

# THE BLUE BERET



OCTOBER 1984





# SEPTEMBER IN RETROSPECT

## ROTATIONS

½ Battalion Sector 2  
½ Battalion Sector 5

## VISITS

3 Maj Gen P. Jokinen, Mr P. Pitkanen, Lt Col V. Vrijola visited the Finnish Contingent  
3-7 Col P. Ring and Maj O. Anderson visited the Swedish Contingent  
3-15 Dr B. Smith and group of four doctors visited the Swedish Contingent.  
3-16 Dr T. Lundin visited the Swedish Contingent  
4-28 Sgts J. Calder & M. Long visited the Canadian Contingent.  
6-11 Brig K. Budik, Dir, Gen Staff, Lt - Col G. Fuehrer and Mr A. Roppert, MP visited the Austrian Contingent  
6-15 Dr H. Fries visited the Swedish Contingent  
7-25 Capt T. Barron and one Sgt visited the British Contingent.  
10 Rear Adm Baxter & party of 12, RCDS visited the British Contingent.  
11-19 Lt Col R. Baxter & party of two visited the Canadian Contingent.  
12-15 Maj Gen R. Grey, Comm of Aust Fed Police, Mrs Grey and Staff Off, Insp. W. Stoll visited AUSTCIVPOL

13 Ven Air Vice Marshall G. Renowden, Chaplain in Chief, RAF visited the British Contingent  
13-25 Capt J. Ware & 45 Members of Band visited the British Contingent.  
20-23 Lieutenant-General M. Wilkins OBE and his ADC Captain M. Acland visited the British Contingent  
24 Colonel F. Hine visited the British Contingent  
24-28 Mr H. Rommander, National Swedish Pol. Comm., Mr L. Printz, Director-General and Mr U. Seppo of Civilian Police visited the SWEDCIVPOL.  
25 Major-General J. Brown visited the British Contingent  
25 Air Vice Marshall K. Sanderson, RAF visited the British Contingent  
25-14/10 Mr D. Friedsman plus 7 Canadian Customs officials visited the Canadian Contingent.  
26-2/10 Maj Alkins, Master WO G Doncaster and WO J O'Hara visited the Canadian Contingent  
27-2/10 Capt Bjorn-Ake Kjellberg visited the Finnish Contingent.  
30-4/10 Major-General Grey visited the British Contingent.

# FUTURE EVENTS

## OCTOBER

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE - 18 October

## SPORT

TENNIS TOURNAMENT - 8/9 November UNPA SP REGT

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE - 3 November AUSCON

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 11 November BRITCON/CANCON

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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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## Front cover

Gurkha Engineers at work

Photograph by Sgt. Thomson

# THE BLUE BERET



## Editorial

This month we have a UN first recorded with the awarding of UN medals to Gurkha soldiers in British Service - for full details see page 16.

Despite the recent road safety campaign, traffic accidents are still a major cause for concern. On page 15 we tell the cautionary story of the young MP Sergeant who is very lucky to be alive. As part of our continuing campaign to reduce injury and death to personnel, as well as reduce damage to property, all UNFICYP vehicles will drive on dipped headlights by daylight from 15 October for a trial period.

Whilst on the subject of saving life we have stories on pages 6 and 7 of prompt action by both Sector 5 and Sector 6 personnel which saved the life, in one case of another UNFICYP member, and in the other of a member of the local population. We thank all concerned for their skill and efficiency.

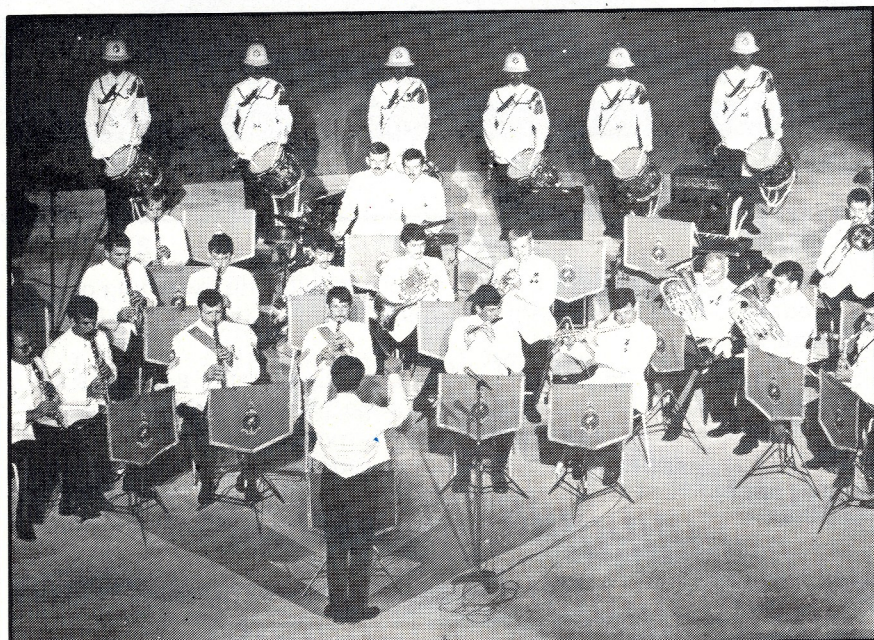
Finally, last but not least, we welcome 1 RCR, who are no strangers to UNFICYP, returning for another tour as the new Sector 4 Unit. "Have a nice stay!"

