



The Blue Beret

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FINNISH DEFENCE MINISTER VISITS UNFICYP



The Defence Minister of Finland Ingvar S. Melin visited Fincon from 28th to 30th March. Mr Melin is seen inspecting the Finnish Battalion in Kykko Camp, accompanied by Lt Col Olli Lopmeri.

AUSTRIAN MEDICAL TEAM LEAVES UNFICYP

leaving fourteen Officers and NCO's behind to run a medical centre in the Blue Beret Camp.

The UNFICYP Medical Centre provides out-patient, dental, X-ray laboratory and limited in-patient facilities for the Force — particularly those parts based in the Nicosia area. With the departure of the Austrians these facilities will be provided by the British and Canadian Contingents.



A sign that will not be seen again in UNFICYP.



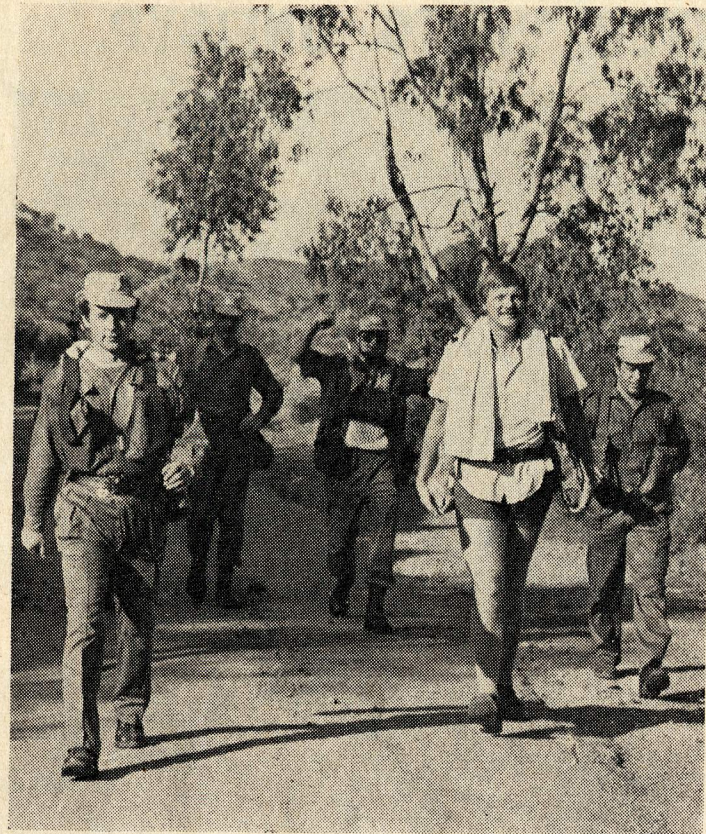
S/Sgt B Presenhuber and Pte M Bayer checking instruments in the Out-patients department.



WO 1 Pontasch with Driver Gaynor — one of the last patients.

DANCON MARCH '76

The traditional DANCON March was held in Sector One on the weekend 27th/28th March. 195 of the 263 marchers completed the 50 km course, the first half of which was from Xeros to Kokkina Point. On the second day the marchers returned to Xeros along the same route. The march was over hilly country and each entrant had to carry at least 10 kilos of equipment. It was not a competition, but even so some participants recorded very fast times. Pte E Larsen, HQ Company DANCON, finished in the fastest time this year — 6 hours 16 minutes.



On the first day the weather was fine, and everyone started in good spirits, though as blisters formed they sank a little.



The Supply Officer of DANCON, Maj. N.A.G. Mannerup, is seen resting. Even though he was involved in the arrangements for the March, he was still able to take part.



A number were troubled with blisters, but appreciated a foot-bath at the Medical Centre in Viking Camp.



The Chaplain, Rev. Paulsen, is seen encouraging some of the marchers. At home he takes part in many similar events.



Despite the fact that the March went through beautiful country, Pte H.E. Madsen took a book with him to read while he walked.



The CANCON march team on its way to Kokkina Point.



