AUGUST IN RETROSPECT

Rotations
None

Medal Parades
14 Austrian Contingent
21 — 23
24 Danish Contingent

Visits
2 Maj Gen R. T. Tranter, OB, Director of Army Staff Duties MOD, UK, to HQ UNFICYP and British Contingent.
6 — 7 2nd Lt Capt P. L. Gray, Station Commander RAF Akrotiri, to the British Contingent to visit 54 Sqn Det (RAF).
6 — 9 Mr. Arnaud Gummesson, Editor, and Mr. Bertil Adolfsson, Photographer, of Swedish newspaper “Folkbladet Ostkusten” to Swedish Contingent to research material for an article.
7 Mr. Lasse Bucht, Member of the Danish Parliament, to visit Danish Contingent.
9 — 15 Mr. J. M. Davis, CVO, OBE, QPM, Commissioner of the Commonwealth Police Force, accompanied by Mrs. Davis, to visit the Australian Civilian Police.
10 Lt S. Heath, Royal Signals, accompanied by a party of six officers cadets to the British Contingent to visit 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron.
16 Lt Col P. H. Courtney, GS01, SD/Tqg HQ Director Army Air Corps, and Lt Col J. Marsden, SO1 (Air), to the British Contingent to visit UNFICYP FIF AAC.
20 — 27 Lt Col B. Pennicott, Commanding Officer 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, to the British Contingent to visit 79 Commando, Battery Royal Artillery serving with 41 Commando Royal Marines in Sector 2.

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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. Descriptions of recent local events or of visits to places of interest are welcome. Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper.

This is a public policy announcement. It is not addressed to another member of the public. Articles or illustrations may be reproduced without the permission of the editor.

on the cover
An M 113 Armoured Personnel Carrier of the Danish Contingent meets up with a foot patrol near the Green Line in central Nicosia.

August in Retrospect: Future Events

Wine Festival, Limassol, 13 — 15 September
Organised by the Limassol Municipality. It will be held in the Public Gardens of Limassol. Free distribution of wine, open-air restaurants serving local and foreign dishes, performances of folk dancing and singing and Cypriot theatrical sketches.

Cypriot Autumn Open Tennis Tournament to be held at the Larana Tennis Club courts during the first fortnight of September. Open to all without restrictions including foreigners and professionals.

Cyprus Autumn Open Tennis Championships to be held at the Nicosia Tennis Club during the first fortnight of October.

International Clay Court Tennis Championships to be held in Nicosia at the Field Club Courts during the first fortnight of October.

September

UNFICYP Shooting Competition

Pictorial News:
Visitors; CE165 for UNICEF raised by British road runner; Cross island mercy dash

UN News: A month of armed activity in the UNFIL area: The withdrawal of UNEF from the Sinai and increase in UNDOF establishment
The Welfare Office is a part of the Personnel Branch and consists of an officer, a sergeant and a photographer. The duties and assignments are very different from those usually dealt with by a Welfare Office in Denmark.

The office provides all kinds of services for members of the contingent. It arranges travel and trips to countries in the Middle East, around Cyprus, and, of course, to Denmark. It arranges one-day sightseeing tours to the many different places of interest on the island, such as Paphos, Famagusta, Kyrenia, Kykkos monastery and Limassol. Off duty soldiers can join these tours and see a country that appears completely different from the one they are used to in the Buffer Zone.

As the Danish camps are a little primitive, the Welfare Officer has rented refrigerators, which he wants to give to the contingent members for private use. In the same way TV-sets and cars for use during leave on the island can be rented.

Sightseeing in the Kyrenia area.

The bus used by Dancon for sightseeing, here seen at St. Hilirion.

The guide on most sight tours is Sgt N G Q Christiansen from the Welfare Office, here seen at St. Hilirion...

...and at Curium.

THE DANCON

WELFARE OFFICE

The bus used by Dancon for sightseeing, here seen at St. Hilirion.

Off duty hours in the camps can be spent in many different ways — watching a film, reading a good book, or even studying through a correspondence school. The Welfare Officer provides it all. If there is a birthday or another family occasion in Denmark, the Welfare Officer can arrange flower and greetings for it.

