

THE BLUE BERET

UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS
UNFICYP
JANUARY 1985



DECEMBER IN RETROSPECT

| ROTATIONS | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| 3-17 January FSC SQN | | 10-11 |
| 1- 8 February AUSCON | | |
| VISITS | | |
| 4 | Ms J Grimshaw, Welfare Officer, MOD visited the British Contingent. | 10-13 |
| 4-12 | Capt R Paquin and MWO Hickson visited the Canadian Contingent | 14-18 |
| 4-19 | Major O Blichert-Hansen and Capt E Plovdrup visited the Danish Contingent. | 16-19 |
| 6-10 | Major Gen K Majcen, Territorial Cmdr of Prov. of Vienna and Major K Grabner visited the Austrian Contingent | 16-19 |
| 6-11 | Major R Sullivan and WO 2 J Land visited the British Contingent. | 18-21 |
| | | 23-9/1 |
| | | 30/12-5/1 |
| | Major Gen J Eyre, Major Gen Household Div., Major R E R Alderson, Mrs Alderson, Major R J Morrissey-Paine visited the British Contingent | |
| | Ms K Weigl, journalist visited the Swedish Contingent. | |
| | Mr M Gray, BBC London Radio visited the British Contingent | |
| | Cdr J Ruth and party of two visited the Danish Contingent | |
| | Major O Hinrichsen and party of two visited the Danish Contingent | |
| | Sgt T Smith, Forces Photographer visited the Canadian Contingent. | |
| | Brig Gen J Hayter visited the Canadian Contingent. | |
| | Major L Roberge plus entertainment troupe of 28 visited the Canadian Contingent. | |

FUTURE EVENTS

JANUARY

Anglo Cypriot Theatre (ACT)

The latest production is Mixed Doubles, a series of comedy sketches on 25 and 26 January at Famagusta Gate, Nicosia at 2000 hours. Tickets on sale at HQ BRITCON Ext 2501 or Bridge House Book Shop, Nicosia, £1.00.

Australia Day

26 January, 1100 hours at AUSTCIVPOL HQ, UNPA - Fun for all the family.

CANCON Charity Bazaar

26 January, 1300 - 1900 hours, Wolseley Barracks Sports Field. 40 stalls with gifts, toys, lace etc. Food at minimal cost. Lottery with 100 prizes.

FEBRUARY

1 RCR MEDAL PARADE

- 1 February

SWEDCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE

- 14 February

UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION, Dhekelia - 20/21 February

UNFICYP SKIING COMPETITION, Troodos - 27 February

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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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Front cover

Observation at D12

Photograph by Sgt A. Thomson

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

This issue welcomes in a New Year and also a renewed UNFICYP Mandate. We all hope that 1985 will be an auspicious year for peace on this lovely island. Just to finish off 1984 we have an article from Sector 6 on their traditional seasonal festivities. We also have articles greeting the new SWEDCIVPOL Contingent and saying farewell to the Force Scout Car Squadron and the last member of 84 Squadron to have been stationed in Nicosia.

Three very different and all very interesting features have been produced by Sector 1 on DANCON radio, Sector 4 on repairs to the old wall of Nicosia and Sector 5 on their recent Alert exercise.

The AUSTCIVPOL article on the memorial service held on the 10th anniversary of Sergeant Ian Ward's death on active service is a reminder of the serious task we perform in the service of peace. Whilst on this serious note we draw your attention to the MP Coy article on Safe Driving. It cannot be emphasised enough that the major cause of death to members of UNFICYP always has been, and still is, traffic accidents. We really must make sure that we drive safely and above all do NOT drink and drive.

Finally we congratulate a member of our staff, Marion Truscott on her parachute jump to raise money for the Ethiopian Famine Relief Fund. For full details see page 14.

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MUSIC HALL



Highlights of the UNFICYP OLD TIME MUSIC HALL



KIDCON CHRISTMAS

Santa spent a very busy morning on December 25, visiting the children around the Married Quarters on the UNPA.



Four Leicester lads recently met in Cyprus on being posted as members of BRITCON WO 2 Paul Dyson, Staff Sergeant Tim Murphy, and Sergeant Mark Bonham, on hearing that Corporal Simon England's father was employed by the Leicester Mercury, begged him to provide a regular order of the paper to keep in touch with local affairs and, of course, to follow City's football form.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The traditional serving of Christmas Dinner by the Officers and Senior Ranks to the lads of the UN Support Regiment.



On January 1 there was lots of fun when the RCT got beaten by Wksp in a bed race.



