

# THE BLUE BERET



DECEMBER 1978



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Editorial Office: MPIO, HQ UNFICYP  
P.O.Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus.  
Telephone: Nicosia 64000, Ext. 6235

## editorial staff

### Managing Editor

Maj C B Mercer

### Contributing Editors

Auscon — Lt C Faltl  
Britcon — Rev R L S Keat  
Cancon — Lt G H MacDonald  
Dancon — Maj A Pedersen  
Swedcon — Mr P-J Reuterberg  
Sector 2 — Maj T Darwin, MBE  
Force Reserve — Capt B Brummitt  
84 Sqn Det RAF — FS P Lane  
Austcivpol — C Insp M Coyle

### Photography

Force Photographer — Sgt F P Statham  
Contingent photographers.

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 visits to places of interest are welcome.

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

This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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## on the cover

Members of Swedcon marching through the rich agricultural land of Cyprus when participating in the Cape Greco March.

# THE BLUE BERET



## Editorial

Well here is The Blue Beret in its new image.

As many of our readers will know, the editorial staff have been involved in a review of the format of the journal for some months past and a survey was carried out within contingents to discover what our readers wanted the journal to contain. We thank those who took the time to participate in the survey and particularly those who went to the trouble to make detailed suggestions. Maybe those readers who showed little interest in the survey may now find the contents more worthy of comment.

The journal exists primarily to provide a link between the different elements of this multi-national Force, enabling each nationality to learn more about the others. It also provides an official record of people and events in each contingent and in the headquarters, recording routine tasks, humanitarian acts, ceremonial and sporting activities. We feel the need is for the journal to be more personally orientated, picturing the members of the Force and giving a closer look at what they do.

In our efforts to improve the magazine we have for several issues been printing UN News to provide information on UN activities world-wide considered to be of interest to our readers. In this issue we have several additional new features; in "Out & About in Cyprus" our intention is to include details of places (such as historical sites, beauty spots, beaches and restaurants) and events of interest within the island, also in future editions we hope to be able to include a forecast of the latter. The continued appearance of cartoons will depend upon the availability of suitable material.

The Journal exists to cover the entire Force, if any element has not been covered it is simply because it hasn't submitted a contribution. If any reader feels that their organisation should appear they can rectify this themselves by putting pen to paper. Contributions are welcome from any member of the Force, the prime requirement being that they should be newsworthy and of interest to the Force in general. Contributions should be typed and any illustrations, photographic or otherwise, must be of adequate quality.

The editorial staff now await their readers' reaction with bated breath. We hope that the changes we have made make this journal more interesting and more attractive.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

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# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S COMPANY



The right flank company of First Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment was formally designated The Duke of Edinburgh's Company on 1 July 1978. On 1 July, The Duke of Edinburgh's Company participated in its first major ceremonial function forming a guard for the First Battalion's exercising of the Freedom of the City of Ottawa. Based in the Regimental Home Station in London, Ontario, the Company is now serving as part of the 8th Canadian Hussars Contingent in Cyprus. It is presently commanded by Major G.R. Caffery of Stoney Creek, Ontario.

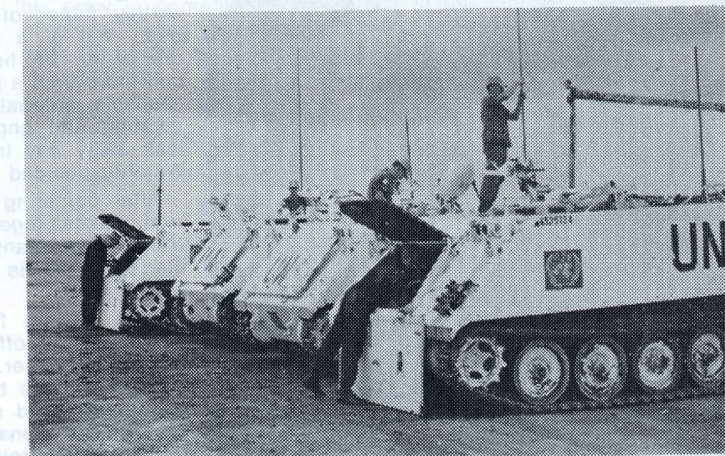
The company was formed on the suggestion of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Canadian Regiment, during his visit in 1977. The intention was to have a designated company similar to "The Queen's Company" maintained by the Grenadier Guards and "The Prince of Wales' Company" of the Welsh Guards. Approval for the formation was sought and received from National Defence Headquarters, and the three other Commanding Officers of the Regiment, and from the Colonel-in-Chief himself. This designation does not affect the company's composition, role or strength. It does, however, provide a "personal" company for HRH The Prince Philip which, it is hoped, will in future be affiliated with "The Queen's Company" and "The Prince of Wales' Company".

The company's employment, customs and so on will develop over the years, however some suggestions were made at the outset. It was proposed that whenever The Duke of Edinburgh visited Canada, his company should supply an equerry and guard of honour if at all possible. The company would have its own quick march music and a distinctive pennant. Also HRH The Prince Philip would be informed of the names of officers and warrant officers serving in his company and kept up to date on major activities.

For the first four months of its existence, The Duke of Edinburgh's Company was involved in training and administrative preparation for Cyprus. Most of the company had not yet had the opportunity to serve in a UN peacekeeping operation, and looked forward to the prospect of a six month tour in Cyprus.

On arrival in Cyprus, The Duke's Company took over Camp Maple Leaf and became operationally responsible for the western area of Sector Four. After a detailed handover with B Company, 1 PPCLI, the company settled into the routine of manning its 6 OPs and otherwise fulfilling the task of peacekeeping.

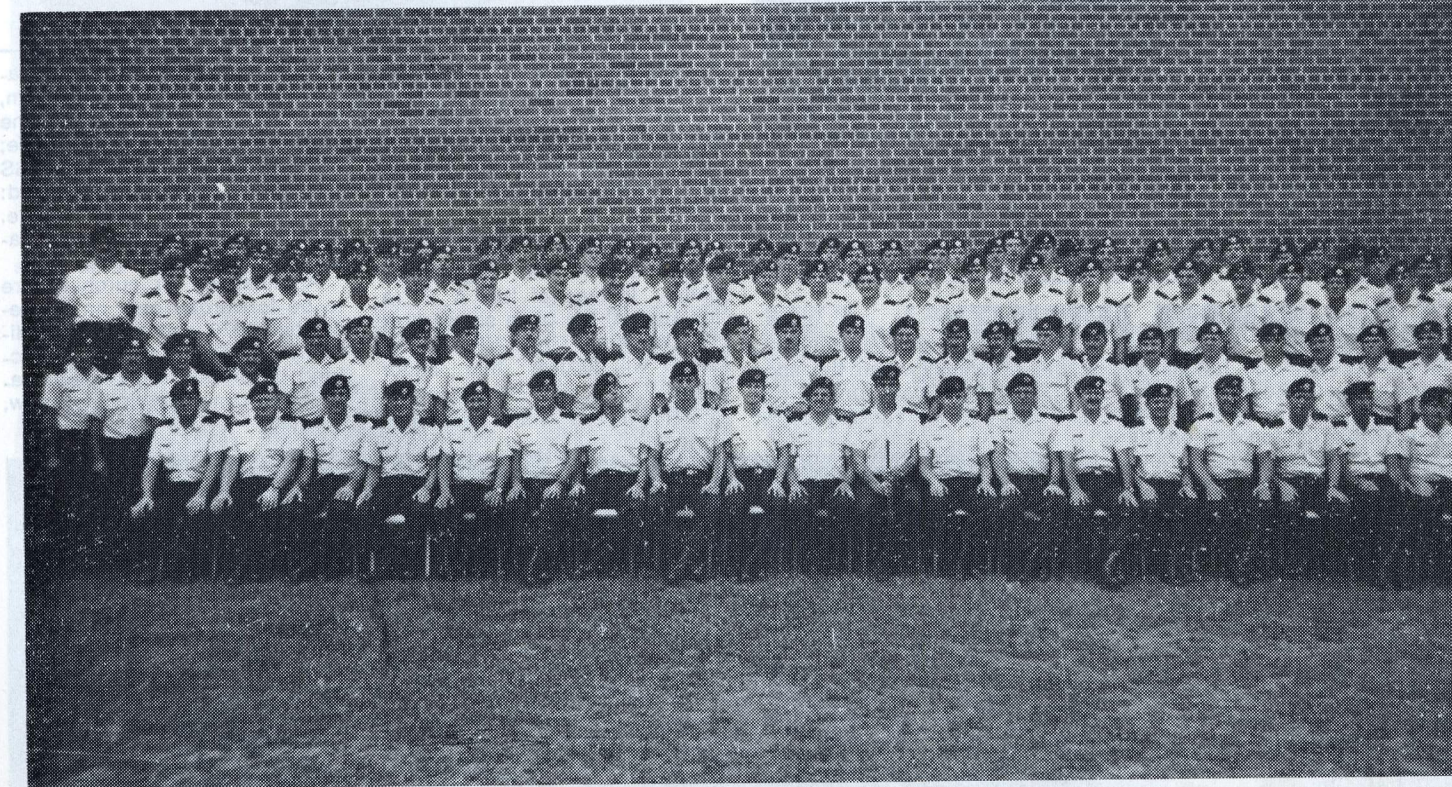
On its return to Canada in April it is anticipated that the company will rejoin 1 RCR to participate in individual and collective training in preparation for a major formation exercise in June. No doubt the experience gained in Cyprus will show in the Duke's Company's performance in a more conventional infantry role.



