

THE BLUE BERET

Wednesday, 6th November 1968



Issued by the Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus

Volume Six

No. 30

U.S. halts all attacks on North Vietnam

ALL UNITED STATES attacks on North Vietnam, by air, sea and land-based artillery were halted at 3 p.m. Cyprus time on Friday, 1 November, 1969 following an announcement by President Johnson late on Thursday night that he had given orders as Commander-in-chief of U.S. armed forces.

The President added that the Paris peace talks on Vietnam would be widened in scope from today to include the South Vietnam government delegates and representatives of the so-called national liberation front which is the political arm of the communist Vietcong.

Mr Johnson ordered the cessation of bombing without any public agreement by North Vietnam guaranteeing reciprocal military de-escalation by the North, a major point in the U.S. attitude to previous calls for an unconditional halt.

It is anticipated that fighting will continue in South Vietnam, but the United States has "reason to believe" that Hanoi will not take advantage of the demilitarized zone, between the North and South, and halt the bombardment of South Vietnamese cities.

Diplomatic observers said there appeared to be a large measure of "faith" in President Johnson's order calling off the bombers entirely.

In Paris United States negotiators were "hopeful" that the Saigon government would take part in the new phase of the Vietnam peace talks so that it could move on to substantive discussion on the future of South Vietnam.



BRITISH CDS at HQ

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Charles Ellsworthy GCB, CBE, DSO, MVO, DFC, AFC, The Chief of the Defence Staff, visited HQ UNFICYP on Tuesday 29 Oct. The CDS is at present on a world tour of British overseas bases. He was welcomed by Lt Gen A.E. Martola, Force Commander and inspected a Quarter Guard from DANCON Defence Platoon. (More pictures and story on page 6).

MEDAL AWARD AT WOLSELEY

Police Adviser, Chief Supt G. Davidson recently presented Chif-Inspector Erik Docker Sorensen, of the Danish Police with his UN Medal on completion of three months with the Force.



AUSTRIAN DAY



On the Saturday after UN Day, the Austrian Contingent celebrated their National Day. We now publish a photo of Lt Gen A.E. Martola inspecting the Contingent at the Austrian Field Hospital; he also presented UN Medals.

The Force Commander was accompanied by left, Lt Col Leo Effenberger, Commanding AFH, and Lt Col Walter Umfahrer, 2i/c AFH.

CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP FUNDS FROM ICELAND

The Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, Hannes Kjartansson, has informed the Secretary-General, U Thant, that the Icelandic Government has made a token contribution of \$1,000 towards the cost of the Peace-keeping Operation in Cyprus.

TURKISH/GREEK CYPRIOT OFFICIALS AT RECEPTION

Greek Cypriot officials were among hundreds of guests who attended a reception in Nicosia's Turkish quarter, last week, to mark the 45th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. This was the first time in almost five years that a meeting of this kind has taken place in Cyprus.



It is not unusual to see Ssgt Alfred Dier of the Austrian Field Hospital with a string of cameras' around his neck as was the case on Saturday, 26 October, 1968. The occasion was the visit of Gen Martola for the Austrian Day celebrations. Most of the hospital staff were on parade, hence Ssgt Dier ends up photographing for all the staff with their cameras.

MONENLAISTA LUOVUTUSTA



Kenrl Martola on saanut YKSP 9 -nimisen muistojulkaisun YKSP 9:n komentajan, ev A Purhosen kädestä. Mukana olivat julkaisun toimituskunnan puheenjohtaja, maj A Niemi (vas) ja kapt E Heikkinen, joka huolchti kirjasen ulkoasusta ja sisällöstä.

Rotaatio on ohi, Suomeen lähteenet ovat luovuttaneet tehtäväänsä uusille miehille.