CHRISTMAS MUPPETS

Dec 6 (St Lucia day) brought a distinctly Swedish flavour to the morning briefing at HQ UNFICYP. The FC and all in attendance were serenaded Swedish style with traditional carols.



REBUILDING THE ROCCAS BASTION

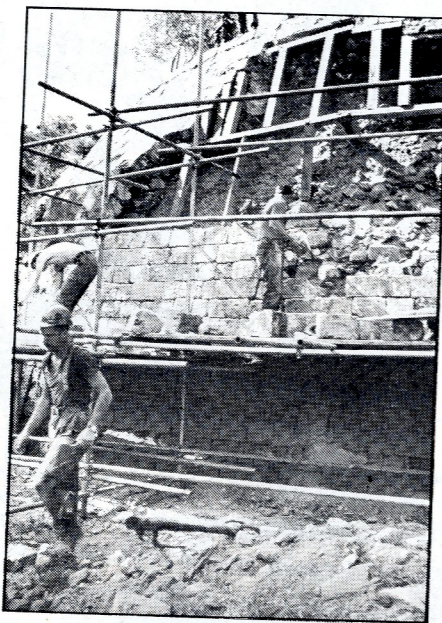
By Lieutenant Keith Laughton

The old Venetian City wall was built in the years 1567 to 1570 in face of an Ottoman threat that erupted in the Ottoman invasion of 1570. It is circular in pattern with a circumference of three miles. Three gates - facing Paphos, Kyrenia and Famagusta - are present with eleven bastions as part of the wall.

Near the site of the original Paphos Gate is the Roccas Bastion. It is a sensitive area in the Buffer Zone with the Turkish Cypriot forces patrolling the top of the wall and the Greek Cypriot National Guard controlling the opposite side of the busy road junction. The wall of the bastion itself is the property of the Ministry of Antiquities.

In 1981 an unsightly hole began to develop in the surface of the wall where some of the stone was falling and weathering away. Originally UNFICYP set up a temporary wooden frame to stop the erosion until a repair decision could be made by the various groups involved.

After political discussions on the subject it was agreed by all that UNFICYP engineers would



During

repair the wall while both sides would observe. The decision came during the tour of 1 PPCLI and the work was undertaken after the change to 1 RCR.

Because the Roccas Bastion is in Line West of Sector Four, Charles Company 1 RCR was tasked with assisting the Royal Engineers in the repair. Starting on October 1984 three men went daily as workers for the two Royal Engineer Stonemasons (one from the UNFICYP Support Regiment and one from 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn)

Photos by Sgt Thomson

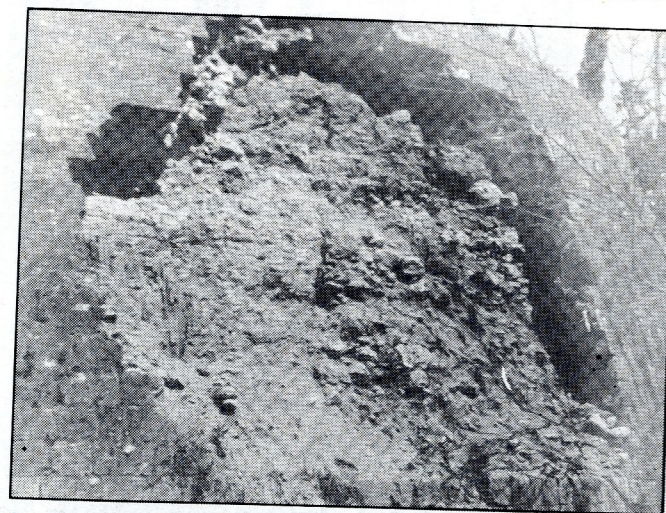
who were tasked with the job by the Force Commander through the Force Engineer.

The problems that arose during the task were the high visibility of the area and the fact that the joints between blocks could not be cemented. Thus precise cutting of the stone blocks for a perfect fit was required in every case, making the job a long and arduous one.

Day after day the men of Charles Company went out to assist in the manual labour of the repair, learning some of the stonemasons craft by osmosis. Finally on November 16th 1984 the job was complete to the joy and satisfaction of all concerned.

This includes the Turkish Cypriot Sentry with the London, England accent.

I have no doubt that all the men who went to help on the project from Charles Company will remember working with the engineers and will remember being involved in the repair of a piece of history - the Roccas Bastion.



