

THE BLUE BERET

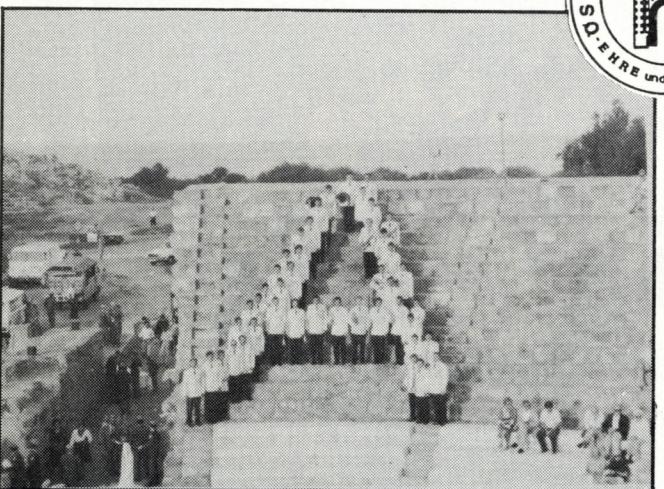
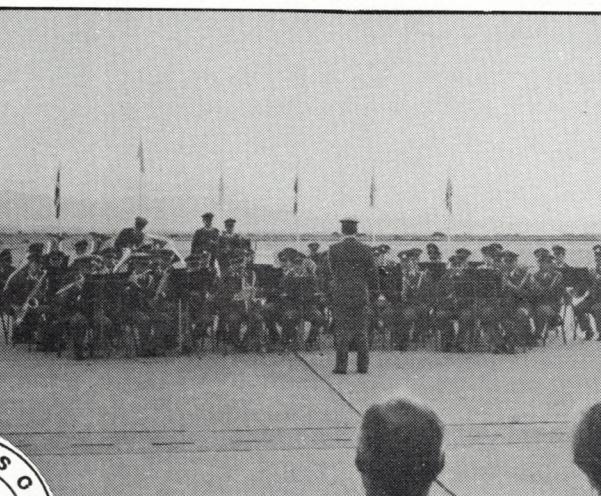
NOVEMBER 88



AUSTRIAN GUARDS BAND VISITS CYPRUS

On the 13th October the Austrian Guards Band arrived in Cyprus for a musical tour of the island. It was the first time ever that an Austrian military band had the opportunity to play for UN soldiers.

Athienou was the site of the first concert and was very much appreciated by all UN personnel



as well as a large number of the inhabitants, who generously donated towards an old people's home.

At sunset the following day a concert was held at the Nicosia Airport. The guests enjoyed a classical orchestra performance

they collapsed with exhaustion late the following morning!

After performances in Camp Duke Leopold V and Nicosia - for the Austrian Organisation for Tourism - the highlight of the tour was, without doubt, the concert in the ancient theatre of Salamis.

hungry guests and at the end of the evening as the guests were preparing to leave the first raindrops started to fall. Some say we owe that luck to our Padre and his good connections with Saint Peter!



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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

THE AUSTRIAN GUARDS
BAND IN CONCERT
(Cover story on page 2)

THE BLUE BERET

Editorial

Each year the 24th October marks United Nations Day. Sadly in former years this event has gone somewhat unnoticed. However, the 43rd United Nations Day was celebrated in some style by UNFICYP. Enclosed is a pictorial record of the Open House held at the Ledra Palace in Nicosia. Our appreciation is extended to all associated with its planning and organisation.

October also saw Staff Sergeant Beaton the Force Photographer leave UNFICYP to take up a new appointment in West Germany. On behalf of UNFICYP and especially the MPIO office we would like to thank him for his superb photographs over the past two years, in particular his contributions to the Blue Beret where we have seen some excellent front covers as well as black and white photographs, the last of which appear in the middle pages covering the BRITCON Medal Parade.

His successor, Staff Sergeant Ken Webster joins us from West Germany and is credited with this month's front cover as well as the UN Open Day pictorial extra.

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EDITORS NOTE: We apologise to the LdSH for the printing error of 'Strathcona's' in last month's magazine.

AUSTRIANS REBUILD CHAPEL IN BUFFER ZONE

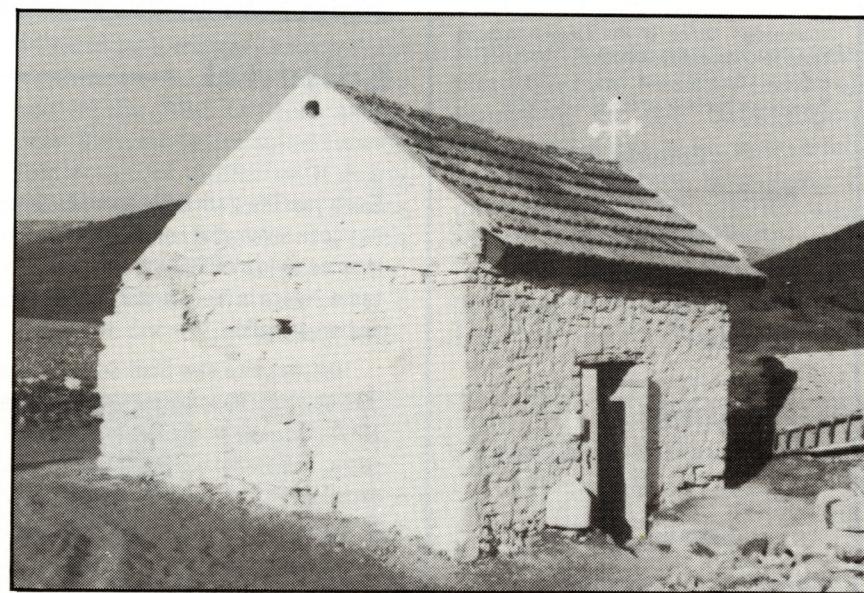
The Neophytus chapel in Ayios Neophytos was built in the 11th Century. During the course of the centuries it has been damaged and repaired several times and surprisingly a portion of a fresco from the 16th Century still remains intact.