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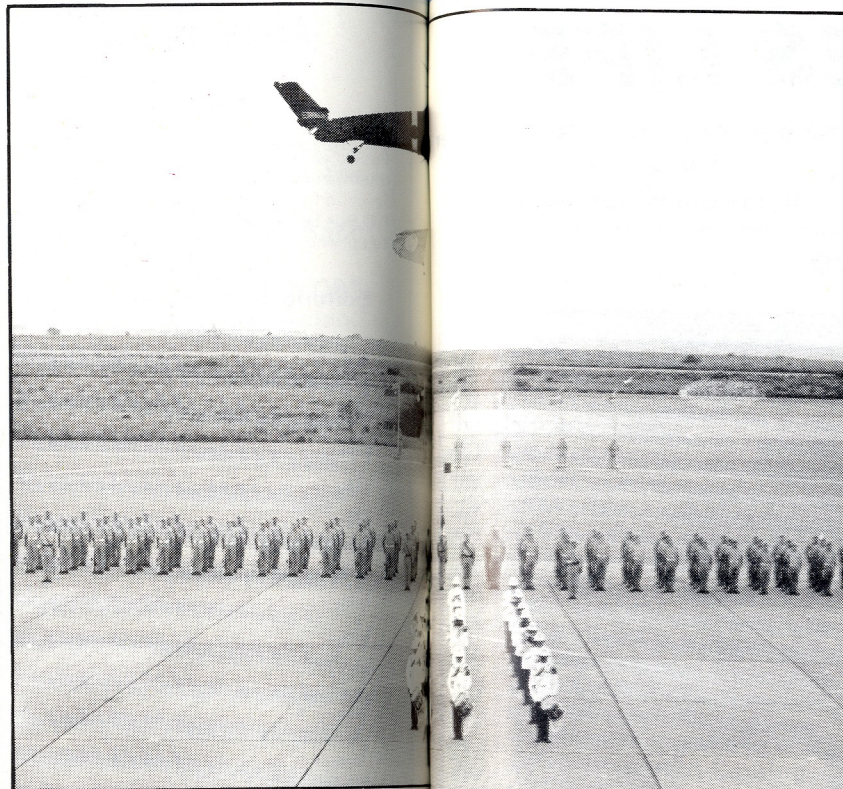
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The Royal Marines Band (Commando Forces) recently gave a concert at the Nicosia Amphitheatre in aid of the blind School.



Captain Lott, the Company Commander Eastern Company with the assistance of the Gurkha Engineers cuts the tape to open the 'galley' extension to OP B35



A Wessex Helicopter from 84 Squadron at the BRITCON Medal Parade held at Nicosia Airport.

SWEDCIVPOLs singing cook songs at the dinner after the Medal presentation.



SWEDCON pioneers building a room at OP S-52, making the OP comfortable for the new, Swedish contingent just in time for the rotation 20 September - 20 October.



The Chief of Staff UNFICYP, Brigadier P. R. Duchesne, greeting members of the Royal College of Defence Studies on their arrival at Nicosia Airport.



Sgt Dave Cannon and Cpl Chris Bell helping to host some children from the United Nations Protected Area during a recent visit to St. David's Camp.



