

THE BLUE BERET



JANUARY 1980



DECEMBER IN RETROSPECT

Rotations

None

Medal Parades

None

Visits

3-6

Maj D J Ross and CWO R L Kuntz to the Canadian Contingent to inspect national communications facilities.

4-7

Patrick O'Neil and Jeff Morris, journalists from the British newspaper the "Daily Mail", to the British Contingent to produce a feature for the Christmas edition.

4

Maj Gen W R Taylor, Commander British Forces Cyprus, to Force Reserve in the British Contingent.

4-7

Mr Anders Wendelberg, editor of the Swedish Magazine "Ostgota Correspondenten", to HQ UNFICYP and the Swedish Contingent.

4-19

Capt J Jacobsen and Ms A Jensen, both from the UN Department of MOD Denmark, to the Danish Contingent.

5-13

Maj W Whitehead and Sgt J Rogers, members of the Canadian Forces Information Services, and Mr. J. Cruger, reporter for "Stars and Stripes" magazine, to the Canadian Contingent.

5-13

Lt Col W Vernon, Commanding Officer 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, accompanied by five members of his battalion, to the Canadian Contingent as recce party for the Sector 4 battalion designate.

5-13

Maj G R MacLean to the Canadian Contingent to co-ordinate the training plan of LdSH(RC) for 1980.

6-10

Chaplain Julius Hanak, Austrian Army Protestant chaplain, to the Austrian Contingent to conduct religious services.

7-14

David Carter and David Kremer, of BBC Radio London, to the British Contingent to record a Christmas request programme.

10

Col M R Carruthers, Officer in Charge RAOC Manning and Record Office, to the British Contingent.

10-13

HE Mr. Axel Edelstam, Swedish Ambassador, to the Swedish Contingent.

27-3 Jan

Entertainment Troup of twenty-five, escorted by Major J Miller, to perform for Canadian Contingent.

Military and Recreational Competitions

6

UNFICYP Orienteering Championships

FUTURE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

6 Two part film report on the first twenty-six years of space exploration. Part one: "One Small Step". Nicosia. The film will be shown at 8 pm in the American Centre and examines in detail the history of space exploration from the National Aeronautical and Space Administration's inauspicious beginnings in the early 60's to the moon landing and the rendezvous and docking of the Soyuz and Apollo space crafts in July 1975.

13 Two-part film on the first twenty-six years of space exploration. Part two: "The Final Frontier". Nicosia. The film will be shown at 8 pm in the American Centre and begins with the Space Shuttle Enterprise's debut in September 1976 and goes on to investigate the premise and promise of space.

14 Piano recital by Richard Deering. Nicosia. The recital will be given at 8 pm in the British Council library and will consist of works by Mozart, Frank Bridge, Schubert, Elizabeth Lutyens, Debussy and Listz.

18 "Green" or "Clean" Monday. The first day of Lent known as "Deftera tis Kathara" is the day on which all Greek Cypriots traditionally picnic in the fields and eat bread, olives and as many different vegetables as possible.

20 Film "Klute". Nicosia. The film will be shown at 7.30 pm in the American Centre and is the story of a policeman hired privately to investigate the mysterious disappearance of a research scientist. Jane Fonda won the Academy Award for the best actress in 1971 for her performance in this film.

21 Photographic Exhibition. "The British At Play". Nicosia. The exhibition will open in the British Council building at 6.30 pm and continues until 29 February. It consists of forty five selected photographs by three talented British photographers, Chris Settle Perkins, Homer Sykes and Patrick Ward, illustrating traditional British customs and various forms of recreation.

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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. Descriptions of recent local events or of visits to places of interest are welcome.

Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper.

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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on the cover

The Force interdenominational Carol Service in the Holy Cross Church in Nicosia on 20 December 1979.



THE BLUE BERET

Editorial

Wanted — New Material

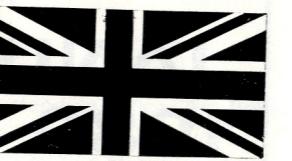
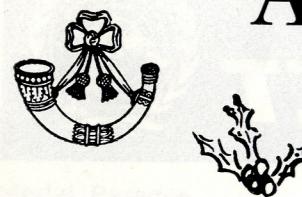
A great many of you during the past year have rightly complained of the delayed issues of this journal but now, with much "blood, sweat, toil and tears", we go to press this time during the month of issue. We in the editorial office have done our bit so how about you doing yours?

We made the point last month that we cannot edit material until it is in our hands and if it arrives late it therefore means we automatically go to press late. That is unless you want to receive copies of the journal with blank pages annotated "No Material received at the time of going to press". We need to have a collection of material constantly to hand that we can edit whenever we have the time, so that it will be ready to use when the next issue is being collated. No unsolicited material has been received in the editorial office for several months now so all the uncommitted space in each issue is regularly being filled with whatever comes first into the editorial mind. We are sure that some of you must be able to write about interesting things or events and give your fellow readers the pleasure of reading about a much wider range of subjects than can be provided by the editorial pen. Once you have written something all you have to do is put it in an envelope and mark it "Editor, The Blue Beret, HQ UNFICYP". It is guaranteed a warm welcome when it arrives on the editorial table!