However, on the 8th July this year the chapel was badly damaged by fire, the platoon of the Austrian Contingent stationed in Troulli and Pyla, under the command of Capt Macht and Lt Flunger decided to rebuild the chapel in their spare time, which took just over one month to complete.

On the 28th September the chapel was consecrated by a Greek Orthodox priest with the assistance of the Austrian Army Chaplain - Haas Ma. The ceremony was attended by some 120 guests and afterwards the local people of Troulli village expressed their thanks to all the soldiers concerned.

The Swedish Three Crowns Club was officially opened by the Force Commander in the Autumn of 1987, following the amalgamation of the Australian and the Swedish Civilian Police to form UNCIVPOL.

However, the Swedish members of UNCIVPOL had not had the opportunity to invite their Australian colleagues all together



SWEDISH NIGHT AT THE SWEDISH 'THREE CROWNS' CLUB

for a festive occasion at the clubhouse until Thursday the 1st of September.

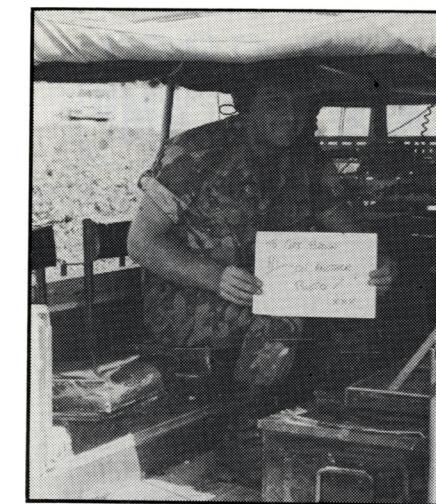
The five Swedish police who work at HQ UNCIVPOL/UNFICYP invited the Australians to a 'Swedish evening' at the club, following several enquiries from the Australians as to how it looked inside the clubhouse!!! The pressure to organise something was intense.

What does a 'Swedish Evening' consist of?

Despite several enquiries from the Australians concerning the food, the secret was kept until it was actually served. The thirty people who attended were offered the following Swedish specialities: Pea and ham soup - a Swedish dish which should also have pancakes served for dessert; however this time pancakes had to make way for ice cream instead! The Swedes were a little



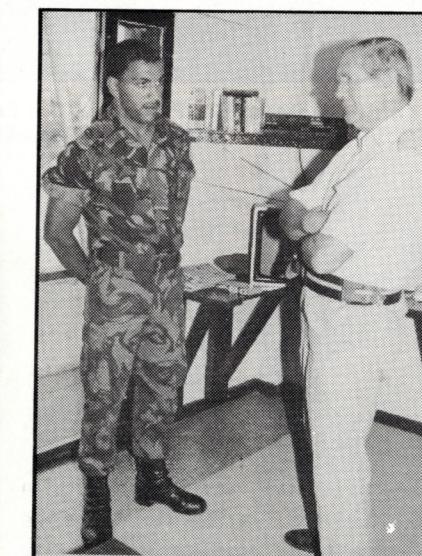
apprehensive about the reception this dish would receive; they need not have worried. The soup just disappeared! Served with this meal was a Swedish drink called 'Punsch'. Not to be mistaken for the regular mixed Punch, this Punsch comes in a bottle. It is yellow, sweet and very good! It is served warm and is guaranteed to make you feel stronger inside! The evening was held in an atmosphere of friendship and relaxation under the beautiful Cypriot night sky and to the accompaniment of POLOPS playing light music on an electric piano. Later in the evening the Swedes were auctioned off to the Australians and it is noteworthy that Chief Inspector Erling Edvinsson's selling price was 24 gallons of pea soup!!



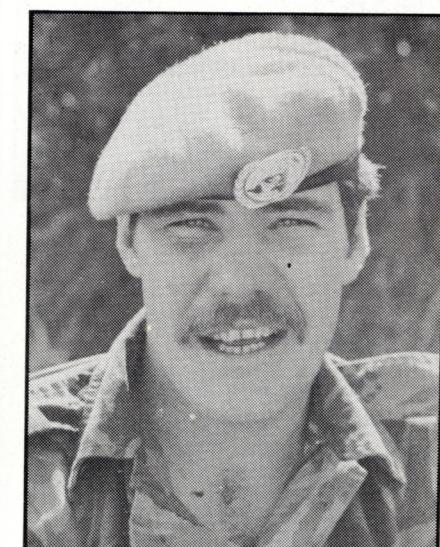
LCpl Berwick on film again!