Once a week, the Padre reports "The Dancon Tape", a one-hour cassette programme of greetings from relatives in Denmark or friends in Dancon, with music requests. This tape is copied and distributed to the messes and OPs. The tape is played everywhere on Saturday nights, so that everyone in Dancon hears it at the same time. This item is very popular, and gives the sense of being a little closer to Denmark.

As you can see, therefore, the Welfare Office tries to help in all possible ways to make life a little easier and more pleasant for the Dancon warriors.

THE AUSCON WELFARE OFFICE

This is not to say that Austrian soldiers are a crowd of cry babies, who need daily consolation against homesickness, and bed-time stories to help them sleep! But they need to know that there is someone to whom they can turn if they have any problems.

And there are many situations which can cause problems. It is a rather unnatural sort of existence for the soldiers, who are nearly all married, or involved in a stable relationship, have children and well ordered home lives. Now they live and work under "field conditions" either in the camp or in the OPs in an all male society, with few civilian contacts. They also experience some restriction of movement, which at times makes them feel less like friends of the Cypriot people and more like an occupying power.

In summary, I see my main task as being to provide our soldiers with a constant reminder of home and the idealism of their youth, as well as testifying to the immortality of man to those who believe in Christ.

Finally, I would like to ask you to work and to pray with me for the peace and brotherhood, not only for Cyprus but for all mankind throughout the world.

Milkurt Grindi visiting an OP.

Karl Gindl, Milkurt Auschwitz, Famagusta

I've been invited to write something about our work in the Welfare Office, but first of all I have to apologise for my rather poor knowledge of writing English. Speaking is easier, because I can help my meaning by using my hands and feet! So I hope that the Editor will use all the photographs we took to help my narration along.

The Auscon Welfare team is a two man affair, consisting of 2nd Sergeant Karl Schnoemann, who started his career as a reserve potential officer two months ago as a clerk, driver, interpreter and travel agent, and me, Padre Karl Gindl and I end my tour in the relations of January 1980.

Sgt Schnoemann — an unusual name for the Cyprus climate! — joined the Austrian army after finishing his studies in High School 2 year ago, and came to Auschwitz in October. His intention is to stay here until next July, because — as he told me — he likes his duties, and finds it very interesting to have contact with so many military and civilian personnel.

My duties as Welfare Officer are combined with that of Chaplain. I don't know exactly, but I suspect that the original plan-ners of Auschwitz thought that two separate posts would overlap in work and so decided on the present system. I think it works well, as taking care of men is, after all, the basic function of a priest. In my civilian role, I am the parish priest in Bruck-en-Dar-Leith, a small country town east of Vienna, near both the Czechoslovakian and Hungarian frontiers. So I am used to living near carefully controlled checkpoints.

More than three-quarters of the Austrian population is Roman Catholic so the Austrian padre is also RC. According to an agreement between the Austrian Ministry of Defence and our Bishops, each Austrian contingent is to be provided with an RC padre, and if they can't find volunteers, they try to motivate one to go. So I was "motivated", but I don't regret it. After three months with Auscon, I can say without any doubt that the role of Welfare Officer/Padre is a very necessary one.

Celebration of Mass in an Auscon OP.
FAREWELL TO THE VANDOOS

Every six months a UN tour is highlighted by certain major events, milestones by which we can gauge our progress and look forward to being reunited with our families. Besides the medals parade and the Canashire entertainers the arrival of the next unit's reconnaissance party is a major step towards our return. That was last July when members of the LDIH Regiment and the 3rd Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Regiment came to the island and inspected their future home. However, for the members of the departing Van Doos the next thing to their actual arrival was the arrival of the Canadian Customs Agents. These fellas, headed by Mr. Lamoureux, set foot on the island on 19 September and embarked on a very busy schedule. Their job was to ensure that our return to Canada would proceed as smoothly as possible according to custom and excise law.

Well deserved holidays until 29 October will follow our return, when the Battalion will regain its place in SE "Group Brigade du Canada."

The CO and DCO, LCol McAlab and Maj Lawrence, of the incoming contingent arrive. "Look at that, will you, they even put out a red carpet!"