Drivers of the Duke's Coy doing maintenance on their M113 Personnel Carriers, as mobility is one of the many requirements in the Service of Peace.



A smooth running Coy Office is a busy, but happy one. A number of other good qualities are also evident within this Coy Office.



Members of the Duke of Edinburgh's Coy pose for the camera just prior to leaving Canada for UN service in Cyprus.

# OUR CHAPLAIN'S NEW PARSONAGE

# AUSCON



## NEWS

Our chaplain Kurat Konrad Waldhör, had a late calling to the priesthood. Like Ho'y Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord, his earlier work had been that of a carpenter. His humble room in one of the 'tin' huts at Auscon resembled a monk's cell more than a parsonage. Unfortunately, the only available material was reserved for a new company building and engineers were engaged on this task every day from dawn until sunset. So Kurat Waldhör decided to build a new parsonage himself.

After gathering discarded timber and corrugated iron sheets, together with the residue of material from the company building, he borrowed tools and started work. He worked alone everyday for about two months.

After all the final finishing touches had been completed, the official opening ceremony took place on 23 November. At this ceremony the following "history" of the building's construction was prominently displayed on a poster:

(1) Time of Construction. This building was erected during the reign of three Popes, Paul VI, John Paul I and John Paul II. The secular supervision was carried out by COMAUSCON, Lt Col W Fritz, and the 2IC, Lt Col K. Pokorny, who became acting CO the day after the opening ceremony.

The detailed control of the whole operation was carried out by the Camp Commandant, "Janitor" Konecny.

(2) Planning. The building was designed by the pontifical architect and cathedral-builder "Conradinus Audisilva", who also supervised the building construction.

(3) Construction. It took 200 hours of hard work to complete the building. A vote of thanks was passed to the engineers and their profession chief, the Economics Officer, Lt Schauer, for the provision of tools and delivery of material.

(4) Material. The majority of the construction material was definitely antique and therefore the building qualifies for conservation.

The pictures show: above — the official opening by Lt Col W Fritz (left), the EO Lt Schauer (right) and the architect "Conradinus Audisilva" with the plan (centre); below — our Chaplain Konrad Waldhör in the loggia of the new parsonage; on the right — the "Parsonage warming party", with members of the parish partaking of free beer, cigarettes and snacks.



of all CO AUSCON, Lt Col W Fritz, (right) and MTO, Lt H Holzer-Söllner, (left) in company with the workshop crew; and then the happy smiling Capt G Grondinger starting on his test run.

Unfortunately a slight error occurred with the registration plate. Instead of 'UN A 1' (A for Austria) the plate shows "UN 1". We hope UNFICYP and the SRSG will forgive this minor error!!!

Herewith a little technical

data for the prospective purchaser: Overall length 207.6 cm, width 99.3 cm (identical with the wheelbase). One wheel drive; 0.78 HP. Two independent SS (shoe sole) brakes. Top speed: depends on the local incline. Fuel: Austrian wine — tank capacity, 1 gallon.

Applications for purchase are to be forwarded only on 31 December 1978 and addressed directly of AFC (Auscon Car Factory) on proper forms in triplicate. Limited numbers: book now, pay later!



## SIMPLE MOBILITY

An event similar to but more significant than the Automobile Exhibition of Turin took place in Camp Duke Leopold V on 10 November 1978. The New Austrian vehicle, the so-called "Grondomobile", was presented to the public for the first time. The car was named after its first owner and test driver, Capt Grondinger, our Quartermaster II. Capt Grondinger had aroused the pity of all members of Auscon as the result of his ownership of a 22-year old Morris, so our workshop decided to present him with the first Austrian monoposto-stock-car.

The photographs were taken

# NEW ACCOMMODATION

In addition to their normal daily routine tasks the Auscon engineers have been involved in their largest construction task since moving into Camp Duke Leopold V. This has been the construction of new accommodation to house a full rifle company.

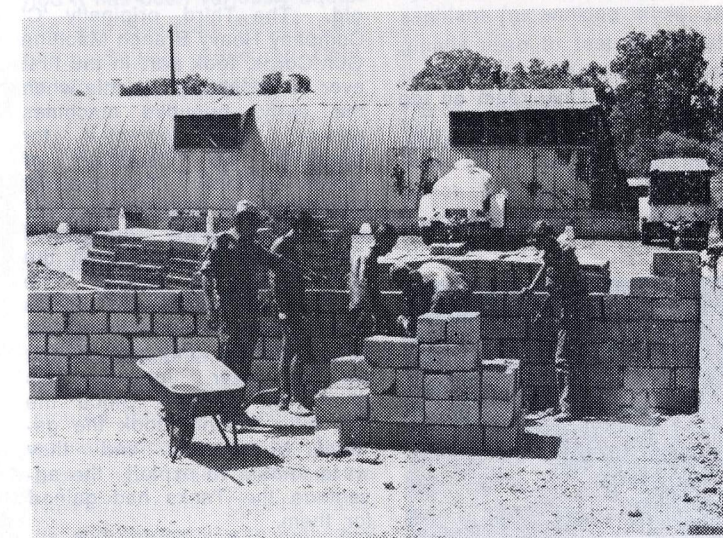
Under the supervision of the Engineer Officer, Lt J Schauer, the first of three planned buildings will be finished by the middle of December. The 25 m long and 11 m wide building was started on 21 August 1978 and the Gable Ceremony, an Austrian custom still maintained in villages, took place on 7 November 1978. This ceremony marks the finish of the brickwork and is the placing of a small hemlock tree on the ridge of the building. EO Lt J Schauer then handed over the unfinished construction to the new owner, Company Commander Capt P Bayer. The foreman and

right-hand man of the EO was WO II Hofer, who has to supervise his crew in completing the interior of the building which consists of eleven living rooms, bathrooms, showers and toilets. A total of 6,000 bricks were used in the construction which took less than four months.

