

THE BLUE BERET



JULY 1979



JUNE IN RETROSPECT

Rotations	None	11 — 14	BGEN. J. J. A. Doucet, Commander 5 Combat Group, to Canadian Contingent.
Medal Parades	None	12	British Staff Promotion Candidates (PQS2) from Land Forces Cyprus, to UNFICYP.
Visits		14	Brig. J. C. Reilly, Commander 6 Field Force, to UNFICYP and Force Reserve.
28 May — 07 Jun	Mr. Bjorn Olsen and Mr. Niels Madsen, both of National Audit Department, to Swedish Contingent.	18 — 26	Lord Strathcona Horse (RC) recce party, to Canadian Contingent.
29 May — 05 Jun	Lt. Col. H. Thuesen and Lt. Col. Paul Laurssen, to inspect running of canteen, of Danish Contingent.	20 — 28	Capt. Davies, to Canadian Contingent, to get personnel reports signed.
4 — 7	Maj. P. Jacobsen. Capt. Per Oestblom and Lieut. A. Christensen, instructors at Nordic UN Military Police College to visit Danish Contingent.	21	Brig. J. Bridge, Director of Postal and Courier Communications to UNFICYP and Force Reserve.
4 — 12	Maj. Gagnon and Capt. Lagueux, liaison visit to Canadian Contingent.	22	HE British High Commissioner. Mr. A. P. Rhodes, to the Force Reserve.
5	Col. A. P. Baker, Officer in Charge Royal Signal Record and Manning Office, to 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron.	26 Jun — 06 Jul	Mr. D. Carter and Mr. C. Sherbrooke, to UNFICYP to obtain material for documentary programme for BBC Radio London.
5 — 21	Capt. E. Plovdrup. UN Department of Danish MOD, to familiarise himself with situation in connection with next rotation of Danish Contingent.	27	Col A Paviour, Deputy Director Clothing and Textiles, MOD UK to UNFICYP Support Regiment and Force Reserve, to display new clothing to soldiers.
6 — 14	Capt. D. Hopper and and Capt. R. Moll, to review establishment and organisation of Canadian Contingent.	27 Jun — 05 Jul	BGEN (Rtd) M. Richard, to officiate at Medal Parade of Canadian Contingent.
8 — 13	Mr. Goran Lindmark, journalist, to gather information of activities of Swedish Contingent.	28	Lt. Col J. Peacock, Chief of Staff Secretariat MOD UK, to HQ UNFICYP.
8 — 15	Lt. Col. F. Sudgen, CO 22 Engineer Regiment, to visit Royal Engineers working on UN Patrol Track.	29 Jun — 13 Jul	Maj. P. Wilson, Senior Flying Instructor of UKLF, to UNFICYP Alouette Flight.
8 — 15	Maj. W. Jones, Staff Officer in Directorate of Army Recruiting, accompanied by Mr. P. Tearall and Mr. S. Jackson, DAR Photographic Team, to Force Reserve.	Military and Recreation Competitions	
9 — 13	Maj. Boutet and Deputy Judge Advocate Mr. Valcartier, to Canadian Contingent.	10	Green Line Run
		28 — 29	Military Skills Competition

FUTURE EVENTS

JULY

Open Tennis Tournament

Held at Troodos during the second fortnight of July.

Curium Festival

Performances of ancient Greek and Shakespearean drama and concerts by moonlight at the ancient theatre of Curium near Limassol. The performances are held through the summer.

Carlsberg Festival, Nicosia.

Sponsored by the Carlsberg Brewery this is an annual event with songs and performance by

prominent Greek, as well as foreign singers, dancers and performers. There is folklore dancing and Cypriot food stalls and taverns.

AUGUST

Folk Art Festival (Pampaphia)

Organised in Paphos under the auspices of Laographikos Omilos Paphos during the first fortnight of August.

The Dormition of the Holy Virgin

Celebrations take place at the Monasteries of Trooditissa and

Kykko on the 14 and 15 August. Abbots in their religious gowns attend the services and the churches are packed with pilgrims from all over Cyprus. Villagers take the opportunity of selling their products.

SEPTEMBER

Wine Festival at Stroumbi village Paphos

Organised by the village Committee in early September, and it includes free wine tasting, exhibition of grapes and Folk dances.

Wine Festival, Limassol, 12—23 September

Organised by the Limassol Municipality. It will be held in

the Public Gardens of Limassol. Free distribution of wine, open air restaurants serving local and foreign dishes, performances of folk dancing and singing and Cypriot theatrical sketches.

Cyprus Autumn open Tennis Tournament to be held at the Larnaca Tennis Club courts during the first fortnight of September. Open to all without restrictions including foreigners and professionals.

OCTOBER

International Clay Court Tennis Championships to be held in Nicosia at the Field Club Courts during the first fortnight of October.

JULY 1979

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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

Ferret scout cars of Force Reserve patrolling though the deserted village of Ayios Yeorgios in the Buffer Zone in Sector 1.

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

Production Problems

Our readers must be wondering what has happened to the journal in the past few months. Instead of appearing monthly, we have been appearing at very irregular intervals and even then we have been unable to forecast when this would be. Not, we must admit, a very satisfactory situation for the house journal of an organisation that has a regular turnover of staff.

The main reason for the delay has been simply that the editor has many responsibilities other than the production of this journal and most of these involve tasks that cannot be delayed. Hence, as the editor is the only person in the organisation, the production of the journal has been the only thing that could be allowed to slip.

Just as things looked as though they were about to go from bad to worse help arrived. Out of the blue Mrs Maggie Lyon-Dean walked into the editorial office and offered to help. Her offer was accepted with alacrity and she was immediately nominated Assistant Editor! So at long last the monumental pile of material in the editorial office is being formed into future issues and as this editorial is being dictated to complete the July issue, the August issue lies almost completed on the copy table.

Who knows, perhaps you will get two issues in a month!

