

THE BLUE BERET



DECEMBER 1982



NOVEMBER IN RETROSPECT

ROTATIONS

- The Swedish Contingent
- The Swedish Civilian Police
- The Danish Contingent
- UNFICYP Transport Squadron
- 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment

MEDAL PARADES

- Nil

VISITS

- 9 Air Vice Marshal R L Davis RAF visited UNFICYP.
- 9-17 Master Corporal J Dufour visited the Canadian Contingent.
- 9-28 Captain Goodin, WO Huff and a team of eight visited the Canadian Contingent.
- 14-5 Dec HE Mr Torsten Orn, Swedish Ambassador to Cyprus and based in Tel Aviv, stayed in Cyprus and visited the Swedish Contingent.
- 15 Brigadier Green CBE MC, Secretary of the Council of Voluntary Welfare Work, visited UNFICYP.
- 15-18 Messrs Hulstved and Alander visited the Swedish Contingent.

FUTURE EVENTS

AMERICAN CENTRE

- 15 December at 7.30 p.m.

"Days of Heaven". Beautifully photographed film set in the American West prior to World War I. Richard Gere plays a young man who moves from Chicago steel mills to Texas wheatfields with his girlfriend and sister. They meet a wealthy farmer and their lives become entangled with love, ambition and greed.

15-21 Major P Montgomery visited the Canadian Contingent.

16 Major General W Bate CB OBE (late RCT) and Lt Col R P Arridge visited UNFICYP Transport Squadron.

16-20 Mr M Chorney visited the Canadian Contingent.

16-20 Lt Col J O'Brien visited the Canadian Contingent.

23-26 Mr Peter Hertz, Danish journalist, visited the Danish Contingent.

23-1 Dec Lt D J Benjamin and WO J A F Lamarre visited the Canadian Contingent.

23-1 Dec Major D Watts and Mr D Lowe visited the Canadian Contingent.

27-28 Lt Col J F Rickett visited UNFICYP.

25 Col P Forshaw OBE visited UNFICYP.

30-8 Dec Brigadier General G E Travers, Chaplain General (RC) visited the Canadian Contingent.

UNFICYP COMPETITIONS

8 UNFICYP Old Boys' Football Competition

13 Dhekelia Dash

30 UN Tenpin Bowling League

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

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Descriptions of recent local events or of visits to places of interest are welcome. Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper. 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

A traditional scene at Christmas time.

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

THE FORCE COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE FORCE



Christmas is nearly with us again. Many of us will be able to spend Christmas with our families but of course many of you will not be able to. For those of you in this position, I very much hope it will not be too long before you are reunited with your families.

This has been our Road Safety Year and very successful it has been. The most impressive part of it has been that nobody has lost their life and for me the best Christmas present I could have is if this happy state of affairs continued. Thank you all for your support in this matter.

1982 has been an excellent year for the Force and all of you, from senior officer to private soldier, have helped to make it so. I salute and congratulate you all.

A very happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR AND HIS STAFF

Angela, Pip, Driver Mark Ogden and I wish all readers a very happy Christmas and happy New Year, and look forward to our readers' contributions in 1983.

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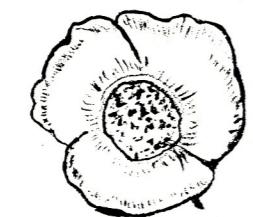
MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER BRITISH CONTINGENT, COL H W K PYE

Christmas is a time for rejoicing and happiness and is usually a special family occasion. For many of you here this will not be possible, but you should be compensated by the knowledge that you are here in the service of peace to make it possible for others.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

Remembrance Sunday 14 November 1982

On 14 November 1982 a Remembrance Sunday service was held at Wayne's Keep Cemetery. The Reverend Leslie Bryan CF, BRITCON Chaplain, conducted the service. The address was given by the Very Reverend Bryan Henry, Archdeacon in Cyprus and the Gulf.



Wreaths were laid by HE Mr Wilberforce, British High Commissioner, HE Miss MacPherson, Australian High Commissioner, Colonel H W K Pye, Commander British Contingent, Lt Col B W Ashton, Commander Canadian Contingent, Lt Col A C Simonds OBE, Sqn Ldr Good and Flt Lt P Walsh.



The congregation sings a hymn to the music of the band of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.



Bugler, Drummer Hughes of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, plays the Last Post.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT, LT COL A TRÖZMÜLLER

Fellow soldiers!