It's not always an easy or pleasant task to sift through a battalion's equipment and luggage, but on the other hand everyone seemed to offer them as much co-operation as possible the moment the return to Canada was imminent.

The whole of 3rd Battalion R22R returned to Canada on three consecutive Canadian Armed Forces Boeing 707 flights which arrived at Avigliano on 25th September, the 3rd and 5th of October. As soon as each plane arrived and the gunners and tankers were disembarked, the Van Doos then replaced them. Each aircraft stayed approximately two hours on the ground. On the long trip back, there was a scheduled stop in Lahr, Germany, before flying on to Mirabel International Airport near Montreal.

Visit by GENERAL LUGN

General Robert Lugn, Chief of Staff, Swedish Army, paid a three-day visit to Sector 6 in September. He spent one day with each company and a night with the soldiers at OP 556.

Two of his conclusions were that the battalion needs more vehicles and that the OP soldiers need night-vision binoculars for night observation work.

Three days is a short time to get a clear picture of the situation but the General had had earlier experience of Cyprus when he served here with Swedcon in 1965.

"It was very pleasant, interesting and useful to meet all those people on different duties and my impression is that they are doing a good job," the General said. He stressed one thing, "The co-operation and exchange of soldiers between contingents are good things which should be extended."

SWEDISH ELECTIONS IN CYPRUS

The Swedish Parliamentary election at the beginning of September became somewhat confusing for Sweden in Cyprus who had to follow it in 2-3 day-old newspapers. It was to decide which party would be given the mandate to govern Sweden for the next three years and it took three days before it was clear that the Socialists had failed again.

At Swedcon, the Legal Adviser Gunner Dejenleit and Provost Marshal Christer Jagarhem register voters at the church at Camp Victoria.

Legal Adviser Gunner Dejenleit and Provost Marshal Christer Jagarhem register voters in the church at Camp Victoria.

Visit by GENERAL LUGN

General Robert Lugn, Chief of Staff, Swedish Army, paid a three-day visit to Sector 5 in September. He spent one day with each company and a night with the soldiers at OP 556.

Two of his conclusions were that the battalion needs more vehicles and that the OP soldiers need night-vision binoculars for night observation work.

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At Swedcon, the Legal Adviser Gunner Dejenleit and Provost Marshal Christer Jagarhem register voters in the church at Camp Victoria.
The Sector 2 Convoy drawn up at the Ledra Palace Checkpoint. Behind Lt Alex Manning RN, the SEN Sector 2, are the Australian Civilian Police and the landrover and lorry crews.

The Sector 2 Northwind Convoy has four 10-ton lorries or two 10-ton Mammoth Major lorries, containing bulk food supplies and, in the case of the Kyrenia community, supplementary rations from the Red Cross. Messages, medicines and private Red Cross parcels are also carried. The large trucks which carry the food, clothing, medicines and other supplies are provided by the RDT Transport Squadron of the UNPcyf Support Regiment and are loaded at the warehouse in the grounds of the old Nicosia International Fair on the previous day. The Red Cross supplies are loaded into the lorries (belonging to 41 Commando, the current Sector 2 line unit) at the Cyprus Red Cross HQ on the morning of the convoy, and the whole team then moves to the Ledra Palace checkpoint at 0730 hours to pick up its journey north. Not solely concerned with supply, the Economics Officer also has his share of involvement with medical examinations, medical for news' messages, assistance with paperwork and so on.

The Australian Civilian Police carry out the task, as do their Swedish counterparts, of delivering pension and social welfare monies to the Greek Cypriot who are eligible for them. The day is almost inevitable a long and hot one, often not without its share of problems and complaints to be dealt with, but it is equally a quietly fulfilling one.

There is also the humanitarian involvement with the Turkish Cypriots in the Sector who live south of the UNBZ — the 'Southwind Patrol'. Most of the work centres around the Limassol area, and once every two weeks the Economics Officer liaises with the civil police there and drives down to the town to check on whether any of the 90 or so Turkish Cypriots there have any problems with which he can assist. The situation regarding the Turkish Cypriots is generally very much more straightforward than that of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the North, in that they are, in the main, in work and in reasonably untroubled circumstances.