Contents

June in Retrospect: Future Events	2
Editorial: Contents	3
Dancon: What do they do in HQ Coy?	4
Swedcon: Building Boom — new ablution block for the women in the next contingent and a new Transport Control Office	5
Auscon: July MTO's Conference — first conference held outside Nicosia was held at Camp Duke Leopold V	6
Britcon: From Sector 2 ...and Force Reserve	7
Military Skills Competition	8
Cancon: News from 3e Bataillon, Royal 22e Regiment	10
Blue Beret Sport: Canada Day inter company competition	11
A Trip to Egypt	12
Pictorial News: RAF Loadmaster married schoolteacher; BBC Radio London record programme on Force; RAF crewman completes 5000 flying hours; More humanitarian acts — injured boy helped — Turkish Cypriot soldier saved.	14
UN News: Security Council extends UNFICYP mandate for six months; UNIFIL stay on another six months	16

DANCON



WHAT DO
THEY DO
IN
HQ COY?

HQ Coy/DANCON is specially equipped and organised for duty in Cyprus. It is located in Viking Camp at Xeros, by Morphou Bay and near the Troodos Mountains. The primary task is to give technical support to Dancon staff, also located in Viking Camp, and to the companies on the line, B Coy in Skouriotissa and C Coy in Limnitis.

To do this the company is organised into more or less individual sections: the Command Section, consisting of three officers, two NCOs and four privates, is responsible for education and training, paperwork, maintenance in the camp and the company armoury.

The Kitchen Section takes care of the cooking in Viking Camp. With one hundred the thirty mouths to feed three times a day, one NCO and twelve privates see to it that none of us starves to death whilst we are here. The privates also work as mess staff. Even though the food problem is big, the Kitchen Section lives up to Danish standards, at least most of the time.

Two doctors, one NCO and four privates take care of health in Sector One. A doctor and two privates are always on call. In emergency cases a helicopter is used, as it can take hours to reach some OPs by road.

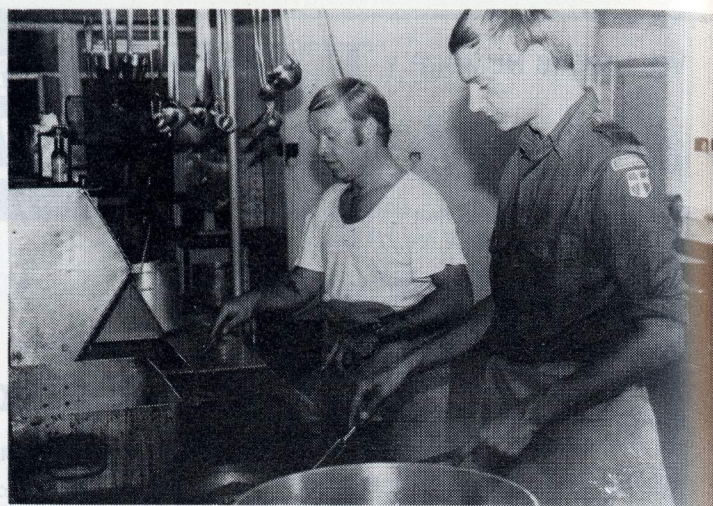
The Motor-pool, run by one NCO and six privates, is our taxi service. It is responsible for fuelling, maintenance of company vehicles and the privates act as drivers.



In the medical centre the Med Offr J Knabe swears by the sophisticated methods of medical treatment. His victim is Pte Bannerbjerg.

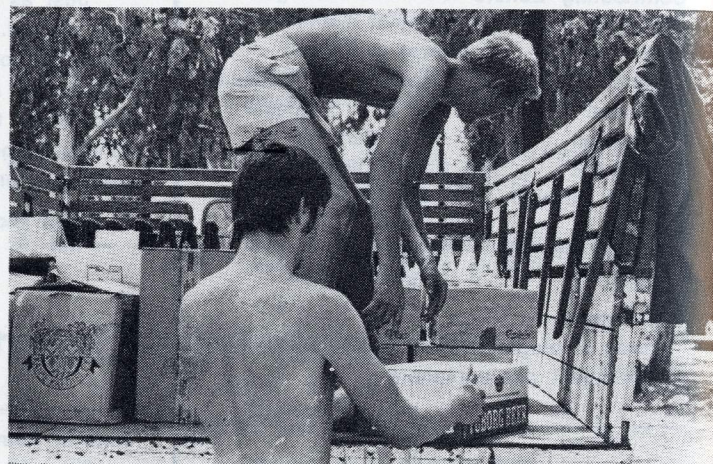
The Workshop, run by one officer, is subdivided into four smaller workshops. The motor section is run by two NCOs and five privates, who are all mechanics and do all repairs on Dancon vehicles; these are VW buses, Land Rovers and some trucks. A Britcon NCO supplies us with spare parts for Land Rovers and a Danish NCO supplies other necessary spare parts. One NCO, the saddler, maintains and repairs webbing gear, etc. Another NCO, a weapons mechanic, inspects and repairs all weapons and also does other metal work, for example, the repair of tools and grills. Two NCOs maintain and repair telecommunications equipment and, when they have time, a few privately-owned radios as well.

The pioneers' work consists of the repair and maintenance of housing facilities, sanitary installations and other matters that require skilled craftsmen. The work involves making everything out of nothing and please deliver before ordered! The section is run by one NCO. The craftsmen, ten privates, consists of two carpenters, two smiths, two bricklayers, two electricians and two painters.



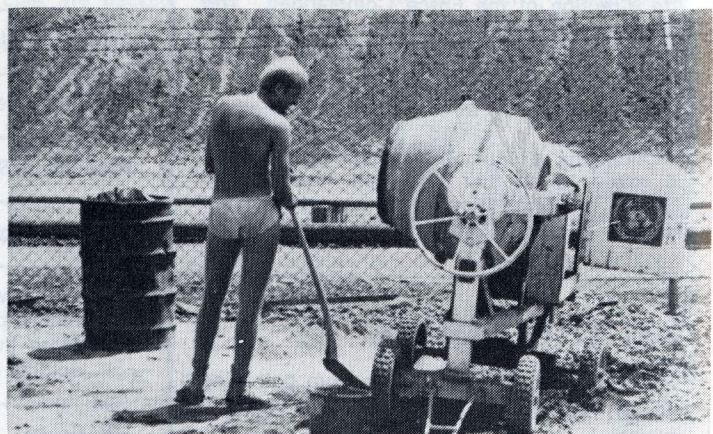
Cuisine à la Viking Camp.