Once more, Xmas for the Austrian blue berets with UNFICYP is here. The task of the Austrian soldier is sometimes thankless, but it is, nevertheless, successful — successful not in active combat, but successful in conducting negotiations, successful in inspiring confidence and in encouraging mutual trust, successful in supporting the civilian population and even successful in saving lives. This



means, successful as soldiers of peace, as soldiers in one of the peace-keeping missions of the United Nations.

The world talks about peace on earth, but we do more than that — we actively contribute to the upkeep of peace. We should all be proud of this fact, especially during the festive season.

I wish you all and your dependants a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1983.

Austrian Folklore and Customs at Christmas-Time

By Major Freddie Lugert

While Christmas Eve is truly the most important holiday of the year, many ancient rites from pre-Christmas times takes place in the late afternoon, when and Christianity have blended into many the whole family congregates.

Christmas Eve is still a day of fasting until dinner which is held after all the presents covered by special Christmas paper are opened by the family.

Some time before Christmas on December 4, so-called 'Barbara-Twigs' are cut, and are said to bring a good "following year" if these branches flower by Christmas Eve.

After the meal many families wait for midnight when they attend the holy

midnight Mass in the local snow-covered Church. In the Church many Christmas carols are sung, but none is so famous as the Austrian carol, 'Silent Night, Holy Night', composed by Franz Xaver Gruber, with words by Josef Mohr. It was first heard on Christmas Eve in the year 1818 in the small village of Oberndorf near Salzburg. Today, this song is sung all over the world and shall bring peace to us all.

Other customs are rooted in very old cultural beliefs, regarding the struggle between the evil winter demons and the good spirits of light and sunshine. Various customs centre around these themes, one of them being the 'Krampus' celebration (December 5, 6), which is based upon the personification of evil spirits and demons. In many parts of Austria masks are used, sometimes named 'Perchten' and 'Krampus', supposing to symbolize the winter demons and at the same time to drive them away by making all different kinds of noises, using sticks, chains and bells. They also scare people with their appearance and by hitting them with wooden branches.

Christianity accepted these rites, but put St Nikolaus in charge of controlling these evil spirits or 'Krampusses' by giving commands to them, which would only allow a certain amount of evil activity, hopefully.

But back now to Christmas Eve, where all children wait for the 'Christ-



GLÆDELIG JUL



By Major Jorgen Schultz-Lorentzen

"Glaedelig Jul" means "Merry Christmas". And you will never speak truer words in these days — Christmas is near.

In Denmark we have many customs and traditions in connection with Christmas and below I shall mention some of them.

In the beginning of December Christmas preparations start. (Of course, the Christmas rush has started in the shops before 1st December). In the streets Christmas decorations are set up, and in the market square a very tall Christmas tree is placed from 1st December.

At home some people have an Advent calendar and every day until Christmas Eve you open one of the twenty-four windows, curious to see what's inside. And you have a calendar candle separated into twenty-four sections, and you burn one section every day until Christmas Eve.

Maybe you have a garden. Maybe you have a little spruce in your garden. Then you can decorate the tree with electric lights as if they were Christmas candles, to the delight of passers-by.

As Christmas approaches the whole family becomes busier. Christmas tree decorations, biscuits and sweets — some with chocolate coating — are made. Christmas presents and of course a Christmas tree are bought.

The old tradition says that the Christ-

mas tree has to be decorated the night before Christmas Eve, and the room where the tree is placed is then locked, so the children cannot see the decorated tree. Nowadays it is unlikely that you have so much room in your house, so it is usual that the Christmas tree is decorated in the morning of 24th December by the father and the children, while the mother prepares the dinner in the kitchen.

The tree is decorated with a star on the top, candles in small holders on the branches, festoons of silver paper and small Danish flags all over the tree, and all the decorations you have made during the days before are also fitted on the tree.

And last but not least all the Christmas presents beautifully wrapped up are placed under the Christmas tree.

The children will soon start playing with the toys they got as gifts, while the adults enjoy maybe a cup of coffee with some home-made biscuits, maybe some sweets or some chocolates until everybody, tired after a long and very busy Christmas Eve, goes to bed.

Christmas Day in Denmark is a quiet day. Maybe you go to church, maybe you have a good Danish lunch afterwards, and the children enjoy their Christmas presents. Christmas Eve in Denmark is the culmination of Christmas.

For us serving in DANCON the greatest possible number of Christmas traditions will be carried out, but of course the family will be missed. On Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day our thoughts will go to our families in Denmark, but also to our friends in all contingents in UNFICYP. Therefore we from DANCON wish all members of UNFICYP a Merry Christmas — GLÆDELIG JUL.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from LT COL PER LUNDBECK



The Swedish Contingent rotated in early November. Very few of us are regulars so everyone was looking forward to the new experience. It seems not only all of us but also everybody else got a new experience when the winter suddenly came some weeks earlier than expected.

