

THE BLUE BERET



JULY 1986



"8 PI, 3 RCR, rappelling at Cape Greco"

Sketch by: MCpl B.T. Snache



B.T. Snache

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 7

JULY

1986

Published monthly by the Military Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP
P.O. Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: Nicosia 464000, Ext. 2235

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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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Printed in Cyprus by
Stavrinides Press Limited,
Tel. 452525, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Front cover

Force Reserve Exercise - Sector 6

Photograph by: Sgt A Beaton

**THE
BLUE BERET****Editorial**

Cyprus has a lot to offer her visitors. I sometimes wonder how many of our UN soldiers get to see her historic and scenic treasures during a tour of duty. It takes very little effort to tear oneself away from the lure of the beaches and spend the odd weekend exploring the country-side.

The London "Times" reported recently that a full size copy of the ancient Greek merchant ship on view in Kyrenia Castle, will sail as the only non-motorised vessel, past New York's Statue of Liberty later this summer to mark this monument's centenary. Hopefully "Kyrenia 2" as she is known will visit Cyprus next year after a voyage from Piraeus via the Greek Archipelago. Anyone visiting Kyrenia should not fail to see the real thing.

Nevertheless a car journey off the beaten track to some of the remoter villages or less known monasteries in the Troodos area can be a most rewarding venture. Spare a few moments to talk to the local people you meet there and you will discover the genuine warmth and hospitality of the Cypriot people.

For those of you who cannot leave the beaches - beware of too much sun if you are not used to it! Sunburn is very boring and sunstroke is worse!

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HUMANITARIAN - SECTOR ONE

By Maj F Andreassen

The Humanitarian Officer in Cyprus has without doubt one of the most interesting jobs - being in close contact with the local population. In DANCON, with its very mountainous area, bad roads/tracks, large dams and many pipelines carrying both drinking and irrigation water, being Sector Humanitarian Officer (SHO) is quite a unique post.

One task that SHO 1 has in common with most of the other SHO's is the ANTI MALARIA CAMPAIGN. But even this is something special for us, with many water-bearing stratus. Of the total 26 spraying areas on Cyprus, 13 are concentrated within our Sector. These areas

must be visited each fortnight. Normally it is 2 or 3 men, perhaps accompanied by a Health Inspector and SHO. The areas are sprayed with a mixture of F. Ex. petroleum, which fights the mosquito larvae. The ANTI MALARIA CAMPAIGN runs from March to October/November and is just one of many taskings SHO/DANCON has to deal with.

Other tasking or contacts to be mentioned are:

Water Development Department contact-man in Kato Pyrgos and Water Development Department regarding water pipelines.

Police stations in Kato Pyrgos, Limnitis, Xeros, Astromeritis and Evrykhou concerning farming and through them, contact with individuals in respective areas.

Contact with Health Inspectors

in Lefka area, Kato Pyrgos, Evrykhou and Pedhoulas concerning ANTI MALARIA CAMPAIGN.

Contacts regarding local water supplies and local arrangements in and around Lefka which includes HQ DANCON.

Last but not least the monthly Southwind Patrol to Paphos and Polis area to maintain personal contact with the Turkish Cypriot people living there. To support SHO 1 in this job, an interpreter often accompanies him.

As all this shows, the SHO's job includes many interesting tasks and affords opportunities to make good contacts with the local population. In assistance to SHO 1, there is 1 officer and 1 NCO whose main task is in JOC/DANCON as duty officer III and duty NCO III.

ANTI MALARIA CAMPAIGN



66 Squadron RCT have now returned to the UK and have been replaced by 7 Squadron RCT from Aldershot, the "Home of the British Army".

7 Squadron was originally formed as a Horse Transport Company in February 1870 and has a varied and interesting history. From 1870 until 1911 the Company saw service in Aldershot, South Africa, Cyprus, Egypt and Ireland.

During the First World War the Company served in France returning to UK in 1918. During World War 2 the Company initially supported the British Expeditionary Force in 1939. From 1942 the Company formed part of the 1st Infantry Division in North Africa. At the end of the war the Company, once again returned to the UK. It subsequently served in Egypt (1954-1958) and Cyprus in 1959.