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A Merry Christmas in Sector 2



The Christmas and New Year period for the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry in Sector 2 was celebrated in very much the same manner as we would celebrate in any other active service theatre. Christmas is traditionally a time when the family celebrate together but even without our families out here in Cyprus the same Regimental family spirit was very much in evidence at the Box Factory, St. David's Camp and in all the OPs throughout the Sector 2 part of the Buffer Zone. A variety of activities happened during the Festive Season, beginning in mid-December with the stirring of the Christmas Pudding and ending on New Year's day with a few throbbing heads.

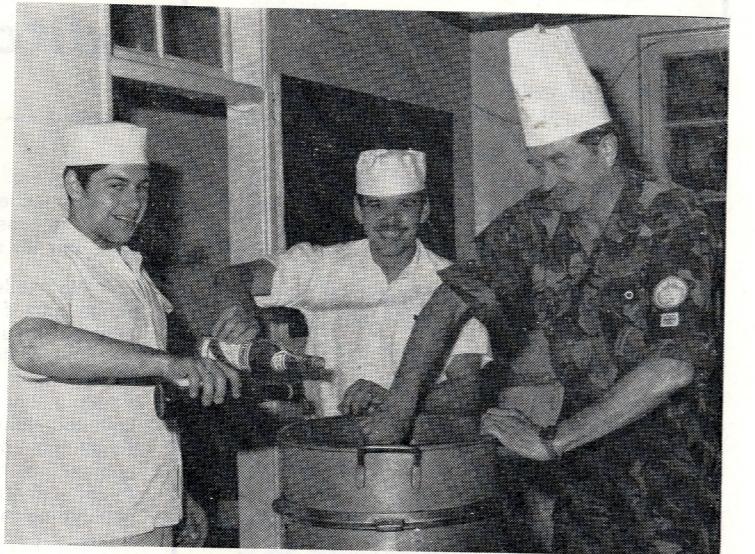
It is a Regimental tradition that the Commanding Officer visits the cookhouse to add the final alcoholic ingredients to the Christmas pudding mixture and give the contents a good stir. This year, Lt Col Makepeace-Warne exchanged his blue UN beret for a chef's tall hat to perform this task, assisted by SQMS Benson and other members of the cookhouse staff. This light-hearted activity is generally the beginning of Christmas festivities.

On 20 December the two farming SNCOs organised a party for the children of Akaki as a token of gratitude for the five boxes of fruit they picked, that were sent back to Britain for a similar party held for our children in Tidworth. A sergeant played the role of Father Christmas and handed out sweets and presents to the children. The Battalion Band played a variety of musical medleys as well as the traditional Christmas carols.

The Band, who have been playing at a number of functions both for ourselves and other Sectors, provided the musical backing when members of the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes visited the UNPA married quarters and UNFICYP Officers' Mess on the Saturday night before Christmas, to sing carols and other traditional festive songs. Dry throats were not a major problem on this occasion!

On Christmas Eve the Commanding Officer visited all the OPs distributing the usual Christmas fare of beer, Christmas Puddings and other presents. At St David's Camp an inter-hut competition of cards, darts, backgammon and dominoes was organised in the Bugle Club and Cookhouse with the dress there being 'Crazy Dress'.

Christmas Day started with the Commanding Officer and Officers, accompanied by Father Christmas, visiting the OPs and giving the soldiers the traditional mugs of 'gun fire' — a mixture of rum and tea. Each OP, for operational reasons had to organise and cook their own Christmas lunch but despite this a good standard of cooking was achieved by a number of soldiers whose normal culinary activity is confined to a hexamine burner and 24 hour compo pack. All the OPs sent groups of soldiers to St. David's Camp in the afternoon to take part in the inter-Mess games competition, which consisted of Badminton, Volley Ball, Basket Ball, Tug-of-War and Bowls. This rather energetic form of Christmas afternoon's entertainment was rounded off with a well earned drinks



The Commanding Officer, Lt Col A Makepeace-Warne, stirring the Christmas pudding.

session in preparation for the evening's events. The Sergeants' Mess put on a very amusing Pantomime called 'Cinders Gone Wrong', which was followed by carol singing, a film and other forms of entertainment. Many competitions, films and parties were the order for the next two days with another very well organised and amusing Pantomime/Review performed by members of the Company stationed at the Box Factory.

Activities over the New Year were organised by the Companies with many a New Year resolution being broken within the first 24 hours of 1980.