A Squadron on operations.



The Colonel of the Regiment, talking to Tpr Stewart.



LCpl Smith always a happy face.



Above:
The winners in action - UN Football Competition.

Left:
General Ford with A Squadron.

ROUND UP FROM SECTOR TWO

If the two new squadrons, who joined Sector Two in September thought they were in for a quiet month then they could not have been more wrong. 'So much to do, so little time' has been the quote of the month throughout the Sector as everyone has found themselves heavily involved in a number of activities, ranging from operational commitments, to the sportsfield and of course not forgetting the BRITCON Medal Parade. The results have not only

been fruitful but memorable.

Operationally the Regiment has been heavily involved in the peace talks being held in the UNPA and has also been busy accepting petitions the length of the Line. However, we have found time to play some sport. We were winners of the UN football competition and runners-up in the squash. We look forward to the military skills and hockey competitions later in the month.



MP COY NEWS



Members of the MP Coy are breathing a collective sigh of relief after managing to get through a rather busy month of September relatively unscathed.

The inter-communal talks have resulted in mounds of overtime, not only for Nicosia Detachment but outlying sub-units as well. As



Sgt Bo Sorensen.

one MP succinctly stated, "we have gone from limited days off to simulated days off". Such is the lot of a MP.

However not all Coy taskings are of the ultra serious variety. For example, the OC, and by extrapolation the Coy had the pleasure of hosting the JUNTA meeting on 19 September. For the uninitiated, these monthly meetings allow COs of all Sectors, CO Sp Regt and Officers Commanding FSC Sqn and MP Coy to gather informally to discuss affairs of mutual concern.

These meetings, which are hosted in turn by JUNTA members, also afford familiarization with procedures and equipment particular to the host unit. On this occasion, attendees and their drivers had the opportunity to participate in a traffic accident exercise, a simulated drug scene, handle a radar gun, and also did a little trap/skeet shooting. The



Left to Right: Lt Col Pyman, Lt Col Eddie, Maj Nault, Lt Col Olesen, Lt Col Dallinger, Maj Mackaness, Lt Col Talbot.



experience was far from humbling, and it became increasingly evident as the day progressed that all concerned possessed extremely developed analytical skills. (Range results will remain confidential) but the overall winner, and recipient of a MP Coy track suit, was Lt Col McA Pyman based on a combination of intellectual skills, manual dexterity, and one heck of a sense of humour.

Several of our MP's participated in the DANCON March much to the chagrin of some who literally crawled the last 5km on the second day. Not so with Sgt Bo Sorensen of Xeros MP Detachment who smashed the old record by completing the first day in 3 hours and 26 mins and the

second in 3 hours even. Well done Bo!

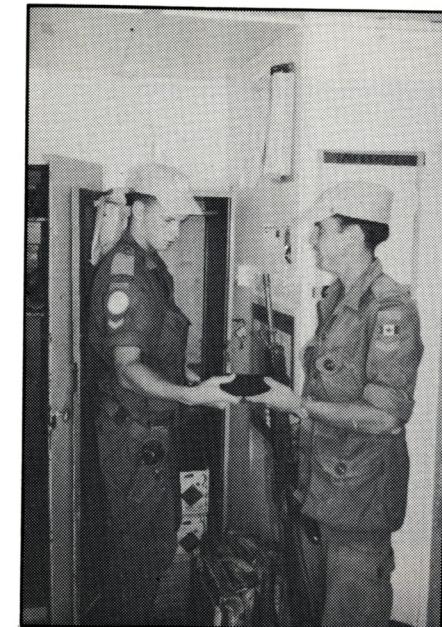
Encouraged by his success, several Coy members decided to compete in the tug-of-war competition. It is stated in the Bible that Moses had said to come forth (SIC) and we did... out of a total of four teams. We had lots of heart and muscle, but as far as technique was concerned... a picture is worth a thousand words. The same day, a separate group of Coy stalwarts lost a heart breaker of a football match 2-1 to the Ayia Napa Tourism team.

Not all news was bad on the sporting front: Our squash team comprised of SSgt Crease, 2Sgt Stuhlpfarrer, Sgt Mathieu, Cpl Emm and Sgt Roughly of UNCIVPOL, defied the odds and finished a very respectable third of six entries.

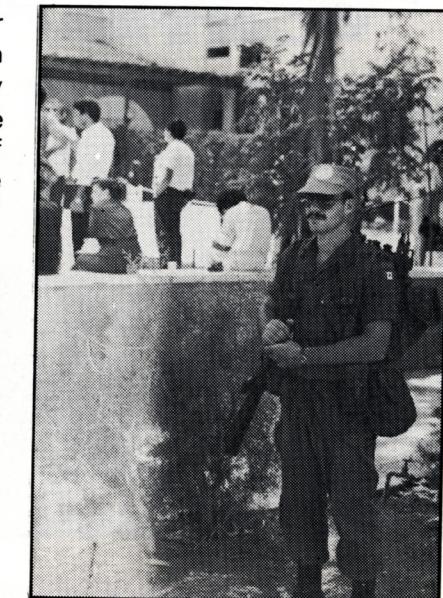
Looking forward to October, several members have been seen practicing softball and football. Is a challenge in the offing? Why not, as the Coy CWO says... "an idle body is an unhappy body". Words of wisdom.



LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS) IN ACTION



The daily routine of Rural Squadron.



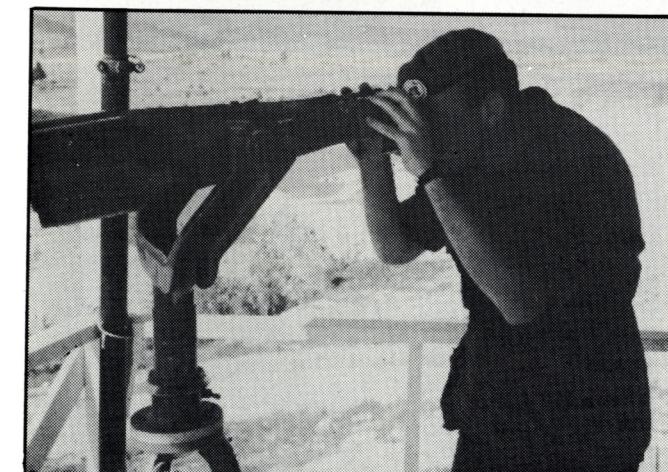
Tpr Mayfield stands on guard during the intercommunal talks.



Strathcona's feeling "On top of the world." After the DANCON March.



Successful Strathcona's.



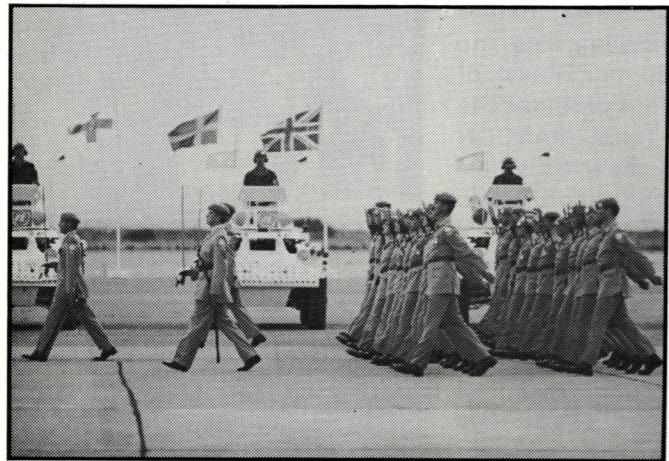
Tpr Vallee on the look-out.



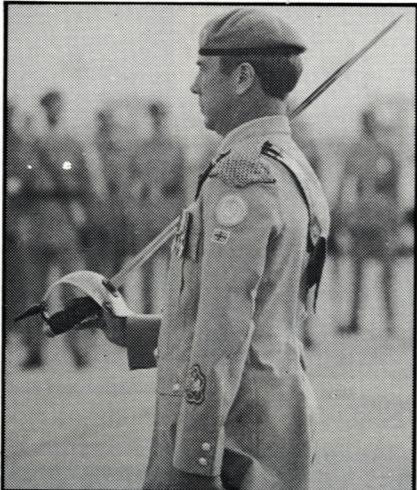
Band Aid, First Aid and Lucozade at the UN Open Day.



BRITCON



The 7th of October 1988 saw the Britcon Medal Parade being held at the Nicosia International Airport where some 200 guests witnessed the Force Commander, Major General Greindl present the United Nations Medal to members of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and 15th/19th Kings Royal Hussars - currently serving in Sector 2 and to the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales') of Force Scout Car Squadron.

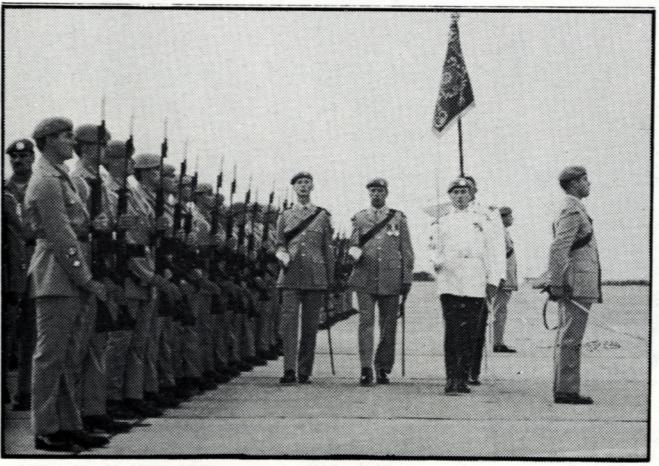
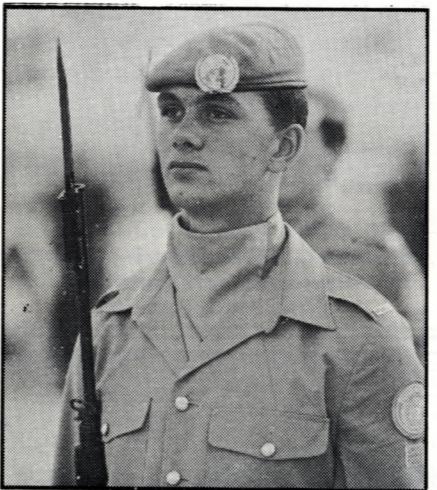


MEDAL PARADE



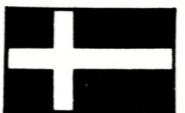
An excellent musical programme was provided by the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards' Regimental Band under the guidance of WO1 G W Taylor.

