

THE BLUE BERET



AUGUST 86



By Pte M. LINDSAY



Here's Tommy Atkins at Bravo One Nine
On duty all day on the UN line
Stood to attention from noon till night
For every chopper of the UN Flight!

Anon.

Mark Vinter '86

Contribution from Sector 2

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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

"feu de joie" Canadian Medal Parade

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

Traffic Accidents continue to give us rise for concern. Although the monthly statistics may show sometimes a rise or indeed a fall, each accident in the end is something that could be avoided. Quite apart from the appalling waste of resources and in some extreme cases even of human life, all drivers should consider an additional point: We are indeed very fortunate to be able to use UN cars and trucks for recreational purposes. A large proportion of accidents seem to occur when our vehicles are driven off duty.

So therefore don't let a few spoil something we all are able to enjoy through downright carelessness.

By now you should all have got used to the switch from miles to kilometers as the official designation on all road signs. If your speedometer is only calibrated in miles - take care: This will not be accepted as an excuse if you are caught speeding!

We have read recently that Kyrenia II - the replica of the ancient merchant ship now in Kyrenia Castle - will visit Paphos in September of this year after her successful journey to the United States where she took part in the centenary celebrations of the Statue of Liberty.

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EXERCISE AIRWAVE - 254 SIGS SQN

Photo by: Sgt A Beaton

Service in UNFICYP gives all of us frequent opportunities to observe other National contingent's troops and equipment. Frequent examples are, of course, the Guard of Honour for UN

dignitaries and the Force Reserve on exercise.

Recently, the 254 UNFICYP Signal Squadron co-ordinated its version of the multi-national "Show of Force". EX AIRWAVE

brought together all the national contingents' signal command post vehicles and the Wessex and the Alouette helicopters. By the very nature of radio communication, CP vehicles are supposed to be sited away from each other providing comms for their own commander in location. Thus, this event of the CPs at one RV is a rare occasion indeed. In fact, EX AIRWAVE was long overdue and should have taken place at the inception of UNFICYP.

EX Airwave was a pet project of Yeoman of Signals WO2 Bob Waller. It was designed to achieve a compatibility matrix of all VHF radio equipment held by all the Sectors and the air elements. The 254's Radio Troop provided the "Expertise" and the engineering net to achieve the trials.

Having witnessed this rare occasion, we ponder if the next RV of contingents' CP will take place in the 1990's.



MERCY MISSION

Photo by: Sgt A Beaton

A new born baby girl was admitted to North Nicosia Hospital with a dangerous blood disorder.

To prevent serious and permanent brain damage, she required a 70% blood exchange immediately. This could only be done with specialist equipment, which was not available to the hospital at this time.

A request from the Turkish Authorities was passed to the Australian Civil Police at UNFICYP. The equipment was delivered within an hour, the operation was performed and the child was saved.

Doctor Turgud who carried out the blood exchange, and nurses at North Nicosia Hospital where the baby girl is in very good hands, are delighted with her recovery.



Baby Meliz doing very well after a shaky start to life.



KEEPING THE MEN HAPPY!

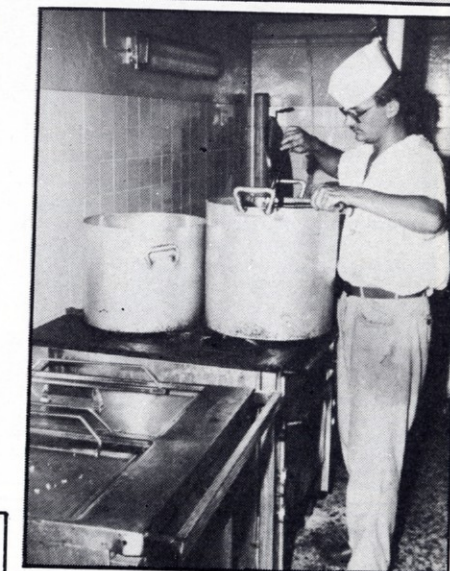
By: Capt H Olscha

One of the most important tasks of our quartering - section in AUSCON is keeping the soldiers fed and also supplied with money and duty-free goods, thus improving the high moral necessary for a demanding task like peacekeeping. Satisfaction in supplying the AUSCON members with excellent food (like in a 5-star hotel) is the compensation which our kitchen and quatering-crew receive for all the difficulties they encounter. The absolute highlight was the AUSCON Medal Parade, held in Famagusta's Othello tower. When skills which would have heartened a true



connoisseur where brought out in full, the guests were truly delighted.