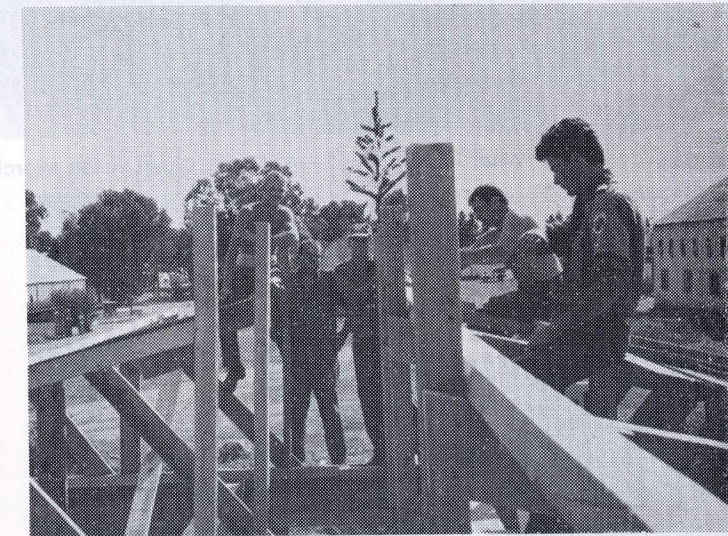
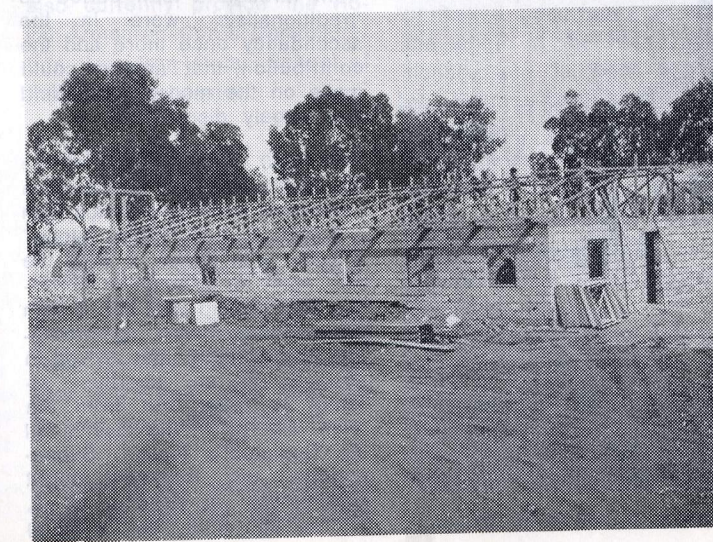
"Moving in day" is expected to be 15 December — a highly desirable Christmas present for the soldiers concerned!



The engineers working on the foundations beneath the pitiless Summer sun.



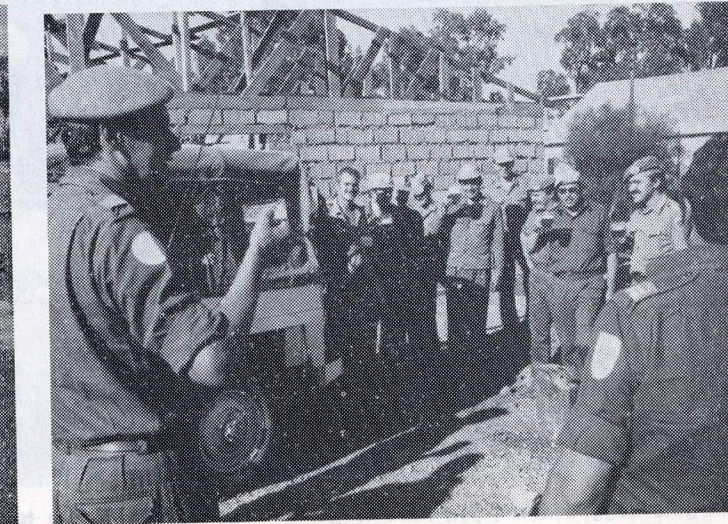
The walls rise true to plan. The lower picture shows the bare shell on 7 November.



The erection crew position the traditional ridge tree, decorated with coloured strips of paper.



The Gable Ceremony was attended by CO AUSCON, Lt W Fritz, (below) and at the same time (above) the building was handed over by the EO Lt J Schauer to Capt P Bayer for a symbolic price of a gallon of beer.





What it's all about. A 3 RTR Chieftain on exercise in BAOR.

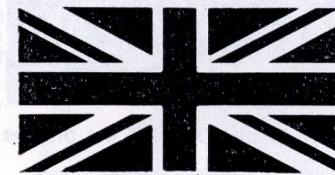


To the left: Only room on top for one. LCpl Proctor and Tpr Rice start a patrol in a Ferret of Force Reserve.



If it gets bogged down, you have to get out and push". B Sqn tank crew in action in Germany.

## BRITCON NEWS



At 1200 hours on Thursday, 14 September 1978 B Sqn, 3 RTR officially took over from A Sqn, 9/12L as Force Reserve. The Squadron finds the prospect of six months in Cyprus infinitely preferable to the dubious delights of Salisbury Plain and the rigours of another English winter. Indeed, it is also a welcome break for us to lock away our usual 'metal monsters' in favour of 'Dinky toys', albeit for a short period.

The Royal Tank Regiment (comprising 1, 2, 3 and 4 RTR) is by British Army standards a new regiment, being 62 years old. The Third, originally 'C' Company Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps, took part in the first ever successful tank battle when the early, primitive machines showed their potential for breaking the stalemate of trench warfare. This was at Cambrai in November 1917 when the newly designated Tank Corps broke through the German line en masse! The resultant victory caused church bells to be rung throughout Britain for the only time during the Great War. Jubilation was short-lived however since the five mile advance took the generals by surprise and they were unable to exploit the advantage the Tanks had gained for them.

Between the wars the Royal Tank Corps, as it had become, went through a lean period as 'traditionalists' were in the ascendancy once more and the contribution that armour could make on the modern battlefield was largely discounted.

In 1940, at the height of the German invasion of France, the Third was rushed to Calais with a hastily formed 'Green Jacket' Brigade with orders to hold the port open for evacuation purposes and link up with the British Expeditionary Force. Unfortunately, the Germans had arrived in strength and an abortive attempt to break out from the town resulted in the loss of all the Regiment's tanks. Subsequently, the Regiment fought continuously in Greece, Libya, Tunisia and Sicily before being

# B The

## UNIT FEATURE

# SQN 3RTR Force Reserve

shipped back to UK in time for the Normandy invasion. Having advanced through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany the Third had reached Flensburg on the day of the German surrender.

Since 1945, the Third (or detachments thereof) has been stationed in UK, Hong Kong, Malaya, Germany, Sharjah and Cyprus, with several tours in Northern Ireland thrown in. During this thirty three year period it has been variously equipped with Sherman, Comet, Centurion, Saladin Armoured Cars, Chieftain and Scimitar.

For the past two years, we have been at Tidworth in Hampshire as the UK Armoured Regiment with three squadrons of Chieftain and one of Scimitar. From this base, the Regiment has performed an amazing variety of tasks in a number of different roles ranging from armoured reconnaissance to infantry. Squadrons have been detached to Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Canada and Germany with individual troops visiting Kenya and Norway. In addition to this we also currently provide the Royal Armoured Corps Demonstration Squadron at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

B Squadron itself has interspersed its tank training on Salisbury Plain and in Canada with assistance to reserve units, participation in equipment trials, two months fire-fighting in Edinburgh, flood-relief in the West Country and now, temporary conversion to a new role for our tour with UNFICYP.

Many of the friends we have made in UNFICYP have asked

questions about various peculiarities of dress which which are unique to the Royal Tank Regiment. Here are a few answers: the green flash on the epaulette denotes the Third, each of the other three Regiments has its own colour; when not serving with UNFICYP we wear the black beret and were the Regiment which first introduced this item of headgear to the British Army; in Service Dress, a First World War tank arm badge is worn on the right upper sleeve, officers carry an asphlant (or walking stick), originally used to test the ground in front of tanks in the quagmires of Flanders; and when operating in tanks our soldiers wear distinctive black coveralls which are both practical and exclusive to the four regiments of the RTR.

