

THE BLUE BERET



AUGUST 1979



JULY IN RETROSPECT

Rotations	None
Medal Parades	
2	Canadian Contingent
6	Military Police Company
Visits	
26 Jun — 7	Mr. David Carter, of BBC Radio London, and Mr. C.G.L. Cherbrook, of MOD UK, to make a documentary based on the British Contingent.
27 Jun — 5	BGEN (Rtd) M. Richard, to officiate at Canadian Contingent Medal Parade.
29 Jun — 13	Maj P. Wilson, Senior Flying Instructor UKLF, to UN Alouette Flight in the British Contingent.
1 — 07	Lt Col A. Makepeace Warne, CO 1LI accompanied by four officers, to the British Contingent as recce party for the Sector 2 battalion designate.
2	Brig J N S Arthur, BGS MOD UK, accompanied by Col M.J. Doyle.
4	Maj Gen R.P. Wall, Chief of Staff to Commandant General Royal Marines to the British Contingent to visit 41 Commando Royal Marines in Sector 2.
4 — 5	Lt Co. A.J. Sammes, CO 30th Signal Regiment to the British Contingent to visit soldiers of his regiment serving with 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron.
4 — 12	Maj J. Gagnon and Capt F. Laqueux, of the 3R22R Rear Party to the Canadian Contingent for briefing.
5 — 13	Mr and Mrs Pitcher, to the Canadian Contingent to provide news media coverage of Canadian entertainment group.
5 — 13	Maj J. Murdoch and party of twenty-four entertainers, to the Canadian Contingent.
6 — 13	Lt Col C.E. Tanner, RCT, CPLO designate, to HQ UNFICYP, for familiarisation of duties.
6 — 17	Team of officers from 38 Group Examining Unit and Central Flying School Examining Wing, to 84 Sqn Det (RAF) in the British Contingent to carry out the annual Fitness For Role examination of all aircrew of the unit.
9	Col J Hunter, HQ UKLF representing the Military Secretary MOD UK, to the British Contingent to interview officers.
9 — 13	Maj J. Boutell, Legal Officer, to the Canadian Contingent to give advice on legal matters.

Military and Recreation Competitions

20 Force Table Tennis Tournament.

FUTURE EVENTS

AUGUST

Folk Art Festival (Pampaphia)

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

The Dormition of the Holy Virgin

Celebrations take place at the Monasteries of Trooditissa and

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

SEPTEMBER

Wine Festival at Stroumbi village Paphos

Organised by the village Committee in early September, and it includes free wine tasting, exhibi-

bition of grapes and Folk dances.

Wine Festival, Limassol, 12—23 September

Organised by the Limassol Municipality. It will be held in the Public Gardens of Limassol. Free distribution of wine, open air restaurants serving local and foreign dishes, performances of folk dancing and singing and Cypriot theatrical sketches.

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

OCTOBER

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

AUGUST 1979

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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Descriptions of recent local events or of visits to places of interest are welcome.

Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper.

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on the cover

An Alouette of the UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps on the helipad beside Larnaca Salt Lake.

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

Future Events

Recently there has been some comment as to which events should or should not be included in the 'Future Events' column of this magazine. The editorial policy is quite clear, any purely social or cultural event to which all members of the Force have free access will be publicised. Providing, of course, that we receive adequate notification of the event from the organisers.

Basically, therefore, the problem lies with those responsible for organising events which qualify for inclusion in the magazine. The very limited editorial staff do not have the time to research for information on future events. If those responsible for publicising any event would like it included in the columns of this magazine it is up to them to make sure that the information reaches the editorial office. If we receive it, it will certainly be publicised. So now it is up to you! If you belong to an organisation that is planning an event at which you wish to encourage attendance from the Force as a whole, then ensure that someone informs the editorial staff at least six weeks before-hand stating quite clearly where and when the event is taking place.

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CANCON NEWS



Part of the audience on opening night at the Ledra Palace Hotel.



Richard Adams accompanied by "GARALOU" on opening night.

CANASHOW '79

The long awaited moment had arrived! Pierson who sang several of her songs ranging from ballads to rhythm numbers, and a final duet with Richard. Then the dancers performed a very colourful and original routine. It was, however, Ben the Clown who stole the show the first night. Gauging the spirit of the audiences, Ben thrilled us all with his antics and virtuosity on the unicycle. Following Ben, "Aladdin" the magician kept the audience enthralled with a rapid-fire series of magical tricks and illusions. Finally, the group everyone was waiting for, "Garalou", performing traditional and original numbers meant for audience participation. The band is one of French Canada's most popular groups. To close the show, the Master of Ceremonies introduced the troupe and all performers sang together the closing theme of the show.

After settling into the Hilton Hotel, the ground proceeded to the Ledra Palace Junior Ranks' Club for a 'Meet and Greet' party. The following day members of the troupe were given a tour of 'A' and 'B' companies as well as a tour of the Nicosia portion of the Green Line. After a refreshing swim in the Ledra pool, our guests were treated to a cocktail party hosted by the Sergeants' Mess at the Ledra Palace Hotel.

Following a tour of Famagusta and a swim in Salamis Bay, it was down to business with the opening performance in Nicosia. The Master of Ceremonies, Richard Adams, opened the show by welcoming the audience and singing the opening song 'C'est la Fête'. Richard then introduced the lovely Melody



Ben the Clown doesn't know which way to turn.

Je me souviens.

A lighter moment at the Ledra Palace Junior Ranks Club.