The Finance Section is very important. They carry out many different tasks such as; pay and money exchange, ordering and distribution of food supplies, receiving, distribution and dispatching of mail. The main canteen supports the company messes with requirements like coffee, cigarettes, wine, spirits, tape-decks and other consumer items. Also, the section employs and pays the civilian labour.



"Do not bump", says Pte H B Jensen to Pte P Kock.

The Staff and Signal Section is subdivided into four and run by one officer. Three NCOs are on duty in the JOC: one NCO and one private take care of our welfare by arranging sight-seeing trips, making hotel reservations etc: one NCO and three privates are clerk typists in Administration: finally the Signals; consisting of three NCOs and eight privates, who are in charge of the daily broadcasts to Denmark and the maintenance and operation of the telephones and switchboard in Viking Camp, as well as the daily SDS run to Nicosia.



The Pioneer, Pte B Madsen, studies the blending of cement.

BUILDING BOOM



Pioneers Per Anderson and Mats Nordgren building the new Transport Control Office.



This will be the ablution block for the female members of the next contingent.

There is something of a building boom at Swedcon! At Camp Victoria two new buildings are going up and in the Buffer Zone people are busy renovating and improving the OPs to make the living more comfortable for the personnel.

The long awaited Transport Control Office will be a very short story for the present battalion, as the moving in cannot be fore the rotation. This building is primarily the responsibility of our Pioneers while the other new building — an Ablution Block — is being taken care of by the Public Works Department. This is the block that will be used by the first Swedish "Women UN soldiers". Twelve girls with the new battalion are eagerly anticipated. As a measure of the cost effectiveness of our Pioneers, it could be mentioned that the cost of the new Transport Control Office is approximately C\$600, while the Ablution Block is in the region of C\$2,100 — both buildings are about the same size.

Now, what is left for the Pioneers (and men) to do before the rotation?

For 1st Coy:

- OP S52 — New buildings with sleeping accommodation
- OP S48 — (which is a so-called 24-hour OP), improvements.



SWEDCON

OP S61 — —new watch tower (which will eventually allow the guards to "see something") with sleeping accommodation in the ground area.

Camp Siam will get a completely new "knock-down" accommodation hut and a bigger water tank, which hopefully, will make it possible to use the recently erected, very elegant Ablution Block!

For 2 Coy the following:

- OP S29 — (the market place in Pyla), will be improved.

OP S22 — new watch tower (we are obviously getting sharpened up).

The above projects are, except Camp Siam, in the UN budget. If we are to cope with the the Siam project there is a call for a "snappy" decision, says our engineer, Gunnar Malmberg, and that is very rare in this business.

All jobs, except those in Camp Victoria, are in the Buffer Zone, which means that civilian labour cannot be used. As the Pioneer group is limited it is obvious that the rifle companies will have to dig up any "sleeping talents" they may have and it has been proved that in Swedish Battalions there is an enormous amount of skilled labour, due primarily, to the fact that almost every soldier has a civilian job back home which is one advantage of the conscript system.



The conference hard at it in the open air dining room of the Officers' Mess. In the foreground the FMTO designate looks as bewildered as most new arrivals.

July MTOs' Conference

MTO — this does not stand for "mysterious technical organisation" — it stands for "Motor Transport Officer" and there were many of them with us at AUSCON in Famagusta to discuss their problems and solve them, if possible.

One of the most important elements of any army is to be mobile. This can be either on a horse, as in the past, on bicycles or, as in our times, on tracks or wheels. The United Nations Force in Cyprus has hundreds of vehicles on the road, based around the island with the different contingents. You will find vehicles of various kinds: armoured cars, big lorries, saloon cars or well-known cross country vehicles; everything is there. As a result, many problems arise which have to be solved by the managers of the transport system — the Motor Transport Officers. They are responsible for the travelling members of the Force. They look after those iron beasts and the most important thing in them — the driver.

On 18 July these men were at Famagusta to hold their conference in Camp Duke Leopold V. It was the first time MTOs had met outside Nicosia in one of the contingent headquarters which, I am sure, is the start of a new custom. It was really a great pleasure to welcome everybody, especially the Chairman of the conference, the FMTO, Maj Ossie Hall, and the FEME, Maj Barry Knox, who are both very anxious to help the different contingents through their tasks here in Cyprus, which are sometimes difficult because the logistic system of the Force differs from most

national ones.

This day in Sector 6 meant an early start for everyone who was involved in the conference, because it is a long way from Xeros or HQ Sector 2, Larnaca or HQ Nicosia to Famagusta. Transport was provided (detailed in a long signal) and in the end it was possible for everybody to arrive in our camp. Some came by helicopter but also, to save mileage, some shared vehicles. After some drinks in the Officers' Mess the Chairman welcomed everybody and also introduced his successor, who returns as FMTO in November. Two hours were spent discussing Road Safety, Traffic Accidents, New Mileage Targets and the Safe and Skilled Driving Competition. After this the party went to a quarry near OP A18 where a demonstration of two Austrian vehicles was given by the MTO of AUSCON, Lt "Hermann" Hölzer-Sollner. Both vehicles, the "Pinzgauer" and the "Steyr Diesel 680 M3", are made in Austria and they are very successful here in Cyprus. After the show, which impressed everyone, the MTOs tried to drive the vehicles for themselves and were seen to enjoy themselves very much.

As everyone knows, cars — and humans — need refuelling, so it was necessary to have lunch and a few drinks after a long day. All enjoyed Austrian food, served with Austrian beer and wine, and the conference ended at half past three.

We in Famagusta would like to say thank you to everybody who was with us and look forward to seeing you again.

The cross-country performance of the "Pinzgauer" being demonstrated by the Sector 6 MTO.



The members of the conference look on while the Steyr Diesel 680 M3 is put through its paces in the quarry.



FROM SECTOR 2....



For most people in Sector 2, June seemed to pass quickly. By now properly settled in, we have had more to do than sitting in our OPs watching the NG and TF watching us watching them watching us....

