



The Blue Beret

Wednesday

7th May

1975

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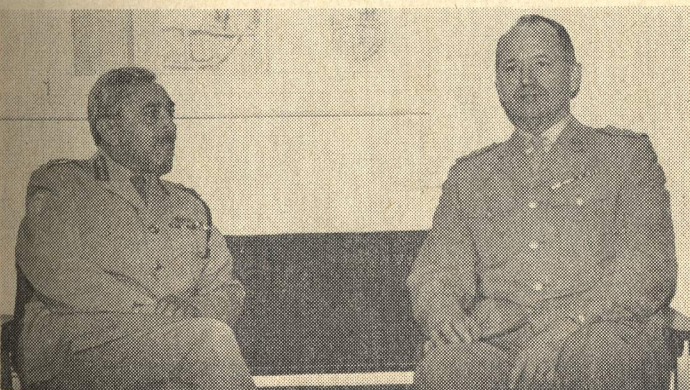
OFFICIAL VISIT OF NEW NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER



The new National Guard Commander, Lt Gen Ioannis Komninos, paid an official visit to the Force Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, Lt Gen D Prem Chand,

PVSM. Here General Komninos is seen inspecting a Guard of Honour consisting of members of CANCON, BRITCON and FINCON.

VISIT DANISH ARMY C IN C



Pictured above is Maj Gen A Vegger, Commander in Chief of the Danish Army, and Lt Gen D Prem Chand PVSM, Force Commander. The picture was taken during a recent visit by the Danish Army CinC to HQ UNFICYP.

VISIT OF BRITISH ADJT GEN



During a recent visit to Cyprus, General Sir Cecil Blacker, Adjutant General of the British Army, toured HQ and Camp UNFICYP. Our picture shows Gen Sir Cecil Blacker being received by the Force Commander, Lt Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFICYP

During the past two weeks the following contributions to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus were announced:

Austria	—	\$100,000	Lebanon	—	\$ 1,597
Iran	—	\$ 5,500	Philippines	—	\$ 1,000

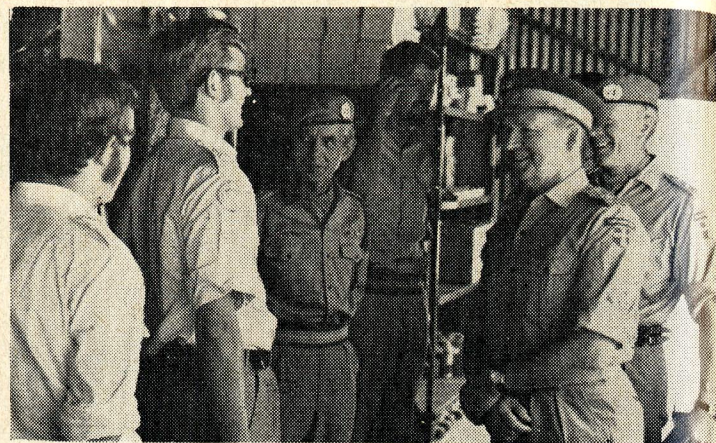
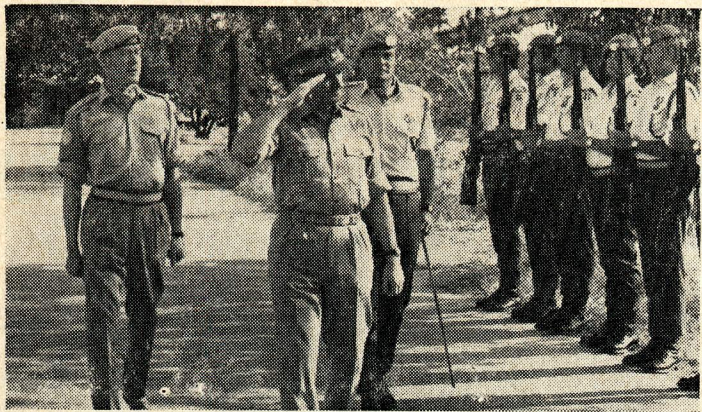


On 26th April the new Swedish Bn 57 C took over Camp Carl Gustaf and Goldfish Camp from the former Bn 55C. Lieutenant Colonel Magnus Fornell (left) wishes good luck to his successor Lieutenant Colonel Rutger Igelstam. There are now about 540 members in the Swedish Bn., including 10 MPs.