BBC Junior Ranks Club host Canashow '79 at an outdoor Barbecue.



THE BEGINNING OF THE END



Sports Day — Sector 2 v R.C.T. — Sector 2's successful Tug of War.

July was a busy and varied month for Sector 2. We received a number of visitors, took part in several competitions and ran for many miles. Operationally we had a sprinkling of fires and minor incidents and, between stages, managed to squeeze in some military parachuting.

We had two major fires, one in each company area. The first on July 5th raged for 10 hours over a vast area of the BZ burning its way originally from the Turkish side of the CFL, north west of Dhenia and across the plain to Mammari. The red glow of the fire was plainly visible from SDC and the standby sections were not turned in until 0300 hours. It threatened to engulf B14, B35 and the village of Mammari (this is the second time the CO's house has been threatened during the tour!). Fortunately the wind responded to his sharp word of command and veered back towards the NE and the two Cypriot Civilian fire appliances, a water bowser and every available UN man in Sector 2 were able to control its periphery. Burning as it was in uncleared, potentially mined areas, it presented more than just the normal bush fire risks.

The second fire, on the 18th, in Western Company's area, was much shorter lived. This threatened OP B34 and involved a similar amount of manpower to control it.

Early July saw the visits of two of our Royal Marines Generals. Major General Wall CB, outgoing Chief of Staff, and Major General Sir Steurt Pringle Bt, the commander of Commando Forces.

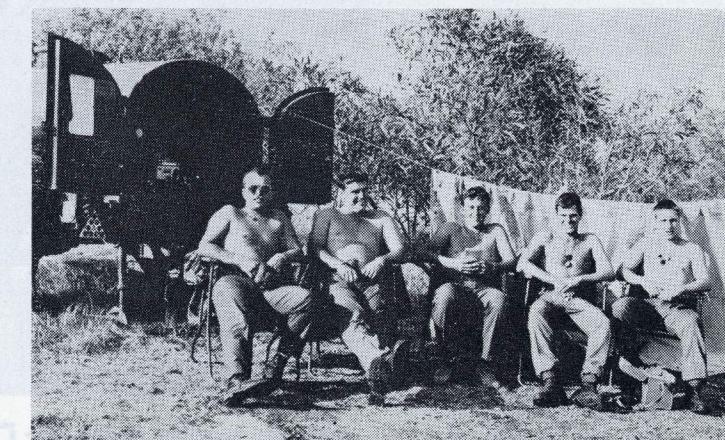
We were also visited by Lt General Sir John Stanier KCB MBE, Vice Chief of the General Staff in UK, and (what, so soon?) the

Five-a-side Football in the Elephant shed.



reccce party of the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry who are due to relieve us in November.

On the sports side we won two games of cricket at the "Oval" piece of grass in BBC (one of them a veritable "Ashes" match against AUSTCIVPOL!), lost a football match against the NG and won at Hockey 1-0 versus HQ UNFICYP. We broke the Green Line Run record but did not do so well in the 25 mile Troodos Walkabout.



Relaxing in the sun.

.... FOR THE MEN IN THE OPs OF SECTOR 2

After a dive, members of Sector 2's Sub Aqua Club relax with beer and a meze on the Kyrenia Harbour front.



At the end of the month seventy ranks tail-gated out of C130 Hercules aircraft and managed a total of two hundred military parachute jumps into the sea off Ladies Mile beach Akrotiri (with one exception, who landed in a car park!). He said he was concentrating too hard on what was lying on the beach.

A "Sods' Opera" was held at the "Horn Inn" in SDC. (Not a family occasion!). The Australians came as well and the evening was a great success. The prize for the best sketch was won by MT with a skit on "This is Your Life" (it's amazing what you can do with landrover parts).

By now some of the Marines' cooking warranted a visit from Egon Ronay. Troops rotated within the Companies in order to watch different areas of countryside brown into summer, and all are now looking forward to the even more daunting tasks and challenges of water skiing and amphibious landings with the 1st Raiding Squadron in Dhekelia.



It is important to take it easy on the rope.



Gathered together in the helicopter.

SORE HANDS, SORE FEET

There is one regulation for the Swedish army that does not appeal to every soldier. Everybody, colonels as well as privates, have to carry out a "Soldier's test".

They have to march 30 Kilometers with a pack of 10 kilos and then carry out a shooting test. The time limit is seven hours. This takes place in the Dhekelia area, and it has to happen at night because of the day time heat. Many, many

metres of plaster have to be used for all types of foot ills. We have also seen soldiers with plastered and bandaged hands. It is certain that they have been on troop-training and come down the rope too fast!



SWEDCON

One of the many victims in the "Soldier's test"



Twenty New Scuba Divers

The contingent has twenty new licensed scuba divers. It started with the first gasping breaths through the "tube" in Larnaca's swimming centre. Two months later it ended with end of course tests at Cape Greco.

The Course was managed by Welfare Officer Christer Johansson, and a handful of scuba divers in the battalion. The problem was that none of them was entitled to conduct the examinations for the license.

Captain Anders Wennerberg from the Swedish Regt I 21 found the answer. He took leave from his job and the members of the course payed his fare to Cyprus. The tests, practical and theory, were carried out during one week.

Other courses which are going on or have already finished during this UN tour are cooking, guitar playing, parachuting and English.

GENGANGER



IN

DANCON



After the run, checking the time. Is it under 12 minutes? Yes. Officials: 2IC Capt N Klarup and Medical Offr S Partoft.

