THE BLUE BERET

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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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Out & About in Cyprus

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Front cover

THE RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON’S CORPS OF DRUMS
BY SSGT A. BEATON

Cypriot people.

For those of you who cannot leave the beaches - beware of too much sun if you are not used to it, excessive exposure to the sun can be dangerous!

Cyprus has a lot to offer its visitors. It would be interesting to know how many UN soldiers get to see her historic and scenic treasures during a tour of duty. It takes very little effort to tear oneself away from the lure of the beaches and spend the odd weekend exploring the countryside.

A car journey off the beaten track to some of the remote villages or less known historic buildings can be a most rewarding venture. Spare a few moments to talk to the local people you meet there and you will discover the genuine warmth and hospitality of the Cypriot people.

The Tombs of the Kings near Paphos, thought to have been the burial place of the wealthy in the 3rd Century.
SWEDISH NATIONAL CELEBRATION-
24th JUNE MIDSUMMER’S EVE

Midsummer’s Eve in Sweden is celebrated on the 24th June. To the people of Sweden, Midsummer’s Eve is considered a bigger event than Swedish National Day (6th June) probably because of its deeper traditional roots.

Midsummer’s Eve is to Swedish adults what Christmas is for children, where everyone goes out of doors to enjoy, the hopefully, beautiful midsummer night, among the green trees and hundreds of different wild flowers.

by Chief Inspector Kindberg

The rituals regarding the celebrations and even the consumption of food and drink are strongly laid down although the details of these rituals vary from country to country across Scandinavia. Naturally everyone is free from having to work on the day and everyone wears traditional folk dress.

The first part of the evening’s activities includes the dressing of the Maypole in Fresh flowers and green leaves. The Maypole is then raised to the sound of Swedish folk music followed by dancing and games.

The food consumed is typically Scandinavian, small round potatoes from the year’s first crop along with herring in all its different forms, and drinking you name it followed by more dancing well into the evening.

Later in the small hours of the light Nordic night, one wanders home with one’s beloved, over the dewy fields. According to legend, a girl who picks seven different types of wild flower and places them under her pillow will dream of her future love that night.

In order to enjoy this Scandinavian celebration here in Cyprus, the members of the Swedish Contingent arranged a Midsummer Eve’s feast at the Swedish Club “THE THREE CROWNS”, together with members of the Finnish Contingent who celebrate Midsummer’s Eve on the same day. A fine time was had by all, however, problems were encountered in finding dew covered fields to wander home on.

FAREWELL TO A SQUADRON
THE LIFE GUARDS

I'm sure it is the same for most contingents’ scribes, but it seems incredible that this is the last article I will be writing for this magazine during our six month tour. The past few weeks have seen our troops rotating through the Sectors back to where they originally started. Rumour has it that the Danes at Skouriotissa plan to test Lt Maddan’s other curious appetites when he returns there with One Troop. On his last visit he appeared to have an insatiable hunger for glass. So limitless was his hunger that he also discovered that what the Scandinavians call “Boxmullers” - best described as “The man after the night before” - can be cured most effectively courtesy of friendly neighbouring British Military Hospitals.

Operationally we have been busier than anticipated. Fire fighting in Sector One was a useful lesson for the forty soldiers who took part. Not only was it awesomely spectacular, but also the terrible effects of heat fanned by a strong evening breeze, and perhaps more so the choking reaction of lungs struggling to find fresh air when surrounded by suffocating smoke, were memorable and salutary.

Athletics achievements have dominated our last few weeks here. Lt Mackenzie-Hill led our athletics in support of the UNFCYP team, which won all the All-Island meetings. He then crowned this achievement by leading the Squadron team to victory in the Minor Units Challenge Cup. This was a tremendous feat, because the UN have never been rated before in this competition. Individual athletes like LCpl Nutt and Tpr Beddington had starred for the UNFCYP team, but it was particularly satisfying to see so many troops and departments represented. SQMC Evans shot putting, and the 400m relay teams victory clinched another “pot” for the Squadron collection to join Lt Mackenzie-Hill’s skiing cup.