The Western Company had a major fire which nearly burnt down OP B22 but the combined resources of marines, "Austcivpol", local farmers and the Cypriot Civilian fire brigade managed to save the OP. However, a large area of farm land was badly burnt in the blaze.

Eastern Company have not had a major fire to contend with but have had the task of coping with the differing requirements of Australians, Canadians, Danes, Swedes and the Army during the exchange programme. At one stage it seemed as though there were more foreign nationals than marines in Eastern Company, though this was not actually true. The exchange programme is going extremely well and everyone who has taken part so far has enjoyed the period of time spent with other contingents. The aim is to get everyone who wants to away to another Sector.

Relationships with the NG and TF seem quite good at the moment. We have used the NG range at Paleometokho and



The TF and Sector 2 football teams before the start of the match at Morphou. The TF won 3—1.

the TF range at Morphou for small arms practice and have played football against teams from both sides. We lost 3—1 to the TF at Morphou and 3—0 to the NG at Kokkinotrimithia but blame these results on diplomacy. Both matches were played in a friendly but competitive manner and it is nice to meet the NG and TF on non-military matters.

Whilst the majority of visits is yet to come, the first of our families arrived in Cyprus in mid-June. Most of the leave has been taken in the south to be by the sea but some families have braved the blazing heat of Nicosia.



Mne Fardoe the Sector 2 goalkeeper under pressure during the football match against the NG. The NG won 3—0.

....AND FORCE RESERVE



Looking at this would you ever believe they jump for fun?

As our tour of duty with UNFICYP draws to a close our readers will be pleased to hear that The Force Reserve has not been spending all its time creating work for the engineers on the patrol track, nor indeed slaving over a hot Ferret with a spanner.

By this time we have more qualified parachutists than any other Squadron in the Royal Armoured Corps. This is largely due to the kind co-operation of Captain Tudor Quare who commands the Cyprus Joint Services Adventure Training Centre (CJSATC) at Pergamos, Dhekelia

and the (almost) fanatical devotion of LCoH Bell, whom we have been able to lend as an instructor on the parachute courses. In LCoH Bell's quest for the magical fifty who are prepared to leave a perfectly airworthy Cessna from 2,500 ft. — even the Mess staff and Corporal Major Williams (our Quartermaster) have dropped out over Dhekelia. It is not only The Life Guards who have taken this "small step for man" many a Dane from B Coy Dancan at Skouriotissa Camp and a few members of the UNFICYP Police element have joined us in this flight of lemmings. Is there any truth in the rumour of a MILPOL "Flying Squad" being formed?

Not content, however, with taking the plunge from the air, Force Reserve have frequently been found plunging into the Mediterranean off Cape Greco. The influence of "Jaws" and "The Deep" has proved too much for some members of the

Squadron and there is now an active hardcore of fearless ("A Manta Ray as big as a long wheel-base Land Rover") divers. Again with the help of CJSATC we were able to send several members of the Squadron on diving courses. Fortunately, we were able to reciprocate by lending LCoH McKenzie as an instructor.

Taking plunges of a different variety we were able to send four personnel on a Sea Canoeing course, two of whom were selected to canoe on Exercise Brown Colossus as it was known — a distance of 170 miles covered in eight days.

At troop-level we were able to keep many of our friends in UNFICYP entertained in the Fig Tree Bay area with our antics at sea, whether it be on water skis or wind-surfer.

Cyprus has offered the Squadron unique opportunities in Adventure Training — the majority of which its participants are unlikely to forget!

MILITARY SKILLS

41 CDO RM IN SECTOR 2



Transport Squadron doing the speed march. From left to right 2nd Lt Flack, Capt Bell, Dvr Mann, Cpl Black and Dvr Nisbet.



up....



and....

over....

Heave! Members of the Force Reserve team balancing on the top of a 12 ft wall as they help one of their members to the top.

Heigh! Wait for us. The last members of the Swedcon team drop from the 12 ft wall.



The Sector 2 team crawling under the barbed wire in the obstacle course. From left to right L/Cpl Hall, 2nd Lt Walters and Cpl Hufford.



One of the Cancon team at the grenade stand who decided to throw in the classical way.



The Auscon team establishing their telephone link on the signals stand.



The Force Commander, Maj Gen J J Quinn, presenting Cpl Hufford of the winning Sector 2 team with his prize.

COMPETITION

THE WINNERS

The Military Skills Competition, organised by Sector 2, took place between 1100 hours 28 June and 1300 hours 29 June in and around the PYLA range area. Seven teams participated; one from each Sector, Force Reserve and Support Regiment. Each team consisted of four members; one officer, one NCO and two other ranks. Three supervising officials were appointed by HQ UNFICYP and each team had an appointed umpire of a different nationality to follow them right the way through the competition.

The competition was organised in six phases; a 15 km speed march; the establishment of a night OP; a night route finding exercise; a tactical rest period and lastly a series of seven stands designed to test the teams' basic military skills.

Penalties for a team member becoming injured and having to drop out were high, consequently a high standard of skill and fitness was reached by all teams before the competition.

At 1000 hours on 28 June all teams were assembled, briefed and, after a final equipment check, were ready to go. The sizeable team of directing and supporting staff had long since been briefed and started work.

After what seemed an endless drive along the route that would shortly have to be retraced on foot the teams arrived at the start of the march. The seven team leaders drew for starting positions and from 1100 hours onwards teams were set off at five minute intervals.

The first team arrived at the end of 15 kms of shadeless, blinding white track in just under 100 minutes after starting. Once all the teams had arrived at the finish it was straight on to a briefing and a move forward into the OP position.

Throughout the afternoon bullet-proof constructions were seen to rise from the OP areas, only to be speedily camouflaged as well as possible with the sparse cover available. The types of OP produced were many and varied, each with its own advantages and disadvantages, each team carefully balancing the factors of 'protection from fire', 'efficiency of observation' and, perhaps most importantly, 'concealment' to achieve their desired result.

Work continued until the teams were withdrawn individually from their OPs at 20 minute intervals after 2000 hours to compete in the night route-finding and navigation exercise. The time allowed was only 10 minutes per km and this meant that the exercise would have to be completed at orienteering speed. On completion of this, which for most teams proved to be more difficult than anticipated, it was back to the OP for final touches to the camouflage, before the start of the night observation exercise. The DS in designing and carrying out this phase of the competition did an excellent job producing realistic incidents.