"Genganger" is the Danish word for a man who walks around after his death — a ghost; here a soldier who volunteers for another tour of duty.

Every sixth month and again now in the middle of a tour of duty, the famous words of Shakespeare's Prince Hamlet — with a slight difference — are a big subject of conversation in Dancon. "To be genganger or not to be genganger", that is the question most Dancon soldiers are debating right now, because it is time to volunteer for another tour of duty.

Many requirements have to be met and taken into consideration; the two most important being mental and physical strength. One demand that can be mentioned is that the volunteer is able to run 2500 metres in less than twelve minutes. As can be seen from the pictures, a rather tough demand — some soldiers even have to cut off all their hair to reduce air resistance.

What makes a soldier want to be a "genganger"? There are some standard answers, such as; an interesting job, to be able to stay longer in a foreign country, and, for some, more money!



One of the soldiers on his way, running 2500 metres in 12 minutes.

And then some reasons with a touch of welfare; the climate, the beaches, welfare tours in Cyprus and in the Middle East, the possibilities of sight-seeing on your own, friendships, and the advantages of buying duty-free items like all kinds of radio equipment, which can be taken home after having served in Cyprus for one year.

At the moment about 60% of the personnel apply for another tour of duty, mostly sergeants, corporals, and privates. One year in Cyprus (two tours of duty) is very common but many stay in Cyprus for two years, which equals four tours of duty and that is the maximum number of tours that can be served before having to return to Denmark.

After a short service at home many familiar faces return to Cyprus, to join the UN service again. Many soldiers have served with UN for five to ten tours of duty and a few up to fifteen.



Medical Offr. S Partoft examining the soldier. If he is in good condition the contract can be renewed.

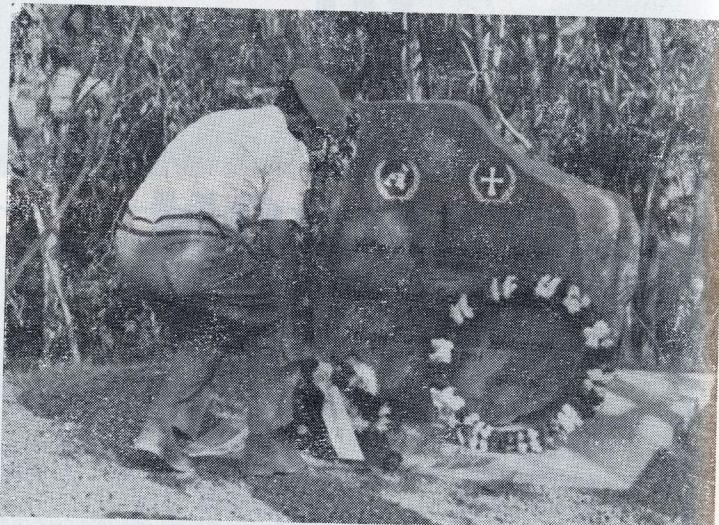


The monument on the Ambelikou road.

AUSCON and DANCON Remember Their Fallen



On Tuesday 14 August, AUSCON commemorated the fifth anniversary of the death of three members of their Battalion who gave their lives in the Service of Peace to save others. During a short ceremony a wreath was laid by COMDAUSCON, Lt Col H. Satter, on the memorial to Obilt Igay, Wm Decombe and Gfr Isak at Goshi.



Comd DANCON, Lt Col P.A. Heide, laid the wreath from the Contingent and the army Chaplain E.J. Derlev laid the bunch of flowers from the family.

On the way to visit other Contingents in Cyprus, you sometimes come across a slice of the past in the shape of memorials by the side of the road. These silent monuments tell us about human losses in the service of peace — about friends who did not go home.

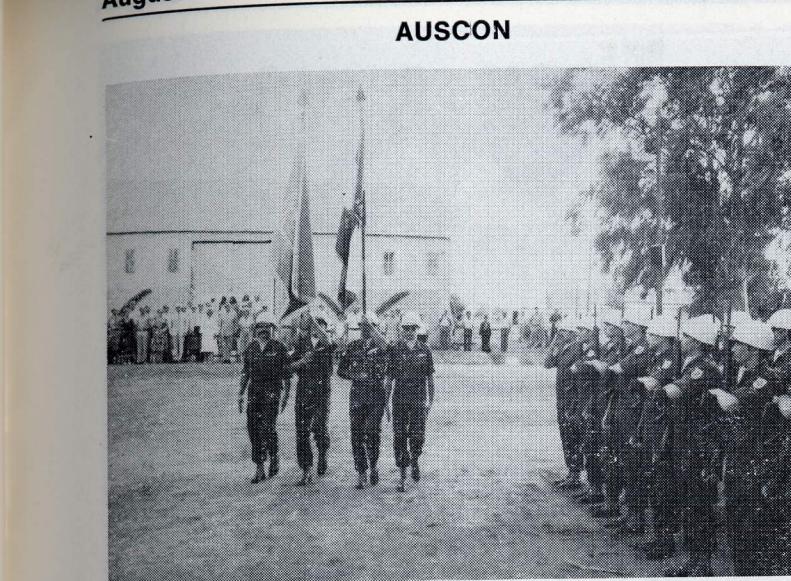
The monuments are a sad reminder of what UN service can mean, and they form a special element of the everyday life in each Contingent. In its own way each country commemorates its fallen, and in DANCON one special place, where each Battalion pays its respects to those who fell — it is the monument on the Ambelikou road. The story of the disaster is briefly this:

During the 1974 war, DANCON were to establish an OP at Ambelikou. On 16 August at 1900 hours a VW minibus with five men left A Company to fulfill this task. On their way, on a bend with a rock wall on one side and a steep slope on the other, they ran over an anti-tank mine which had been placed there a short time before. At 2050 hours DANCON received a message to say that the vehicle had been blown up and that two men had been killed and two seriously injured. The unharmed survivor had run 2.5 km down to the MP station to give the alarm.