With the seasons festivities over the members of Eastern and Western Companies are now able to look only a short time ahead to 14 February when they start the changeover with the two Companies from the Eastern Sovereign Base Area and move to Dhekelia, when they themselves will be able to savour the delights of sail board surfing, gliding and all the other activities available at Alexander Barracks and probably the best time of the year to be on the east coast of Cyprus, whereas the relieving Companies have the start of the hot summer months in the OPs.

A Happy New Year to all the other Sectors.

Father Christmas (Sgt Carlyon) and friends — Capt Hill, SQMN Benson and Lt Col Makepeace-Warne, visiting an OP.



Father Christmas being offered a drink in thanks for delivering the Christmas turkey.

Santa Lucia Queen of Light



In Sweden 13 December is always one of the darkest days of the year and is traditionally Santa Lucia's Day. Each year a young blonde girl dresses in a white robe and has a crown of light to wear on her head. She comes before dawn singing hymns and folk songs accompanied by her maids.

Although in Cyprus it is neither as cold nor as dark as in Sweden the tradition continues and Santa Lucia visited the soldiers of the contingent offering them the traditional buns with raisins, ginger and hot spiced wine.

Polar Bear Club meets



Those who joined the Club towards the end of the session hardly seemed properly dressed for the occasion. On the way out of the water their cold, wet clothes made them envy those only in swimming trunks.



Just to prove it was a military club some of the new members decided to leave the water in a military manner.



COMDSWEDCON, Lt Col H K Waldner, handing out the diplomas to some of those who had braved the Mediterranean in winter.



SWEDCON



G O D
J U L



The Swedish Polar Bear Swimming Club held its annual meetings on 24 December and New Year's Day. Many new members joined the Club on these days by taking a dip in the Mediterranean at Larnaca. People came prepared to join the Club in many different forms of dress and in many different ways. Some came in swimming clothes, some in uniform and some in fancy dress and they entered the water in ways varying from a military manner to a hectic, mad rush. When it came to getting out, however, only a few were still able to leave the water in a correct military fashion!

To mark the occasion all the new members on 24 December received diplomas from Lt Col G S S Danielsson and those on New Year's Day from COMDSWEDCON, Lt Col H K Waldner, and, perhaps more essential at the time, a glass of hot glögg to drink as they came out of the water! The temperature, in fact, was not much colder than it is in the Swedish lakes in high summer.

GLÆDELIG JUL



King Neptune and his men on their way to the beach.



King Neptune and his assistants ready to receive the unbelievers.



The Christmas Swim

The age-old custom had to be observed, to show that we are Vikings from the north. So we invited the seagod, King Neptune himself, to visit us and he promised to come to Dansborg, three miles west of Viking Camp, on 25 December. He also promised to baptize everyone who dared turn up.

In an attempt to avert the anger of the god, the Danes appeared in various forms of attempted disguise — some wore white underwear with a skeleton painted on (that was the kitchen section); some came in deep sea equipment, and others had umbrellas to protect themselves from King Neptune.

They transformed their vehicles too; — some were done up as Viking ships; some were dressed over-all with flashing lights. The party left the Camp with lots of noise and arrived at the site prepared by King Neptune and his court.

The first to be "baptized" by the witch-doctor.



...and then into the waves, hoping to be clean again; but the sea was full of seaweed.



Capt Miller and Capt Downes, our British exchange officer who likes Canadians so much he is retiring to take up real estate in Canada, take command of OP Orchard on Christmas day.



STRATHCONAS'
MERRY
CHRISTMAS



The Commanding Officer Lt Col I McNabb, serving Christmas dinner to the soldiers.

The Regiment is not unaccustomed to travel abroad, nor is it unfamiliar with celebrating Christmas in a foreign country. Christmas 1979 will be the 17th time since 1899 that members of the Strathconas have spent this festive season away from their native land. Because of the regiment's work and the circumstances of their tour of duty the Christmas season is for many a time of reflection and longing. The Regiment, however, celebrated this period in true style and tradition with the men's Christmas dinner, the Officers and Snr NCOs "at home", and many parties where there is the exchange of gifts and the decorating of the messes.

With all celebrations underway, Christmas Eve was upon us and proved to be equally exciting, with many parties being held within the Camp. In the Officers' Mess you could be witness to Officers singing Christmas Carols, playing with their newly acquired bows and arrows and water pistols or just cheering in the Christmas season, while at the Sgts' Mess you could listen to the strains of their famous band "Sounds Galore" headed by Sgt Fenske. The M/Cpl's, because of their limited numbers, took sides with the Officers and added the much-needed talent for singing during the remainder of the evening.