That summarizes the nature of the Sector 2 Economics Officer's humanitarian task. It is a job which is impossible not to become involved in (as anyone who has read the "Northwind" reports will bear out). The hours are long but are compensated for by the enormous job satisfaction. Like Monty Python's Flying Circus in the UK — "Something Completely Different"! and for a Naval Officer it must surely be unique.

A special compassionate tasking for the Northwind Patrol — helping British expatriates to move from Kyrenia to Nicosia.

Lt Manning conducting field tests for Old Spice deodorant!

The other important part of the Economics Section's work in Sector 2 involves dealing with the farming community in the Sector area. Farming in Sector 2 has two very different aspects. The western part of the Sector is a rich farming area and forms part of the Moorphu citrus growing district, the east is drier and less fertile and farming is consequently restricted mainly to cereals and grazing.

The Western Company have an on-going task to help the farmers in their area. Every day, escorts are provided for farmers who wish to farm close to the TFCFL. The organisation of this task revolves around Sgt Pitcher and his staff at B36 and Sg Leader at B32. Farmers wishing to farm in areas requiring an escort book in with them twenty-four hours in advance and the escorts are arranged. The farming of the area is carried out primarily around citrus groves, though subsidiary crops of vegetables and melons are not unimportant.

The Eastern Company are not involved in farming but to such an extent. Farming in this area is restricted to clearly delineated areas and no escorts or parades are required. However, one constant problem does exist; that of ensuring that goats and their herders do not stray over the barrier line. This is a line of blue and white boards set up by Fincon in 1971, and farmers and shepherds are not allowed north of this line. Anyone straying north is escorted back by members of the UN.

One serious threat to the farming in both areas is fire. This can devastate large areas and has done so this summer in the UNBZ. Luckily the largest fire so far was, by and large, confined to the north of the UN Patrol Track (farming generally speaking takes place in the south) and damage to agriculture has not been very great.

Sgt Pitcher booking in a farmer at B36.
Out & About in Cyprus

The access to Venizelos palace began, according to archaeological evidence, in the early part of the 15th century B.C. This palace was situated approximately with the revolt of the Cypriot cities against the Persians and the reduction of Soli by the latter, after a five-month siege. It is known that the city of Marium (the modern Paphos) was ruled about the time 449 B.C. by a Persian dynasty, and it suggests that a ruler from the Persian dynasty of Cyprus ruled the inhabitants of the city, which was one of the most serious enemies of the Persians in the ancient world. This suggestion is borne out by the very oriental character of the palace in its first state.

In 449 B.C., the Athenian general Iphion captured Marium. Destroying the city and establishing a new pro-Greek dynasty, the Persian rulers and ruling class were destroyed and their power was transferred to the inhabitants of Soli, who had turned their allegiance to Persia.

The city flourished until A.D. 648 when it suffered in the first of the Arab raids which subsequently destroyed it. As in the case of many of the ruined cities of ancient Cyprus, the stones were later removed or rebuilding elsewhere. Those of Soli are the best example of a reoccupation of the town destroyed in the latter part of the 19th century.

The theatre of Soli, which is a typical theatre of the Roman period (2nd century A.D.) was built on the southern slope of a hill overlooking the sea below. The theatre consists of the auditorium which was cut into the rock, the semi-circle and orchestra and stage building and was probably built on the site of an earlier Greek theatre. The auditorium had a diameter of 22 m. The rows of seats cut in the rock were varied in height limestone. The semi-circular orchestra had a diameter of 17 m. A low parapet of limestone slabs must have separated the orchestra from the first row of seats. The exit of the orchestra was of concrete setting on a substructure of the stage. The stage building was rectangular, measuring 30.5 m by 13.20 m. Only the platform on which it was built survives today. Access to the auditorium was afforded through two passages which lead to the orchestra. The seats were reached by five flights of steps which divided the auditorium into six sections. The capacity of this theatre was 3500 people.

It was first excavated in 1829 by the Swedish Expedition of 1829. Excavations were undertaken in 1865 by a Canadian expedition from Laval University, Quebec, until 1974, and during that time the basilica and agora were found.