SVERIGE



# SWEDISH HEALTH SQUAD SAVES LIFE

By 2/Lt Matts Dagerhall

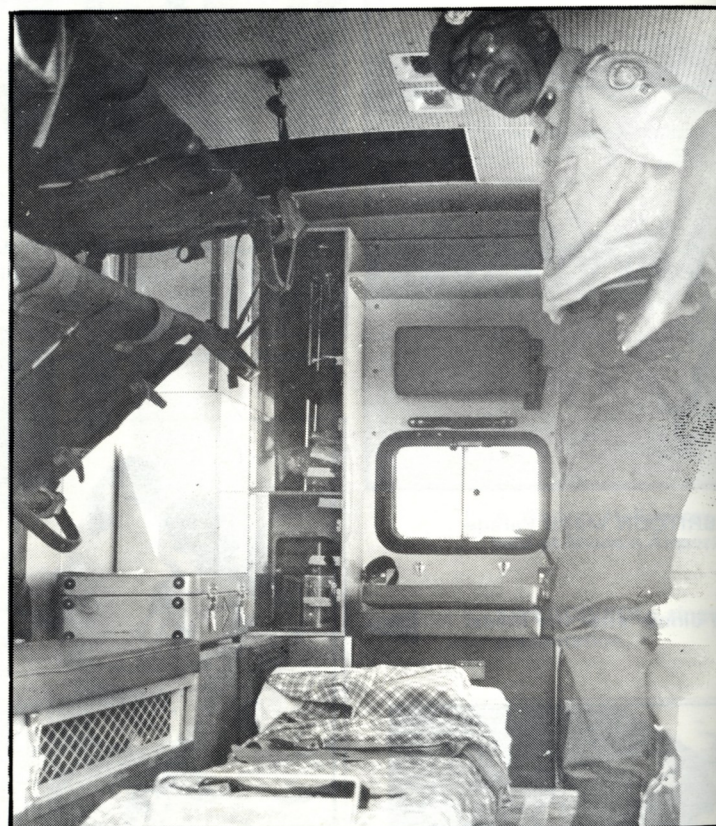
Photographs by Pte Christer  
Forsberg and  
Sgt Magnus Götherström

## Baptism of fire for new SWEDCON ambulance

A quick reaction by three SWEDCON medics no doubt saved the life of one competitor at the Military Skills Competition in early September.

The soldier in question would not have survived for many more minutes without help, Medical Officer Richard Eitrem of SWEDCON says.

MO Richard Eitrem, Lt (reg nurse) Håken Andersson and Lt (reg nurse) Stellan Andreasson got their baptism of fire together with the brand new Swedish ambulance, a Volvo TGB 1314, during the final spurt of the forced march at the Military Skills Competition. Someone asked them for a doctor, and showed them a lifeless soldier in the back of a Land Rover. He was almost dying of heat stroke, and had obviously passed out during the march.



The inside of the new Swedish field ambulance, a Volvo TGB 1314, under inspection of COS Brig Duchesne.



A quick reaction by the Swedish doctors, saved the life of one of the competitors at the Military Skills Competition.

The modern equipment in the field ambulance came into immediate use. The patient was given an intravenous drip and oxygen, and three medics did what they could to cool him down, heading the ambulance for Dhekelia MRS Hospital. At the hospital his temperature was more than 42.5°C.

The soldier, in heat stroke and medical shock, had just between 25% and 50% chance to survive MO Richard Eitrem says. If he had not been taken care of quickly he would not be alive today.

The competitor survived this incident thanks to the Swedish medics and their new ambulance. All competitors can be grateful for their knowledge and skill.

# AUSCON NEWS

Photographer L/Cpl Litscher Manfred

By Capt Manzl Rainer



## FALLEN IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE

A commemoration was held on the 10th anniversary of the death of three Austrian soldiers. On the 14 August 1974 1/Lt Johann IZAY, 1/Sgt Paul DECOMBE and Cpl August ISAK were killed in action. Their mission was to intermediate between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in the fighting around GOSHI. They became victims of an air raid, where napalm bombs were used. In remembrance of this tragic incident the Austrian Contingent held its 10th annual commemoration at the memorial in GOSHI.

## RESCUING A BOY'S LIFE!

It was very close, but they made it!

Sgt Erich SCHUH of MP Det FAMAGUSTA and Capt Gerhard MURSCH-EDLMAYER MD, Med Offr AUSCON, saved a young Turkish Cypriot's life on the beach nearby Hotel Palm Beach in FAMAGUSTA. Sgt SCHUH, being on a mobile patrol on 27 August 1984, noticed a crowd of people standing around a body on the beach. He rushed to the place and found a Turkish Cypriot boy having just been rescued from drowning by Italian tourist Carlo PENETTI, but still unconscious and not breathing. Sgt SCHUH

tried to get a local ambulance but without success. Immediately he informed AUSCON Duty Officer by radio, who called on the doctor. Within a few minutes Capt MURSCH MD arrived at the accident scene and gave first aid to the youngster. Soon the boy started to breath again and could be brought to FAMAGUSTA Hospital by the AUSCON ambulance van, where he recovered quickly from his almost fatal accident.