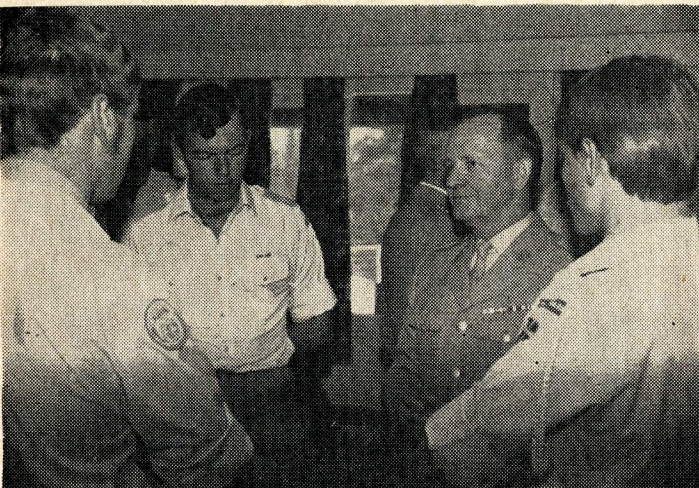
Chefen for Hæren Generalmajor A.C.B. Vegger aflagde i dagene 25-29 April besøg ved DANCON. Under besøget blev Generalen vist rundt i samtlige lejre, samt et stort antal OP'er. Generalen deltog ligeledes i medaljeparaden d. 28 April, hvor han bl. a. udtrykte sin tak for

den indsats det danske kontingent yder under UN's fredsbevarende mission på Cypern.

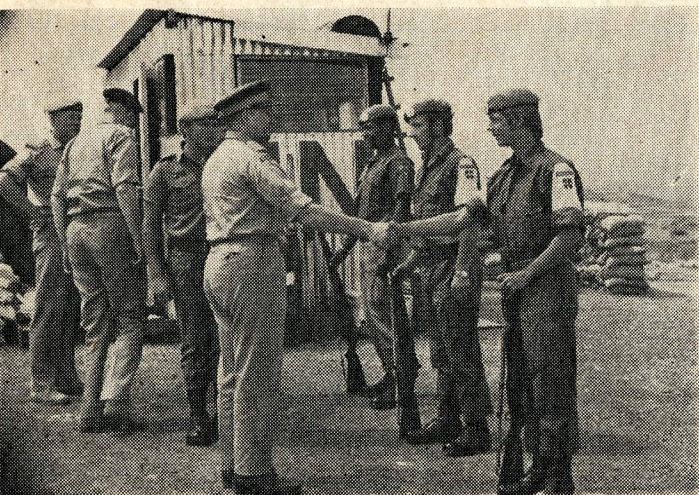
De følgende billeder giver et lille indtryk af besøgets mange begivenheder.



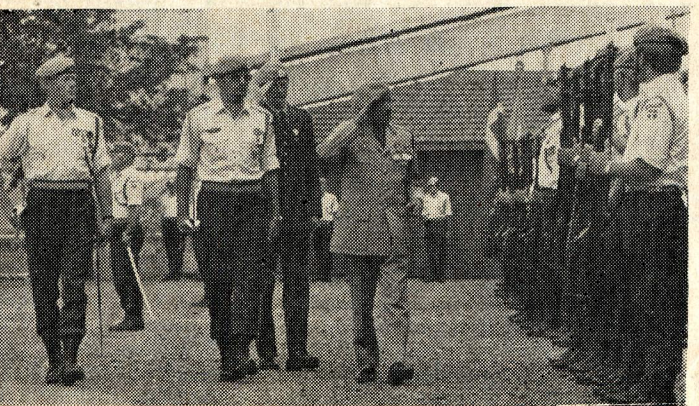
Generalen på depotet, her i samtale med OS Kjeldsen.



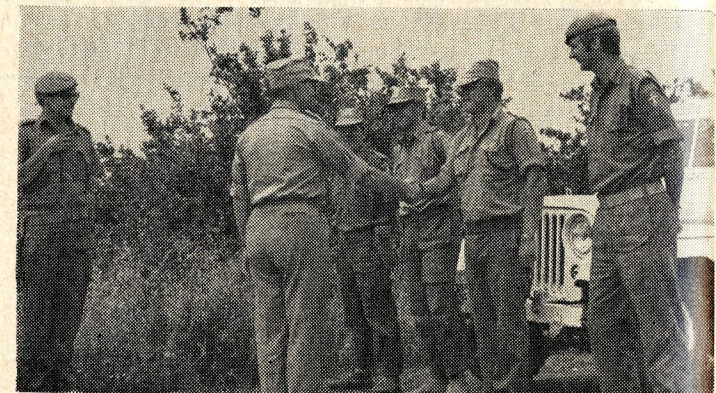
Generalen aflagde også besøg i HQ, her hos de danske MP'er.



