

THE BLUE BERET

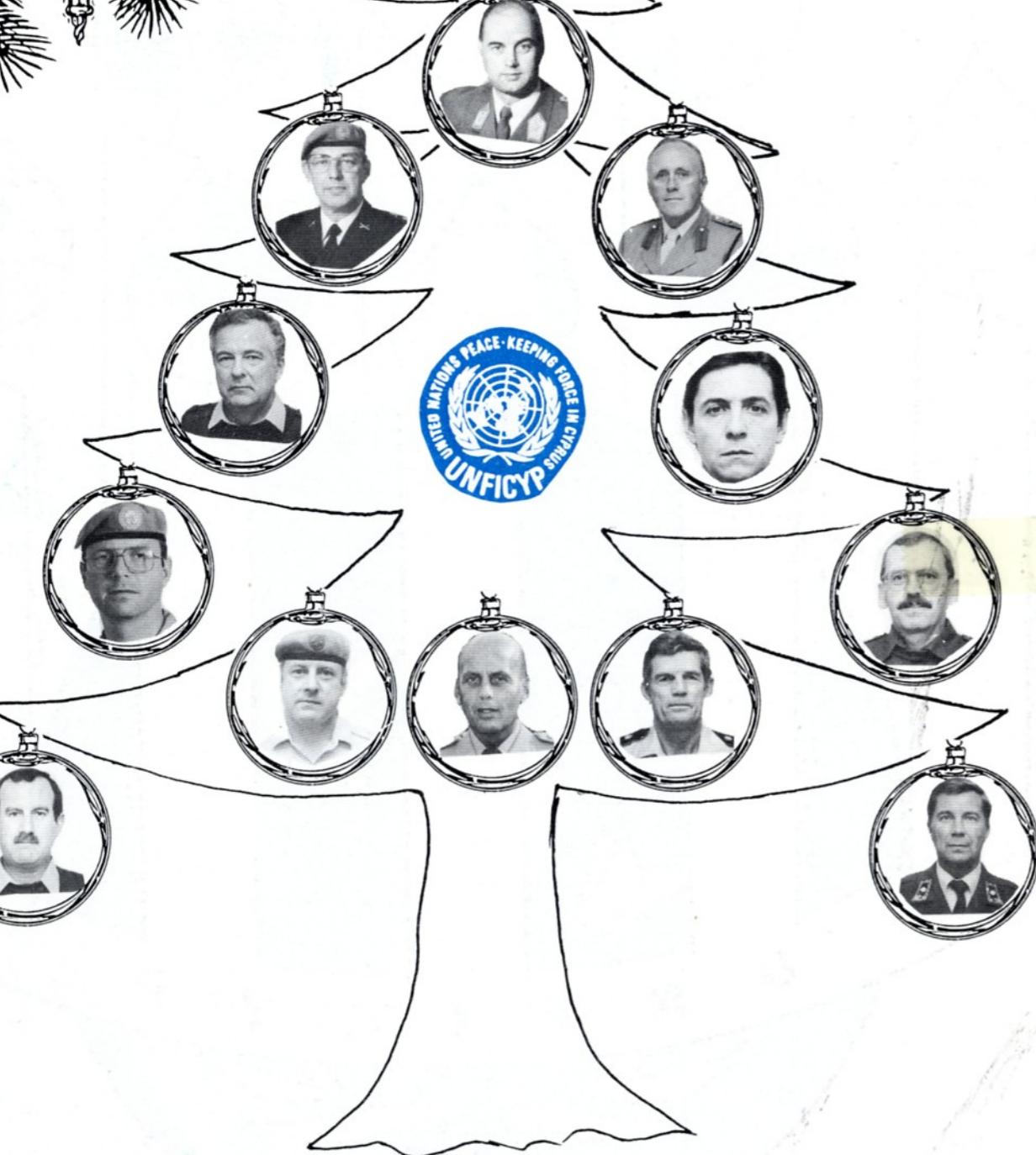


DECEMBER 1987





MERRY CHRISTMAS



from the Force Commander and Commanding Officers of UNFICYP



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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
WINNER OF THE
1987 CHRISTMAS
CARD COMPETITION
BY MISS ELAINE VEYSEY

THE BLUE BERET

Editorial

Christmas is approaching and 1987 is drawing to a close. A time for reflection. Our thoughts go out to our friends and families who cannot be with us at this time and share with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. It has been an eventful year: We have had to say farewell to all but a few of our Swedish friends who have left this island. At the same time we have extended our welcome to a greater number of Austrians and Canadians in the knowledge that the area that was the Swedish Sector is still in good hands.

We can also hold our heads a little higher because on the two occasions of the "Womens' Marches" UNFICYP soldiers showed that they are a professional and disciplined force. In what were tense and potentially dangerous situations our soldiers kept calm and did their duty as peacekeepers in a true reflection of the spirit of the United Nations.