Our stay in Cyprus represents for the Squadron, a period of relative stability after a hectic two years. Troops are settling down well to their new role and already striking up friendships with the many members of the Force with whom they have daily contact. Force Reserve's job is, of course, unique within UNFICYP, in that it provides an unrivalled opportunity to travel the length of the island operationally and to work in close co-operation with each national contingent. The soldiers particularly welcome the chance to exercise a degree of independence, in detachments along the Buffer Zone, which is seldom possible as a tank squadron.

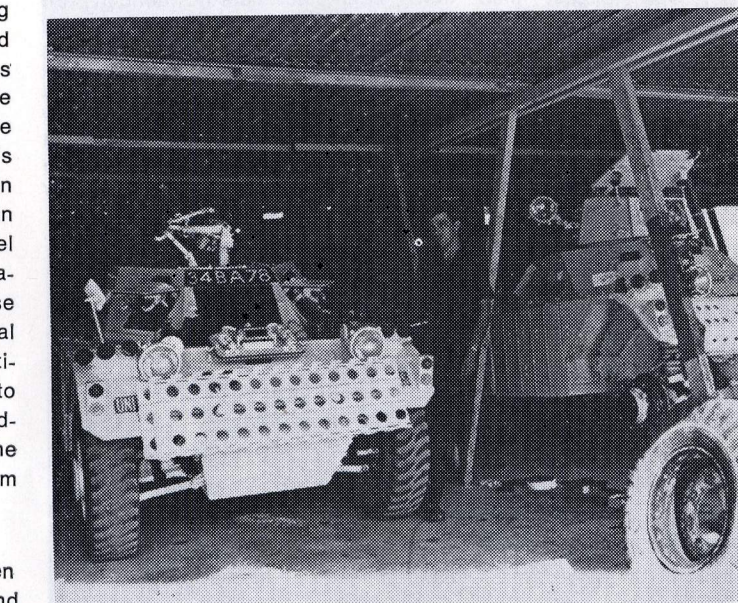
The weather, so far, has been exceptionally kind to us and this, together with our recent background of being 'jacks of all trades' has helped us to adapt to life out here remarkably quickly.



The gunner of a Chieftain Tank of 3 RTR uses the main armament periscope sight.



"How do you like your steak done?" A small fire is dealt with at an Edinburgh restaurant. Soldiers from 3 RTR on fire fighting duties.



"I dunno, you mend 'em and send 'em out, and you mend 'em and you mend 'em. LCpl Leaper sizes up the repair situation on Force Reserve.

# UN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES



The activities of the Finnish Peacekeeping troops have earned them recognition particularly in connection with the disengagement operations in the Middle East in 1974.

Finland's faith in the United Nations as the defender of the rights of small states has in all probability had its most concrete manifestation in the attitude adopted by this country towards the U.N. peacekeeping activities. Finland has responded favourably to practically all the requests presented to her by the Secretary-General ever since she was admitted to the United Nations at the end of 1955.

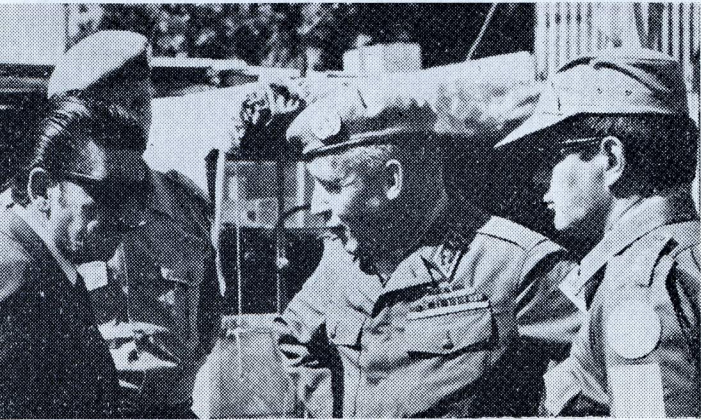
Finland's participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operations began one year after she had been admitted to this Organization. During the subsequent two decades, Finland has placed over 13,000 peacekeeping personnel, soldiers and observers, at the disposal of the U.N. Finns have also often served in high ranking posts in the U.N. peacekeeping operations, as well as in the employment of the Field Service Organization.

Finnish military observers have acted in three U.N. observer organizations. The first observers served in 1958 with the UNMOGIL operating in the border area of Lebanon and Syria. The longest time that Finnish observers have participated in these missions has been with the UNMOGIP to supervise the implementation of the cease-fire between India and Pakistan. The activity began in 1961 and is still continuing. The largest number of observers have served with the United

Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East, where over 200 Finnish officers have participated in observer missions since 1957.

The activities of the Finnish U.N. peacekeeping force began as early as 1956 when Finland sent a company to the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) to supervise the cessation of hostilities between Egypt and Israel. This company operated in the Sina area for approximately two years. In the subsequent years, following the crises in the Middle East and Cyprus, the number of the peacekeeping force was considerably increased. Throughout the period 1964-1977 Finland contributed one battalion to the peacekeeping operation in Cyprus. When the situation in the Middle East again deteriorated in 1973, Finland also sent a U.N. battalion which is still supervising the cease-fire in the Gulf of Suez area.

Finns have always taken an interest in the peacekeeping activities. This is why it has not been particularly difficult for Finland to recruit the necessary number of men for U.N. service. The vast majority of the Finnish peacekeeping troops are composed of reservists. Members of both the regular personnel and the reserve participate in the U.N. missions on an entirely voluntary basis.



General E. Siilassvii acted as the Chief Co-ordinator of the UN Force in the Middle East and is pictured in Suez just after the October War in 1974 talking to Dr. Reme Gorge, who was then Principal Political Adviser of UNEF.



## Focus on -

### INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 6 DECEMBER

At the time of the Russian Revolution Finland was an autonomous Grand Duchy of the Russian Czar. With the revolution the Finns saw an opportunity of realising their long smouldering desire for political independence. The Declaration of Independence was issued on 6 December 1917. The new state was immediately embroiled in a tragic civil war, in which the left wing forces that tried to seize power were defeated by the right wing "Whites", under the leadership of General Mannerheim, in the Spring of 1918.

The scars of the civil war were deep but fully healed by 1939, when the war clouds which gathered in Europe darkened the sky of Finland too. Negotiations between Finland and the Soviet Union on territorial concessions broke down and the Winter War began. It lasted 100 days, ending in the defeat of the Finns in the face of overwhelming odds and they had to cede about ten percent of their territory. When Germany

and the Soviet Union clashed in 1941 Finland was once more drawn into a war with her Eastern neighbour, which only ended with the Armistice of 1944.

Finland is proud of its struggle for independence and Helsinki is one of the three capitals of the countries in the theatre of war that was never occupied. Finland is also known as a country that has fully paid its debts of war. The neutrality of Finland is now fully recognised by all countries of the world.

The ceremonies on Independence Day differ largely from most other countries in that they start at midday with a service in the war cemeteries. In the evening the students, carrying torches, march from the town centres again to the war cemeteries, paying tribute to the victims of war. At 1800 hrs candles are lit in windows where they burn for two hours. On the whole the atmosphere of the day is one of solemn gratitude.

# THE LAND

It is often said that Finland is a small country. A glance at the map, however, belies this. With a total area of 130,085 square miles, Finland is larger than Great Britain, but her population is only 4.6 million. The majority live in central and southern Finland. The northernmost part, Lapland, is sparsely inhabited. Vast forests of spruce, pine and birch cover most of the land, and the thick undergrowth is full of flowers and berries.

There are about 60,000 lakes of all sizes connected by narrow channels, short rivers and rapids, in some places by canals as well, to form continuous waterways. Tideless seas, the Gulf of Bothnia in the West and the Gulf of Finland in the South, wash the coast-line. Thousands of beautiful but barren islands

stud the offshore waters, especially in the South-West.