3000 HOURS IN HELICOPTERS

Sqn Ldr PG CRITCHLEY, Officer Commanding 84 Squadron, is shown being congratulated recently by the Station Commander of RAF Akrotiri, Gp Capt CR ADAMS, AFC. Sqn Ldr Critchley had just completed his 3000th hour flying helicopters. He has previously worked on both Army Support helicopters and on the Search and Rescue helicopters in the UK. He has also been a Flying Instructor at a Flying Training School. His present work encompasses both Army Support and Search and Rescue for the British Forces and United Nations Forces in Cyprus.



Photo by SAC Sparks

THE NEW UN TRANSPORT SQUADRON



Our first UN tour in Cyprus began in February 1964. Since 1965 the Squadron has been part of 27 Regiment RCT, though we retain an independent role on mobilisation.

The Squadron played an important part in Cyprus in 1974. As the UN Transport Squadron we were based at Nicosia airport. During the fighting the airport came under intense and prolonged rocket and bomb attack. Major J R Herbert, then the Officer commanding, was made airport guardian. The Squadron set up defensive positions around the airport and was reinforced by

other UN forces. Amongst other vehicles, the fire tenders with radio and searchlights were used as patrol vehicles.

Our present UK strength is 210 organised into three 8 tonne task troops, a headquarters and workshops. We are responsible for transport support in South East District and providing men for the transport unit in the Falklands. The remainder of the time is spent in training for our mobilisation role of second line transport in support of 1st British Corps.

All ranks are looking forward to 7 Squadron's eighth UN tour.

PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS



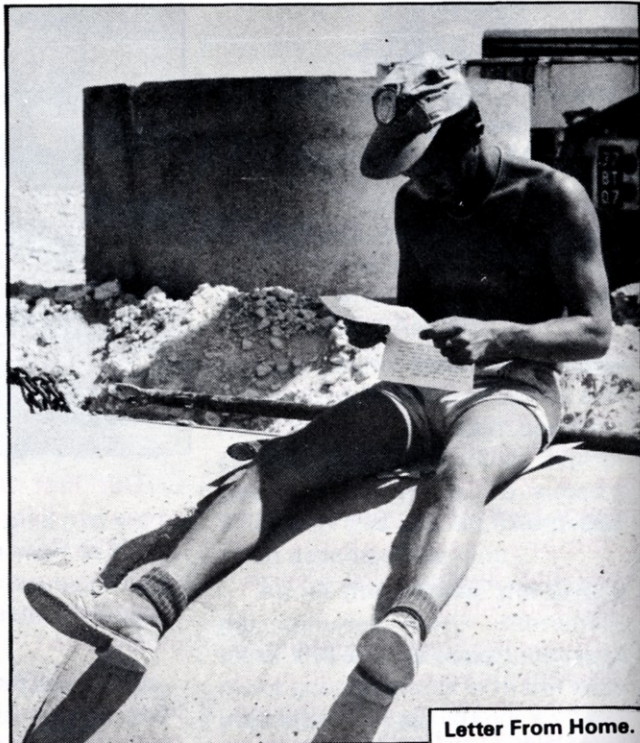
Don't smell it - just eat it!



Maj Treeby presents UN Plaque to Falcon School for academic achievement.



KIDCON Youth Club Fancy Dress Party.



Letter From Home.



Spider Man meets The Ninja.



Col M Leigh retires from the Army to be "A Farmers Boy".



Visit by Maj Gen Alexander.



Visit by Mr Patrick O'Toole to Ircon.



Line up for the "Knobbly Knees Competition"!



Promotion to Lt Col for Maj Prikowitsch.



By: Lt T Wilson

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards were formed in 1959 by the amalgamation of two of Britain's most senior and famous Cavalry Regiments of the line. These two Regiments were the 1st King's Dragoon Guards and the 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Queen's Bays).

Both of these Regiments trace their history to June 1685 when a rebellion in the West of England by the Duke of Monmouth induced Parliament to grant King James II the necessary supply for an increase in the Standing Army.