Sports and patrols, R & R and the past few weeks’ suspect weather will thus remain the strongest memories of A Squadron’s UNFCYP tour. As a contrast to BAOR’s tanks, UKL’s airborne role and Ceremonial duties in London, there can be no doubt that these tours are a uniquely refreshing experience. Not only have we all been most delighted, impressed and reassured by the welcomes and hospitality we have received not only from HQ UNFCYP and all four Sectors, but also from both communities.

Afore we go, we are hosting our Commanding Officer Lt Col J W M Ellery for a long weekend. We also look forward to welcoming the new Chief of Staff Brigadier Courage late 5 Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and other cavalrymen of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, 15th/19th The Kings Own Hussars, and last but never least our successors from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers. When Lord Strathome’s Horse replace 3 PPCI, Cyprus may well prove that “If you ain’t CAV you ain’t!” Finally should you regretfully think you have seen the last of The Life Guards, you will be glad to hear that our C Squadron arrives here in January 1989. Meanwhile thank you, best of luck in the future, and “God Speed”.

Mr Mackenzie-Hill - Skiing and Athletics Champion.

You can lead a Ferret to water, but can you make it drink?
D SQUADRON 9th/12th ROYAL LANCERS
(PRINCE OF WALES’S)

The 9/12 Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales’s) returned to Cyprus in June this year in the shape of D Squadron. The Regiment is based at Carver Barracks in Essex, having previously spent 9 years in West Germany.

2 Tp D Sqn securing a river crossing on Salisbury Plain.

The Regiment was formed from the 9th Queens Royal Lancers and the 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales’s). Both Regiments were formed in 1715 as a result of the Stuarts revolt during the Jacobite rebellion in the rule of George I.

Both Regiments saw action in the Spanish Peninsula, and the 12th Lancers excelled themselves at the Battle of Waterloo. The 9th Lancers went to India in 1842 and fought in the first Punjab War followed by the Indian Mutiny in which they were awarded 13 Victoria Crosses, after which they served in the Afghan War.

The Regiments served active service together in the South African War of 1899 - 1902 and again in the Great War 1914-18 on the Western Front. The 9/12 Royal Lancers now celebrate the Battles of Mons and Moyn.

1st Troop D Sqn

Church to become the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales’s). Since then the Regiment has served in Northern Ireland, Aden, Germany, Belize and more recently in Cyprus.

On 10th June, the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother went to Carver Barracks for a Royal visit and parade. The Regiment drove past mounted in its present fighting vehicles, and the vehicles used by the Regiment since 1929.

The Regiment enjoys a high standard of sport which we hope to maintain in Cyprus. We also look forward to trying our hand at sports not favourable to the British climate!

All Ranks of D Squadron are much looking forward to the tour, meeting old friends throughout the island and serving under the Blue Flag.

4 Tp D Sqn - High Speed Road Move on Salisbury Plain.

annually, which commemorate the last occasions on which both Regiments charged with the Lance.

In 1929 the 12th gave up their horses for armoured cars. In 1931 the 12th first came to Cyprus in the form of an armoured car section to help restore order.

In 1941 both Regiments sailed for North Africa with the 8th Army, the 9th Lancers playing an important role in the Battle of El Alamein.

On 11 September 1960, for the last time, both Regiments marched into Tidworth Garrison

WELCOME 1 SQUADRON ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

1 Squadron RCT took over the role of the UN Transport Squadron, commanded by Major Des Norton, from 15 Squadron RCT on 15th July 1988.

The unit is based in Colchester as part of 19 Infantry Brigade. We are the only regular transport squadron in the District and thus we have our work cut out during non exercise/training periods.

1 Squadron RCT was originally 1 Company Army Service Corps and was formed in Woolwich on 15th February 1870 with troops from the Military Train. The Squadron was disbanded in 1929, only to be reformed as 1 Corps Ammunition Park in 1938. During the Second World War they served in France, Belgium and Northern Ireland, where it re-roled to a General Transport (GT) Company. On the formation of the

RCT in 1965 the Company was renamed 1 Squadron RCT, based in Colchester, where it has remained ever since. Prior to 1978, the Squadron had a worldwide airtransport role and served in such exotic places as Borneo, Malaya and Aden. The Squadron provides 2nd Line Transport for 19 Infantry Brigade and on mobilisation would deploy to BAOR in support of 4 Armoured Division. We are equipped with 8 Tonne Bedford Cargo, fuel tankers, mechanical handling equipment and numerous domestic vehicles such as landrovers.