From all of the editorial staff of the Blue Beret, we wish all our readers wherever they may be, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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CHRISTMAS DAY

IN MY COUNTRY



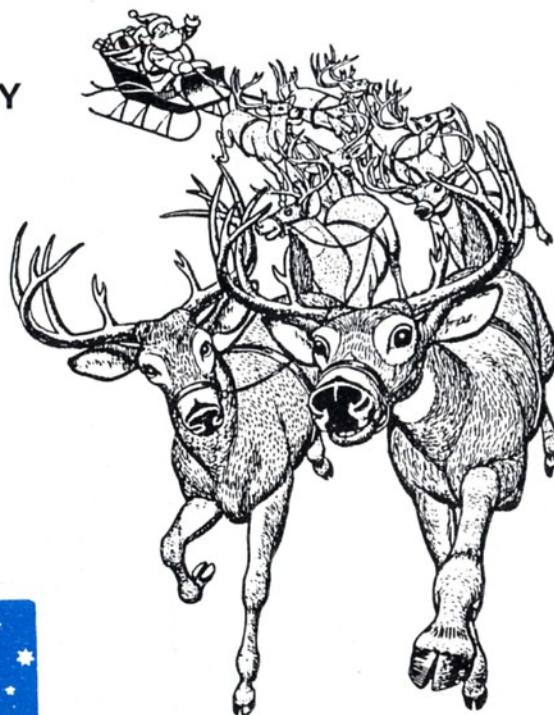
In Sweden the celebration of Christmas time is a very old tradition which goes back to the 11th century when Sweden became a Christian country.

Although Christmas in Sweden, as in all countries is celebrated as a feast to honour and remember the birth of Jesus Christ, many people in Sweden nowadays have forgotten the original purpose of the feast but still celebrate with all the old traditions.

Christmas in Sweden has its peak on Christmas Eve when people give one another gifts. Christmas Day in Sweden is a day when people try to be together. We also eat roast pork followed by rice pudding.

Almost every family has a Christmas tree in their home, a pine which is decorated with lights, coloured balls and flags.

Christmas is a time which brings light and warmth to our country and its people. At Christmas time, Sweden, at least the northern part of it, is covered with snow which also helps to bring light to a country where the sun is only up a few hours at this time of the year.



Christmas Day in Australia is celebrated in a variety of ways, from the traditional British Christmas lunch at home with changes to the menu to cater for the hot weather, to the barbecue on the beach with the required quantity of Foster's.

For many people it is the start of the summer holiday period which, coupled with the traditions practised by the many nationalities which make up the population of the country, means that Christmas Day can be quite varied, with a new experience every year.



Christmas in my country is like no other. The evergreens, draped in white, stand tall and proud within the sleeping forests. Smoke, rising from the chimneys, adds a touch of warmth to the landscape.

Tranquility reigns on this holy day while families gather to share in this special moment, based on the traditions of the past and present.



Christmas in Denmark is called the "Celebrations of hearts".

Preparations for most families commence several weeks before the actual day. Cleaning and decorating the house, baking biscuits, buying the Christmas tree and presents, writing Christmas cards to families and friends and preparing the Christmas menu.

On the 24th of December in the afternoon all the Danish churches fill and after the sermon we all go home for the big Christmas Dinner. Having eaten for some hours we dance around the Christmas tree, singing hymns and carols. Following this presents are given out. For the rest of the evening we read all the Christmas cards, children play with their toys and often it is late before they go to bed.

On Christmas Day most people visit their next of kin for the big Xmas lunch, and in fact most of the days between Christmas and New Year are used to pay visits to friends and relatives.

HALF-WAY POINT



We are approaching the half point of our tour in Cyprus! During these three months, a lot of activities took place in the u-R-ban Battery area. It goes as far as hearing comments such as: "What! Already three months gone..." That proves that everyone is living a well - balanced life between work and recreation. Our fears of falling into a routine work are eliminated by continuous activities such as: visits; organized sports and ceremonies.

Everyone in the u-R-ban Battery as well as their partners from other batteries understand the importance of our role in Cyprus. Everyone pays particular attention to the implication of the Canadian Contingent in its role of peacekeeping and with such an attitude, it is found to be much easier to work.



LtGen Anderson during his visit in Sector 4.

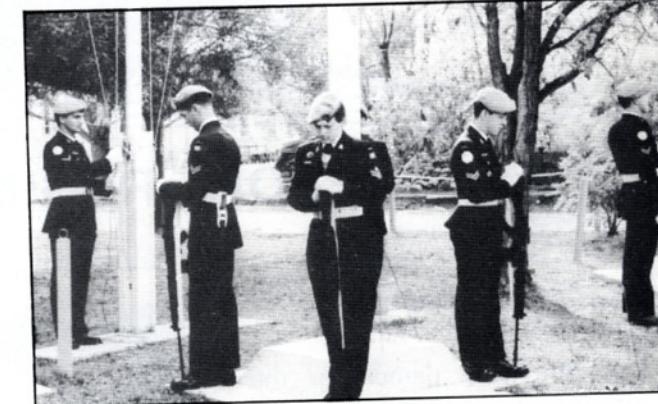
used its time on the Island fairly well to talk as much as possible with the gunners and they gave us an excellent briefing on the state of their study. The conference enhanced the importance of stress factor into combat situations.

