FINNISH DEFENCE MINISTER VISITS UNFICYP

Twelve years membership of UNFICYP will end on 12th April, when the Austrian Medical Team leave Cyprus. They have been here since April 1964, when an Austrian Field Hospital came to meet the medical needs of the Force. From 1964 until 1973, the Field Hospital occupied the camp known today as St David’s Camp. In 1973, as part of a planned reduction in the strength of the Force, the Field Hospital returned to Austria.

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 Fresenhuber and Pte M Bayer checking instruments in the Out-patients department.
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 Kokkin 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.

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. Mandal took a book with him to read while he walked.

The CANCON march team on its way to Kokkin Point.

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

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

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, S. Sgt Jessen and MCO F.S. Kristensen.

On the 15th January the Swedish Battalion's Number Two Company was posted from Cyprus and UNIFCYP 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 AI Nagila which is in the desert 200 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 main 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 for by the fact that they have had the opportunity to serve in another interesting United Nations Force.

A nice rest in the sand...

Det har gått bra för våra vänner från fd 2. kompaniet som i mitten av januari försvann så lustigt och lustigt från Carl Gustaf Camp. En vecka senare började de upptas i Mellistra Öster, i bufferområden mellan Israel och Egypten inte långt från Suezkanalen.

...in the middle of "nowhere".

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

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, S. Sgt Jessen and MCO F.S. Kristensen.

Driving is a gamble in the desert.
END OF TOUR SERVICE AT ST COLUMBA'S

NEW DRAUGHTSMAN AT HEADQUARTERS

A Visit to the Ordnance Detachment

The Ordnance Detachment in Camp UNIFICYP 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, Sgt D. Smith was seen (right) re-packing a Swedish flag.

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 "HILLMAN" has the busiest day of the week and cannot be missed. The 1st of each month sees the arrival of the German barracks and the rest of the month sees the arrival of the French barracks.

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

The Blue Beret
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.

The parade of the Third Battalion was held on the main square of Nicosia, with a large crowd gathering to watch. The parade was led by the band of the battalion, followed by the troops in a variety of uniforms.

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

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

Communications, articles or enquiries should be addressed to:

THE BLUE BERET
HQ UNFICYP

ENGISH 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 Simikkä and Hanne, the former Miss Finland Ursula Rauasto, a magician and an orchestra.

In the picture above right Eija Simikkä is seen singing in Famagusta Camp. On the left Arto Sotavalta is pictured at Kykkos, and bottom left. the end of their last performance in the Officers Mess at Kykkos Camp.
UNICORNS SIX - A - SIDE FINAL

The finals of the UNIFICYP 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 seconds by Lance Corporal Carr shook the Eagles, and a second goal by the REME's Army Cup standard player, Corporal Frame, proved decisive. The Eagles did not give up and in the second half their persistent attacks were rewarded 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 UNIFICYP UNICORNS is a deliberate play on words to describe a club in keeping with the tradition of Service Hockey, in which the focus is not just on the unit but also on 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 Frame.

AUSCIVPOL KEEP FIT

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending 19 Mar</th>
<th>76</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Same period last year</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for the year</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for the same period last year</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LESSON OF THE MONTH

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