Christmas is coming up soon. It is the occasion which I feel symbolizes our task — Peace, Care and Understanding. So naturally I want more than anything to connect Christmas with our hopes for the future.

We have now been together for about two months. We are very keen to do our job properly and from back home our Regiment, the Royal Life Grenadiers (founded in 1562) has been backing us up to the utmost.

Christmas is basically a celebration of hope, friendship and love between people. When we are abroad we leave back home relatives and friends who are missing us. Let's give them a thought, a letter, a greeting! Though we are busy doing our job here, whether it be on



Commander Swedish Contingent, Lt Col Per Lundbeck.

OP's or staff duties, don't forget those who are backing us up!

Everybody has worked hard to maintain the professional standard of performance. Our effort, if not remarkable in any way, will, I hope, have done some good. We are not alone, and friendship between contingents in UNFICYP is an important part of the process of peace-keeping.

Let us, as one happy family, stick together and take care of our brothers, whoever they may be. The person next to you might be the one who needs you most. So watch out and help out — someone might need you badly. Care, understanding and help seem to me to be the most important things now at Christmas time. So just now you should try to comfort the soldier next to you and to make him part of your family — a substitute perhaps but still your friend to be taken care of.

Therefore, my wish above all for Christmas is that we all take care of our neighbours and give a thought to our families. We wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

ROAD SAFETY YEAR 1982

NOVEMBER REPORT

November was an excellent month and we are hoping that December's results will bring a happy

sequel to Road Safety Year 1982. Ten of the units stayed within their monthly ceiling:

Sector 1

Sector 2

Sector 4

Sector 6

Sp Regt

FSC Sqn

AUSTCIVPOL

SWEDCIVPOL

HQ UNFICYP

Civilian Staff

The month included the largest accident free period this year from 13 November to 24 November. Those twelve days, including two weekends, probably repre-

sent the largest accident free period in the history of UNFICYP. We remain just below a 30% saving over 1981 accident figures. Drive carefully over Christmas.

DON'T JOIN THE STATISTICS

SECOND BATTALION



Training in Germany

THE REGIMENT

The story of the Grenadier Guards, the senior Regiment of Foot in the British Army, starts in 1656 when King Charles II, in exile, entrusted to Thomas, Lord Wentworth, the Colonels of a new personal Regiment of Guards. This Regiment, formed in Bruges in Flanders, was called The Royal Regiment of Guards. In 1660, Charles II returned to England as King, and raised a further Regiment of Guards under Colonel John Russell, The King's Regiment of Guards. Subsequently the Royal Regiment of Guards was brought over to England and amalgamated with Russell's Regiment to form the First Regiment of Foot Guards. Since the formation of the Regiment there have been twenty-five Colonels, including the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Wellington and, as HRH Princess Elizabeth, HM The Queen. The present Colonel is HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh. There have been up to six Battalions of the Regiment at any one time; currently there are two Battalions.

BATTLE HONOURS

Since 1656 the Regiment has taken part in nearly every major campaign in which the British Army has fought. It has been awarded 76 Battle Honours of which 44 are borne on the Colours. These span both the centuries and the globe, from 'TANGIER 1680' to 'North West Europe 1944-45' by way of such

famous battlefields as Blenheim, Khartoum, Ypres, Medjez Plain and Nijmegen.

WATERLOO

Waterloo is perhaps the Regiment's most famous Battle Honour, marking the defeat by Wellington of the French under Napoleon. The turning point of the battle came when Napoleon ordered his famous and much feared Imperial Guard to attack. These were his finest troops, and had been kept in reserve all day. They advanced relentlessly towards 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Regiment who were sheltering from a furious cannonade behind a ridge. With the Imperial Guard almost upon them Wellington ordered the Guards to rise, and such a withering fire was brought down on the French that they fled in disorder. The battle was over. In commemoration of the defeat of the French Imperial Guard the Prince Regent decreed that the Regiment should be made a Regiment of Grenadiers and styled "The First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards".