It was a very successful day for all involved especially considering that the participants on parade would, under normal circumstances, have preferred to parade with armour rather than on their feet.



NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF

DANISH CONTINGENT MEDAL PARADE



On the 30th of September 1988 the Danish Contingent 49 held their medal parade, which took place in B Coy, Skouriotissa Camp.

On this occasion some 100 guests witnessed the presentation of the UN medal by the Force Commander to personnel of DANCON 49.

The parade commenced at five o'clock. After formation of the parade Lt Col E Olesen,

Commander DANCON 49, assumed command of the parade in order to prepare it for inspection by the Force Commander Maj Gen G G Greindl.

The medals were presented to the soldiers by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier W Courage, and the Commander DANCON 49.

In his address to the soldiers, the Force Commander congratulated not only the Danish

Contingent but all soldiers serving with the UN on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1988 to all UN missions.

Following the ceremony guests and participants enjoyed a meal, after which coffee and Danish pastries on the poolside were served whilst the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards Band entertained, some even indulged in a dip in the pool.



CYPRUS SERVICES CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE

The annual Cyprus Services Cross-Country league season got underway on 28th September with the first event taking place at Nicosia with over 300 runners taking part.

Left:
The UNFICYP Ladies warming up in the sun before the start.

VISIT OF IRISH AMBASSADOR TO IRCON



Right:

Captured! The full Irish compliment of UNFICYP with Ambassador P McCabe.



NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF

UNFICYP FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The 1988 Football Competition (abandoned earlier this year) finally took place over the 10th and 11th October. Due to other commitments only 5 teams were able to take part.

There were some 32 goals scored throughout the competition with LCpl McKewan (Sp Regt) coming out top scorer with 4 goals -after a penalty shoot-out with Tpr Stewart of Sector 2 (excitement to the end!).

Thanks go to Lt Col Bennett the



Lt Col Bennett presents the UN Football Shield to the winners - Sector 2.

CPLO for presenting the prizes, to all the teams who took part in providing a splendid competition and to the referee Cpl Knipe who came up from Dhekelia and did sterling work in refereeing every game over both days.

FINAL RESULTS

- 1st — Sector 2
- 2nd — Sp Regt
- 3rd — DANCON
- 4th — AUSCON
- 5th — FSC Sqn

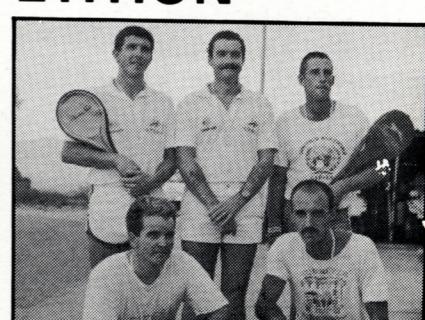
UNFICYP SQUASH COMPETITION



Winners of the plate - Sp Regt B Team. Back Row: Cpl Studwell RAOC, SSgt Macaulay RAOC and LCpl Hillman REME. Front Row: LCpl Robertson RE and SSgt Grant APTC.



Commander of Force Reserve Major Jamie Mackaness 9/12 Lancers presenting the winners trophy to SSgt Baldock RE team captain of Sp Regt A Team.



Sp Regt A Team (Winners). Back Row: SSgt Baldock RE, SSgt Sharpe RAOC and Cpl James REME. Front Row: WO1 Hammett, and LCpl Davidson RCT.

Force Scout Car organized the UN Squash competition. There were 6 teams trying to win the coveted UN Shield. Support Regt entered two teams who

unfortunately met in the first round. The A team won and went on to meet the Sector 2 team in the final. After a tough match Support Regt A team won 5-0.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEDAL PRESENTATION

On the 21st September 1988 Chief Inspector Jim Jamieson and Sergeant Clive Webster of UNCIVPOL were presented with the Australian National Medal (Police Long Service and Good Conduct) by the Australian High Commissioner for Cyprus His Excellency Mr David Wadham at a private presentation service at the Australian High Commission in Nicosia.



Chief Inspector Jamieson and Sergeant Webster being presented with the Australian National Medal by Mr. David Wadham.

BRITCON CYCLE CLUB

On 26th Sept 1988 the British Contingent Cycle Club opened under the Chairman Lt Nitsch and Secretary Sgt Wright. The Nuffield Charitable Trust were very kind to give a grant and an interest free loan to establish a pool of cycles to be used on the old Nicosia Airfield. Besides the money allocated by the Trust Sp Regt raised £800 and altogether bought 7 All-Terrain, 5 Racing and 20 Sport Bicycles.

