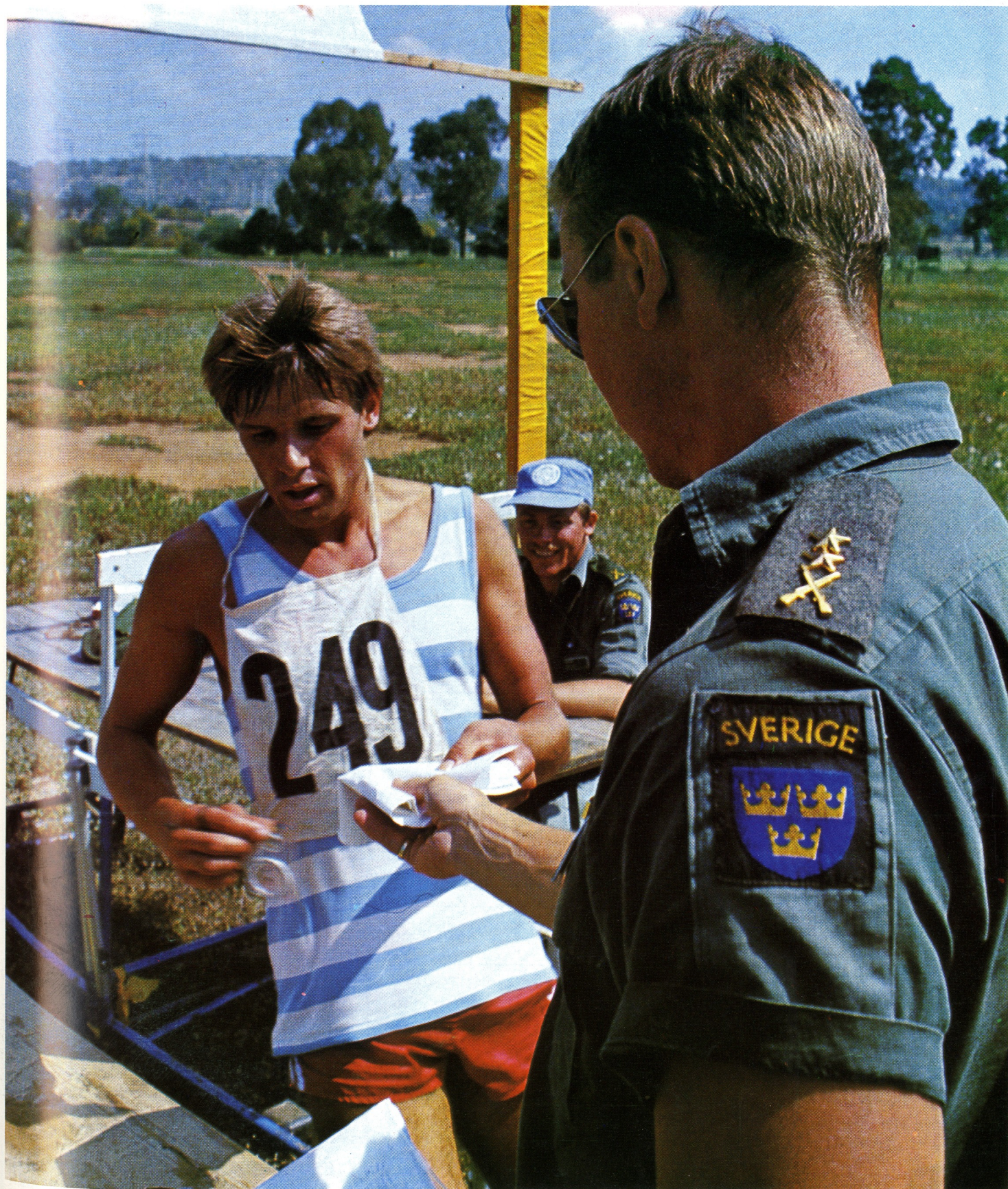


THE BLUE BERET

MAY 1983



JOURNAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS



CAREFUL DRIVERS SURVIVE

APRIL IN RETROSPECT

ROTATIONS

UNFICYP Transport Squadron
The Swedish Contingent

MEDAL PARADES

27 UNFICYP Transport Squadron
29 The Austrian Contingent

VISITS

7 Warrant Officer cadets Moffatt and Vile, and Second Lieutenant Heritage visited Sector Two.
7—19 Major Avery, Major Cornall and Warrant Officer Ball visited UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps.
12—14 Lieutenant Colonel Ferguson and Captain Dakin visited the Force Scout Car Squadron.
14—19 Second Lieutenant Bennett and from 14—25 Second Lieutenant Spowers were attached to Sector Two.
18 Officer cadets Finlayson, Firth and White-more spent the day with 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron.
21 Major General Sir Desmond Langley KCVO MBE, Commander British Forces Cyprus visited UNFICYP.

