

THE BLUE BERET



FEBRUARY 1985



JANUARY IN RETROSPECT

ROTATIONS

1 FEB AUSCON (70 Pers) SECTOR 6
8 FEB AUSCON (70 Pers) SECTOR 6
27 FEB ADV PARTY 1 RCR SECTOR 4

VISITS

31-7/2 2R Irish Pre Tour Recce Group of 6 visited the British Contingent.
5-13 Mr W C Heine, Editor, London Press visited the Canadian Contingent.
9-13 Major D Leslie visited the Canadian Contingent
17-23 Capts O Wallo and K Nordquist of Swedish UN Training Centre visited the Swedish Contingent.
17-24 Lt Col D Sankey visited the British Contingent.
17-24 Major General D Crabtree visited the British Contingent.
20-23 MWO J Romard and WO J Rioux visited the Canadian Contingent.
21 Lt Col J Wright and Capt M Bird visited the British Contingent.

22-30 Brig Gen G Corbould, Cmdr, Special Service Force and CWO J Clarke visited the Canadian Contingent.
22-6/2 23 members of 1st Bt RCR Corps of Drums led by Sgt J Morton visited the Canadian Contingent.
23-29 6 member film crew led by Lt (Navy) M Considine visited the Canadian Contingent.
24-28 Col K Robson, Regt Col AAC visited the British Contingent.
24-30 Mr A Gratte, Swedish Television Corp visited the Swedish Contingent.
26 Brig D Swinburn visited the British Contingent.
28 Miss Carol Day, MOD visited the British Contingent.
30 Major M Ranson visited the British Contingent.
31-3/2 Lt Gen E Vance & Lt Col G Findley visited the Canadian Contingent.
31-7/2 Major Cross, OC 1 Sqn RCT and SSgt Cole visited the British Contingent.

FUTURE EVENTS

MEDAL PARADES

14 FEB
19 FEB
1 MAR

SPORTS EVENTS

16-17 FEB
20-21 FEB
28 FEB

SWEDCIVPOL, LARNACA
HQ UNFICYP
DANCON, SECTOR 1

BADMINTON LEFKOTHEO SPORTS CENTRE
MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION DHEKELIA
SKIING COMPETITION TROODOS

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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

Canadian "Grizzly" Armoured Personnel Carrier at C45

Photograph by Sgt A. Thomson

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

February's issue of The Blue Beret contains a wide variety of articles. We welcome the arrival of another Squadron of 16/5 Lancers and also congratulate 1 RCR on their Regimental 101st birthday.

Our SWEDCON article looks at the visit of a very senior officer and from AUSCON we have a report on the daily life of a junior soldier. Both levels have an important role in ensuring that their particular military mission succeeds.

Sector 2 also have an article concentrating upon the life of one individual - but we are sure that this humorous contribution is written 'with tongue in cheek'. From the "Farmers Boys" of Sector 2 also comes this month's International Cookbook-naturally with a rustic flavour.

B Coy DANCON has the reputation for living in one of the most well appointed camps in the Force. Their life at Skouriotissa is documented on page 14. I am also sure that we all appreciate the services of our tiny team of UNFICYP fire fighters whose history is outlined on page 7.

Finally we record another fine charitable fund-raising activity by the MP Coy on behalf of those handicapped by blindness. Well done!

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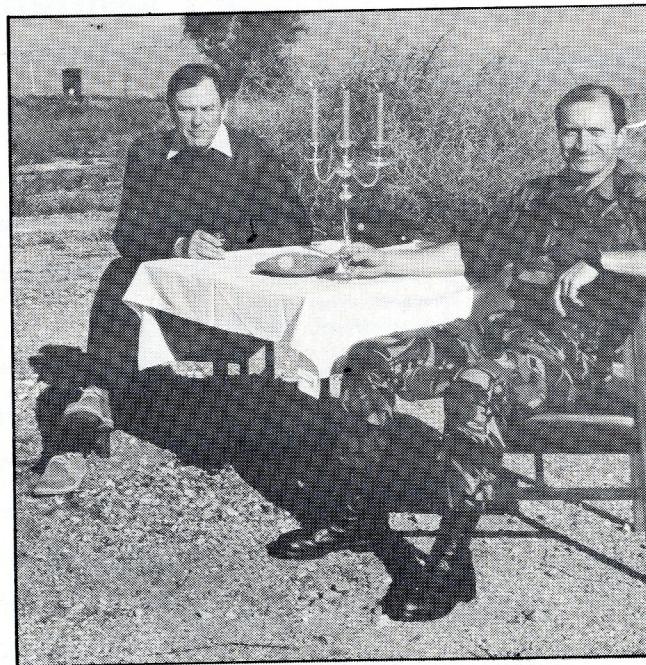
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The opening of The Bondou Bar Corporals Club, Jubilee Camp on 24th January 1985.