Brigadier-General Wheatley, the Senior Serving Gunner Officer spent a few days with us in early

most of us have not experienced the horrors of battle. We understand however that thousands of Canadians gave their lives in order to defend our freedom and allow the establishment of the peaceful living that we now enjoy. On November 11th, a particular tribute was rendered to the memories of all soldiers who



A minute of Silence during which our flag was lift.



K RALC on parade.

November. Again, his visit of every OP was well appreciated by all of us. The night patrol through the city is certainly an event that will remain in our memories for a long time.

November cannot go by without mentioning the Remembrance Day ceremonies. We took part in the ceremony held at Wayne's Keep Cemetery and we held two parades of our own which were at Dhekelia and Wolseley Barracks. Fortunately,

who has a great amount of experience behind him. During that visit, he was accompanied by many Canadian journalists. They greatly appreciated the contacts with the gunners and it was also greatly beneficial for us. They certainly left with a very positive attitude towards the work accomplished here.

From the 5th to the 7th of November, we hosted the Combat Stress Study Team. This group coming from our army HQ has

sacrificed their lives for our country. The ceremony at Wolseley Barracks was held in the presence of BGen MacInnis, Comdt of the Canadian Contingent and Chief of Staff UNFICYP; and the Canadian Consul in Cyprus, Mr. Ioannides.

While all this is taking place, we concentrate our efforts on our number one priority which is to accomplish our mission of Peacekeeping with professionalism and pride.

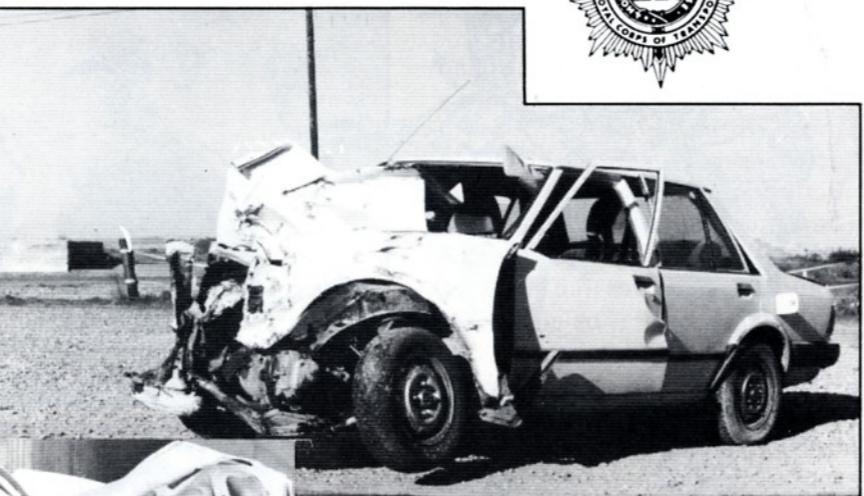
DON'T Become a statistic

As the Force approaches the Christmas season much time and effort will be spent arranging parties in messes, homes and clubs. For everyone's sake it is vital that arrangements are also made to avoid the temptation to drink and drive; to do otherwise is irresponsible. All units and contingents should arrange some form of safe driving and anti drink/driving presentation to get the message across to all their



soldiers. To assist in this, a very good road safety video tape is available for loan from the Tpt Sqn as is a "seat belt convincer" (a machine to demonstrate the effectiveness of wearing a seat belt in the event of an accident). In addition it is intended to send out posters and pamphlets for display throughout the Force.

DRIVE DEFENSIVELY



SUPPORT REGIMENT FOOTBALL



By: Cpl P Millington

The qualifying games for the competition, held on 23rd November, were all played to a high standard, with all sides closely matched. In fact the only possible 'run away' victory was that of the Workshops over the 60 Sqn RCT 'B' team, with a score of 4-0.

Anyway, after some intense competition from the Ordnance/Flight detachment and the Signals, the finalists emerged as the HQ and 60 Sqn 'A' team.

The result of the final, played on the following day, was by no



The winning team - 60 Sqn RCT 'A' Team.

means a foregone conclusion. After an early goal from the RCT in the first half, it was hard to say which way things would go, but their superior striking power in

the second half of the game brought in four more goals, despite two spectacular scores from HQ, leaving the RCT with a 5-2 goal victory.



