GENERAL QUINN VISITS ALL CONTINGENTS

12th January 1977

Since taking over command of the Force on 18th December 1976, the new Force Commander Major General J.J. Quinn has been round each of the Sections to visit the Battalion, to see at first hand what they are doing and what problems exist. This edition of the BLUE BERET shows that, as is the normal military custom, he was welcomed in every camp by a Guard of Honour. There has not been time for him to visit every unit in the Force yet, but he plans to do so by the end of this month.

ADC’s Change Over

Last week-end Captain J. Raffa handed over the duties of ADC to the Force Commander to Captain L. Bonithon, Captain Bonithon has come to the Headquarters from the Swedish Contingent where he has been one of the operational duty officers in the Battalion Headquarters since coming to Cyprus on 5th October 1976. He is the third Swedish officer to be the ADC to the Force Commander.

Captain Raffa has had a very busy year as the last ADC to General Poot Chunel and the first to General Quinn. He is also a good sportsman and has taken part in every competition he could.

General Quinn is, of course, no stranger to Cyprus or the Force since he was here in 1965 and 1966 as the Assistant Chief of Staff. All the same, since then there have been many changes of organisation and disposition in the Force.

During three visits to the Contingents the Force Commander has been very impressed by the dedication and efficiency shown by everyone he has met, particularly by the junior commanders in the Observation Posts and on patrols.
COLD ANNUAL MEETING
WITH THE POLAR BEAR CLUB

The Swedish Polar Bear Swimming Club held its annual meeting on 24th December. Just over 200 new members joined by taking a dip in the Mediterranean at the White Arches Hotel a few miles north of Famagusta. The soldiers came prepared to join the club in different ways. Vehicle mechanic Steve Higland was doused properly — for such an occasion in UNFICYP — with umbrella and beret. The alert force marched into the sea wearing their helmets encouraged by a lively tune on a trumpet.

All the new members received diplomas to mark the occasion, and — perhaps more essential at the time — a glass of warm gløgg to drink as they came out of the water. The temperature, in fact, was not much colder than it is in the Swedish lakes in summer. When all the swimmers had returned to camp, the sports officer had his own swim and wondered, when he came out of the water onto the cold and windy beach, how he had managed to persuade so many to join the Polar Bear Swimming Club.

Den 25 december var DANCON varet ved en frokost for Danneke Ambassadør i Mellemøsten Hr. Theorning — Petersen. Ambassadøren talte til de mange danske tjeneringer. Mr. Thorning-Petersen the Danish Ambassador visited Viking Camp on Christmas Day, and was pictured talking to the Danish soldiers during lunch.
NEW FORCE COMMANDER VISITS ST DAVIDS CAMP

On 23 December Major General J.J. Quinn paid his first visit to the British Contingent of the Force. He went to St David's Camp to meet the First Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and to be briefed on what the Battalion is doing in Sector Two.

When he arrived in St David's Camp he was met by a Regimental Quarter Guard which is pictured on the front page. After his briefing the General walked round the camp and talked to as many NCOs and men as he could. It was while he was doing this that he was seen (above) talking to Corporal Peters, Sergeant Davies and Major Channon outside "The Wriggly Tin Inn", the Parachute Battalion's name for their junior ranks canteen.

CHRISTMAS IN BRITCON

As usual the British Contingent celebrated Christmas Day in the traditional manner. One of the highlights of the day was the dinner, which was served to the Junior NCOs and soldiers by the Senior NCOs and officers. Staff Sergeant Pound was pictured above serving some of the off duty drivers of 38 Squadron at the dinner in Camp UNFKCT. A similar dinner took place in St David's Camp, after the CO had been round to visit all the soldiers who had to remain on duty in their Ops.

On New Year's Eve the Parachute Regiment held a concert in the St David's Camp "Palladium", at which the pipers of the 3rd Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment (see left) were very popular visitors. Other acts were provided by Private Slim Cathcart, and Captain Mike Summers. The concert ended with the Canadian Pipe Band playing in the New Year.

FIRST VISIT TO AUSCON


STEINKRIPPE AUF 220


PASST!