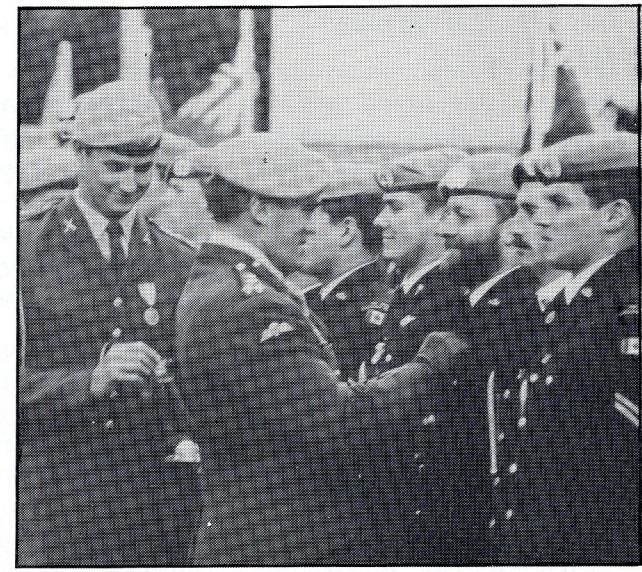
Proud of their first place Dvrs Grey and Laidler winners of the 4-ton class in the safe and skilled driving competition held on 12 Jan 85.



Maj Gen Derek Crabtree is colonel of the Regiment of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. He and Lt Col Alan Kenway are pictured near on the Spot B40 which was the officers' Mess of his Battalion in 1957.



The Chief of Staff, Brigadier P R Duchesne, congratulating Major A C S Holtom, OC UNFICYP Flight on achieving a total of 5,000 flying hours.



The chief of staff, Brig P R Duchesne OBE, presenting UN medals to the Canadian Contingent.



Bad weather did not deter D Company (Western) 1 DERR from holding a mini Military Skills Competition in the UNBZ on Friday 18 January. Here we see members of 12 PL race to the Military Skills stand.



The Australia Day "Boat" race in full sail.



CANCON CELEBRATES

By Lt P.J. Devlin

Photographs by Pte DS McKeon

There are undoubtedly many reasons for celebrating over the Christmas and New Year season. The Canadian Contingent had a couple of special reasons; their Regimental birthday and the CANCON Winter Show.

101 Years Old

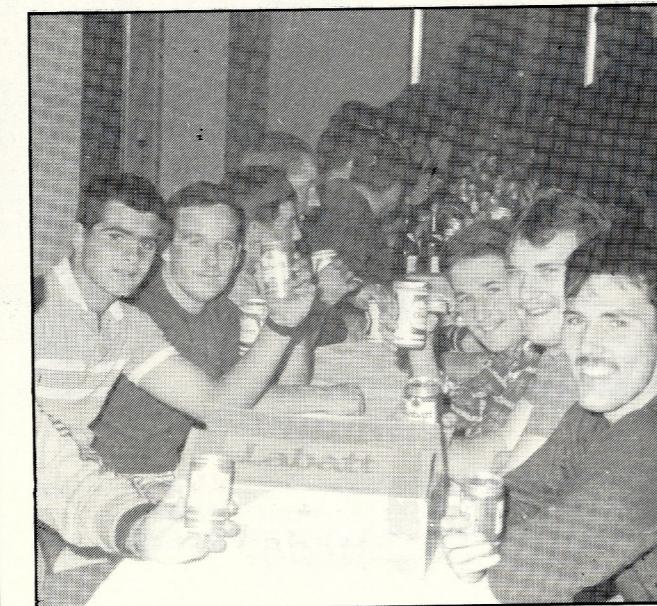
December 21st, 1984 was The Royal Canadian Regiments' 101st birthday and to commemorate this day a sports competition and all rank luncheon was held.

