



The Blue Beret

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL



I send to you and to all the military and civilian personnel of UNFICYP my Christmas greetings and my best wishes for the New Year. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the devotion, efficiency, resourcefulness and courage shown by you, your staff and the contingents of the Force in performing your important tasks. The excellence of the work by UNFICYP in often difficult and delicate circumstances is particularly appreciated here at Headquarters. It is my earnest hope that the forthcoming year may bring more peaceful and stable conditions in the Island.

KURT WALDHEIM
Secretary General

New Force Commander Arrives



Last week, the new Force Commander Major General J.J. Quinn was received by a Guard of Honour when he arrived at HQ UNFICYP to take over command.



The annual Carol Service was held this year in the Roman Catholic Church at Paphos Gate. During the service each Contingent sang one of their own carols and read a lesson in their own language.



After the Carol Service all the padres and priests in the Force were pictured together. They are from the left Capt J.A.L. Rheault, Capt R.R. Murray, Capt R.G. Penman, Chaplain J. Groszruck, Maj S.J. Danielsson, Chaplain B. Christensen, and Chaplain E.S. Jaatinen.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE FORCE COMMANDER



Christmas is a time of goodwill and also a time when we like to remember our families and friends from whom many of us are separated. Christmas also heralds a New Year when everyone hopes for peace and happiness.

Even though I have only recently come back to the Force I am very impressed with what I have heard and seen. We can all find great satisfaction in the progress you have made during the past year to bring peace to this Island, and can hope that this progress will continue in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the hard work you have all done to achieve this progress.

To you all and your families at home, I wish a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Santa Claus Visits FINCON



.....with presents for the children.

DANCON



NEWS

RADIO HILSEN TIL DANMARK.

Igen i år har det været muligt for det danske kontingent at sende julehilsener til familie- og venner i Danmark. Danmarks radio har været rundt til alle KMP for at optage julehilsen programmet der vil blive udsendt i Danmarks Radio den 25 DEC 76.

Once again this year it was possible for members of the Danish Contingent to send Christmas greetings to their families by Danish Radio to be broadcast on 25 December. Two reporters from Danish Radio visited all the Danish locations of UNFICYP to record the greetings and messages.

JULESALMEGUDSTJENESTE! HOLY CROSS CHURCH.



Lørdag den 11 DEC blev UNFICYP skydek konkurrence "FALLING PLATE" afviklet. Det danske skydehold blev nr. 2 i gevær og maskinpistol. DANCON blev nr. 2 af samtlige kontingenter.

UNFICYP SKYDEKONKURRANCE

At the UNFICYP Falling Plate Shooting contest, teams from the Danish Contingent won 2nd place in the rifle and SMG and came 2nd overall in the competition.



← Onsdag den 15 DEC blev den traditionelle UNFICYP julesalme gudstjeneste med deltagelse af alle kontingenter afholdt i Holy Cross Church i Nicosia. På billedet ses Lt. P.O. Darville læse op af biblen, under det danske indslag i højtideligheden.

On 15 December the traditional UNFICYP Christmas Service was held in the Holy Cross Church in Nicosia. Seen left is Lt. P.O. Darville reading from the bible during the Danish part of the service.

LUCIA TAKES THE LEAD IN "DARK" DECEMBER

December 13th is always one of the darkest days of the year in Sweden, and it is traditionally St Lucia's Day. Each year a young blonde girl dresses in a white robe and has a crown of light to wear on her head. However, this year the Swedish Battalion could not find a young blonde girl to be their Lucia, and so Krister Modd was selected to fill this role instead.

In Sweden of course the Lucia Day is always dark and cold. The Swedish soldiers therefore found it strange to be celebrating this day in bright sunshine.

The lack of a young girl and the sunshine were the only differences in the way the Lucia tradition was maintained this year in Famagusta. In the picture Lucia has just completed "his/her" visit to the Othello Tower OP.



SWEDISH TEAM WIN GOLD MEDALS



The Swedish Football team were not so successful, last week, since they were beaten 6-1 by the 9 Signal Regiment team in a friendly game. It was a good game and goalkeeper Stefan Lundgren was one of the busiest players on the field.