Capt Olscha being QM AUSCON is proud to confess that his team do wonders and of course will continue to do so.



Brothers in Peace Keeping

Peacekeeping on Cyprus, seems to have depopulized whole families in Austria.

At the moment two pairs of brothers are not only serving in the same battalion but also in the same coy.

The "HIEBLER"-brothers, 2/Sgt and 1/Cpl are serving in the 1st coy. The "BRANZ"-brothers both are drivers in the staff coy. In each case one brother has been serving already for 3 months and the other came down with the MAY rotation. So there must be something to Cyprus after all. We wish them an enjoyable tour, but most of all a tour free of all accidents. Good luck.



The Branz Brothers.

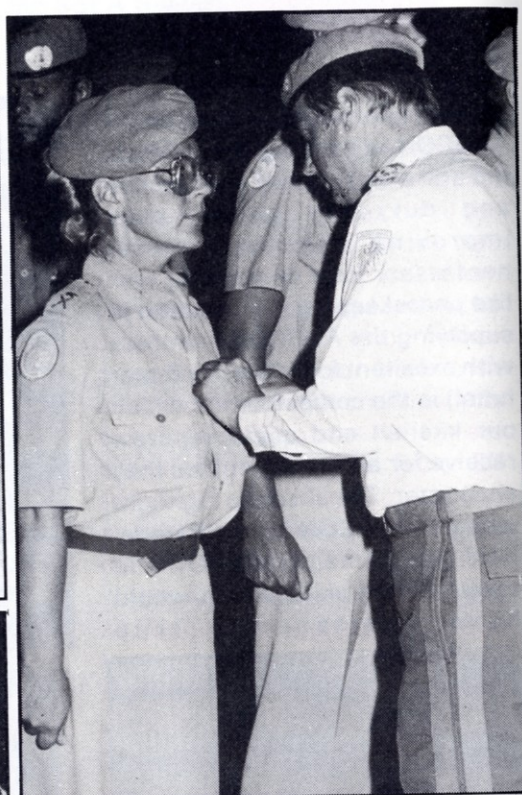


The Hiebler Brothers.

SWEDCON Medal Parade



"Try using a different hand lotion soldier!"



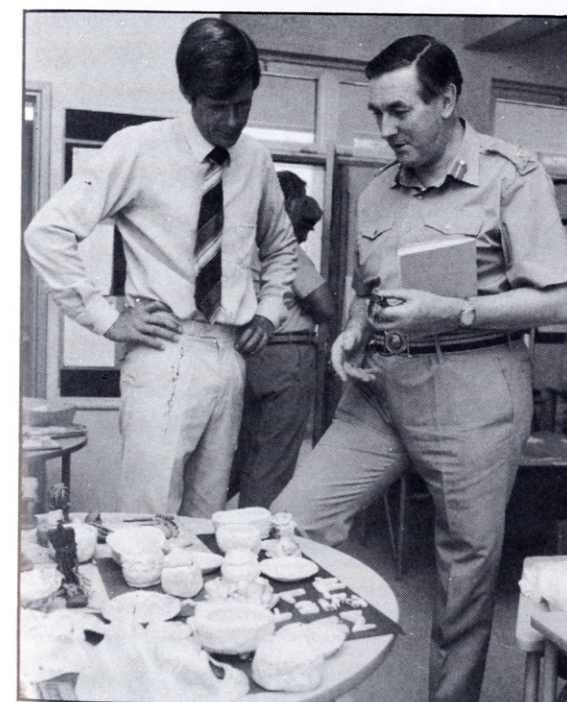
WO 2 ASM J Fenwick receives the Hutchings Trophy for Outstanding Contributions to Flight Safety.