Before



After

10 YEARS AGO



By Station Sergeant Frank HARLOVICH

Photograph by Sgt A. THOMSON

On 12 November, 1974 Ian Donald Ward and John Woolcot, both members of the Australian Civilian Police Contingent were detailed to convey a Turkish Cypriot family from Ayios Nicolaos to Lefka. About 10.40 am whilst travelling to their destination their landrover struck a land mine buried under the roadway. Ian was killed in the blast and a Turkish Cypriot civilian male passenger later died of injuries received in the accident. The other passengers were all injured to varying degrees, none seriously. The landrover which is still at the scene was totally destroyed.

At the time of Ian's untimely death he had been serving for only five days on the Island.

Ian's body was returned to Australia for burial. He was accorded a full Police funeral. His body was conveyed to the cemetery on a gun carriage and members of the police, the public and each of the military services were in attendance.

ARRIVAL OF 45th SWEDISH CIVILIAN POLICE CONTINGENT

The 45th Swedish Civilian Police contingent has now taken over the tasks from their predecessors. Twelve police officers arrived on the 17th of October in order to relieve the policemen returning home. Four members of the last contingent are staying for another six months period. The contingent now consists of policemen from different places in Sweden with varying tasks. Some of them have been UN soldiers or UN civilian police officers before. Their average age is 38 years and that implies a lot of experience which will be helpful in their new job in Cyprus.

On 28 October, 1974 General Prem Chand the United Nations Force Commander unveiled a memorial near Lefka commemorating the death of Ian. This service was attended by members of other contingents of the United Nations serving in Cyprus.

On 12 November 1984 on the 10th anniversary of Ian's death a service was held at the memorial site. It was conducted by Chaplain

B. Larsen of the Danish Contingent, Xeros. Wreaths were placed on the memorial on behalf of Ian's family and the Australian Police. The Australian contingent and wives present attended. At the conclusion of the service the Last Post and Reveille were played by a bugler from the 40 Commando, Royal Marines.

We remember that Ian Donald Ward and others died 'In the Service of Peace'.



Wives of the Australian Contingent standing at the Commemorative Stone.

By: Insp P G Boij

Photograph by: Contingent Photographer



Photo of everyone in front of SWEDCIVPOL HQ in Larnaca.



MISSION: MAKING DANCON - RADIO

By: Chaplain V. A. Frikke Schmidt

In the early hours of Friday mornings, a white specially - constructed (read: wrecked) Volkswagen can be seen, filled with a bunch of desperados - the true sons of the old vikings - men without mercy - travelling from Viking Camp, Xeros to the southern part of Nicosia, where Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) is situated.

Their mission: Making DANCON-radio. They fight their way through the traffic. They fight their way through the parking-lot, through the corridors even through the coffee-mug in the canteen - to get control over studio 32.

Here - at last - they get support; those wild men fighting for an impossible dream - a recurrent nightmare - are met by a woman with the name of Anthulla. Radiating calm and comfort, she is pressing those

daring young men to do their utmost, although it is before 9 in the morning and they have not even had a single drop of snaps (which is supposed to be for the Danes what whisky is to the Scots: the true essence of life itself.)

Taking control of the studio (meaning to be seated around the microphone) is for those cunning experts a matter of seconds, and before you can pronounce pwrzp7xq, they have started taping the programme, reading from the handmade script.