The UNFICYP shooting championship was a good occasion for the Swedish Pistol Team, for they won this event. The team is from the left Folke Norberg, Stig Hurting and Oswald Nilsson.

THE LAST GUARD FOR GENERAL PREM CHAND



On Wednesday 22nd December, Lieutenant General and Mrs Prem Chand left Cyprus to return to India. Before leaving the Blue Beret Camp for the last time by helicopter, the General inspected a multi-national Guard of Honour of detachments from all seven military Contingents in the Force under the command of Commandant J. Hamill. During his inspection of the Guard the General spoke to each officer, and CQMS Mulhern and Company Sergeant Redmond.

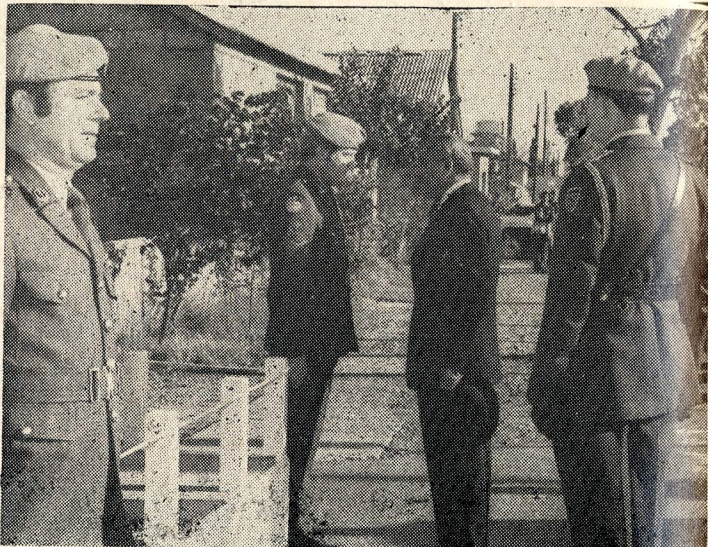
The General and Mrs Prem Chand then drove to the VIP helicopter pad, where they said good-bye to the Sector Commanders and senior staff officers. They then got into a Whirlwind helicopter piloted by Flying Lieutenant Tomlins for their journey to Larnaca Airport.

OLD BUT STILL WORKING



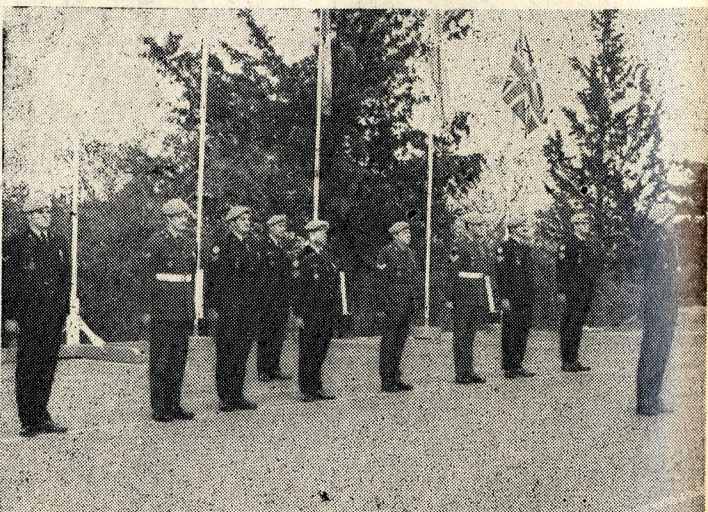
An unusual birthday party took place in the MT lines at St. Davids Camp last week. The drivers of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment had discovered that this old four-tonner had been in service for 17 years, so what more appropriate way could they celebrate this fact than by a little decoration and a party!

In 38 Squadron RCT Cpl Wells and L/Cpl Phillips know that it is only by constant maintenance that the four-ton fleet keeps going.