We at AUSCON are very glad and proud of the immediate action by two of our soldiers which undoubtedly saved a life.



"ALI AND HIS RESCUING TEAM"

From left to right: Capt Gerhard Mursch-Edlmayer MD, Carlo Penetti, Ali Suleyman and Sgt Erich Schuh. As you see, Ali is already in a good mood.





# THE ROYALS RETURN

Photographs by Unit Photographer

By Lt J. M. Twohey

On 2 October 84, the advance party of the latest Canadian Contingent arrived in Larnaca after a long and tiring flight from Canada. The First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, has returned to Cyprus after an absence of nearly 10 years. But the Blue, Black and Gold regimental colours have emblazoned Sector Four's area of responsibility as recently as the October 83-April 84 Winter tour, when the Second served.

1 RCR is usually based in the Regimental Home Station, London, Ontario and has a long and distinguished history. Originally raised in 1883, the RCR is Canada's senior regular infantry regiment; its Battle Honours include Canada's Northwest Rebellion of 1883, the Boer War, both World Wars and Korea. In recent years 1 RCR has been the infantry battalion component of Canada's elite Special Service Force, and exercises not only in the Canadian North, but also in Norway in conjunction with the remainder of the Special Service Force.

The Battalion is commanded by LCol Larry Bowen, OMM, CD and formally assumed command on Sector Four's area of responsibility from the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on 11 Oct 84 after a short ceremony where the Colours of 1 PPCLI were marched off to be replaced by 1 RCR's Colours. The Royals have taken over from a fine unit and are aiming at pursuing the sometimes difficult duties of the peacekeeper.

The Patricia's have left for a well deserved period of leave in Canada before resuming the conventional infantry role. While they are preparing to take down the Blue Beret, 1 RCR has "just begun to fight"; that is, to make peace. The officers and men of 1 RCR have turned their minds to the six months task ahead, but like all contingents, there will be a little part of the mind always dreaming of back home.

PRO PATRIA!



Warriors' Day Parade - London - 10 September 83.



Arctic Training Norway Ex COLD WINTER - Mar 83



Platoon Training - Petawawa - September 83

# KOKKINA, THE ISOLATED OUTPOST



By 1Lt L T L LARSEN

Photograph by Sgt A. Thomson

Approximately 30 minutes drive from the village of Limnitis where C-COY/DANCON is situated, we find one of its platoons in the small Turkish Cypriot enclave of Kokkina.

In the beginning of the sixties much tension accumulated between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot populations, one result of which was the creation of the Kokkina enclave.

During 1964, clashes ensued in the Kokkina area. To counter this Swedish UN units were deployed to the area but they had to withdraw when the fighting was at its height. After the fighting died down the Swedes were replaced by the Irish Contingent who constructed a Camp and several OPs in and around Kokkina. In 1970 the Irish unit was replaced by a unit from DANCON. After 1974, Kokkina remained on Turkish hands. Today, therefore, UN has to maintain and observe a piece of Buffer-Zone, the Kokkina pocket, which is not connected to the rest of the UN Buffer-Zone.

The Danish platoon is still present in the Kokkina village, which is now totally deserted by civilians, separating the remaining Turkish Cypriot garrison from the surrounding National Guard.

The platoon consists of 1 officer, 1 sergeant and 15 other ranks. Its tasks are to maintain and observe the UN Buffer-Zone from two OPs namely D 01 and D 02, with its Recce-detachment observing the areas out of the OPs field of vision. In an intensified situation, this Recce-detachment will man three normally unmanned OPs as well in order to increase surveillance. It is responsible for supplying the platoon with food and drinking water from the main camp in Limnitis.

In the camp three privates are the individual. He must be able to responsible for comforting the entertain himself and have a high platoon commander, his 2. IC and level of acceptance for the habits of those who are not on the OPs. They his surroundings. It is said that if a also do the cleaning, prepare the soldier survives the first fortnight, he food and run the small camp-shop. will stay for years. This statement is underlined by the fact that normally 75% of the total platoon strength is transferred to the next rotation.

The working day in Kokkina camp starts at 0600 hrs, stops at 1300 hrs and normally includes maintenance of the old camp and three Landrovers which are at the platoons disposal.

Everyday life is characterized by the isolated position of the camp which demand a steady mentality of

The relationship with both the Turkish Cypriot garrison and the National Guard are very good. In fact they are both so fine the Kokkina-soldiers often are invited to local celebrations and weddings.



