

# THE BLUE BERET



DECEMBER 1985



# NOVEMBER IN RETROSPECT

## ROTATIONS

28 Oct-5 Nov AUSCON  
5-12-19 Nov DANCON  
14 Nov-2 Dec Tpt Sqn

## VISITS

5-14 Mr Goran Reitz visited the Swedish Contingent.  
5-20 Chaplain Mag. Julian Sartorius visited the Austrian Contingent.  
6 Capt Jarrett, WO2 Krikorian and Cpl Wilmore visited the British Contingent.  
7-8 Mr Aberg visited the Swedish Contingent.  
7-28 Maj Castell visited the British Contingent.  
11-16 Group of six led by Capt Wallo visited the Swedish Contingent.  
12-14 & 17-20 Capt Vellone and Sgt Larin visited the Canadian Contingent.

12-20 Lt Col Cox and party of eleven visited the Canadian Contingent.  
14-21 Lt Col O'Brien visited the British Contingent.  
14-21 Col Quirk visited the British Contingent.  
16-19 Lt Col Purola, Maj Laukkanen and Capt Hannukkala visited the Finnish Contingent.  
20 Maj Mansfield, Maj Smith and WO1 Thornton visited the British Contingent.  
22 Air Vice Marshal KW Hayr CB CBE AFC, Comd British Forces Cyprus, visited UNFICYP.  
24-27 Maj Gen Lewis and Lt Col Porter visited the Canadian Contingent.  
24-30 Mr Whittaker, Foreign Service Offr, visited the Canadian Contingent.  
28 Mr W Calin plus three journalists visited the British Contingent.  
30-6/12 Lt Col Kihl and Mr Johansson visited the Swedish Contingent.

# FUTURE EVENTS

## SPORTS

14 Dec Chess and Dart Competition - Sector 1  
19 Dec Force Reserve Exercise  
19-20-21 Dec UN Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk, 2000 hrs, St Michael's School, UNPA  
23 Dec UN Carol Service - 3 p.m., RC Church, Paphos Gate

## "WHAT'S ON IN NICOSIA"

The London Shakespeare Group will be presenting "MACBETH" at the Municipal Theatre on Thursday 12 December at 8.30 p.m. Tickets £1.50 and £3.

The NICOSIA SINGERS will be giving a Christmas Concert at the British Council on Thursday 19 December at 7.30 p.m.



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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

UNFICYP CHRISTMAS FLOWER  
Painting by: Gerda Prikowitsch

## Editorial

As it is December, Christmas naturally features on several pages of our magazine this month. The front cover is a painting by Gerda Prikowitsch, the wife of an officer in HQ UNFICYP, which was chosen as the design for the 1985 UNFICYP Christmas card. The Christmas flower, a symbol of peace and goodwill, growing from a Cypriot pot, expresses not only our role here today but also our hopes for the future.

We also have a double-page feature on Christmas in the home countries of the eight nations from which the troops and police of UNFICYP are drawn. It is fascinating to note that despite our common cultural heritage there are many interesting variations of custom which help to make a tour with UNFICYP such a rewarding experience. Elsewhere in the magazine you will find a history of the Christmas Hymn, Silent Night (Heilige Nacht).

This month we welcome 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to Sector 2, 66 Squadron RCT as the UNFICYP Transport Squadron and a new Commander to Sector 6. Other interesting articles feature Canadian airborne commandos, the history of the Ferret scout car, a VIP visit to SWEDCIVPOL, C Coy DANCON and not forgetting the SWEDCON girls.

Finally we congratulate the UN MP Coy on their fashion show which raised over £900 for their charity fund for blind children in Cyprus. An excellent contribution to the International Year of Peace.

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**By: Maj R Tyrvainen**

Finland is the country where Santa Claus, Joulupukki, lives. His workshop and home, Korvatunturi Hill, is situated in the eastern part of the Finnish Lapland. Joulupukki visits every Finnish home on Christmas Eve bringing presents for well-behaved children and singing carols with them.

Christmas Eve is the final day of the thorough Christmas-time preparations. In the evening most families go to cemeteries to light a candle at tombs of their late relatives, and go to church for the Christmas Eve Service. The visit of Santa and the traditional Christmas dinner are the main points of the Holy Evening. Ham is definitely the main Finnish course for Christmas.

Christmas Day is a day of being together with the family. Early Christmas morning churches are crowded with Finnish Protestant Christians. Very seldom do Finns receive or pay visits on Christmas Day. Boxing Day is a day for visits and fun. In the old days the sleigh ride in the snowy countryside was the culmination of the day.

**By: Comdt D Ashe**

Religious and family celebrations sum up the nature of the festivities in Ireland at this time of year and have significance from mid-December to 6 January.

Many people in Ireland attend Midnight Mass in family groups, and perhaps without this religious element this would not be the season of goodwill, peacefulness and family re-union that it now is.

The arrival of Santa Claus, the Christmas tree, the Crib (depicting events at Bethlehem), the decorations, the turkey dinner and the plum pudding are important ingredients in the Christmas festivities in Ireland.

There are other events which may be somewhat unique to us. Throughout Irish history can be found periods of economic depression. This and other factors caused much emigration to other countries, so family re-union at Christmastime takes on a huge impetus. Even in UNFICYP you don't have to look too far to find Irish names scattered among the 'foreign' contingents.

The Irish are said to be authorities on the subject of alcohol (this writer is an exception). Illegal brewing from the humble potato produces an Irish 'moonshine' called poteen. Poteen stills work overtime in the run up to Christmas. The 'brew' is an essential ingredient in every Irish Christmas cake. However, in its fully proofed state, poteen is known to have come out of the ears of the uninitiated in the form of steam!

A somewhat unusual religious phenomenon is the placing of lighted candles in each window of Irish houses on three nights during the Christmas period. The candles signify a welcome inside for the Lord God - should he happen to be passing. An unusual custom perhaps but one which is growing.

The 26th of Dec is known as St. Stephen's Day or the Wren's Day. The Wren, a tiny bird, was hunted down in days of old. This has now ceased, but the hunters are symbolised by organised groups parading in an array of fancy dress. Each group is known as a Wren. There is music, dance and celebration as the Wrens move through the towns and countryside.

Christmas in Ireland is a happy period. The joy of family re-union plus a generous intake of food and drink, preceded by spiritual renewal, makes Christmastime a season to be remembered.

The 6th of January is known as Little Christmas when traditionally the lady of the house or "bean a ti" does no housework and is waited on by the rest of the family.