DANCON's BLISTER SERVICE attended to many people on the route. The team was (from left to right) Pte O.N. Pedersen, Pte P. Holm, St. Sgt Jessen and MCO E.S. Kristensen.

REPORT FROM A DESERT COMPANY

On the 15th January the Swedish Battalion's Number Two Company was posted from Cyprus and UNFICYP to

the United Nations Emergency Force in Sinai. The company was sent to re-inforce UNEF after the Disengagement

Agreement between Egypt and Israel was made.

The company is now based in a former railway station

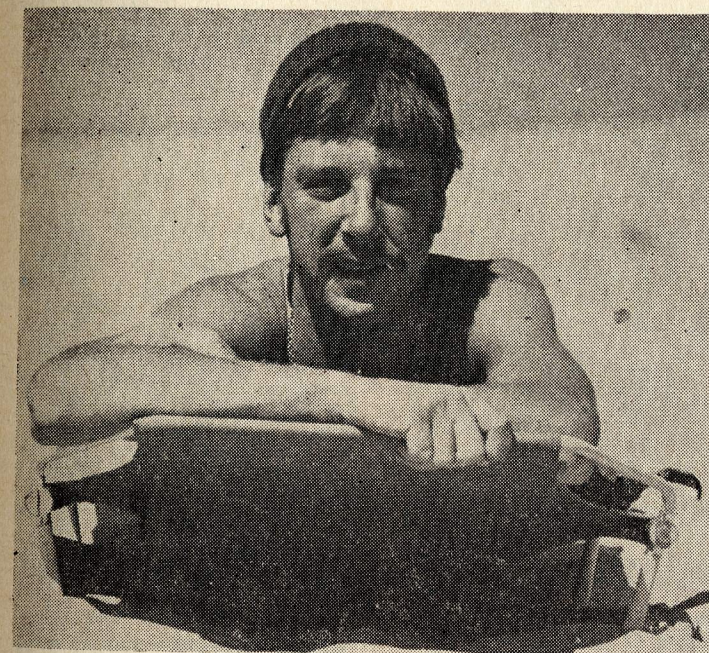
called Al Nagila which is in the desert 280 kilometers southwest of Tel Aviv and 50 kilometers from the Suez Canal where a UN buffer-zone is situated. Number 2 Company's task there is to man a number of observation posts looking over the Israeli positions.

SWEDCON SPECIAL

Reports from the company say that sandstorms, the bedu, camels, two new countries and languages and SAND are the main differences between Sinai and Cyprus. The major part of the company is still living in tents, although prefabricated huts are now being built for them. However, even though the soldiers in Number 2 Company have a somewhat lower standard of living, this is more than compensated by the fact that they have had the opportunity to serve in another interesting United Nations Force.



OP-duties in the buffer-zone.



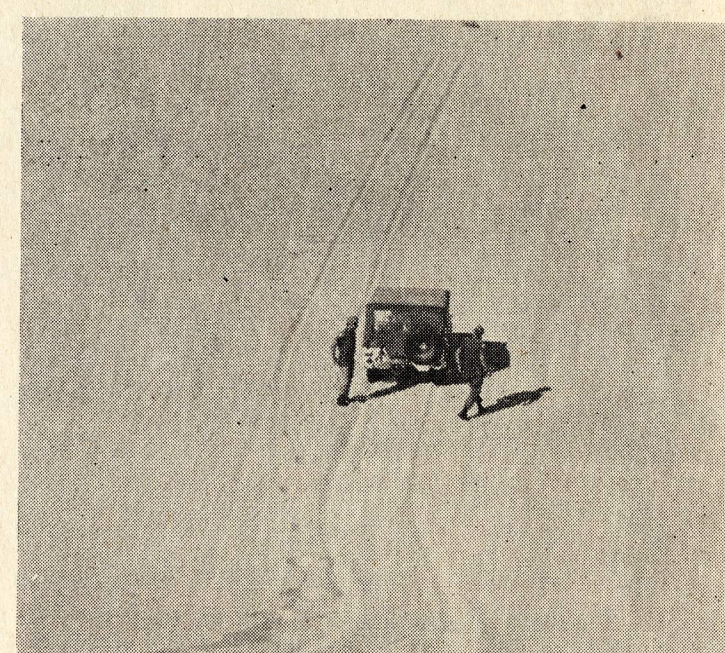
A nice rest in the sand...