The last UNFICYP tour for the Squadron was in 1985, and everyone concerned with this UN tour are eagerly awaiting the challenge, not just for the job they will be doing but for the sporting side of life as well, of which the unit has an impressive reputation.

1 Squadron’s emblem is the chequered flag, not because we are good at racing, but because we are the Premier Squadron within the RCT, a fact that we are very proud of and always ready to prove!

The OC and SSM still deploy on exercise.

VIP’S VISIT CANCON

3 PPCLI was recently visited by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brig Gen and Mrs R S Graham. Brig Gen Graham was the reviewing officer for the Battalion Change of Command Parade. The Colonel of the Regiment and his wife visited the sector for a full week which allowed them to see many of the troops and some of the sights in Cyprus. As always a welcome ‘Patricia’!

Brig Gen Reay, the Commander of our Brigade in Canada visited us for a few days, during his stay he witnessed the Change of command Parade, managed to tour the line and attended various functions hosted by the Officers and Senior NCO’s.

Left to Right: Brig Gen Macniss, Brig Gen Reay, Brig Gen Graham and Lt Col Anderson.
THE 4th/7th ROYAL

"Nice here in'n it. said the Adjutant, as he stepped off the Tristar at RAF Akrotiri. He had just kept a captive audience on the edge of their seats for two hours during the flight over from Germany, describing what life could be like during our time off in

The Regimental band, based at Dhekelia, have played several times at various UN functions, most memorably at the Swedish National Day reception in Blue Beret Camp on the sixth of June. On the sporting front, life has been quiet due to initial operational commitments but we are looking forward to wider and varied sporting and recreational activities during our stay, especially with the other Sectors.

The initial impression and opinion in the Regiment is that life in Cyprus is good - perhaps the Adjutants' assessment was correct. It's been hard work for the last three months but the change in job and scenery is very welcoming and everyone is looking forward to our remaining five months on the island.

Cyprus - sunbathing on the beach, brandy sour in one hand, Brit Ekland in the other.

But life has been fast and furious over the last three months and continues to be, since our arrival on the island at the beginning of June. Since April this year, we have converted from tanks to rifles, amalgamated a large Squadron of the 15th/19th The Kings Royal Hussars, undergone an intensive infantry training period and now finally deployed to Sector 2.

G (15/19H) Squadron and B Squadron have been kept busy on the line while Regimental Headquarters have settled into St. David's Camp. We have had two major visits already and the diary is filling up as more and more people decide to come and see us.

THE 4th/7th ROYAL

DRAGOON GUARDS

"THE FIRST AND LAST"

The Regiment has scored yet another 'First'. The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards are the first Cavalry Regiment, based with the British Army of the Rhine, to be selected to serve with Sector 2 of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus: hitherto only Infantry Battalions have carried out the task and then only directly from the United Kingdom. But why another 'First?'

Due to a number of notable incidents in battle during the

In September 1939, they were the first Cavalry - turned - Tank Regiment to arrive in France with the British Expeditionary Force. On D Day their specially waterproofed tanks were the first ashore in Normandy. And on Monday 4th May 1945, they were fighting side by side with the famous 51st Highland Division - the last British troops to be in action against the Germans. The first armour to cross the Seine,

they were also the first British troops to link up with the Americans at Geltz in February 1945.

So, as you can see, the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards are well qualified to undertake such a tour, even as Infantrymen, and it is one I'm sure we will tackle with the same gusto and professionalism that our pedigree shows.

NEW COMMANDER OF DANCON AND SECTOR 1

Lieutenant Colonel Erik Olsen took over the command of DANCON 49 and Sector 1 on 6th June 1988.