As usual the men's Christmas, held in the J.R.C., was attended by the Officers and Snr NCOs who took great delight in serving the men their traditional turkey dinner and Christmas pudding. This year, the men were served Canadian beer with their meal. It is not available in Cyprus and was a treat appreciated by all. During the dinner the traditional exchange of C.F. tunics between the youngest trooper and the Commanding Officer, along with the exchange between the

oldest Corporal and the Regimental Sergeant-Major was carried out at the head table. Trooper Cox being the youngest trooper was awarded control of the Regiment for this period, while Corporal Robinson was fitted into the RSM's tunic.

Christmas Day saw the officers and Senior NCOs manning the B.Z. OPs for the day enabling the men to enjoy the day with another Christmas dinner and other festivities.

By 1700 hrs 25 December 1979, all activities

Tpr Cox puts on the CO's tunic during the Christmas dinner.



This traditional Christmas turkey didn't last long!

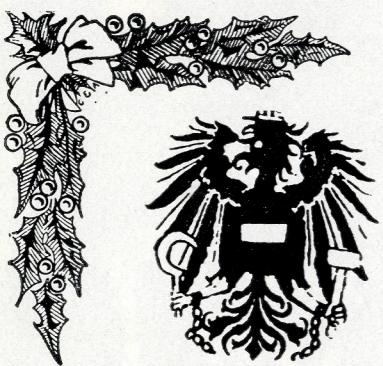
were back to the routine schedule.

On 28 December 1979 the Christmas entertainment group arrived on the island to prepare for performances to the troops on the 29, 30, 31 December 1979. The news of their arrival spread quickly and the pitch of excitement rose steadily only to be climaxed by the troupe's brilliant performances. The troupe was also hosted, during their free time by many of the institutes and in some cases saw and heard many of our Canadian soldiers' talents.

With the Christmas show concluded, the only celebration left was New Year. Again the Strathconas mustered their strength and endurance to properly greet and bring in the New Year. With parties in all institutes, it was not uncommon to witness people shaking hands and giving hearty smiles to their colleagues throughout the evening and well into the next day.

Finally all celebrations were ended, normal routine was completely restored and for many of us the start of the New Year was a time for recuperation.

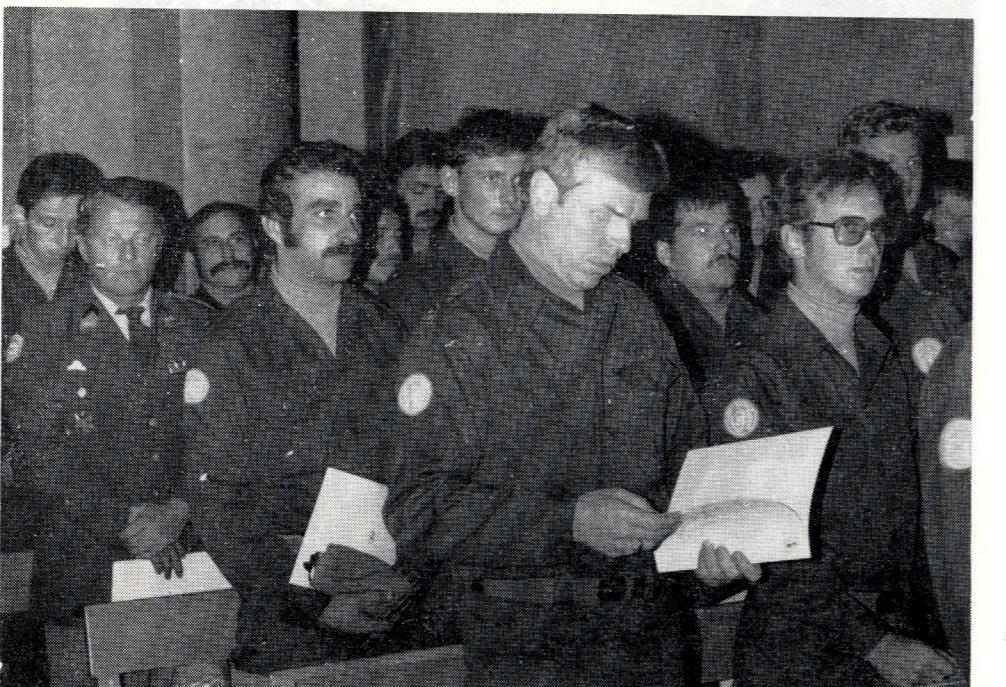
FRÖHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN



Carol Service

The interdenominational Carol Service, in which all contingents of the Force participate, was this year held on 20 December and as usual took place in the Holy Cross Church, Nicosia. In this service each contingent provides a reader for one of the lessons which is followed by the members of the contingent singing a national carol in their own language.

The second lesson was read by 1/Sgt Wilhelm Hold from AUSCON and after he had



The Austrian chorus in the Holy Cross Church, led by Capt Alteneichinger in the foreground and with COMDAUSCON, Lt Col Satter, just in the picture on the left.

finished reading all the members of the contingent at the service joined together to sing the very old Christmas folk song, "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen".