21 Apr—2 May Mr David Carter from BBC Radio London visited UNFICYP.
21 Apr—5 May Mr Richard Foster painted for Sector Two.
22—24 Major General J Chapple CBE, Director Operations, and Mrs Chapple visited UNFICYP.
23 Commander M Phillips, Squadron Leader R Hover and Lieutenant P McWalkers visited 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron.
25 Apr—19 May Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Stjernfeldt visited the Swedish Contingent during a trip to Cyprus.
25—28 Lieutenant Colonel L Danning visited the Swedish Contingent.
26—27 Lieutenant Commander G Morrison and Captain P Yates visited the Canadian Contingent.
26 Apr—4 May Major W Harrison and Lieutenant Commander G Halliday visited the Canadian Contingent.
27 Apr 3 May Thirty-five members of the "Bürgermusik-kapelle" folk group gave concerts for the Austrian Contingent.

UNFICYP COMPETITIONS

12 Orienteering Competition
15 Cross-country Competition

FUTURE EVENTS

BRITISH COUNCIL

26 May at 8.00 p.m.

Feature film: "Revenge of the Pink Panther" with Peter Sellers and Herbert Lom.

2 June at 8.00 p.m.

Feature film: "Evil under the Sun" from the novel by Agatha Christie with Peter Ustinov, Colin Blakely, James Mason and Diana Rigg.

9 June at 8.00 p.m.

An informal evening of folk music and songs from various countries.

Paphos—Flower Festival Anthestiria on 22 May at 17 hours. A procession of floats, groups and individuals decorated with flowers.

Nicosia — 28 May - 12 June

8th Cyprus International (State) Fair, with twenty-one countries participating and many exhibitions.

Open: weekdays 6.00 p.m.—11.00 p.m.
weekends 6.00 a.m.—12.00 p.m.

Entrance fees: 400 mils per adult
200 mils per child

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 5

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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.

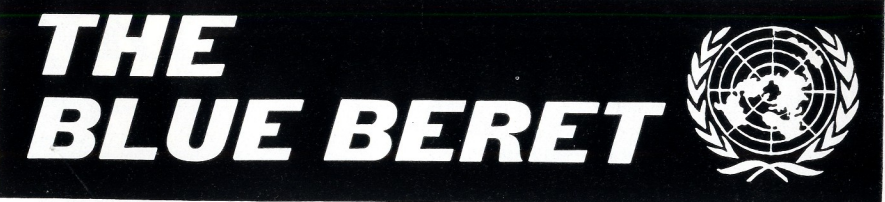
Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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on the cover

The Final Step! A competitor completes the Orienteering Competition.

Photograph by Tony Hodgetts



Editorial

We are endeavouring to improve the content and layout of the Blue Beret. Last month, the lettering at the beginning of each page was changed; this month the front page has been altered and finally, we are considering reducing the size of the magazine. Not only, of course, will these points hopefully improve the overall look but also, in the case of the last factor, save paper.

I believe we should never be complacent; there is always room for improvement.

Whilst on this point, I would like to hear your comments/suggestions, if any. All sectors have press officers and therefore any comments could be directed through them for discussion at the monthly MPIO's meeting.

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1/Cpl Possegger, our foreman: a bricklayer by profession laying bricks.



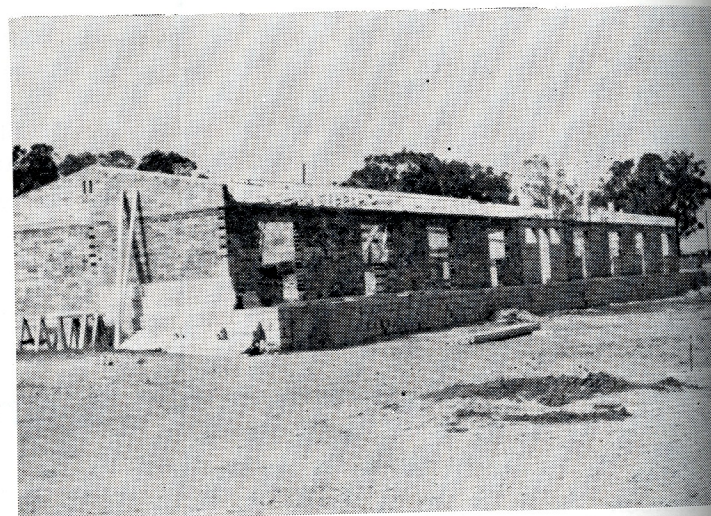
Padre Gombotz blesses the building site.



NEW MEN'S ACCOMMODATION FOR AUSCON



The bricklayer's crew.



The new accommodation building under construction.

By Captain Peter Mulacz

Usually when talking about soldiers' tasks, you will think about shooting and using other equipment like communications and support. In a peace-keeping force you would think about observing and reporting first. But still here, there are some soldiers who carry out tasks which are of a more civilian nature. Such are the works of our engineers which consist mostly of improving buildings and partly of erecting new buildings—although Austrian engineers are for defence purposes drilled more on the contrary: blowing up buildings, blasting, erecting barricades and obstacles.

In the past nine months, two new buildings have been erected: OP A 08 has now got new accommodation, where only some parts of the former building could be used, and new men's accommodation in the camp, Camp Duke Leopold V will be finished very soon. The master builder of both is AUSCON's engineer officer, Captain Walter Grunseid, who is now on his fifth (!) tour with UNFICYP. He has received great support from his foreman, 1/Cpl Stefan Possegger, who arrived in Cyprus six months

ago and will leave the island soon, like his platoon leader, Captain Grunseid.