Det har gått bra för våra vänner från fd 2. kompaniet som i mitten av januari försvann så hastigt och lustigt från Carl Gustaf Camp. En vecka senare dök de upp i Mellersta Östern, i buffertzonen mellan Israel och Egypten inte långt från Suezkanalen.

heten igång mitt i all sanden. För sand finns det och blir över. Så nog finns det skillnader

mellan Cypern och Mellersta Östern. Mer om det i nästa nummer av Cypressen. Senare

kommer varje man också att få ett exemplar av alla Cypresserna i inbundet skick.



...in the middle of "nowhere".

SWEDCON SUMMARY

Flera från 59:an har redan passerat på att besöka den lilla järnvägsstationen Al Nagila mitt ute i öknen där fd 2 kompaniet har sitt hem. Standarden är mycket primitiv. Det är svårt att få tag på materiel och man får improvisera för att hålla verksam-



Driving is a gamble in the desert.

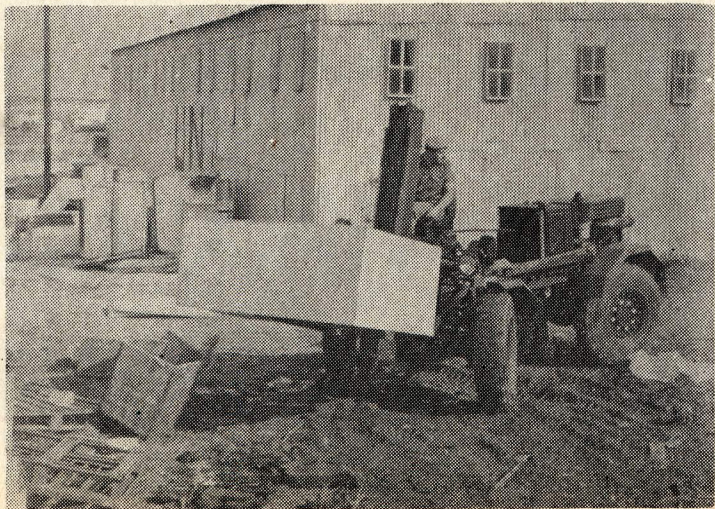
END OF TOUR SERVICE AT ST COLUMBA'S

NEW DRAUGHTSMAN AT HEADQUARTERS



The Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf the Right Reverend Leonard Ashton seen talking to Reverend JA Barrie CF and RSM G White outside St Columba's Church last week, before the End of Tour Service for the Welsh Guards and 7 Squadron RCT.

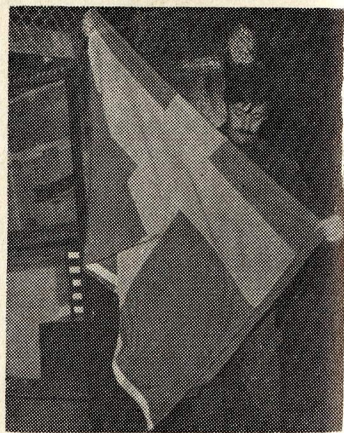
A Visit to the Ordnance Detachment



The Ordnance Detachment in Camp UNFICYP not only issues new stores to the Units in the Force, it also collects and disposes of unserviceable equipment. Recently all the old refrigerators were loaded onto trucks and taken away. In the picture left Cpl Mick Fox of 7 Squadron RCT did the loading with his "Eager Beaver" At the same time a new arrival in the Detachment, Pte D. Smith was seen (right) re-packing a Swedish flag.