Christmas time with its message of "Peace to the World" is a particularly meaningful time for all members of peace missions and it highlights the importance of our task here in Cyprus.



The diners enjoying the meal during the Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party this year was organised in the Men's Mess at Camp Duke Leopold V and took the form of a barbecue which started promptly at 6 p.m. on 22 December. Our Christmas festivities were shared by our guests of honour from the other contingents who made up to a total of eighty those of us who set out to enjoy ourselves that evening.

The excellent meal basically consisted of delicious pork chops and caviar followed by gâteaux which was accompanied by plenty to drink. As the evening progressed so the atmosphere improved and one song was followed by another. We were not surprised that late in the evening some of our guests began to wonder if the Vienna Boys Choir

was giving one of its famous performances! The enthusiastic singing gave rise to many dry throats and as a result the last of the barrels dried up at about midnight and the party came to an end.

The party was held because most of the Mess members feel that such parties help to improve the fellowship between the soldiers of the different contingents. However, such parties are expensive and this one could not have been thrown without the money for it being made available. The Mess members were therefore particularly grateful to the Quartermaster's Section and our very popular Chaplain and Welfare Officer, Milkurat K Grindl, for their contributions to the party's funds.



One of the pleasures of the evening for most people was the beer drawn from the wood.



John McFadden shows Mrs. Nula Dooley how its done!



Rudy Reimann and Maureen Kinahan share a secret; Lt Col Ian McNab finds out what the future holds; and Lorraine Morreux of the American Embassy tries one on for size!



John Amos, UNFICYP Staff Assn, Chairman, giving his welcoming speech (and what a speech!).



Diana Meneses received her gift from Santa Claus (we told John he was too old!).



SECRETARIAT

Merry Xmas

Dinner Dance.

UNFICYP Secretariat held a Christmas Dinner Dance in the HQ Officers' Mess on Friday, 21 December 1979. The function was very well organised by Maureen Kinahan, the Entertainments Member of UNFICYP Staff Association, with help from Uncle John Amos and Mr. Baker, the Mess Manager. John Amos, as Chairman of the UNFICYP Staff Association, welcomed 86 members and guests of the Secretariat who sat down to an excellent traditional English Christmas menu, complete with Christmas crackers! At 10 o'clock Santa Claus paid a surprise visit and the younger children received gifts. We are told a good time was had by all.

Mess Decorating Party.

UNFICYP Secretariat won 1st prize at the UNFICYP HQ Mess Christmas Decorating Party. This was mainly due to the efforts of Maryrose MacMillan-Nihlén who did an excellent job.

CINDERELLA



Merry Xmas in Support Regiment

The Regiment celebrated Christmas in traditional British military fashion, with a Pantomime, a Carol Service, Christmas Dinner and a Regimental Smoker.

Pantomime.

On 20 and 21 December a Christmas pantomime, "Cinderella", was staged in St. John's School hall in the UNPA at Nicosia by members of Britcon and their families. It was only just recognisable as the Cinderella story, thanks to subtle changes in the plot and topical rewriting of some of the lines!

OUTDOOR CAROL SERVICE



CHRISTMAS DINNER



Christmas Dinner.

Christmas Eve saw the traditional serving of Christmas Dinner to the soldiers of the Regiment by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NOCs, most of whom had taken a little "Dutch Courage" in the Sergeants' Mess beforehand. The men did full justice to a magnificent meal and it was quite apparent that the servers enjoyed the occasion as much as the served. The accompanying picture shows COMDBRITCON, Col P F B Hargrave, taking his part as one of the servers.

Regimental Smoker.

For some the highlight of the Christmas festivities was the Regimental Smoker, held in the Dining Hall in Jubilee Camp on Friday, 28 December. A bevy of gorgeous girls entertained the Regiment with exotic dances, and the belly-dancer was particularly spectacular. After the entertainment, RQMS Brian "The Hammer" Ford auctioned anything from a fluffy toy to a pair of underpants to raise money for charity.

SWEDISH FESTIVITIES

NOBEL DAY CELEBRATIONS



Lt Col and Mrs Waldner welcome Lt Col K Duffy, the Chief Economics Officer at HQ UNFICYP, to the Nobel Party.

Every year in Sweden a party is held in December to commemorate Alfred Nobel, the famous chemist who was born in 1833 and died in 1896. Since 1908 a Swedish Nobel Committee annually awards prizes for the most outstanding individual achievement in the fields of chemistry, economics, literature, medicine and physics; there is also a Peace prize. The Nobel Party coincides with the famous annual prizegiving ceremony that takes place in Stockholm.

In SWEDCON this year the "Nobel Party" was held on 10 December jointly in both the Officers' and Warrant Officers' Messes. Lt Col Waldner and his wife Barbro stood at the entrance to the Warrant Officers' Mess to welcome many guests and wish them a pleasant evening. Later in the evening supper was served in the Officers' Mess, the menu consisting of many varieties of herring and a sumptuous cold buffet. Some of the guests went home after an hour or two but others stayed and enjoyed themselves into the small hours of the morning, dancing and drinking with their hosts.