Referring to the new accommodation building in the camp which is shown in our pictures: it will provide housing for 48 men in sixteen rooms. The base is 46 by 11 metres, the building itself 45 by 10 metres, height 2.5 metres. Each room for three soldiers is 4 by 5 metres, the sanitary installation is in a central room. The building activity was commenced on 27th November last year by a small ceremony—the blessing of the building site by our chaplain, padre Gombotz, and the first dig by our CO, Lt Col Buttinger. On 6th January, 1983 the first brick was laid in the foundation, and on 28 March the laying of the roof began. Now—when I write this, in the middle of April—the building is from the bricklaying point of view finished; the installation work is just going on and the carpenter's and joiner's work will start soon, so the building will be completely finished when this edition of Blue Beret is published.

As the foreman, 1/Cpl Possegger, informed me, the number of workers was not constant; it varied between nine and fourteen men, and even this small number could not work continuously, due to

some other soldiers' tasks. So it is a considerable achievement by comparatively few men in a short time. This could be fulfilled only because 1/Cpl Stefan Possegger is a real expert: he had learned the trade of a bricklayer before he joined the Austrian army which he did voluntarily in October 1956, when the Austrian army was re-established after about ten years after World War II. There he served as a driver for trucks and armoured vehicles on a limited-time-contract basis for six and a half years. When he left the army, he worked both as a driver and as a bricklayer—so busy that he couldn't afford the time to achieve a higher rank in our militia-army, which he will do now when he returns to Austria. It is his second tour of duty and he likes it still very much, although he is married and has four children back in Austria. So he wants to come back to Cyprus for another tour before he reaches the age limit—but this time as a NCO. We wish him all the best for this plan, because (since all the Austrians volunteer) when one comes back to Cyprus again and again this means he enjoys his tour with UNFICYP very much.



"THE ARRIVAL"

By Captain Pierre Clavelle

March 25th 1983; 1500 hours. The stage is set. Le 12 Régiment Blindé du Canada lands in Canadian Forces 707 in Larnaca Airport. Although tired by a long flight, they are ready and willing to fulfill their duties.

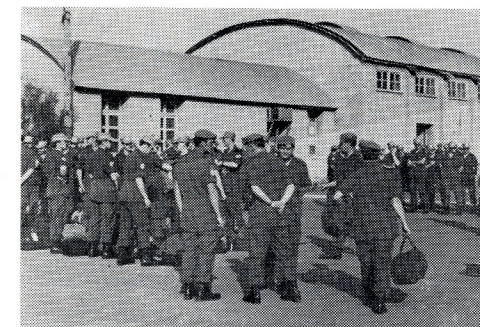
Of course, the first duty that they must attend to is the administration circuit consisting of registration, ID cards and the omnipresent supply. "Yes sir, will that be too large or too small"?

Then of course, we cannot fail to mention the very wide grins with which the PPCLI welcomed us. We can be even more accurate and state that their happiness at seeing us was directly related to the fact that seeing us meant they could go!

After the welcoming duties were dealt with in the different messes and a well deserved rest taken by all, the arduous and time-consuming tasks of handovers were undertaken.

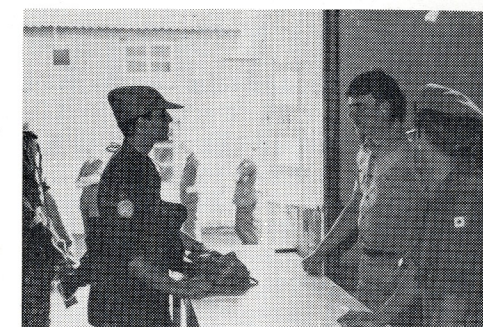
Fuelled by willingness and cooperation from both units, Sector 4 experienced a painless and smooth handover.

12 RBC is now firmly in place and carries on with its mission by living up to its motto, "ADSUM" (toujours prêt—always ready).



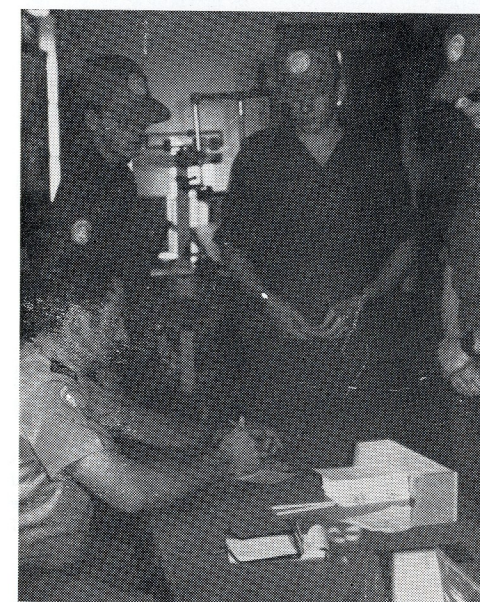
No! They're staying, we are leaving.

Non! Ce sont eux qui reste. Nous on part.



Aah! The smell of brand new uniforms. What joy!

Aah! L'odeur des uniformes neufs. Quel bonheur!



Now, let's be a little more serious.

Allons, un peu de sérieux, messieurs.



But, Sergeant-Major, I'm quite sure this uniform is legal in Cyprus.