Nollaig fe shein fe unhaise diobh go leir.

## CHRISTMAS AT HOME BY UNFICYP MEMBERS

### Merry Christmas

**By: Lt Svanstrom**

Reading the Gospel for Christmas Day and looking at Donald Duck on TV: You see - there are the same very old traditions and some very young ones in Sweden. In Sweden there is maybe not so much religion - but during Christmas almost every family visits the church.

The early Celebration on Christmas Day is very popular. Then you have to go to church at five o'clock in the morning. If you can pass through all the snow...

**By: Sgt Holroyd**

What can be said about Christmas in Australia? It falls during the hottest month of the year. In the North of Australia it falls in the monsoon season when many communities become isolated. At that time of the year many people take their annual holidays. Seaside resorts become crowded. In the days before Christmas shops and cities become crowded with people buying gifts. Road, air and train transportation is at a premium because of people travelling to join families and friends.

Settlement in Australia was relatively recent. The first settlers came from England with later waves of people arriving following periods of turbulence in Europe. Many settlers came from Italy, Germany, Yugoslavia, Greece and Asia. Christmas celebrations in Australia follow the traditions of the many countries which have provided the people to make our country

**By: WO II Nemetz**

At least two weeks before the actual feast takes place, Christmas time in Austria starts accompanied by several typical traditions.

A very common one is called 'shelter seeking'. This

### Happy New Year

symbolizes the Holy Family's seeking of a shelter, travelling to Bethlehem.

The Holy Eve itself is usually celebrated in a family with a Christmas tree, a crib, a table of presents, the Christmas gospel and a Mass at midnight. In alpine regions farmers fumigate with incense all their buildings, the animals and also their family to protect them against evil ghosts.

During the first week of January, all over the country groups of children spread out to collect money for social purposes. They disguise themselves as the 'Three Magi'. Guided by a self-made star fixed on a tall stick they go from house to house. On every frontdoor they write down the abbreviation of the Magi's names and the date K+M+B 1985.

**By: Mrs Joan Nield**

Unlike our northern neighbours, Christmas in Britain is not usually white. However, this doesn't prevent the Christmas spirit manifesting itself many weeks before 25 December. The build up begins with the buying of Christmas presents and cards, the making of the traditional Christmas pudding and cake (the pudding must have a coin inside, and difficult it is to ensure that one of the children in the family is given that particular slice of the pud).

Then, Christmas Eve, and the last frantic rush to have everything ready in time. And, of course, Midnight Mass for many people as the most appropriate way in which to herald the day on which we celebrate the birth of Our Lord. Home again and the filling of stockings (or pillowcases!) with presents, to be placed at the foot of each child's bed after they are asleep. But it's incredible how little sleep children appear to need on Christmas Eve! Around 2am Mum and Dad get to bed, only to be

woken at 6000 or 6030 next morning as the bedroom door bursts open and their offspring stagger in dragging stockings with them. Some 2 hours later, after every present has been opened and squealed over, one surveys a bedroom festooned with wrapping paper, tags and coloured ribbon.

Then on to the preparation of Christmas lunch. Either stuffed turkey or goose, ham, sausage, veg etc, followed by Christmas pudding liberally covered with brandy sauce and cream, mince pies, nuts fruit, chocolates, all generously supplemented with whatever libation is preferred. A truly gargantuan meal.

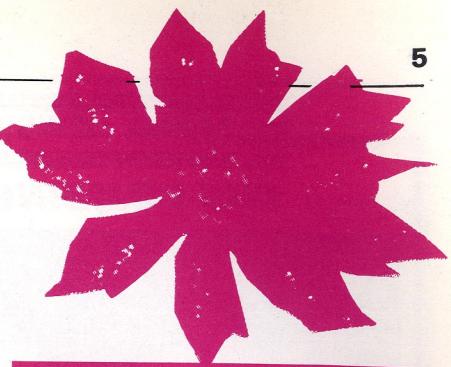
And, of course one mustn't forget the Queen's Speech. Without fail our Monarch speaks to her people every year on this day. The afternoon and evening is taken up with family chat and games, with yet more eating and drinking.

Boxing Day is somewhat quieter - a chance to recover! But still a day for spending with family and friends, and finishing off the remains of the Christmas Day feast. And then - if one has the energy - off the family goes to the Pantomime.

**By: 2 Lt J.J. Christiansen**

Christmas in Denmark starts in most families several weeks before the actual day. Baking of biscuits, buying the presents, writing the Christmas cards, preparing the Christmas menu. All the Xmas decorations for the Xmas tree have to be made. A special Danish Xmas decoration is the woven paper hearts made from coloured paper in very many different colours and patterns.

On the 24th of December in the afternoon all the Danish churches are filled and after the sermon we all go home for the big Christmas dinner (roast pork with brown/sweet potatoes and red cabbage and duck or goose filled with prunes and apples). Having eaten for some hours we walk around the Christmas tree singing the traditional hymns and carols and then (if there are small



children) Father Christmas comes and delivers, and it is often late before it is bedtime.

On Christmas Day at lunchtime most people visit their families for the big Danish Xmas lunch (spiced herring, different cold and warm courses accompanied by beer and schnapps finishing up with cheese late in the afternoon).

For all the small meals in between we have cookies or biscuits, and assorted chocolates, fruit, figs, dates, etc.

Boxing Day is then used for relaxing, seeing friends, eating some more, and studying the presents and Christmas cards once more.

**By: Sgt L.J. Hein**  
To the soldiers here, memories of Christmas long ago seem to be commonplace and ordinary. Until we consider that which really makes them special is woven into the ethnic Canadian blanket, known simply as Christmas. Today, whether you chop down your own tree or use the one prepared or stored away, still makes for that traditional celebration.

Special sauces and flavours emanate from the kitchen weeks in advance, almond paste is bought with family ties in mind. The family unites to create some of their own unique decorations. Candy canes dominate the scene. Christmas carols are sung and special movies are seen again. In the prelude, occasional church bells peal. Buggy bells jingle on the street corners for busy shoppers. Christmas festivals abound like stringing popcorn and stuffing Dad's or Santa's socks and going to church. Flashbulbs pop to the tune of tearing paper accompanied by squeals of delight. Another momentous celebration this day the birth of our Lord.

PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS

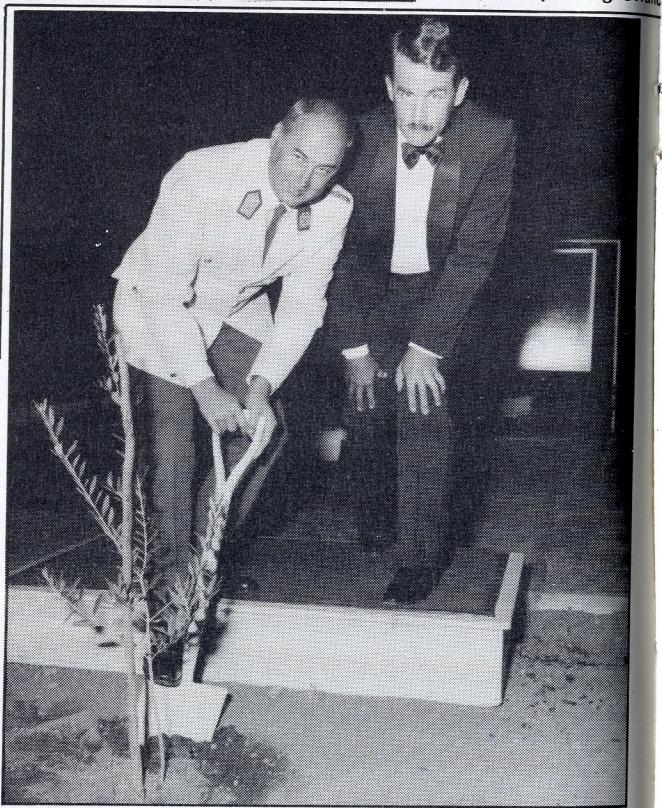
## THE COMBINED SERVICES ENTERTAINMENT SHOW



The Baron Knights



Taking a "Sporting Chance"



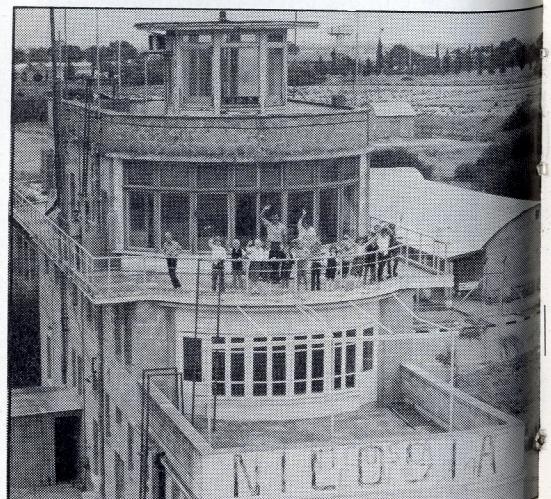
The Force Commander planting the "Tree of Peace" at Wolseley Barracks.



The Force Commander handing the Certificate of Excellence for Safe Driving to Lt Col Brandner CO Sector Six.



Mr Jeremy Craig, first ever accredited Irish Ambassador to Cyprus, visiting IRCON.



Children from St. Michael's School on the control tower of Nicosia Airport.

PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS



Remembrance Day Service at Wayne's Keep on Sunday 10 November.



The Force Commander and Lt Col Leigh stirring the Christmas pudding at Sp Regt cookhouse.



UNFICYP Workshop's prize winning Guy on Bonfire Night.



RCT mini-Medal Parade



Commanding Officer  
Lt Col PG Bibbey MBE

On 27 November 1985 the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers advance party arrived in St David's Camp, Nicosia, and Alexander Barracks, Dhekalia, to relieve 2 R Irish of their duties in Sector 2 and the Eastern Sovereign Base Area one week later. So who are the soldiers with the red and white hackle, and just what is a Fusilier?

Our name derives from King James II, who, in 1685 coined the term "My Royale Regiment of Fuzileers" when raising the 7th Foot, at the Tower of London, now our regimental home. He had decreed that the regiment should be equipped with the new snap-hance musket already in service with the French army, and known as the "Fusil".

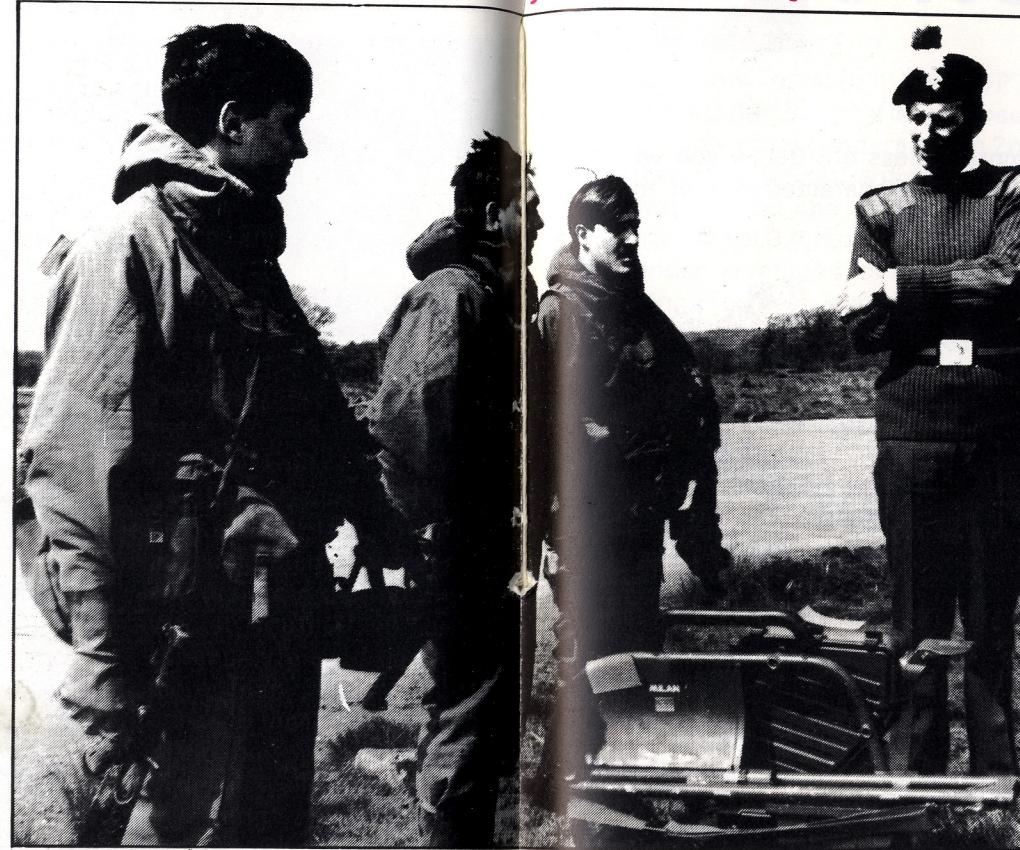
We were formed on St George's Day, 23 April 1968: the four Fusilier regiments of England, already grouped in the Fusilier Brigade, and serving in widely scattered theatres, united to form the four regular battalions of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. So began the most recent chapter in the history of these Fusilier regiments, a history which now stretches back for 311 years:



The Fox reconnaissance platoon hitches a lift to the far bank of the river during a recent FTX at Stanford.