Soli theatre

Soli & Vouni

Article: Maggie Lyon Dean

Photographs: Pete Statham

Approximately 40 miles to the east of Nicoria lies the two ancient sites of Soli and Vouni, which cover the period from the 8th century B.C. to the 7th century A.D. and which therefore, bear evidence of the changed history of Cyprus and of the variety of races who have ruled in the island — Greeks, Persians, Romans.

Today, these sites lie within Sector I and to visit them, one has to ring Sector I Opat Room at least one day before hand to arrange clearance.

Soli was built some time at the beginning of the sixth century B.C. The latter foundation is attributed to the famous Athenian statesman Solon who visited King Philip II of Macedon (b. 638 B.C.) at Aspis and advised him for economic reasons to build a new town in the plains near the river. Philip II did so and called the new settlement Soli.

Soli rapidly became a prosperous city, but was not allowed to retain its independence for long. Early in the sixth century B.C. it was conquered by the Persians after a long siege. Soli joined the Delian League, King of Samos, in the anti-Persian revolt, but later switched allegiance to Persia.

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Vouni palace

This beautiful monastery has none of the dilapidation characteristic of other religious buildings, which have been deserted into the present day.

Architecturally, too, this is different from many of the other houses on the island. It is one of the few monasteries in the archipelago to have the decoration of marble from the 18th century. It has a magnificent octagonal "Fountain" in the centre of the courtyard. In addition to this building, there is a small rectangular "Gateway" with stone pillars on the right side of the entrance.

The monastery is currently being administered by the World Council of Churches in conjunction with the Church of Cyprus, who are making it into an ecumenical conference centre.

The site is the property of the Greek Orthodox Church, but the building itself is to be administered by a committee of all the churches on Cyprus represented on the Board of Management. There are four official monasteries on the island, the other three being the Katholikon, the Armenios and the Moratis.

The Vouni Monastery, as the project is called, is to provide a meeting place for Biblical scholars, and plans for a contemplation for interested Christians. The primary function of the building is to provide a conference atmosphere and a correct atmosphere for the Conference in that it can both work and worship in one building. The secondary function is to serve as a place where Christians can come, in particular from America and Europe, to learn about Middle Eastern religious traditions.

Recently the Board of Directors of the World Council of Churches, in charge of the new project, were impressed with the amount of work that is being done in the new building. The church has six double rooms and can accommodate thirty or more people. The plans to expand it if the project is successful.

IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

A human skeleton more than 3,000 years old has been found in a Late Bronze Age tomb in southeast Cyprus. An exquisite necklace and gold earrings were among the artefacts found on the skeleton, the report said. Archaeologists believe the tomb was a repository for the dead, with accompanying offerings to the gods.

Recent excavations carried out by a Swedish archaeological expedition under the direction of Professor Paul Abrahams of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, revealed a Late Bronze Age tomb dating from the early part of the 12th century BC. It contained a human skeleton, which was found within a chamber, accompanied by a series of gold objects. The tomb was located in a hillside area, near the town of Vouni in the Nicosia region, and was discovered during an archaeological survey of the area.

The tomb was rectangular in shape, measuring approximately 3.5 m by 2 m. It was constructed of stone, with a stone roof. The interior was divided into two chambers, with a small passage leading from the entrance to the main chamber. The main chamber contained the human skeleton, along with a series of gold objects, including a necklace, earrings, and a silver ring. These objects were believed to be funerary offerings, and were placed in the tomb as part of the burial ceremony.

The skeleton was well preserved, and was found in a sitting position, with the legs folded under the body. The bones were in good condition, and provided important information about the physical characteristics of the individual. The skeleton was that of an adult male, and was approximately 30 years old at the time of death.

The gold objects found in the tomb were highly intricate, and included a necklace made of fine gold wire, and a pair of earrings. The necklace was made of fine gold wire, and was decorated with small beads and other ornaments. The earrings were also made of gold, and were attached to the ears with small hooks. The gold objects were believed to be of high value, and were likely placed in the tomb as part of the burial ceremony.

The tomb was buried in the ground, and was covered by a layer of soil and debris. The site was excavated in the early 20th century, and was rediscovered during recent archaeological surveys. The site is located in a remote area, and was not previously known to archaeologists. The discovery of the tomb is significant, as it provides important information about the culture and society of the Late Bronze Age in southeast Cyprus.