SANTA LUCIA DAY IN SECTOR 4



For some time now the Ledra Squadron, Sector 4 have been exchanging soldiers with 1 Company of Swedcon, which has been just one indication of the good relations that exist between the two contingents. As a further sign of friendship the Swedish soldiers decided that they should let their Canadian companions enjoy the Santa Lucia Day celebrations. So on 13 December, in the early hours of the morning, members of Swedcon visited Cancon to show how the Swedes celebrate Santa Lucia Day in Sweden.

In the picture Lt Col I. McNabb, Commander Sector 4, welcomes the members of Swedcon and thanks them for bringing Santa Lucia to his regiment.



We have lift off!

Blue Beret SPORT

A SPORT LIKELY TO TAKE OFF!!!

The new sport of looning was launched on a clear calm morning last month at Force Reserve. Capt Charles Weston-Baker first developed the idea of launching into the wide blue yonder lifted by a cluster of balloons in order to satisfy the long standing wish to leap over buildings. The balloons, which are attached to a parachute harness and specially developed bosuns chair, provide enough lift to bring to life man's dream of flying like a bird. Of course the balloons are totally at the mercy of the wind — so looning is really a good weather sport. After tests in Cyprus he plans to loon across the Straits of Gibraltar in the New Year followed by a flight across the Irish Sea from the Isle of Man to Blackpool next September. To quote Capt Weston-Baker after his first trial "The feeling of freedom is tremendous — a dream come true".

FORCE BADMINTON COMPETITION

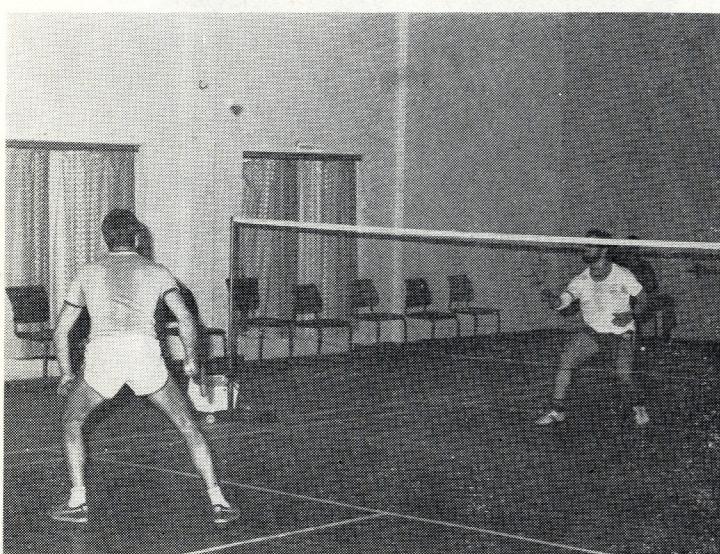
The finals of the competition took place in the hall of St. Michael's school in the UNPA, Nicosia, on 10 January. The results of the competition are as follows:

Men's Open Singles

Winner	— Pte Toft	DANCON
Runner Up	— Pte Nielsen	DANCON

Men's Contingent Doubles

Winners	— Pte Jensen and Pte Nielsen	DANCON
Runner Up	— Lt Col Tanner and SSgt Phippard	BRITCON



Play during the Singles Competition.



The line-up of winners after the presentation of trophies.



At this stage in the match the "Nicosia Nobblers" were being hard pressed. Perhaps the husbands deserved to win!

Last season ended with the "Nicosia Nobblers" Ladies Hockey Team ladies who turned up for practice losing some players due to postings and pregnancies. We were very happy, therefore, to welcome the new ladies who turned up for practice at the beginning of this season. All our eleven-a-side matches this

season have been friendlies. So far, we have not lost a match and the team is improving all the time.

In the six-a-side tournaments we have been successful. In the Styx tournament in October 1979 we just failed to reach the semi-final. However, in the ESBA tournament two months later, we not only reached the final but succeeded in winning the competition, after a closely contested match against Charlie's Angels Ladies Hockey Team.

On 28 December 1979, we had our annual Charity Hockey Match against our husbands, who had the nerve to win 3—2. However, we did raise £24.090 for Wireless for the Blind.

The "Nicosia Nobblers" practice every Wednesday morning from 9 until 10 am at the Camp Maple Leaf hockey pitch. New players are always very welcome.

Merril McGahan

MEN'S HOCKEY

The "Unicorns" Hockey Team should be re-named the "Phoenix" as we have now entered a Knockout Cup competition and are confident that we will do well, rotations permitting. Last season we had arguably the best hockey team in the whole of Cyprus. However, due to the six month UN rotation only four of last season's team remained to begin the new season. In November 1979 the resident RCT Squadron returned to England taking five of this season's "new" team with them. Luckily the incoming RCT Squadron produced six players to fill the gap. So we continue to survive, for a further six months at least.