In the incident Sgt Bent Schultz Christensen and Pte Carsten Busk Andersen died; two soldiers whose fate could be ours too.

The monument, which was unveiled at a ceremony on 16 August 1975, comes from the Jaegerspris shooting range, the place in Denmark where the Danish UN Department is situated. Every year, on 16 August, DANCON lays a wreath at the monument and a bunch of flowers from the families, as a mark of respect from each Battalion to those who lost their lives "In The Service Of Peace".

They gave Their Lives in the Service of Peace

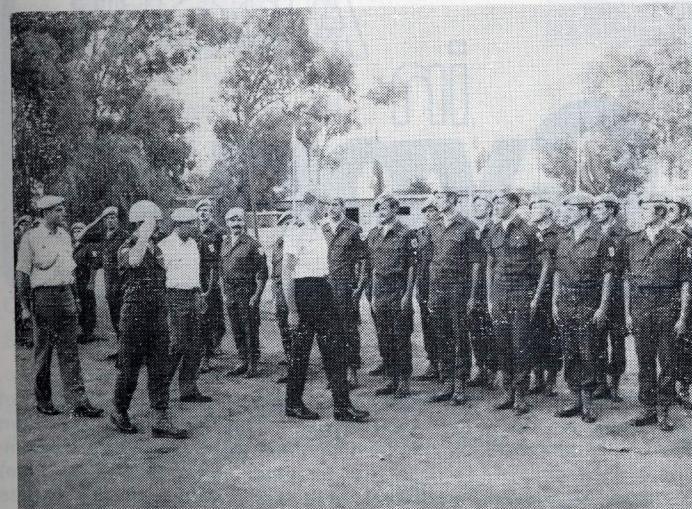


Falling in of the banners during the playing of "Schönfeld Marsch", one of the famous traditional Austrian military marches.

During the afternoon of 14 August, the Austrian Contingent celebrated its Medal Parade at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta. The Acting Force Commander, BGEN J A Cotter CD, inspected the parade and took the salute. In his address to the Austrian Battalion, he paid us the honour of speaking in German as well as English.

A total of 102 members of the Contingent were decorated with their United Nations Medal for Service in the cause of Peace in Cyprus.

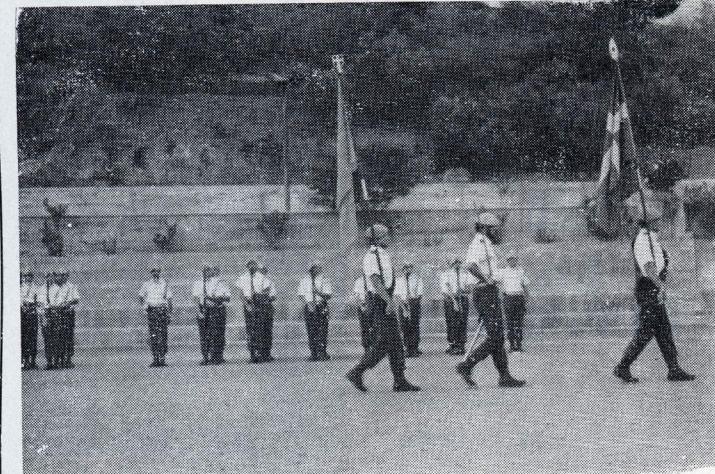
After the parade guests were well entertained in true Austrian style.



Accompanied by Lt Col Satter, COMDAUSCON, BGEN Cotter inspected the Austrian Battalion.



A view of the dinner party.



The colour party march on parade with the UN and Danish Colours.

AUSCON & DANCON Medal Parades

On 24 August the Danish Contingent had its Medal Parade at Evrykhou Stadium. The Acting Force Commander, BGEN J A Cotter CD, inspected the parade and took the salute.



Acting FC, BGEN J A Cotter, inspecting the parade accompanied by Lt Col P A Heide, COMDANCON.