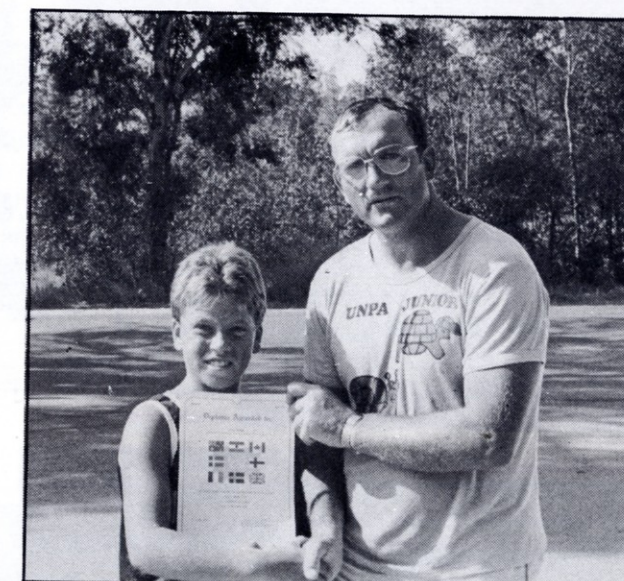
Sarah & Susan Brennan looking tired after completing their Distance Awards. Sarah swam 10,000m which is 223 lengths of the pool and Susan swam 5,000mm Well done girls!



Nicosia Beavers break for the summer holidays.



Maj Gen Ryan, Director of Education visits St Michael's School.



Leigh Browne, the first person to receive the "50 Runs Junior Hash Certificate" Well Ran Leigh!



Ancient Greece was the theme at St Michael's School end of term BBQ.

KIDCON



3rd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment Medals Parade



A feu de joie was fired to celebrate Canada Day.



Pte Dave Ruttle rappelling off Ledra Palace.



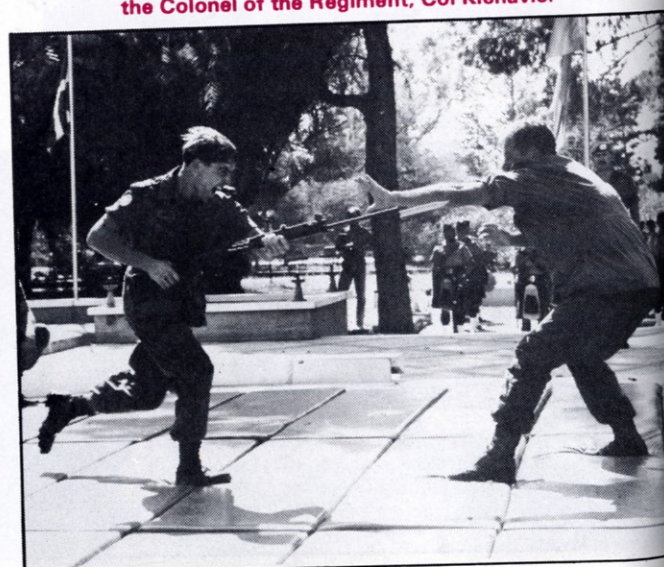
The Band Master, Warrant Officer Anderson.



The COS, BGen MacInnis., inspecting the Oscar Company Guard with the Commanding Officer, LCol Peterson, and the Colonel of the Regiment, Col Klenavic.



November Company Guard.



MCpl Ben House and Cpl Lloyd Button during the Unarmed Combat Demonstration.



SHOW CANADA '86

Photos by: Sgt A Beaton & Cpl D Hall



John Allan Cameron fiddles a tune.



"The Ladies in Light Dancers".



The pipe-major Sgt Whitehall.

The annual CANCON Show took place at the Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia on the evenings of 1, 2 July 1986. Entitled "Show Canada '86" the 3 hour variety show featured singers, dancers, magicians, and comedians from across Canada. Soldiers from all Contingents in Cyprus also attended the Show which is produced to entertain Canadian Forces soldiers serving overseas.



The 3RCR Pipes & Drums started the show each night. Here Pte Boland beats out a tune as the UN flag flutters in the background.



MCpl Pat Buote was one of the few who had the pleasure to dance with Miss Karen Baldwin (Miss Universe 1982).



"The Magic of Baxter" surprised everyone, especially Cpl Robertson.



SERVANTS OF THE SERVANTS

By Pte S Dittmer

Probably one of the best hidden offices in the Viking Camp, the Welfare Office, is still one of the most visited places in the whole camp!