LCol L. Bower kicked off the day with his birthday message for all "Royals". The first competition, the boat race, set the tone for the remainder of the day's fun. Other events included the baseball bat relay, blind volleyball, deviant baseball, tabloid sports, arm wrestling, mini golf, team tennis, and the obstacle course. Congratulations to the Ledra Palace Junior Ranks who were the overall winners. Special thanks to Capt B. Dewar and the event coordinators who orchestrated an excellent sports competition.



SGT B Davidson gets a hit in deviant baseball.

The Dansating Dancers in
▼ CANCON'S winter show.



The "ROYALS" birthday celebrations.

Immediately following the sports was the all ranks luncheon. A superb meal as well as Canadian beer was enjoyed by all. Another super effort by Sgt F. Leslie and all our cooks who were amongst the busiest of all during the festive season.

The afternoon saw a brief period of recuperation before the festivities continued in the respective Messes. We were pleased to have several members from other contingents help us celebrate at our Mess Dinners that evening. All in all, a great day. PRO PATRIA!

The troupe was able to see most of the island and met almost the entire Canadian Contingent during the various receptions which were held in their honour. We hope you were able to see the show and enjoyed it as much as we did.

CANCON Winter Show

The CANCON Winter Show, which consisted of 28 performers and support staff, visited Cyprus from 30 Dec 84 to 5 Jan 85. The troupe was from Winnipeg, Manitoba in Central Canada and toured Germany and the Middle East as well. The enthusiastic group of entertainers performed 3 shows in the Nicosia Municipal Theatre on 31 Dec 84 and 2 and 3 Jan 85.

The troupe was able to see most of the island and met almost the entire Canadian Contingent during the various receptions which were held in their honour. We hope you were able to see the show and enjoyed it as much as we did.

UNFICYP FIRE FIGHTERS

A SHORT HISTORY

In the British Army the Royal Army Ordnance Corps became responsible for the Army Fire Service in 1965 following the re-organisation and disbandment of the Royal Army Service Corps.

The origins of the service dates back to 1864 in Aldershot. Apparently this came about because of the disastrous fires in the timber hutt accommodation of that era. No doubt due to the use of solid fuel heating, illumination by oil lamps and candles caused problems not unsimilar to our present age.

The success of the Aldershot Fire Brigade in considerably reducing fire damage and losses was such that during the period 1865/70 a further five more Brigades were authorised and formed. These were garrison Fire Brigades and equipped with horse drawn manual pumps and later replaced by steam pumps, manned by soldiers. The firemen being drawn from Infantry, and drivers from Cavalry and later Army Service Corps.

UNFICYP ORDNANCE DETACHMENT AND FIRE SERVICE

The Ordnance Detachment was established in 1964 as an integral part of UNFICYP Support Regiment when the UN Mandate in Cyprus first came into being. It was 18 years later that the Detachment took on the responsibility of Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting within the UNPA.

The Ordnance Detachment Fire Services was born on the 16th April 1982, following the