Lt Col Olsen graduated from the Army Academy as Lt in 1968, he has since served as Company and Battalion Commander with the Queens Life Regiment. After passing staff college Lt Col Olsen served as a SO at HQ Western Land Command mainly dealing with Host Nation Support of Allied Reenforcements.

In his spare time Lt Col Olsen is interested in political science and history and feels honoured to be a Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.
BATTALION CHANGE OF COMMAND
IN SECTOR THREE

At the beginning of June 3 PPCLI welcomed the arrival of their new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel H.F. Elliott, who took over from Lt Col A.W. Anderson, who was posted to Ottawa, after three years in command.

Lieutenant Colonel Harold Frank Elliott, CD, joined the Canadian Army in 1966 and graduated from Royal Military College, Kingston, in 1970 with a BA in History. He has served in Germany as a Platoon Commander and Intelligence Officer, and at Canadian Army Headquarters (FMC) in Quebec as a Staff Officer. Lt Col Elliott graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College and was an instructor there for two years.

Lt Col Elliott is no stranger to Cyprus, having served there as a Platoon Commander in 1971 and as a Company Commander in 1983.

Lt Col Elliott is married, his wife Darlene and three children, Trevor, Shannon, and Jennifer currently reside in Victoria, BC.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF SWEDEN

The 6th of June is a special day in Sweden. On this day several important and decisive events have taken place over the years.

It was June 6th 1523 that Gustaf Wasa was elected King of Sweden, Sweden then became an independent country and the Nordic Union came to an end.

Almost 300 years later on June 6th 1809 Sweden attained a new form of government which, among other things, laid down certain civil rights such as Freedom of Conscience, Freedom of the Press and Security of the Person and Property. The blue and yellow Swedish flag is a symbol of our freedom, originating from the 13th century. Since 1916 the day of the Swedish flag has been celebrated on the 6th of June.

From 1983 the 6th of June became the Swedish National Day. In order to celebrate the Swedish National Day in UNFICYP, the Swedish Contingent held a reception and a concert given by the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards from Dhekeli on the presence of more than 150 people at the Officers' Mess at Blue Beret Camp.

THE DANCON FIRE

In the early evening of 15 May 88, the word was passed throughout the Canadian Contingent: Sector One was on fire!

Sector Three's response was immediate; one full rifle platoon was dispatched to DANCON to fight the fire, while an additional four platoons were placed on standby. By 0400 hours the next morning the fire, covering over 50 square kilometers, was still out of control. The order was given to deploy the remainder of the force. Soon a platoon from Sector Two, a majority of the Danish Contingent and over 170 Canadian soldiers, under the direction of Major Glenn Nordick, were on the ground in Sector One fighting what proved to be a very stubborn fire.

The most notable foe was the extreme heat. The temperature for the day reached over 35°C. This, combined with the smoke and heat from the fire, made the task very difficult. Everyone consumed water by the gallon, yet several heat casualties were sustained.

The United Nations Army Air Corps Helicopter flight, commanded by Maj Skinner, provided an invaluable service by locating hot spots in the fire, directing the water bombing operation, and assisting in casualty evacuation.

By late afternoon on the 16th, the fire was fully contained and extinguished. The weary soldiers of 3 PPCLI deployed back to Nicosia, content with the knowledge that they had all given an outstanding effort for a worthy cause.

UN MP COP SHOOT
27th MAY 1988

The UN MP Cop Shoot took place on the 27th May 1988. Four teams took part including two teams from UN MP Coy, CANCON MPs and UNVIPOL.

The competition tested the skills of each individual using 9mm pistols over distances ranging from 15 to 30 metres firing from various positions.

The Winning Team - Left to Right: WO2 Steinmann (UN MP Coy), Sgt Parker from UNVIPOL (also the winner of the Individual High Score competition), Sgt Roughley and Sgt Thorn both from UN MP Coy.

Pte 'Joey' Spencer (A Coy) rests before returning to fight the fire.

"On the fire Jenkins, on the fire - not ME!" by Lt K A McIntosh
IS THERE A FUTURE FOR THE JOINT MEDICALS?