One of the Kokkina OPs, DO1





# CHEFS AT THE SHARP END

By: Lt Chris Woods RN

Photographs: LA (Phot) Mullholland

Our success in the Military Skills Competition set the pace and tone of life for the whole of the month of September, and to date this period has been the busiest yet.

A few days after the competition, the two companies on the line changed roles with the companies from Dhekelia. The change-over passed without major hiccup, and quickly attention was redirected to focus upon the preparation for the BRITCON Medal Parade which dominated the remainder of the month. Hopefully, for all who witnessed the occasion, it proved an interesting and enjoyable spectacle with the hard-standing at the old Nicosia Airport once again coming to life to the sound of boots biting into the tarmac and the music of the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marine Commando Forces reverberating around the old terminal buildings.



Feeling the strain - the UN Military Skills Competition winners, A Company, Sector Two. Left to right: Sgt Ewen, Mne Collins, Lt Mills DSC RM, Mne Canham, Mne Stebbings.

However whilst all this excitement was taking place routine on the line continued in much the same way as it always has and probably one of the most important daily tasks to be fulfilled is the preparation of food. The men charged with this awesome responsibility are definitely at the sharp end, for there is little closer to a marine's heart than his food. The problem faced in the Sector was that there were not enough qualified chefs for all locations, and volunteers (hobby chefs) were sought to fill the extra billets. Immediately they were plunged in at the deep end, and for reasons of personal survival as much as personal pride they quickly got to grips with the task. Recently the Sector held an Inter-Location Hobby Chefs Competition which proved beyond doubt that their enthusiasm and standards were beyond reproach. Having said all this, the regular chefs also deserve a mention for their relentless toil and efforts in conditions that are often far from ideal: they clearly are the unsung heroes on the Line!



Hobby Chef Marine Fred Philip prepares lunch at B35, one of the outlying section locations in the west of the sector. He recently finished runner-up to Marine Gillham in the Hobby Chef competition.

# SCOUT CAR SQUADRON



By Capt J L Sunnucks

Photographs: Sgt A. Thomson  
Tpr Fraser

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the performance of our team in the Military Skills Competition. With a comparatively small administrative back-up the team, led by Lt Stewart, gave the Royal Marines a run for their money, eventually finishing in third place. The participants ended the Competition with no serious injuries and a general feeling that it was a worthwhile and perversely enjoyable exercise.

C Squadron The Life Guards are traditionally humble about their swimming prowess. In past inter Squadron matches our representatives have shown such an outstanding lack of buoyancy, physical strength and enthusiasm for the sport that swimming used to be taken as comic entertainment, rather than serious competition. The proximity of the pool to the Camp has enabled many members of the Squadron to practise and improve, but once again we were comprehensively trounced by every team but one. The Squadron Leader



The Military Skills team leader, Lt Stewart, reflects.

maintained tradition by floundering around dramatically, but totally ineffectively. SCpl Redford was equally out of place in the water, but managed to scramble one length without sinking, the Squadron avoiding last place with the sterling efforts of LCpl ROGERS who came second in the freestyle event, and third in the butterfly. He also excelled in the Dhekelia One Mile Swim by being placed eleventh.



The Staff of the Officer's Mess prior to a cocktail party attended by many members of UNFICYP.

There have been two major operational events of note in the past month. The Force Reserve was deployed to OP A14 in Sector Six on a training exercise and spent the morning dealing with a notional demonstration. The manoeuvres conveniently culminated by the sea at OP A28, where a debrief and lunch were followed by a swim. Three days later the Force Reserve converged on the Box Factory as part of an exercise. This was followed by an international volleyball match, with the Royal Marines once again the victors. We are grateful for the hospitality of B Company The Royal Marines who made every effort to entertain and occupy us.



# Blue Beret SPORT



Whether in their 40's (Maj Rod MacArthur) or their 20's (Lt David Farquaharson) or just 11 (Mark Shaw), all ages took part in the Canadian Sponsored Terry Fox run which raised approximately \$1,500 for Cancer Research.