Last week Lance Corporal Alan Stallabrass RE handed over his T-square (above) to Lance Corporal Bob Brown his successor, and the Map-store to Corporal Scotty Duncan of the Canadian Contingent (below) at the end of his tour in UNFICYP. L/Cpl Stallabrass has been the draughtsman is HQ UNFICYP for the last six months. It has been his job to prepare the vu-foils and traces required for briefing and record purposes.



The Ordnance Detachment has also recently opened a water-sports facility at Ayia Napa, from where it is possible to go water skiing and fishing. They hope later to acquire a sailing dinghy so that sailing will also be available.

GÄSTE SIND IMMER WILLKOMMEN...

GÄSTE SIND IMMER WILLKOMMEN beim AUSCON, ob es sich um überprüfende Vorgesetzte, wie etwa den Force Commander, oder um ausländische Diplomaten und hochrangige Offiziere handelt. Das Besuchsprogramm umfasst meist einen Besuch des OP A 21, der einen interessanten Einblick in die Situation in der demilitarisierten Zone gestattet und gleichzeitig charakteristisch für die Anlage eines AUSCON OPs ist.

Spitze Zungen behaupten, dass die Zahl der Hubschrauberlandungen am Helipad des A 21 grösser ist als die Frequenz des Internationalen Flughafens in LARNACA. All das hat ihm den Spitznamen "OP VIP" eingetragen, der auf dem besten Weg ist, den ursprünglichen Namen "OP COLONELS HILL" zu verdrängen. Die Besatzung des

OP A 24 "HILLMAN" hat die Berühmtheit des Nachbarn nicht ruhen lassen. Auf Initiative ihres rührigen Kommandanten, Wm VRBKA, und nach der Idee des Kpl KREISEDER baute die Besatzung eine Selche und nahm sofort die Produktion auf. Damit war eine neue Touristenattraktion geschaffen und "HILLMAN" zog in der Beliebtheitskala mit A 21 gleich.

Hier noch die exklusive Besucherliste der Sektor 5 UNDMZ der letzten Wochen: Der Special Representative, Botschafter Perez de Cuellar; der Militärattachée der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, Obst LUND, Grossbritanniens High Commissioner, Mr. GORDON, der Force Commander, LtGen PREM CHAND und der Chef des Stabes, Gen BEATTIE.



Der Special Representative, Botschafter Perez Cuellar, wird von Brig Gen BEATTIE und Obstlt FRITZ in die Lage eingewiesen. Der US Militärattachée, Obst LUND beim Studium der Karte, zusammen mit Obstlt FRITZ und dem 21C MjrdG HUTTERER auf Höhe 220.