Fish abound in the seas, rivers and lakes and most of the fresh-water fish are also found in the coastal waters. The highest land is in Lapland, the country of scenic fells where reindeer roam. The climate varies a good deal. There are long, cold winters in the North, milder seasons in the South where the snow lies from around Christmas and disappears at the end of March. Both the lakes and the sea freeze over in winter, but the major seaports are kept open for navigation by a modern fleet of ice-breakers. "The Midnight Sun never sets", run the words of a song. This is true in Lapland during the best part of the summer. Elsewhere, too, the nights are light, the sun rises early, and the days get really warm.

## DEFENCE FORCES

**Defence Policy.** National defence is a significant component of Finland's security policy, the aim of which is to maintain peace and to secure the safety of the citizens. National defence supports the country's foreign policy by preparing for exceptional situations of various kinds. All sectors of national defence endeavour to maintain such readiness as makes the continuation of the basic line of

Finland's policy and independent decision making possible.

**The Implementation of Defence Measures.** Being a neutral country, Finland has been able to let her defence forces — within the limits of the resources allotted to them — develop freely adequate tactical and operational patterns. The Finnish defence capabilities of today are optionally adapted to prevailing local circumstances. The

# FINLAND

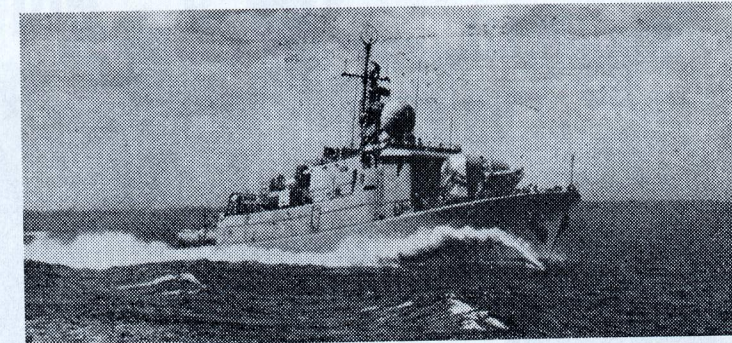
### THE SAUNA



Many members of UNFICYP have dared the terrible heat of the small room called the Sauna. Many of them have been heard to say they enjoyed it! The best temperature for a Sauna is 80° to 100°C and, of course, water has to be thrown on to the hot stove to get the proper atmosphere. The sensation after a Sauna and a cold shower is one of the most wonderful in the world.

The only Finnish Sauna now left in Cyprus is situated in the former Finn Eagles Camp, near HQ UNFICYP, and this is now a "Mecca" for the Finnish Contingent as can be seen in the photograph above.

# NAVY



The corvettes are proof of the high standard of the Finnish shipbuilding industry.

basic idea of the country's defence is to make full use of her vast area. This would make any foe disperse its forces and enable the defence to destroy them either piecemeal in areas favourable to the defender, or, if necessary, by concentrated blows.

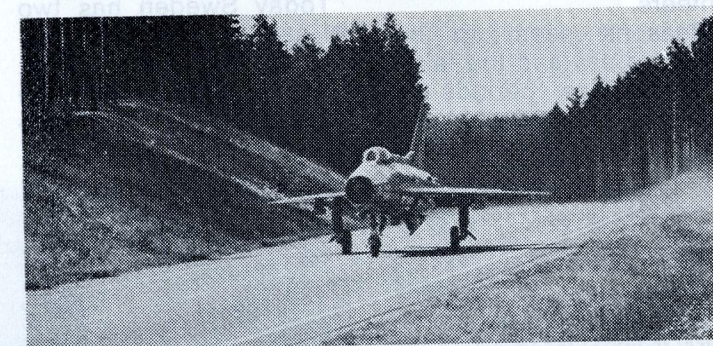
The regular army is based on conscription and, therefore, the country has strong reserve forces. This created specific requirements on the training and mobilization systems, organization and equipment at various levels. The Finnish soldier has been considered a tough and skilled fighting man, used to the country and to snow, he is at his best in winter, at night and in the woods. Accordingly, the kit of the individual soldier has been developed so as to be of particular use on Finnish terrain and in the weather conditions usually met.

The flexible system of stepping up preparedness permits rapid organization of wartime defence forces. The trained reserve of over 700,000 men, all

in all, remaining available to the Defence Forces allows the organization of a strong army. Accordingly, the wartime force comprises several hundred units (battalions, artillery battalions, etc.) which are formed into several dozens of operational brigade-level units with necessary supporting arms and services. When, in addition, the potential of the general forces is reinforced by the system of local defence covering the territory of the entire country, the interception capacity of the army is to be regarded as considerable.

In the Defence Forces of Finland, the army is in a key position. Nevertheless, the potential of the Navy and Air Force is also subject to constant development and intensification, particularly as to surveillance and the ability to protect the country's neutrality. For the people of Finland, to whom independence comes above all else, the Defence forces have a special place.

### AIR FORCE



The long frontier and inhospitable terrain dictate a flexible military defence posture. Here a MiG 21 interceptor is seen operating from a road.

### ARMY



The infantry is equipped with domestic 7.62 mm assault rifles and machine guns.



Now there is a bagpiper in SWEDCON too. Newly arrived Mats Sjöström brought his bagpipes to Cyprus, so quite often we can hear "Amazing Grace" and other classical Scottish tunes all over Camp Victoria. Trouble is, he didn't bring his kilt — instead he has to use the special "SWEDCON-clan" kilt in blue and yellow.

### New battalion in Sector Five

All personnel in the Swedish battalion in Cyprus are recruited on a voluntary system. Up to now some 40,000 Swedes have participated in UN service throughout the world.

a maximum of one year.

The demands for the would-be UN soldier are fairly high. He (or she — we have also got a few women with SWEDCON) must be able to make himself understood in English and must prove himself to be adaptable. Also, an approval from his military service in Sweden is a must.

Sweden has a conscription system but UN duty cannot replace the military service every male has to do in Sweden. Still, there is normally no lack of volunteers.

Reasons seem to be the good pay and the fairly short service periods — only six months with the possibility of extending to

Today Sweden has two UN battalions — in Cyprus and in the Middle East, altogether numbering some 1,000 soldiers, all volunteers.

### SWEDCON



NEWS



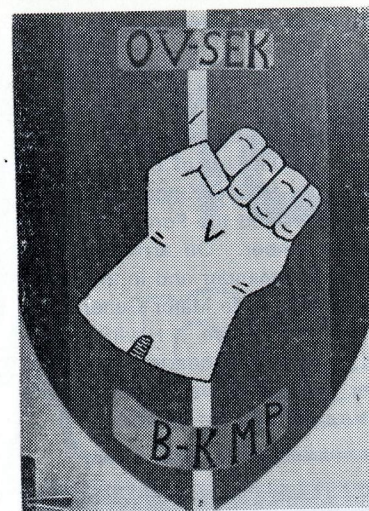
Vaccinations are an unpopular must for the volunteers from Sweden. (Above right.)

Swedish UN personnel go through two or three weeks of training in Sweden before leaving for Cyprus. Conditions on Cyprus and the present situation are included in the training programme.

In November the new Swedish battalion was ready to take over the job in Sector Five for the next six months.



### RECCE SECTION - B COY



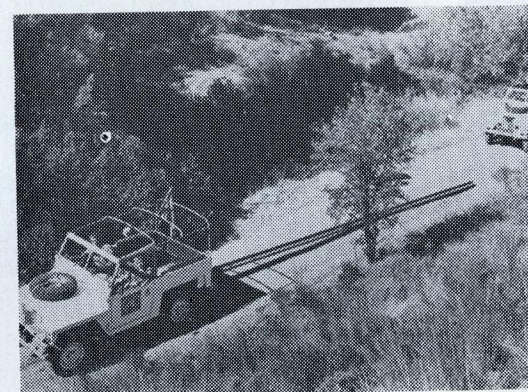
The sign of the Recce Section.



There are two Recces Sections in B-Coy. Their main tasks are to patrol in the Buffer Zone and escort vehicles and convoys. But they have many other jobs. At the present time they are building a bridge on the Patrol Track to make it passable even when the rain comes.