Mais, sergent-major, je vous assure que cet uniforme est légal à Chypre.

CANCON ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN DUTIES

By Captain Pierre Clavelle

Like other contingents, the Canadian Contingent in Cyprus fulfills a most important mission: that of maintaining peace. There is, however, a tendency to forget the other side of the coin: the civilians and their welfare. Consequently, the different contingents all have a section devoted to helping these people. Known as Operations-Economics (Ops E for short), these sections have made it their goal to contribute to the normalization of the daily aspects of their lives.



Capt Charron dealing with some of the vast amounts of paperwork which his job entails.

The CANCON Ops E section comprises a driver, Tpr Hatotte; a 2ic, Sgt Ladouceur; and, of course, a boss, Capt Charron. Together they form the nucleus of CANCON's contribution to the humanitarian aspects of our mission in Cyprus.

Within a week, Tpr Hatotte developed a very good sense of direction. He takes care of delivering passports and mail through the Buffer Zone. The task of delivering mail is particularly important as any mail for northern Cyprus which arrives in the South must be delivered by the UN. Tpr Hatotte also provides a most valuable service by taking medication and oxygen to the hospital in the north. All in all, it must be said that Tpr Hatotte's work is greatly appreciated by all involved.

Sgt Ladouceur, 2ic and right arm of the organisation, has the heavy responsibility to keep track and ensure that the different agreements existing between civi-

lians are followed. He must also monitor the transfer of civilians across the Buffer Zone and attend to the day to day operation of the section.

Capt Charron is responsible for all economic and humanitarian activities in CANCON's area of responsibility. Whenever agreements must be negotiated or renegotiated, out come the Turkish and Greek dictionaries and, aided by elaborate sign language, results will slowly emerge. Persistence is the word.



Sgt Ladouceur (left) and Tpr Hatotte.

CYKLISTER

By Lieutenant Anders Rosén

Like flashes they run back and forth on the Cypriot roads—the cyclists WO2 Lars Ocklind and Sgt Peter Ryd of SWEDCON. Both belong to the cyclist elite in Sweden and it was obvious for them to bring their bikes to Cyprus during the UN mission. Maybe you have met them somewhere on the roads of Cyprus. There aren't many places on the island that Peter and Lars have not visited on their bikes.

Last year they were both ranked among the top twenty to twenty-five in Sweden and both were members of the Swedish national team. Before becoming UN soldiers, their total income was, due to their common sponsor, from cycling only. After UN service they will return to this "civilian" job.

— But don't call us professionals, they stress. We're still amateurs, even though we don't have any other jobs but cycling.

Training possibilities in Cyprus are obviously somewhat different from Sweden. Partly OP duties have ruled the training, and partly traffic and roads are very unlike those back home. Roads are narrow and rough, and traffic-morals are totally different. The respect shown to a poor training cyclist is not large. Lars Ocklind tells us for example of when he was pushed off the road by a truck outside Nicosia:



SWEDCON



The boys who, having cycled for a living, went to serve in the Buffer Zone. Lars Ocklind (left) and Peter Ryd at their Camp Polar in the village of Athienou, where the headquarters of SWEDCON's 2 Coy is situated.

Photograph by
Sergeant Tony Hodgetts

— He passed me too close and gave me a bump, which made me fall off my bike into the verge.

And this was not the first time Lars or Peter overturned or hit the asphalt.

As far as Peter Ryd is concerned, training has not been successful lately. His programme was spoilt by injuries and illnesses. Above this, his bike broke down recently. Therefore cycle training is impossible and the only thing left is jogging. Regarding Lars Ocklind, the season has been more fruitful. His was a good performance in the cycle race championship of Cyprus, ending in fifth place. This was after an unfortunate flat tyre before the end. Two Cypriot servicemen were not fast enough to change the tyre, thus two domestic competitors passed before Lars changed the tyre himself. This occurrence was widely discussed among the organisation committee afterwards.

Immediately after the Cyprus UN service, Lars and Peter intend to go abroad again. But this time only as cyclists. The reason is a major bicycle race in England in May. And looking back on their time with UNFICYP, Lars and Peter are satisfied:

— We've gained a lot, both as cyclists and soldiers. We do not regret we applied for this.

THE CAPE GRECO MARCH

By Lieutenant Anders Rosén

At 2 Coy of the Swedish Battalion there is an old tradition of arranging the so-called "Cape Greco March", which runs from the village of Paralimni to the Cape where the east and south coasts of Cyprus meet.

The Swedish 2 Coy is situated in Camp Polar, and this is the occasion when the polar-bears search for the sea, to throw themselves in refreshing water. The rule of the march is that, when arriving at Cape Greco, every participant is required to jump three metres from a cliff down into the water with their uniform on. This also means that to do this march one has to know how to swim...

And maybe this jump in the sea is what makes the march so popular. It is open for other members of UNFICYP, and on three occasions altogether 150 persons have done the march. Apart from swimming with their clothes on, the participants also experience a beautiful path to march along, seventeen kilometres from Paralimni along the coast to the famous Cape.

Captain Rune Müller of Camp Polar is organising the march:

— This is a very pleasant way of marching. We all walk together, and despite the fairly high speed, we first and foremost want people to have a nice time and enjoy the beautiful natural scenery.