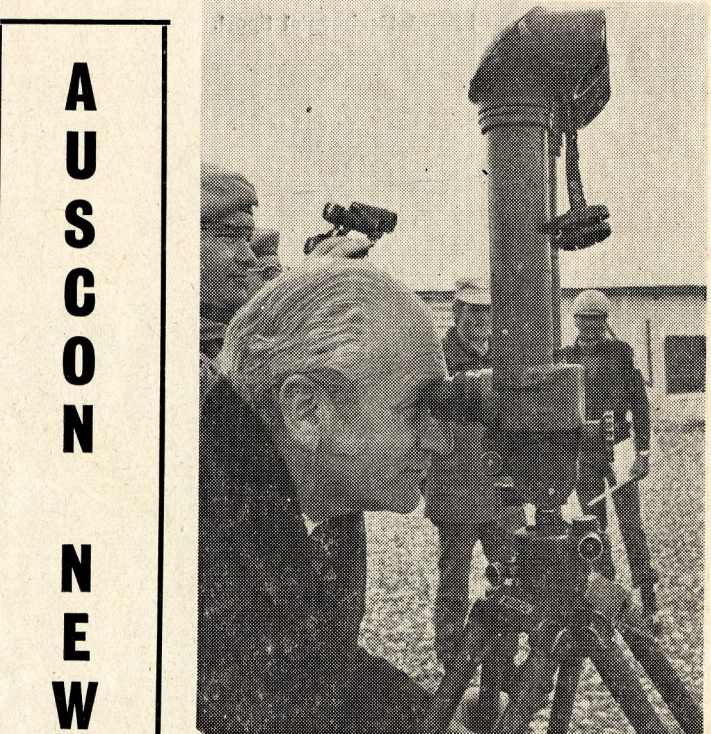
ENGLISH SUMMARY

Guests are always welcome in AUSCON. They usually visit OP A 21 during their tour, where it is not only possible to get a good view of the terrain, but also to see a typical AUSCON OP. Some people in the Austrian Contingent say that the number of helicopter landings at the OP exceeds the number of flights from Larnaca International Airport and as a result the OP's nickname has been changed from OP COLONELS HILL to OP VIP.

The section at nearby OP A

24 did not appreciate having such a famous neighbour, and so, at the suggestion of Cpl KREISEDER, and with the support of the OP Commander Sgt VRBKA, they built a smoke chamber and started to make their own Austrian Smoked Meats. This created a new attraction, so now both OPs get an equal number of visits.

Amongst the VIPs who have visited Sector 5 recently have been the Special Representative of the Secretary General, the US Military Attache, His Excellency the British High Commissioner, the Force Commander and the Chief of Staff.



Ab 18.3.76 konnte der BaonKdt den British Highcommissioner Mr. GORDON auf A 21 begrüßen. Mr. GORDON wurde durch den stellvertretenden Chef des Stabes, Col. CHISWELL, begleitet.

Nach einer Fahrt durch die gesamte demilitarisierte Zone in unserem Bereich besuchte der Force Commander Lt Gen PREM CHAND PVSM, am 18.3.76 auch das Camp DUKE LEOPOLD V. Nach dem Lunch im Offibierkasino wurde dieses Familienfoto aufgenommen.

3 PPCLI LEAVE UNFICYP

April 16th marks the departure of the last of the men of the Third Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and a happy return to Canada for the Battalion. For many of the soldiers of 3 PPCLI, this past six months has been their first posting outside of Canada, and they are certainly looking forward to getting back home.

The tour has certainly been an interesting one, and many friends have made, both among the local population and among the other UN Contingents

As the Third Battalion leaves Cyprus, they wish to show the readers of the Blue Beret some pictures of one of their more "daring exploits" in Cyprus!



BROOM - A - LOO !!

PPCLI Regimental Sport.



CANCON NEWS



Somewhere under the spray is a water polo game!



A battle weary Lt Col Leitch accepts the winners trophy on behalf of the Officer's Broom-a-loo Team.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The BLUE BERET is published by the Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, (UNFICYP).

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THE BLUE BERET

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VAUHTIA JA VÄRIÄ:

VIIHDETTÄ TULI FINLANDIASTA

Pääesikunnan tiedotussihteeri Matti Kyllönen toi mukanaan suoraan Siinain hiekoilta supisuobalaisen viihdyskiertueen tuomaan supaa suomalaisen YK-pataljoonaan elämään Kyproksella. Ja supassa toiminut ex-missi Ursula Rainio, mutta taidossa ja suosiossa eivät jääneet jälkeen undet tähdet Eija-Sinikka ja Hanne — puhumattakaan muistan magian mestarista, taikuri Pekka Pekkosesta.

Visäksi oli mukana pääasiassa varusmiehistä koottu korkeatasoinen orkesteri. Kiertue viipyi

saarella viikon ja teki todella rankasti töitä matkansa eteen (palkkaahan he eivät tästä keikasta saaneet lainkaan) — vapaa-päiviä oli vain yksi. Esiintymisiä oli Finneaglesissa, Kykossa, Force Reservessä, Tjikloksessa, Cornerissa ja Swedconissa Famagustassa. Ja yleisö oli näkemäänsä ja kuulemaansa tyytyväinen.