Every morning St. Sgt J. Ree-Holtz opens the water valve to the Turkish area and in the evening he closes it again.

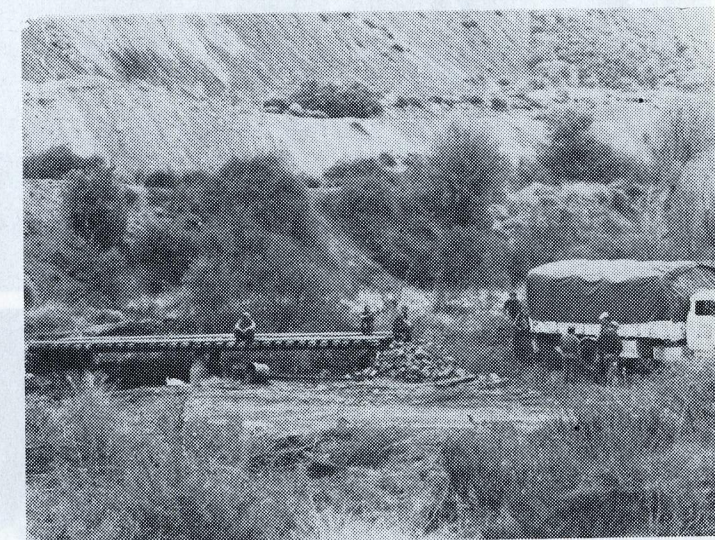


The girders are pulled all the way from Skouriotissa to Marathassa along the Patrol Track, approximately 7 miles.



A rest on the Patrol Track, from left St. Sgt. Ree-Holtz, Pte. I.W. Olesen, Cpl. S.B. Petersen, Pte. K. Olesen and Pte. J. Buhl.

The bridge approaches are filled with earth.



A view of the bridge and its surroundings.



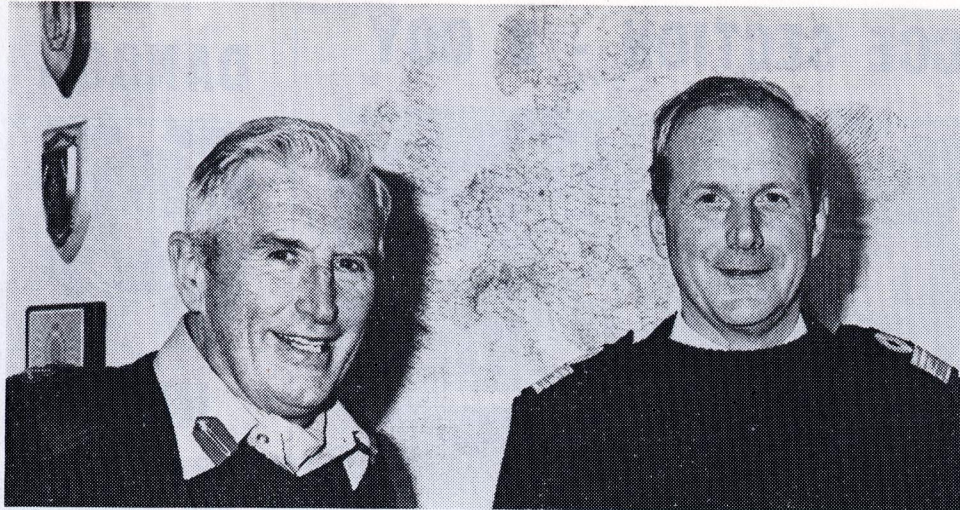
A close up of the bridge. On the right is seen the normal crossing.

### DANCON

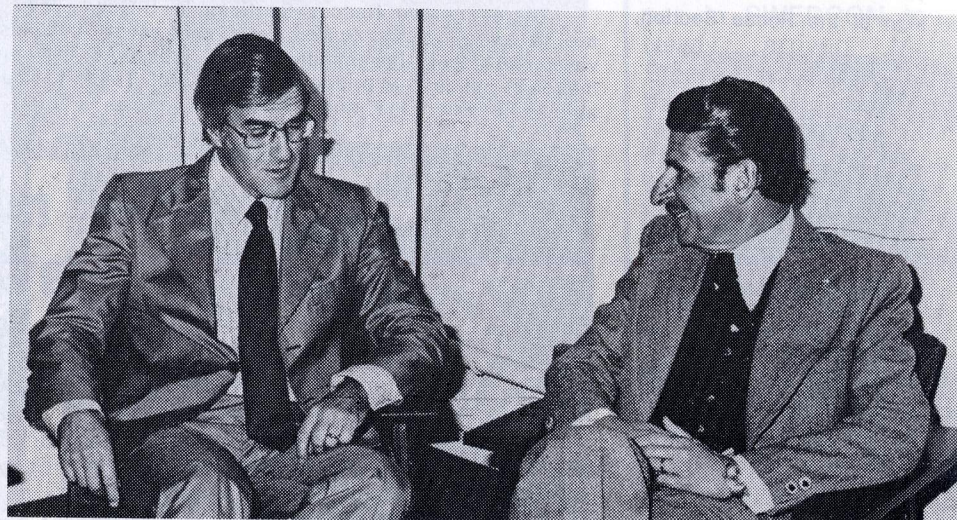


NEWS

When the bridge is finished, the section will have used about 400 man-hours and it has taken a month to build the bridge.



Commodore G D Trist RN, who has been designated to take over the appointment of Director of Defence Operations in the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence, visited the Force on Thursday 30 November. On arrival he met the Force Commander and in the picture is seen talking to Major General J J Quinn in his office. Having been briefed in the Headquarters, the remainder of his visit was taken up with line tours in Sectors 2 and 4.



The High Commissioner for Canada, HE Mr. Edward Lee, recently made one of his regular visits to the Force and is pictured on the right talking to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Dr Reme Gorgé, when he visited the Headquarters on Monday 27 November.

# VISITORS



The British Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Roland Gibbs, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, visited UNFICYP during the afternoon of Wednesday, 8 November 1978 as part of his tour of Cyprus. His visit to UNFICYP included a visit to Sector 2 of the Force, which is the responsibility of the British Battalion, at that time 1 RRF. The photograph was taken soon after the CGS and his party had landed at the Box Factory at the Western extremity of the battalion area. Pictured from left to right are: Major CNB Wellwood, OC X Coy, based at the Box Factory; Lt Col D Houlton MBE, CO 1 RRF; Lt Col R S Billings CD, CO 8 Canadian Hussars and Comd Sector 4; CGS; Col P F B Hargrave OBE, DCOS/COMBRITCON; B Gen J A Cotter CD, COS.



A team from BBC Radio London visited the Headquarters on Monday 27 November to record messages and record requests from members of the British Contingent with families or friends living in and around London, for a Christmas Day programme. In the picture the programme producer, Mr. David Carter, is seen recording a message from Dvr D J Gray of the Transport Squadron, currently 7 Sqn CT, while Dvr G W E Large, a fellow member of the Sqn, looks on.

# Pictorial news

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING



One of the first indications that Christmas is approaching is when the chefs start making the Christmas puddings. Stirring the Christmas pudding mixture after it has been laced with brandy is a long-standing military tradition and in the picture COMBRITCON, Col P F B Hargrave OBE, is seen thoroughly enjoying his task as are all the others involved, when he performed the ceremony this year in the UNFICYP Support Regiment cookhouse.