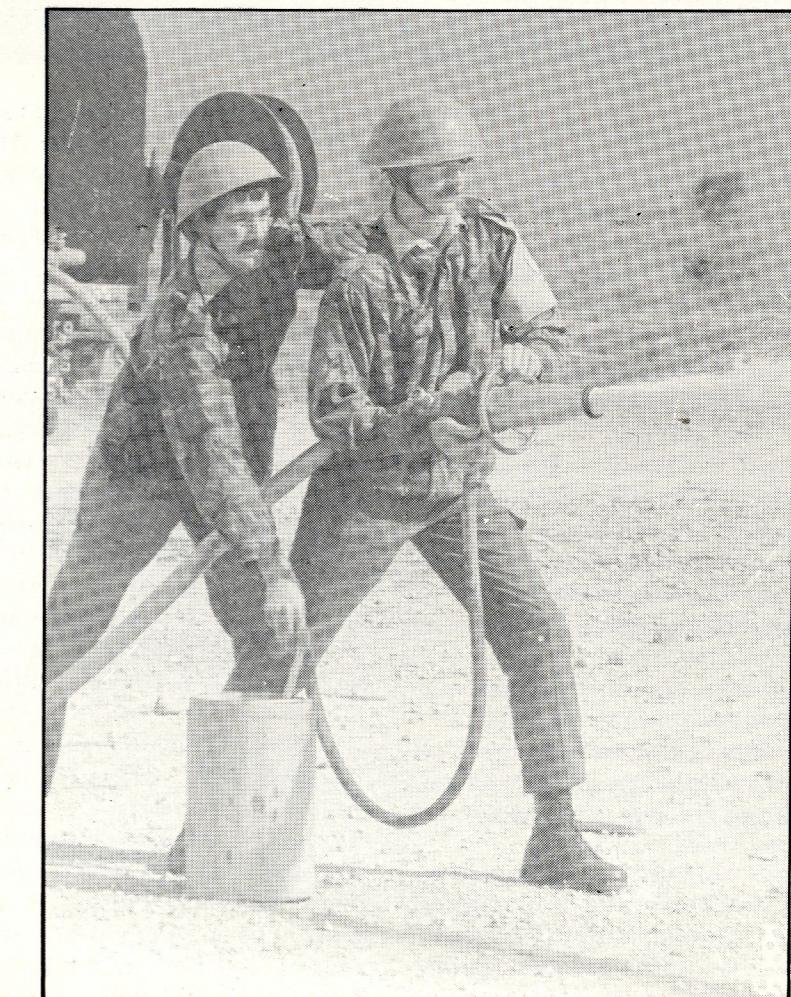
By: Capt R B Lear

Photo by: Sgt Thomson

Engine, and still remains the main Fire Fighting vehicle because of its two man operating ability.

Today RAOC soldiers are trained to man both appliances, and are prepared to deploy at a moments notice during working hours. The Detachment also trains selected personnel of other detachments within the UNPA to man the appliances during silent hours.

Since its formation the UNFICYP Ordnance Detachment Fire Service have tackled 40 grass fires, 10 Domestic fires, 3 serious fires involving property loss, and numerous false alarms.





In January "A" Squadron of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers arrived in Cyprus to take over from C Squadron The Life Guards as the UNFICYP Scout Car Squadron. Chronologically the tour will be an exact replica of the one done by our B Squadron in 1984. The 16th/5th are no strangers to tours in hot parts of the world. In 1845 the 16th Lancers were despatched to India to take part in the British Campaign against the Sikhs who threatened the northern borders of that part of the British Empire. The first major action that the Regiment saw in that particular campaign was at the Battle of Aliwal in January 1846. As part of Sir Harry Smith's forces first one squadron, and then the rest of the Regiment charged against the Sikh infantry and artillery. The shocking effect of hundreds of scarled-clad, lance bearing horsemen thundering towards their positions caused the Sikhs to race back and eventually withdraw in defeat. The charge was perhaps the most glorious in the Regiment's history but by no means the only one. It captured the imagination of Victorian Britain. Sir Harry Smith became known as the Hero of Aliwal as a result of the action of his forces, and not least that of the Scarlet Lancers. Every year on the 28th of January the Regiment celebrates Aliwal Day in some style. Our forebears not only left us the memory of their heroic and glorious deeds, they also gave us an excuse for an annual holiday and party of epic proportions!

If glorious charges and glorious death have not featured quite so prominently in our history of the last three decades, variety and action have never been far away. Members of the Squadron have served in Norway, Northern



The charge of the 16th Lancers at Aliwal

Ireland, Belize, Canada, the South Atlantic and more recently Beirut.

"A" Squadron was despatched to the Lebanon in December 1983 for what was intended to be a six month tour. They were the principle feature of British Forces Lebanon (BRITFORLEB) in the form of a Ferret Scout Car Squadron. Their role was to patrol all sectors of Beirut and in particular to guard the ceasefire talks. The Squadron was based in a disused tobacco factory which lay in the southern outskirts of the city and also had the disadvantage of being regularly caught in the crossfire between warring factions. Sadly the situation deteriorated throughout January and in early February the British Government decided that BRITFORLEB had no further role to play in Beirut. The Squadron was withdrawn first of all north to the port of Jounieh and then by Chinook helicopter onto the Royal Fleet Auxiliary "Reliant". After several frustrating weeks both in Cyprus and aboard the Reliant, they were allowed to return home. The whole episode had been one of excitement and

uncertainty, but no member of the Squadron could deny that the experience was one not to have been missed. Despite the dangers and the close presence of so much violence, the Squadron were extremely lucky and suffered no deaths or serious injuries. For that we are extremely thankful.