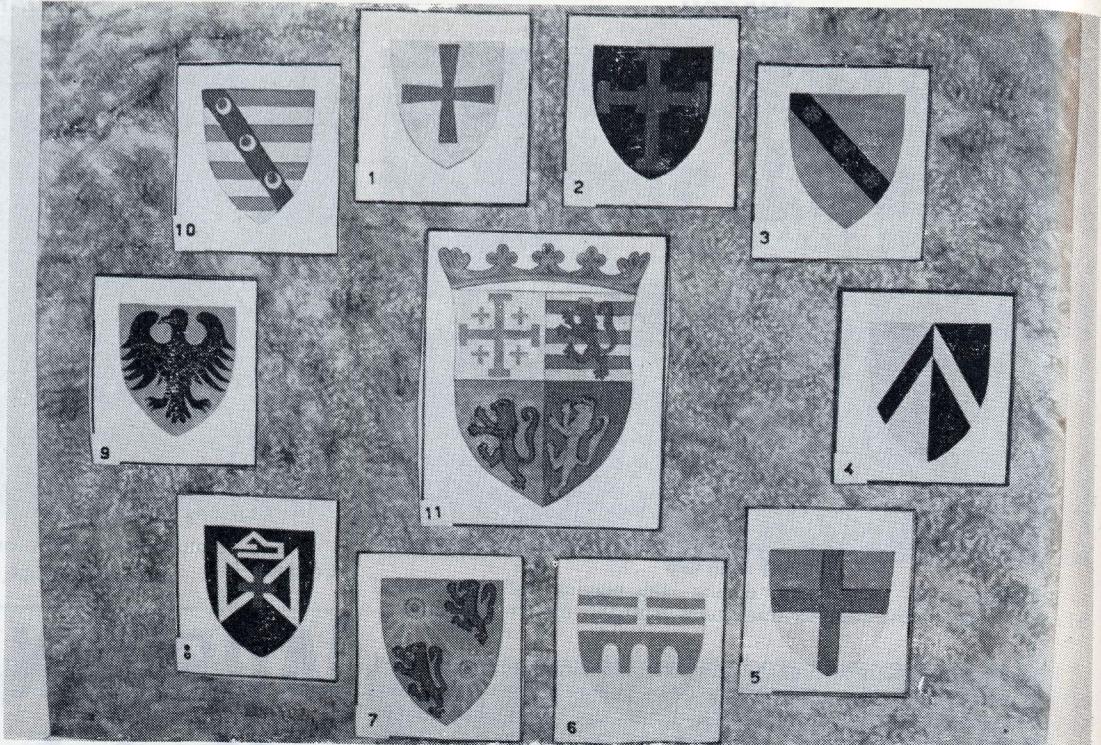


Acting Force Commander, BGEN J A Cotter, presenting Lt Col Heide with his UN Medal.

Heraldry in old Famagusta

by E. Lenthe

If you're on your way to the east coast of Cyprus you should make time to visit the old city of Famagusta where there are some hidden places decorated with stone coats of arms. These escutcheons give us information about one of the greatest periods in Cyprus' history; the time of the Crusaders, of the Order of Knights Templar, and of Lusignan Kings and Venetian governors as well. The following are some of the most interesting coats of arms; brief information about the former bearers is given where known, but if readers know anything about the others, the Editor of the Blue Beret or the Press Officer of AUSCON would be most interested to hear.



The coats of arms described below



Coat of arms No. 7 in the main hall of the citadel of Famagusta.

No. 1: The Coat of Arms of the Order of Knights Templar can be seen above the main entrance of the Templars church in the old city of Famagusta. Founded in 1119 by the French knight Hugo de Payens according to the order of St Bernard de Clairvaux, the Order of Knights Templar was abolished in 1312 by King Philippe IV of France and the Roman Pope.

No. 6: To be found above the western entrance of the Templars' church in the old city.

No. 3: Found engraved on a marble tombstone in front of the Lala Mustafa Pasha mosque in the old city.

No. 4: Coat of arms of the Regnier family. It is above the middle arch of the front of the former palace of the Venetian governor of Cyprus in the centre of the old city of Famagusta. In 1552 a member of this family, Giovanni de Regnier, was the Venetian Governor of Cyprus.

No. 5: Coat of arms of the Earls of Bragadino, above the western entrance of the Templars' church in the old city of Famagusta. This is called the "Younger" coat

belonging to a natural child of a member of Knights Templar can be seen above the main entrance of the Templars church in the old city of Famagusta. Founded in 1119 by the French knight Hugo de Payens according to the order of St Bernard de Clairvaux, the Order of Knights Templar was abolished in 1312 by King Philippe IV of France and the Roman Pope.

No. 11: Coat of arms of the Lusignan Kings of Jerusalem and Cyprus, found inside the walls of the south eastern gate of the Raventin Citadel of Famagusta. In 1192 King Richard Plantagenet "The Lionhearted", who conquered Cyprus one year before, gave the island to the French Baron Guy de Lusignan in fief. Therefore we find the British Lion in the royal coat of arms of the Lusignans.

In 1197 Amaury de Lusignan was crowned King of Cyprus by the Chancellor for the German Empire, Bishop Konrad von Hildesheim, and from then the French family of Lusignan ruled the Kingdom of Cyprus until 1489. The Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem came to the Lusignans by marriage in the year 1186. After the end of the Lusignan dynasty the title "King of Jerusalem" reverted to the German Empire and so came to the Hapsburg family. Therefore the "King of Jerusalem" could be found, until 1918, in his residence of Schönbrunn in Vienna.

No. 10: In the court of the citadel of Famagusta. This is the coat of arms of a family related to the Lusignan Kings of Cyprus, but

Out & About in Cyprus



Workers collect salt in piles.

The following story is told by the people of Larnaca: Once upon a time a man was passing through Larnaca on a journey. He was tired and thirsty and when he came to a beautiful green vineyard he asked the owner for some grapes. The man refused. The traveller, who was St. Lazarus, prayed that the vineyard would turn into a salt lake.

That is the legend: nowadays between August and September and the start of the rains in October, the "harvest" from the Salt Lake is taken in. About one hundred donkeys and the same number of men work on the Salt Lake in considerable

heat and dust. The donkeys go to and fro between the loaders on the Lake and the receivers on the shore seemingly endlessly.

It is likely that this year's "harvest" will be the biggest for many years, as a result of a project started by the Govern-



Salt Lake harvest — a fascinating sight from Camp Victoria.

ment which owns the Salt Lake. It had been realised that the amount of salt taken out was getting less each year and so it was decided to pump sea water into the lake. The experiment has resulted in a projected yield of 7500 tons of salt this year.