The Welfare Crew who takes care of almost every request concerning the welfare of the Danish Contingent is: Welfare Officer, Capt J Skovlyk, Welfare Assistant NCO, Sgt P Christensen and the photographer, Pte S Dittmer, who is usually referred to as "Photo".

This office has to be able to give quick answers to a lot of questions regarding plane tickets, hotel reservations, car hiring, rentals of refrigerators, freezers, TV sets and video recorders, and almost all kinds of "tourist information".

Between November '85 and May '86 the Danish personnel at DANCON bought 280 tickets to Denmark. That is a pretty high rate when the number of Danes is as low as 350! The travel activity is quite high at DANCON with a lot of Danes visiting Israel and Egypt. Luckily we've got very good connections with a travel agency in Nicosia.

Twice every week the welfare NCO takes care of all the "welfare business" in town, such as getting films developed, TV sets repaired, ordering maps of Cyprus, requesting visas and a lot of other things.

The Welfare Officer is the "Brain" behind the excursions arranged every second week or so. He also acts as guide which

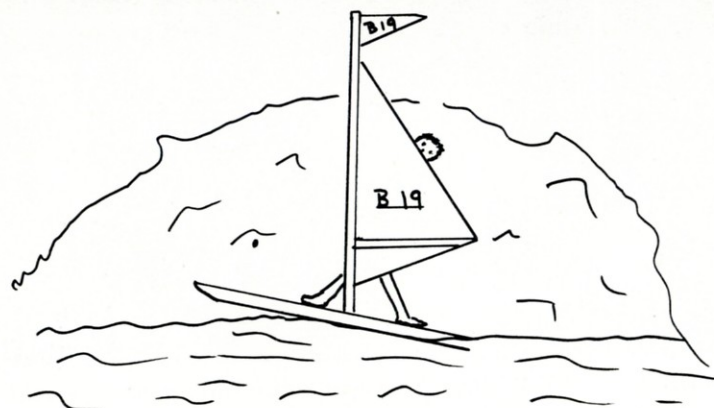
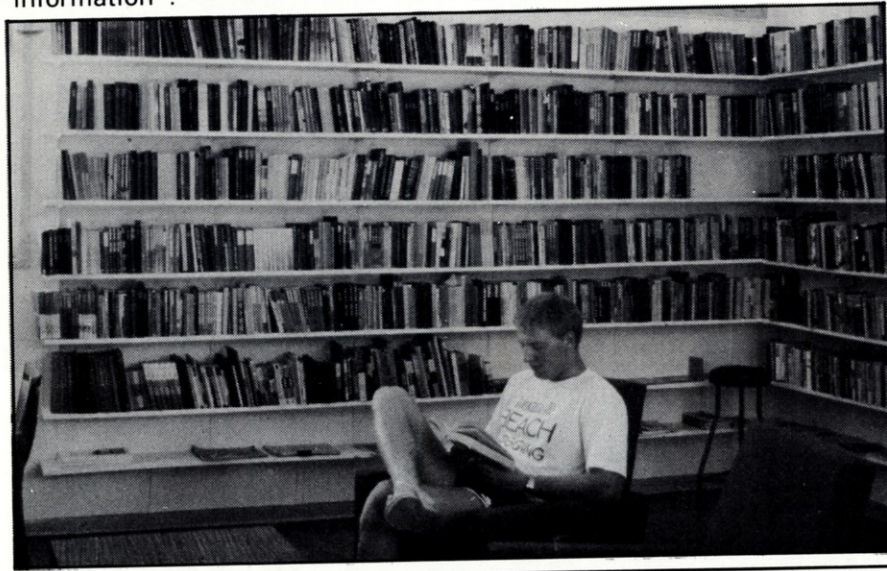
demands quite a lot of research beforehand. These tours are quite popular, but the best thing about them is - they're free! (except when it's a two day tour and you have to spend a night in a hotel).

Of course you have to pay for your own consumption, but the fare and the tickets are free. The Welfare Officer is also the person who negotiates with companies, hotels and agents to get "a special price" if possible.

A lot of "photo's" job is social photography such as parties, taking pictures at competitions, special occasions like "Guard of Honour" and welfare tours or things as special as weddings.