Der hilses på OP-mandskabet, der alle var meget spændt på Generalens besøg.



Generalen var meget overrasket over det store arbejde der var udført af alle OP'er, Generalen ses her på en af Alfes OP'er.



Overvågningsdelingen var også et af de steder Generalen ønskede at aflægge besøg. Her hilser Generalen på KS P.H. Petersen. Generalen var ved samme besøg ude på patruljekørsel i OV-delings jeeps.



"THE UNITED NATIONS MEDAL FOR SERVICE IN CYPRUS" tildeltes 28 April alt personel ved DANCON som tiltrådte tjenesten på Cypern 15 henholdsvis 22 Januar 1975. Medaljeparaden overvåredes af FORCE COMMANDER, Lt. Gen. D. Prem Chand, PSVM, der også overrakte en del af medaljerne til personellet.

"HEMÅT DET BÄR" FÖR 55: AN -NU KAN VI BÖRJA JOBBA?



57:ans chef överstelöjtnant Rutger Igelstam tar över FN-fanan från 55:ans chef överstelöjtnant Magnus Fornell. Son synes var det många som förevigade det efterlängtnade ögonblicket.

Äntligen för dom hem! Det var nog många som var glada när 55:an slutgiltigt lämnade Carl Gustaf Camp och Goldfish. Alla ville ju börja arbeta efter nya riktlinjer och det var svårt så länge två bataljoner fanns på plats.

Visserligen har 55:an tagit hand om oss på ett mycket trevligt sätt men varje bataljon vill ju skapa egna traditioner, både inom och utom tjänsten.

Det var blandade känslor inom 55:an inför hemfärden. Ovanligt många rekade för en ny bataljon, vilket måste tyda på att deras tid på Cypern varit ganska trivsamt. Andra led svårt av hemlängtan och sjöng "Hemåt det bär" redan en vecka innan planet gick.

Många 55:or kånkade iväg mystiska stora paket till posten. De var väl inslagna i brunt papper och på inlämningsdeklarationen stod det kläder eller skor. Enligt oberoende rapporter kluckade det konstigt i vissa paket men det var nog bara våta badbyxor från sista baccisresan....

Vidinvägningen var det också många säckar som såg konstiga ut. Det putade både här och där och hemvändande killar förklarade att säckarna måste handhas försiktigt så att inte de inköpta cypriska vaserna skulle gå sönder! De flesta lastade t o m själva upp säcken på lastbil för att riktigt skydda den ömtåliga vasen.

Trots alla försiktighetsmått, lär en och annan vas gå sönder under transporten. En garvad medlem ur en Scacyp-besättning konstaterade att det vore mycket bättre om vaserna åtminstone inte innehöll bananlikör.... Vidare väddade de om att vi inte skall skicka lådor med cypriska apelsiner. Det blir dyrare än att köpa hemma och dessutom blir kvaliteten sämre. Scacyp-transporten är inte alltid det mest varsamma transportsättet.

Nu är det alltså 57:an som ansvarar för verksamheten. Men tänk på att redan om ett halvår så sitter de nya 59:orna och önskar:

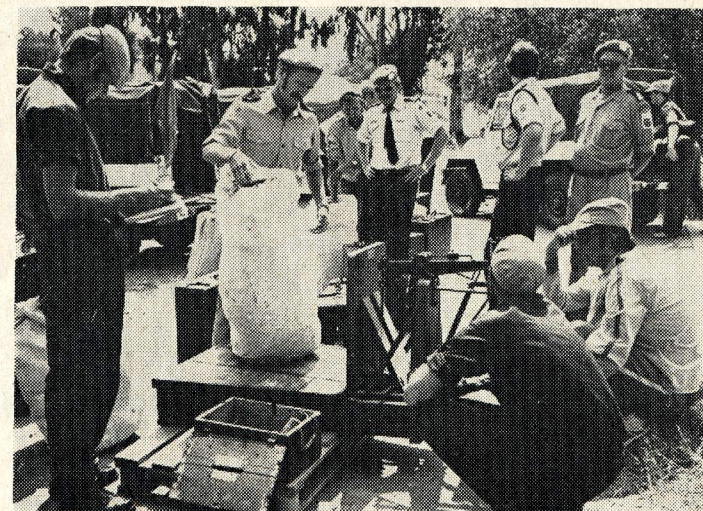
—Tänk om 57:orna bara kunde åka hem så vi kan börja jobba på vårt sätt!