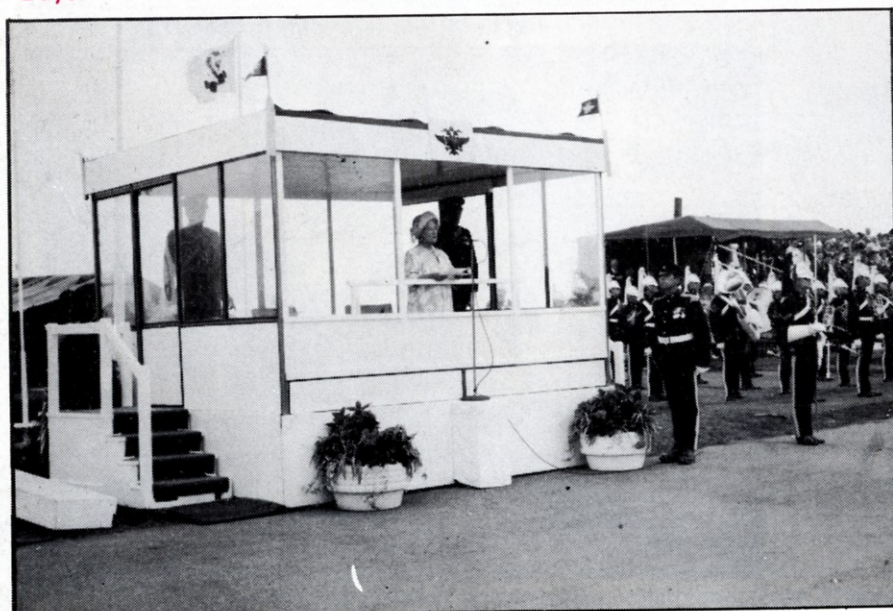
The first of the Regiments raised was the 2nd or Queen's Regiment of Horse (the Blues being the First Regiment). This Regiment became in 1714 The King's Own Regiment of Horse and in 1746 the 1st King's Dragoon Guards (KDG).

The second Regiment designated to Third Horse became in 1746 the 2nd or Queen's Regiment of Dragoon Guards and later, because the Regiment was mounted on Bay horses, it became known as simply The Queen's Bays.

With a history spanning 300 years, the Regiment has fought in Europe and Asia, Africa and even Canada.

In many of the campaigns since 1685, the two Regiments have fought with distinction. However there are certain battles which are of particular note; namely Blenheim and Ramillies in the War of the Spanish Succession (1704), Dettingen (1743) in the War of the Austrian Succession, Warburg (1760) in the Seven Years War, Waterloo (1815), Lucknow (1858), The Boer War (1901-2) and the two World Wars.

Waterloo is held as our greatest Battle Honour. During this famous battle a devastating counter charge against the French Cuirassiers followed by another general attack drove the Duke of Wellington to thank the KDG Squadron personally for their dash and gallantry. However, this gallantry led to the Regiment incurring the loss of 11 officers (including the Commanding Officer and his Adjutant) and 264 other ranks. Tradition holds that



H.M. the Queen Mother delivers her speech at the Tercentenary parade.

1st THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS



The Cardiff Tattoo.

the surviving Officers and Sergeants sat down together to share their meal on the evening of the Battle; a custom which has been observed on June 18th since.

After the Second World War, the two Regiments served in Libya, Egypt, Malaya and Jordan. Since 1959 The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) have served in Borneo, Aden (1966-7), Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Lebanon as well as England and Germany.

Last year, to celebrate its 300



Photos By: Unit Photographer

Freedom of the City of Cardiff in recognition of its close links with the City and the Principality as a whole. To celebrate this honour, the Regiment drove through the city in their tracked vehicles which caused quite a stir to the weekday shoppers!

1985 also marked the second visit of the QDG to UNFICYP since the Regiment has been at Wimbish. B Squadron completed a six month tour as Scout Car Squadron in January of this year and C Squadron were there in 1982.