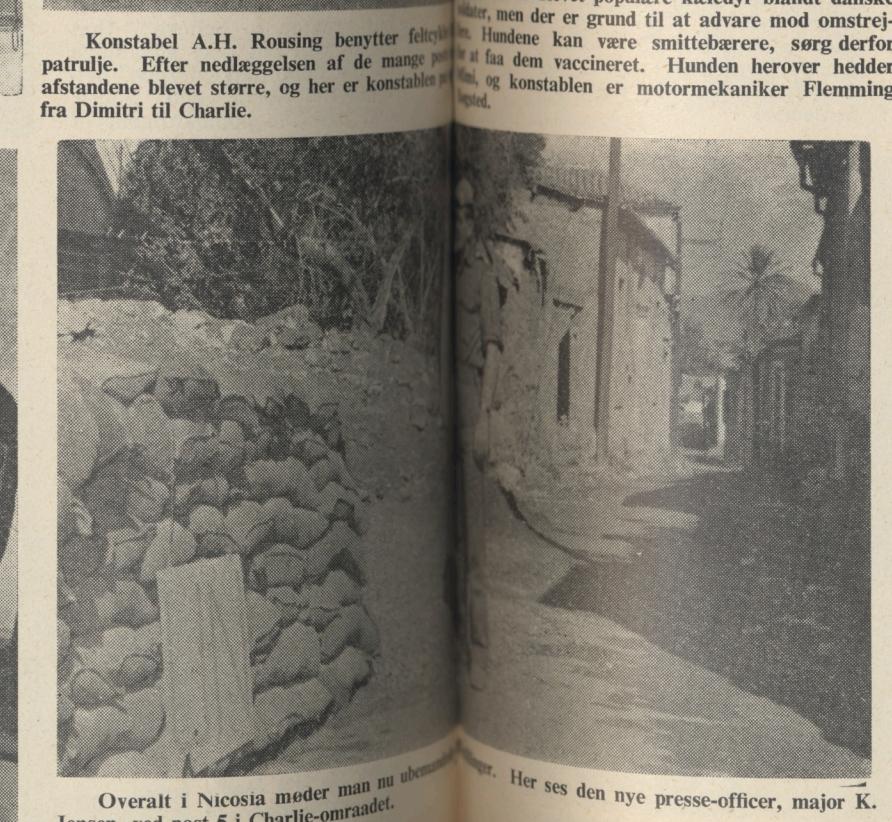
Rotaatioon tavalla tai toisella liittyviä luovutuksia on ollut muunkinlaisia. Niistä kertovat tämäkertaiset kuvamme. Jo aiemmin luovutettiin kenrl A E Martolalle YKSP 9:n toimintaan käsittelyvä muistojulkaisu. Lokakuun 28. päivänä YKSP 9:n rajamiehet käivivät luovuttamassa keraaillille suomalaisen rajapuunkon, joka symbolisoi neljää Suomessa toimivaa rajavartiostoa.

Tämäkertaisen rotaation yhteydessä vaihtui pataljoonan valokuvaaja. Ylik Salonen luovutti tehtäväänsä jo hyvissä ajoin kers Kostiaisenelle, ja vihonyiimeinen tähän liittyvä luovutus tapahtui vähän ennen viimeisen lentooneen lähtöä. Silloin nimittäin kers Kostiaisen luovutti ylik Saloselle takaisin tämän valokuvauskaliston, jota on seitsemän kuukauden ajan käytetty pataljoonan valokuvaukseen. Pataljoonan oman kaliston suhteen on esitynyt jatkuva niukkuutta.

FINCON NEWS



YKSP 9:n rajamiesten edustajat luovuttivat rajapuunkon kenrl Martolalle 28.10. Kuussa kenrl Martolalla kanssa kaksi rajamiestä, maj L Skogström ja kapt Juntunen.



Overalt i Nicosia möder man nu ubemannade vakter. Her ses den nye presse-officer, major K. Jepsen, ved post 5 i Charlie-området.

DE BERET

TO RINGER

To Ringer fra det høje og afskedfesten for Dansk Club. Måske nok mere beriging, for det ør nemlig ene commander, kriminell og Vesterbirk. Til gengæld eneste person i verden, der optrædete som

DICON
NT



SÅ GICK DET TILL NÄR VI BÖRJADE ...

med att skaka hand och välkomna varandra i rotationsvälet på flygplatsen i Nicosia. Som här på bilden, då stf batch övl Allan Sjöberg hälsas av batch öv Lars Laven och (t.h.) stabsch mj N Hagström. Bataljonens tre i topp!



med att äntligen vara framme vid sista anhalten och installera oss i cypernmiljön. För dessa och flera andra tredjekompanister betydde det avstigning rätt ut i "busken" med hela utrustningen. Stress? Nej, men i alla fall.



Hörde du?

Ja, hörde du FN-programmet över Cyperns Radio i söndags, då vi fick information och tips av olika representanter för bataljonstabben i Famagusta. I fortsättningen kommer zonpressofficeren att besöka olika camper och förläggningar med mikrofonen i näven för att få med så många röster som möjligt med många synpunkter och bidrag — muntliga och musikaliska — som möjligt. Programmet återkommer som sagt var tredje söndag.

Och alla ni som har tips på kända och okända förmågor — alla kategorier — är välkomna till Zonpressoff, HQ, Nicosia. Väl mött på OP och camper — och i etern!