GOOD OLD BOOZE

"A short reminder of what they will be missing from 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment with our best wishes to 1st Battalion The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment".

The Christmas programme for a typical infantry battalion with explanatory notes:-

Dec 21st 0900 ALLOCATION OF CHRISTMAS DUTIES

(Well that solves the problem of whether to go to the parents or the in-laws this year!).

Dec 22nd 1200 SGTS TO THE OFFICERS MESS FOR DRINKS

(Gentlemen when I say its time to leave I don't want to find any of you hiding under the billiards table!).

2000 SGTS MESS CHRISTMAS DRAW

(Sergeant Major - why are all the guests raffle tickets a different colour?)

Dec 23rd 1000 BATTALION CAROL SERVICE

(RSM and Provost staff unsuccessfully trying to ensure correct words are sung to hymns)

1930 ALL RANKS CHRISTMAS DANCE

(Sir, I think you're the worsht/besht platoon commander in the regiment/army/world/(hic!)

Dec 24th 1400 CHRISTMAS EVE "ITS A KNOCKOUT" COMPETITION

(Ridiculous games played by people in even more ridiculous costumes enjoyed only by audience or participants if they are not sober)

1900 CAROL SINGING AROUND THE MARRIED QUARTERS

(Families huddled in darkened houses hoping everyone thinks they are out)

Dec 25th 0700 "GUNFIRE" SERVED BY THE OFFICERS AND SERGEANT TO THE SOLDIERS

(Disgusting black mug full of tea/rum or coffee/brandy left untouched by young soldiers who don't drink spirits and would rather stay in bed)

1230 CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE COOKHOUSE (Food fight!)

ALL IN ALL YOU ARE PROBABLY BETTER OFF STAGGING ON IN B40



WHICH I DRANK!

I had 12 bottles of whisky in my cellar and my wife told me to empty the contents of each and every bottle down the sink - OR ELSE!!...

So I said I would, and proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I extracted the cork from the second bottle and did likewise, with the exception of one glass, which I drank.

I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle and emptied the good old booze down the sink, except a glass, which I drank.

I pulled the cork from the fourth sink and pulled the bottle down the glass, which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink out of it and poured the rest down the glass.

I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle.

I pulled the next cork out of my throat, poured the sink down the bottle and drank the glass.

Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour.

When I had emptied everything, I steadied the house with one hand and counted all the bottles and corks and glasses with the other, which were twenty nine. To be sure I counted again when they came by and I had seventy four - and as the house came by I counted them again, and finally I had all the houses and bottles and corks and glasses counted except one house and one bottle....



THE 1ST BATTALION

THE KINGS OWN ROYAL BORDER REGIMENT

The 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment are preparing to begin a six month tour of duty with the United Nations in Cyprus in December 1987. The Battalion is currently based at Meeanee Barracks, Colchester in Essex.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment is the direct descendant of three famous regiments; the 4th, the 34th, and the 55th Regiments of Foot. The 4th of Foot, or The King's Own Royal Regiment was raised from men of The Royal English Regiment by King Charles II on July 13th 1680. The 34th of Foot, which later became The Border Regiment, was raised on 12th February 1702 under King William III. In 1755, the 55th Regiment of Foot was formed in Stirling, Scotland.



The photograph shows the 'French Drummers' parading the captured drums of the 34^{eme} Regiment de Ligne.

In 1688 when William of Orange landed at Torbay, the first regiment to go over to the new King was the 4th of Foot. For this the Regiment was awarded the unique distinction of wearing the Lion of England as its badge. In 1703 the Regiment became part of the Royal Regiment of Marines and during this period took part in the capture of Gibraltar and of Barcelona.

ARROYO DAY



The photograph shows the French Drums and Drum Major's Mace of the 34^{eme} Regiment de Ligne being trooped on Arroyo Day. Arroyo Day, which falls on 28th October, was the Regimental Day of the Border Regiment. Arroyo Dos Molinos is a small village in Spain where a unique battle took place on 28th October 1811 during the Peninsula War. The British 34th of Foot in the course of the battle took the surrender of the French 34^{eme} Regiment de Ligne. The Battle resulted in such a complete victory for the predecessors of the Border Regiment that they were able to capture intact the Mace and Drums of the French regiment.



FRENCH DRUM MAJOR

During the war of Austrian Succession, the 34th of Foot fought at the Battle of Fountenoy and played so conspicuous a part in covering the retreat of the Army that it was awarded a laurel wreath. This is the only case in the history of the British Army of such a distinction being awarded for a defeat in battle.

In the Peninsula, both the 4th



The photograph shows the soldiers of Burma company being presented with roses. St George's Day was the Regimental Day of the King's Own Regiment and when it was amalgamated with the Border Regiment in 1959 to form the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the day continued to be celebrated.



the French Drum Major on Arroyo Day.