The archaeologists believe that the tomb was a repository for the dead, with accompanying offerings to the gods. The gold objects found in the tomb were likely placed in the tomb as part of the burial ceremony, and were intended to provide the deceased with comfort and protection in the afterlife. The discovery of the tomb is important for understanding the burial practices and beliefs of the Late Bronze Age in southeast Cyprus.
AUSTCIVPOL

Sergeant Ben Blakeney instructs some of the children at the Youth and Family Community Centre in the art of playing the Didgeridoo. With Inspector Murray Geals, in their “Off” time, they show films to the children at the centre on Friday evenings. The films mainly consist of animals native to Australia. The most popular film shown is the “Kangaroo”. An interesting aside, one evening prior to the showing of a film “The Jackaroo” it was surprising to find out that a lot of the children thought a jackaroo was an animal.

Concern for Survival

Over the past twenty-five years or more there has been growing concern in many places among musicologists and others for the survival of folk and traditional music. Interest in the preservation, as well as in the nature, of ‘other musics’ has resulted in the establishment of an academic discipline known as ‘ethnomusicology’. The techniques of a trained ethnomusicologist include recording music, analysis of its structure and obtaining, with the aid of the music, makers themselves, some insight into the role of their music in its own social environment.

In Australia, early settlers and explorers sometimes reported on the Aboriginal music and dances they witnessed. A few attempts were made to write down the words of songs, and occasionally, to notate the tunes. In the absence of any other musical information of this kind, those reports are not without value, but concentrated and continuous studies of music, which exist only in performance, are possible only with the aid of well-documented sound recordings. Although not the first in the field at least some attempts were made at the turn of the century to preserve samples of indigenous music in Tasmania and in Central Australia. And now, in the latter half of the 20th Century, some Australian Aboriginals are showing concern for their music’s survival by recording it for themselves.

Sound Recordings

The first sound recordings of Aboriginal music were made in 1899 on wax cylinders in Hobart, by members of the Royal Society of Tasmania. The singer was Mrs Fanny Cochrane Smith, who claimed to be the last of the Tasmanians. In the early 20th Century cylinder recordings were made of Aboriginal singing in various parts of Australia. After World War II, following improvements in sound recording, increased recordings of Aboriginal music were made, notably a collection made in 1945 for the Australian Broadcasting Commission and one for the University of Sydney.

Since then many recordings have been made by field workers for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra, and now collections of Aboriginal music amount to more than 2000 hours of playing time.

Music-Making Equipment

Aboriginal music is primarily singing: and like the vocal music of other people who have no writing, Aboriginal songs are learnt ‘by ear’ and orally transmitted from one singer to another. The musical equipment of these hunter-gatherers has always been easily transported. In addition to their main musical instruments — their own voices — they have weapons and implements, such as boomerangs, throwing sticks, spear throwers and shields, which are used during singing for producing sound accompaniments. Short blowing tubes sounded in former times by Aboriginal hunters as turkey horns, or as emu decoys, may owe their origins to the instruments commonly known as the didgeridoo; on the other hand the ‘didjeridu’ may have given rise to these sound traps. In its present song accompanying role, the longer blowing tube, consisting usually of a eucalyptus branch hollowed by termites, is to be found only in north-eastern regions of the Australian continent.

Corroborees

The term ‘corroborees’, believed to have been derived from an Aboriginal language once known in New South Wales, now denotes a public occasion at which Aboriginal singing and dancing take place. The Aborigines have their own names for these events, p. djumberi (Kimberley, W.A.) yoll (Bathurst and Malvillle Islands) bungupi (North Eastern Arnhem Land); pumborg (North Western Arnhem Land); and jurrung (Western Desert, Walpiri) language.

Styles of corroboree performance vary from one region to another and as one proceeds northwards from central and western desert regions one finds a wider range of dance movements synonomous with the music, and considerable diversity in the styles of associated dance songs.

UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

On 17 August the UNFICYP Shooting Competition took place at Ghaelawia Range. Well organised by AUSCON the contest gave a good indication of the high training standard of all Contingents in shooting and handling their weapons. There were three different weapon contests — rifle, submachine-gun and pistol — and last but not least, the “Falling Plate Competition”, full of excitement and cheered by spectators.

“Egg Heads” at work: the Range Control registering and notifying the results of all contests.

Power and Skill: a Canadian with his submachine gun.

Full physical action and high precision in firing as well: the most interesting contest, “The Falling Plate Competition”.

Absolute concentration: the Team from SWEDCON on the pistol range.

The final results were:
Rifle: 1st Sp Reit 2nd Sector 5 3rd Sector 4
SMG: Sp Reit Sector 5 Sector 4
Pistol: Sector 2 Sector 1
TOTAL: 1st Sp Reit 2nd Sector 5 3rd Sector 2
2nd Tpl Sign
9
VISITORS

Commissioner of the Commonwealth Police Force, Mr. J M Davis, CVO, OBE, QPM, paid an official visit to UNFICYP from 9–15 August. He has been responsible for all UNFICYP Contingents which have served in Cyprus since 1964. He is pictured with The Special Representative, Mr. R. Galindo Pohni.

Mr. J A Schumacher, Deputy Director Field Operations Division, UN HQ New York, visited UNFICYP between 23–25 August. He met the senior officers of all sectors for discussions and briefings. He is seen here in an Alouette of the AAC Flight, accompanied by Major P Gottschaik, the HQ UNFICYP Sector 1 Expert.

The Nordic Working Group visited UNFICYP between 21–23 August. The Group, consisting of officers from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway, were briefed on the military and political situation in Cyprus and visited the Danish and Swedish Contingents to assess manning requirements for the future. Here they are photographed being briefed by COO, Lt. Col K A Lambert, in the Briefing Room at HQ UNFICYP.

CROSS - ISLAND MERCY DASH

At six forty-five on Monday evening, 20 August, Headquarters UNFICYP received an urgent request from HQ CYPOL, to evacuate by helicopter, Mrs Agathi Christodoulou Tourouli, who was in a critical condition due to a very bad haemorrhage, and transport her from the village of Kambos to Nicosia General Hospital.

An Alouette of the Army Air Corps Flight of the UN was dispatched promptly and picked up the patient, who was flown to Nicosia and quickly transferred to a waiting ambulance and taken to the hospital, where she arrived at eight forty-five, just two hours and five minutes after the emergency call had been received.

The picture shows the patient being transferred from the UN helicopter to the ambulance after landing at Nicosia and being checked out by the Canadian MO, Capt Jean Veillette.
The Withdrawal of UNEF from the Sinai

The Security Council held informal consultation on 24 July as the Mandate of the UN Emergency Force in the Sinai was about to expire. In a press statement following the consultations, the Secretary-General said it was his understanding that Council members agreed there would be no extension of the Mandate, and that he would, therefore, make the necessary arrangements for an orderly withdrawal of UNEF. This was expected to take six to eight weeks.

Mr. Waldheim also stated that, in view of the fact that the withdrawal of UNEF was without prejudice to the continuous presence of the UNTELO observers in the area, he intended, in accordance with existing Council decisions, to make necessary arrangements to ensure the further functioning of UNTELO — the UN Truce Supervision Organization — which has been serving in the area since 1948.

On 1 August, it was stated that concerning the date of departure for the UNEF Battalions, the spokesman had received the following indications from Jerusalem: (1) The first group of 140 members of the Swedish Battalion would be leaving that day from Tel Aviv by a special Swedish military aircraft; (2) The Finnish Battalion would depart on 7 or 8 August and 23 August from Port Office; (3) The Indonesian Battalion would leave on the 3 and 21 August from Cairo; (4) The Australian Air Unit, the Canadian and Polish Logistic Units would leave in small groups from Tantura and Cairo beginning 8 August.

There would be Security Council consultations within the next 2 days in connection with the withdrawal of UNEF and with particular reference to the letter from the Secretary-General to the Council informing it that he would transfer some Canadian and Polish Logistic Support Units from UNEF to UNDOF.