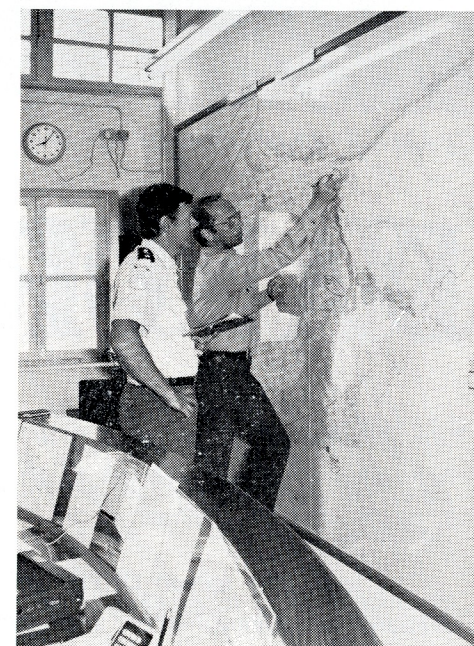


It's pleasant to jump into the refreshing water after the seventeen-kilometre long march to Cape Greco.

POLICE IN THE UNFICYP COMMUNICATIONS NUCLEUS

By Inspector Mark Anstee

Photographs by
Sergeant Tony Hodgetts



JOC members recording an incident on the master map.

In just a few words the Joint Operations Centre is the Command Post for HQ UNFICYP, maintaining contact with key personnel of the three constituent branches, Operations, Personnel and Logistics, and Humanitarian. Operated on a 24 hour a day basis, seven days a week, it is the essential link with all the sectors constituting UNFICYP. But before all this comes the man on the ground, the soldiers at their OP or on mechanised or foot patrols; the driver delivering supplies; the pilot carrying out a MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation). It is only through the efficient and diligent collection of that raw material called information, whichever form it may take, that the success of the JOC can be measured.

It is true to say that the JOC is a major, central authority in the UNFICYP peace machine, for timely information received and recorded at this point may indeed be promptly relayed to New York, the world headquarters for United Nations, for discussion and appropriate action there. It cannot be said that the JOC is more important than any other arm of the UN Forces in Cyprus but that they, as do everyone, carry the responsibility of accuracy:— the JOC in recording incoming data, disseminating it to staff and returning orders through the Command structure to the relevant agency; the sections comprising each sector in observing, recording, relaying and then acting on the orders in a diplomatic, fair manner. That is why the people at JOC say, as a general rule, almost any matter which is properly referred to the JOC merits an entry on their log.

A good question to ask is who mans the Centre because in an emergency situation it will probably be these people we depend on to a certain extent. There are duty officers from two types of organisation not entirely dissimilar in nature. The military (MDO) and the police (PDO). They work in close cooperation with each other as some matters fall within the other's area of expertise. As for the AUSTCIVPOL and SWEDCIVPOL duty members, they rely on the soldier at his OP for probably ninety per cent of their information, for example, a civilian straying into the buffer zone without authority. In this instance, the JOC will need details like the time of the incident, an accurate grid reference and a good description of the person and/or his vehicle.

What types of things do the PDO and MDO concern themselves with during

the length of their shift? One of these has already been mentioned in passing. That is to coordinate emergency action by communication. They, in fact, man the motorola, the telephones, the typewriter and pinpoint locations on detailed maps. To carry this task out, at the beginning of their period of duty they will receive a briefing of current activity and familiarise themselves with other pertinent details of events since their last shift. They will know the whereabouts of key personnel and their contact numbers. They will know what activities are scheduled in a particular time bracket, including training activities. With all this information they will then be alert and ready when they are tasked to give approval for, and assist in the control of the transportation of any emergency medical case, the MEDEVAC, usually by helicopter and ambulance. During and after the incident a complete and accurate record will be needed for the Chief of Staff and his department heads sometimes before, but usually at the Headquarters briefing first thing in the morning.

In a nutshell then, the task of the JOC is to collect and distribute information concerning all matters in relation to UNFICYP, with the aim of creating an accurate and proper picture of what has happened, and providing information for all agencies who have to deal with the matter.



Left to right: Captain Ilke Leinonen, Finnish Contingent (at Motorola); Inspector J Jones, AUSTCIVPOL; Major Georg Aminoff, Swedish Contingent (at telephone).



Danish soldiers from the DANOR Battalion, having replaced British soldiers on the Suez Canal in November 1956.

FROM DANOR

By Major A C E Molter

When the two UN-vehicles, the Canadian and the Danish, passed each other there were the customary greetings between the two drivers. Had they met before? Maybe. They might have met each other during the Shooting Competition or the DANCON March. Depending on their age, they also might have met many years before during another peacekeeping operation; for it is a fact that almost all the nations represented in UNFICYP have been with UN peacekeeping operations from the start.

For the Danes it all started twenty-seven years ago. Like the other Scandinavian countries, Denmark always has been considered as a peace-loving country, and it was only natural for it to join the UN peacekeeping force in Egypt in 1956.