ST GEORGES DAY

and 34th served with distinction. At the Battle of Arroyo Dos Molinos, fought on the 28th October 1811, the 34th found themselves fighting their French opposite number, the 34^{eme} Regiment de Ligne. In a total victory the French Drums and Drum Major's mace were captured and to this day the original drums are paraded on the anniversary of the Battle.

In 1881, on the introduction of the Cardwell Army Reforms, The King's Own became The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) and the 34th and 55th were joined under the title of The Border Regiment. Both Regiments played major parts in the South African Wars, gaining many Battle Honours.

During the Great War, the two regiments had 18 battalions which fought in France, Flanders, Italy, Mesopotamia, Gallipoli and Macedonia. A total of one hundred and forty three Battle Honours were awarded and 13 VCs were won by the men of the two Regiments.

In the Second World War, the 1st Battalion The King's Own became the first British infantry battalion to fly into battle for the defence of Habbaniya. In 1943, the 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment took part in the airborne assault on Sicily for which the battalion was awarded the right to wear a glider badge on its uniform. September 1944 saw the same battalion taking part in the epic landings at Arnhem, while the 2nd Battalion, The King's Own and the 4th Battalion, The Border Regiment were involved in the Chindit campaign.



The photograph shows Private Freeman of Arnhem Company in front of his section during the recent exercise in Canada.

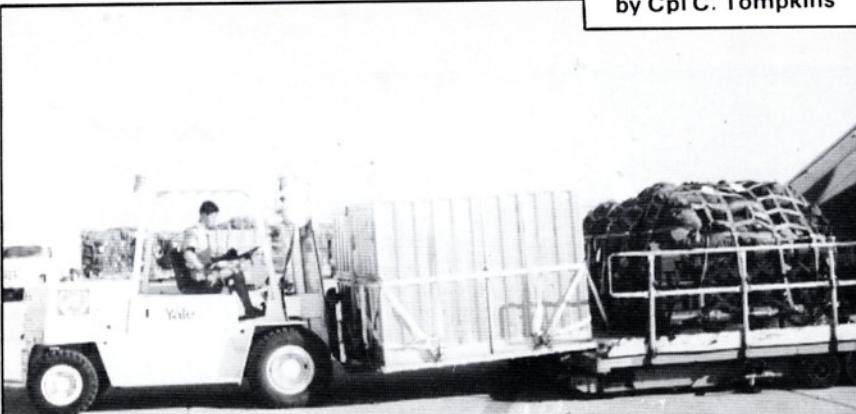
Since amalgamation in 1959, the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment has served in West Africa, Bahrain, Aden, Cyprus and Northern Ireland, where it has completed six short operational tours and two longer residential tours. The battalion is looking forward to its six month tour of duty with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force.



THE BIG MOVE



by Cpl C. Tompkins



The 48th rotation of Canadian Troops in and out of the Cyprus theatre began on the 29th of August. A total of 170 and 12,000 lbs of baggage were dealt with twice, once for the incoming personnel and once for the outbound passengers. The work is backbreaking as the bellies of the Boeing 707 aircraft are only four feet high. Unloading is relatively easy as the baggage only has to be pulled free and tossed out to eager hands. The strenuous part is the reloading where kit bags in excess of 60lbs have to be lifted and packed into tiny spaces.



The Boeing 707 shown from the front. Considerable activity surrounds each flight.

The Movements Staff, affectionately known as MOVCON, consisting of Capt Charles Dussault, Sgt Andy Robicheau, MCpl Robert Gordon and Cpl Craig Tompkins were assisted by 4 members from 5 Air Movement Unit Lahr, West Germany. WO Bob Popwell, Sgt Don Lloyd, MCpl Bob Andrews and MCpl Clement Robitaille invaluable as their experience helped to overcome various difficulties.

The greatest obstacle was that of pallet buildup. Thirteen of Paul Bunyon's (large steel containers packed with unit equipment) had to be placed on large pallets measuring 108 by 88 inches.

Slight readjustments were necessary as considerable unaccompanied baggage had to be made room for. A total of 120,000 lbs of freight was processed for the freighter.

The 2nd flight, main 1 was also successful. Again a full load was handled both in and out. As the aircraft roared down the runway we thought we could hear jubilant cheers from the "Van Doos".

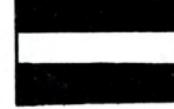
The day of the freighter saw us quite busy. The aircraft touched down approximately one hour early catching the Move Team just a little off-guard. Soon enough though, freight was rolling onto giant Scissors (a fancy aircraft hoist) and being broken down for



Mcpl Rob Gordon tagging and weighing baggage. Accurate assessment is important for aircraft weight and balance.

the trip to BBC, Nicosia. Reloading was done in near record time. This aspect of the rotation was the most labour intensive, for some of the 5e RALC fellows must have been shipping their artillery pieces.