John McGahan



For the first time ever, we have been able to enter a Services Hockey League. This ensures us of regular mid-week league matches at least once a week. Add to that the weekend friendlies against teams from other service units and from downtown Nicosia, and it is obvious that the fixture programme is crowded.

Considering the difficulty we had raising a team at the start of this season our results in the League have been very good. Having played all the other teams, we have lost one

A line up of the "Unicorns". Left to right: Back row: WO1 Horner, Cpl Whyte, Dvr Timmins, Dvr Maloney, Maj Stobie: Front row: Maj Lyon Dean, WO1 McGahan, Col Lathbury, Lcpl Wilson.

PUBLICITY FOR THE FORCE

In accordance with that generally adopted by United Nations peace missions this Force implements a Public Relations policy under which the international news media are welcome to visit and see the Force at work. One result of this policy is that staff in all Sectors are frequently tasked to brief, escort and provide facilities for such visitors. Particularly when the visitors are of another nationality, those who have gone to considerable trouble to provide whatever has been required rarely see the fruits of their labours, as the material finally published by the visitor is almost never copied to the Force. Recently, however, the published results of two visits have been received and it was thought that they were worth mentioning in this journal.

In September Mr. Elfan ap Rees, the editor of the international magazine "Helicopter", visited the Force for two days. Personnel of Sector 1 in particular were involved when the aircraft of UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps and 84 Squadron Detachment, Royal Air Force showed him some of the wide variety of tasks on which they were employed. The editorial office has just received from Mr. Rees a copy of the December 1979 — January 1980 issue in which a helicopter of the Force dominates the front page, reproduced alongside, and the activities of the helicopters are the subject of an article covering three full pages.

The second instance is that on which Patrick O'Neil, a reporter, and Jeff Morris, a photographer, of the British newspaper the "Daily Mail" visited the island in early December in search of a Christmas article with a difference. They amassed material from the orange groves in Sector 2, the beaches in Sector 6 and the snow-bound Troodos location of the tri-national 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron. Their final selection was published as an illustrated half-page article in the 19 December issue of the paper, part of which is reproduced below.

British newspaper "Daily Mail"

Daily Mail, Wednesday, December 19, 1979

Christmas cheers for the soldiers with a message of peace



FOUR soldiers will spend Christmas in the lap of the gods ... 8,000ft. up Mount Olympus.

FROM PATRICK O'NEILL ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

On top of the world ... (left to right) Tom, Michel, Randy, and Peter

Christmas sparkle will be a stripper from Nicosia.

To put across the message of peace, the soldiers will send out a duck to waddle its way to the

Picture: JEFF MORRIS

delivering gifts to the British troops.

He isn't allowed to wear the usual red costume, because that is the colour of the Turkish flag and

"Helicopter"



CHRISTMAS VISIT TO TROODOS



The Force Commander made his Christmastide visit to the Troodos Detachment of 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn on 21 December. In the picture he is seen talking to the members of the Detachment at the foot of the stairs into their accommodation, which is affectionately known as "The Troodos Hilton".

VISITORS



The Ambassador to Cyprus of the Federal Republic of Germany, HE Mr. Gerhart Söhnke, visited the Force on 27 November. On arrival he was briefed at the Headquarters by the Chief of Staff, BG Gen J A Cotter, and then toured the Danish and British Sectors of the Buffer Zone by helicopter. The picture was taken at the Headquarters and shows from left to right the Ambassador's Counsellor, Mr. Hanno von Graevenitz, the Chief of Staff and the Ambassador.

Whilst attending the meeting in Cyprus of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth Speakers, Sir Billy Sneddon, the Speaker of the Australian Parliament, took the opportunity to visit the Force and meet the members of the Australian Civilian Police Contingent. The picture was taken during his visit to the Headquarters on 5 January and shows from left to right Sir Billy Sneddon, Miss Erica Grimwade, the Australian Acting High Commissioner in Cyprus, and the Force Commander, Maj Gen J J Quinn.

HONOURS FOR BRITISH MEMBERS OF FORCE



Maj J P B Cordon, Royal Irish Rangers, who last month completed a two year tour as the Operations Information Officer at HQ UNFICYP, was appointed a member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire in the British New Year's Honours List.



On 17 December at the Headquarters of the Army Air Corps Flight the Force Commander, Maj Gen J J Quinn, presented WO2 D Woods, one of the pilots of the Flight, with the certificate of a "Director Army Air Corps Commendation", together with an Army Air Corps "Tie of Merit". The awards were made as a result of WO2 Woods' action on the night of 20 August 1979, when he was the pilot of an Alouette helicopter called out, as reported in the September issue of "The Blue Beret", in adverse weather conditions in answer to an urgent request for the medical evacuation of a critically ill woman from the village of Kambos, which involved a night landing at a particularly difficult landing site in the northern foothills of the Troodos mountains.