INKERMAN

In 1854 the Crimean War broke out and the 3rd Battalion was sent out as a part of the expeditionary force. On 5 November a huge Russian force emerged from Sebastopol in an attempt to break out of the siege, and attacked the British on the heights of Inkerman. The battle was fought in thick mist, making it a day for Regimental Officers and soldiers

UNIT



Photographs by Sergeant T. Jones



Northern Ireland tour, Londonderry

FEATURE



Corps of Drums — Munster, Germany



GRENADE GUARDS



Sports meeting in UK



Corps of Drums — Munster, Germany

rather than for manoeuvres of High Command, which is why it is often referred to as "the soldiers' battle". Desperate hand to hand fighting by the Grenadiers centred around the taking and retaking of the Sandbag Battery. The only Colours carried that day were those of the 3rd Battalion. Passed from hand to hand, they were the rallying point for a part of the Battalion cut off in the Battery and isolated from the rest of the Division. The detachment of about 100 Grenadiers successfully fought their way back with the Colours through a mass of Russians, all bent on their capture. Four VCs were won by the Regiment during the campaign. In 1960, when the 3rd Battalion was placed in suspended animation, HM The Queen directed that the left flank of the 2nd Battalion should be known as the Inkerman Company; thus the spirit and tradition of the 3rd Battalion are kept alive against the time of its resurrection.

THE WORLD WARS

Four Grenadier Battalions fought on the Western Front during the First World War, earning 34 Battle Honours and seven VCs. In the Second World War six Battalions fought in all spheres of the war in the West, from North Africa and Italy through to North West Europe. The 2nd Battalion formed part of the Guards Armoured Division, equipped with Sherman tanks, and, as part of

the Allied advance after D Day, was responsible for the capture of Nijmegen Bridge.

THE RECENT PAST OF THE SECOND BATTALION

Since the Second World War the 2nd Battalion has served in a wide variety of places including Egypt, Cyprus, British Guiana, British Honduras and Hong Kong. The Battalion has carried out five emergency tours in Northern Ireland. For the past three years the Battalion has been stationed in Munster, North West Germany, as a mechanised Battalion in 1st British Corps. During this period the Battalion took part in EX CRUSADER, the largest British manoeuvre since the Second World War, undertook a Northern Ireland tour and trained in skills on what must be one of the finest live firing areas in the world. In February of this year the Battalion returned to London, and, due to the despatch of two Guards Battalions to the Falklands, undertook an unprecedented amount of ceremonial duty. Every single Officer, NCO and Guardsman was involved in the Trooping the Colour ceremony, and between mid April and July the Battalion mounted Guard on the Queen on no less than 62 occasions. This busy and enjoyable six months was concluded with the welcome news of a tour with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.



UNFICYP TENNIS TOURNAMENT 1982

The UN Tennis, hosted by Support Regiment, was held over three days at the end of October in the UNPA, Nicosia. The tournament consisted of a mixed doubles, men's doubles and men's singles section.

Unfortunately, the number of entries was quite low. However, the standard was very high, especially from AUSCON who entered a strong team and completely swept the board of all the medals except for the mixed doubles.



1Lt Dobschak, winner of the men's singles competition.



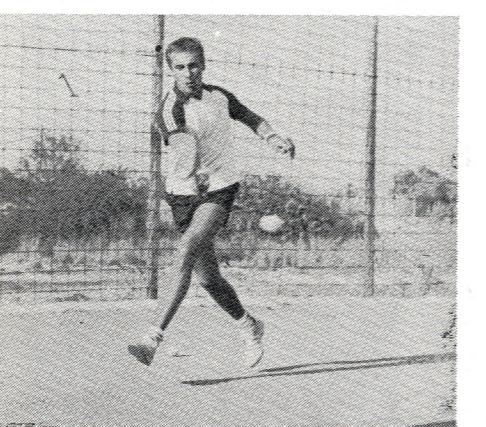
The Chief of Staff congratulates the winning AUSCON team.

SINGLES FINAL

1Lt Dobschak (AUSCON) beat Cpl Glantschnig (AUSCON) 6-2, 1-6, 7-5

TEAM

Runners-up: Force Scout Car Squadron with a total of 6 sets won. Major Liewald/Pte Hagleitner 6-1, 2-6, Winners: AUSCON with a total of 20 sets won.



Runner-up Cpl Glantschnig in full flight.

UNFICYP "OLD BOYS" FOOTBALL COMPETITION



The competition, held on 8 November 1982, at Dhekelia, was organised by the Austrian Contingent. Four teams took part:

AUSCON

BRITCON

HQ UNFICYP/
UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT

SWEDCON

and the winners were BRITCON, followed by

HQ UNFICYP/
UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT

SWEDCON

AUSCON



INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK



Party Pieces

By Pip Johansson

Illustration by Jeannie Weinrabe

CHEESE AND GRAPE PUFFS

2 x 212g/7½ oz packets frozen puff pastry
2 eggs
2 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon paprika pepper
½ teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon ground mixed spice
Filling:
225g/8oz Red Windsor or Cheddar cheese
100g/4oz white grapes
100g/4oz continental sausage, sliced

Allow the pastry to thaw for 1 hour at room temperature. Preheat the oven to moderately hot (200°C 400°F, Gas Mark 6). Roll out the pastry on a floured surface to a rectangle about 3mm thick and cut into about forty x 5 cm squares. Beat the eggs with the water, paprika, black pepper and spice, and brush some of this mixture over the pastry squares.