Now it is the turn of D Squadron QDG to be Scout Car Squadron, taking over from B Squadron The Life Guards. D

Squadron are employed as the Guided Weapons Squadron in their parent role. In this capacity, they are equipped with the Swingfire Guided Weapons System mounted on Striker tracked vehicles. However, for the past few months, D Squadron have converted to Ferret Scout Cars and have been training hard for their new role as Scout Car Squadron in UNFICYP.

The Squadron very much looks forward to its next six months in Cyprus. Sadly it will be our last visit to UNFICYP for some time because, soon after our return to England in January 1987, the Regiment departs British shores for a four year tour in BAOR.



The Lord Mayor of the City of Cardiff inspects the Regiment at the Freedom of Cardiff Parade.

year history, the QDG held a Tercentenary Parade - at its present barracks in Wimbish, in England. The Regiment was honoured by the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The Queen Mother became Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen's Bays in 1937 and so she has had a long association with the Regiment.

In addition to the parade at Wimbish, the Regiment was also privileged to be granted the



THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SECTION

By: WO2 C. THORNE

As the title suggests, the Special Investigation Section, UN MP Coy investigates the more serious military offences that occur, together with other more sensitive UN matters that warrant a detailed investigation.

The SIS is a multi-national investigation force comprising of British RMP/SIB, a Canadian MP and civilian Police from Sweden and Finland.

In addition to individual contingent matters, this section assists various policing agencies not only island-wide but world-wide. Information regarding vice and drug-related offences are passed or received through such departments as INTERPOL to enable police officers wherever, to keep up to date on current trends, terminology and preventive methods.



Close liaison is always maintained with the Criminal Investigation Departments on both sides of the Green Line, together with the Police Forensic Laboratory, HM Customs and Excise, Civilian Customs Authorities, Immigration Depts and other various law

enforcement agencies and security organizations. The experience from all these areas and departments is available to us and we, the SIS, offer Contingent/Sector Commanders our expertise, should they so request it.

Photos by: Sgt A Beaton

THE NEW 48th CONTINGENT



We came from a cold climate with snow and wind, to an island bathed in sun and pleasant temperatures. During our first week on the island, the old 47th Contingent gave us a very good handover. Then on the 24th April, they got on their "home flight" to Sweden.

Our unaccustomedness to the UN-task was discernible in the beginning. But, we have tried hard and feel we have settled into our post very well. We will try to maintain the good reputation that CIVPOL has on this beautiful island of Cyprus.

The Contingent consists of 18 members, all Policemen from Sweden. The average age is about 37 years and the average years of duty in Sweden is approximately 17½.



SWEDCIVPOL

The new Commander, Ch Supt Sven Smedjegarden is 52 years old and when working in Sweden, is the head of the Police Force at Stockholm International Airport, Arlanda. He has approximately 30 years of experience in various fields of Police work. His experience of Peace-keeping, started back in 1975 with UNEF II, as Senior Operations Officer. In 1978-79 (also with UNEF II) he was Force Provost Marshal and was stationed in Ismailia, Egypt, where UNEF II was situated. As Chief Superintendent, Sven Smedjegarden is the most highly ranked Police Officer ever to command SWEDCIVPOL in Cyprus.

By: Insp M Nordenstedt

SWEDISH NATIONAL DAY



AT CAMP VICTORIA

The 6th of June has been Sweden's official National Day since 1983, and is celebrated by Swedes all over the World – including SWEDCON in Cyprus.

However, the history of this special day is a little older. It goes back to the very birth of Sweden as an independent nation. This happened on the 6th June 1523, when the Nordic Union was dissolved and the great King Gustaf Wasa was elected. Almost 300 years later on the 6th June 1809, Sweden decided to give its citizens a number of new rights, one being the freedom of the press. The Swedish colours however originate from tales of mediaeval crusades, which to some extent are similar to the contemporary history of Cyprus.

The blue and yellow colours on the Swedish flag have been the official symbol of Sweden since the days of King Gustav Wasa.