Since the Squadron returned from Beirut it has been involved largely with restoring itself to its previous position as an Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron equipped with the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked).

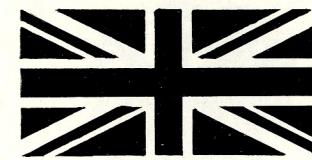


Major Howard Crosse - the Squadron Leader

THE SCARLET LANCERS

By Captain Bruno GILL

Photos by: Unit Photographer



This is the official name given to our Scorpions, Scimitars, Spartans, Sultans, Samaritans and Samsons.

Our base at Tidworth is close to Salisbury Plain, consequently much of our time in the last nine months has been spent there.

There is hardly a square foot of the Plain that does not have a CVR (T) track mark on it. All our training and exercising was put to excellent use when we went to Denmark in September to take part in Exercise BOLD GANNET.



The evacuation of "A" SQN 16/5 L from Lebanon



Troop training on Salisbury Plain

As part of the United Kingdom Mobile Force we were despatched to Denmark a week early on account of a threatened dock strike. Despite having spent a week in a soaking rainy forest in Jutland we were still able to deploy on the actual exercise, perform efficiently, and actually quite enjoy it!

An excruciatingly busy time in England in the period before our move to Cyprus made us look forward to being here still more. We consider ourselves very lucky to have been chosen as the UNFICYP Scout Car Squadron for six months. We are hoping that the rest of the tour will be as enjoyable as the first month has been.



ONLY A DRIVER...?

By Cpl HAIDVOGEL

Photographer 2/Sgt SAKOPARNIK Günther



CO Auscon LtCol W BRANDNER presenting the "safe - driving certificate" to Cpl HAIDVOGEL.

Oh, gosh, already 7am! Time to move to the Transport Section. Having a look at the daily duty roster- I will have to drive to Nicosia today. Shortly before 7.30 a.m. I rush to the CSM's morning briefing. Back in the MTO's office all drivers receive a short briefing concerning daily routine duty. I take my work ticket and go to check my vehicle. Everything O.K., let's move! Engines are started, its noisy and hectic, but soon silence falls on the square, we are on the road again.

It's not a dull day at all. We are going to Nicosia, Larnaca, Dhekelia and Limassol. My turn is to go to HQ UNFICYP, giving a lift to AUSCON soldiers, and forwarding files to some offices. Afterwards it is downtown

Nicosia again to fetch some goods at the Duty Free Shop. I wind my vehicle through terrible traffic, swear at some crazy drivers and wish I was back in Austria, where driving used to be not a daily hazardous adventure. Upon arrival at the Duty Free Shop I start to load my truck with whiskey, cigarettes, watches, cameras and all the goods which make a soldier's life easier. Ready now! Hit the road back to our

camp in Famagusta. One of our vehicles is passing me, UN 620, "Hello Joe, see you later"! Safely arrived, I fill up my tank, it's already 1 pm, time for lunch. A force without drivers is like a body without arms and legs. Because we really move things, we keep the force running. To be a driver means to be a technician, guide, pump attendant and clerk at the same time.

Never say "Only a driver..."



Safety first, the - checking the car in the morning and not a part of the morning toilet.



Our world famous "PINZGAUER" on a cross-country drive.

VISIT OF SWEDISH ARMY COMMANDER -I AM IMPRESSED!

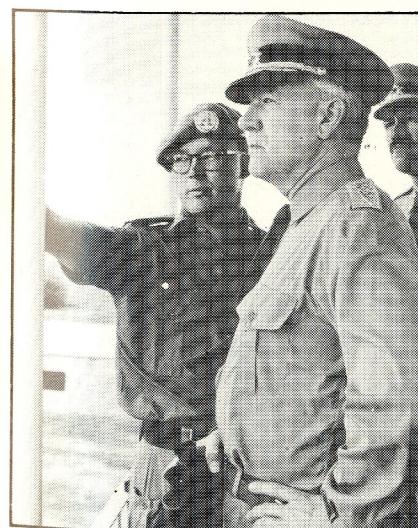
By 1/Lt Staffan Dopping Photos by I/Lt UIF Borgvald



-You solve your task in a very good way. I 'm impressed!