A month of Armed Activity for UNIFIL

Five soldiers of the Nigerian Battalion of UNIFIL were wounded, one seriously, while on mobile patrol on the night of 14 August, in an ambush by unidentified armed elements. One of them, a non-commissioned soldier was evacuated to the Ramleh Hospital in Haifa. Heavy exchanges of fire continued. On 13 August, de facto forces fired a total of 63 artillery mortar rounds and 67 tank rounds. Armored elements fired a total of 45 artillery mortar rounds. Fifteen rounds were fired by armored elements impacted within 100 metres of the Dutch position on the coastal road, one directly on the post. There were no casualties. During the same day, three artillery rounds from de facto forces impacted near a Fiji post, while six rounds impacted within 50 metres of the UNIFIL Tyre Barracks. Between 0500 GMT on 14 August and 0500 GMT on 15 August de facto forces fired a total of 175 artillery mortar and 54 tank rounds, while armored elements fired approximately 50 rounds. There were also 30 unidentified rounds and flares fired in various areas outside the UNIFIL area. On the day before two jeeps of the Irish Headquarters Company were hijacked by armed elements in the Tyre pocket. The vehicles were recovered on the same day. Also, a UNIFIL helicopter making a routine night patrol was fired at by armed elements from the Tyre area. There were no hits.

On 24 August it was reported that the situation in southern Lebanon was one of the most tense in recent times with the total for the previous day's heavy firing involving one of the heaviest observed. De facto forces fired 1016 artillery mortar and 100 tank rounds, armored elements fired 51 artillery mortar rounds. UNIFIL had suffered four casualties; one Dutch officer and two Dutch solders and one Fijian soldier had been wounded. The situation in the Fiji battalion zone remained calm after the incidents of the previous day, despite a brief clash during the night which had not resulted in casualties.

Referring to the capture of 30 UNIFIL soldiers on the 23rd by a group of armed elements, the UN spokesman said that with the assistance of the PLO Liaison Officer, who had stressed that the armored elements in question were not under PLO control, the release of 18 Fijians and 14 Dutch personnel captured had been obtained but some weapons were still being held and negotiations were ongoing to get them back.

During the night there had been an incursion by Israeli Defense Forces and a de facto forces into the area of the Israeli embassy. Referring to a report from UNWRA, the spokesman said that in the past few days several localities in southern Lebanon had been heavily shelled, in particular, Nabatieh and Tyre. Some refugees had been hit on 21 August, a refugee shelter destroyed and a clinic seriously damaged. Israeli planes were envisaging the area continuously creating great tension among Lebanese civilians and Palestinian refugees. The camps at Buse and Rashid were again being evacuated towards Sidqua. Thousands of civilians were said to be fleeing northwest to escape the shelling.

Asking if any thought was being given to discontinuing the Mandate of UNIFIL, the present difficult situation the spokesman said that in fact the situation proved how valuable UNIFIL's presence in southern Lebanon was.

On 2 August a letter by the Secretary General to the President of the Security Council was released at Headquarters. The Secretary-General, referring to UNDOF, established under Security Council Resolution 360, said, "For reasons of economy, UNDOF has hitherto relied, to a great extent, on UNEF for third-line logistic support in such areas as transport and maintenance, movement control, postal services and field engineers. With the termination of the Mandate of UNEF, this logistic support is no longer available and, consequently, it has become necessary to strengthen the existing Canadian and Polish Logistic Units of UNDOF. In this connexion, it is proposed that the logistic component of UNDOF be increased by 200 men. This would bring the overall strength of the Force to about 1450, all ranks. While this is over the figure of about 1250 given in the protocol to agreement on the disengagement between Israel and Syrian Forces, in the new circumstances this addition to the logistic component of UNDOF is the minimum required to support the Force. It is my intention subject to the usual consultation, to make the necessary arrangements to this effect".

On 20 August, it was stated that Finland had increased the size of its contingent to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said the increase brought the Force back to full strength, following its depletion by the withdrawal of the Contingent of Iran last March. At that time, a company of the Finnish Battalion serving with the UN Emergency Force in Sinai was transferred to UNDOF — but the Golan Heights Force was still more than one hundred men short and daily patrols had to be reduced. The willingness of Finland now to provide more men meant that UNDOF was once more at its prescribed strength.

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