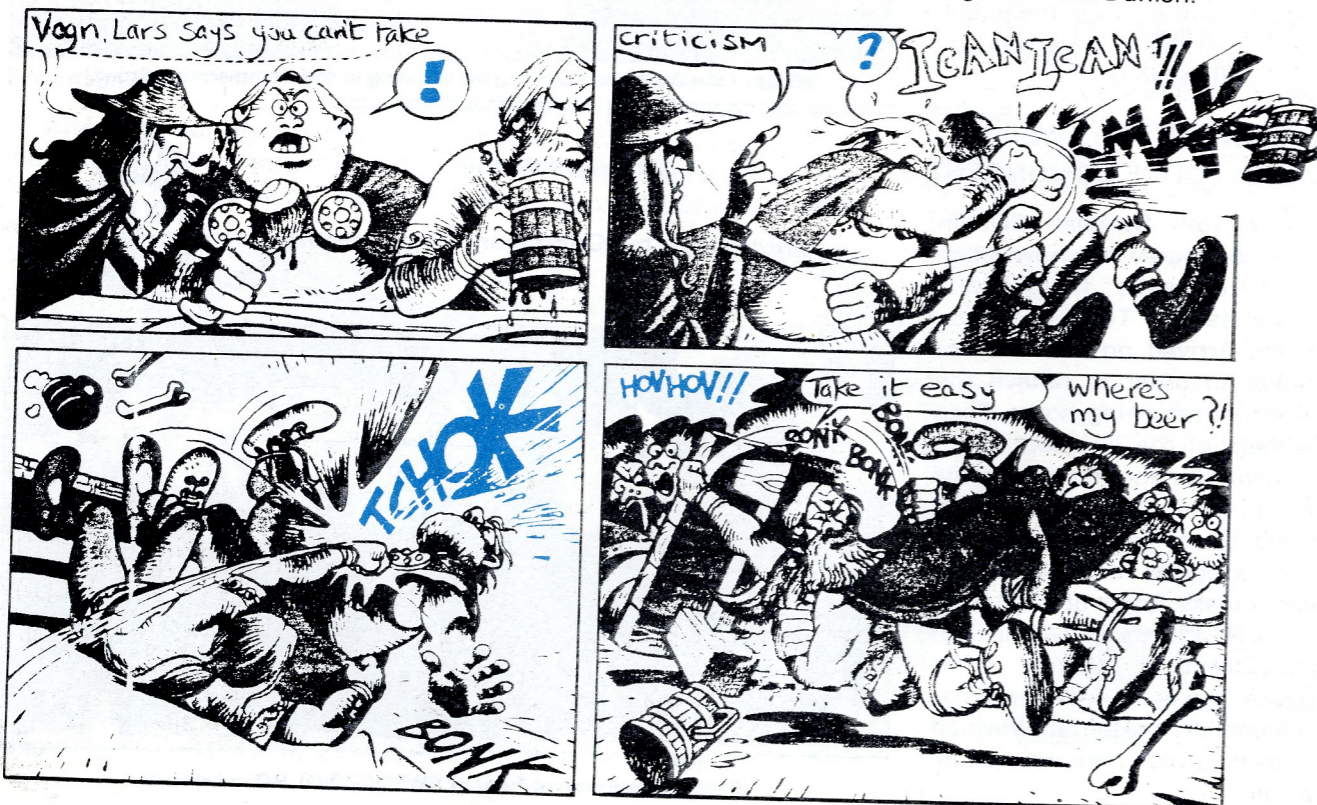
Sparing no-one; sending greetings as they have been prepared in the Danish camps and in "Good old Denmark" (please rise and hum the Danish National Anthem), they finish the recording in an hour - the greetings spiced with songs and melodies from their own archives.

Exhausted they return to a secluded retreat: a sidewalk

restaurant in Regaena St., where they discuss "the radiator" and other things over wine and schish-Kebabs, planning new adventures.

Who are those rascals, commanders of the radiowaves? First, but not least: Vagn - "the dictator" - his deep resonant voice tearing out the inner emotions of everybody; Jesper "the mad doc", agile in cutting people down, next in command; Lars "optimistic painter from Hillerød"; John - not the saint - and Bo, wearing a red cross on his shoulder, God knows why.

Vagn is preparing the script, Smuggling holy words and sounds into this ungodly program brought to you every Saturday evening at 9.15, lasting half an hour. Do you dare to listen to this mindbending programme? You will never be the same again - even if you cannot understand a single word in Danish.



ZEPPELIN 1 - THE FIRST OF MANY BATTALION EXERCISES IN SWEDCON



By Capt Tony Johansson
INFO/OFFR

Photos by I/Lt Ulf Borgvald

Wednesday 5 December is a bit foggy and drizzly, just 12 degrees centigrade. It is 5.30 am and the sun is beginning to rise. The first daylight is shining through the low clouds over the Mediterranean. Larnaca is quiet, the whole town is asleep. But Camp Victoria, however, is like a bee-hive. Exercise Zeppelin 1 has just started, and everybody in Swedcon is taking part. People living outside the camp with their families or girl-friends, are coming as well. Swedcon expects every man and every girl to do their duty. Everybody knows where to go into the trenches around the camp where the field-telephones already are connected.

- Major Lars-Gunnar Sjöström, how was the exercise so far?

- I have only one comment - so far, so good.

After breakfast the exercise continues in the BZ. Many U.N. employees are out a bit late, and even later when they pass the temporary check-point manned by the camp-guard from Camp Victoria who checks every passing vehicle. From the second Coy four ferrets are already manning S-36 to protect the area by "show of force". In a few minutes protected by armour there will be an Incident Command Post (ICP) in the area, leading the battalion. Connection will be established both by radio and telephone.

At S-21 from the ICP you can see that a big antenna is erected towards the blue sky. It is the Swedish Radio Communication Centre trying to reach Sweden both by radio and Morse, and before long the contact is established.

From S-40 Info Officer Major Fransson is looking at the ICP. He arrived here very early, and has been checking the activities with experienced eyes.

- The jeeps seem to be too close over there at the ICP, but it could be different on the spot the Major thinks.