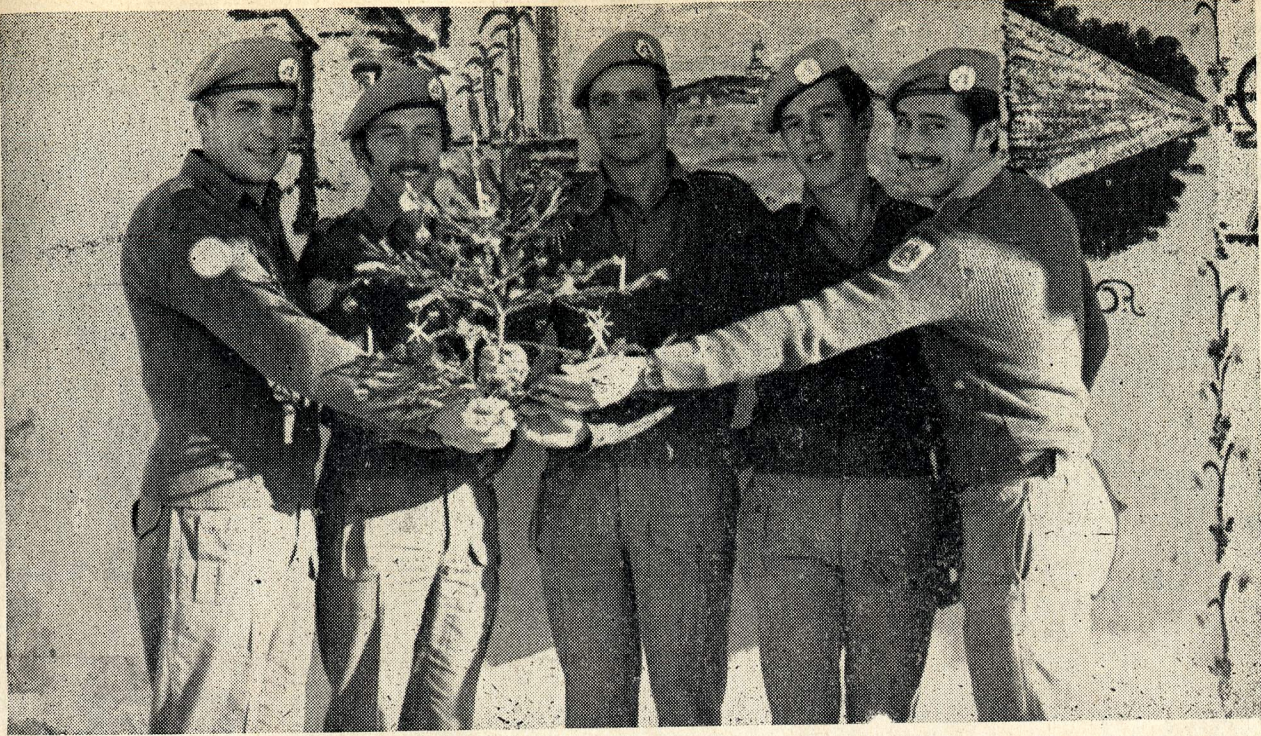


General Prem Chand saying good-bye to CQMS Mulhern while Commandant Hamill looks on.

MEDALS FOR MP COMPANY



Last week eight NCOs in the Military Police Company received their UN medals from Colonel de Chastelain, the DCOS.



THE CO OF AUSCON LT COL W. FRITZ AND ALL RANKS OF THE AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT WISH YOU

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM AUSCON

The Chaplain's Letter

In diesen "stillen Tagen" der Weihnachtszeit werden uns wieder die Ohren klingen vor lauter "merry" und "happy".

"Freude" und "Glück" werden uns serviert, sogar gegen bare Münze, doch vor lauter Jubel, Trubel und Heiterkeit scheint mancher vergessen zu haben, daß

Weihnachten mehr zu bieten hat als "Oh Tannenbaum" in Plastikausführung mit Schnee aus der Sprühdose.

Es ist nämlich schon seit 2000 Jahren kein "top secret" mehr, daß "Frieden auf Erden" überall dort möglich ist, wo es einem Menschen gelingt, so sehr "Mensch" zu werden, daß Gott in ihm transparent werden kann

—Beispiel: Jesus Christus! Wir werden dann echte Freude und echtes Glück erleben können, wenn uns in ähnlicher Weise unsere eigene "Menschwerdung" gelingt. Denn dann wird durch uns dieser "Friede auf Erden" Wirklichkeit, der letzten Endes die Garantie dafür sein kann, daß wir überhaupt richtig "merry" und "happy" sein können, wie es

unsere Kameraden auf dem Foto demonstrieren.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich uns allen, daß uns ein frohmachendes Christfest vom Alten Jahr 1976 hinüberbegleitet in ein glückbringendes Neues Jahr 1977.