The FC MajGen J.J. Quinn visited Sector 5 for the first time on the 30 Dec 76 and was briefed by Lt Col Fritz on the situation.

"WEISSE WEINACHT"

It is — or eat less!


No snow, but halfstones in December, sufficient for snowball throwing.
Lakimiohiet tunustuvat Finconin

**English Summary**

The New Year was welcomed by the Finnish Contingent in the traditional manner, with parties for those off duty in all the Messes. The most important part of the celebrations was the fortune-telling with melted tin. Colonel Logmeri, the recently promoted Commander of the Finnish Contingent, was pictured throwing hot liquid tin into a bucket full of cold water. Sr Li Sorato and Maj GCI T Alen are seen watching the Colonel's technique. The New Year also brought some senior visitors to FINCON. Four of Finland's top lawyers arrived in Cyprus on 3rd January. They stayed with FINCON for a week, before continuing their tour of the Middle East with a visit to the Finnish Battalion in Sinai. The visitors are seen with the Commanding Officer in front of the Officers Mess. They are from the left, Capt P. Cleve (legal advisor of Fincon), Mr T. Jokinen, Mr K. Artem, Col A.D. Logmeri, Mr E. Svinhufvud, Mr H. Hussinen and CLO Major M. Lundman.

**FORCE COMMANDERS FIRST VISIT**

**CHRISTMAS IN CANCON**

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Canadian Contingent! The last few weeks have been busy ones for us. Before Christmas we were honoured by a visit from the new Force Commander, Maj Gen Quinn.

Then, on 24 December our Christmas celebrations began with an ecumenical Christmas Eve Church service. Held in the Holy Cross Church just inside the Paphos Gate, the service was attended, not only by Canadians but by many members of other contingents as well.

On Christmas Day Officers and Senior NCO's manned the OP's and Command Posts to free as many soldiers as possible for the Christmas Dinner. In keeping with tradition, the dinner was served by Officers and NCO's.

Our New Year was ushered in by the welcome arrival of the cast of the Rothman's Show. This is a troupe of Canadian performers who every year visit and perform for Canadian troops serving overseas. They arrived in Cyprus after already having visited our service men in Germany, Egypt, and Syria. Their performance was appreciated and greatly enjoyed by all.

**CANCON NEWS**

The midnight service on Christmas Eve.

**VUOSSI VAIHTUI FINCONISSA**

Vuoden vaihdosta on nyt takana päin ja sen mukaan monet tärkeät tapahtumat. Sarella olevien YK-joikkojen komentaja vaihtaa, kestävän Prem Chandin tilalle tällä istutuksella kerro J. Quinn. Ese vuoden vaihtumisen alit tapetti se tärkeä tapa. Sitä juhlistettiin meri heiluttui taiton vesissäkossa –

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**FINCON NEWS**


Uuden vuoden tinit on valettu
The Austrian Civilian Police have begun their winter table tennis season successfully with a 5-2 win over a local team. The AUSCVPH team (seen left) are Sports Officer Inspector Loitzenhauer, Colonel Fuchs, Inspectors Gernbeck, Funklo and Schmidt.

In the Australian Contingent's move around is about to take place again. One of the forthcoming moves will be that of Inspector Milwood who is leaving the Headquarters and going to Xeros.

The police too celebrate Christmas in the traditional way even to the extent of producing a properly dressed Santa Claus on Christmas Day itself. The picture below was taken during "Inspector Claus" visit to Danishberg.

**THE KOP INN'S TREE**

Handing gifts at the Australian Police Station in Sector One.

**Holiday Sport**

No holiday season would be complete without a few sporting occasions and Christmas in UNFICYP was no exception. The HQ Sergeant's Men soccer team has lost its unbeaten record by losing to 38 Squadron RAF. The hockey pitch has been in use too as the picture above shows.

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**TRAFFIC STATISTICS**

- 2 Weeks ending 8 Jan 11
- Same period last year 7
- Total for the year 5
- Total for the same period last year 6

**LESSON OF THE MONTH**

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**