General Erik G Bengtsson, Commander of the Swedish Army, was very positive after his visit to SWEDCON in November last year. It was his first visit to a Swedish UN-contingent so of course this visit was very important. The Commander had a very tight programme and visited many parts of UNFICYP. Most of the time, naturally, he was with the Swedish Contingent, but the General was also in HQ and met among others the Force Commander. During his many visits at the OPs in the 2. Coy he was met by the usual routine, exercise briefings etc, carried out with the utmost perfection. Just before the General left Cyprus to return to Sweden we asked him about his experiences, and he said:

-I have had many experiences during my visit. The most stimulating thing is to see that everybody seems to be very serious about his task. When I visited the different OPs the soldiers were very precise about



-Welcome to S-23. My name is Georg Molnar and I'm standing sentry here. Our task is to carry out...



The Swedish C-in-C at S-18. From left to right General Bengtsson, Pte Nilsson and SWEDCON commander LtCol Källström.

their tasks. Furthermore I have been impressed by the solidarity and community.

General Bengtsson is also Superior Commanding Officer for the Swedish UN-forces and in his capacity as such his points of view are very important.

-Yes, one of the reasons for my visit is to face the reality. It's very important for my decisions back home in Stockholm. Those have to be based on your every-day-life out here.

All camps and OPs had been pre-warmed about the visit and

the soldiers had prepared their areas very thoroughly.

-Of course I am fully aware of the fact that my visit had been prepared. But of course I noticed that the soldiers want to do their best, and my experience says that many soldiers living together in a very limited area need to be "Shipshape" in every day life. And after what I have seen here, the soldiers fulfil this motto very well within SWEDCON.

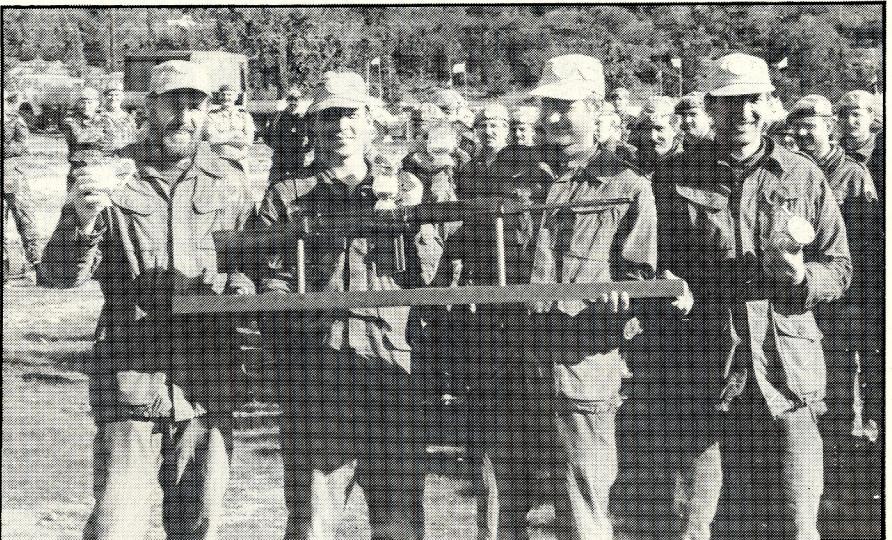
Of course everybody in the contingent was very satisfied after the visit.



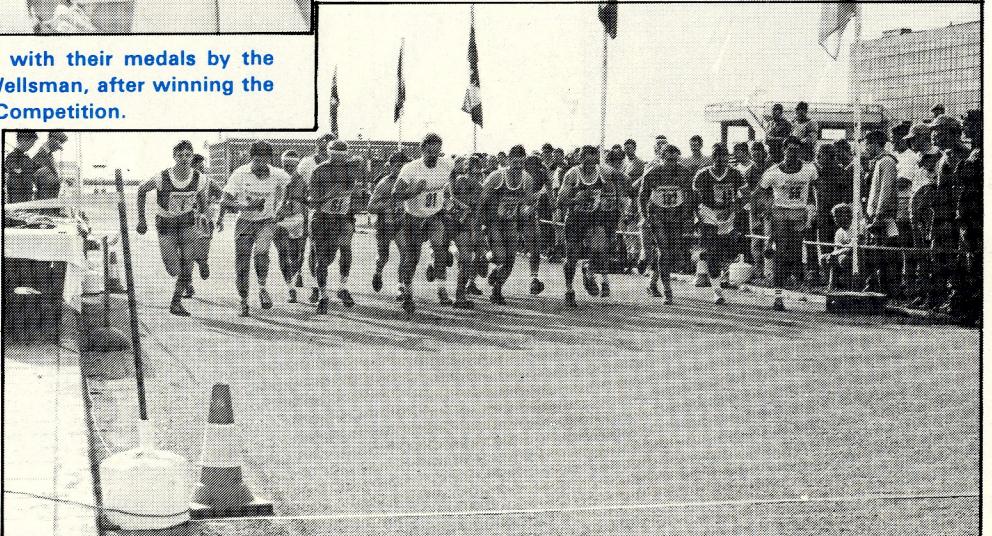
-Interesting points in the area... Pte Tornkvist at S-21 is briefing the commander of the Swedish Army, General Erik G Bengtsson.