J. GROSSRUCK, Mi10bKur
Chaplain/AUSCON

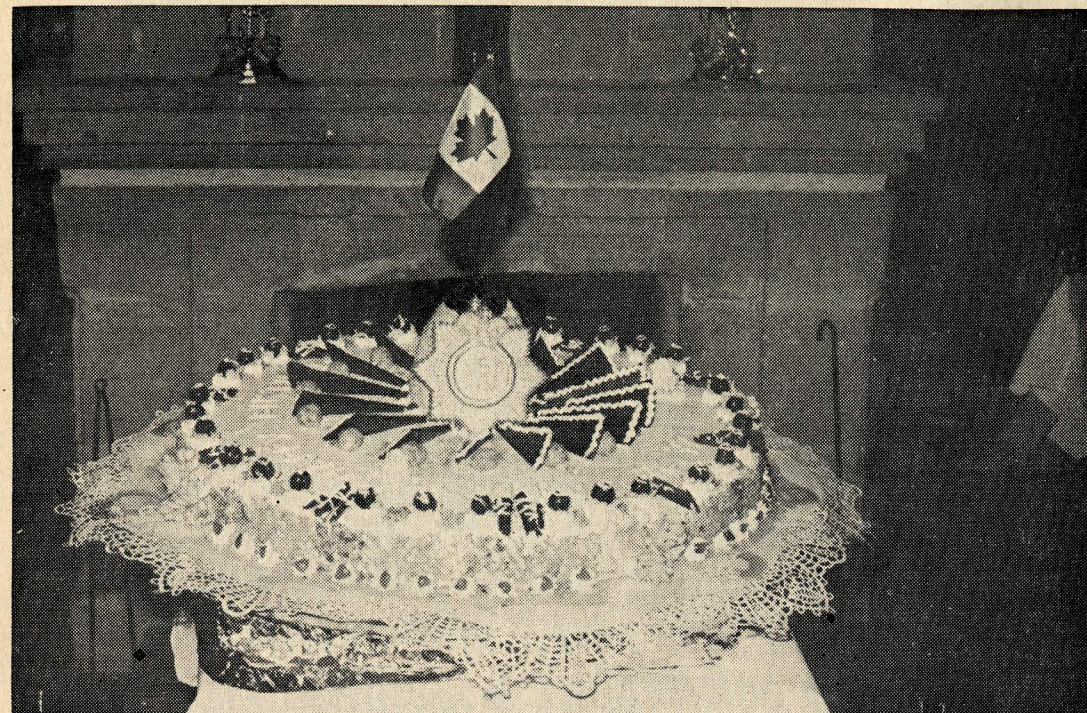


GOOD BYE 1976



WELCOME 1977

RCR CELEBRATE 93RD BIRTHDAY



We are now in the festive season, celebrating both Christmas and the start of the New Year. As if this were not enough to celebrate, most of us are members of the Royal Canadian Regiment, which on 21 Dec celebrated its Ninety-third birthday. Obviously, this called for a birthday cake and a day of sports and relaxation.

Another yearly event is the Senior NCO's Pace stick Competition. Because we could not compete with other units this year, 3 RCR held it's own Competition. The competitor must march in quick and slow time and must display good personal drill as well as flawless handling of the Pace Stick. Congratulations to Sgt Hunter of Q Coy for winning the event.

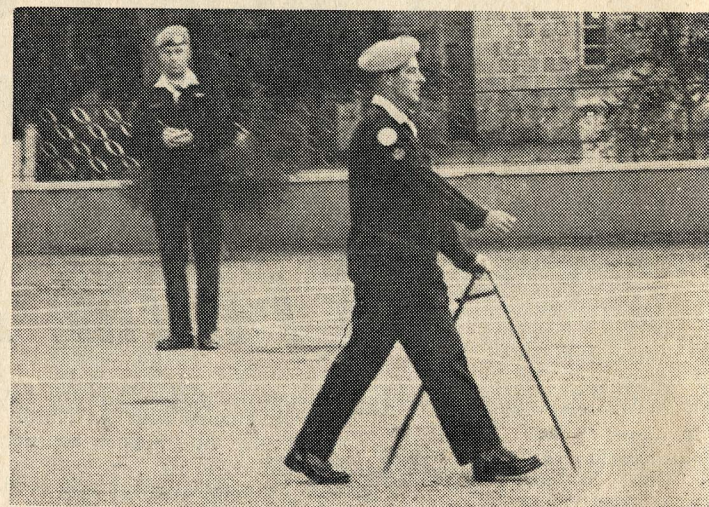
December also was the month for Sector 4 to host the meeting of the Sector Commanders. Besides receiving a briefing on the Sector, the Commanders toured the line and had lunch together in the Officer's Mess.