The material is mainly used for the "Dancon Book" which has pictures of EVERY member of the Danish Contingent both in their sections or at their OP's, but also "as you remember them"! The subtitles for these pictures are made by the sections themselves and collected by a group of "editors". After printing, every member of the Contingent gets his own copy of the Dancon Book.

Next to the Welfare Office is the library which has a good and still growing collection of books, mainly in Danish but also a good way for the Danes to practice their English.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN DO I WANT A PHONE EXTENSION PUT IN ON MY BOARD, I'VE GOT ONE IN MY CAR!!



By: Insp M Nordenstedt

Within UNFICYP there are two contingents of civilian police, the Australian and Swedish.

SWEDCIVPOL deals with cases and problems within sector 5 and 6, normally only in the UN buffer zone. To deal with problems and incidents in the best way, SWEDCIVPOL must have very close contact with each sector's personnel and especially with the soldiers at the OP's. Of course, the relation between the civilian police and the different authorities on both sides must be to mutual satisfaction. The cases SWEDCIVPOL handles are various. The most frequented spot for a SWEDCIVPOL patrol within Sector 6 is OP A-28, where they have problems with fishing boats, crossing the MSL (Maritime Security Line). Overall in Sector 5 and 6 problems and incidents like



Ch Insp L Thastrom giving a briefing at SWEDCIVPOL HQ.



Insp H Sjunnesson on his way to an incident in the buffer zone.



SWEDCIVPOL Substation at Pyla.

over-farming, traffic accidents, illegal hunting and civilian persons entering the buffer zone are common.

The Duty patrol from SWEDCIVPOL has a Swedish Volvo Patrol car at its disposal, so the sometimes very long duty-trips (turn-outs) are a little easier and safer!

A SWEDCIVPOL Substation is situated in Pyla, a mixed village north east of Larnaca, where 5 Swedish policemen are taking care of problems occurring in the village and on the Pyla plateau, within the buffer zone.

CARTOON



AUSTCIVPOL CONTINGENT CHANGES

By: Inspector J. DEEKS

Photo by: Sgt A Beaton



Not another article about a Contingent change-over you say, and perhaps you are right.

When a Sector changes over and a new Regiment is seen around the place, perhaps with a different Band, then maybe it does have a lot more significance than just the same old Australian Police blue uniforms that everyone knows so well. It may well be that the uniforms of those leaving may look a bit tighter on the individuals than those who have just arrived! possibly attributed to the food, the weather, the amber fluid or whatever. Anyway, to those of you that have been around the U.N. for some while, then a couple of the new faces may seem familiar to you.

Station Sergeant Harry LOWERY first came to Cyprus in 1978 when he served a year with AUSTCIVPOL as the Station Commander at Kokkini Trimithia. Not satisfied with this, he returned for another 2 years in 1981 when he again served as Station Commander at Kokkini Trimithia, then at Wolseley Barracks and followed this up with a 9 month period as Police Operations Officer (POLOPS) at UNFICYP Headquarters.

As a member of the Australian Federal Police he has also served overseas at the Australian High Commission in Saigon, and, with his wife Jean, was one of the last people to leave when the High Commission was closed.

Sergeant Terry McARTHUR has also served previously with the U.N. in Cyprus. He came in 1982 and served 9 months at Wolseley Barracks, 2 months on secondment with the M.P. Company and a month at Austcivpol Headquarters at Kokkini Trimithia as MTO.

To have members in the Contingent who have served in the area previously has some obvious advantages and disadvantages, particularly in a



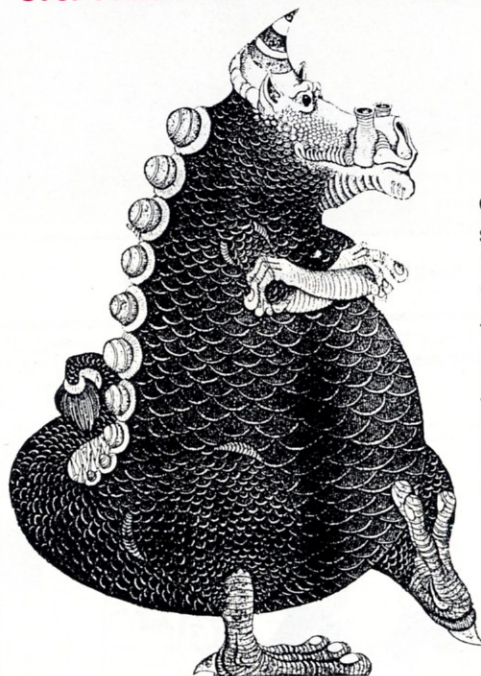
Stn Sgt Harry Lowery & Sgt Terry McCarthy.

