GENERAL PREM CHAND RETIRING

After seven eventful years as Commander of UNFICYP, Lieutenant General D. Prem Chand PVSM has decided to retire.

He was appointed to this post in December 1969 on the retirement of General Martola of Finland, and since then he has commanded fourteen contingents from each contributing country. The period in which he has commanded has not been an easy one, and has included perhaps the most difficult and dangerous events in the history of the Force.

General Prem Chand came to the Force having gained experience of United Nations operations in the Congo, where he was the General Officer Commanding the Katanga Area from 1962 to 1963. His service there was recognised by the award of the PVSM (the Indian Medal for Distinguished Service — 1st Class). The announcement of his retirement by the Secretary General has brought him many tributes from people of all walks of life in Cyprus, from the leaders of both communities down to individual citizens, but the members of the Force who have had the privilege of serving with such a distinguished and kindly soldier can only say how much they will miss him for his advice, his friendliness, his sense of humour and above all his interest in them. All members of UNFICYP wish both General Prem Chand and Mrs Prem Chand many years of happy, peaceful and contented retirement.

SWECON SAYS GOODBYE

The Swedish Battalion 63C on parade at Carl Gustar Camp under its commander Lieutenant Colonel A. Baarnheim.
SOLDIERS TURN INTO FROGMEN

Splish! Swedish MTO Lars Svantesson dives into the sea offshore at Larissa. Sub-aqua diving is a very popular past-time among the Swedish soldiers. People who dive in Sweden find the water round Cyprus a paradise. The water is clearer, the season is longer, the chances to find interesting objects better, and another important point — the equipment is much cheaper here than in Sweden. The hostilities of Cape Green at the South East of the Island is not far from the Swedish UN Camp in Famagusta and as a result is a meeting place for the Swedish soldiers who are diving enthusiasts.

On the 4th December the Force Commander, Lt Gen J. Prem Chand PVSM paid his last official visit to the Swedish Contingent at Carl Gustav Camp in Famagusta. To the sound of Swedish martial music, he inspected the companies in camp. In his speech to the Battalion, the Force Commander reminded everyone present of his long and fruitful association with the Swedish Battalions here in Cyprus, during his seven years as a Commander of UNFICYP, and in the Congo. He also went on to say how well the Swedish soldiers had managed to carry out their tasks before 1974 and afterwards. The Force Commander finished by saying that he found saying goodbye a sad business, but he was optimistic about the future of Cyprus and was convinced that better times would soon come.

THE LAST FAREWELL

The Force Commander, Lt Gen D. Prem Chand PVSM is seen during his farewell visit to the Danish Contingent.

SSG M. Tatrup has joined the forces in 25 yrs. In the matter of state he has served a platoon in UNTA, earning a contract in Congo in 1960.

WO1 M. Tatrup has completed 25 years service in the Danish Army and is here being congratulated by his Contingent Commander Lt Col P. B. Kroger.

Så er helikoptertræningen startet igen, alle de nye ved DANCON skal igennem denne specielle træning. På billedet ses træning gen i udslip fra vogn, senere vil vogner blive erstattet af helikopter.

Helicopter training has started in Viking Camp with the initial lessons of jumping from trucks.
BAND SAYS GOODBYE TO GENERAL PREM CHAND

Since the announcement of his retirement General and Mrs Prem Chand have been saying goodbye to all members of the Force. On 3rd December they entertained the officers at the Headquarters and members of diplomatic corps. On this occasion music was provided by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment by kind permission of the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel G. J. Briery MBE. The General and Mrs Prem Chand were seen with the Band before the Guard arrived.

ADVENT FAYRE RAISES OVER £300

As part of their contribution to the festive season fourteen of the wives living at Nicosia held an Advent Fayre in the Wives Club last week. They had hoped to raise £100 for charity, but so good were their efforts that they realised the magnificent total of £175, which has been donated to the Cyprus Red Cross.

The donation was made by a small representative number of the wives at the Red Cross Centre, after which they toured the Centre to see the range of its activities.

Mrs Lyne presents the cheque to the Red Cross.

Mrs Prem Chand at the Fayre with Mrs Tillotson.

“FEUER FREI”

Im Rahmen der normalen Ausbildung und im Besondere im Hinblick auf die bevorstehende „Feuerwaffe Competition“ wurden in der letzten Zeit die Schützenkurse fortgesetzt. Die beinah niedergeschlagenen Unteroffiziere und Soldaten bieten unseren Soldaten und auch deutschen Soldaten einen Einblick in die tägliche Arbeit des KG „DAUMENDRÜCKEN“ auf der Station.

A little bit tough this ground, isn’t it?

“WASSER MARŞ”

Fire, Fire! No, it was just a training, but the know-how is useful in emergency case.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN HERR GENERAL


Goodbye, Sir! Soldiers of all ranks said these words in common on the 4. Dec 76 on the occasion of the Force Commanders Farewell visit to AUSCON. Shortly before Sir Mayr, dressed as a typical Austrian "Kumpus", handed over a gift to the General.
MINISTER VISITS CANCON

Mr Danson chats with Cpl Boucher while inspecting the Quarter Guard.

Mr Danson walked in part of the Buffer Zone. He is seen here flanked by the CO Lt Col DB Ellis and Maj Evans, the Company Commander of the Walled City section of the Zone.

The Minister seen answering question from off-duty soldiers at the Ledra Palace.

While touring the Buffer Zone in Sector 4, Mr Danson was briefed by soldiers on duty in the OPs. Cpl Ajitk (above) tells it the way it is.

Suomalainen
Itnenäisyysjuhla Kyproksella


AUSCIVPOL SAYING ITS FAREWELL

On 23rd November 1976 representatives of all the United Nations Civilian Police Contingents with their Commanding Officers met at the Headquarters of AUSCIVPOL in Nicosia to say farewell to Lieutenant General and Mrs Prem Chand. The host, Lieutenant Colonel Leo "Frank" Maler is seen above addressing the Force Commander before presenting him with a plaque on behalf of the Austrian Civilian Police Contingent.

CAMP WINS

The annual squash competition was completed last week. The Camp UNFICYP team won the competition with the Force Reserve as runners up. In the play-off to find the team for the third place HQ UNFICYP beat FENCON.

After the final Colonel A.J.G.D. de Ghastelain CB presented the medals, and was seen above thanking Major J.K. Knox for his excellent arrangements.

THE WINNERS

UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS

The Force Christmas Card is now available. Contingents wishing to place bulk orders for the cards (i.e. 100 or more) may do so through the Headquarters Procurement Office at HQ UNFICYP (tel: 6400 Ext. 7208). The cost of each card is 0.085 mls for quantities of less than 100, and 0.060 mls each for quantities of 100 or more. Cards of quantities of less than 100 may be purchased through the canteen at HQ UNFICYP.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Week ending 11 December

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