At S-22 a dressing-station has

culminates, a faked explosion "shakes" the kitchen at Camp Polar. At first the confusion is great, but the orderlies from the Second Coy and nurses from the dressing station soon get hold on the situation.

- Major Sjöström, what were the intentions with this exercise?



FC General Greindl watched the Swedish exercise very closely. Here, he and LtCol Källström Meet DC Maj Wiig.

been set up, and among other spectators you can recognize two familiar faces. They belong to General Greindl, FC, and Commander Sector Five, Lt Col Källström, watching the exercise with great interest.

At 1300 hrs the exercise

- The intention was to test the function of the ICP, the manning of a checkpoint and dressing - station, and also to check the different components. Certain things need a little adjustment, but generally everything functioned according to plan.



FC General Greindl and SWEDCON Commander LtCol Källström, Interested spectators during Zeppelin 1.



THE LIFE GUARDS

By Captain J L SUNNUCKS

Photographs by Tpr Fraser



The Squadron Rugby team playing 40 Commando The Royal Marines



The Commanding Officer The Life Guards being entertained by Three and Four Troops at DANCON.

By the time this article is published the present Force Scout Car Squadron will have reassumed its identity as "C" Squadron, The Life Guards. We will be involved in what is at the moment the slightly daunting prospect of refamiliarising ourselves with the pace and competitiveness of life at Windsor, and thinking once again of winter exercises on Salisbury Plain.

We have learnt much about National identities and customs, many of which we will take back and introduce to our friends in England. The Danes have taught us to eat fricadella, the Swedes have educated us in the delights of pea soup, and the Austrians have reminded us of our recent German tour by feeding us Schnitzel. The Royal Marines have gently navigated us through the complexities of nautical life on land, beaten us at every sport and have told us an awful lot about their not so recent trip to the Falkland Islands. The whole experience of being a United Nations soldier is one which we will all remember and most will

wish to repeat.

Many thanks to the many people who have assisted us in achieving a high professional standard and contributed to the quality of our social life. We hand over to "A" Squadron. The

16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers. The Lancers had a squadron here six months ago, and will surely know how to approach a job and way of life which is the envy of those soldiering in Great Britain and Germany.



FSC SQN FAREWELL

The Chief of Staff, Brigadier Duschene takes the salute during the drive past at the FSC Sqn Medal Parade.

By WO2 R Allely

ROAD SAFETY



Accident Prevention is an ongoing battle in which everyone must constantly be involved. It is too late once the MPs are on the scene. Accidents must be prevented. New ideas are needed to bring the point home to UNFICYP personnel that it is not always the other guy who becomes involved in traffic accidents with resulting serious injuries or death. You, yes You, could be next if you do not practice defensive driving techniques.

Several months ago the MP Coy did a case file study and re-enactment of an actual traffic accident involving an UNFICYP driver. The actual vehicle involved in a serious accident was obtained. The assistance of the medical authorities in BRITCON Medical Centre was also obtained to advise and dress a casualty. Local Butcher shops were visited to obtain bones for open fractures. Medical Centre staff, RCT ambulance driver and MPs were stood by to play their part at the scene together with a volunteer patient. The scene of the accident was selected as the sharp right hand bend in the UNPA near the International Airport. This achieved two aims; one was to allow competitors for the driving competition, and transitees of the UNPA, to see the simulated accident. The second aim was to highlight an actual accident spot where a UN member was seriously injured and had to be evacuated home. The team set up their accident with a damaged vehicle in the road, a badly blood covered and injured soldier and a blanket covered 'pretend' body of a passenger. During the next two hours it was obvious that all people that passed were initially shocked at the terrible accident and obvious injuries to the victim. So much so that various personnel, including a doctor, stopped, to offer assistance. Having passed the accident spot and when leaving the scene, motorists were then given an explanatory handout highlighting the fact it was a mock scene and

were given some general advice on road safety/motoring. A successful day in accident prevention but could we just add the relevant points about the real traffic accident we were simulating.

a. The UN soldier was seriously injured and close to death for the first 48 hours;

b. Having regained consciousness he was coherent some of the time and he may be permanently impaired with some of his functions;

c. Relatives had to come to Cyprus and unnecessary worry was caused.

d. Due to the nature of the injuries the UN soldier had to be sent home and therefore ended a tour he was enjoying;

e. It was a miracle that his life was spared; and

f. The vehicle owner is at least £C1,000.00 out of pocket as his vehicle was a write-off and he did not have fully comprehensive insurance.

It is not intended to deter anyone from being a motorist but in Cyprus where road discipline and driving standards vary greatly from most of our countries in Europe and Canada we must all take Extra Care.