Cut the cheese into small cubes. Halve the grapes and remove the pips. Cut the sausage slices into small pieces. Place a cube of cheese, a grape and a piece of sausage on each pastry square. Bring the corners of the pastry inwards to form an envelope, and press together firmly. Cut small rounds from the pastry trimmings and press on the envelopes to seal. Brush with the remaining egg mixture.

Place on a baking tray sprinkled with cold water and bake in the oven for fifteen minutes, or until lightly browned. Serve warm.

PIQUANT CHEESE FLAN

1 x 368g/13oz packet frozen puff pastry
Filling:
150g/5oz ham
450g/1lb cream cheese
1 tablespoon tomato purée
1 tablespoon paprika pepper
pinch each of salt, white pepper and sugar
few drops of Worcestershire sauce
1 small clove garlic
3 tablespoons chopped mixed herbs
12 small red chilli peppers
12 capers

Allow the puff pastry to thaw for 1 hour at room temperature. Divide in half and roll out each half into a 20 cm/8 inch round. Sprinkle a baking tray with water, place the pastry rounds on it, prick lightly with a fork and leave to stand for fifteen minutes.

Preheat the oven to hot (220°C 425°F, Gas Mark 7). Roll the pastry out to line the base of a 25cm/10inch flan ring and leave in the refrigerator for fifteen minutes. Prick the pastry all over with a fork and bake towards the top of the oven for fifteen minutes. Leave to cool.

Quarter the artichoke hearts, slice the olives and cut the pimientos into strips. Arrange these ingredients over the pastry base with the prawns. Make up the aspic according to the instructions on the packet. When on the point of setting, pour over the flan and leave to set. Remove the flan ring, spread the sides with a little mayonnaise and sprinkle with the breadcrumbs. Garnish with swirls of mayonnaise, quartered eggs and caviar.



AUSTCIVPOL COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE CHIEF INSPECTOR HARRY CARVETH



For some, this Christmas will be the first experienced so far away from our friends and loved ones. The 25th of December 1982 will be remembered as our thoughts go out to those around the world and especially in Australia. The distance only serves to sharpen the warm feelings towards those uppermost in our thoughts at Christmas.

For those on Cyprus we associate the old Christmas adage of 'Peace on Earth and Good Will to all Mankind' to the role we are playing as members of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. We are responsible for 'keeping the peace' both on and off duty and thereby fulfill the first part of that message. By our actions towards everyone living on this island, we uphold the second part, of Goodwill.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing members of the 19th Contingent, those of other contingents and the many friends we have made since coming to the island A Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

CHARITY AND THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By Inspector Mark Anstee

As Christmas draws near our thoughts turn towards family and friends and also to those less fortunate than ourselves. What can often appear as clichés like 'Peace on Earth' and 'Goodwill to all Mankind' which we hear every Christmas, have been given real meaning by the men and women of United Nations living in Cyprus. Not only do the various contingent members serve the Peace ideal whilst on duty, but have, throughout the year, put their hands in their pockets and spent their time and energy giving assistance, particularly to handicapped children on this island and overseas.

At Christmas time, not just for the sake of Christmas arriving again with its charity 'rush', we can reflect on these actions and be proud of our efforts.

Some of the projects which AUSTCIVPOL's 19th Conti-



The Charity Cricketers — they may look like rough and tumble rugby players but in fact they put on a fine if not entertaining match. (Man of the Match is seated at bottom right)

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER SECTOR FOUR, LIEUTENANT COLONEL B W ASHTON



The festive season is with us once again and I wish to take this opportunity to wish all members and your families of Sector Four and CANCON a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For many of you this will be your first Christmas away from home and family. From your peacekeeping duties to date, you should have gained a greater awareness of the different cultures you have experienced in Cyprus. The familiar Christmas message of "Peace on Earth and Good Will towards all Men" will have a much deeper meaning as a result of our all-important peacekeeping mission.

With the approach of the New Year I wish to relay my satisfaction to the officers, warrant officers, senior NCO's and junior ranks of Sector Four for the high standards that have been displayed since arriving in Cyprus. I know that these high standards will be continued in the New Year.