On 30/1/85 the
DANCON team won the
UN Shooting Competition.



SWEDCON being presented with their medals by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Col Wellsman, after winning the UN Volleyball Competition.



The start of the UNFICYP
road relay race held at
Nicosia on 25 Jan 85.



INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK



By Captain Gourmand

Picture by Cpl Hawkins

The recipes this month bring you, courtesy of the Farmers Boys, the culinary wealth of Berkshire and Wiltshire. However we start with a dish that could come from anywhere, but is a favourite of mine.

There is a saying; "fine words butter no parsnips". During my time at University studying "fine words" or Politics, I fell in love with this starter using that noble vegetable, the parsnip. For this you will need:

Parsnips
Mushrooms
Single Cream
Grated Cheese
Breadcrumbs
Butter
Grated Nutmeg
Salt to taste.

If there is one part breadcrumbs to two part cheese by volume, then the right consistency of the topping will be achieved. Dice the parsnips into centimetre cubes, and parboil until almost cooked. Drain the saucepan of water, and add butter, replace the lid firmly, and return the parsnips to the heat. Tossed occasionally, they should be fried until golden brown.

Whilst this is going on the mushrooms should be lightly fried in butter.

When both are cooked bring the two, and the melted butter, together. Turn off the heat, add a good amount of the nutmeg, and sufficient cream to cover the bottom of whatever pyrex dish you will transfer the parsnips and mushrooms into. Transfer everything to a pyrex dish. The breadcrumbs and cheese should be well mixed together, then sprinkled to top the mushrooms, parsnips and cream sauce. The whole concoction should be put under a grill, and toasted until the



cheese turns golden brown. It is then ready to serve.

I am told that jugged Hare is popular with the rural folk of Wiltshire, it being a "Wessex" dish. As Hare is common in Cyprus you may wish to try this recipe. These quantities will serve 10:

Hare 4lb
Button onions 4oz
Onions 2oz
Garlic 1 clove
Red Wine 1/2pt
Flour 2oz
Redcurrant Jelly 2oz
Dripping 4oz
Port Wine 1 glass
Streaky Bacon 10oz
Carrots 2oz
Mushrooms, cooked 4oz
Bouquet Garni 1 small
Brown stock 1pt
Heart shaped croutons 10
Parsley 1/2oz
Salt/Pepper to taste
Olive Oil 1/2Gill

Imperial measures must be used, in order to retain the rustic nature of the dish.

1. Cut up the Hare into approximately 3oz pieces and place into a basin.

2. Season with salt and pepper. Slice the carrots and onions and add with the bouquet garni,

olive oil and red wine.

3. Cover the basin and allow to soak in a cool place for at least 24 hours.

4. Fry the bacon, cut into strips, and drain.

5. Drain off the liquid and fry the sliced carrots, onions and the hare. Then add the flour and cook slowly to a golden tinge.

6. Moisten with the liquid used for soaking and sufficient stock to form a light sauce. Bring to the boil slowly, stirring from time to time. Cover with a lid and allow to cook gently until tender.

7. Turn out onto a sieve, place the pieces of hare into a casserole or deep saucepan, also the bacon strips, button onions and mushrooms, and keep hot.

8. Pass the sauce through a fine strainer, remove the fat.

9. If the blood has been retained, stir this into the sauce. Be careful that it does not boil, or the sauce will curdle. Correct the seasoning and consistency, add the redcurrant jelly and port wine and pass through a muslin, over the hare.

10. Heat up and surround with heart shaped croutons (Fried in butter, and the points dipped in sauce and chopped parsley).