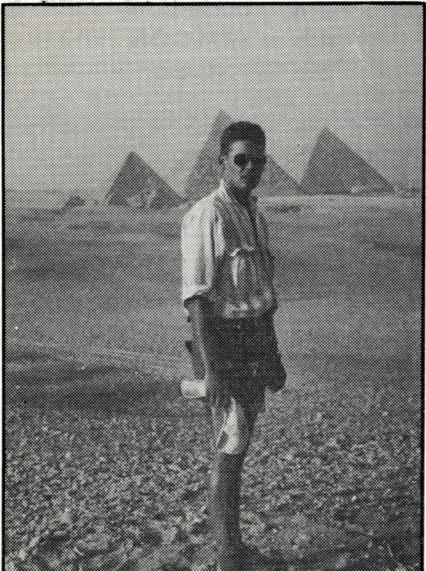
The bikes were first used for the Triathlon on 17th Sept for which training took place under Mr Michael Agrotis the Cyprus National Cycle Coach. We are very grateful to him for all his help.



THE 9th/12th ROYAL LANCERS

PICTURE SHOW

This month the Scout Car Squadron has been inundated with visits and sports. On the work front many hours were spent painting and polishing the ferrets in preparation for the Medal



LCpl Winter finds himself alone with his thoughts.



SHQ trying to cheat at the end of the Pylathon.



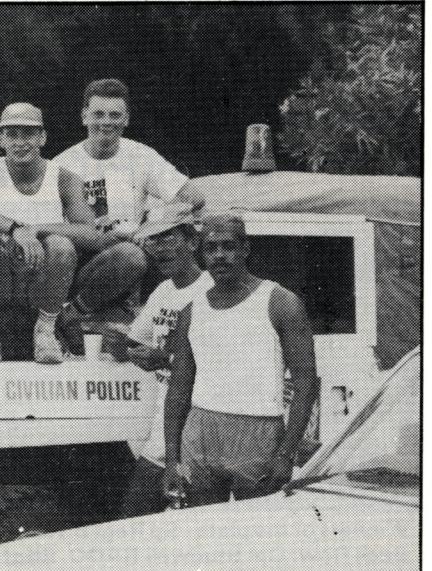
The Triathlon Team - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly - Tpr Johnstone, LCpl Winter and Tpr Parker.



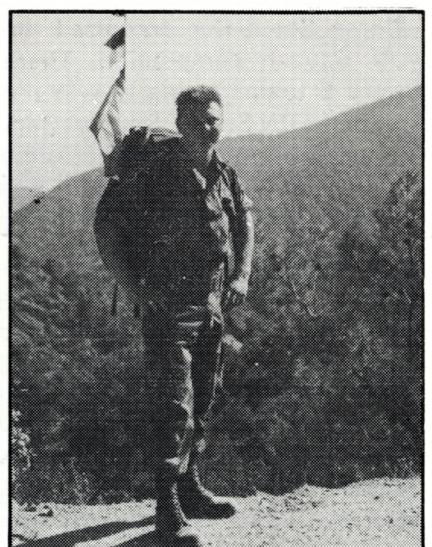
Director Royal Armoured Corps, Maj Gen NPG Ansell OBE, visits the squadron.

Parade. The highlight of the month was the visit of our Commanding Officer, Lt Col R V Searby, who spent a week visiting the Squadron in Prince William Camp and the various out

stations. Looking forward to the future, the next Squadron's Recce Party will be visiting shortly - it doesn't seem a moment since we arrived!!



SHQ trying to cheat at the end of the Pylathon.



Tpr Kearney equipped with his self-homing device for the DANCON March.

BROWN BREAD FOR THE AUSTRIANS

Austrian UN soldiers have had to wait twenty four years for their special Austrian brown bread to reach Cyprus and now thanks to the help and organisation of Paymaster WO1 Anton Nussbichler brown bread appears on the daily menu at Sector Four.

Nevertheless there were some initial difficulties; there wasn't a suitable recipe, the essential ingredients could not be provided and the English Baker SSgt Marshall did not know how to make the special leaven (which is no wonder as this is one of the best guarded Austrian kitchen secrets).



UNFICYP TUG OF WAR COMPETITION

The Tug of War competition took place on 29th September on the sports fields in the UNPA. Support Regiment won the 599 kg match, the 640 kg match and the Catchweight match. All teams were trained by WO1 Ramsay REME from the Workshops.

Right:
Sp Regt 560 kg A Team winners.



EXERCISE BLUE BLAZER

British Sappers from 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sqn RE have been in action again repairing patrol tracks in Sector 1, DANCON. Men and equipment deployed by road and sea in mid August returned to Dhekelia in late September having repaired about 52 km of track and improved 2 heli pads in Kokkina.

The Troop worked mainly in 2 sections with Cpl Steve Tickle working eastwards from Skouriotissa with his section and Cpl Daniels working westwards from the Box factory. This was the Troop's second BLUE BLAZER this year, and another Plant Tp from UK will soon be in Cyprus for



more UN work in October.

The Troop received their fair share of visitors - Brig Courage and Lt Col Bennet from HQ UNFICYP, Col Mogg from HQ BFC and Col Tuck from BHC.

All the lads were quick to say how well the Danes looked after them at Skouriotissa Camp including the Squadron 2IC who managed to rendezvous with a DANCON 'Pinky' after a little persuading.

Left:
LCpl Shute, Sgt Gears and SSgt Cook of 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sqn RE inspecting the track repairs in DANCON during EX BLUE BLAZER.