FN-bat 57 C är den 24:e svenska FN-bataljonen på Cypern. Den första kom imars 1964 och bestod av hela 1 004 man. Sedan har styrkan successivt minskat och före kriget ifjol bestod dåvarande bat 53 C endast av 215 man. Sedan ökade åter torleken. 57:an har ungefär 530 man.

CYPERN STÖRST

Hittills har över 13 200 man tjänst-

gjort på Cypern, som därmed är den största svenska FN-missionen. I Gaza tjänstgjorde 12067 man, och i Kongo 6 333 svenskar. Därutöver finns många mindre missioner.



De hemvändande 55:orna var mycket försiktiga vid invägningen. De flesta lyfte själva upp säckarna på lastbils flaken. På bilden kontrollerar hemvändande civilpoliser vikten på sina välfyllda säckar.

VISIT TO AVIATION FLIGHT BY BRIG R J PARKER



On Wednesday 23rd April the Commander 2 Wing Army Air Corps, Brigadier R J Parker, visited the UN Aviation Flight to carry out his annual technical inspection. Brigadier Parker and the team of four were flown in by three Sioux helicopters led by Major DN Thornewill, the Flight Commander. They were met by Commander BRITCON, Colonel PI Chiswell. After a successful inspection the visitors were guests at a lunch given by the Force Commander, Lt Gen D Prem Chand, PVSM, before returning to Dhekelia.

BRITCON NEWS



L/Cpl Erik Stockdale, 60 Sqn RCT (right) hands over the keys of car UN121 and therefore also the responsibilities of the DCOS's driver to L/Cpl "Paddy" Gamble, 1 Sqn RCT.

Sgt Reginald Jim McGeown, Chief Clerk (Accounts) of UNFICYP Ordnance Detachment, died on Sunday 4 May 1975 in BMH Dhekelia. He had been injured in a traffic accident near Kakopetria seven days before. He was 34 years old, married with two children and had 10 years service. His wife and children who were also in the accident are recovering from their injuries.



General Sir Cecil Blacker, Adjutant General British Army meeting officers and other ranks of HQ and Camp UNFICYP. Gen Blacker is seen here speaking to WO2 Jim McCann APTC. The General and WO2 McCann have met previously.

LATE SGT JIM McGEOWN



HIGHLIGHTS OF ROTATION



...Dies und das, Suff und Frass, muss ein 'Landsknecht haben...

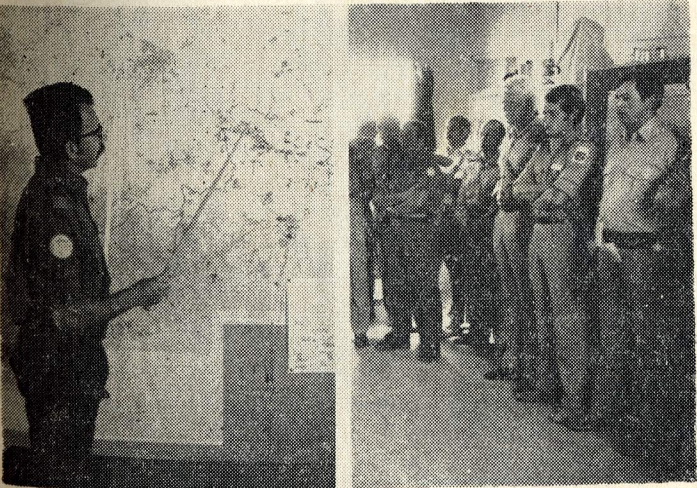
Gebannten Blickes und erfüllt von der Erwartung des bevorstehenden kulinarischen Genusses umringen die "Abruester" des AUSCON, Kpl KOGLER, Gfr RUDOLF, Gfr BRANDSTAETTER unter dem Kommando des "Chevrillers", Kpl WALOSZEK, das bereits vielversprechenden Duft verbreitende "Lagerfeuer".

Aber nicht nur die "Abruester", sondern auch die "Newcomer" haben im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes "den Braten gerochen". Der dabei entstandene Durst wurde eingehendst mit der noetigen Menge Freibier bekaempft.