To all of our fellow members in UNFICYP, on behalf of Sector Four, my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We find ourselves together from different parts of the world in the common service of Peace.



THERE'S NO 'I' IN THE WORD 'TEAMWORK'

Photographs by Private Kazakoff

The raison d'être of UN peacekeeping duties is personified by Sector Four and the support provided to the Intercommunal Talks held at the Ledra Palace Hotel, Nicosia. Virtually all sub-units within Sector Four provide assistance in one form or another during these talks which are convened weekly while in session.

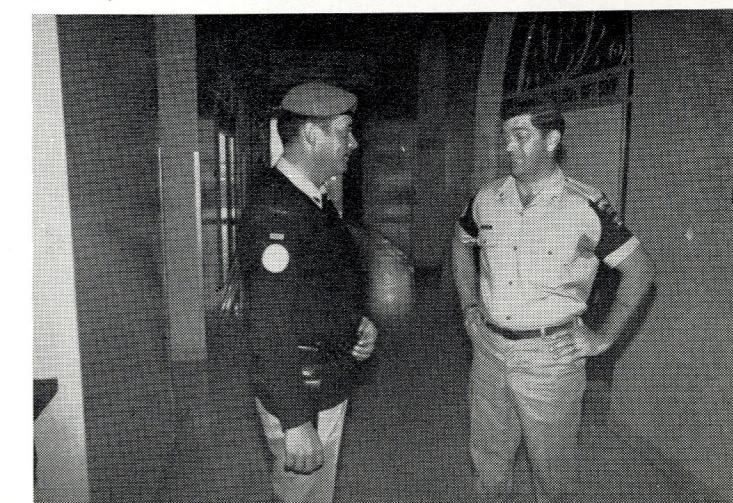
The planning and organisation for the talks normally takes a full day. Once the warning order has been issued, the various responsible sub-units commence their duties, and on the day of the talks, are concentrated in the Wolseley Barracks.



Sergeant R D Ror (left) and Master Corporal K W Childs man the north Patricia Gate to the Ledra Palace Hotel.

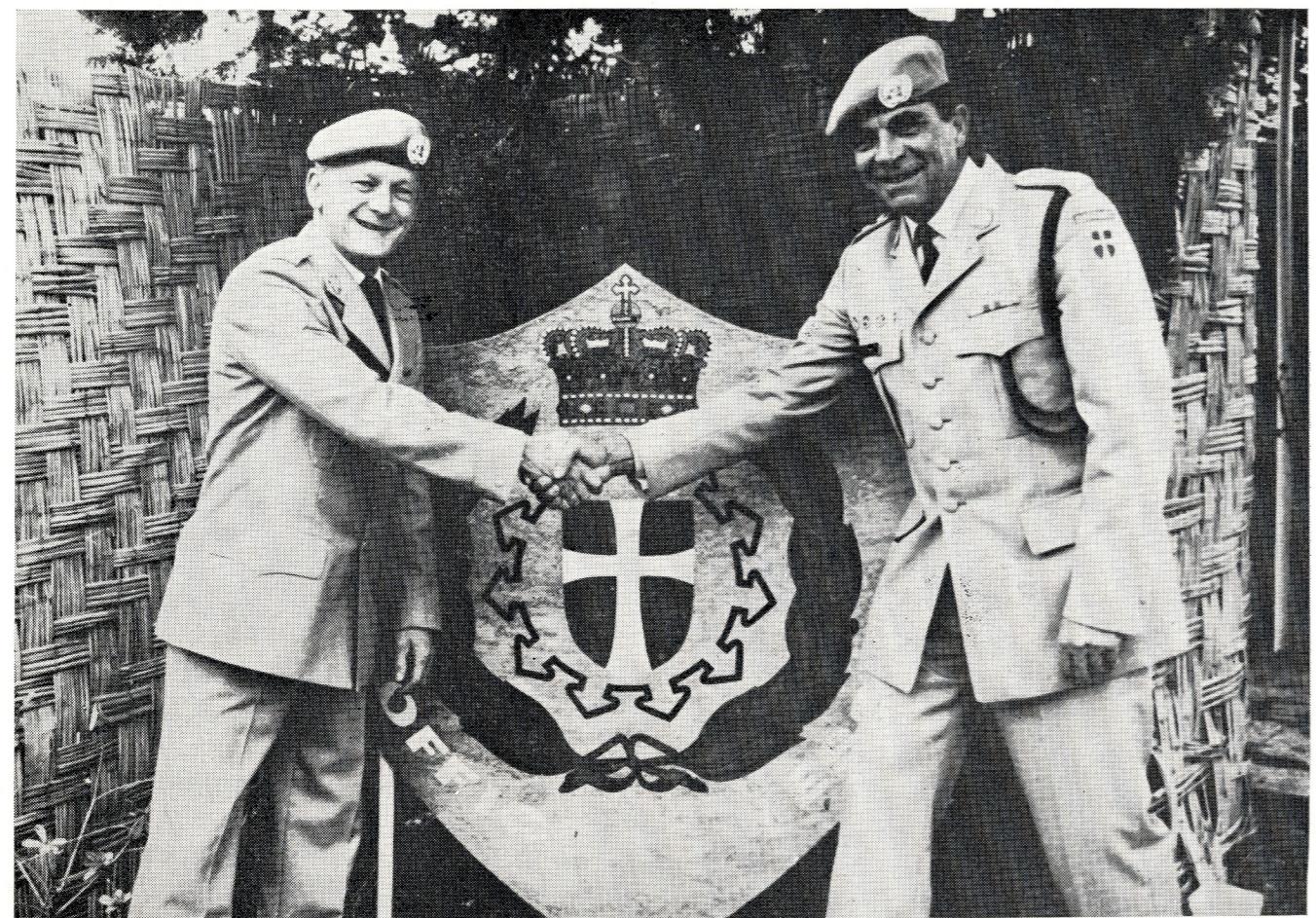
ley garrison. The local press and media representatives have in the past taken quite an interest in the Intercommunal Talks. The press is normally afforded an opportunity to interview the negotiators from both sides.