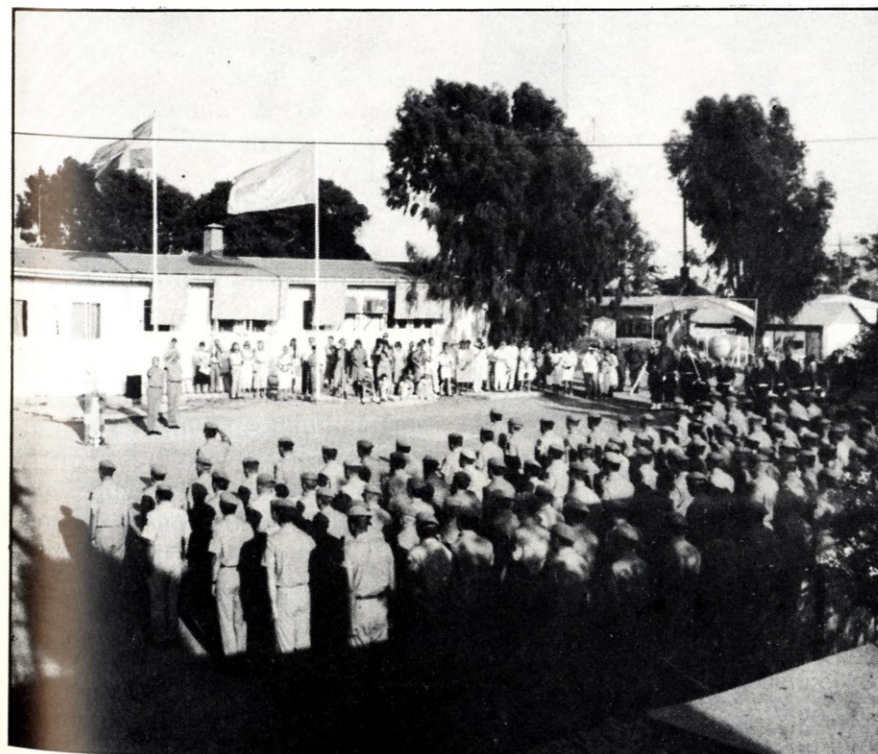
Since 1961 the 6th of June was the Day of The Swedish Flag, but as previously mentioned, it is now also the official National Day. This story was related in the Commander's speech in front of hundreds of guests at the

Swedish Camp in Larnaca, but before that, the distinguished guests, mainly from Cyprus, enjoyed the Guards of Colour and Salute. After the speech there was a very touching ceremony when the Swedish National



Hundreds of guests attended the celebrations of Swedish National Day.

The famous Swedish "Smorgasbord"



Anthem was sang. Swedish National Day is a day to remember and a reminder of why Sweden contributes to the peacekeeping forces in Cyprus and elsewhere, after nearly 200 years of peace in Sweden itself.

Early June is a beautiful time of the year in Sweden and the Swedes in Camp Victoria could not help thinking of the blossom and the green grass at home on a day like this.

By: Capt T Klaar

In our May edition we published an article about SKOURIOTISSA. The material in this article was taken from various works by Mr Kevork Keshishian to whom we are indebted for his research work.



By Lt B. Ewing

The demanding and arduous conditions of service in Cyprus have been recognized by the Canadian Forces, and a Welfare Section is established within CANCON to combat this problem.

The mission of the Welfare Section is to organize and implement a recreation and leave program for all members of CANCON. To accomplish this mission the Welfare section is 8 members strong with 3 at BBC, 2 in Limassol, 2 in Germany, and 1 at home in Winnipeg. This article will outline the Leave and recreational programs available to CANCON personnel.

NEWSPAPER: A reasonable variety of major newspapers and periodicals are supplied to the



contingent from Canada. They arrive in bulk, once per week and are distributed to the messes and other major contingent locations by the Welfare Section.

PAPERBACKS: The contingent receives each month, courtesy of the Canadian Legion, three boxes of paperbacks, one box of Readers Digest, as well as

one box of Legion magazines. The Welfare Section distributes these books to the various messes and major contingent locations.

SMALL GAMES: The Welfare Section purchases and distributes a wide variety of small games (ie: darts, cards, chess, monopoly, etc.) to each of the messes.

CASSETTES: All messes are in possession of basic stereo equipment and a limited number of cassette tapes.