A study at Yale and Cornell Universities showing what happens in a vehicle crash is reproduced below. Study the notes but be aware of one most important factor from the tests—

IT TAKES LESS THAN ONE SECOND TO DIE IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT!!

The following is a dramatic split second account of what happens when a vehicle collides with a solid object at 50 MPH:

a. At 1/10th of a second: The front bumper and grillwork collapse;

b. At 2/10th of a second: The bonnet crumples, rises, smashes into the windscreen and the grillwork disintegrates;

c. At 3/10th of a second: The driver is sprung upright from his seat. His knees are broken against the dashboard and the steering wheel begins bending under his grip;

d. At 4/10th of a second: The front of the vehicle is destroyed and dead still, but the rear end is still plunging forward at 50 MPH;

e. At 5/10th of a second: The driver's fear frozen hands are bending the steering column into an almost vertical position and he is impaled onto the steering wheel shaft. Jagged steel punctures his lungs and arteries;

f. At 6/10th of a second: The impact rips the shoes off the driver's feet. The chassis bends in the middle and the driver's head is slammed into the windscreen. The rear of the vehicle begins its downward fall as its spinning wheels churn into the ground; and

g. At 7/10th of a second: The entire body of the vehicle is twisted grotesquely out of shape. In one final agonising convulsion the front seat rams forward pinning the driver against the steering shaft! BLOOD spurts from his mouth. Shock has STOPPED HIS HEART.

He is now DEAD-DEAD-DEAD-DEAD-DEAD-DEAD.

So his problems are now over but what about his family, children, friends and colleagues?

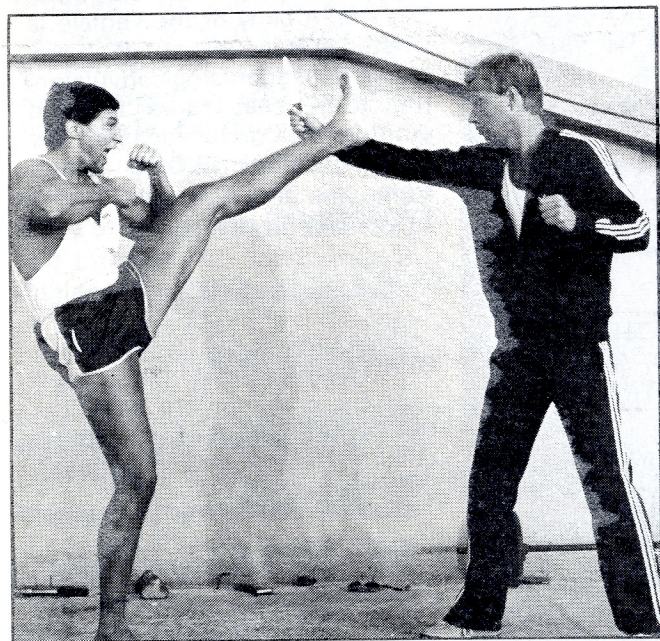
THE CHOICE IS YOURS BUT DO REMEMBER - IT TAKES LESS THAN ONE SECOND TO DIE-DIE-DIE-DIE-DIE.



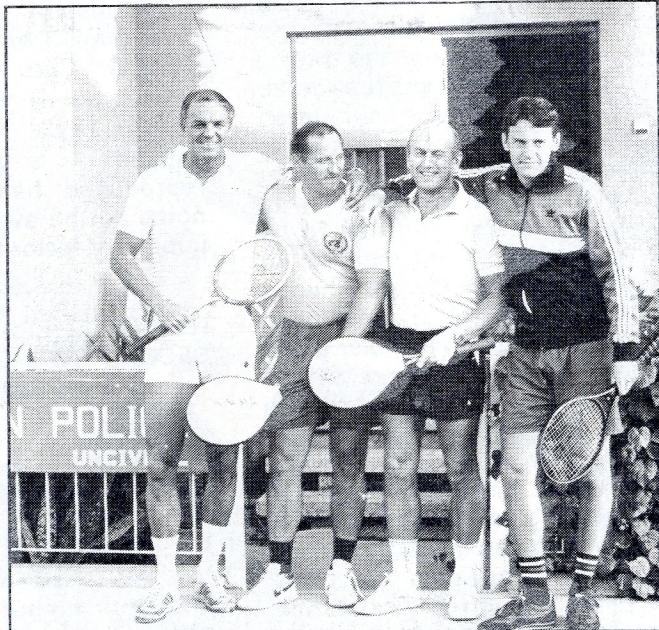
The Cyprus Ladies International Squash Competition recently held at the Lapatsa sporting complex was won by Jan Clarke whose husband serves in the Australian Police Contingent.