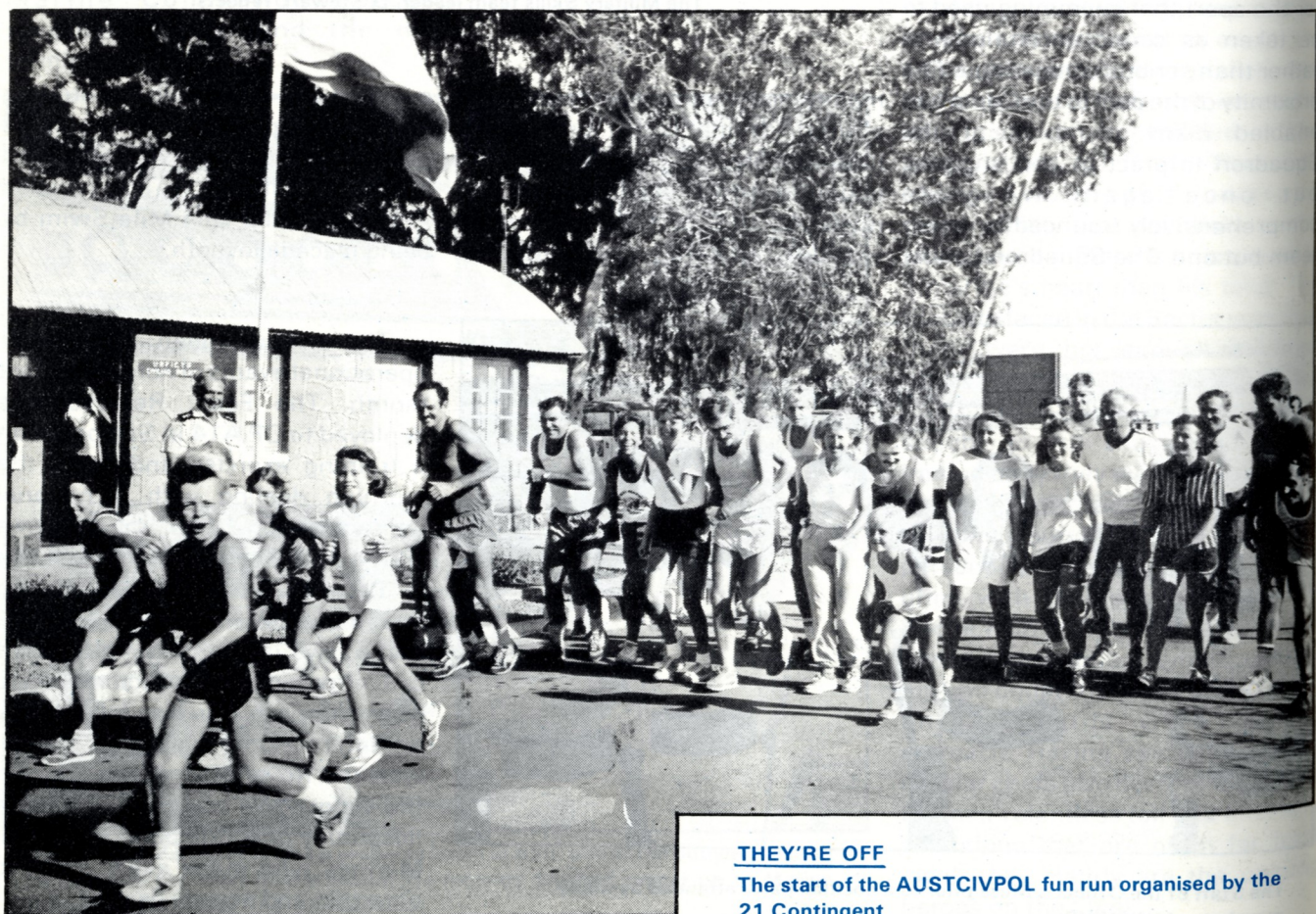


UNFICYP Support Regiment team - runners - up in the Happy Valley Relay Races 5 September 84. L to R: LCpl Dave Lonnen, LCpl Tommo Tomkins, Ssgt Pete Aitken, Sgt Glen Dower.



## UNICORNS CRICKET TEAM

Back row (L to R) Pte Owen, Sgt Switalski, Sgt Parsons, Sgt Derbyshire, CoH Davies, Dvr Robson, Mr Bell, Lt Col Lettington (Umpire). Front row (L to R) Mr Whitehouse, Mr Boyne, Maj Claridge (Team Captain), L/Cpl Eyles, Mrs Boyne (Scorer).



## THEY'RE OFF

The start of the AUSTCIVPOL fun run organised by the 21 Contingent



# INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK



## AN ASSORTMENT

From the  
Australian  
Contingent

### BILLY TEA

#### Requirements:

- 1 medium fire
- Several large rocks (stones)
- 1 blackened billy can
- 1 handkerchief
- 1 forked stick (optional)
- 1 pkt matches

#### Ingredients:

- 2 handfuls of tea leaves
- 2 pints of water
- 1 green stick (eucalypt)

Build fire making sure you place good size rocks at edge to hold billy upright. Fire must be positioned up wind to fan flames around billy can smoke tea. No paper to be used to light fire as this taints taste of tea. Dry grass or leaves to be used for kindling. Place full billy on rocks and watch carefully up wind for boiling point. Do not be premature with tea leaves by adding at shepherds boil stage. When water is boiling rapidly toss in two handfuls of tea leaves and remove billy immediately from fire. Tap side of billy can with green stick below water line to settle leaves. Alternatively billy may be swung to achieve this.