## SECOND BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIER (5th, 6th, 7th, 20th FOOT)



The Colonel-in-Chief talks to members of the Milan platoon during a break in NBC training.

Foot in 1789. After active command of the regiment for ten years, Prince Edward was created the first Duke of Kent on St George's Day 1799, continuing as Colonel until 1801. The present Duke of Kent is a most active Colonel-in-Chief and visits the battalions regularly.

St George's Day remains our official regimental day, one for traditional celebrations including the wearing of the English United Red and White roses, first worn as cap badges by the 5th and 6th Foot in Holland in 1674 whilst fighting for the Dutch against the French.

Amongst our past Commanding Officers are many famous names in English military history. Perhaps the most famous of early years was Major General James Wolfe, conqueror of the Quebec Heights in 1759, and an officer of the 20th Foot. In more recent history, Field Marshals Montgomery of Alamein (6th and 7th Foot) and Slim of Burma (6th Foot) were officers of the regiment.

By: Maj J Ingham  
Photographs by: Unit Photographer

short notice to Dhekalia and Ayios Nikolaos during the confrontation which has led to the present deployment of UN forces. Since then the 1st Battalion has served with UNFICYP, in 1978, and will be joining us shortly when they arrive in Cyprus for a 2 year garrison tour in Episcopi.

So much for the past-but what of our present role? The Second Battalion is based presently on the edge of the beautiful, albeit windy, Yorkshire Dales, in Catterick. We are part of the 2nd Infantry Division, whose primary role, as part of NATO, is the defence of Western Europe. We are equipped with the usual range of British Infantry weapons, with a very hefty sprinkling of Milan, whilst our mobility is provided largely by Fox armoured reconnaissance vehicles, and the new Saxon wheeled APC. The battalion practiced its Germany deployment during Exercise "Lionheart" last year. This year we have provided the enemy throughout Scotland for the Home Defence exercise "Brave Defender". The recent practice we have had on exercise in maintaining mobile patrols and all types of observation posts, in addition to our special training for Cyprus, should stand us in good stead over the coming months.

Since our new formation in 1968, the regular battalions have served in: Hong Kong, the Persian Gulf, Berlin, BAOR with NATO, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Belize, West Indies, the Falkland Islands, and on 27 occasions in Northern Ireland. We may not have added to the 78 Battle Honours on our Colours during the past 17 years, but the regiment's globetrotting continues unabated.

Our links with Cyprus are comparatively recent. Between 1954-59 Fusiliers were deployed primarily around Nicosia. In 1974 the 3rd Battalion moved at very

Members of a Coy praying for the helicopter to save weary feet on the Battalion FTX. In the background, the CO Lt Col PG Bibbey MBE checks with the RAF that his feet will be spared too.



space of 3 years, we shall be off on our travels again within a few months of returning to UK from Cyprus. Our next job, with the Ace Mobile Force will take us to snowy Norway and the Northern flanks of NATO for several months each year. If we seem to make the most of skiing facilities at Mount Troodos, there may be more to it than just the desire to see the beautiful Cyprus scenery.

Skiing apart however, the battalion looks forward to meeting all comers in a wide range of sports during the months ahead. Whilst football is our most commonly played game, we are more than happy to turn our hands to most things. Our boxing team, however, has decided to take a well-earned rest after becoming 1985 British Army Novice Champions - so no challengers for them please.



What a pug-nosed brute! Another new delivery for our large fleet of Saxon wheeled APCs. The top-mounted GPMG is to be replaced by the Hughes chain gun on every vehicle. Low flyers watch out!

Above all else though, the battalion prides itself on a reputation for friendliness and getting on with the job at hand. We are proud to be here continuing the traditions of Sector 2, and look forward to meeting many of our UN colleagues, both socially and at work in the next 6 months.



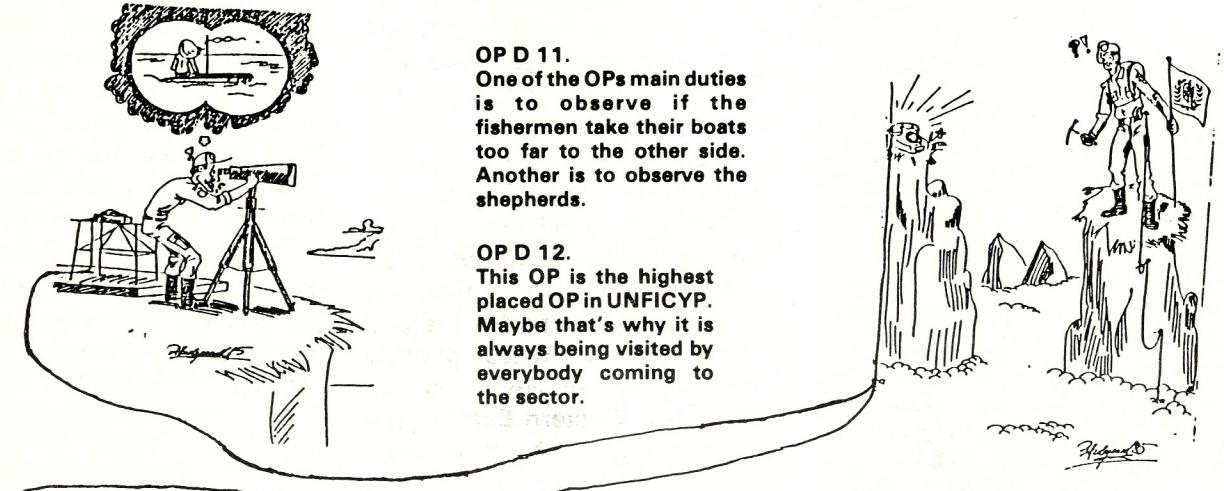
# C - COY SECTOR ONE

Text & idea by Platoon-Leader K.O. Kristensen.  
Drawing by OPman Paul Hedegaard.