Pictorial news



UN NEWS



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NEW YEAR'S DAY MESSAGE

"As we reach the end of another decade it is natural that we should look back at the road we have taken before embarking on the next stage of our journey.

"The 1970's have been a turbulent decade. Political and economic upheavals, wars and disasters, both man-made and natural, have marked these years with violence and tragedy. The United Nations has played an important role in containing or bringing to an end some of the ensuing conflicts and mitigating the anguish and suffering which they have caused. It has also continued its efforts to facilitate the search for peaceful settlements of great international problems.

"At the same time the Organisation has engaged in novel and far-ranging initiatives to deal with the global problems that beset us. The agenda of these efforts has included disarmament, environment, population, food, water, human settlements, women's rights, trade and development, science and technology and the law of the sea. The effort to define and develop a new international economic order is perhaps the most far-reaching and difficult of all these initiatives.

"The United Nations is at the same time a symbolic and a practical organisation. It symbolises the world community which has yet to take articulate shape, and the right of all nations, great and small, to have a voice in the affairs of the community.

"In practice, the Organisation fulfils a number of essential needs — it provides a safety mechanism for the de-escalation and containment of international conflicts, through its peace-keeping activities it defuses and controls actual conflict situations. It is a place for airing grievances and sharing burdens too heavy for one nation to bear, it enunciates practical guidelines for the solutions of complex international problems, it sets up and promotes standards for international behaviour, it has a major responsibility for the world-wide protection and strengthening of human rights, and it mobilises the capacity of the world community to meet the humanitarian demands of great disasters.

"We must strive in the coming decade to bring the symbolic and practical aspects of the United Nations more and more into line, so that the Organisation assures with in-

creasing effectiveness the welfare and future of the world community as a whole.

"As we reach the end of the third complete decade of the United Nations, we certainly have no reason for complacency. The threat of conflicts, the ever-present spectre of poverty and hunger, the millions of refugees, and the uncertainties of the economic future are all evidence of the continuing frustration of the ideals of international co-operation expressed in the Charter.

"But these are all reasons not to despair, but to redouble our efforts to strengthen the United Nations as the framework for a future, saner, world order. In the thirty-five years since the end of the Second World War a new world has been born — a world of independent, interdependent sovereign States determined to live in freedom and self respect. This in itself is a historical development of the first importance and a fulfilment of a vast scale of the principles and objectives of the Charter.

"Our next task must be to evolve an effective institution of world order worthy of that great historic development."

SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS UNFICYP MANDATE FOR SIX MONTHS

The United Nations Security Council, during its meeting of 14 December 1979, adopted by a vote of 14 in favour to none against with one (China) not participating, Resolution 458 (1979) on Cyprus. Following is text of the resolutions:

"The Security Council,

Noting the Report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus of 1 December 1979 (S/13672 and Add. 1),

Noting also the concurrence of the parties concerned in the recommendation by the Secretary-General that the Security Council extend the stationing of the United Nations

Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for a further General period of six months.

Noting further that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep the Force in Cyprus beyond 15 December 1979.

Reaffirming the provisions of Resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and other relevant resolutions,

Reiterating its support of the 10-Point Agreement for the resumption of the inter-communal talks which was worked out at the high-level meeting on 18 and 19 May 1979 in Nicosia, under the auspices of the Secretary-

1. **Extends** once more the stationing in Cyprus of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force established under Resolution 186 (1964) for a further period ending 15 June 1980;

2. **Urges** the parties to resume the inter-communal talks within the framework of the 10-Point Agreement in a continuing, sustained and result-oriented manner avoiding any delay;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices, to keep the Security Council informed of the progress made and to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution by 31 May 1980."

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

"Mr. President,

I have noted the action just taken by the Security Council in adopting Resolution 458, by which it extended once again the stationing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for a further period of six months and requested me to continue my mission of good offices. As indicated in my Report to the Council, I consider that the presence of UNFICYP remains indispensable in helping to maintain calm in the island and

thus facilitating the search for a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem, based on the legitimate rights of the two communities.

I wish to assure the Members of the Council that I shall make every effort to get the intercommunal talks resumes early next year, on the basis of the 10-Point high level Agreement of 19 May 1979. I shall initiate consultations with the parties to this end at an early date. I hope that they will join in

supporting the approach to a viable negotiating process described in my Report, so as to get around the difficulties that were encountered last June and get down to concrete negotiations on the substantive aspects of the Cyprus problem. Given the co-operation of the parties, I hope we shall be able to achieve meaningful progress in that direction. The future of the intercommunal talks may well depend on our success in this endeavour".