The Ledra Palace Hotel, while normally the quarters for Wolseley Barracks personnel, is also the meeting place for the negotiations between the two communities. The Canadians in Sector Four can be proud of their efforts to date in this aspect of peacekeeping.

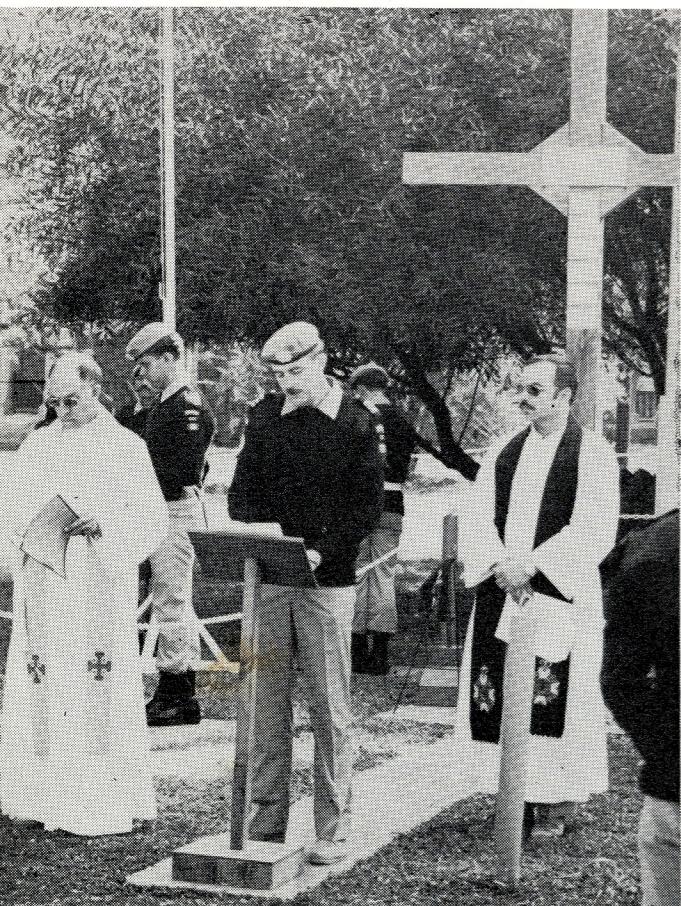


Sergeant W D Corney, Military Police Sergeant (left) discusses security arrangements with Warrant Officer C W Mathews.

THE BLUE BERET PICTORIAL NEWS THE BLUE BERET PICTORIAL NEWS THE BLUE BERET



Lt Col P E Pepke, Commander DANCON, welcomes his successor, Lt Col Aa Hojbjerg as he arrives at Viking Camp, Xeros, on 16 November 1982. Lt Col Hojbjerg took over command of the Danish Contingent on 18 November.



REMEMBRANCE DAY — 11 NOV 82

The Commander Sector Four, LCol B.W. Ashton delivers the Remembrance Day scriptures. LCol Ashton is flanked by Major Landry, Padre (RC) and Captain Lanctot, Padre (P).