To swing billy - extend arm grasping handle tightly with handkerchief. Rapidly rotate arm in clockwise direction. It is recommended you have a large area to work in.

To drink - pour into pannikan (tin mug), add sugar to taste and stir with green eucalypt stick. Drink immediately in large sips.

The same tea when cold can be used in many ways, eg:

1. Mix with dry mustard powder into paste and spread on steak.
2. Pat on sunburn with cotton wool.
3. Pour over fire when leaving camp site.
4. Also recommended for watering geraniums to give extra colour to blooms.



### SALMON MOUSSE

- 250 gram Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 300 ml heavy sour cream
- 2X220 gram cans salmon, flaked with liquid
- 1 stick celery, finely chopped
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
- Salt
- White pepper
- 1 Juice lemon
- 2 teaspoon gelatine

Beat cheese & sour cream together until fluffy, blend in salmon and vegetables. Add Tabasco, seasoning to taste and lemon juice. Soften gelatine in 1/4 cup hot water, strain into mousse and blend thoroughly.

Pour into 1 litre mould and refrigerate. Serves 6-8.

### PAVLOVA

- 3 egg whites
- 1/2 cup of caster sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon of Baking Powder

#### METHOD

Place egg whites in a bowl and mix until stiff.

When egg whites are stiff slowly mix in the caster sugar, dissolving each amount before putting more in the bowl. Once all the sugar has been mixed into the egg whites fold in the baking powder.

Place mixture on a Pavlova Plate (Stoneware/Oven proof plate, approximately 12" diameter). When placing mixture on the plate place it in the centre similar to a flat top mountain. To even out, use a spatula to lightly even to sides. The mixture on the plate should be approximately 2 1/2 to 3 inches high.

Place the Pavlova on the centre tray of a pre-heated oven (350°F or 170°C) for 1 hour. At the completion of the hour turn oven off. Open door of oven approximately 2" and allow to cool.

When cool the centre of the Pavlova will fall slightly.

#### FILLING

Whipped cream (unsweetened as the pavlova case is sweet enough) Top cream with fresh fruit; Banana, pineapple, passionfruit, Kiwi Fruit etc.

The filling should be placed on the pavlova as close to the time of eating as possible. Pavlovas may last for a number of days before going off as long as they are placed in the refrigerator. Repeated exposure to warm temperatures may cause the pavlova to turn to sugar.







# 254 UNFICYP SIGNAL SQUADRON

By: Capt K W Johnston

Photographs by Sgt A Thomson

So your telephone is out of order and your radio doesn't work! Well give us a shout here at 254 Signal Squadron and we will try to help. Actually, what I would like to do is give you a quick brief about the Squadron, so if you are interested, read on. If you aren't, read on anyway!

The Squadron, part of UNFICYP Support Regiment, has a British Major as the Officer Commanding. It is made up jointly of British and Canadian Officers and signallers and one Finnish Officer.

The primary responsibility of the Squadron is the provision and maintenance of communications within HQ UNFICYP and to its subordinate headquarters. In order to accomplish this task the Squadron is organised into a Squadron HQ and three troops.

The Squadron HQ is responsible for the operational, administrative and logistic matters. The HQ Tp commanded by the SSM is composed of the orderly room and

the QM personnel.

Communications Center Tp, commanded by the Yeoman of Signals is responsible for the processing and handling of messages within HQ UNFICYP and the operation of an exchange manned by military and civilian personnel.

Radio Tp, commanded by the Comms Officer is responsible for all radio communications provided by the the Squadron. This includes maintenance of the majority of large radio masts you see throughout the UNPA and sector HQs.

The final troop is the Technical Maintenance Tp. It is commanded by the Foreman of Signals and is composed of the technical workshops and the line section. The Troop is responsible for maintenance of Squadron communications equipment and installation and maintenance of all telephones, telephone lines and trunk lines within HQ UNFICYP.



LCpl Palmer from the COMMEN.  
"So this is what a teletype looks like!"



Mast Maintenance by Sig Aleen and Sig Hall at 160 ft.  
"Do you think Staff will find us here?"



Pte Stewart and Sig Hirst from Line Section.  
"They never told me I had to fix computers at line school!"