After this, at about 0330 hours, the teams were pulled back for a tactical rest period to be taken in their admin areas which

were constructed by each team approximately 50—60 metres behind their OPs. In these carefully concealed positions equipment could be checked, weapons cleaned, a hot meal prepared and a small amount of sleep gained by some members of the teams. At 0630 hours the team leaders were again engaged in the, by then familiar, activity of drawing for positions.

The morning efforts would be concentrated on carrying out the basic military skills at each of the seven stands which were set 1 to 2 kms apart, the intervening ground having to be covered at a speed of 12 minutes per kilometre, a reasonable enough time providing the teams made no navigational errors.

Grenade throwing was the first stand. Any method could be used to land the grenades in two small target areas 20 and 25 metres away. Most teams opted for the more accurate under-arm method as against the classic overarm style. Twenty four minutes later leaving the grenades behind, teams arrived at the signals stand, their task being to establish a telephone link from a troop to a section position. Here again the teams' training and professionalism were evident as they carried out the task quickly and efficiently.

Another twenty minutes and teams arrived at stand three to judge distances. Most teams managed well — it was easy provided you could remember how far there was between telegraph poles! One kilometre further on was the map reading stand and then teams were on the homeward stretch, down to the coast and then east again to the Pyla headland and the final stand; the obstacle course and the shooting.

The twenty minute stagger between the teams worked well and no serious bottlenecks occurred, thankfully. Halfway from the map reading to the finish was a first-aid stand where a casualty had to be patched up and then speedily evacuated — 15 seconds for 75 metres were allowed and not many teams came in far below that.

Teams started arriving at the assault course from 1045 hours onwards on the 29 June. The course itself consisted of a 12 ft wall, 35 metres of barbed wire 18" off the ground and a 1 metre deep tank trap. Teams then had to sprint to the shooting stand 60 metres away and then rapidly prepare their weapons for firing, load their magazines and spot the targets, spaced out between 50 and 300 metres.

As the last of the teams were finishing there was the inevitable excitement over the figures on the score-board, but no-one could be certain who had won until all the results were collated. Eventually they were and Maj Gen J J Quinn, the Force Commander, presented the winning teams with their prizes. All the teams then thankfully retired to their support vehicles to rest their aching bodies.

SCORE BOARD

Teams	Speed March	OP	Night March	Night Ops	Grenades	Signals	Judging Distance	Map Reading	1st Aid	Obstacle Course	Shooting	Final Placing	Grand Total
Sector 1/Dancon	200	64	0	100	53	92	55	80	93	85	72	2	894
Sector 2/Britcon	240	76	0	70	47	98	70	60	97	98	72	1	928
Sector 4/Cancon	240	69	0	70	30	99	5	60	90	100	48	7	811
Sector 5/Swedcon	218	67	0	90	37	82	60	60	96	87	64	3	861
Sector 6/Auscon	210	65	0	100	21	67	55	50	96	88	80	4	832
Transport Squadron	202	64	0	90	38	92	35	45	85	97	72	6	820
Force Reserve	198	70	0	90	27	76	50	72	88	84	72	5	827



CANCON NEWS

"Ne plus ultra", and you'd better believe it. The last few weeks have been busy ones for us. Approaching, and passing the mid-point of our six months tour of duty here we have had a multitude of activities and celebrations to keep us occupied and out of trouble.

On the 21 and 22 June, our Volleyball Team, spearheaded by personnel of the Compagnie de Commandement, (HQ Company, remember, ici on parle français), swept to victory at the Inter-Contingent Championships. While, not a foregone conclusion, the team was confident of their own ability and never doubted the outcome from the start.

Following hot on the heels of the volleyball tournament were the celebrations for St Jean Baptiste Day. Festivities commenced with a party at the Cancon Officers' Mess with champagne, music, dancing, a barbeque and glasses of "Caribou", all in honour of this most important of French Canadian holidays. Hats off to the members of the Compagnie de Commandement (Paperum ad nauseum), who organised the party and hats off too, to that hardy bunch of officers from the Cie de Cmdt, the last to leave the party at 0400 hours for bed, yet managed to remember to show up, and **Compete** in the Battalion Sports Day competitions that started at 0700 hours the same morning. Even our new DCO Major Maurice Baril, just arrived on the island, competed in the one-and-a-half mile run and was seen warming up for the 5000 metre race the following week, proving that it's not just those of us in Nicosia who are keeping fit.

While on the subject of running, and in the spirit of friendly competition, the officers of the Battalion would like to take this opportunity to issue an open challenge to any or all of the other sectors to a foot race from Austcivpol HQ at Kokkinotrimithia to the Cancon Officers' Mess at Wolseley Barracks, a distance of 8 miles, 442 yards, 2 feet and 3 1/2 inches, teams to consist of six officers (three Majors, two Captains and one Lieutenant). The losers will be expected to pay for the refreshments on arrival at the Cancon Mess. Incidentally, our team does not intend to carry their wallets.

Amongst our visitors of the last few weeks was Brigadier General Marcel Richard (Retired), one of the Royal 22e Regiment's most distinguished soldiers whose years of service extended from World War II to the seventies. As a former Commanding Officer of the 3e Bataillon it was, at times, a nostalgic occasion, as what were young privates and a young company commander met again as senior NCOs and retired General. In one case the General remarked to a young captain that his face seemed quite familiar. Captain Rick Wright replied that it may have been because his father had served under the General as a senior NCO!

BGEN M. Richard was also present for our Canada Day celebrations. Held in conjunction with our Medal Parade on 2 July the festivities were a great success. Under the command of Major Raymond Taillefer the guard marched on, accompanied by the Battalion Colours and the Band of the Queen's Lancashire Re-

Lt Tony Michaud and guests at the Canada Day Reception after the Medal Parade.