small Contingent such as AUSTCIVPOL. However, it has been apparent that these members have already re-established friendships with persons, both in and outside the U.N., who were here when they served previously and any friendship, however old, has got to

be an advantage.

The 25th AUSTCIVPOL Contingent arrived in the middle of June and have settled in well. They have indicated that they are ready to uphold the Australian tradition of being sportsmen and are prepared to accept challenges from Contingents.

STOP PRESS***STOP PRESS***STOP PRESS***STOP PRESS***STOP



The staff at the Blue Beret recently received this very interesting photograph of a rare and little-known Antipodean creature. It is thought to be a member of the family Gigantus Extremis Bunyipus, which apparently lurks in the Australian Outback around the Billabongs! Can any of the Australian contingent tell us a bit more about this strange creature.....?

PARA'S REMEMBER

By: Capt J Shaw

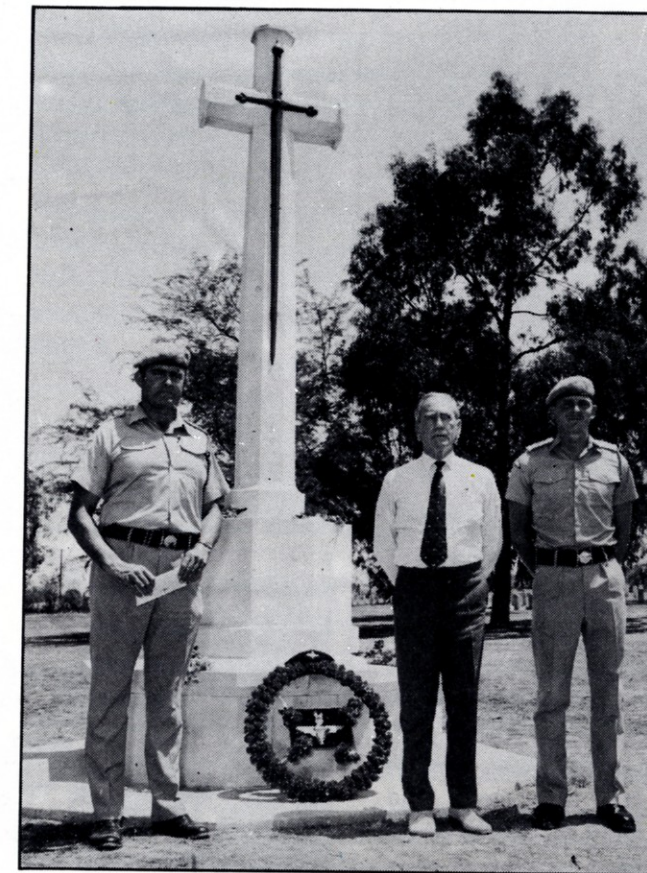


Photos by: Sgt A Beaton

Tours of Duty in Cyprus have not always been as they are today. Recently, a service was held in Sector Two that emphasized the changing nature of our role on this island.

In Wayne's Keep cemetery, near B18, lie approx 800 British servicemen, many having been killed in service in Cyprus since 1945. On Saturday July 5th, members of A Company Third Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, held a short Remembrance Service on behalf of the whole Battalion, honouring in particular the 14 members of the Regiment in the cemetery.

With minimum pomp but maximum impact, Maj David Keenan, OC A Coy led a service which emphasized the bonds between those who serve today and those who fell then, an idea embodied by Sgt Kevin Capon and Cpl Mark Hamill, whose uncles are buried in Wayne's Keep. After a lesson read by the CO, Lt Col CD Farrar-Hockley MC, 14 crosses were laid on the respective graves, and a central wreath was placed at the memorial by the youngest soldier in the company,



Capt R Lewis, Mr B Baker and Capt P Gibson attending the memorial service.