Första vakten på Headquarters

Det blev tredjekompanister från Larnaca, som fick uppdraget att först av 41:orna svara för vakthållningen vid Headquarters i Nicosia. En vecka var varken varje kontingent över ordning och säkerhet vid HQ, innan "kollegerna" tar över.

En kort ceremoni i måndags morgon med vakttavlösning av danskarna inledd tredjekompanisternas HQ-jobb, och nu möts de som passerar HQ:s grindar av en stram honnör och en forskande blick från en svensk. Eller hur?

Tredjekompanisterna Larsson, Jansson och Brodin på väg ut på första vaktpasset på Headquarters. En dansk sergeant "visar vägen".



SWEDCON NEWS

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT KOPHINOU!



The CDS takes the salute on the Quarter Guard presenting arms.

BRITCON NEWS

Kophinou Compound, The Royal Hampshire's nearest Company HQ to Nicosia, has been as busy as a fruit stall on the Appian Way, since Major John Morrish moved in with men of A Coy. There have been numerous visitors, ranging from the Padre, Capt Tony Appleby, to Mrs Anne Duncan-Jones, BBC Talks producer, who did some recording on life at Kophinou. Incidentally the edited version should be broadcast on 'Outlook' at 1600 hrs, on any day! Her presence caused delight and common interest, as opposed to alarm and despondency, and no one was seen climbing over the fence after she had departed.

The most distinguished visitor of the week was the CDS, Air Marshal Sir Charles Ellsworth, who visited the Compound at 1000 hrs on Tues 29 Oct. The CDS was met at the heli-pad by Col D.B. Riddell-Webster, 'COMBRITCON', and Lt Col W.R.B. May, Commanding Officer.

A Quarter Guard was inspected and the CDS asked Pte Maurice Wilson how the weather compared with Salisbury Plain. Pte Wilson offered one of his famous smiles and commented favourably, despite the rather dull, cloudy morning.

After an 'Ops' briefing, the CDS travelled by Landrover to 'Tango' OP, where Major Morrish gave a comprehensive briefing on the local situation. The climb up the hill was a

warning of worse things to come in the winter as it proved a slippery drive after the previous night's rainstorms.

From 'Tango', the CDS returned to the heli-pad and bade farewell.

CAROBS GALORE!

Paphos District was not so long ago, a hive of activity in the gathering of carobs, that hard bean used in making gum, sweet-meats and fodder. They might like to know how the carob economy fared.

By August 31, 1968 some 42,459 tons of carobs were exported, 88.1% to UK. In the Melon Industry 1,167 tons of water melons and 181 tons of mainly honey dew melons were exported to UK, by the end of September.



Major J. Morrish, OC Kophinou Coy, briefs the CDS, on Tango.

VIP VISIT

On Wednesday, 6 November, a helicopter visited Paphos. On board was Lieut. Gen. A.E. Martola, Force Commander and personalities from Headquarters. Next week "Britcon News" will cover their visit.

HEARD IN PASSING!

Bumble bees are aerodynamically incapable of flying. The lift that they can generate with their wings is theoretically insufficient to lift their weight off the ground. They are unaware of this fact and continue flying. Please inform the next one that passes.

Lt Tom Price, introduces his Troop to the CDS. They were also at Kophinou, representing 'C' Sqn 4/7 RDG from Zyyi.



Photograph taken during a short funeral service in the hangar at HQ UNFICYP Rev. Fr. G. Brophy assisted by Rev. Fr. Dermody CF officiated.

END OF A PARTNERSHIP

Cpl Tom Manning bids adieu to his pal Cpl Jim Power at Nicosia Airport. Both NCOs were serving at UN HQ until family circumstances decreed that Cpl Power be repatriated.



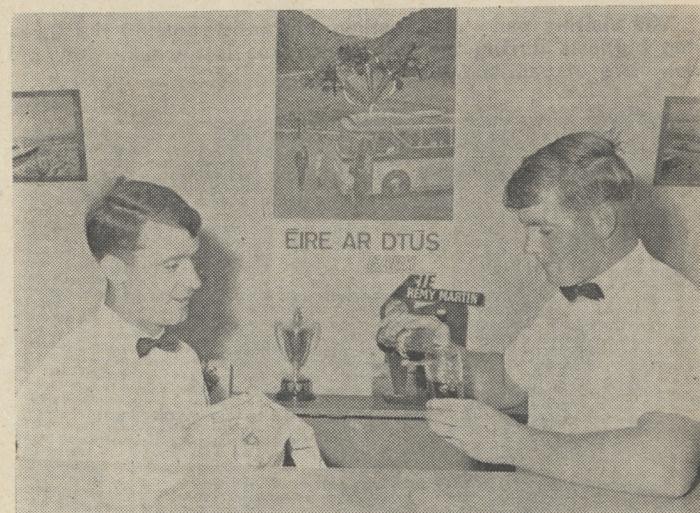
IRCON NEWS

PIPES

Pipe Band of the 11 Inf Group on parade at Xeros. This Band took part in recent UN Day Parade and its rendering of Irish Airs was much appreciated by all nationalities.