FILMS: The contingent receives 8 films per week from Canada. This allows for the showing of one film per day per mess.

TV VIDEOS: Each week 42 hours of taped and edited television programs are broadcast to all messes and major contingent locations.

MOVIE VIDEOS: The Welfare Section holds approximately 100 movie videos which may be drawn by any member of the contingent for private or public viewing.

CFPAF LOANS: The contingent receives \$3800.00 per month in a CFPLF grant. Members requiring emergency finances may apply for a CFPAF loan which may be granted, based on need, by the Welfare Committee.

WELFARE



RECREATION CLUBS: The contingent operates a number of off duty hour clubs. At present the clubs in operation are: CF amateur radio service, skeet shooting, scuba diving, karate, music, water skiing, and sport parachuting. Additional clubs can be started, based on interest in an activity. Nominal fees are charged to operate the clubs and some subsidization is provided by the Welfare Section.

equipment is provided by the Welfare Section.

FLOWER PROGRAM: Any member of the contingent may send flowers to addresses in Canada.



TOURS/BEACH RUNS: The Welfare Section organizes a program of tours/beach runs to various parts of the island. These tours usually take place on Sundays. A schedule is promulgated in advance as an annex to routine orders and seats are reserved at the Welfare office. In addition, a weekly beach run to Ayia Napa is conducted.

SPORTS: A seasonal sports program is conducted in the contingent and all members are encouraged to participate. All

CAR RENTALS: The contingent has a long term contract to lease vehicles for a substantial reduction in car rental fees. These 13 rental cars are available to all members of the contingent at the Welfare office on a first come, first serve basis.

LEAVE: Each member of the contingent may be granted up to 14 days UN Special Leave per tour, in addition to a possible 48 hour pass once per month on the island. These days are not counted

against a members annual entitlement. A total of 10% of the contingents strength may be on leave at any one time, however, only 5% may be on leave outside Cyprus. Members must apply for leave in person, through their sub-units. Once dates have been approved by sub-units, the Welfare Section provides as much assistance as possible with regard to service air/commercial air reservations, vacation tours, car rentals, etc.

Legally married personnel may participate in the Priority 2G Special Wives Travel Program. CANCONCYP is allocated 6 seats per week on the Sunday Trans-Atlantic Flight (5 seats for the unit and a 6th for augmentees). This program allows a wife to travel from any point of service air in Canada to join her husband for the duration of his leave.

LEAVE CENTERS: The contingent maintains a Leave Center in Limassol at public expense. The aim of the Leave Center is to provide a relaxing change from the normal routine. The Leave Center consists of nine apartments allocated as follows:

- a. one officer apartment (cap 6/night);
- b. two SNCO apartments (cap 12/night); and
- c. five JR Ranks apartments (cap 24/night).

A wide variety of equipment is available (ie: motor boats, windsurfers, TV's, etc.) and supplied by the Welfare Section. In addition, the contingent has access to four two-bedroom British PMQ's in Nicosia. These homes are reserved for couples on UN leave at nominal cost.

As can be seen the Welfare Section organizes and implements a very comprehensive leave and recreational program for the contingent.



FORCE RESERVE EXERCISE

By: Maj Wildberger

Dawn, 20th of May 86. A lot more excitement in AUSCON than normal. A periodic exercise to test our soldiers operational readiness, made it necessary to alarm the Austrian Contingent at 0230hrs. To make sure we were able to leave camp and still fulfill our tasks, everybody got ready to move out. Sector Six requested the Force Reserve to be called out. By 0900 hrs most elements of our Battalion had moved into BZ. The forward Battalion HQ had been erected at OP A-14. The Logistic Part had moved to the eastern part of the BZ where, they established their supply post. Our medical staff under the command of our SMO erected the Battalion air post at the church of AYIA MARINA, between OP 1-18 and OP A-28 (see front cover). Our Sector reserve, the engineers platoon, did a close range patrol in the area of the 2nd Coy. In the meantime the advance party of the Force Reserve reported for duty at the forward Battalion HQ and assisted in pulling in the other FR



elements. The ALO also tasked Heliflights for exercise medevacs and cargo transports.