My people are formed into two platoons with 24 men in each. Each platoon is divided into 6 OPs

with one Cpl and 3 Pte/LCpls in each. They do 14 days on OP duty, 7 days duty in the camp and 7 days

more or less off. Below you will see some characteristics of my OPs.

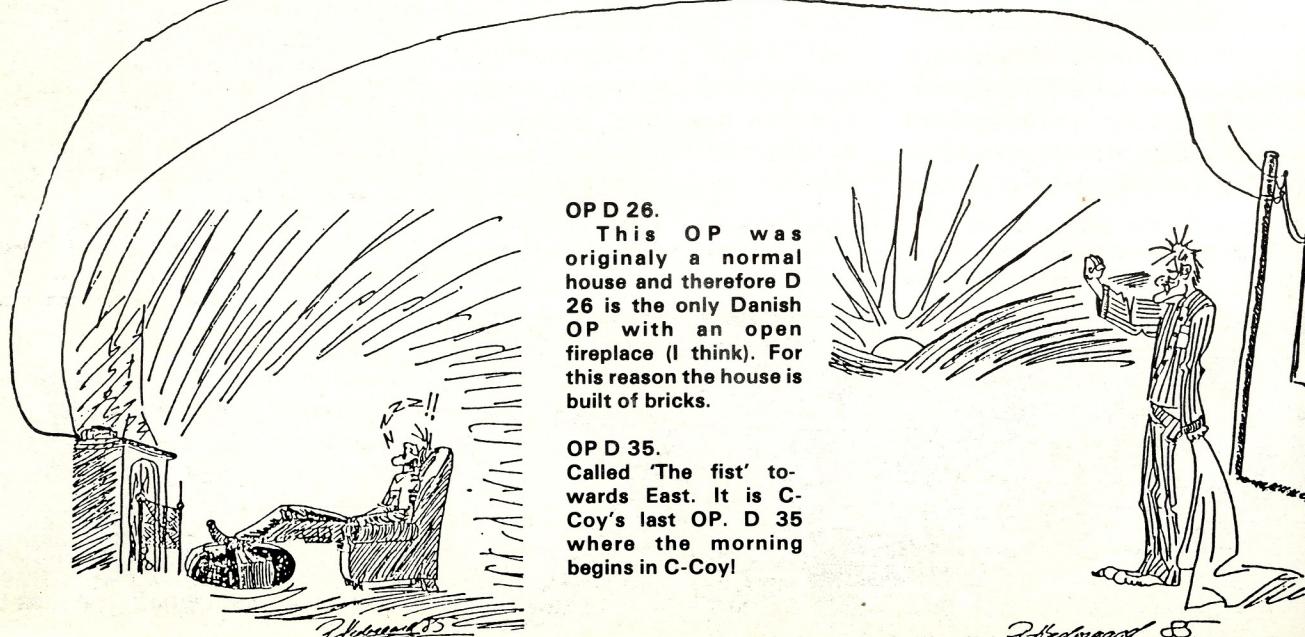
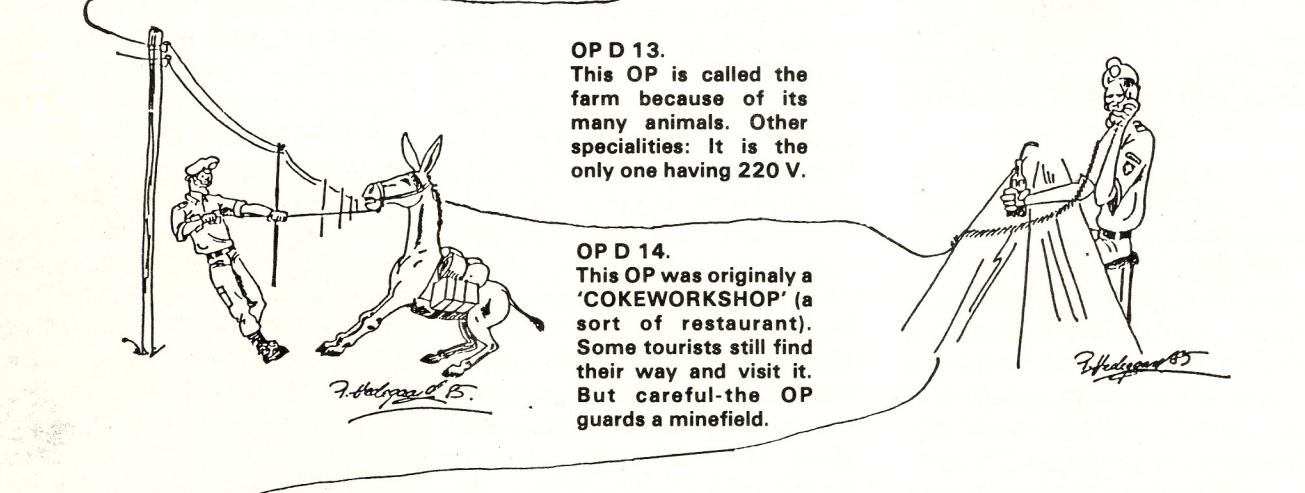


**OP D 13.**  
This OP is called the farm because of its many animals. Other specialities: It is the only one having 220 V.

**OP D 14.**  
This OP was originally a 'COKEWORKSHOP' (a sort of restaurant). Some tourists still find their way and visit it. But careful—the OP guards a minefield.

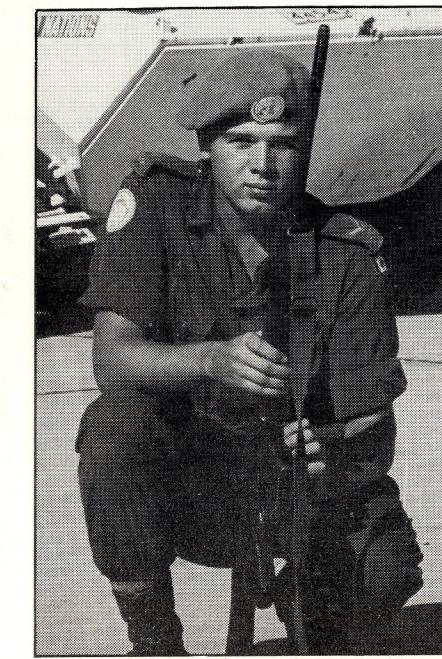
**OP D 26.**  
This OP was originally a normal house and therefore D 26 is the only Danish OP with an open fireplace (I think). For this reason the house is built of bricks.