# CAREFUL DRIVERS LIVE LONGER



By Major J. I. HACHE

Photograph by Contingent Photographer

Recently, Sgt Michael Sindesen, UNFICYP MP Coy, received his number 2 for the Cyprus UN medal. The presentation was however unusual in that it was made at the SBA Hospital by Maj J.I. Hache, FPM, in the presence of Maj Jorgen Sindesen, Danish Army, the father of Sgt Sindesen.

Maj Sindesen flew urgently from Denmark when he was informed that his son was critically injured in a motorcycle accident between Larnaca and Nicosia on 7 Sep 1984. As seen from the photograph, Sgt Sindesen is progressing well. His father has returned home to the rest of the family, thankful that his son will recover. (It is worth noting that about 75% of traffic accidents involving motorcycles in UNFICYP this year have resulted in injuries. One was fatal).

This news article is a good opportunity to remind everyone of the need for constant awareness of existing traffic and road conditions. Sgt Michael Sindesen will live to join his family again. So far this year, five of us will not. They have died in traffic accidents.

Military Police records seem to indicate that the following factors play major role in traffic accidents: **SPEED, IMPATIENCE and FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE.** Drivers need time to react during sudden emergencies. It may be necessary to stop suddenly or to turn sharply to avoid a collision, etc. **IMPATIENCE, SPEED and FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE** rob the driver of the precious reaction time needed to avoid accidents. Military policemen at accident scenes hear drivers say they are not responsible because they were following the speed limit. Some drivers say that the other vehicle stopped too fast, etc. I am afraid that such comments are not totally valid. A posted speed limit on the road is not an invitation to



Sgt Sindesen on the road to recovery.

disregard or to forget the importance to drive according to the traffic or road conditions at that moment. This often means well below the speed limit. Following too close and being impatient is like playing the "Russian Roulette" with your life and the life of others.

This article was written to inform you. It was also written because we believe your life is worth the trouble. You, the driver, are a very valuable person. We want you to live and to return to your home a complete person. You cannot be replaced.

Be serious about safe driving.

## UN VEHICLES TO DRIVE ON DIPPED HEADLIGHTS

Experiments in a number of countries have shown that driving using dipped headlights in daylight reduces the number of traffic accidents.

In recognition of this all UNFICYP vehicles will be driving using dipped headlights in daylight with effect from 15 October 1984 for a trial period.

It is hoped that this action will add to the safety of all other road users and also reduce the risk of damage to their property.





# UN NEWS



## GURKHA ENGINEERS MAKE UN HISTORY



By: Major R I M MacArthur RE

Photos by: Sgt A Thomson RAOC

On 21 September 1984 a piece of military history was made when Gurkha soldiers in British service were presented with the United Nations medal for the first time ever.

The event took place during the Medal Parade of the British Contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus held at Nicosia International Airport.

The British Contingent is the largest in the Force and it includes both troops "on the line" and various support elements. The infantry element of the Force is currently provided by 40 Commando Royal Marines. During their 6 month tour of duty in Cyprus they have been accompanied by a detachment of one officer and 12 soldiers from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. This detachment includes a variety of skilled construction tradesmen and has provided excellent engineer support in the camps and observation posts of 40 Commando.

Gurkha Units were first raised in the British Indian Army in 1815 following the recognition of the Gurkhas superb military spirit during the Nepalese war. They have always followed British Rifle Regiment tradition, both in parade ground drill and uniforms, with the addition of their unique Kukri knife. On Indian independence in 1947 the Gurkha Regiments were divided between India and Britain.

Gurkha Infantrymen were first enlisted into the Royal Engineers in 1948 but it was not until 1955 that they wore their own cap badge and were called



Gurkha Engineers. In 1977 the Gurkha Engineers were awarded the Royal Title as the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. The detachment currently serving in Cyprus comes from 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron based at Chatham in Kent. Most of the Gurkhas are based in the Far East, but one infantry battalion and one Field Squadron are normally located in the United Kingdom.

Although this is the first time that Gurkha soldiers in British service have been presented with a UN medal these hill men from Nepal have previously seen UN service in other forms. Gurkha troops of the Indian Army served with the United Nations Force in the Congo in

the early 1960's and a Nepalese battalion was included in the United Nations Force deployed to Lebanon in 1978. In addition to this a number of British Officers from Gurkha Regiments have served with UN in staff appointments over the years.

The sterling qualities of the Gurkhas have been much appreciated during their tour in Cyprus. They have also added yet one more national element to this international force. Certainly during the Medal Parade their marching at light infantry speed amazed those spectators who were not expecting it. Both the United Nations force and the Gurkhas have greatly benefited from their Cyprus Tour in the service of peace.