The final flight on the 15th of September saw a half load, of only 85 personnel. Things were progressing quite nicely with the 707, when the UN flight 303 from Lahr arrived late, minutes behind the Boeing. A change in tasks was made and both aircrafts were processed handily. Special thanks to both the Transport Drivers from BBC and the Civil Aviation Department at Larnaca International Airport.



CHANGE OF COMMAND

IN AUSCON

One year has gone and Lt Col Grobming now looks back on his command of the Austrian Contingent. The most important task within his tour was the redeployment of the Swedish

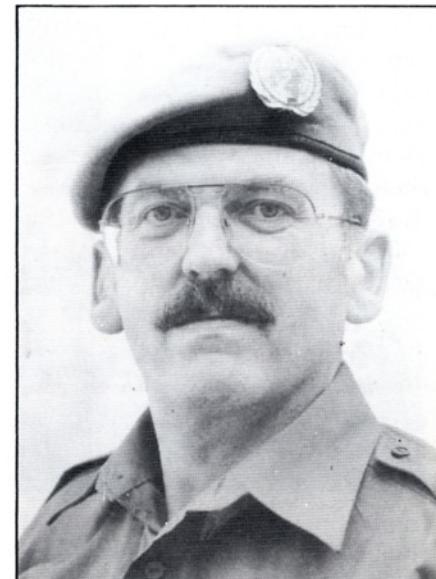


Lt Col Grobming

Sector which was carried out in a very professional and circumspect manner, thus ensuring a well organised and prepared battalion was handed over to the new Commander, Lt Col Johann Schipper on 12 November.

Lt Col Schipper was born on 20 July 1939 and joined the army in 1958. In 1964 he left the Austrian Military Academy as a Lieutenant. Afterwards he served in several military functions in Vienna within a sigs Bn. He started as DepOIC, later he was OIC, Adjt and PersOffr, SenLogs Offr and at last, Cdr of a Signals Battalion in Vienna and SigsOffs of an Austrian Armoured Infantry Division. In 1973, 1975/76 and 1978/79 he served in the Austrian Contingent on Cyprus.

In his spare time, Lt Col Schipper is very interested in history, but he enjoys sports, especially football. He is going to



New Commander Lt Col Schipper serve with UNFICYP for one year. Personally he feels honoured at being a Cdr of peacekeepers within a respected organisation and participating in meeting the mission of the Force.

SP REGT CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION



Cfn Mark Barber of UN Workshops REME was the outright winner. Here he is seen receiving the winners medal from Lt Col Pyman.



Lt Col Pyman starting off the field on a 5 mile course.



GOLF

HQ WINS THE UNFICYP TEAM TROPHY

The golf season got off to a fine start on Thursday 19 November with the annual 30 hole UNFICYP Golf Championship held at the Joint Services Golf Club Dhekelia. The competition was sponsored by Ballantine's Scotch Whiskey, the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Service and Pharos Travel Ltd.

The format was Par golf; a challenging and SKILLFUL form of play requiring the competitor to equal or better a fixed score at each hole. If he fails, he loses the hole and goes "down".

In addition to the individual event this meeting introduced the team "prize", a shield to be retained at HQ UNFICYP and contested annually. Teams consisted of up to four golfers with the best two scores to count.

Twenty eight competitors gathered at dawn for breakfast at the Club House. By 0745 hours the first 3-Ball match was tackling the "easy" 140 yard par 3, first hole. Only one player won the hole. Nineteen went "down". Although the weather conditions were perfect it would clearly be a difficult day for most competitors.

At lunchtime, after 18 holes, Mr Nolan (HQ UNFICYP) was in the lead at 1 down. 2Lt Charlton (Sp Regt B) followed on 3 down. These

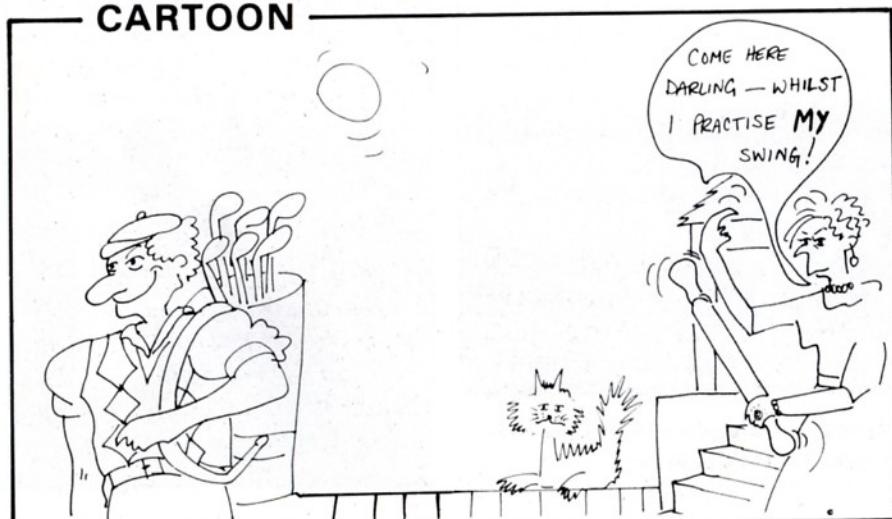


Capt Elsam on the first tee. He won the hole and went on to win the Individual Event. With him is Mr Nolan, an early leader and Sgt Baldock who had a strong finish. They both figured in a 4-way tie for second place.

two headed a group of twelve all proving capable of winning the individual event.