Pt Wayne Hughes places a wreath at the memorial.

Pt Wayne Hughes. One minutes silence and the Airborne Collect concluded a ceremony of quiet dignity and respect.

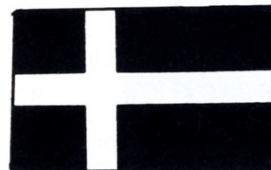
All were moved by the service. But for Bill Baker, manager of the HQ UNFICYP Officers Mess, the service had special impact. For he had attended the funerals of all fourteen men, in his capacity as a friend and ex CSM of HQ Coy, 3 PARA. He served in many theatres in the 1950's, but particularly in Cyprus and Suez, after leaving his old wartime 2nd Brigade on its disbandment and joining 16 PARA Brigade. His reminiscences of his service career gave many of us an insight of what life must have been like in those days. Conditions on the line have certainly improved-as the man largely responsible for these conditions in

Sector Two, QM 3 PARA, knows only too well. Capt (QM) Ron Lewis served in Cyprus first as a private in 1960 then as a Corporal in 1 PARA in the 1963/64 emergency UK Spearhead Force which, in April 1964, along with the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, became the first UN Force in Cyprus.

This ceremony was the starting point for Airborne Forces Day, an annual celebration for all members past and present. After the service more traditional festivities took place; talent shows, its a knockout competitions and all rank 'smokers'. Which guaranteed that many began Sunday in typical fashion "flipping like a kipper" with a massive hangover! It had been a good Airborne Forces Day!



SWEDISH MIDSUMMER DAY



Then they form a huge circle around the pole and dance the old traditional dances together.

And, of course, enjoy the pleasures of good food and drinks.

This year the Swedish contingent celebrated, Midsummer Holiday at various places on Cyprus. At the main camp in Larnaca, Goldfish Camp in Nicosia and in Camp Madeleine. The merriment that took place at Camp Madeleine was quite special as all the children from the local school took part, together with the Swedes and their children, in a truly UN spirit of humanity.



Dancing round the Maypole.

The celebration of Midsummer Holiday is not purely a Swedish tradition, but it is still exotic to many foreigners.

In Cyprus the Swedes are the foreigners but they keep the tradition in spite of the different circumstances.

When the midnight sun shines at its peak back home, they decorate and erect the special midsummer symbol, a wooden cross with two circles, a fertility symbol covered with flowers called the may-pole.



Everybody loves an icecream!

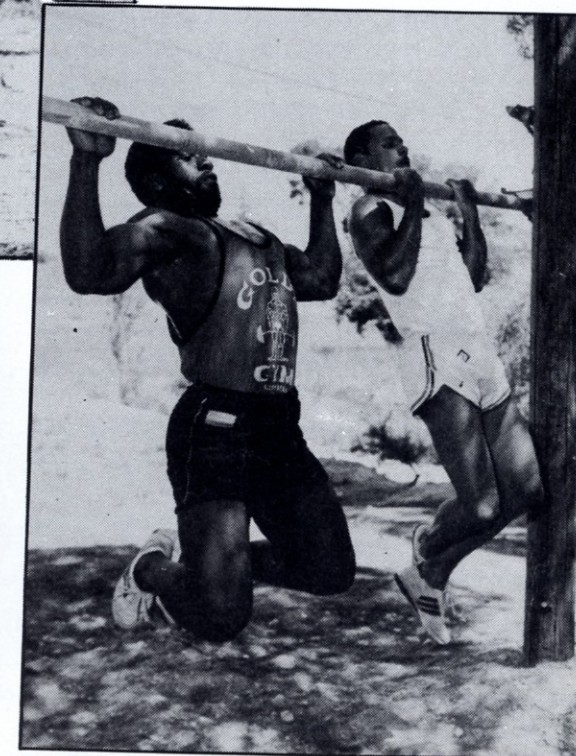
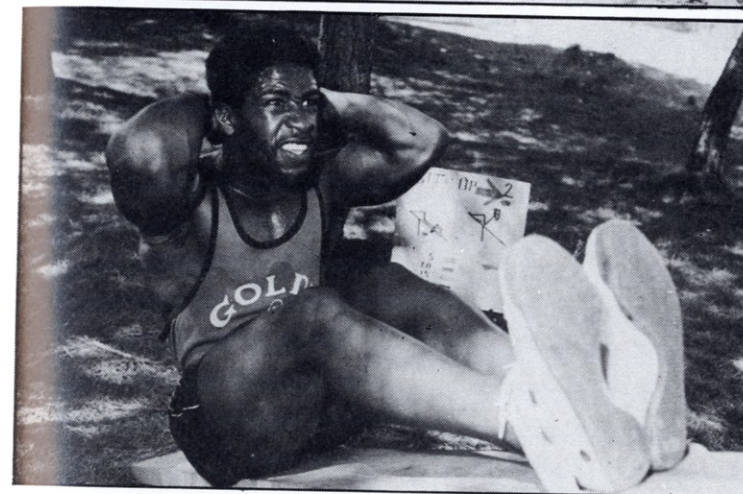
Then there was ice-cream for everybody and an artificial "fish pond" where the children could catch a bag of candy.