Boxing Day got off to an exciting start when the Sgts Mess beat the Officers Mess 2 - 0 in the annual football match.



Training kick-boxing and karate: Insp Goran Bergstrom is a self-defence instructor for policemen in Sweden. In SWEDCIVPOL he trains his colleagues and makes some displays.



Tennis players of SWEDCIVPOL: They came second place in the team competition at the UNFICYP championships. Lennart Ihlar came second place in the singles after losing against pte Per Pettersson, SWEDCON.



INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK



84 SQUADRON COOKBOOK

A MEATY MAIN DISH

Singapore-Style Curry (Beef, Mutton or Lamb) (Hani de Freitas)

1 lb mutton, beef or lamb, cubed
1 tablespoon cooking oil
1 medium sized onion, skinned and sliced
2 cloves garlic
1 teaspoon ground ginger
2 teaspoons paprika
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
6 whole cardamom, crushed
2 pieces cinnamon bark
4 whole cloves
1 small carton yoghurt, or 1 glass of milk
2 tablespoons tomato puree
1 level dessertspoon salt
1 small can tomato juice (optional)
1 teaspoon turmeric

Mix all spices together with the tomato puree, add a little water to make a paste. Heat the oil in a large saucepan and brown the onion and crushed garlic. Stir continuously. Add cardamom, cinnamon bark and cloves. Then put the paste in the saucepan and fry together with the rest of the ingredients already in the pan.

Stir all the time, for about 5 minutes. Add the meat. Stir in yoghurt or milk, salt and tomato juice. Bring to boil, simmer, reduce heat and stir occasionally until meat is tender. If the sauce thickens too much before the meat is cooked add some extra water. Serve with plain boiled rice, and a few accompaniments such as cucumber, tomatoes, mangoes, grated coconut and poppadums.

A FISHY DISH

Tuna Bake (Jane King)

2 x 7 oz cans tuna fish
1 green pepper, chopped
1 tin pimento
2 tins condensed mushroom soup
1 cup grated cheese
2 onions, chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
½ lb mushrooms, sliced
8 oz noodles

Fry onion, mushrooms and pepper in butter until soft. Cook noodles for 9 minutes, rinse in cold water and drain. Combine soup, cheese, pimentos and drained flaked tuna. Combine all ingredients in a dish in which it is to be served and cook 350° F for 50 minutes until thoroughly baked through. Serves 6 to 8 people.

A PUDDING

Chilled Orange Cups (Jean Freeman)

4 large oranges
1 orange flavoured jelly
1 medium can mandarin oranges
4 heaped tablespoons vanilla ice cream (softened)

Cut the tops off the oranges by serrating with a sharp knife.

Squeeze out all juices and reserve. Scape pulp and membranes out of oranges and discard. Make jelly up to ¾ pint with mandarin syrup and orange juice. Leave over a low heat until jelly dissolves. When cold and just beginning to set, beat briskly until light and foamy. Beat in ice-cream then fold in all but 8 mandarins. Spoon equally into orange just before serving.

A SAVOURY

Spiced Wheat Peppers (Heather Hall)

6 oz Bulghur wheat (kibbled wheat)
2 Green peppers
2 yellow peppers
8 oz onion
6 oz tinned tomatoes
1 oz butter
1 teaspoon chilli powder
salt and pepper

Cover wheat with cold water and soak for 1 hour. Cut a thin slice from stalk end of each pepper and reserve. Remove seeds. Cut each one in half horizontally and place buttered shallow dish. Chop onion and roughly chop the tomatoes. Melt the butter in a saucepan, saute the onions with chilli powder for 3-4 minutes. Add the tomatoes and well-drained wheat. Cook, stirring, for 1-2 minutes and season. Fill peppers with chilli mixture, replace tops, cover with buttered flour and bake at 375°F, mark 5 for about 40 minutes.

A CAKE

Honey, Date and Walnut Cake (Jenny Colledge)

8 oz plain flour
3 level teaspoons baking powder
1 oz chopped walnuts
4 oz dates
4 oz butter
4 oz caster sugar
2 lightly beaten eggs
4 tablespoons milk
4 tablespoons clear honey
pinch salt

Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Rub in butter. Add sugar, dates and walnuts. Mix to a soft consistency with the eggs, milk and honey. Pour into a greased 1 lb loaf tin and bake gas 4, 350° F, cool on a wire tray.