During the afternoon round of 12 holes there were casualties as players took risks as they attempted to win holes. Capt Hertel (Sector 1) fell away sharply, as did MCPL Parkin (UN MP Coy), WO 2 Rawson (Sector 2) and LCpl Butcher (Sp Regt A). The latter being penalised on the 19th Brown for putting with the Flag Stick in - and the Committee watching!

CARTOON



As the afternoon round reached the final stages there was sparkling golf from Sgt Baldock (Sp Regt A). He won the last three consecutive holes to finish in a 4-way tie for second place at 3 down. Maj Egglestone (HQ UNFICYP) jointed him by winning the last two holes. 2Lt Charlton stayed at 3 down by winning the last hole and Mr Nolan slipped back also to finish at 3 down. Final positions were decided on an count-back basis.

Capt Elsam (Sector 2) had been the only competitor to win the first hole. This advantage was realised much later in the day. Having been 5 down at the 13th hole he got to 3 down by the 25th and by winning the 29th he went into the outright lead at 2 down. He secured the individual event for Sector 2 by halving the last hole.

Lower down the field a notable performance came from Sgt Ross (Sector 4) who jumped from 25th position (after nine holes and being 7 down) to finish at 9 down and in 14th position after 30 holes. LCpl Graham (Sp Regt C) won the longest drive competition. SSgt Hughes (also Sp Regt C) propped up twenty-seven competitors with the unforgettable score of 27 down (he was duly rewarded for keeping his sense of humour!).

In the Team Event HQ UNFICYP (Maj Egglestone and Mr Nolan) took a commanding lead after 9 holes and thereafter were never really threatened; they finished on 6 down. At one time the UN MP Coy (Sgt MacDonald and WO2 Major) were in second place but their challenge collapsed over the final 12 holes by losing 6 holes; they finished in 5th position on 15 down. Sp Regt A (Sgt Baldock and WO2 Burton) finished second with a combined score of 9 down. Sectors 2 (Capt



1987 UNFICYP

BOWLING

TOURNAMENT



The final results were:

First - Support Regiment 'A', with 1,958 pins

Second - HQ UNFICYP, with 1,919 pins

Third - Support Regiment 'B', with 1,750 pins

A good competition which was well-run on the day by Lt Pacquet of Sector 4 and WO1 (RSM) Biddle of Support Regiment, and well-supported by all bowlers.

Golf con't

Elsam and WO2 Rawson) and 4 (Capt Turgeon and Gnr Gagnon) had a tremendous match - Sector 4 were determined to master the intricacies of playing golf in Cyprus and went out in the afternoon to catch Sector 2's 4 hole lead.

Capt Turgeon played some aggressive golf. He came in 2 up over the last 12 holes and this rare sight of someone "beating the course" helped Sector 4 narrow the gap on Sector 2 who obliged by losing 2 holes and creating a tie for third place at 12 down.

For further information about UNFICYP Golf Society, the UNPA driving range, forthcoming fixtures and planned trip to Israel, contact: Captain Sketchley, UNFICYP Sp Rgt, Telephone Ext: 2410.

"KRAMPUS" - NIGHT

by Dr. Chr. RADL, Capt

Wintertime, that means snow, harsh winds, and icy cold nights. Our forefathers thought that the bad ghosts try to harm mankind by banishing the sun.

Anyway, these Germanic demons became the "Krampus", but what does this devil look like? He is not man nor animal, a coat covers his human body, and one leg is that of a horse. Two horns grow out of his forehead, and he has the ears of a donkey and a long red tongue. In his hands he is holding a rod and a heavy chain.

During the night of the 5th of December he rushes around the villages, frightening and punishing the bad kids while St. Nicolaus distributes presents among the good children.



by Chr. ANDREOLLI, LCpl

Of course Krampus visited HQ UNFICYP too, but this year he was late. You want to know the reason? Well, he was so busy visiting the sectors.

BASE TOWN RAT OR LINE SWINE?

A little competitive spirit is always welcomed in any military unit and there is no exception in the Ferret Scout Car Squadron. However tension is mounting in Prince William Camp with, first of all the publication of "Rules for Line Troops" by Cpl Watson, which is reproduced below. This was rapidly followed by an artist's? (Cpl Stearne) impression of that familiar rodent, the "Base Town Rat". Fireworks and fur are expected to fly!