**OP D 35.**  
Called 'The fist' towards East. It is C-Coy's last OP. D 35 where the morning begins in C-Coy!



## THE TROOPERS OF 3 COMMANDO

By: Lt Chris Wykurz

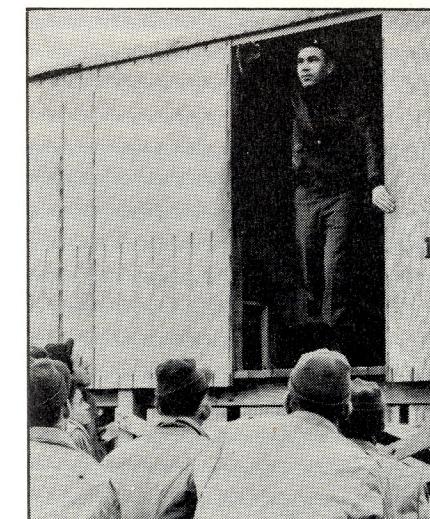


Unknown to many in UNFICYP is the fact that Sector 4 is composed not only of the gunners of The 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery but the fit and rugged troopers of 3 Airborne Commando under command of Major E.P. Ring. To these elite troops goes the toughest section of Sector 4 – Line East.

The Commando is not always with 2 RCHA but is presently under command for this 44th rotation. It seems only a few short months ago, which it was, we were a key element of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Petawawa. Fearlessly throwing ourselves out of a plane was only a small but enjoyable part of our job. Now we have traded all that for the equally important task of peace-keeping.

Upon our arrival in Cyprus we were well treated by A Company, 3 R22eR. However the fun stopped on 10 Sep when we took over responsibility for Line East. The "Beaver Lodge" area of the

### SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!



Pictured here are members of the First Special Service Force undergoing refresher training in Ft. William Henry Harrison, Montana in 1943/44. The First Special Service Force was a joint US - Canadian Formation which was unique in the fact that whilst members of the Battalion retained their identity as individual

Today's Canadian Airborne Regiment has its beginnings with units such as this.

For those of us who are paratroopers, these photos show that "SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE".



team results, had more than a fair share of Commandos. One of the hardest events to date has been the Regimental Parloff Swim. This gruelling event consisted of four 8 man teams who had to swim a 25 metre pool for 60 minutes. The 3 Commando team swam 236 laps in the allotted time and were placed first, but the other teams were close behind.

Besides the extensive sports program there have also been several social events, the most important being St Michael's Day, the celebration of the birth of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. To come in the future is the celebration of the beginning of the Royal Canadian Regiment on 21 December. It must be remembered that although we are all members of 3 Commando, all are also soldiers of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

In a manner of speaking 3 Commando is here on an advance party. The Third Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment will be here in March 1986 and the remainder of the Canadian Airborne Regiment will be here in September. Which ever way you look at it we are the "sharp" end.

Airborne!



## NEW COMMANDER SECTOR SIX

By: Capt M Lamprecht



LtCol W. BRANDNER handing over the responsibilities of being CO Sector Six UNIFIL to his successor LtCol W. MACHLY.

LtCol Werner Machly took over the command of Sector 6 from his predecessor LtCol W. Brandner on 02 11 85.

He was born in Wr. Neustadt in 1926. After having attended teacher training college he entered the famous Military Academy in Wr. Neustadt. He mustered out in April 1959 and first served as an infantry officer before changing to another

branch of the service. He became leader of a mechanized anti-aircraft platoon and later a battery commander within the unit of the 3rd Armoured Infantry Brigade.

After his staff-officer training he first became DCO of HQ-Battalion and finally, in 1981, its CO.

LtCol Machly has already served three times as a member

## THE GENESIS OF THE SONG, HOLY NIGHT

NO SONG SO DEEP AS EVER FELT  
AND EVERYWHERE IN HONOUR HELD  
NO TUNE WAS EVER SPREAD AS WIDE  
AS THAT, THE SONG OF HOLY NIGHT.

Il over the world this song is known, nearly everyone can sing it but only a few are familiar with its genesis.

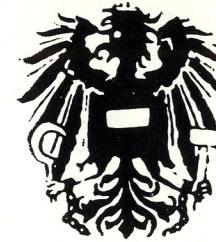
The stimulation for the creation of the song came from Josef Mohr. He proposed to his friend Franz X. Gruber that he should compose a song for midnight mass on Christmas Eve. He himself wrote the words to it, took it to Franz X. Gruber on the 24th of December 1818, and asked him to write a suitable melody for two solo voices with choir with the accompaniment of one guitar. On the same day

F.X. Gruber handed his simple composition to his musically trained friend who liked it. It was sung for the first time in the Saint Nicholas Church Oberndorf (a small village in Austria) during Midnight Mass, with great applause.

In 1825 the song was taken from Oberndorf by the organ-builder Carl Mauracher to the Tyrol, his home country. From there it spread all over the world.

On Christmas Eve there won't be only the Blue Beret that will bound us up but also that wonderful song Holy Night.

Photos by:  
Pte B Groger



of the UN-forces. In 1975 he was a UN Military Observer in the Middle East and performed his duties mainly on the Sinai Peninsula. In 1977 he was for the first time in CYPRUS as DCO. At that time AUSCON and SWEDCON were changing their sectors. He returned to the island in 1980, again as DCO.

LtCol Machly has been married since 1961 and has two daughters aged 19 and 23. His hobbies are mainly skiing, skating, playing tennis, swimming, sailing and surfing. Between 1962 and 1983 he was an enthusiastic sports and glider pilot. For 15 years he was a gliding instructor. Last but not least he is still holder of Lower Austria's gliding-altitude-flight record. An interesting detail is that he got his sportspilot licence in Cyprus in 1977.

LtCol Machly is going to serve as CO/Sector 6 for one year.

Silent Night Memorial at Oberndorf/ Salzberg.



DEM PRIESTER JOSEPH MOHR ALS DEDICATOR  
UND DER LEITER FRANZ GRUBER ALS TONKUNSTS

SVERIGE



## THE SWedes WON'T LOSE THE GIRLS

By: Lt Joran Svahnstrom

Photos by Contingent Photographer

Since 1979 there have been girls in the Swedish battalion in Cyprus. And today we will not lose them, says Senior Personnel Officer, Major Hans Akke, who has been working in Cyprus both without the girls and with them.

At this moment there are about 15 girls working at Camp Victoria.

I think it was a good thing when we decided to have girls in the battalion. We are very satisfied in the way the girls perform their tasks, says Major Akke, who himself has a female at his branch. She is a Welfare Officer. She handles her duties in a good way and the respect for her is as good as it can be.