Following the outbreak of fighting in Egypt in October 1956 and the Anglo-French operations, the UN General Assembly decided on 4 November to establish and send out an International Security force under UN with the task to se-

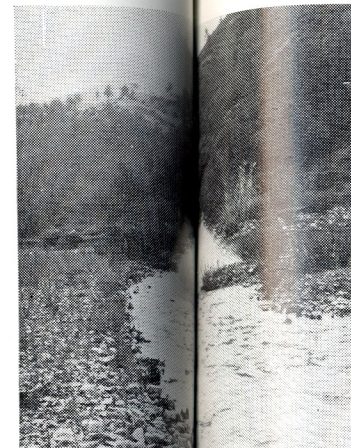
cure and supervise the cessation of the hostilities.

The force was named UNEF (United Nations Emergency Force), and among the nations represented were the four Scandinavian countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, as well as Canada and some others.

The Danish Contingent consisted of two infantry companies that, together with the Norwegian Contingent, formed up one Infantry battalion: The DANOR Battalion 28 November 1956.

The DANOR Battalion was the first unit to enter Gaza in March 1957, and it served with UNEF until the spring of 1967.

During the operations in Gaza another UN task was to be carried out. When the former Belgian Colony, Congo, became independent in 1960, the situation became so chaotic that the Congolese President asked UN for help. The answer was positive and a new UN force, ONUC (Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo) was founded. The Danish Contingent



A DANCON Marchway to the BZ in the Troodos—Spring 1983.



Soldiers from DANCON/UNFICYP taking part in the Shooting Competition—January 1983.

TO DANCON

gent at its peak was 265 men strong, and consisted chiefly of military policemen and various maintenance and transport units.

This peacekeeping action ended in 1964.

In the wake of the outbreak of intercommunal conflict in Cyprus in late 1963, the problem was brought before the Security Council, resulting in the establishment of a new peacekeeping force, UNFICYP (United Nations Force in Cyprus) in March 1964. The force consisted of contingents from Britain, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

The Danish Contingent, DANCON, having the size of about 1,000 men, was stationed on "The Green Line" in Nicosia. In 1964 and for the years to come this was a very busy place.

In March 1970 DANCON, now reduced to about three hundred men, was moved to the Xeros area in the North-western part of Cyprus. The contingent is still here in Sector One, which probably has the most isolated and varied landscape in Cyprus.

The buffer zone (BZ) that separates the two sides, has a length of 43 kilometres; at its widest place it is 3.7 kilometres, and at its smallest a modest 250 metres. In the Eastern part of the BZ the land is rather flat, but it rises when you go to the Western part, which is dominated by the spurs of the Troodos Mountains. The BZ is constantly watched from fourteen observation posts (OP), each manned with four soldiers, who live there two weeks at a time. Furthermore, the BZ is patrolled by DANCON reconnaissance elements in Land Rovers as well as by troops from the Ferret Scout Car Squadron, which periodically are attached to the contingent.

To solve the task in Sector One, DANCON is organised and deployed as follows:

HQ and HQ-COY in Viking Camp, Xeros; B-COY in Skouriotissa; and C-COY in Limnitis (with one platoon in Kokkina).

Much water has flowed under the bridge since we arrived in Cyprus nineteen years ago, and even more since our first peacekeeping mission in Gaza.



Commander Sector One, Lt Col A. J. Hewson CD on 24 April 1983 in briefing Chief of Staff, Brig Gen C W. Right is OC HQ-COY, Major B T Neergaard.

Blue Beret SPORT

UNFICYP ORIENTEERING COMPETITION — DHEKELIA —

12 APRIL 1983



Per-Olof Ohlsson of UNMPCoy passes the nine kilometres stage of the competition.



The winning team (from left to right) back row: Sergeant Parr; Captain Davies; Captain Hamalainen; front row: Major Smith; Captain Farrington.

On 24 March 1983 the UNFICYP Football final took place between the Danish Contingent and UNFICYP Support Regiment. The score at full time was 2-2 and remained the same after extra time. Eventually it was on sudden death



penalties that the Danes won. The winners' trophy was presented to the captain of the Danish team by Chief of Staff, Brigadier General C W Hewson CD.



INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK FOOD FROM FINLAND



Recipes supplied by Major Heikki Tiilikainen

The First of May—"Vappu" in Finnish—is internationally known as the Workers' Day. In the Nordic countries, however, and in Finland especially, the First of May has for centuries signified entering from cold and dark winter into the light and warmth of spring.

This carnival time for the Finns would not be complete without a special fare—the "Sima" and the "Tippaleipä".

"Sima" is a beverage—and a very old one. The word for it in English is "mead" and it originally was an alcoholic drink made of honey and water. This used to be the Nordic answer to wine. The reason is obvious—mead is ready in a few days, whereas you'll have to wait for your wine for months.

Now the mead I am giving the recipe for does not contain any alcohol to speak of. In honour of the olden days, however, interesting experiments are carried out every First of May Eve in lacing the mead with this and that. The results are usually published in police bulletins and obituaries.

Now what you need for "Sima" is:

4 litres of water (just under a gallon)

1/2 decilitre, say 1.5 fluid ounces of dark syrup

250 grams, or just over a half pound, of brown sugar

150 grams of white castor sugar

A pinch of yeast

1 lemon

Raisins and castor sugar

Scrub the lemon clean carefully, using a brush and warm water. Peel the yellow rind off and chop it into small pieces. Remove the white part of the lemon peel from the fruit and slice the lemon.