Rules for Conduct of Line Troops in Prince William Camp.

1. Any Line Troops caught having a good time will have disciplinary action taken against them.
2. Use of the snooker table for Line Troops is from 2359 to 0700hrs providing written permission has been gained 48hrs in advance.
3. Choice of videos and show times are not negotiable by Line Troops. However, as a concession, they may stand at the back.
4. Meal timings are flexible, they will take place when Line Troops are on patrol.
5. More than two people in the Ops Room at one time will be considered as an attempted coup.
6. Line Troops are not to use bar stools or soft chairs. For Line Troops the patio has been provided.
7. Line Troops are discouraged from helping Pete's Pizzas with his deliveries.
8. Line Troops, on their days off, may still do parades, runs and fatigues, especially when they have been working all weekend.
9. Raybans are permitted to be worn in uniform - as "Maverick". Goose says, "Wot's wrong with mirrors?".
10. Any breach of the above rules will result in the following fines:
 - a. 28 days - Ayia Napa.
 - b. 14 days - SHQ.
 - c. 1 day - Tiffy.

UNFICYP CHESS COMPETITION

Results from UNFICYP CHESS competition held by DANCON on the 24 of November 1987:



Sgt Steve Brown RAPC overall 9th is Capt of Sp Regt Chess Team. His team consisted of Cpl Lewis (overall 5th) and Cpl Long (overall 17th)

INDIVIDUAL:

1. 1 CPL T. SCHAKNER, AUSCON
2. KN E. E. MORTENSEN, DANCON
3. 1 PTE J. F. NIELSEN, DANCON

TEAM:

1. AUSCON
2. DANCON
3. SP. REGT



THE BASE TOWN RAT



By Cpl Stearne



CRAZY COPS



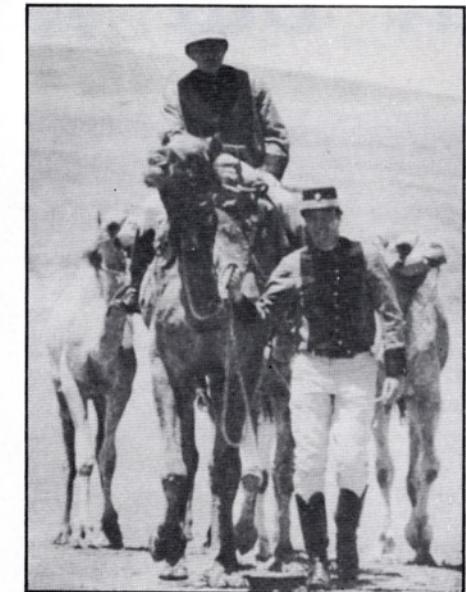
"They get better looking the more time you spend with them but there's nothing like the smell of their breath. Absolutely foul. They need a good orthodontist".

Camels were part of the SA Mounted Police for more than 70 years until four-wheel-drive vehicles took over. They were used for all-purpose police work at a dozen isolated stations, going on patrol for weeks at a time.

The camel units have a significant police and social history that has largely been forgotten. This expedition recognises that, and pays tribute to Aboriginal trackers, Afghan cameleers and the hardy settlers of Australia's red heart.

"We think we'll do 35 kms some days, 55 others, depending on stopovers and the camels themselves. We've already done a reconnaissance for the entire route, so we know we can do it in four months".

When asked, "How can you be sure of arriving in Adelaide at precisely 12.01 a.m.?" "This," declared Clyne smartly, "is a police operation".



Constable Robert Clyne leads a police colleague and their trusty mounts.

Their mounts - the female "camelus dromedarius (one hump)" - were caught and broken in especially for the expedition and were still roguish on departure.

The expedition honours the role of the police camel units which patrolled vast expanses of remote Central Australia from the 1880s to the early 1950s. It is being mounted by the police forces of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

The adventure involves ten camel riders, nine camels and a small back-up crew in three vehicles. According to Clyne, of the S.A. Police Department, he and the Territory's Constable, John White, are the only cops crazy enough to ride the whole way.

"Our logistical support is vital", said Clyne before setting out. "We've got to make sure the Eskies are kept full. I reckon we'll do four kilometres to the stubby. None of the breweries were interested in sponsoring us. What a pity".



NEW COMMANDER DANCON



The Commander of DANCON 48 is Lt Col Jens L. Bratsbjerg of the Jutland Engineer Regiment.

Lt Col Bratsbjerg graduated from the Army Academy in 1960, and was promoted to Lt Col in 1980. Until 1968, on entering the General Course, he saw field service, but as a General Staff Officer most of his postings since then have been different staff appointments.

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Merry
Christmas
To all our Readers



St Michael's

Nativity Play

