän vuotisesta joulusta tuli tapahtuma, jonka useimmat muistavat koko ikänsä. Juhlan puitteet poikkesivat kovasti totusta, ei ollut lunta, ei pakkasta, aurinko paistoi niin, että superusketuskin tarttui. Joulupuunakin oli vuorimänty tai pinja. Joulun vietto aloitettiin yksiköiden jouluaterioilla, joissa pataljoonan komentaja ja pastori esittivät tervehdyksensä. Tjikkosen vuoristokomppania aloitti kello 16.00, sen jälkeen IJK kello 17.15 ja Ek kello 18.00. Myös upseerimessissä vietettiin yhteistä iltaa. Komentaja ja pastori olivat JK:n päällikön majuri Erkki Pullin kanssa leikkineet aattoamuna joulupukkia viemällä joulutäydennuspaketit yksinäisille vartiopaikoille. Joulukirkko oli joulupäivänä kello 11.00. Kuvamme ovat EK:n joulunvietosta.

FINCON NEWS



Paloturvallisuussyistä sauna sijoitettiin vuorten taakse, suuren veden ääreen 6,5 mailin beachille. Muusta turvallisuudesta huolehtivat päällikön asettamat rantavahdit! Juoksulenkin rannikolla veti tapansa mukaan päällikkö itse. Ja voi pojat - kun meillä oli lystiä jouluna Välijärvessä.



St Paul, suomalaisten jumalanpalvelusten monivuotinen pitopaikka, oli taas jouluaamuna käytössä. YK-soturit saapumassa kirkkoon.

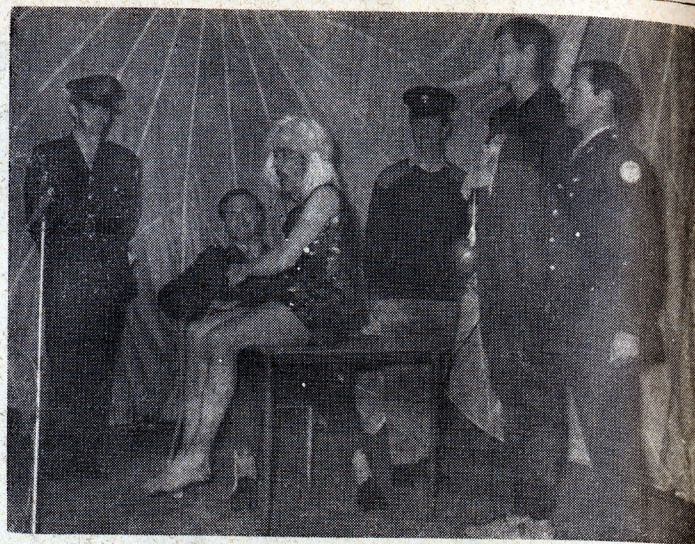
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS 1970

"Christmas Crackers 1970" staged in the Dining hall at HQ UNFICYP on Boxing Night was a resounding success. A great deal of hard work had gone into the show and the producer, Captain Jeremy Blott, and all the cast are to be warmly congratulated on their efforts.

The first half was composed entirely of local talent, and whilst it is difficult to single out individual acts, special mention should be made of Lance Corporal Kelway's rendering of "Twice Daily", the yodelling of Lance Corporal Bowers and some quite professional guitar playing by Lance Corporals Redgate and Heaton. The compering of the show was in the very capable hands of Lance Corporal Scammel.

After the interval, the professional cabaret acts, which included a Lebanese and a French

dancer, were certain of success before they even started.



● CO's Orders as seen by "The Officers Mess Thespians."

● Maureen of the "Keltics" sings to the accompaniment of Lance Corporal Redgate.



● Lance Corporal Kelway tells us about Alice Bailey.



Britcon Orienteering Competition

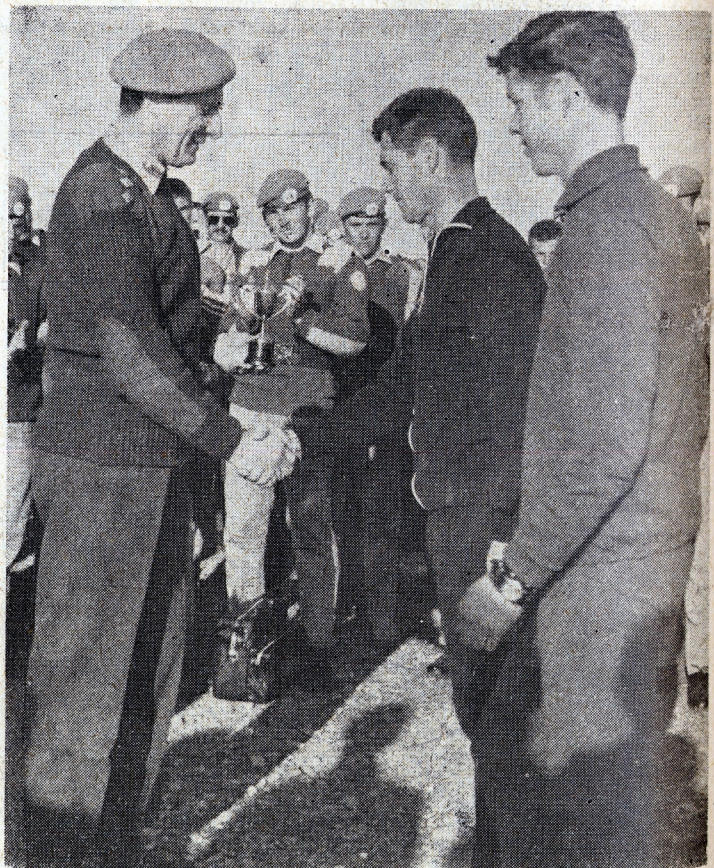
Brilliant sunshine contributed to the enjoyment of the British Contingent's first Orienteering Competition which took place on Monday 21st December in the Dhekelia Training Area. 38 teams of two men each entered the race. Other Contingents were invited to race 'hors concours' and Dancon, Swedcon, Swedcivpol and Ircon turned out.

The increasingly popular sport of Orienteering also offers tremendous scope as a form of military training since it combines both military skills with physical endurance. The course last week was a long one set over undulating country with some 20 checkpoints. Competitors had to visit as

many as possible within a two and a half hour time limit. Most competitors managed to cover about 10 miles.

The Commander of the British Contingent, Colonel D.E. Thornton, CBE, ERD, presented the prizes to the successful teams. The first ten placings were as follows:-

Position	Names	Unit	Points.
1	Sgt Back + Pte Soderkvist	SWEDCON	695
2	SSgt Gilder + Cpl Peterson	644 Sig Tp	670
3	Sgt Jackson + Rfn Holman	3 RGJ	642
4	Sgt Murphy + Lcpl Smith	3 RGJ	640
5	Maj Marzetti + Lt Hennings	60 Sqn RCT	620
6	Sgt Ekvall + Pte Fredrikson	SWEDCON	565
7	Capt Pearson + Capt Hawker	3 RGJ	540
8	Lt Frayne + Cpl Hutchinson	IRCON	527
9	Lcpl Scammel + Dvr March	60 Sqn RCT	503
10	Cpl Frow + Rfn Andrews	3 RGJ	473



● Colonel Thornton congratulates Staff Sergeant Gilder and Corporal Peterson.

● Drives Ansbro and Butterworth of 60 Sqn report in at one of the checkpoints.