Now take a well-scrubbed bucket and put in the yellow lemon rind, the syrup

and the sugar. Bring the water to the boil and pour it into the bucket. Mix well.

When the mixture is lukewarm add the lemon slices and the pinch of yeast. Let this ferment in room temperature for 24 hours. Then strain the mead and bottle it. Before corking the bottles, drop in a teaspoonful of castor sugar and about ten raisins. Now store the bottles in a cool place for a few days. The mead is usually ready for consumption when the raisins in the bottle have become buoyant.

When the first of the raisins has surfaced it is time to start the "Tippaleipä". There is no English word for those. A

Icing sugar

Oil for deep frying

Beat the eggs, add the ingredients to make a smooth batter. Take a strong plastic bag, pour the batter into it and close it well. Take one of the corners up and cut it to make a small hole. Heat the oil to frying temperature.

Now comes the tricky part: Let the batter run into the oil in a thin, steady trickle to make a fluffy "Tippaleipä". The result should be darkish brown and look like a ball of messed-up string, to put it

nicely! Obtaining the correct form is made easier if you take a couple of tin cans, remove both ends and immerse them in the oil kettle and squirt the batter into these. You may have to turn the pastry while frying so have appropriate utensils ready. When the colour is right take the pastry out and let each drip on a paper towel. When they have cooled off sprinkle them liberally with icing sugar. The pastry is very tasty as long as you don't let your imagination run too freely in the direction of miniature snake pits!



literal translation is "drip bread" and in Swedish they are called "druvor".

For these you will need:

4 eggs

1/2 teaspoon of salt

1 tablespoon of castor sugar

2 decilitres of milk (—I'll have you work that out yourself)

1 teaspoonful of grated yellow rind of lemon

4 decilitres of wheat flour

The "Sima" is a delicious beverage all the year round, although admittedly not very low on calories. You may, of course, find the "Tippaleipä" too laborious and the "Sima" too rich but would like, however, to have a taste of the Finnish First of May. There is a recipe for instant military "Sima", very much favoured by the Finnish Coast Artillery. The ingredients are simple: one bottle of Finlandia Vodka and one raisin. Drop the raisin into the bottle, shake well and serve.

Have a merry First of May—Hauskaa Vappua!

(84 Squadron, Royal Air Force, held two short, three-day exercises in the snow-covered mountains of Troodos, one at the end of January and the other at the end of February. These exercises were intended to give both aircrew and groundcrew practical experience in the techniques necessary to survive outside in temperatures well below freezing, as well as some basic ski-ing instruction. Here are Corporal Charlie Kirkbride's thoughts on the last exercise).

84 SQUADRON ON THE PISTE

By Corporal Charlie Kirkbride

Illustration by Jane Stafford

Recently, 84 Squadron aircrew and groundcrew took part in a snow survival exercise on Mount Olympus. The exercise was held over three days and all participants enjoyed the experience . . . when able to stand up, that is!

Day One and the groundcrew really displayed their ace cards on the slopes; although we had never skied before, the slopes posed few problems for such an intelligent and well-padded body of young men. As a matter of fact, people were so impressed by our downhill techniques that they stopped to watch and most seemed to appreciate the instructor's desperate efforts to try and keep us all in one place long enough to give us some instruction. The only words I can remember are: "Good snow plough", "Don't start till you're ready" (we never were!) and, whoosh, we were off.

In the afternoon we attempted the ski lift (this is where you try to ski uphill after mastering the downhill 'whoosh'). The ones that actually made it to the top really had a great time going down again (it was suggested that Brian should have taken a loud-hailer to give us instructions as we flew past him).

Day Two consisted of the snow survival part of the exer-



cise. We were going to construct and stay overnight in a snow cave 6,400 feet up Mount Olympus in a freezing cold wind and light snow showers. Digging the two-man snow caves proved very hard work, but the end result made us feel confident that they would last the night without collapsing. If anyone were to ask me what the night was like, all I could compare it to is sleeping in a deep freeze . . . it's all right as long as your kit is not on the ice. I was unlucky in that the bottom inflatable layer of my dinghy in which I was sleeping decided to give up at about 0200 hours, so for the rest of the night I had to keep pumping it up to stay that vital couple of nches above the ice!

The next morning I demonstrated how to leave a Land-rover up to its axles in snow, whereupon the aircrew demonstrated that they knew how to use spades. We then had a hearty breakfast before clearing up the exercise kit and heading back to Akrotiri for hot baths all round.

Last, but not least, our thanks go to Brian Murdock who persisted with his instruction despite his losing battle.

The Snake-killing Cats of Kokkina

By Major A C E Molter

In the rural district of Kokkina is the most isolated unit of the Danish Contingent: The "Kokkina Platoon", that occupies a few buildings in the deserted village, almost directly on the sea.

Near the sea the terrain is low-lying and swampy, the vegetation is grass and reed. On the other side of the coast road there are many empty houses, some of them in ruins. The village is surrounded

by rocky hills. All things considered: this is an ideal place for snakes.