The economic effects of the salt industry can be seen in the price of a donkey, which rises three-fold during the "harvest" season. And a worker earns twice a much working on the Salt Lake as on a "normal" job.



Now a donkey costs three times normal price.

Larnaca Salt Harvest

by Jan Dahlfors



UNFICYP Table Tennis Tournament 1979

On 20 July Dancon arranged the UNFICYP Table Tennis Tournament for 1979 which took place in Viking Camp, Xeros.

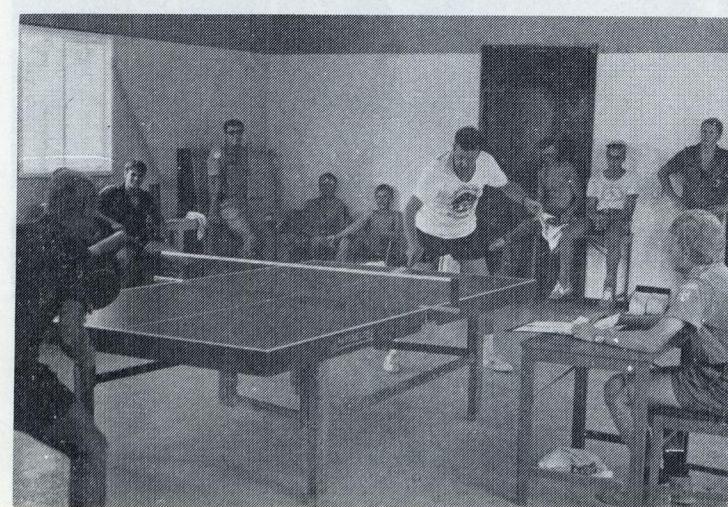
The participants from Auscon and Swedcon arrived the evening before and were quartered at Dansborg, the Danish MP station outside Xeros, and had the chance for a friendly get-together with their Danish hosts.

The tournament started on Friday morning at 0830 and was arranged as a Cup tournament. The games were played according to the planned schedule.

Some exciting games were played before the one-hour lunch break and at 1415 the Acting Force Commander, BGEN J.A. Cotter CD, arrived to watch the final games, together with the Commander Dancon, Lt Col P.A. Heide.

It was soon apparent that the Swedcon team, as on previous occasions, would do very well. For spectators the question was whether Swedcon would win everything or whether other contingents would have a chance to prove themselves.

Singles: Game between two Swedes who took third and fourth place.



Pte Johansson is presented with the Trophy by the Acting Force Commander BGEN J.A. Cotter CD.

The final results:

Single

Gold Pte Johansson —
SWEDCON

Silver WO1 Biessnberger —
AUSCON

Bronze PO Pettersson —
SWEDCIVPOL

Double

Ptes Lindström/Johansson
SWEDCON

Sgts Svensson/Lernehag
SWEDCON

Sgt Nielsen/Pte Jensen
DANCON

After the finals BGEN J.A. Cotter presented the prizes to the winners. One player was especially victorious. Pte Johansson took not only two gold medals, but was also awarded the trophy for both singles and doubles.

Singles Final: Bissnberger AUSCON who took second place and the Silver medal.



Support Company's Record Holding Team.
Lt Taylor, Mne Duggan, Mne Richmond, Mne Collins, Mne Airey, Mne Brown, C/Sgt Newton, WO2 Chapman, Mne Perkins, Mne Galloway.



E Company's Team who pushed the record under 4 hours from left to right: Cpl Wilcox, Mne Russell, Cpl Hall, 2Lt Tasker, LCpl Bickett, Mne Watson-Clarke, Spt Wilkins, Sgt Evans, Sgt Brown, Cpl Trail.

Green Line Run Record Broken again and again and again

After a few months of acclimatisation and settling in to the new OP duties, Support Company was a risk and bad blisters a reality. Company Sergeant Major Pat Chapman decided it was time his company had a crack at the Green Line Run.

The race was originated by 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron on 27 September 1978, with an initial time for the race of 4 hours 36 minutes 15 seconds.

The race starts at the Troodos Leave Centre and winds its way down to the Mercury Club in Jubilee Camp, a distance of 42.5 miles. This is completed by a relay team of ten, consisting of one officer, two WO/SNCOs and seven other ranks who must have a combined age of 250 years or more. Each leg is roughly four miles long, and the last 1.2 miles from Morphou checkpoint is run by the whole team. The record at this time was held by REME Workshops with a time of 4 hours 11 minutes 39 seconds.

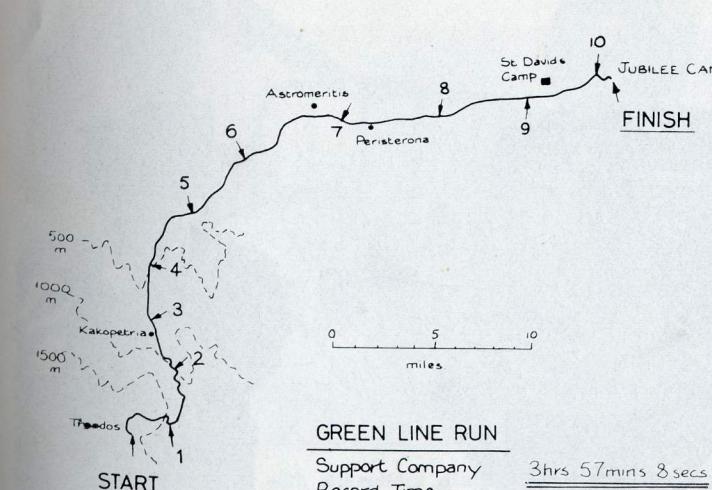
Pat Chapman's task was by no means an easy one; old men with runners' legs are hard to find! The route itself is particularly punishing, up and down hill over broken tarmac roads and the heavy morning traffic.