With Capt A Majewski leaving the island the future of the well-known trio The Joint Medicals is questionable. The remaining members 1Lt A Thalhammer (now 2IC 2 Coy) and Capt R Hostatter (now SMO Sector 4), hope that the replacement for the band leader will not merely fit as a MO but will also become a member of the group.

To the soldiers of AUSCON the Joint Medicals were something special not just for their entertainment value but for giving us a 'touch' of home.

CANADIANS AT WORK AND PLAY

The front cover of this month's Blue Beret features the Reconnaissance Platoon's Corps of Drums. Who work very hard at a variety of activities. Operationally, they are employed as Reconnaissance Platoon here in Cyprus, involved in a variety of tasks at Woolsey Barracks.

The Corps of Drums perform on formal and special occasions. The Drum Line is one of their most spectacular performance specialties. In total darkness, with glowing drumsticks and accessories, the Drum Line is a majestic sight to behold. The pulsating martial rhythm never fails to stir the spirit and evoke images of marching troops on parade. It is interesting to note that none of these soldiers are musicians by trade, but rather infantry soldiers with an interest in music.

It is this interest which led to the creation of "Bone Idol", a very successful rock band, made up of 4 members of the Corps of Drums, who have performed locally and for Battalion functions with great success. While they have not yet had a tour of the Far East like the Corps of Drums, they are just beginning their musical career as a group. An interview with our version of "Rolling Stone Magazine" (not the syndicated publication) allows the band members to tell us about themselves:

(SEE OPPOSITE)

THE CANCON VERSION OF A ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE INTERVIEW WITH BONE IDOL

R.S.M.: When did the four of you get together as a group?
R.S.M.: What was the reason for getting together?
B.I.: Well, we figured there weren't any live rock bands in Cyprus, so we brought our own.
R.S.M.: Really?
B.I.: Not quite. Actually we're musicians in the 3 PPCLI Corps of Drums out of Victoria, B.C. Together we jammed in our off time, managed a few songs and kept progressing. Then we got lucky enough to get our equipment over here to keep it going.
R.S.M.: So, how do you get gigs here in Cyprus?
B.I.: In the daytime we're employed in Recce Platoon under W.O. Jim Smyth. He also just happens to be the Drum Major of the Corps of Drums and our highly motivated and dedicated manager of Bone Idol. By contacting him and making the arrangements, we'll play anywhere and anytime.
R.S.M.: Sounds like a lot of tasks. How do you do it?
B.I.: Flexibility. Our whole platoon is like that. We can soldier, man a gate, escort civilians, play music, do patrols, fight fires, give rides in Grizzlies at fairs and still manage to get tans and have fun.
R.S.M.: Tell us about the members of Bone Idol.
B.I.: Starting with the lead and only guitar we have CPL Jody Anderson from Waterloo, Ontario. His favourite expression is: "Just let me rock." A true guitarist! Pte John Bourne pounds the bass and drums from Ottawa, Ontario. When explaining his love of music he said, "Music is a hobby and I like hobbies." John is so laid-back that when he goes to bed he doesn't have to lay down. A classic bass player! MCPL "Milo" Beshara is the stick-swinging, skin-beating backbeat of the band. He describes himself as a "student of drums." He is from Edmonton, Alberta and he'll use this as an excuse anytime he makes a mistake. MCPL Mark Cook is the vocalist, or better known as -the mouth of the band. He is originally from the rock and roll capital of the world, Chesterville, Ontario- otherwise known as Hicksville, Canada, famous for screams and screeches and the odd Scotch or two.
R.S.M.: Last question. Are you having a good time in Cyprus?
B.I.: So long as we can rock!

MCPL Beshara drummer for 'Bone Idol'

Cpl Willie and MCPL McKinstry of Recce supervise Grizzly rides at the UNPA Spring Fair.
UNIFICYP BOWLING LEAGUE

Tuesday 14th June 1988 saw the final day of the UN Bowling League’s first 1988 season, draw to a close. There was the usual format of fun games, prizes and trophy presentations, plus an excellent buffet laid on by the management of Kykko Bowl. Our guest on the day was the CPLio, Lt Col Bennett and his family who also enjoyed the fun. The League championship was won by the Afterthoughts, and the two major individual prize winners were Mauno Vantaja of the Finneagles and Daphne Burns of the Latin Lions.