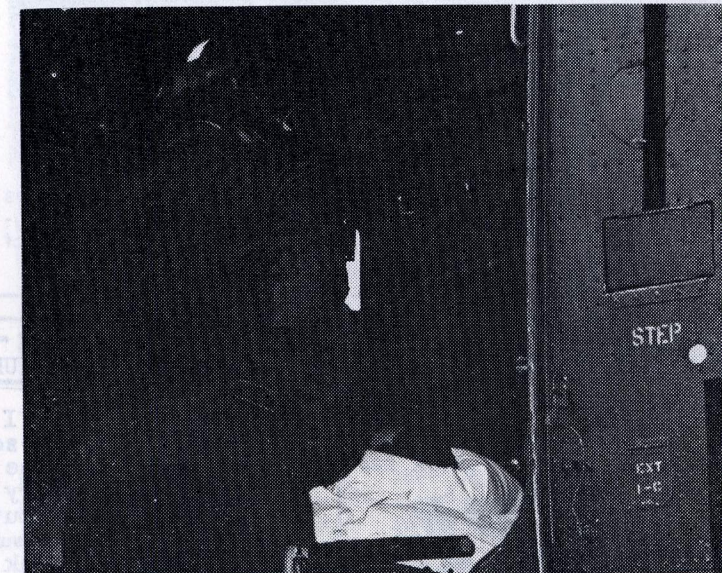
Another culinary indication of Christmas's approach is the baking and decoration of the Christmas cakes. Cake decorating is a very specialised art but from the picture above it would seem that it is an art that the Force Commander Major General J J Quinn has adequately mastered under the professional supervision of that experienced chef WOII P Whatmore.

## Economics Officers' Conference



The monthly conference for November was held at Xeros on Monday 6 November. As there has been a major rotation among the regular members it was thought to be an ideal opportunity to record all the new faces. The photograph shows left to right, front row: Lt Col T H Waters CEO; Capt J Ropponen SO (H); Capt P. G. Skog, Swedcon; Capt D Andersson, Swedcon; Capt P Sintler, Auscon; back row: Lt E S Rasmussen, Dancon; Capt G M Stewart, Cancon; Maj R H Green SO (E); Capt T Weeks, Britcon; Lt R Wolfenden, Britcon; Capt F Sorensen, Dancon.

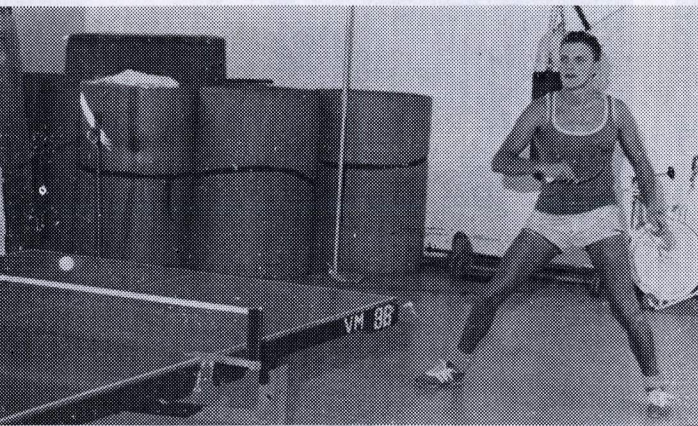
## Humanitarian Work Continues



On the night of Friday, 17 November 1978 UNFICYP answered an urgent request to evacuate by air to Nicosia General Hospital a woman from Kato Pyrgos with complications of pregnancy. Her condition in hospital after her speedy evacuation is confirmed as satisfactory.

# Blue Beret SPORT

FORCE TABLE-TENNIS WON BY SWEDCON



The Force Table-Tennis Tournament this year was organised by Dancon and therefore took place in Xeros on 27 October 1978. The tournament was a Swedcon benefit as they won every event, in both doubles and singles matches.

## INTER-CONTINGENT HANDBALL



One of the many inter-contingent events arranged recently was a handball match between Dancon and Swedcon. Both teams played hard but at the end the victors were Dancon with a score of 6 to Swedcon's 11.

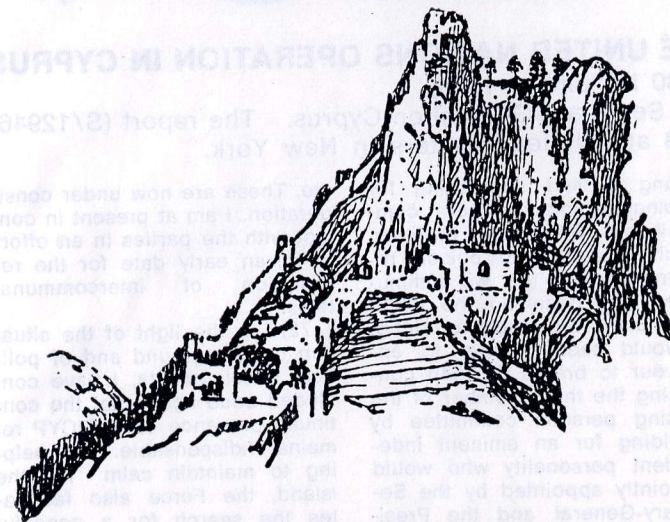
## UNTSO Visitors' Decisive Win



It is unfortunate that there are very few opportunities for the different UN missions to compete against one another in the field of sport. However, one of these rare occasions did arise on Saturday 18 November, when a rugby football team from UNTSO on a weekend visit played a team from UNFICYP. The result was a great afternoon's sport and the game moved frequently from end to end of the pitch. However, the visitors' ability to win the ball from almost every set scrum gave them a great advantage which they exploited to the full, as the final score of UNTSO 11, UNFICYP Nil shows only too clearly.



## CASTLES



### ST. HILARION

In Cyprus it is neither the administrative castles, like Kolossi nor the fortified ports, like Kyrenia, that have chiefly impressed subsequent generations. Imagination has seized on the mountain strongholds of Kantara, Buffavento and St. Hilarion. These castle-eyries are among the most romantic fortifications in existence. Yet by reason of their inaccessibility, powerful defences were largely superfluous. Nature had already done much of the masons' work.

Considered strictly as military buildings, the castles hardly deserve much praise. Only St. Hilarion had some strategic importance. The castle is named not after St. Hilarion the Great, who died near Paphos about A.D. 371, but after a later saint, of whom little is known. It may be presumed that he retired to this hill-top to live the life of a hermit and that a monastery was established to shelter those who would follow his example, as well as pilgrims to his tomb.

The original castle, to which the monastery gave place, formed part of the Byzantine defences of the island. The earliest references to the castle are found in the contemporary accounts of Richard Coeur de Lion's campaign in the island in 1191. When Richard fell ill at Nicosia he assigned Guido de Lusignan to reduce the castles in the north. St. Hilarion was invested but resisted vigorously until Isaac, the usurper 'Emperor' of Cyprus ordered its surrender.

St. Hilarion guarded the only easy pass from Kyrenia to Nicosia and protected the land communications of the port. The elevation of the castle made it an invaluable observation post. It formed part of an elaborate system of communication by signal. Flares at night linked it with Kyrenia and Buffavento, and

through the latter with Nicosia and Kantara.

The castle was made ready for defence in about 1228, probably as a retreat for the royal family, but soon after it must have been rebuilt. In 1348 Hugh IV retired to St. Hilarion to avoid the plague, as did John, Prince of Antioch, to avoid the Genoese in 1373.

With the coming of the Venetians, St. Hilarion was slighted. It was their policy to dismantle such inaccessible inland fortifications. What they left the isolation of the site has preserved.

To the South is the large outer bailey. Though the gate was provided with a barbican and machicolation, this area was insufficiently defended. Little was done to improve the thin crenellated walls of Byzantine rubble and the six ill disposed circular towers. Its function was only to delay an attacking force temporarily while exposing them to fire from the upper castle.

From the bailey a steeply-inclined corridor climbs to the second stage of defence. Here were grouped, around a core of Byzantine work which included a chapel, not only the utilitarian buildings, but a curious military plaisance, an open vaulted "belvedere". The ingenuity with which the builders utilized each available bit of flat rock is striking.

The third stage of defence lies to the West of the second and is reached by a further steep climb. Cradled between the two culminating rocky crests of the mountain, the area is closed on the East side by fortifications and on the West by a range of buildings that contained the Great Chamber. This elaborate and imposing structure indicates that the third ward was in fact both a palace and a castle.

# Out & About in Cyprus

## EATING OUT

by personal recommendation

"Venetsiana Tavern" — Ayia Napa.