A real exotic day for everybody, in a climate somewhat hotter than in Sweden, but without the midnight sun.

By: Capt T Klaar



"Trimm Dich" - Your passport to success on the beaches.



Burn off those unsightly inches, build biceps, triceps, pectorals and whatever by running or walking, a 1500m course in the wood opposite the YMCA and by carrying out the 10 simple exercises you find on your route. A board at each stopping place shows the exercise you have to carry out and the number of repetitions we suggest, colour coded from green, for the not so fit, to black for the "muscle busters".



Soft Ball in Sector 4.



Top left: Q Coy at Bat.

Top right: Sgt J Graville shows how to hit the ball whilst wearing sunglasses!

Left: M/Cpl J McKay sliding into 2nd base.



BOMBS OR BUILDERS?

By: Lt T D Vaughan



Photos by: Sgt A Beaton



A Gurka plant operator attached to the troop starts the initial excavation.



Once the stone is dumped a grader is tasked to level the site in preparation for rolling and compacting.

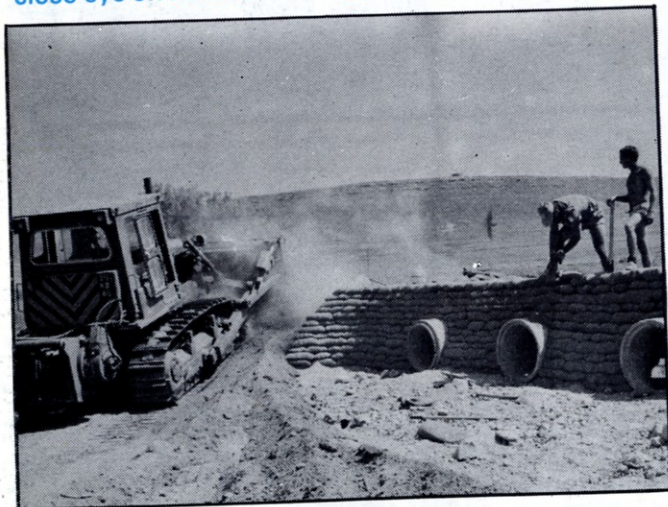
Op Lonline is here again. The troop of Royal Engineers have taken time off from their normal job of Bomb Disposal to come to Cyprus to repair and maintain the United Nations patrol track.

The troop are part of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) from Rochester, Kent and have two medics from 22 Field Hospital, Aldershot, attached to keep a close eye on heat related injuries.

The tasks involve the grading and resurfacing of 10 kms of patrol track and the installation of seven culverts and two pipe shelters.

The work is taking place in both the British and Swedish sectors with the Troop accommodated in Jubilee Camp. They are here for six weeks and will repair the worst areas of track along the route.

Op Lonline is an on going task and, like painting the Forth Road Bridge, the cycle of work is continuous. The large amount of work and the short time available has meant long working hours and a six day week. This is relieved, at least in part, by the occasional visit to Ayia Napa – where the scenery is more entertaining than the dust and desert plains of the Greenline!



The Plant Operators build the road and the Combat Engineers install the culverts and sandbag wingwalls.



Sapper Dave Bronchett puts the finishing touch on the road surface.