The Afterthoughts - winners of the League championship

... and loved by everyone

UNIFICYP DINGHY SAILING CLUB

Our sailing club managed to get together 10 sailors interested in attending a three day racing course at Deniz Kiz Beach. The course was a great success. We now look forward to seeing some good racing taking place during the weekends. Anyone interested should contact The Club Commodore Sgt Paul Empson RAF Telephone Nicosia 2217. We hope to organize another racing course in September.


FROM SEA TO SEA IT IS UNDERSEA FROM C

The CANCON Scuba Club has been in existence for quite some time; however, for the Third Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, it is a relatively new organization. Preparation began back in Victoria, Canada with Maj Glenn Nordick, (OC C Coy), Capt Tony Seward, (OC Adm Coy), Pte “Fish” Fisher (A Coy), Pte Joe McMullen, Sgt Mullen, Pte Mota (C Coy), Pte JP Cosette, and Pte Ramsay (Adm Coy) taking their advanced open water diving course.

The Club’s aim was simple: to train as many divers as possible within the Battalion. To date the Scuba Club has trained 87 divers to the PADI Basic Open Water 1 Diver, with several attempting to advance to the assistant instructor level.

Upon arrival in Cyprus Maj Nordick, self-appointed club president, rallied an executive and a club was established. Trans-World Divers were selected to conduct the diving courses for the Battalion. The instructors, Andreas Petras and Rollo Barrett, started the first course before Main Two had a chance to overcome their jet lag. The two instructors made the courses unique. A combination of their personalities, experience, ability to work with the military, and Andreas’ ability to duel with some pretty ferocious octopi.

The initial training classes were held at the Ledra Palace pool and the continuation dives were conducted at dive sites in the Cape Greco area.

In late June, a dive took place on a wreck off Larnaca (and I have been assured that there are many more in the making for the rest of the summer). No one can deny that 3 PPCLI now has a large number of divers who will hopefully continue in the sport when they return to Vancouver Island, home of some of the best diving in the world. To conclude, don’t forget what Rollo taught you, “Remember to whistle Yankee Doodle Dandy when your regulator is out of your mouth.”

Lt CB Barr
UNIFICYP ATHLETES WIN 5 OUT OF 5 COMPETITIONS

For the first time in the history of UNIFICYP Athletics the UN have won the Cyprus Services Athletics League. So convincing was our victory that we won all five athletic matches.

Also for the first time UNIFICYP fielded a ladies team who did extremely well and managed to gain second place.

The final results for the teams were:-

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The teams were represented by all nationalities and included:

HQ UNIFICYP: WO1 Collins
Sector 1: Pte KD Johansen
Sector 2: Cpl Atkinson, Pte Bowker, Cfsn Smith and Pte Twentymen.
Sector 3: Lt Andrews, Lt Mills, Sgt Miller, MCpl Pumphrey, Pte Merry, Pte Mota, Pte Porter, Pte Conner and Sgt Leduc.
Sector 4: MCpl Schrattenbach and Sgt Steiger.
Sp Regt: Maj Oxley (Team Captain), Capt Brook, SSGt Grant (Team Coach), Sgt Stewart, Cpl Glean, Cpl Hanson, Cpl Turrell, LCpl Cadby, LCpl Aldous, Dvr Sloss, Dvr Healey, Dvr Cake and Cpl Harvey.
FSC Sqn: Lt Mackenzie-Hill, WO2 Evans, Cpl Nutt, LCpl Davidson, Cpl Kitching and Tpr Bebbington.
MP Coy: WO3 Hellander.

UNIFICYP Ladies Team came second overall.

Left: UNIFICYP Athletes showing their prizes.

Our ladies team included: Mrs J Warrener, Miss A Borggren, Miss C Oxley, Miss V Barton, Miss L Collins, Mrs S Hammet, Mrs Hughes and Misses S and P Parkes. Team Captain and Coach was Mr S Parkes.