The Dhekelia Dash was held on 13 November 1982 and consisted of a 15 mile relay from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia with each member of each team completing a mile each. The UN Sp Regt 'A' team were the winning guest team and came third overall.

Back row (1 to r): WO2 Cribb, Capt Whinnen, Cpl Robertson, LCpl Murray, Cpl Dunin-Brezenksi, Cpl Walden.

Front row (1 to r): Sgt Yoxall, Sgt Hannan, Sgt (Sl) Goodwin, LCpl Jordan, Sig Andrew, Sgt Featherstone. Not in picture: LCpl Collins, Dvr Love, Cpl Skinner.

THE BLUE BERET PICTORIAL NEWS THE BLUE BERET PICTORIAL NEWS THE BLUE BERET

FOND FAREWELL TO DRIVER BAYNE

MPIO Major D C J Emmett presents his driver, Mark Bayne of 60 Squadron RCT, with a personal gift of a tankard on his departure to Catterick with the rest of his Squadron.



"THE MONTREAL CONNECTION"

Five ex-Montrealers. (L to R) Master-Corporal Rod Wiseman, Private Glen Gilbert, Private Bruce Mallor, Sergeant Norman Green, and Warrant Officer Mike Snead are all presently members of B Company of the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry whose usual station is Kapyong Barracks, Winnipeg, Manitoba. They have been here since 29 September 1982 on a six month tour of duty and will spend Christmas in Cyprus. When asked what they would miss the most about a Canadian Christmas, the reply was, "family, snow and reindeer".

GODE DANSKERE

Four efficient drivers from DANCON with their Safe Driving Certificates. In total eighteen Safe Driving Certificates were presented to DANCON drivers in the period May — November 1982. From left to right: LCpl J D Kristiansen, LCpl B O Gisi, LCpl C Lilleo and LCpl J I Nielsen.



The 'Square' at Quatre Bras — scene from the Regimental Musical Pageant by the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment held on 6 November 1982.



Maj Gen (Ret'd) W Bate CB OBE DL, Representative Colonel Commandant RCT visited 66 Sqn on 16 November 1982. The picture (right) shows Major N Beard MBE presenting Maj Gen Bate with a Phoenix plaque. 66 Sqn assumed responsibility for UNFICYP transport from 60 Sqn at the beginning of the month. Maj Gen Bate visited the UNFICYP Tpt Sqn for the day.



UN NEWS



THE TRADITIONAL STIRRING OF THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING ON 25 NOV BY MAJ GEN GG GREINDL

Photograph by Private Kazakoff



84 SAYS "HELLO" TO 83

By Sergeant Shaun Ekberg

Now that Christmas is approaching and many of us are separated from our wives, families and other loved ones, there may be a good case for "hooting and roaring" the festive season away, as a substitute. Someone will almost certainly be on duty but at least a slightly delayed Christmas might be the answer, to squeeze in that fortnight of "merry making".

Let me take a few moments of your time to give you an insight into what Christmas used to be like.

Although Christmas is a time for festivity, it wasn't until the 4th century that 25 December was fixed as the anniversary of the Nativity. Until then it was known as the "Midwinter Feast"! This proved to be a combination of the Norse Yule festival and the Roman Saturnalia.

It was the Romans who instigated the now familiar giving of gifts and "feasting".

The British forces still practise a part of the Roman tradition whereby the junior ranks have their Christmas meal served by the SNCO's and Officers.

The Romans did exactly the same for their slaves, and even allowed them to select a "King for a Day". The masters and centurions became the servants, fed

them with a great banquet and waited at table for them.

Here, I am glad to say, the British forces depart from the Roman tradition.

Drawing by Jeannie Weinrabe

For after the slave "King" had fulfilled his twenty-four hour reign he was taken to the local amphitheatre where the lions were given their Christmas dinner!

Yet the English Christmas was not always recognised as a festive period.

In the 17th century the Cromwell government in England decided that the festival had too many pagan associations and Cromwell's soldiers were under strict orders to tear down any seasonal decorations. This puritan regime even spread to America with the Pilgrim Fathers, where the rather strict idealists also condemned the festivities. But in 1836, giving way to general opposition, the descendants of the "fathers" acknowledged December 25th as a public holiday, thereby sanctioning the now familiar Christmas fun.

I'm happy to say that everyone has their own way of celebrating Christmas, but whatever nationality you may be, having a good time is compulsory!

With that short look at the history of Christmas, all that remains is for me to say on behalf of the Squadron Commander, Sqn Ldr Nick Hibberd, have a very happy Christmas and a good new year.