I also think that when there are girls at the Camp it has a more gentle atmosphere. Not so much typical boy-talk. That is good for all of us.

It is very popular to be in the UN-Force. There are about 3000 applicants for the 80 posts that are open for girls in Cyprus, and

UNIFIL, where there is a Swedish hospital. "It is very good that there are so many who want these jobs - now we can be sure we get the best", says Major Akke.

Elsa Olsson, 40 years old, is a typical representative of the girls who work at SWEDCON. The first thing she says when you meet her and discuss the service is "I am very proud to be here. I think it's great - almost everything. This is an old dream to be in the service of the UN. Back home Ella lives in a little village called Torsas. There she is working at the State-controlled company for the sale of wines and spirits. Here in Cyprus Ella is a Sergeant and works at the store at Camp Victoria - she is a canteen-keeper.

"It is rather different from my job back home but I like it very much. The boys are very nice and it doesn't matter that I have to work a lot more than I do in Sweden. The Swedish store is well known by the UN-soldiers all over the island. 'Yes, I think we have a lot of things to sell, says

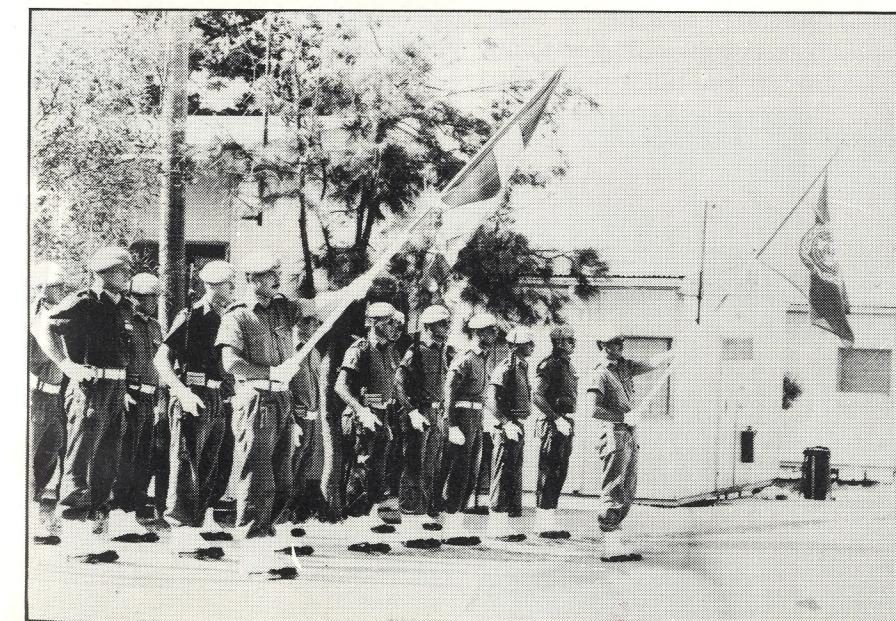


Ella Olsson - one of the girls in the Swedish battalion.

Ella. This sergeant is also unique - she is the first female Supervisor of the Officers Mess.

Ella has a lot to do - on Sundays she serves as a church-warden. This is typical for our girls, says Major Akke. They like their job and they want to do the same jobs as the boys. All the girls are obliged to fulfil OP-duty during at least one day and night - and all do it without complaining.

The Swedish girls are working as personnel assistant staff clerk, radio officer, nurse, hygiene officer, tel/radio operator, post clerk, pay clerk and - as Ella - canteen-keeper. The girls are well established at SWEDCON - and you can be sure they will stay with the UN-Forces in the future.



The Colour-Guard at Camp Victoria 1 Oct 1985.

"We like our girls - and I think the other contingents do as well", is the last word from Major Akke on this subject.



## THE NEW UN TRANSPORT SQUADRON - 66 SQUADRON RCT



**66**Squadron RCT takes over as the UN Transport Squadron in November 1985. The Squadron is normally based in Tidworth, on the edge of Salisbury Plain in Southern England. It usually supports 1st Infantry Brigade, the largest brigade in the British Army. The following are some notes about the Squadron and its history.

66 Squadron RCT was first raised in Dublin in 1902 as a Horse Transport (HT) Company of the Army Service Corps (ASC). On 1 October 1912 it amalgamated with 5 other HT Companies to form 66 Motor Transport (MT) Company ASC based at Woolwich, London.

On 20 March 1914, it was re-numbered but on 1 September that year a new 66 MT Company was raised, this time at Bulford near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

66 MT Company served in France throughout the First World War before being disbanded on 12 March 1918. The Company was again raised at the start of World War Two and moved to Egypt where it remained as a reinforcement training company until again being disbanded in April 1944.



Yet again the Company was reformed in Egypt in 1950 and four years later moved to Munster in Germany. From 1954 - 1965 66 Company RASC served in Germany in various locations until, on 15 July 1965, on the formation of the Royal Corps of Transport, it changed its title to 66 Squadron RCT. From then until 1971 66 Squadron RCT served in Nienburg, Germany. On 31 December 1971, the Squadron was once more disbanded.

The present 66 Squadron RCT was reformed in Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth in the South-West of England on 1 April 1979 where it has since remained. Its role is to supply transport support to 1 Infantry Brigade. It was initially equipped with 4 ton and 16 tonne trucks, but in 1982 the

Squadron was re-equipped with the new Bedford 8 tonne TM vehicles which it continues to operate now.

In addition to our main task of support for 1 Infantry Brigade, 66 Squadron RCT has also completed a number of important tasks, most notable of which were in 1982 when the Squadron delivered rock salt to Wales and South-West England in some of the worst road conditions in living memory, and during the Falkland Islands conflict when the Squadron completed some 234,000 miles delivering stores to ports and airfields.

Since its latest reformation, the Squadron has completed two previous UNFICYP tours in 1980 and 1982. With its history of several disbands, mergers, takeovers and reformations, there is little wonder that 66 Squadron's emblem is the Phoenix Rising.