From 0900 hrs onwards, the Force Reserve efficiently supported AUSCON. One of the tasks of the FR was standing patrols, but of course they were also tasked to mobile patrols, where the Ferrets and the Grizzleys aroused astonishment.

The exercise ended with the total lift of an OP-crew shortly after 1200 hrs. Afterwards at the 'Wash Up', the faults which occurred during the exercise, were discussed under the supervision of SOP 1 and Trg Maj Jelstrup. Also how to do better in future times and of course the positive aspects of the exercise were examined.

NEW COS & DCOS VISIT

SECTOR 6

On the 20th May, which was when the Force Reserve Exercise took place at AUSCON, the newly arrived COS - Brigadier MacInnis C.D. and DCOS - Col Hamilton-Russell M.B.E., visited AUSCON and Sector 6.

Their visit not only took them to Camp Duke Leopold V. but also to the Liaison Posts in the KARPAS area and of course the 1st and 2nd Coy in ACHNA and DHERINIA line.

On this occasion the Force Reserve exercise was inspected.

The CO AUSCON, Lt Col Machly, showed the two Officers' around and also invited them to lunch in the field kitchen the had been erected during the Exercise.



AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS CYPRUS

Between 17-19 June 1986 the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Bill Hayden, accompanied by his wife, visited Cyprus during a tour which included Ankara, Athens and Manila before returning to Australia.

Mr Hayden has held the same electoral seat in Queensland since 1961. Prior to that he served a number of years in the Queensland Police Force. In recent years he has been the leader of the opposition (1977-1983) and has been the Minister for Foreign Affairs since the Labour Party came to power in 1983.

On Wednesday 18 June the Minister visited UNFICYP HQ where he had talks with Mr Holger, The Special Representative of the Secretary General and the visited the AUSTCIVPOL (Australian Federal Police) Headquarters. The Minister was accompanied by the Australian High Commissioner, Mr D Wadham and Mrs Wadham.



Pictured is Mr Hayden being greeted by Chief Superintendent Williams, AUSTCIVPOL, with the Australian High Commissioner, MR David Wadham (right).

During the visit to AUSTCIVPOL, Mr Hayden was given a briefing on the duties of AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus by the contingent Commander, Chief Superintendent Williams and afterwards he spoke with members of the contingent. The visit was timely, in that there were

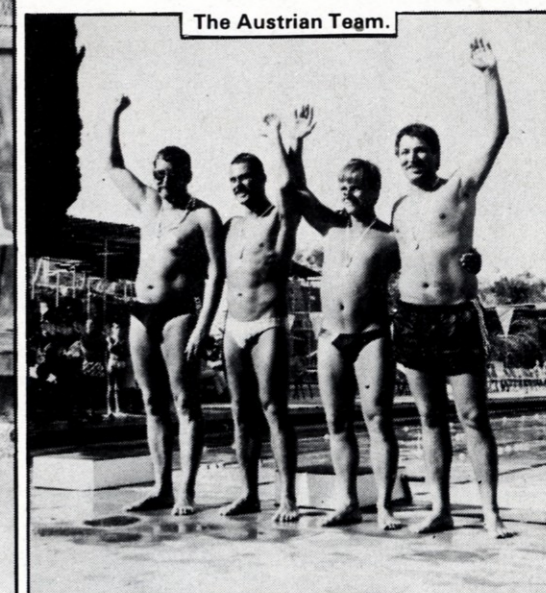
present representatives of three contingents. Members of the 24th Contingent who are shortly to leave Cyprus, were joined by the new members who had arrived on 11 June and current members who will be serving in Cyprus until December 1986.



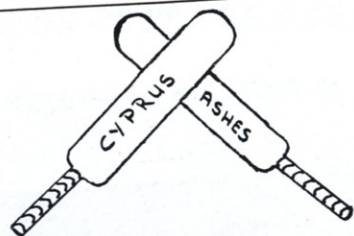
Overall Winners of the Competition were the Swedish Team.

UNFICYP SWIMMING GALA

The Austrian Team.



Winners of the "Chain of Command" race.