3e BATAILLON ROYAL 22e REGIMENT



Brigadier General Marcel Richard (Retired) inspects the Quarter Guard turned out in front of the Ledra Palace on his arrival.

giment, to the spectacular setting of the terrace of the Ledra Palace. The Force Commander Maj Gen J J Quinn, who was the Reviewing Officer, inspected the guard and then presented medals and congratulations with the assistance of BGEN J A Cotter and BGEN M Richard. The terrace courtyard echoed loudly to the volleys of musketry of a "feu de joie" and then singing "O' Canada". Guests and participants then retired to a buffet and refreshments at a reception held on the patio by the pool in the Ledra Palace gardens. We would like to thank the members of the Queen's Lancashire Regimental Band, who under the direction of WO1 Bandmaster C Robinson LRAM, contributed so much to the success of this occasion.

A few short notes: Our Ops B Officer, Captain Claude Ethier, is due for congratulations. A member of the Compagnie de Commandement Chairborne Brigade, he recently turned sideways during a briefing and disappeared. It seems those hours of training in the gym have finally paid off — and he has slimmed down from a majestic 210 lbs to a trim 172 lbs, all muscle.

The Cancon Parachute Club got off the ground with the kind assistance of the Combined Service Adventure Training Club, who provided facilities, equipment and instructors. With organisation by Captain Sandy Robertson of the Compagnie de Commandement in just over two months over thirty of our personnel are now qualified jumpers. Even the Battalion Protestant Padre, Captain Michael Wellwood, took the "Big Step", with hair-raising style. Rumour has it that he was attempting to get on closer speaking terms with his overall superior!

We, in the 3e Bataillon Royal 22e Regiment and all the other personnel of Sector 4, hope that the last three months of our tour here are as interesting and rewarding for all of you as the last three months have been for us.

Je me souviens

Captain Mike Wellwood, the Protestant Padre, being congratulated on his first parachute jump by executing a involuntary free fall manoeuvre into the Ledra Palace swimming pool.



Blue Beret SPORT



Take that you fiend! MCpl Courchesne of Log Coy puts the javelin into orbit. It was last seen by C45, who reported it as a UFO going towards the Kyrenia mountains.

Up and over. Pte Truchon of B Coy lurches over the high jump under the critical eye of Cpl Carboneau from Log Coy.



Foxhounds chasing after a rabbit. Cpl Desbiens leads the field in the 5000 metre race while Maj Marcel Gelinias keeps his cool under his sunhat and takes it all in his stride.

TRACK & FIELD CANADA DAY INTER COMPANY COMPETITION

At the request of some of our servicemen, some ex-runners at the provincial level of track and field buffs, the T & F Committee of the Canadian Contingent organised a meeting for an inter-company competition, to celebrate Canada Day on 1 July 1979.

Because of the immense heat, the competition was held between 0700 and 1100 hours, with 78 participants and all personnel not on duty were spectators.

A medal award was made for each event which took place during the day. This made it possible to determine the best company and the best athlete of the day.

A large number of volunteers came forward to prepare the ground, act as measurers, statisticians, time-keepers and to help clean the grounds after the events.

Some "old pros" were seen among the competitors, who did not hesitate to meet the younger ones. One of them even brought home the two gold medals he won at the events in which he took part.

This competition took place on the grounds at the English School, which was graciously lent to us by the Headmaster. We should like, once again, to express our many thanks.

BGEN J A Cotter, CD, Comd Cancon, presents the gold medal for the 800 metre race to our resident "Tooth Fairy", Captain Jean-Pierre Ferland, of Log Coy, while Pte Allard of A Coy, winner of the bronze medal looks on.



A TRIP



The group at Sukara. From the left: 2Lt Canning; Lcpl Webster; Dvrs Feenan, Stobbs and Gilks.

TO EGYPT

Article: Nigel Canning

On Thursday 14th June a party of 'A' Troop of 60 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport headed off to RAF Akrotiri to catch Cancon Flight 44, a 'Buffalo' going to Ismailia. The party was 2Lt Canning, LCPl Webster, (who came in at very short notice due to Cpl Quine's blistered feet causing him to be kept in the medical bay following the Green Line Run), and Dvrs Cornish, Feenan, Stobbs and Gilks.

The flight was not the most comfortable ever experienced but as it was free we were certainly not going to complain, and was an experience in itself. We took off at about 10 a.m. and the first stage took us to Jerusalem where we had to wait for about three quarters of an hour. There we were allowed to get off the aircraft and sit in the flight departure lounge where we got some funny looks from the airport guards who, although dressed in civvies, were in fact quite heavily armed with machine pistols in their hands and pistols tucked in their belts.

The next stage took us on to Egypt, passing over the S'nai Peninsula, where the debris of the Arab-Israeli War, and even World War II, is still greatly in evidence.

The camp where we stayed was on the outside of the town of Ismailia, bordered on one side by the Sweetwater Canal and the houses of the town. Just to look over the canal was a real eye-opener. The canal provides the locals' water for washing, cooking, drinking etc., and when analysed a short while ago was found to contain 38 known diseases! The houses were much of the time little more than mud huts and really have to be seen to be believed.

The following morning dawned bright and hot and after breakfast we all boarded a mini-bus which took us on the two hour drive to Cairo. The road itself just went for miles and miles in a dead straight line with nothing but sand to either side, (obviously a sunbathers paradise). The UN drivers are advised not to drive in the city unless they know the route they are taking very well, — in fact I would strongly advise against anyone driving there. You either have to be very good or very mad as it makes Death Race 2000 look like the test card!

Eventually, by taking a taxi from the outside of the city, we arrived at our hotel which went by the glorious name of 'The



The Avenue of Pillars at Sukara.

Jollie-Ville'. As it turned out it was very nice indeed with twin chalets and a swimming pool (which was more like a warm bath). We decided to rest for the remainder of the day after our 'taxing' ride from Ismailia and swim and watch the Giza Pyramids, just 1 mile away.

That evening we arranged for a taxi to collect us the next morning to go and see the pyramids. The first stop was at Giza, which are probably three of the best of all the pyramids, and the Sphinx. There we were attacked by children trying to sell cheap jewellery, guides, guys with horses, guys with camels, and anything else that could possibly catch the eye of prospective money spenders. It was not long before I was hustled onto a camel, along with Dvr Stobbs, and photos being taken of us with my camera. I then had an Arab type cloth cap thrust upon my head and was told to ride off on this swaying beast, which, though good fun, rather worried me as I don't have an HGV license that covers camels.