FAREWELL TO LAST MEMBER OF "B" FLIGHT 84 SQUADRON

By Flt Lt Hall

This month 84 Squadron, Royal Air Force, said goodbye to Flight Sergeant Shaun Ekberg, who has now returned to the United Kingdom on posting. Flight Sergeant Ekberg is unique in that he has served with the Squadron in support of UNFICYP for what could be a record length of time – over 4 years. In November 1980 he arrived at "B" Flight, 84 Squadron, which was based at that time at Nicosia and was equipped with Whirlwind helicopters, but in 1982 he moved down to Royal Air Force Akrotiri when the Squadron was re-equipped with the Wessex Mk 2 Helicopter. (The flights system was then scrapped). During his

tour he has flown over 1,000 hours in these helicopters and has taken part in no fewer than 18 Medevac missions for the United Nations (on Boxing Day 1981 he helped to deliver a baby girl whilst airborne in a Whirlwind en route from Nicosia to the RAF Hospital at Akrotiri; this was an historic occasion which has yet to be repeated). He has not restricted his talents just to flying for the UN, however, for he has survived that most gruelling experience, the DANCON March, four times. With his departure another chapter in the history of the Squadron comes to a close, for he was the last remaining member of the old "B" Flight, Nicosia, to serve on the



Squadron.

In the New Years' Honours List he was awarded a Commendation by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief HQ Strike Command.

JUMPING FOR JOY

By: Sgt A Thomson

Photo by: Sgt A. Thomson



Sunday 9 December 1984 was a big day in the lives of two wives of UNFICYP personnel, Marion Truscott and Hilda Wilson.

Usually these ladies have their feet planted firmly on the ground so their activities at the Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Club were a complete change of scene.

Marion and Hilda took up the challenge to do the basic sport parachuting course culminating in a jump from 2,000 FT. Conditions on the day were bright sunshine and gusting winds, but despite this both ladies made successful descents and admitted afterwards over a glass of champagne to have enjoyed a

most exhilarating experience.

Their certificates bear testimony to their efforts and both can be justifiably proud of their achievement, particularly Marion who through sponsors raised the sum of £167 for the Ethiopia appeal fund.

Well done Ladies



AUSCON REVIEW



Photographer Sgt Sakoparnik Günther

By: Capt MANZL Rainer

In Austria ADVENT covers the four weeks before Christmas. Every home is decorated with a wreath of fir-branches, ornamented with a violet tape of silk and four candles. These candles mark each of the four Sundays before Christmas and are lighted one by one every Sunday. Naturally some Advent-wreathes were also made by AUSCON personnel, as observed on OPA 18. Obviously it can't be as perfect as a real Austrian one, however, it fulfils its destination and provides happiness to the soldiers – as you can tell by the OP leader's face, Sgt KISS.



CO AUSCON LtCol W. BRANDNER wishes UNFICYP and CYPRUS a peaceful, happy New Year.



Sgt Kiss leader of OP A18



Nikolaus and Krampus visit 1 Coy

"NIKOLAUS" and "KRAMPUS": These appear every year on 5 December. Their origin dates back to the old Celtic-Germanic times, and later they became adapted to Christian customs. "Nikolaus" is the good guy and should not be mixed up with "Santa Claus"; "Krampus" is like a devil – bad and evil. Both visited AUSCON camp Duke Leopold V, where the good soldiers were praised and given a present, however, the bad guys were punished and thrashed with a rod. Apparently they also visited HQ UNFICYP, where mostly "Krampus" had to do his business...

NEW YEAR: The first day of a new year is always something special and AUSCON celebrates its special New Year's event – the traditional New Year swimming – only for our bravest soldiers. None of the competitors will ever forget the nice refreshing water and the delightful icy wind combined with goulash and hot wine ("Glühwein"), at SALAMIS beach.



UN NEWS



UNFICYP MANDATE RENEWED

The following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Security Council at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 14 December 1984:

Security Council resolution 559 (1984)

"The Security Council,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus of 12 December 1984 (S/16858 and Add. 1).

Noting also 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 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 1984,

Reaffirming the provisions of resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and other relevant resolutions.

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 1985;

2. **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 the present resolution by 31 May 1985;

3. Calls upon all the parties concerned to continue to co-operate with the Force on the basis of the present mandate."

OLD BLUE BERET MAGAZINES

The Military Public Information Office keeps a stock of back issues of the more recent Blue Beret magazines. Our storage space is however limited and so we are disposing of our 1982 issues (we only hold a single copy of issues prior to that date). If any reader would like copies of any 1982 Blue Berets, please contact this Office before 31 March 1985, after which date the remaining 1982 copies will be destroyed.