Näin ajattelivat muutamat esiintyjistä:

Arto Sotavalta: —Tämä keikka on ollut mulle ilo ja kunnia. Vauhti on ollut kova mutta kohdely liiankin hyvää — tällaisen

hemmottelun jälkeen tuskin enää osaa kotona asua. Mielen-painuvimmaksi kokemukseksi muodostui ilman muuta Force Oeservessä pidetty konsertti, siellä oli vastaanotto jos mahdollista vieläkin parempi kuin muissa tilaisuuksissa. Lähdin tälle keikalle kolmesta syystä. ensinnäkin reisu oli tietysti mielenkiintoinen, toiseksi tuntuu siltä että tällainen keikka on täällä oleville tarpeellinen ja kolmanneksi tässä vähän niinkuin suorittaa omaa asevelvollisuuttaan — multahan jäi pahan astman takia intti väliin. — Näin siis kertoili Artsi.

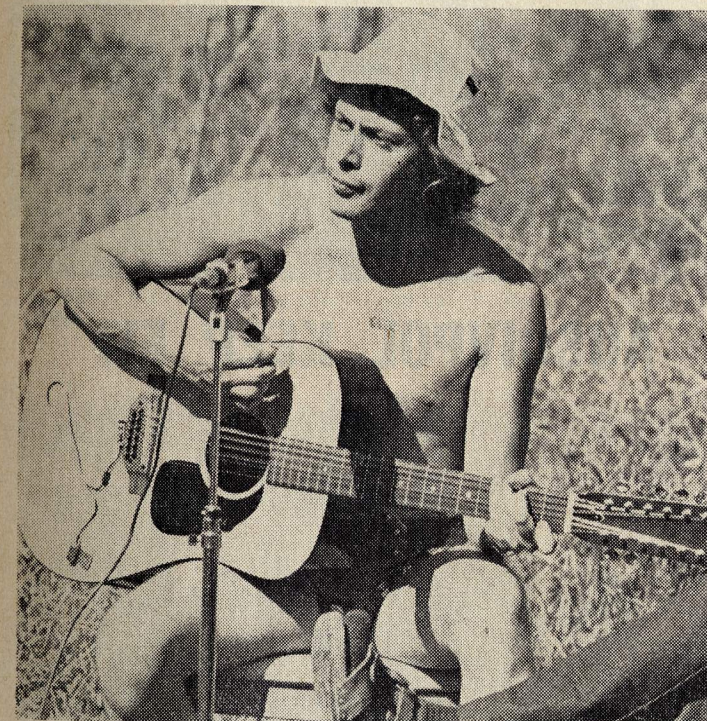
Ursula Rainio: — Mun mielestäni tämä oli aivan ihana keikka. Yleisenä havaintona sinä vähän aikana kun täällä ehti ympärilleen katsella jäi sellainen mielikuva että suomalaiset ovat täällä jonkinlaisessa suosituimmuusasemassa, onko näin? (Haastattelija hymyili tietävää hymyä eikä sanonut mitään. Tuntuu hienolta että näin voi tuoda pienen panoksensa YK:n toimintaan.

Eija-Sinikka: — Tämä matka oli eri lailla kiva — maisemat, aurinko, Troodos. Ja tietysti valtavasti kiva suhtautuminen joka paikassa. Force Reservin keikasta jäi paras muisto.

Porukan johtaja Matti Kyllönen on jo vanha veteraani tämän-suuntaisissa hommissa — hänen käsialaansahan ovat Suomessa tunnetut SA Int - showt.

—Tällainen kiertue on ollut vireillä jo monta vuotta, nyt se viimeinkin saatiin aikaan. Olen tuloksiin hyvin tyytyväinen. toivottavasti tästä voidaan tehdä traditio.