After paying over the odds for the services of our first 'reception committee' we moved on to the pyramids at Sukara which were very grand and quite fascinating. Again, as soon as we got out of the taxi, we were approached by a little Egyptian guide who approached us at something close to a sprint, in order to get our custom. We must have spent something like two hours in the area of Sukara looking in rooms and tombs and walls covered in hieroglyphics, and going down into the depths of the pyramids. The one trouble was that wherever we went a gate had to be unlocked and the 'keeper of the keys' had to be given a tip. It amazed us that it was the same little fellow that would leap out from behind a wall of the next place that we were going to see, unlock the gate, and stand with his hand open. They really have got their system worked out so well and if you don't fully understand it you can get badly conned — as I must admit I was on a couple of occasions.

As we were leaving Sukara we passed a very colourful band of Egyptians mounted on camels. Stopping the taxi we all got out

The Egyptians who came at us at full gallop after seeing us photographing them.



to take photographs of them, but as soon as they saw a camera pointed in their direction they were at a full gallop after us demanding money for the photos. It was a case of very rapidly getting in the taxi and making a quick getaway. We were learning fast by this time!

On we went then to Memphis where, although there wasn't a great deal to see, there was a marvellous statue of great size of Ramses II, which was carved out of a solid piece of granite. Having spent about half an hour looking around there we decided to head back to the hotel for a late lunch and a swim. On our return we met Dvr Cornish who had failed to make the rendezvous that morning for the start of our tour but who had made his own way to Giza and tried his hand at the new sport, (invented by him), of pyramid scaling on horseback. Apparently the horse 'chickened out'.

That evening we again headed for Giza to see the 'Son Et Lumiere' but unfortunately, working from duff information given by a taxi driver, we just saw the last five minutes of it, and that was from a long way off. So we decided to try a night club that the taxi driver just happened to know and was supposed to be very good. We stayed long enough to down a 'Coke' and decided to try an-



The statue of Rameses II at Memphis carved out of solid rose granite.

other place which was recommended by the UN back in Ismailia. We very rapidly got rid of our taxi driver having arrived at this very grand hotel. It turned out to be a very good evening with a good cabaret and entertainment. The moral of this story is never listen to an Egyptian taxi driver.

We just couldn't leave Cairo without seeing the Tut-enkhamen exhibition at the Cairo Museum and so, on Sunday morning, we again leaped into our taxi and headed into town. Once again we were met at the door by a guide who just 'had' to take us around the museum. It really was a fascinating visit and the Tut Exhibition was extremely good and once more we were expected to make a handout to the guide before we could leave.

Time was now getting on and we just had time to make a quick visit to a bazaar to get a few souvenirs before getting back to the hotel to meet our transport for our journey back to Ismailia. Sunday night we spent as we did our first, with the Canadians, and ready for our flight back to Cyprus on the Monday morning.

And so it was that we landed at Akrotiri at 10 a.m. on the Monday to be met by a mini-bus to take us back to Nicosia, thereby ending a very interesting and enlightening if not enjoyable trip to Egypt.



BBC RADIO LONDON RECORD PROGRAMME ON FORCE

Mr David Carter, a programme producer of BBC Radio London, visited from 26 June to 6 July to record a programme on the Force for transmission to listeners throughout the Home Countries in England during the Bank Holiday on Monday 27th August. The original idea had been for a programme on the British contribution to the Force but it was decided to produce a balanced programme accurately portraying our work as a whole. It was therefore necessary to have an input from other national contingents and this was achieved very effectively. Although the original intention had been to record material for a half hour programme the amount of excellent material Mr. Carter was able to record resulted in the programme being extended to an hour's duration.



Pictorial news

RAF LOADMASTER MARRIES SCHOOL TEACHER

Sgt Don Jones and Briony (nee Richie) leaving St. Columba's Church Nicosia, after a service of Blessing of their marriage which was conducted by Padre Robert Nurton, on 2nd June 1979. A reception was held at 84 Sqn and Force Reserve WOs and Sgts Mess, from where the couple left for Kyrenia for their honeymoon.



David Carter is pictured outside HQ UNFICYP recording a conversation with COMDBRITCON, Col PFB Hargrave.

RAF CREWMAN COMPLETES 5000 FLYING HOURS

FS Jim Armstrong is pictured being congratulated by Sqn Ldr "Situ" Situnayake and other members of 84 Sqn Det on completion of 5000 flying hours. Champagne was definitely the order of the day to celebrate this note-worthy achievement.

FS Armstrong has served on Britannia C1/2 transport aircraft, Puma HC 1 and Whirlwind 10 helicopters. While serving on Britannias, FS Armstrong participated in the Bangladesh refugee airlift and moved many refugees between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

FS Armstrong has now served two years with the Detachment and has another six months to serve in Cyprus before returning to England.