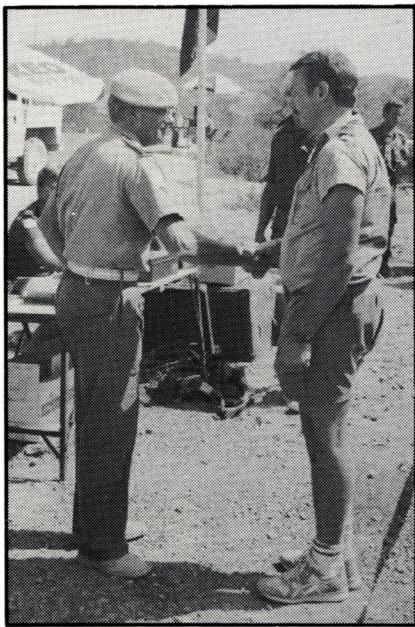
TIME OFF IN THE MOUNTAINS THE DANCON MARCH

By: Lt Pereira Holmboe

Once again it was time for that relaxing weekend stroll in the mountains infamously known as the DANCON March. Set over two days of 25km each day, the march took place over two weekends in September.

Amongst the beautiful scenery, resting points were comfortably situated for participants to enjoy life and slowly sip a drink, to meet and talk to other people, and have a free medical opinion of their present state from the always obliging and slightly amused Medical Personnel.

Such a weekend is certain to



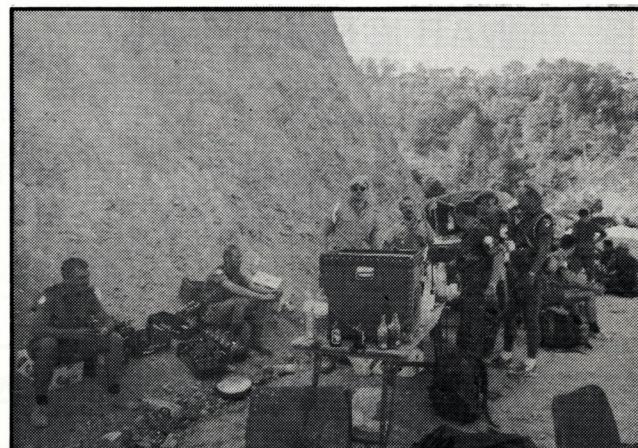
leave you with a legacy of stiff legs and blisters, lack of sleep, severe dehydration, and a tendency to nervously twitch when you hear the words "DANCON March and this bloke has done it eleven times!" What energy! What lack of good sense!

Isn't this just the true Viking sense of humour? People are cunningly lured into taking part in a march that is cleverly designed to break you mentally as well as physically, and you actually pay for the pleasure and smile at your own misery? What spirit!

And for some reason people will do it again and again!!



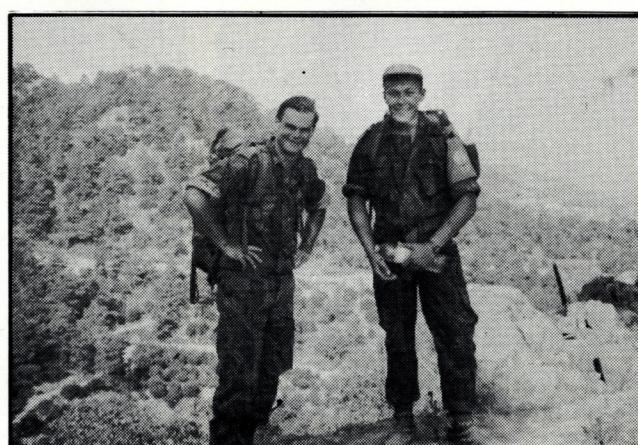
Medical Aid Point



Resting Point



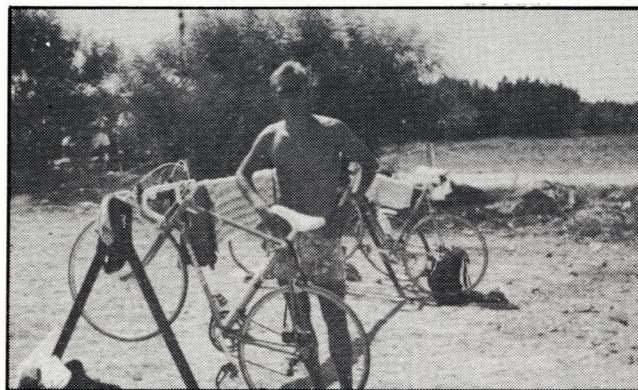
Two British soldiers who took part in the march.



CYPRUS SERVICES TRIATHLON 17 SEPT 88



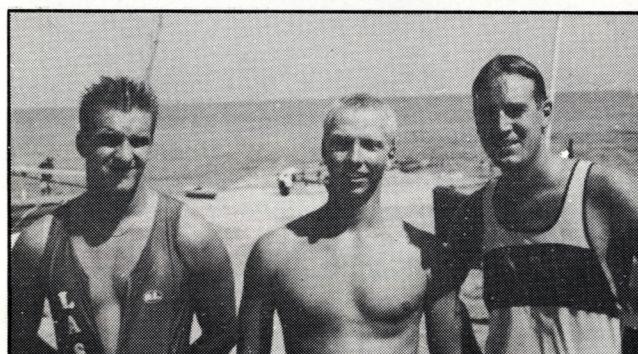
On 17th Sept at RAF Akrotiri the Cyprus Services Triathlon took place. At the start the 160 athletes had to swim a triangular 1 Km course in the sea. Of the 14 UNFICYP athletes Cpl Jorgensen was out first after a brilliant swim. Our teams then had a 25 Km bicycle race followed by a 10 Km



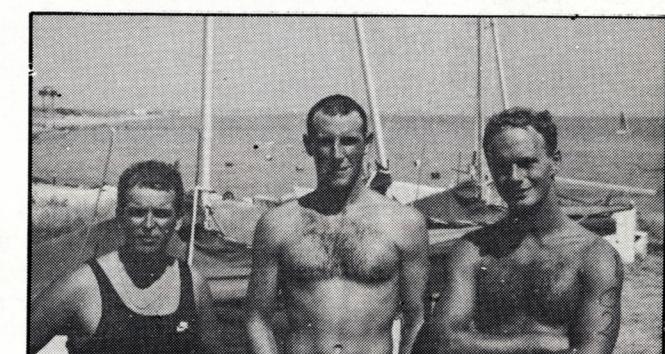
Sgt Hitz finished 6th overall out of 160 competitors.



Sector 1
Cpl Jorgensen was 2nd after the swim of 1000 metres.



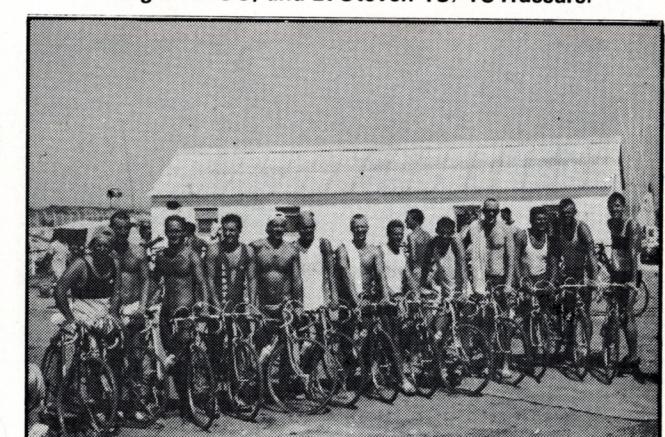
Sector 1 Team Pte Lasota, Cpl Jorgensen (and SSgt Goff borrowed from Sp Regt).



Sp Regt A Team consisted of WO1 Hammett R Signals, Sgt Wright RAOC, and Lt Steven 13/18 Hussars.



Sgt Burford REME on the extreme right came 14th overall, Lt Steven (extreme left kneeling) came 13th overall.



The UNFICYP Triathletes.



The Terry Fox Run



It's 6.30 am, 1st October 1988, the organizers and volunteers are putting final touches on preparations for the eighth annual Terry Fox Run. The sun is shining and spirits are high, as we anxiously await the first arrivals. At precisely 7.00 am our first yawning runners arrive at the registration area, and a few minutes later they are followed by an avalanche of people arriving in 4 ton Bedfords, on bicycles and on foot from all directions. Our projected 400 to 500 runners quickly swells to 700 military personnel and their dependants from all UNFICYP contingents. Added to this are another 100 or so people from the Sovereign



Some 750 pairs of feet start the popular 6km run.



A smiling group from 254 Sig Sqn swing into action.



Bicycling will also get the job done.

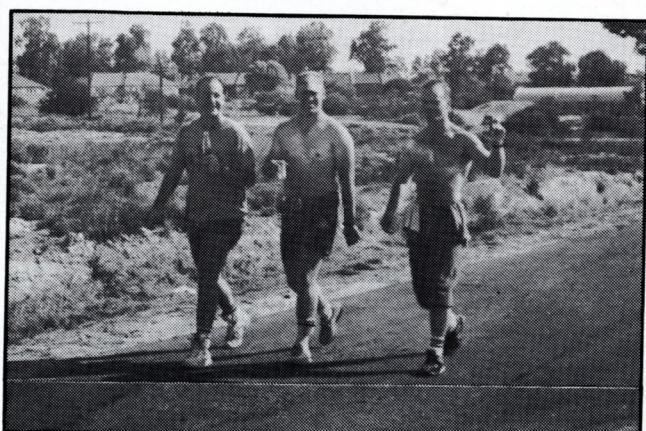
Base Areas who have come to do their share in fighting cancer. At precisely 8.00 am and 8.10 am respectively, the timed and fun runs begin after a rousing welcome by Col Wellwood, the Commander, Canadian Contingent.

The rest is now a matter of record: 815 participants and £C1295.60 or \$3268.41 Cdn collected, both record totals. But the totals don't tell the whole story. For instance, cold statistics don't relate how so many people from disparate cultures can unite

when the goal is worthwhile. I'm certain that Terry would have been overwhelmed by the spirit which reigned on 1st October, and would also have been secure in the feeling that Terry Fox Runs will some day be instrumental in beating cancer. Thank you.



The 10km timed run winners: Neil Robson and Steven Cawkbell, 37.11 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards (Bronze), Frank Johnstone, 36.30 Force Scout Car Squadron (Gold), Ken Nobbs, 37.03 Force Scout Car Squadron (Silver).



A pose for a soft drinks advert during the Terry Fox Run.