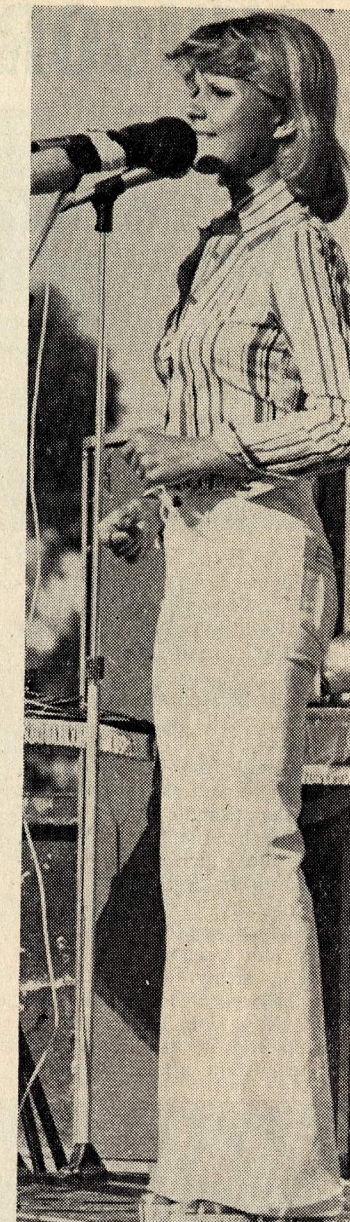
Ja sitä toivovat varmasti kaikki YKSP 24:n supaukot. Kiitos esiintyjille ja siinä samalla Puotustusministeriölle ja pääesikunnalle.



Pääesiintyjä - raudankova muusikko Arto "Artsi" Sotavalta (ristitty Finconissa tasavallaksi) repii supaa ja musisoi Tjikloksen väelle ja vuorivuohille.



Juhlat on juhlittu ja esiintyjät kukitetaan Cornerissa. Vas: Heli Mälikä, basisti, Artsi, kitaristi, taikuri, Hanne, Kyllönen, Eija-Sinikka, Ursula ja majuri Mälikä, upsmessin puheenjohtaja.



Vaalea, nätti ja hyvä-ääninen — siinä kommentit Eija-Sinikasta. Tuliko kotikunnaet mieleen?

FINCON NEWS

ENGLISH SUMMARY

An Entertainment group from Finland visited UNFICYP last week, and performed before FINCON and other Contingents. The group consisted of the popular singer Arto Sotavalta, new stars Eija-Sinikka and Hanne, the former Miss Finland Ursula Raunio, a magician and an orchestra.

In the picture above right Eija-Sinikka is seen singing in Finneagles Camp. On the left Arto Sotavalta is pictured at Tjiklos, and bottom left, the end of their last performance in the Officers Mess at Kykko Camp.

UNICORNS SIX - A - SIDE FINAL



The finals of the UNFICYP Unicorns 6 a side hockey competition took place at Nicosia on Friday 26th March. The result of the final was REME 2 : Aviation/Camp Eagles 1, while that of the Plate Competition was 7 Squadron All Stars 1 : Welsh Guards 0.

The final (see above) was a hard fought and skilful game, in which the strength of the REME team, led by Lieutenant Wright, proved too much for the Aviation/Camp Eagles.

A goal after 20 second by Lance Corporal Carr shook the Eagles, and a second goal by the REME's Army Cup standard player, Corporal Frampton, proved decisive. The Eagles did not give up and in the second half their persistent attacks were re-

warded by a fine goal scored by Sergeant White, their captain.

This game was preceded by the final of the Plate Competition in which the 7 Squadron team beat the Welsh Guards. In the picture below Sergeant Hickson is seen getting the ball away from the Welsh Guards.

The title of the UNFICYP UNICORNS is a deliberate play on words to describe a club in keeping with the tradition of Services Hockey, in which the focus is not just on the unit but also on an all ranks club embracing everyone eligible to play.

At the end of the afternoon the Force Commander presented prizes, to the winners, and is seen (right) presenting the UNICORNS trophy to Corporal Frampton.



AUSCIVPOL KEEP FIT



Formal PT is something AUSCIVPOL is not often able to do; instead — as seen above — they go running on the track at Kykko Camp, led by Inspector Hirschboeck, the sports officer.



SWIMMING POOL REOPENS



The swimming pool at Nicosia is now open again, but as the expression of the face of this swimmer shows, the water is still not very warm.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Week ending 19 Mar 76	76
Same period last year	9
Total for the year	64
Total for the same period last year	70

LESSON OF THE MONTH

Accidents don't just happen — there is a cause.