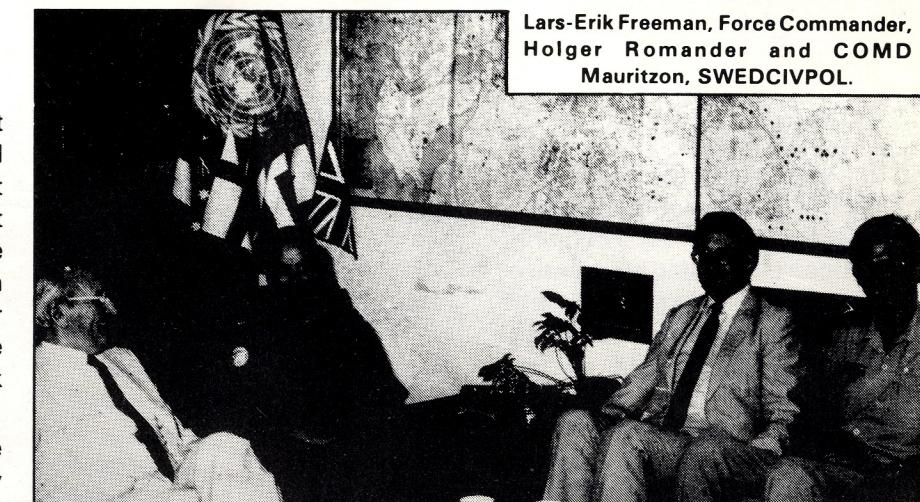
66 Squadron RCT recently took part in the Tidworth Hexathlon. This is a sporting competition involving six sports with 28 teams in each. The Squadron got to the semi-finals in all the sports except rugby and went on to win the football and hockey, thus securing the overall winners trophy - no mean feat for such a relatively small unit. 66 Squadron now looks forward to competing against the other UNFICYP units during its tour in Cyprus.



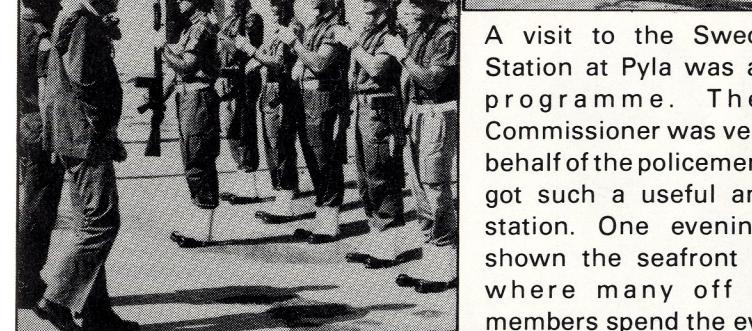
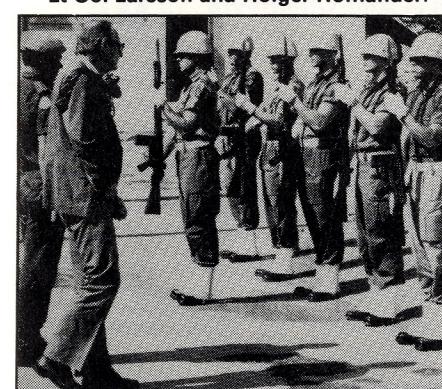
## A VISIT THAT HAS BEEN EAGERLY AWAITED

Photographer and Writer Ch Insp P-A Persholt

Lars-Erik Freeman, Force Commander, Holger Romander and COMD Mauritzon, SWEDCIVPOL.



A walk in Pyla, Insp Gidhammar, Insp Bergstrom, Lars-Erik Freeman, Holger Romander, Comd Mauritzon and Ch Insp Lindholm.



A visit to the Swedish Police Station at Pyla was also on the programme. The Police Commissioner was very happy on behalf of the policemen, who have got such a useful and efficient station. One evening he was shown the seafront in Larnaca where many off duty UN-members spend the evenings.

What did he say then before he left for Sweden. Well, maybe he was joking a bit, but he said that there are two police high-schools, one in Stockholm and one in Larnaca. He also said that the policemen who are sent here to serve are good, but when they return to Sweden they are much better.



SP REGT PROCLAIMS THE UN YEAR OF PEACE IN RUN FROM MARATHON TO ATHENS ON SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 1985.



# THE FERRET

By: 2Lt A Bridge

For most readers of this magazine the Ferret is a slightly mystifying vehicle as most only see it patrolling, and thus know little of its background and capabilities; I hope that this article may throw some light on the subject.

Originally designed in 1952 the Ferret has a Rolls Royce Engine which develops 135 horse power. It has a top speed of 50 mph on the road reducing to 20 mph across country for which it does 5 mpg.

The model has been so successful, serving in most parts of the world, that Alvis have just brought out the Ferret 80 which uses the same design. Within the Squadron we have two types, the

Mk 2 which is used for all patrolling tasks, and the Mk 1 which is used as a liaison vehicle. The latter is nicknamed the Bucket because of its ability to collect water – a fact that has been all to obvious in recent weeks.

In its time the Ferret has been painted White, Sandy, Green and Camouflage – readers from Sector Six will see both Green and White ones on a daily basis. The Ferret has become so popular in recent years that there exists in Canada a Ferret Club in which collectors spend many hours carefully rebuilding and preserving them. The ones we presently use are mostly over 25 years old – they have served us well and long may they continue to do so.



Ferret on patrol at Petropaphi.

## UN MP COY CHARITY FASHION SHOW FOR BLIND CHILDREN OF CYPRUS

Photos by: Sgt A Thomson

By: Maj A Bell-Chambers



Mrs Georgoulla Ioannidou, receives her prize from Moira Bell-Chambers (left) organizer of the lottery and Christine Jager (right).

The UN MP Company Ladies held a Charity Fashion Show in the UNPA on 29 October 1985 and simultaneously made a draw for over 140 prizes collected by the ladies and generously donated by Cypriot merchants and businesses, and Sector Commanders. The two events were selected by the Force

Commander as special projects in UNFICYP's participation in the International Year of Peace. The proceeds of the show and lottery are to be donated to the MP Fund for Blind Children in Cyprus.

The winner of the lottery first prize, a return air ticket to London was donated by Cyprus Airways

and won by Georgoulla Ioannidou of the HQ Finance Branch. The first door prize for the Fashion Show, a return air ticket to Israel, was kindly donated by Kristis Travel and Tourism Ltd, Nicosia. It was won by RGR McAllister, Sector 2, who, as he would be unable to travel to the Middle East, gave the ticket back to be auctioned and the cash raised to be donated to the MP Fund for Blind Children in Cyprus.

The clothes for the show were produced by Anna of Simon Boutique Nicosia, and modelled both by ladies of the MP Coy and professionals. Collette Ioannidou of the CBC, kindly volunteered her services to be the MC for the show which proved to be a resounding success. Credit and congratulations are due to the ladies of the UN MP Coy for raising in excess of 900 Cyprus Pounds for this worthy cause.