SIGNAL NCO MEETING AT AUSCON

Oesterreichische Gastfreundschaft lernten die Teilnehmer des SIGNAL NCO-MEETING kennen, da dieses meeting zum 1. Mal beim AUSCON durchgefuehrt wurde. WO II STAUDINGER begruesste die Gaeste und sorgte mit seiner Crew fuer das leibliche und "geistige" Wohlbefinden.

Dieser Zusammenkuuft kam eine besondere Bedeutung zu, da ein grosser Teil der SIGNAL-NCO aller Kontigente Ende April in ihre Heimat zurueckkehren. Yeoman of Signals WO II Peter SHARP mit seiner crew zeigte sich ueber den Stand des osterreichischen FM-Einsatzes sehr beeindruckt.



Hptm STROHMEYER gab einen kurzen Ueberblick ueber die Situation im LARNACA District und ueber den Einsatz des AUSCON. Nach seinem Briefing, das keineswegs so ernst war, wie die Mienen der Zuhoeerer vermuten lassen, stellte er sich auch noch den zahlreichen Fragen. Das Hauptinteresse lag hiebei auf der schwierigen Situation im Norden des Districts.



Capt Puchinger and Capt Jaros just arrived from Austria to take up the job as Police Operations Officers at the JOC HQ UNFICYP from Mjr E Baeumel, who has been with UNFICYP for nearly 9 years, and from Mjr Latschenberger. The new "Oldtimers" are welcome to UNFICYP and we wish Mjr Baeumel and Mjr Latschenberger farewell and all the best for their future.

MILITARY ENGINEER REUNION CELEBRATED BY IRCR ENGINEER TROOP

On 18 Apr 75, the Field Engineers of 2 Tp 1 Fd Sqn and the Construction Engineer augmentees, both serving with the Royal Canadian Regiment Battalion Group in Cyprus, gathered at a mess dinner sponsored by the 1RCR Bn Gp to celebrate the Canadian Military Engineer Reunion.

In attendance at the dinner were the 1RCR Pioneers who have served with the Military Engineers throughout the Cyprus tour. Guests in attendance included: LCol P.L. Spencer — CO 1RCR Bn Gp, Major J. C. Wilson — UNFICYP Force Engineer; WO I Farrow — UNFICYP Chief Engineer; CWO B.C. Robinson — 1RCR Bn Gp RSM; and, 1RCR Bn Gp Coy Comds and CSMs.

The dinner was followed by the customary gathering where the Engineers accepted into the Order of the "PUKKA SAPPER" their Commanding Officer LCol Spencer and HQ Coy CSM — MWO Laporte.

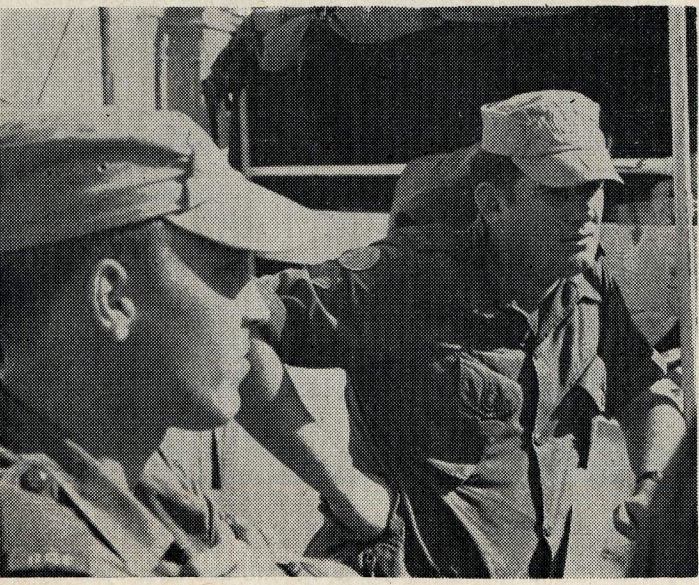
A grand time was had by all.



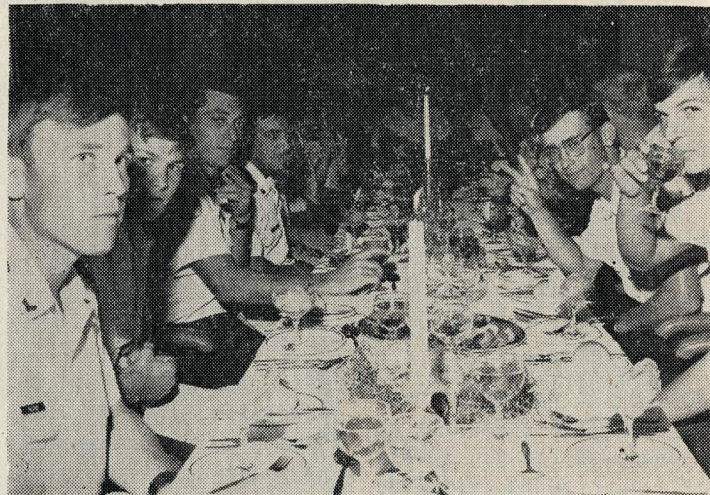
The Engineer Birthday cake being cut by a representative from both the Engineers and Pioneers serving with the 1 RCR Engineer Troop.