B - COY/DANCON

By I. Lieutenant Carsten J. Cederbye

Photos by: Contingent Photographer



Workshop of B Coy

The Danish Contingent, DANCON, consist of HQ & HQ-COY in Xeros, B-COY in Skouriotissa and C-Coy in Limnitis. B-COY is thus south of the Buffer/Zone contrary to the others which are north of it. The area of responsibility of B-COY is approximately 16 kilometers wide. In the eastern part you find the low-lying country at 120 meters above sea-level. As you go west the country raises up to 340 meters which actually is the start of the Troodos Mountains. It is probably the best and at least the most varied area within UNFICYP as it offers very flat country, areas with hills and part of the mountains.

The camp itself is in Skouriotissa which is 200 meters above sea-level. To a Dane this is quite an experience because the highest point in Denmark is below that level. Skouriotissa Camp, as it is called, is part of the former Cyprus Mining Corporation's (CMC) administration building and accommodation, which now belongs to the Bishop of Morphou. It offers without doubt the best accommodation within DANCON.

The camp is open in the sense that there is no control of entry. Instead the camp is controlled by patrols. The reason for this is the church within the camp is from the 11th century and probably one of the oldest in Cyprus. It is very often used by the local people living around Skouriotissa. Furthermore we have Greek Cypriots passing through in order to get to their homes.

The company is specially organized for its tasks by various different subunits, the main ones



Officers and NCOS Mess

By: Captain Philip King

Photograph by L/Cpl East

You may be interested to know that inhabitants of that sterling English County Wiltshire are known as "Moonrakers". Indeed, the Rugby Football Club of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment have taken this as their title, for the Regiment is the County Infantry Regiment of Wiltshire, as well as Berkshire.

I will not explain this title further, but will say that if someone is said to be "moonraking" then they are considered to be daydreaming or timewasting. In the time that 1 DERR have been the Sector 2 Battalion, the charge of "moonraking" could not be levelled at them. To prove it, let me describe the work of one of our number.

He is a man of courage, and infinite versatility coupled with patience. He is also not to be found in Sector 2, nor indeed in Dhekelia. As a consequence of this, unkind rumours about his activities have arisen. I am writing this to dispel them because Fred is a ADC, and is not moonraking. Plucked from the vagaries of life as a Platoon Commander Fred has entered a world requiring sophistication, tact and charm. Those who know may mockingly say that at last, someone in the British Army has a sense of humour.

Did you know that an ADC has to be good at making coffee, writing and replying to invitations, peeling potatoes, carrying shopping and telling people on the telephone who want to speak to his Master that He is out when really He just does not want to speak to them?



THE STORY OF FRED

Fred will be an ADC for six months. You will almost certainly meet him, because his Master works hard and travels much.

When you do meet him let him know that you know that he is not "moonraking", this will save him having to explain to you that he is not, and will thus allow him to get to the bar quicker. His Master will testify that he is no "moonraker", and Fred is happy to reflect upon the words of Voltaire, that "work banishes those three great evils, boredom, vice and poverty". As long as he is in Cyprus he knows that he will not suffer from boredom, vice or poverty. Hard luck Fred.



Listening to his masters voice



UN NEWS



UN MP COY CHARITY DRAW FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATIONS OF CYPRUS

By Major Hache

Photos by: Sgt Thomson

The winner of the UN Military Police Company UNFICYP Charity Draw for the association for the Blind of Cyprus, 1LT MATTHIESSEN, DANCON, is seen receiving the first prize, a "GARELLI" moped, donated by Fairways Motors Nicosia, from Mr Alkis Jackovides, a director of the firm. The photograph also shows the UN Force Provost Marshal Major J HACHE and the draw organiser WO2 JOHNSON. The tremendous generosity shown by everyone resulted in a princely sum of £C600.

On completion of the presentation, 1Lt MATTHIESSEN very kindly handed the moped to Maj HACHE, to be sold on his behalf. A further £C80 was thereby raised.



The money was presented to two organizations supporting the blind in Cyprus. In the photos we see Maj HACHE and WO2 Johnson presenting cheques to Mr Nevyat ADIL, President of the Cyprus Association of Solidarity



for the Blind and Mr Pantelis THEOPHYLACTOU, Headmaster of the School for the Blind. Mrs Vicki HICKMAN and her seeing-eye dog Jaspen are also seen in this photograph, next to Mr THEOPHYLACTOU.