MORE HUMANITARIAN ACTS

INJURED BOY HELPED BY UN

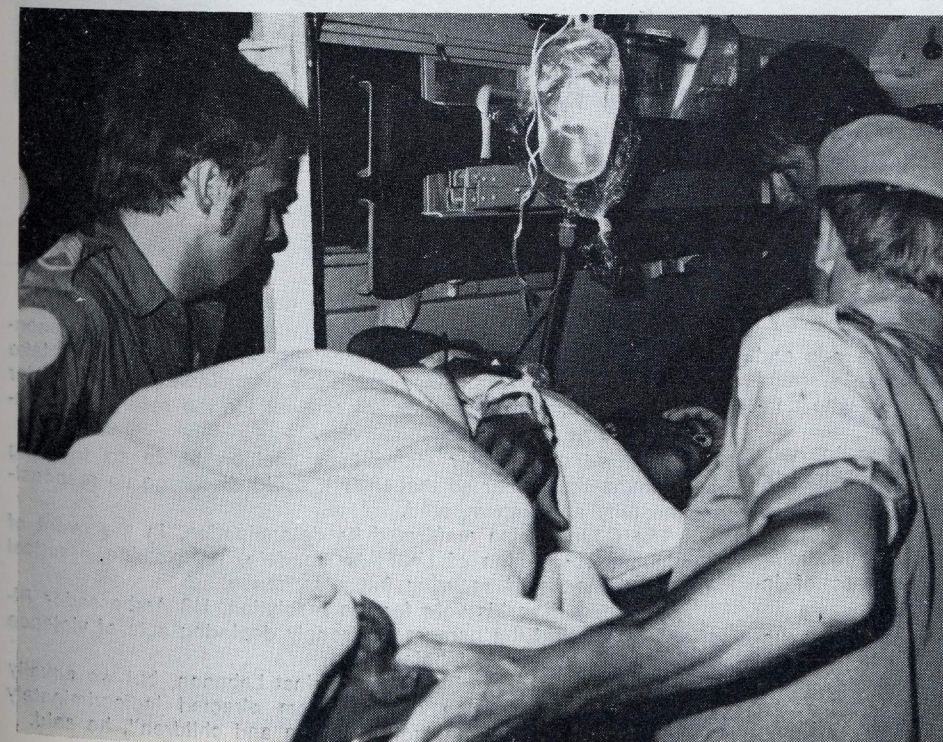


During the afternoon of Thursday, 12th June, Colour Sergeant John Morris of 41 Commando Royal Marines was passing through Dhenia village on duty when he heard a child crying and obviously in distress. He found 8 years old Costas Andreu Steleous who had got a nasty gash in his scalp. It was obvious that the boy needed urgent medical attention and he therefore took him and his mother to the UN post in the village and telephoned for medical assistance.

When Leading Medical Assistant "Sinbad" Edwards arrived on the scene it was obvious to him that the wound in the boy's head needed stitching. He therefore called a UN ambulance and the injured boy was immediately taken to Nicosia General Hospital, where the wound was stitched and other necessary treatment given.

In the picture, taken at the Steleous' house four days later, the boy and his mother are seen being visited by, on the left, Leading Medical Assistant Edwards and, in the centre, Colour Sergeant Morris.

UN SAVES TURKISH CYPRIOT SOLDIER



At half past eight on Thursday, 5th July Headquarters UNFICYP received an urgent request from the Turkish Forces to evacuate by helicopter from Kokkina an injured Turkish Cypriot soldier.

A Whirlwind of 84 Squadron Detachment (RAF) of the UN was dispatched immediately clearance was received, and, picking up the Danish Medical Officer en route, arrived at Kokkina at ten past nine. The patient was fed with intravenous fluids during the flight and on landing at Nicosia was quickly transferred to a UN ambulance which rushed him to Nicosia North Hospital where he arrived at quarter past ten, just two and a quarter hours after the emergency call had first been received.

The Force Commander, Maj Gen J J Quinn, subsequently received a letter from Brig Gen A Erdogan expressing his thanks for the initial medical treatment rendered to his soldier and also for the humanitarian assistance extended to him in his evacuation to Nicosia North Hospital.

The picture shows the soldier being transferred from UN helicopter to ambulance after landing at Nicosia.



UN NEWS



SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS UNFICYP MANDATE FOR SIX MONTHS

The Security Council voted on Friday, 15 June to extend the stationing of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six month period, ending 15 December, as members welcomed the resumption of intercommunal talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots today in Nicosia. The Council extended the UNFICYP Mandate by adopting a draft resolution which the President of the Council, Oleg A Troyanovsky (Soviet Union), said had been prepared in the course of consultations among members of the Council. Under the terms of the resolution, the Council urged the parties to proceed with the intercommunal talks, within the framework of the 10-point agreement worked out at the high-level meeting in Nicosia on 18 and 19 May, "in a continuing, sustained and result-oriented manner avoiding any delay".

Following is text of the resolution:

"The Security Council,

Noting the report by the Secretary General on United Nations operation in Cyprus of 31 May 1979 (S/13369 and Add. 1),

Noting also the concurrence of the parties concerned in the recommendation by the Secretary-General that the Security Coun-

cil 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 prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep the Force in Cyprus beyond 15 June 1979.

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

Welcoming the ten point agreement for the resumption of the intercommunal talks which was worked out at the high-level meeting on 18 and 19 May 1979 in Nicosia, under the auspices of the Secretary-General,

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 December 1979

2. Urges the parties to proceed with the intercommunal talks within the framework of the ten-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 progress made and to submit a report on implementation of this resolution by 30 November 1979".



General view of the Security Council voting on the draft resolution extending the UNFICYP mandate.
UNITED NATIONS/PHOTO BY Y NAGATA.

UNIFIL STAY ON ANOTHER SIX MONTHS

The Security Council, on 14 June renewed the UNIFIL mandate for another six months, until 19 December.

It also called on Israel to cease incursions into Lebanon and to halt the "assistance it continues to lend to irresponsible armed groups" — a reference to the Lebanese Christian militia who control a strip of territory along the border with Israel.

The Council resolution was approved by 12 votes to none with two abstentions (Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia), China did not take part in the vote.

The resolution strongly deplored acts of violence against Lebanon that had "led to the displacement of civilians, including Palestinians, and has brought about destruction and loss of innocent lives".

The UN force, comprising some 5,800 troops from eight countries was set up in March 1978 to check on the withdrawal of Israeli troops who entered Southern Lebanon to attack Palestinian guerrilla bases.

UNIFIL also has the task, still unfinished, of helping restore

the Lebanese government's authority in the south of the country.

The resolution reaffirmed the validity of the 1949 Lebanon-Israel armistice agreement, and called on the parties to take steps to reactivate the mixed armistice commission set up under the agreement, and to ensure full respect for the safety and freedom of action of UN truce observers.

It urged all member states in a position to do so to bring their influence to bear so that UNIFIL could discharge its responsibilities fully and unhampered.

The Council also reaffirmed its determination, in the event of continuing obstruction of UNIFIL's mandate, to examine practical ways and means of securing full compliance.

Before casting his vote for the resolution, US Ambassador Richard Petree said the paragraph strongly deploring acts of violence against Lebanon lacked balance.

"We deplore acts of violence against Lebanon, but we equally deplore acts of violence and terrorism directed indiscriminately against Israeli citizens, including women and children", he said.