THE CYPRUS ASHES

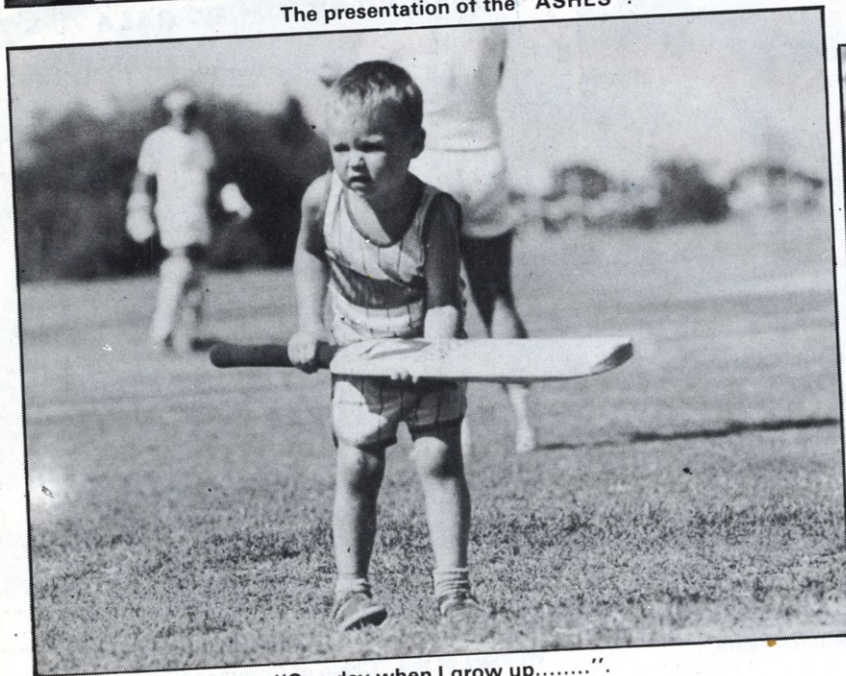
On the 28th September 1983, AUSTCIVPOL played a combined ENGLISH X1 from UNITED NATIONS FLIGHT. The Australians batted first and at the end of the allotted 20 overs, were 7 wickets for 70 runs. The ENGLISH X1 were confident, but failed to perform to expectations. They were all out for 30 runs after 12 overs.



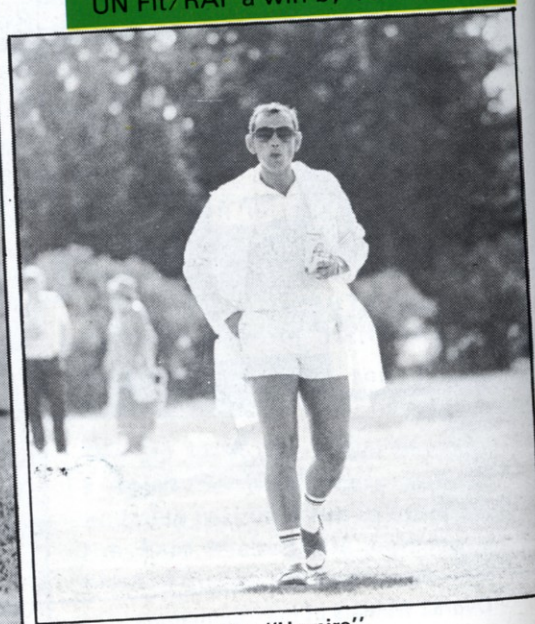
The presentation of the "ASHES".

During post-match celebrations, an old wooden cricket trophy was cut up and burnt. In this manner the "CYPRUS ASHES" were created. The "ASHES" were placed in an urn and regardless of the result of future "ASHES" contests, will remain within the confines of the MOUFFLON ROOMS.

Now, twice a year two teams play for the coveted "ASHES". This year's first game was closely contested with a limited duration of 15 overs. The UN Flt/RAF Team scoring 89 for 6, the AUSSIES replying with 74 for 2. Giving the UN Flt/RAF a win by 15 runs.



"One day when I grow up....."



The "Umpire".