Having broken the record, Support Company were not to hold it for long, as on

26 July Echo Company teams, located at the Box Factory and led by Sgt Jerry Evans, pushed the time under four hours to a new record of 3 hours 57 minutes 48 seconds. The team had started 15 minutes earlier and ran into an unusually cool morning. Exceptionally fast runs were put in by Cpl Tom Wilcox and 2Lt Greg Tasker. The team completed the final 1.2 miles in 6 minutes 4 seconds.

Just before the mid-tour change round, with swords drawn and teeth bared, Support Company set out to regain the record. Some of the team had been away on leave and some were injured, but despite this the partly new team made a supreme effort and official time-keeper CSgt Higgins clocked them in 40 seconds ahead, with a time of 3 hours 57 minutes 8 seconds. The Benson & Hedges Green Line Run Trophy was theirs again, 14½ minutes having been taken off the original REME time.

However, with three more attempts to go from their replacement Companies, and knowing the friendly rivalry that exists, the record and Trophy must move again.



GREEN LINE RUN

Support Company
Record Time.
3 hrs 57mins 8 secs



Last Legs Cpl Nic Hall E Coy after an exceptional run for the 7th leg. Cpl Tom Wilcox about to receive the "baton", a UN wristband.



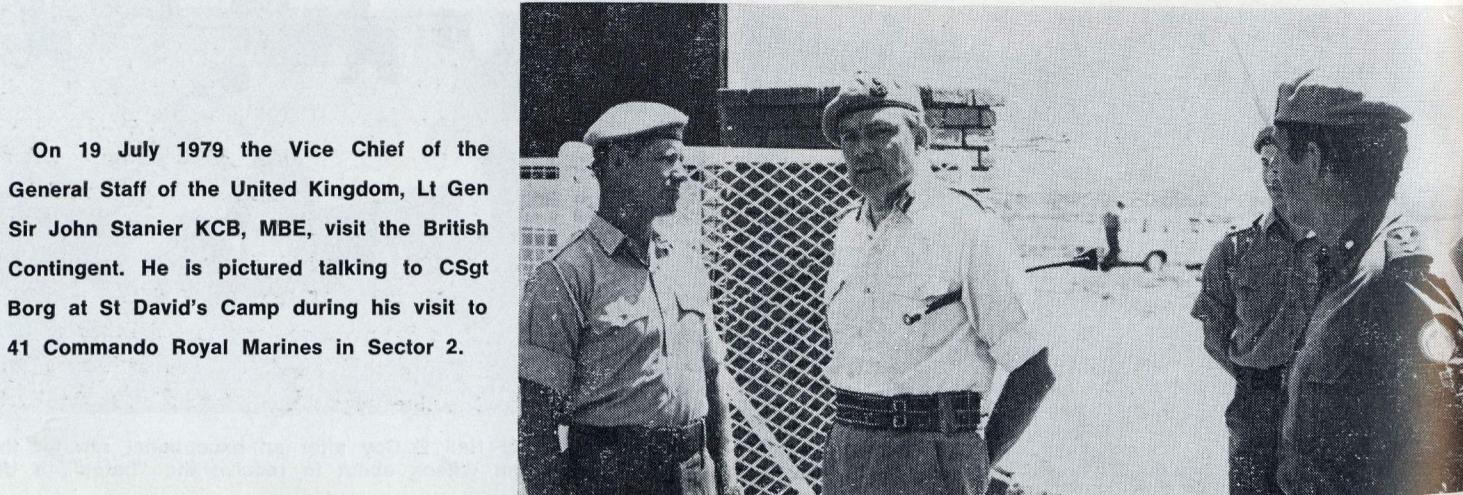
Maj Gen R.F. Wall CB, Chief of Staff to the Commandant General Royal Marines, visited 41 Commando Royal Marines in Sector 2 on 4 July 1979. In the photograph opposite he is seen talking to a member of the MT section.

VISITORS

Pictorial news



The Major General Royal Marines Commando Forces, Maj Gen Sir Steuart Pringle Bt, visited 41 Commando Royal Marines in Sector 2 for the period 11-13 July 1979. In the accompanying picture he is seen being briefed at OP B26 in the Eastern Company area.



On 19 July 1979 the Vice Chief of the General Staff of the United Kingdom, Lt Gen Sir John Stanier KCB, MBE, visit the British Contingent. He is pictured talking to CSgt Borg at St David's Camp during his visit to 41 Commando Royal Marines in Sector 2.

BRITISH ENGINEERS IMPROVE PATROL TRACK IN SECTOR 5



During the last month a detachment of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron Royal Engineers has been working on the patrol track between Athienou and Troulli in Sector 5. The amount of work involved in improving the patrol track is clearly indicated in the picture above as is the greatly improved surface of the track that results from all the work.