Two members of 'B' Company 11 Inf Group who took part in recent UN Day parade. Both are 23 years of age which means in effect that they were born in the year that the United Nations Organisation was established. (L to R) Gnr P. Morrissey and Pte P. Ward.



Two members of the Bar Staff in the Officers Mess Xeros are Cpl Michael Lacey and Gnr William Clyne. Both are members of the same unit back home, i.e. FA Regt. and both of their families live in Mullingar.

FUNERAL - Lieut Ronnie Byrne

A funeral, with full military honours, was held on Tuesday evening last at UN HQ for Lieut Ronnie Byrne of the Irish Contingent serving with UNFICYP who died suddenly in Cyprus last week.

The body of Lieut Byrne was brought to Nicosia following his death from natural causes at Xeros.

Representatives from all contingents as well as senior staff officers from all branches of UN HQ were present at the funeral. The Force Commander Lieut Gen A.E. Martola conveyed his sympathy and was represented by Lt Col J. Connole. Wreaths were presented by the Force Commander and by the OC, Officers and Other Ranks of the Various Contingents. Many Mass cards were given by brother officers and men of the 11 Inf Group.

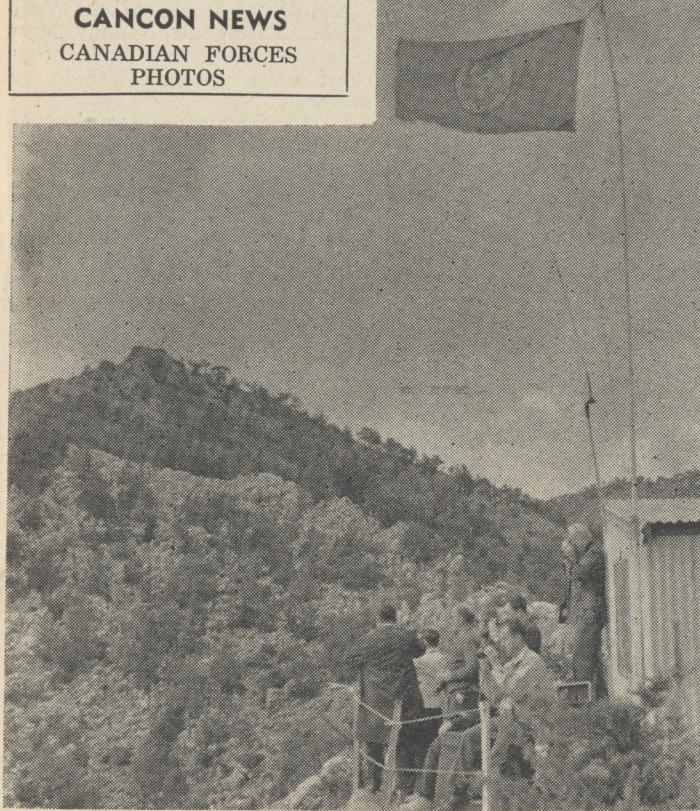
The remains of Lieut Byrne were flown to Ireland on Wednesday morning, 30th October, for burial. Interment took place on Thursday 31st October in the United Nations Plot, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

CANADIAN JOURNALISTS VISIT CANCON



A group of twenty journalists from the French Language section of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association visited the Canadian Contingent this week. Their primary interest was to speak with members of the Royal 22e Regiment, but they were also granted an audience with Archbishop Makarios and Doctor Kuchük.

CANCON NEWS
CANADIAN FORCES
PHOTOS



The visiting party of Canadian Journalists visited the Canadian outposts during the tour in Cyprus last week. They are seen here at Saddle OP.



Mr. Bernard Danis, a visiting Canadian journalist seems to be trying to convince the puppy at Saddle OP to have a look. With him is Private Jean Dube.



Picking oranges at any time is unusual for a Canadian, but when you pick them in November, it cuts the odds even more. Warrant Officer Marcel Lavigne of the Royal 22e Regiment is shown assisting a visiting Canadian journalist, Paul Talbot, to pick up the odds.



During a visit to Camp Maple Leaf, a group of Canadian Journalists watch the members of B coy. 3 Battalion Royal 22e Regiment go through a training exercise in street fighting.