Cpls Doc Gallagher, Honie Mercer and Willie Armstrong at the grand opening ceremonies of the Trades Area.



MCpl Dave Fowler and Cpl "U.U." Beyer on the job site in the Inner City.

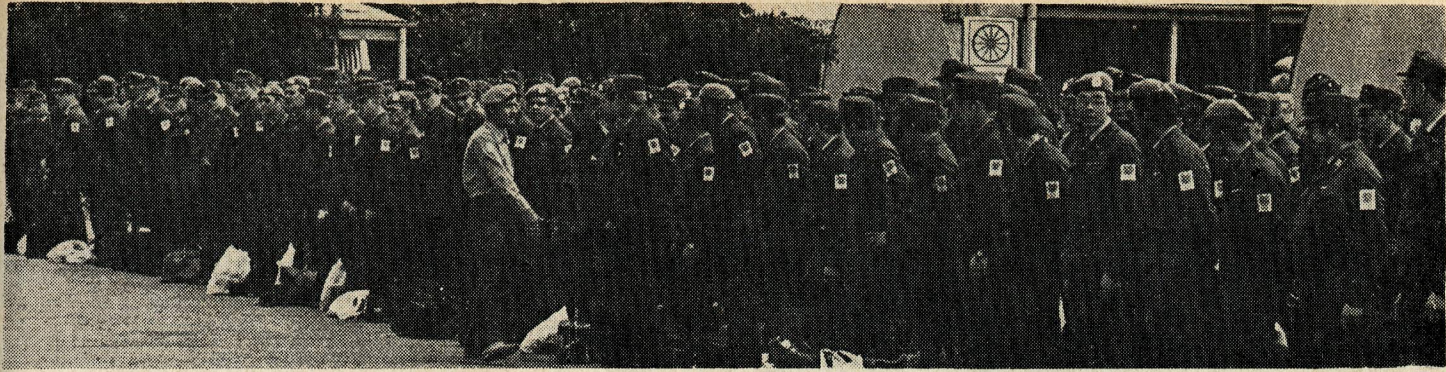


The Engineer Banquet where all ranks relaxed in luxury.



MWO Ralph Storey contemplates the difficulties of being a peace-keeper.