AUSTRIANS IN FAMAGUSTA GIVE BLOOD TO HELP LOCALS

The Austrian Contingent Headquarters in Famagusta received a call on 16 July 1979 from Famagusta hospital for urgent blood donations. Blood was urgently required for Alexandra Batae, a 15 year old Greek Cypriot girl from Ayia Trias in the Karpas, who was suffering from leukaemia and Irfah Sikir a 55 year old Turkish Cypriot police officer, who was also suffering from leukaemia.

Requests for blood donations being quite frequent it was not long before two Austrian soldiers were giving the blood required. Sgt E. Köstlbauer gave that for Alexandra Batae and L/Cpl K. Robitsch that for Irfah Sikir.

Members of UNFICYP regularly give blood free of charge to help members of both communities in Cyprus and up to the 1 August this year they have already given a total of 68 pints. The contingents that have contributed to date are Auscon 25 pints, Britcon 22 pints, Cancon 6 pints and Swedcon 15 pints.



Sgt E Köstlbauer with Alexandra Batae and her mother in Famagusta hospital after he had given his blood for her.



L/Cpt K Robitsch giving blood in Famagusta hospital for Irfah Sikir.



UN NEWS



REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S THREE MEMBER COMMISSION ON OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

It was announced on 17 July that the Security Council's three-member Commission to examine the situation relating to settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, has recommended that Israel should be called upon urgently to cease the establishment, construction and planning of settlement in the occupied territories.

The commission, made up of the representatives of Portugal, Bolivia and Zambia, said the next step would be to resolve the question of the existing settlements. The Commission said it would recommend to the Council that a pressing appeal be made to the Government and people of Israel drawing attention again to the disastrous consequences which the settlement policy is bound to have on any attempt to reach a peaceful solution in the Middle East.

The Council might further wish, the report added, to consider measures to safeguard the impartial protection of property arbitrarily seized. On Jerusalem, the Commission said the Government of Israel should be called on to implement Security Council resolutions. Moreover, recalling that Jerusalem is a most sacred place for the three great monotheistic faiths throughout the world. Christian, Jewish and Moslem — the Security Council might wish to consider steps to protect and preserve the unique spiritual and religious dimension of the holy place in that city, taking into account the views of high-ranking representatives of the three religions.

The Commission — appointed by the Security Council in March — made visits to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. It met Government Officials and held hearings. It took statements from representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and in Beirut held a private meeting with P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The Government of Israel, according to the report of the Commission, refused to co-operate with the Commission in its work to allow it to visit the occupied territories. An Israeli representative told the Commission's Chairman that Israel was not prepared to have any contact with the Commission. The Chairman was informed, the report added, that the Israeli Government had nothing to hide concerning its actions in the territories under its control, and that the situation there had been freely examined by numerous impartial

observers who had always confirmed the statements made by the Israeli Government.

The Commission said that altogether there were 133 settlements in the occupied territories — seventeen in and around Jerusalem, sixtytwo on the West Bank, twentynine in the Golan Heights and twentyfive in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai.

There was a correlation between the establishment of Israeli settlements and the displacement of the Arab population. In the implementation of its policy of settlements, the Commission report went on, Israeli has resorted to methods — often coercive and sometimes more subtle — which included the control of water resources, the seizure of private properties, the destruction of houses and the banishment of persons, and has shown disregard for basic human rights, including in particular, the right of the refugees to return to their homeland. Arab inhabitants in those territories, said the report, particularly in Jerusalem and the West Bank, were subjected to continuous pressure to emigrate to make room for new settlers.

The report said the settlement policy had brought drastic and adverse changes to the economic and social pattern of the daily life of the remaining Arab population. The pattern of settlement policy, the Commission concluded, was causing profound and irreversible changes of a geographical and demographic nature in the occupied territories including Jerusalem, and were of such a profound nature as to be in violation of the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilian persons in time of war and of United Nations Resolutions.

The Commission said that while aware of the extreme complexities in the Middle East problem, it noted a genuine desire for peace in the countries it visited, as well as among the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation whom it met. Unfortunately, the report added, the Commission also perceived a deep sense of despair and helplessness, primarily among Palestinian refugees, from the realisation that Israel was continuing its settlement policy unabated, and undaunted by United Nations decision or any other external factor. It was widely felt, said the Commission, to be a most negative factor in the achievement of peace in the area.

UNIFIL INVOLVED IN ARMED CLASHES

At a press briefing held in New York on 25 July, a UN spokesman read a cable from UNIFIL, stating that the situation in Bayt Yahum remained unchanged, with UNIFIL, and defacto forces facing each other. There had been a clash between armed elements and de facto forces in the area around midnight, 24 July. Armed elements coming from the north had opened fire with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. Two heavy machine-gun rounds had hit an Irish Battalion armoured vehicle. Both sides had fired about 3,000 rounds. On 24 July, de facto forces had fired a total of 54 artillery mortar shells into the UNIFIL area controlled by Dutch and Irish Battalions. The same day a Nigerian Battalion vehicle which had stopped on the road to repair a punctured tyre had been fired upon with small arms. These were unfortunate developments, the spokesman emphasised, and the situation was tense. Developments were hindering UNIFIL from implementing the appropriate resolution of the Security Council.

UNFICYP CHRISTMAS CARDS



A limited number of UNFICYP Christmas cards have been printed and are now available. The cards shown above have all the Contingents' flags in colour with the Season's Greetings printed inside in all Contingent languages. All profits from sales go to the UNFICYP Welfare Fund. To avoid disappointment purchase early from Mr. John Amos, Procurement Officer, Blue Beret Camp, Nicosia. Tel: 7208. Price 100 mils each including envelopes.