The "Venetsiana Tavern" is a new restaurant which has just opened on the road between Paralimni and Ayia Napa. It is run by two capable and ambitious young men who serve very tasty local and arabic dishes at attractive prices in clean and pleasant surroundings. The Tavern opens at 6 o'clock every evening and this time of the year the open-log fire is a welcome addition to the already cosy atmosphere. Its large windows give an impressive view over the Nissi Beach area and adjacent beaches.



### UN News (from page 16)

peatedly extended by the Security Council. I also wish to place on record my appreciation for the generous support extended to UNFICYP by those governments which have been making voluntary financial contributions.

75. In concluding this report, I wish to express my warm thanks to my Special Represent-

tative in Cyprus, Mr. Reynaldo Galindo-Pohl, to the Commander of the Force, Major-General James J. Quinn and to the officers and men of UNFICYP and its civilian staff. They have continued to carry out with exemplary efficiency and devotion the important and difficult task entrusted to them by the Security Council."



Woolly Blue & Cancon





# UN NEWS



## REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CYPRUS

(for the period 1 June to 30 November 1978)

Published below are two chapters of the Report of the Secretary-General on Cyprus. The report (S/12946) dated 1 December 1978, was released on 4 December 1978 at UN Headquarters in New York.

### Chapter V: Good Offices of the Secretary-General

55. I have pursued the mission of good offices entrusted to me in paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 367 (1975) and continued by paragraph 2 of resolution 430 (1978). In my last report to the Council, I gave an account of developments in this regard up to 31 May 1978 (S/12723, Sect. V). I brought that account up to date in my report of 2 November 1978 to the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 32/15 of 9 November 1977 (A/33/348, Sect. II). In order to avoid duplication, the substance of my report to the General Assembly is not reproduced in the present report. In my report of 2 November, I referred, in particular, to the proposals put forward by the Turkish Cypriots on 20 July and by the Cyprus Government on 25 July for the resettlement of Varosha with United Nations assistance and for the resumption of intercommunal negotiations.

56. Following the opening of the Thirty-Third Session of the General Assembly, I held discussions on the same general subject in New York with President Kyprianou and Foreign Minister Rolandis, with His Excellency Mr. Denktash, with Foreign Minister Okoun of Turkey and with Foreign Minister Rallis and Deputy Foreign Minister Zaimis of Greece.

57. The problem of Cyprus also came up in the course of my talks with various representatives of other interested governments who were present in New York for the General Assembly. It was generally considered that the resumption of the intercommunal negotiations was essential but that a meaningful and effective negotiating process could only develop if some of the practical problems mentioned in my last report to the General Assembly (A/33/348, paras. 22-23) were resolved. A number of ideas and suggestions were explored, with a view to developing a new and constructive basis for negotiations. Certain specific suggestions, based on the Makarios-Denkash Guidelines of 12 February 1977

and on elements of the 1960 Constitution of Cyprus, bearing in mind United Nations resolutions, and incorporating my earlier suggestions concerning Varosha, were submitted to the parties and to myself on 10 November. The hope was expressed that the suggestions would contribute to the prospect of a resumption of the intercommunal negotiating process within the framework of the mission of good offices entrusted to me by the Security Council. I understand that the parties in Cyprus, as well as the Governments of Greece and Turkey, are considering the suggestions and will inform me of their reactions in due course.

58. At its fifth plenary meeting on 22 September 1978, the General Assembly decided to include the item "Question of Cyprus" in its agenda and to consider it directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the Assembly would, when considering the item, invite the Special Political Committee to meet for the purpose of affording representatives of the Cypriot communities an opportunity to take the floor in the committee in order to express their views. Accordingly, the Special Political Committee held two meetings on 7 November, in the course of which it heard statements by Mr. R. Denktash, Representative of the Turkish Cypriot community, and Mr. Michaelides, Representative of the Greek Cypriot community. The General Assembly held five plenary meetings on the item and, on 9 November, adopted resolution 33/15.

59. By a letter dated 7 November 1978 (S/12918) the Permanent Representative of Cyprus requested the Security Council to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the question of Cyprus. The Council considered the matter at its 2099th and 2100th meetings on 15 and 27 November. On the latter date, it adopted resolution 440 (1978)."

### Chapter VII: Observations

67. During the period under review, peace-keeping in Cyprus has continued to function well. The situation along the cease-fire lines has remained quiet, owing in great part to the vigilance of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force and to the co-operation of the parties. In the buffer zone between the lines, which amounts to about three percent of the area of the island and is under exclusive

UNFICYP control, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot farmers now cultivate some 115 different locations.

Especially in the more sensitive sections, civilian activities of this kind depend on the provision by UNFICYP of the necessary escorts.

68. I and my Special Representative have pursued our efforts toward the establishment of an investigating body for the

tracing of and accounting for missing persons of both communities. This tragic problem, which continues to poison relations between the two communities, has been on the verge of solution for much too long. It would seem natural to endeavour to bridge the gap concerning the third member of the missing persons committee by providing for an eminent independent personality who would be jointly appointed by the Secretary-General and the President of the ICRC. It could be further understood that the views of this personality would be given weight and would not be disregarded by the committee.

69. In pursuance of the mission of good offices entrusted to me by the Security Council, I have endeavoured to initiate an effective negotiating process in order to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem based on the independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and on the legitimate rights of the two communities. However, a basis of negotiations for this purpose acceptable to the sides is still lacking. I have adhered to the position that while intercommunal talks are essential, another round can only be convened in consultation with both parties and with their consent. The task at hand, therefore, is to develop the basis for moving from the parties' statements of conflicting positions to the stage of meaningful negotiations, mutual concessions and compromise solutions.

70. In order to promote the development of a more productive negotiating basis, I and my Special Representative in Cyprus have, over the past months, undertaken intensive consultations with all concerned. In the course of these consultations both parties stressed that they continued to accept the existing intercommunal negotiating arrangements. Both voiced their continued support of the Makarios-Denkash Guidelines, and their acceptance of my suggestion that the resettlement of Varosha should be envisaged as a concrete first step, to be linked to the commencement of intercommunal talks.

71. There remains the practical problem of finding certain mutually acceptable negotiable concepts on the basis of which meaningful talks could be held and which would provide the parties with a common vehicle for amendments and discussions. As indicated in para. 57 above, certain specific suggestions along these lines have been submitted to the parties and to

me. These are now under consideration. I am at present in contact with the parties in an effort to fix an early date for the resumption of intercommunal talks.

72. In the light of the situation on the ground and of political developments, I have concluded once again that the continued presence of UNFICYP remains indispensable. In helping to maintain calm in the island, the Force also facilitates the search for a peaceful settlement. I therefore recommend to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months. In accordance with established practice, I have undertaken consultations with the parties concerned on this subject and shall report to the Council on these consultations as soon as possible.

73. The financial situation of UNFICYP has continued to be a cause for concern during the period under review. The deficit of the UNFICYP account, including the current period, is now of the order of \$61.4 million. The claims of the troop-contributing governments in respect of extra and extraordinary costs incurred by them for which they seek to be reimbursed by the United Nations have been paid only until July 1975. As indicated in paragraph 65 above the "extra and extraordinary costs" for which these governments bill the United Nations represent in some cases only a fraction of the actual costs incurred by them in maintaining their contingents. The governments concerned have conveyed to me their growing and very serious concern over the disproportionate financial burden they have been carrying. In these circumstances, I earnestly hope that the response to my last appeal for voluntary contributions, dated 10 November, will be more satisfactory than has been the case in the past; that governments making financial contributions to UNFICYP will find it possible at least to maintain the level of their contributions and that member states which have not contributed will now agree to reconsider their position in this important matter.

74. The United Nations owes a special debt of gratitude to the countries contributing contingents to UNFICYP, both for the excellence of the troops and for the disproportionate financial burden the governments are bearing in making it possible to maintain this peace-keeping operation established and re-