CANCON NEWS



FINCON NEWS

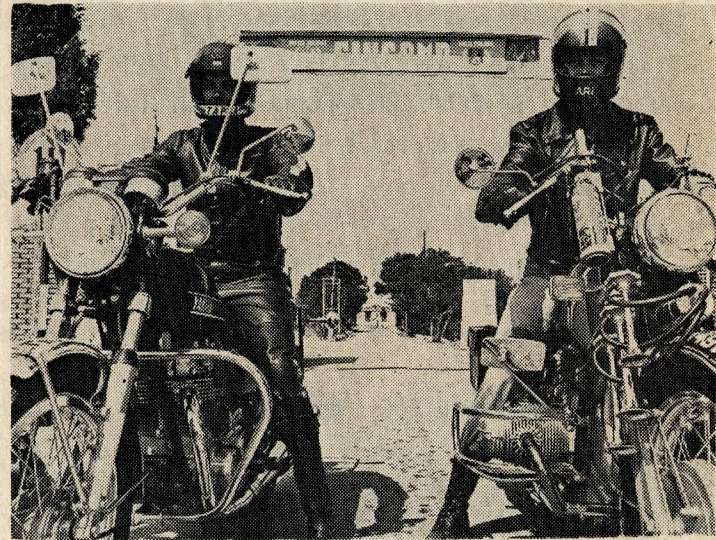
FIN BN 23



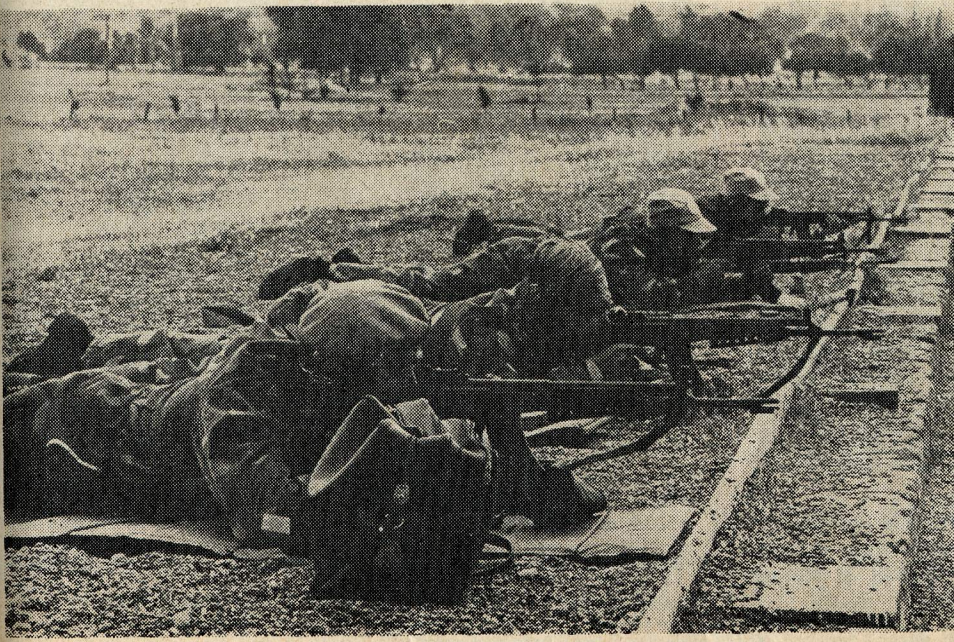
Huhti- toukokuun vaihteessa YKSP pesi kasvojaan ja ryhmitysmuutosten sekä rotaation jälkeen syntyi uusi uljas pataljoona YKSP 23, kesäpataljoona.

Rotaatiovaihe muodostuu aina räsituksiksi niille jotka eivät kotiudu vaan jäävät hoitamaan tehtäviä vaihdon ajaksi. Vanhojen lähtö, uusien tulo sekä sitä seuraava jatkokoulutusaika merkitsee normaalia tiuhemmin iskevää pykälää. Askeiset ryhmitysmuutokset sekä kolmannesta Komppaniasta Larnaca Districtiin komennettu vahvennusosasto osaltaan myös lisäsivät rotaatiovaiheen työtaakkaa.

Mutta YK-sotilas ei työtä pelkää, homma on toisaalta vaihtelevaa ja mielenkiintoista — ja menee 'vertiin'. Huhtirotaation hiutaleiden mukana saapuneiden lukuisien sinibarettien joukosta valokuvaaja löysi tutun hahmon: viestimies Jukka Suomalaisen, joka puolitoista vuotta Kyprokseksi palveltuaan (sis 3 vko Suezilla) kotiutui ylikersanttina tamikuussa ja palasi jääkärinä huhtikuussa ja tällä hetkellä hoitaa tuttuja viestihommia kersanttina.



Kontingenttien välinen Falling Plate-kilpailu pidetään 18.5. Dekheliassa. Kilpailu on kolmiosainen, kivääri- konepistooli- sekä pistooliammunta. Kiväärijoukkueeseen kuuluu neljä ampujaa, konekivääri- ja pistoolijoukkueeseen kolme. Kautta aikojen on Fincon menestynyt tässä kilpailussa hyvin, ja tälläkin kertaa sitä varten on perusteellisesti valmistauduttu pataljoonapäällikön majuri Matti Toivosen johdolla. (ampujista etualalla.)



Fincon had a partial rotation on the 30th of April. 221 all ranks left Cyprus after 6, 9 or 12 months service in UNFICYP. Among them were those two motorcyclists who did not want to fly home but make an interesting tour through Europe.

193 all ranks arrived to Cyprus after a training period in Finland. One of them is Sgt Suomalainen, on arrival still Pte, in fact not a new-comer while he left Cyprus after 18 months service first in January.