With the exception of the coldest months, snakes often are observed by the men. One of the more spicy observations was made in the men's room, where a poisonous snake apparently had a hiding-place.

The most dramatic incident, however, took place one sunny morning in the small yard of the camp. Two of the cats from the platoon were peacefully enjoying the sun in front of a cage, where some small hamsters are kept. Suddenly a large black snake appeared, apparently with the intention to get a meal of one of the hamsters. But the snake had reckoned without its host, for the cats did not intend to let the intruder hurt any of the pets of the platoon.

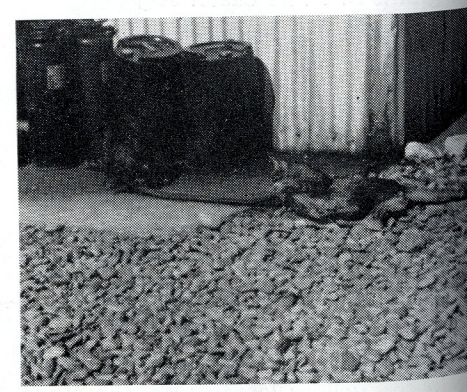
It was very difficult for the soldiers witnessing the incident to make out whether the cat in the background of the picture (left) was frightened (it looks



so), or if the two cats had the intention to confuse the snake.

All the same, the snake was killed by the large tomcat in the foreground of the picture, not by a bite in the neck (which might be expected) but by one hard blow with a paw, which smashed the snake's head.

Now it was the cats, and not the snake, that had a good meal (see the picture below).



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING FAYRE 1983



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Support Company (Eastern Company) Hobby Cooks Competition. Left to right: Gdsmn Taylor; Gdsmn Reed; Gdsmn Goodwin. Front row: Gdsmn Umney; Sgt Boyle; CQMS Bradley, Company Commander; CSM Cox; LCpl Potter; Gdsmn Brown.



Major Sir Hervey Bruce presents the prize to the winner of the Sector Two Support Company Hobby Cooks competition, Guardsman Brown. (Hobby Cooks were featured in the August 1982 issue of the Blue Beret).



Le guidon se déploie fièrement pour son devoir au maintien de la paix au sein des Nations-Unies à Chypre. The guidon is proudly deployed for its tour of duty with the peace-keeping force of the United Nations in Cyprus.



On 26 March 1983 Major Michael Kelly and Ms Erica Jeffree of HQ UNFICYP were married at St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia. They were given a Guard of Honour as they left the Church. In July, Major Kelly and his new wife will leave for Canada.



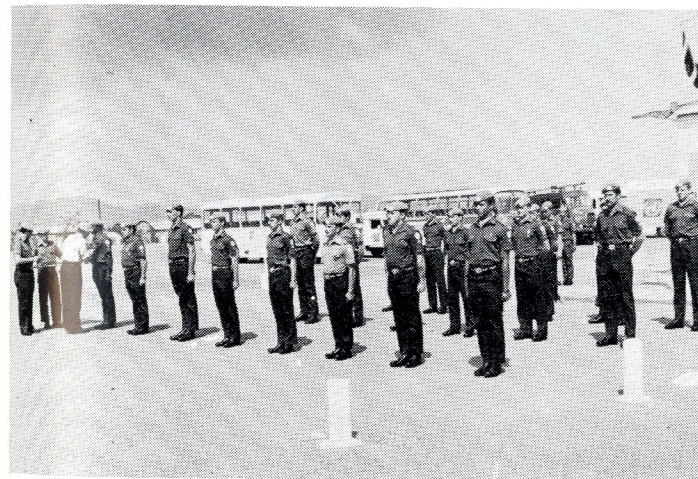
Le guidon pose le pied sur Chypre. The guidon lands on Cyprus.

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"THE WILD BUNCH"

On 18 April the Sector Commanders had their monthly meeting, this time hosted by Sector One.

The five "tough guys" are (from left to right): COMD Sector 5, Col P O G Lundbeck; COMD Sector 6, LtCol I Buttinger; COMD Sector 1, LtCol Aa Højbjerg; COMD Sector 2, LtCol A A Denison-Smith MBE; COMD Sector 4, LtCol G T Service CD.



The UNFICYP Transport Squadron advance party medal parade was held on 11th April 1983.



UNFICYP (254) Signal Squadron held their mini Medal Parade on 6th April 1983.



Mrs Lesley Privett appears to enjoy the uphill climb during the DANCON March.



Flt Sgt 'Denny' Dennison and SSgt Mark Jenkins enjoying the final climb from Spilia during the DANCON March.



UN NEWS



INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS



United Nations representatives at the talks: Special Representative of the Secretary General, Hugo J G bbi (left of centre) and Senior Political Adviser, James Holger (right of centre).

The intercommunal talks held their 248th to 251st meetings at the Ledra Palace Hotel on 14 April. There was a general exchange of views and it was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 31 May.

TALKS TO RESUME 31 MAY

Turkish Cypriot Interlocutor and advisers: (left to right) Munir Ertekun; Umit Suleyman Onan (Interlocutor) and Rustem Tatar.

Greek Cypriot Interlocutor and advisers: (left to right) George Stavrinakis; Andreas Mavrommatis (Interlocutor); Polivios Poliviou and Claire Palley.