SPORT ?



The Canadian version of that well known sport — cross country skiing.

THE PACE STICK COMPETITION



Sgt Morton of R Company going through his paces while CSM Bonderud judges his performance.

THE "JUNTA" MET IN SECTOR FOUR

Last week the Sector Commanders met in Wolseley Barracks, and toured a part of the Buffer Zone in the old city. They are from the left Lt Col Brierley, Lt Col Ellis, Maj Knox, Lt Col Lopmeri, Lt Col Fritz, Lt Col Baarnheim, and Lt Col Krogen.



ENGLISH SUMMARY

The falling plate competition was arranged traditionally by Fincon on 11th December in Dhekelia. After several close rounds the result of the final heats were as follows: Pistol: 1. Swedcon, 2. Fincon, 3. MP Coy. SMG: 1. Fincon, 2. Dancon, 3. Britcon. Rifle: 1 Cancon, 2. Dancon, 3. Fincon. In the picture above the Finish SMG team is seen running to the firing point and victory.

"Tiernapojat", star-boys or star-bearers, is a very old traditional Finnish Christmas play. It was originally played by poor students who used it as a means to finance their studies. Since then it has been a tradition in the whole of Finland. "Tiernapojat" is a story of the birth of Jesus Christ and the happenings connected with it. In the picture in the centre King Herod is seen declaring the death sentence to the new-born King of Judea. Many familiar faces from HQ UNFICYP and the Finnish Battalion were seen in the play, which was performed at Fincon's pre-Christmas gatherings.

PUTOILEVIA LEVYJÄ JA TIERNA- POIKIA

Joulu on tämän lehden ilmestyessä jo takana päin ja uutta odotellaan. Ennen joulua ehti kuitenkin tapahtua monta tärkeää asiaa jotka on syytä kirjata tähänkin. Perinteseen tapaan järjestettiin Falling plate — (putoava levy) kilpailu Dhekeliasa lauantaina 11.12. Vanhaan tapaan kilpailtiin paremmuudesta pistooli—, kp— ja kivääriammunnassa. Aurinkoisena aamupäivänä käyty kova kilpailu muodostui tuloksiltaan seuraavanlaisiksi: pistooli 1. Swdcon, 2. Fincon, 3. Mp Coy. Kp: 1. Fincon (hyvä Suomi), 2. Dancon, 3. Britcon. Kivääri: 1. Cancon, 2. Dancon, 3. Fincon. Onnittelemme voittajia. Yläkuvassa Finconin kp— joukkue täydessä vauhdissa matkalla ampu- paikalle, alakuvassa Canconin voittoisa kiväärijoukkue vastaanottaa mitalinsa prikaatinkenr Tillotsonilta ja ev Lopmeriltä.

Vanha ponjoissuomalainen joulu- perinne — Tiernapojat — herätettiin henkiin Finconissa. Parissa pikkujoulussa kuningas Herodes (keskikuvassa) kulkikin hevosillaan ja ratsuillaan. Sitä isoa joulu-ua odotellessa.

Josta mieleen: myöhästyneet joulutoivotukset ja oikein hyvää uutta vuotta koko Finconille.



TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS

from

Lieutenant General D Prem Chand PVSM

I hand over command of UNFICYP today, the 18th December 1976, after a long and eventful tenure of seven years with the United Nations in Cyprus. During this period, in addition to sensitivity and incidents from time to time, there have unfortunately been grave and tragic developments on the Island. In spite of this, UNFICYP has at all times and on occasions under the most difficult conditions endeavoured to carry out its role and functions to prevent intercommunal conflict and destruction of life and property, to the best of its ability. An essential requirement in recent years has been the stabilization and consolidation of the situation in the Buffer Zone after the operations in the summer of 1974. The success of your efforts, and those of our colleagues in the past, together with the steady, balanced and impartial manner in which you have tackled many a difficult and delicate situation has been well and appropriately reflected in the Secretary-General's reports covering each mandate. I should like to say today that I consider myself greatly privileged and honoured at having been given this unique opportunity of commanding such a splendid team of multinational peace-keepers, who have contributed much to the cause of peace in such a dedicated, devoted and effective manner.

We have the good fortune of having seven military and three police contingents from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom in UNFICYP and, perhaps, the most encouraging feature of our functioning has been how well they have integrated to form a well-balanced, hard-working, effective and happy team. I thank you and your time-honoured countries most warmly for all you have done for UNFICYP, and I should like you to know that I am proud of having served with you.

We have been singularly fortunate in having the fullest support, assistance and guidance from the Secretary-General, Dr K. Waldheim, and his Under-Secretaries-General, Dr R. Guyer and Mr B. Urquhart, as well as their staffs and colleagues at UN Headquarters, which made our task so much easier. This was all

the more needed during the summer of 1974, and we are deeply grateful for the extent to which we have been supported in so full a measure all along.

I wish to pay a special personal tribute also to the memory of the Secretary-General and his Under-Secretaries General who were there when I joined UNFICYP, the late U Thant, the late Dr R. Bunche and the late Dr J. Rolz-Bennett, with my deepest gratitude for their most generous support.



The peace-makers and peace-keepers in UNFICYP have always worked closely together and indeed they complement each other. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador J. Perez de Cuellar, and the Senior Political Adviser, Dr R. Gorge, on two separate assignments, have made every effort to assist us in our peace-keeping efforts, and we have relied much on their advice, assistance and support, and I should like to thank them and their predecessors, Mr L. Weckman-Munoz and Mr B. Osorio-Tafall, the previous Special Representatives, and Mr J. Miles, the previous Senior Political Adviser, for their valuable contribution and assistance. We owe much to the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr G. Dunn, and the members of the UN Secretariat for looking after the administrative and logistic needs of the Force, and the willing and cheerful manner in which all our requirements have been met has made all the difference. I am much obliged to him and his predecessors, Mr V. Mills, Mr G. Ryder, Mr S. Dharman and Mr Hausner.

I am deeply indebted to my immediate assistants on the

staff, Brigadier M. Tillotson, the Chief of Staff, Colonel J. de Chastelain, the Deputy Chief of Staff, and the Police Adviser, Assistant Commissioner J. Hamilton, together with their officers, NCO's and men working under them, for their excellent contribution in running such a happy and effective team, and for their advice and assistance. I also recall with gratitude the contribution by their predecessors, Brigadier General C. Beattie, Brigadier F. Henn and Brigadier General E. Leslie as the Chiefs of Staff; Colonel P. Chiswell, Colonel Thornton and Colonel Riddell-Webster as the Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Dr H. Wagner, Superintendent Davidson and Superintendent McAulay as the Police Advisers. I have owed them all much over the years.

Major-General J. Quinn takes

over from me and in welcoming him to Cyprus I should like to wish him every success in achieving the tasks which lie ahead. I am confident that you will give him the same loyalty, trust and confidence which you extended to me in so generous a measure, in carrying out the mandate of the Security Council and the directives of the Secretary-General towards the peace and prosperity of Cyprus and its good people, who have given us much with their confidence, consideration, utmost kindness and generous hospitality.

We are close to the festive season, and in taking my leave, may I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families, from my wife and myself, a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

CANADIANS WIN AGAIN



The Bi-annual Shooting competition took place ten days ago at Dhekelia. This event was, as is usual, very well organised and run by the Finnish Contingent.

The Canadians won the Rifle Falling Plate competition again, the Finns won the SMG and the Swedes — the Pistol.

At the end of the competition, Brigadier Tillotson presented the medals and prizes. He is seen above giving the Canadians their prizes.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Week ending 24 December	12
Same period last year	4
Total for the year	245
Total for the same period last year	296

LESSON OF THE MONTH
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE