Editorial

More than the sun is warming the editorial office. At long last there has been a response to our appeal for contributions and this month the double page spreads of “Blue Beret Sport” and “Military Skills Competition” have been made up from the work of outside contributors.

To increase the warm glow the editor is experiencing we have now received two unsolicited articles for future editions of “Out and About in Cyprus”. The editor wishes to thank the contributors who have responded to his appeal and he hopes that the inclusion of more articles of general interest will make the magazine more attractive to you all.

In the editorial office are now keeping our fingers crossed and hope that that present trickle of original articles develops into a flood to the extent that our problem becomes one of selection. It would be nice if our readers each time they picked up a new copy of the magazine had no idea what its contents were going to be.

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on the cover

The Swedish soldier at his OP personifies the constant surveillance of the Cease Fire Lines necessary to prevent an escalation in defensive works that could lead to an increase in tension between the two sides.
Our Radio Workshop
Doctor of Electronics' Private Practice.

The chain of command is vitally important to any military organisation. It is therefore essential to have good radio equipment in first class working order. Because of the importance of the equipment its repair and maintenance needs a specialist—a "Doctor of Electronics".

Our chief specialist—who has the unique ability to diagnose and fix any fault in a radio set—is WO1 Johannes Kiewiet. Due to the importance of the items in his care and the difficulty of getting replacements from Austria, he is very keen to pass his knowledge on to others. Although his reluctance to issue spare parts, or even such things as a simple screwdriver, arises from the very limited budget within which the branch has to operate, one man has taken it to heart, and has resulted in his Scottish nickname—Jack McClovenikis.

His many repair tricks have given rise to a humorous story that has now become a bit of a state joke. Like most military forces the Austrian Army is often short of money and this is abundantly shown by the equipment. The chain of command is very strict and not one crossing of a particular story. Once when the high power radio station was down, the Chief WO from Austria broke down his head to repair it but after an hour had had no success and had run out of ideas. Naturally playing with his toys as he tried to find inspiration he accidentally got the coin box with the coffe money in his hands. As soon as the coins were jingling a clear voice in German came out of the loudspeaker: "Hallo Aussen, this is the Austrian Army Broadcasting System!!!"

Farewell Party
With a Turkish Cypriot flavour.

On 20 January an important event took place. It was a farewell party for our boys who were leaving the island for Austria a few days later. For the occasion the PMG of the Soldiers' Mess, L/Cpl Niederhausern, who has become famous for his original ideas during his service with several contingents, prepared a real surprise.

After a meal for about 100 soldiers he invited them to watch a performance by a Turkish Cypriot folk dancing group. The group consisted of ten girls from the Centennial School in Famagusta and they gave performances free in their spare time. This display gave an interesting insight into one of their national customs, which the boys thoroughly enjoyed. L/Cpl Niederhausern said, "The only problem was that the girls were so very shy in front of so many young men."

Peaceful Invasion
Our camp was invaded one day during January—but it seemed to be a very peaceful invasion. The attack was not by ravaging beasts but by a herd of goats enjoying the fine grazing in the camp. Unfortunately they were not registered members of AUSCON so the Camp Commander had to eject them.

Recco Squadron/8CH has an operational tasking unique within the framework of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. The 117-man squadron is responsible for patrolling Observation Posts (OPs) along the Buffer Zone within the city of Nicosia. These OPs are located throughout the city and are manned by soldiers at all times. Each soldier for the most part works eight hours and then has sixteen hours to relax. Each man receives one 44" and one 46" hour pass each month which allows him to get some sightseeing of the island. Many of the soldiers take advantage of the leave centers located at Larnaca, a southern port city. Two weeks of UK leave during the tour (which can be spent in Germany) provides an enjoyable interlude.

The troopers are finding that their basic armament skills are getting rusty while fulfilling this infantry type tasking. They therefore, get involved in various range practice and refresh training; however, their main emphasis is still with the peacekeeping role.

The future for Recco Squadron promises a busy time up to our handover in April. Construction is about to begin on the sewer system with a large crew of the work taking place in the United Nation Buffer Zone. Estates for each of these projects will be supplied by the reserve troop.

The tour has been exciting and different experience for all. But, nevertheless each passing day adds another stroke to the calendar marking the days until we are home again.
Helicopter Training

Helicopter support is available to all Sectors in UNFICYP. However, it is a vitally important facility to Sector One in view of the mountainous terrain in the Sector's area and the restrictions on freedom of movement that exist. Because of these problems in the Sector, Dancon uses a large proportion of the flying hours available to the Force.

In their training in Denmark, the Danish soldiers do not learn how to operate from helicopters, and as a result, they receive instruction on the correct procedure after they have joined the Force. The instruction is followed by practical exercises carried out in Viking Camp, Xeros, using a truck and the Camp water tower. These exercises probably save one or two broken legs when it comes to actually operating from helicopters as the soldiers have the chance of becoming expert in climbing down a rope before having to descend from a hovering helicopter. The "live" training with helicopters takes place at Nicotia, where the instruction and supervision is carried out by RAF Loadmasters.

There is no doubt that the soldiers of the Danish Contingent find this training an unusual and exiting element of their UN service, so we will let one of the new-comers tell you of his reactions.

One Soldier's Reaction

When asked for his reactions to helicopter training, Pie Poul Brongendahl, a 21-year-old soldier who served with a Signals Regiment in Denmark said: "During my four and a half years service I have never before made a helicopter flight and therefore have never tried "the roping". It was a strange and exiting experience to fly in a helicopter, especially as I was placed just opposite the open door - I was grateful for my seatbelt. The only time that I had butterflies in my stomach was when I actually sat in the open door, waiting for the rope, but once in action I had no problems in descending. Altogether, I am sure that I have received very good instruction from the RAF Loadmaster, and I did not see any of the "jumping apple" exercise by the helicopter pilot as recounted by my older companions.

"Roping" from the water tower in Viking Camp.

Water...

There has indeed been some rain this winter in Cyprus and all sectors have had various troubles due to the water.

In Sector Five there was troop training in the fire trenches around Camp Victoria. Trouble was, some of the trenches were completely water-filled after heavy raining.

But if you are a UN soldier and have to do a job, you do it. Even if it means you have to do it with frog man equipment.

More water...

(Lefi) Jan-Erik Bolverud and Tasso Halkias had some problems in their accommodation. The roof couldn't stand the heavy rain and there were some bad leaks. So what to do? Join the navy of course!

(bottom) But bad weather couldn't stop these crazy Swe- den from taking their traditional swim in the Mediterranean on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. "Well, but not too cold," the report says.

Even more...

Rain or not, Mario Maric drives his water lorry all around Sector Five. Water we need, no matter how much it is raining this wet winter. So the water lorry is always welcome, even in a heavy rain fall.
84 SQN (UN) RAF

The permanent United Nations Detachment of 84 Squadron Royal Air Force, which has its headquarters at RAF Akrotiri, is based at Nicosia. The Detachment is equipped with 4 Whirlwind MK 10 helicopters and is staffed by 6 officers, 32 NCOs and airmen and 17 locally employed civilians.

The main function of the Detachment is the provision of a small aircraft to the UN. In order to achieve this objective the Unit has 4 aircraft. One of these aircraft is generally on major servicing at Akrotiri, and from the 3 based at Nicosia the Detachment's engineering staff endeavours to produce 2 serviceable Whirlwinds each day for training and operational flying.

The Detachment provides a United Nations Force in Cyprus with a troop, supply and passenger-carrying capability. The Unit also maintains an Air Safety Watch and a Crash Rescue Service for the Royal Air Force and Army helicopters which operate from Nicosia. Additionally, the Detachment provides a 24-hour fire-fighting standby for any domestic fires which may occur within the United Nations Protected Area.

The Detachment’s most regular flying task consists of the resupply of the more inaccessible Observation Posts in Sector 1. Three times a week a Whirlwind helicopter delivers rations, water and other commodities to the Danish personnel who man these OPs. The flying tasks of the Detachment also include the carriage of VIPs and service passengers and the training of UN troops in the various helicopter deployment techniques that they may have to use operationally.

In order to maintain their proficiency and operating standards at a high level, the pilots and crewmen of the Detachment complete certain flying and ground training exercises every month. For the pilots, these exercises include instrument and night flying, rescue procedures, navigation training and engine-off landing procedures. The exercises for the crewmen include navigation training and practice in load-lifting and rescue techniques.

The majority of the married personnel on the strength of the Detachment serve for 3 years in Cyprus. Single personnel normally complete 2½ years tours on the island. All personnel and their families are quartered in the British Quarter, and play their part in the activities of the community.

In addition to its routine tasks, the Detachment monitors an aircraft and crew at 33 minutes readiness during working hours and one hours readiness at all other times, for any emergency tasks that may arise. These tasks may range from the medical evacuation of sick or injured personnel and civilians to the nearest hospital, through to the rescue of persons in distress. The Detachment’s most noteworthy mission in recent times was when 2 of its aircraft, along with 2 from the parent unit at Akrotiri, rescued 117 civilians and servicemen from the stranded ‘Etrust’ II which was in danger of breaking up in high seas off Kyrenia. This is believed to be the largest helicopter rescue ever recorded in the annals of aviation.

The personnel of 84 Squadron Detachment are proud to belong to the sole Royal Air Force Unit in Nicosia and consider it a privilege to be able to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.
MILITARY SKILLS
FORCE RESERVE

First . . . . Background

"The purpose of the Military Skills Competition is to encourage Sectors and Units to maintain and develop basic military skills while serving with UNFICYP" says the good book, UNFICYP Standing Operating Procedures. That statement translates into a lot of hard work and practice for the teams from each of the Sectors, Force Reserve and Support Regiment.

Skills tested are many. During the competition each team must make a forced march of 15 kilometres, participate in a night observation exercise, plan and complete both night and day navigation exercises. These exercises consist of several stands and at each stand further basic military skills such as obstacle crossing, grenade throwing and first-aid are tested. Oh, by the way each team is composed of an officer, an NCO and two privates. Needless to say, it takes teamwork to win!

Gently! Gently!

Teamwork and Faith.

Weighing in.

COMPETITION

THE WINNERS

Next . . . . Results

The final stages of the UNFICYP Military Skills Competition held on 11 and 12 January provided a story-books finish with the scoreboard on Pyla Range dominated by competitors and supporters anxious to check the markers' arithmetic.

It had been obvious from the early stages of the competition on the previous day that the contest would be very closely fought and that winning would be no easy task.

The first event, the 13 Ks march gave an indication of what the final result might be with Force Reserve completing the course in 91 mins, 29 secs, the Swedish team in 92 mins, 10 secs and the Austrians not much slower in 96 mins, 48 secs. The order was repeated in the Night Navigation course and first light on 1 January saw these three teams well ahead of the remainder.

The Night Observation test held between two and three o'clock in the morning resulted in some good scores for all teams, with the Australians just pipping the rest. One sobering thought is that not one observation post saw a three man foot patrol which waited across the front just two hundred metres away on quite a brightly moonlit night.

The morning of the second day saw all contingents, except the eventual winners come first in at least one event:

Sector 1 won the DP stand.
Sector 2 the Estimation of Distances.
Sector 4 the Shooting.
Sector 5 the First Aid.
Sector 6 the Grenade Throwing.

Special mention must be made of the Swedish Team from Sector 5 with an almost unbelievable time of 4 mins, 2 sec, for the obstacle course.

After all the silly tin and grass checking the Force Commander presented the prizes to the following:

1st Force Reserve 1,222 points
2nd Sector 6 1,216 points
3rd Sector 5 1,214 points

The prize giving ceremony completed, competitors, umpires, staff and supporters alike enjoyed a welcome beer and lunch to the music of the Band The 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry.

Why couldn't we just walk around...?

Force Commander presents awards.

Dig in!
CASTLES
THE FORTIFIED CITY OF FAMAGUSTA

Famagusta was a castle and that the city was fortified during the Lusignan period and during the Venetian occupation; but the defences were completely rebuilt by the Venetians, not only to resist the new artillery of the day, but also to provide for artillery positions. Only part of the City and the Land Gate is exactly the Genoese factor.

Famagusta is surrounded by walls. It is more or less a square. One corner is on the sea, and the other three overlook the plain. Row houses line the roads. The round towers replace often steeple towers nowadays because the round tower would better resist the rain and the maqam (the main public place) was set at regular intervals in the main wall. This is a good invention in military architecture and a reason that the Genoese is mainly to provide flanking and give to the city the possibility of constructing an effective defence and seriously discouraging the besiegers, a matter of importance in the morrow of a gesta.

There were 13 towers in total, 7 round towers, 2 square towers, 2 tower-houses, and 2 bastions.

The novel artillery, however, called for something different. The use of gunpowder meant that the gun had the advantage. It was efficient and powerful and much easier to transport than the artillery. The round tower was unable to resist the flame of powder and the shot of the gun. The tower-houses were the least affected, but they were also the least effective in the battle. The square tower was the most effective, but it was also the most difficult to build. The Bastion was a compromise between the two.

The city has 12 walls in total, 10 of which are in the city proper, and 2 in the island.

In medieval times, Famagusta was the most remarkable ruins in the world. It is a legacy of the Crusaders and the Venetians. The city was divided into two parts: the Venetian quarter and the Genoese quarter. The Venetian quarter was the commercial and administrative center of the city, while the Genoese quarter was the residential area.

The walls of Famagusta have been described in detail in the article, but the most notable is the Tower of Othello, which is worthy of special attention. It was built by the Lusignans and later remodelled in AD 1492 by Nicolo Foscarini, a Venetian. His name appears alongside the cathedral.

Lala Mustafa Mosque (Cathedral of St Nicholas) stands as one of the most important examples of Gothic architecture in Famagusta. It was built on the site of the old mosque by the Lusignans in the 13th century. It was later remodelled by the Venetians in the 15th century.

Places of Interest
The Walls of Famagusta have been described in the article, but special mention must be made of the Tower of Othello (Cleopatra’s Needle) which is worthy of special attention. It was built by the Lusignans and later remodelled in AD 1492 by Nicolo Foscarini, a Venetian. His name appears alongside the cathedral.

The Church of St. George, the Greens, was the Greek Orthodox church that was destroyed during the Turkish occupation. It was later converted into a mosque, but it was later destroyed during the war.

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which is the earliest example of Gothic architecture in Famagusta but very little of the structure remains.

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The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which is the earliest example of Gothic architecture in Famagusta, was built in 1698 and is now a mosque.

The Church of Our Lady of the Lamps, which was converted into a mosque in 1571, is now a mosque.

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A fish-eye view of the entrance to Othello Tower, which is the most important ruins in the world. It is a legacy of the Crusaders and the Venetians. The city was divided into two parts: the Venetian quarter and the Genoese quarter. The Venetian quarter was the commercial and administrative center of the city, while the Genoese quarter was the residential area.
A rain shower freshened the air just before the start of the Cross Country Running Championships in Dhekelia in January. So even though the routes planned by the Swedish Sports Club was a little more than 24 minutes, Captain Buxton from Force Reserve won the Senior Citas after a run of 37 minutes.

"But it was hard," competitors said. Sleepy snoop and a final long run on a concrete pavement.

(Right) In the front row: 159 Blyth — Sweden, 172 Rattan — Dancou, and 175 Rattan — MP Cty, waiting their way on a deep slope.

(Below) Sgt Woodward on the final run and he was at No. 5 in Class II, Pte. Munn, from Support Regiment is just behind.

A Kart Club has recently been founded by the members of 84 Squadron (Detachment) RAF. The Club’s premises are situated close to the Detachment’s Air Traffic Control tower and a track has been laid on the unit’s alternative aircraft servicing platform, which is the paved area which lies behind the Nicosia Scout and Guide Head-Quarters.

The founder members of the Club already have one racing kart in use and a second one under construction. These two karts (and any others that are subsequently purchased by the Club) will be used in the competitions that are regularly held on the karting circuits on the island. A "Fun Kart" has also been built for use by the junior element of the Club.

The Kart Club will be run under the auspices of the Cyprus Motor Sports Association and, in common with the Akrotiri and Episkopi Clubs, be governed by RAC regulations.

All members of UNICYP and their families (minimum age 16 years) are eligible to join the Club. Racing members are required to pay an entrance fee of £45.00 and a racing fee of £64.50 per month. The fee for social members are — joining fee £100.00, yearly fee £120.00. A family membership would cost £180.00. Racing fees will be used to defray the cost of spares for the karts. The running costs of a particular kart, (petrol, oil, spark plug etc.) will be shared by those members who use that kart. It is hoped that as the Club’s financial position improves more karts will be bought and the number of racing members will increase.

The inaugural meeting of the Nicosia Kart Club was held on Sunday 14th January 1979. Members of the Akrotiri and Episkopi Kart Clubs brought a total of 11 karts to the Meet and the Nicosia Club entered its first kart, 8 races were held — 2 International Class races (the lightweight), 2 National Class races (the heavyweight) and 4 Novice Class races (Novice A and Novice B). The International Class was won by Vice Philipp from Episkopi, Campbell Smith from Akrotiri, driving the Nicosia kart came second. The National Class was won by Brian Banks from Episkopi. The Nicosia kart, this time driven by Bernie Kane of Akrotiri, gained second place. Trevor Wright from Nicosia won the Novice A Class. Miss Jackie Pilling from Episkopi won the Novice B Class, with Jamie Harris from Nicosia achieving a joint second place. A crowd of approximately 200 people viewed the day’s events, which culminated in the presentation of prizes by Mrs Ann Gray, wife of the Station Commander RAF Akrotiri.
UNIFIL MANDATE EXTENDED

The Security Council on 19 January approved a five month extension of the UNIFIL Mandate. In extending the Mandate the Security Council stressed that free and unimpeded movement for UNIFIL was essential for the fulfilment of its Mandate. If obstruction continued, the Council said, it would examine practical ways in accordance with the Charter to see that its decisions were carried out.

Another provision in the resolution adopted that day urged all States in a position to do so to use their influence on those concerned so that UNIFIL might fully carry out its task. The resolution expressed satisfaction with the declared policy of the Government of Lebanon and the steps already taken to deploy the Lebanese army in the south. To hasten the process it invited Lebanon to draw up, in consultation with the Secretary-General, a phased programme of activities to be carried out over the next three months.

The Council is to meet again within three months to assess the situation.

In a statement made on behalf of the Council following the adoption of the resolution its President, Donnel Mills of Jamaica, took note of the Lebanese Government's efforts to establish a pre- sentee in the southern part of the country and expressed hope that expansion of such activities would be encouraged to promote restora- tion of its authority.

Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, expressed that the Co-operation of the parties concerned was essential to UNIFIL's effectiveness appealed to those concerned to modify their attitude, and urged Council members in a position to do so to exert their influence to this end.

The five month extension of the UNIFIL Mandate was a com- promise between the six months recommended by the Secretary-General and the four month term favoured by France to underscore the temporary nature of the UN undertaking.

The resolution emerged from intensive private consultations and was approved by a vote of twelve in favour to none against, with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia abstaining and China not participating.

CONSULTATIONS ON NAMIBIA

The Secretary-General held extensive discussions on the evening of 19 January with Marti Ahtisaari, his Special Represen- tative in Namibia, following the latter's return from ten days of talks with officials in Windhoek in Cape Town. Mr. Ahtisaari had been discussing steps for launching the UN civilian and military operation that is to prepare for and oversee independence elections in Namibia. The following day the Secretary-General met with the South African Charge d'Affaires, Adriaan Eksteen, to discuss final details of the transitional assistance operation which was expected to start at the end of January with elections taking place in September.

Mr. Ahtisaari subsequently visited the African front line states and also met with representatives of SWAPO. On 23 January he met with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania whilst in Dar-Es- Salaam and also met members of the liberation community of the organisation of African Unity.

SECRETARY-GENERAL POSTPONES VISIT TO SOUTH-EAST ASIA

It was announced on 31 January that the Secretary-General had decided to postpone his trip to south-east Asia to a later date. He considered that his presence was required at UN HQ in New York in the immediate future in connection with the on-going consultations concerning Namibia and the possibility of the re- sumption of inter-communal talks on Cyprus.

It had been announced last month that the Secretary-General planned to pay official visits to seven Asian countries between the end of January and mid February; his itinerary would include De- mocratic Kampuchea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS AMBASSADOR PEREZ DE CUÉLLAR

— HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CYPRUS 1975 - 77 —

AS UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

The Secretary-General recently announced the appointment of Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuéllar as Under-Secretary-Ge- neral for Special Political Affairs. The Ambassador served from November 1975 to December 1977 as the Secretary-General’s Special Representative in Cy- prus. He succeeds Mr. Roberto E. Gioyer and is expected to take over his duties soon.

Since he left Cyprus, Mr. Pe- rez de Cuéllar has been Peru’s Ambassador to Venezuela.

Mr. de Cuéllar was born in Lima in 1930 and graduated in law from the Law Faculty of the Catholic University, Lima, in 1943.

Joining the Peruvian Foreign Service in 1940 and the Diplo- matic Service in 1944, he served at the Embassies of Peru in France, The United Kingdom, Bolivia and Brazil.

He returned to Lima in 1961 as Director of the Legal and Personnel Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was promoted to the rank of Ambassador the following year, serving successively as the Di- rector of Administration, Pro- col and Political Affairs in the Peruvian Foreign Ministry.

From 1964 to 1966 Mr. de Cuéllar served as Ambassador to Switzerland. He then became the Vice Minister of the Foreign Ministry. He served as the Ambas- sador of Peru to the Soviet Union from 1969 to 1971, accred- ited simultaneously as Ambas- sador to Poland.

He was a member of the Per-uvian Delegation to the first session of the U.N. General As- sembly in 1946 and of his country’s delegations to the Ge- neral Assembly sessions from 1970 until 1975.

Ambassador de Cuéllar served as Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations from 1971 to 1975. He was his coun- try’s Representative on the Secu- rity Council and served as President of the Security Coun- cil during the events in Cyprus in 1974. He is a former Professor of Diplomatic Law and Professor of International Relations and is author of “Manual of Internatio- nal Law.”