MAILINNIELIJÄT

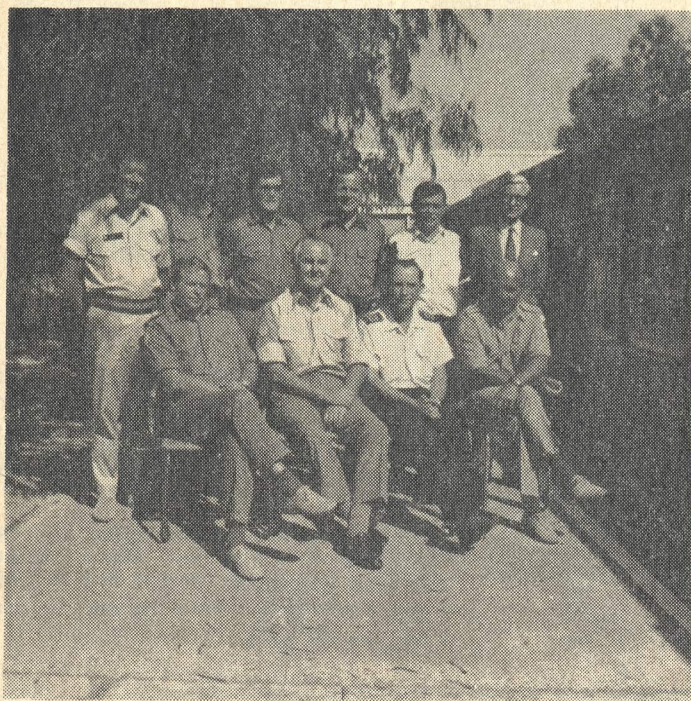
Perjantaina yhdeksäntenä toukokuuta hörrähti Fincampissa käyntiin kaksi raskasta moottoripyörää. Yhdeksän kuukautta YKSP:ssä palvelleet kersantti Ari Kauttu sekä alikersantti 'Tapsa' Hautala starttasivat kotimatkalleen Euroopan halki Suomeen. Ensimmäinen tavoite on Italiassa, TT-ajojen maailmanmestaruusosakilpailut, ja samalla moottoripyöräilyn harrastajien kansainvälinen kohtaaminen.

Kiirettä kaveruksilla ei ole, paitsi Italiaan saakka, jossa kisat alkavat viikon kuluessa heidän saarelta lähdöstään. Sen jälkeen suunnitelmissa on koukkailu ympäri Eurooppaa ja eri tullilaitosten leimojen keräily passiin. Suomen tullilaitoksen leimaa ei heidän sovi mennä pyytämään ennenkuin on kokonainen vuosi kulu- nut siitä kun pyörät rekisteröitiin omistajil- leen. Sellaiset ovat säännöt tullivapaista ajoneuvoista.

INTERCONTINGENT....

INTERCONTINGENT FALLING PLATE COMPETITION will be held in Dhekelia ranges on Sunday the 18th of May. The competition consists of three different forms: rifle, SMG and pistol. In the picture members of Fincon rifle team drilling.

OPS ECONOMISTS



The Operations Economics Branch of HQ UNFICYP who are responsible for the direction of the humanitarian work of the Force. They are (back row from left): C/S CD Houlihan; Sgt R Carlsson; Sgt J Brennan; S/Sgt R Christensen; WO R McKay; Mr. R Knights. (Front row from left): Maj S Lundberg; Lt Col G O'Sullivan; Maj W Smith; Maj R Ahlqvist.

SIGNALS WEDDING



Corporal Malcolm Roxburgh pictured after his marriage to Miss Karen Smith. Cpl Roxburgh and his wife were married at St Columbus Church, RAF Nicosia. The Guard of Honour was provided by his colleagues from 644 Signals Troop.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING PART VI

Traffic Light: Beating the lights has all the dangers of ignoring a stop sign or assuming right of way. To a defensive driver, the amber light means STOP. Before entering an intersection following a change of lights in your favour make sure other drivers aren't "beating the lights" and that all pedestrians are clear. A good rule is to wait for the person behind to sound his horn after a change of lights.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS UNFICYP

Week ending	
30 April 1975	18
Same period last year	12
Total for period	
this year	111
Total for same period	
last year	90

LESSON OF THE MONTH DON'T BE AN AMBER GAMBLER

SWEDISH PRIVATES DONATE TO UNCF

At the Swedish Bn 55 C, which recently left Cyprus for Sweden, £635.250 Mils was collected by the Privates Mess. The profit from the Mess is usually divided between the members, approximately £2 per person. However this time it was decided to donate the whole sum to UN Childrens Foundation as a contribution towards aid for displaced Cypriot children, both Greek and Turkish.

SIGNALLERS CONFER



A conference of all the contingent Signal Officers was held at HQ UNFICYP. Here they are seen in an animated discussion outside the COMCEN in Blue Beret Camp Nicosia.