



# The Blue Beret

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## PEACE AND GOODWILL



The Force Commander visited every Contingent immediately before Christmas to wish everyone a Happy Christmas. He was pictured above with the Austrians in Famagusta.

## CHRISTMAS

Once a year we are reminded, a little more personally and directly, of one of the noblest of aspirations of mankind, of

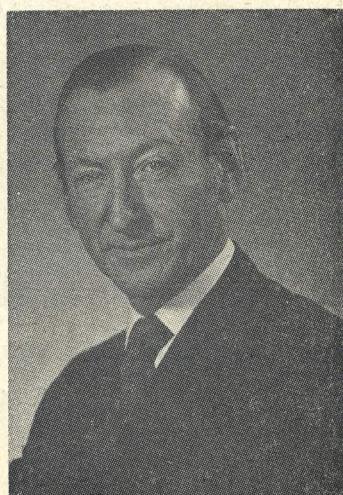


Peace and Goodwill for all. In Cyprus, where all of us serving with UNFICYP, civilian and military have been entrusted with a unique task of making a personal contribution towards the vital interests of international peace and security, this message is the more significant. In looking back over the year we have spent together I would like to take this opportunity of thanking each and every one of you for the splendid and devoted manner in which you have carried out the tasks allotted you. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been in command of such dedicated people, and I thank you. I wish you all, and your families at home, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## MESSAGES

I send to you all the Military and Civilian personnel of UNFICYP my Christmas greeting and best wishes for a Happy New Year. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the devotion, efficiency and resourcefulness shown by your Headquarters and the Contingents of the Force in performing your tasks. The excellence of the work done by UNFICYP in often difficult and delicate circumstances is particularly appreciated here at Headquarters. It is my earnest hope that the forthcoming year may bring more peaceful and stable conditions in the Island.

*Kurt Waldheim  
Secretary General*





Bravo kompagniet varmer op  
Physical fitness programme  
"Warm up"

## DANCON NEWS



### TRAINING IN B COY



Afvikling af håndgranatkast i forbindelse med OP 8 kamp.

To be accurate requires training.



Under geværskydning på Vyzakia skydebanen får KS J. Andersen gode råd af LT A.M. Kristensen.



OPGF KP K.E. Nielsen underviser KS J. Wrang, KS J. Andersen og KS I.V. Olsen i observationsteknik.

Private J. Andersen being supervised by I. Lt A.M. Kristen-  
sen, who is a first class Marksman.

## QUEEN OF LIGHT VISITS SOLDIERS IN THE NIGHT!



3.30 in the cold and dark morning of Dec 13th. All soldiers not on duty should be deep asleep in their beds. But not the men in the Swedish Battalion. They were all up, alert and expectant, waiting to celebrate Lucia — a 200 year old Swedish tradition.

Lucia was a young Italian girl from Syracuse, who in 304 AD preferred to suffer the death of a martyr rather than marry a man she didn't want. For this she was declared a saint and the Swedes adopted the tradition of celebrating her memory early in the 18th century.

She comes before dawn,

singing hymns and folk songs. And so she did — in Larnaca as well as in Troulli, Athienou and Louroujina. With her crown of candles and long white dress, Lucia — Margareta Bjarke — and her maidens offered the soldiers the traditional buns with raisins, gingerbread and hot, spicy brandy



Both boys and girls wear long white dresses, a reminder of the purity of Lucia who suffered the death of a martyr.



Here she comes out of the December darkness — St Lucia and her maidens — to spread some light to the men in Athienou.

## SWEDES WIN MILITARY PATROL

The Swedes won the UNFICYP Patrol Competition that took place in the area around the Salt Lake in Larnaca.

It was a tough test for the 28 competitors from the seven rival teams. The contest lasted for more than 15 hours during a night on which temperatures dropped down to 5°C.

The participants had to prove their skill in reading maps, observing different targets in the dark, climbing obstacles with rope, throwing hand grenades, judging distances, a test in first aid and of course, running.

Auscon took the lead but lost it to the Swedes at the last station of the contest.



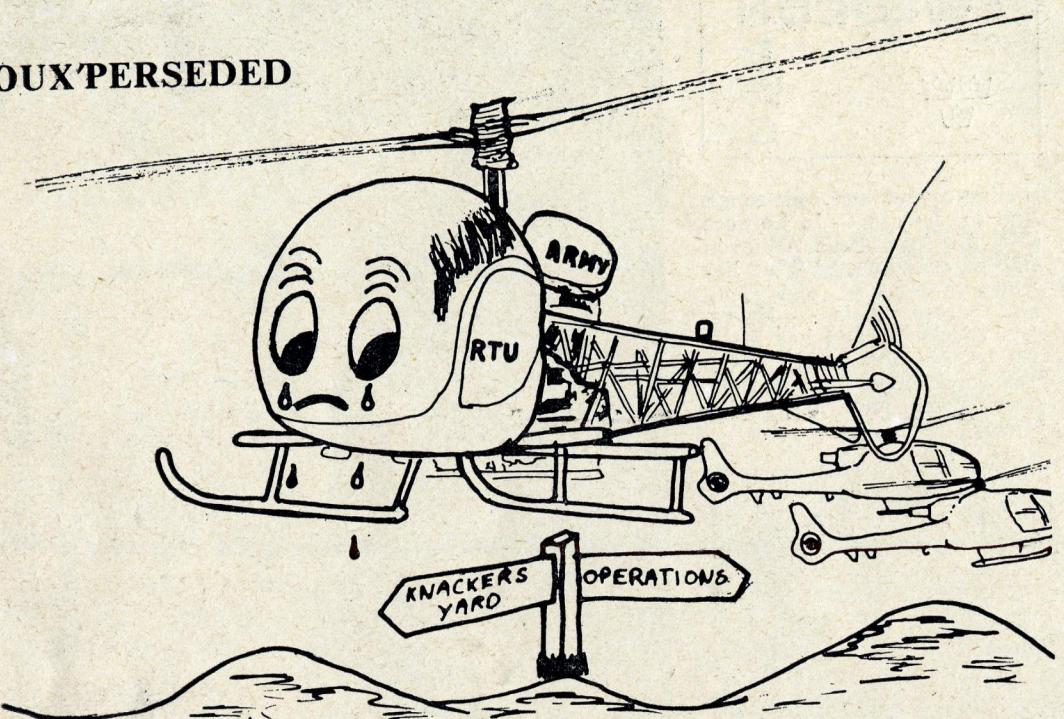
### RESULTS:

1. Swedcon
2. Auscon
3. Cancon
4. Support Regt
5. Dahcon
6. Force Reserve
7. Britcon

The winning Swedish team is seen at one of the stations:  
Sgt Jan-Ake Karlsson, Sgt Lars Eriksson, 2nd Lt Weine Alenius and Pte Bert Karlsson.

# FAREWELL TO THE SIOUX

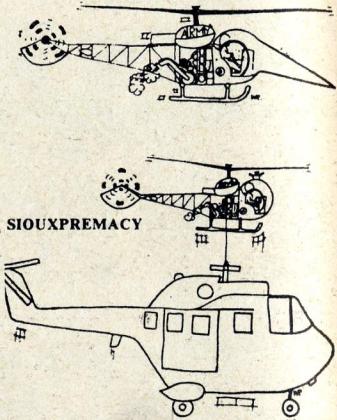
**'SIOUX' PERSEDED**



During the next two months the Sioux helicopters will be phased out. The Force Army Air Corps Flight has been equipped with Sioux helicopters since it was formed in 1966, and even before that 21 Flight AAC were equipped with both Sioux helicopters and Auster light aircraft. In the fourteen years the Force has existed these helicopters have flown over 35000 hours in the Service of Peace, which at a approximate 50 nautical miles per hour is the equivalent of our Sioux flying round the world 70 times.

## SIOUXPERLATIVES

SIOUXPERSONIC



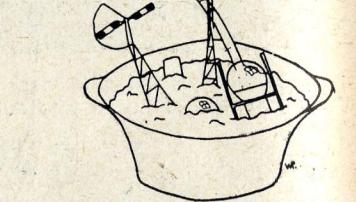
## RESUPPLY BY WHIRLWIND CONTINUES



A Whirlwind helicopter of 84 Squadron Detachment RAF was pictured recently

re-supplying a remote OP in Sector 1.

SIOUXETTE PUDDING



## THE NEW HELICOPTER



The Sioux helicopters will be replaced by the Alouette IIIC (pictured above). The new helicopters will arrive at the Sioux/Alouette Base during the next two or three weeks, and then the task of training the pilots to fly them will begin. The Alouette is a bigger and faster helicopter than the Sioux. It can carry four people internally, and can carry small external loads.

# HELP FOR THE POSTMAN

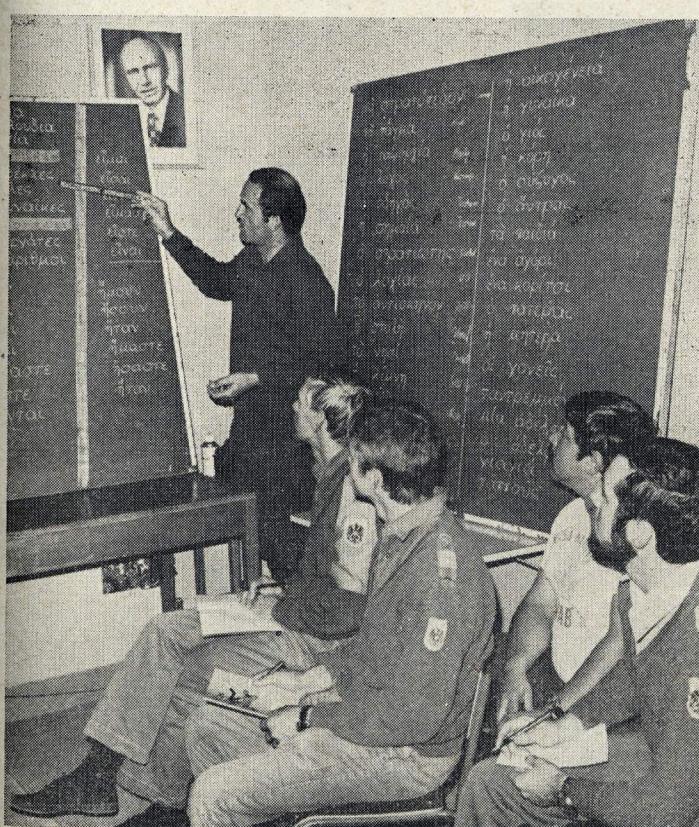


Hochbetrieb verzeichnet in der vorweihnachtlichen Zeit das Feldpostamt. Hptm Moretti, ein Reserveoffizier der Jägertruppe und im Zivilleben Leiter eines Postamtes, hat mit seinen Gehilfen alle Hände voll zu tun, um den Ansturm zu bewältigen. Und bis jetzt ist noch jeder Soldat zu "seinem" Brief gekommen.

In the pre-Christmas period the post office in the Austrian Contingent is very busy. Hptm Moretti, a reserve officer in the Recce Platoon, is a postman in civil life and so has his hands full helping to get the mail away to the lucky recipients.

**AUSCON  
WISHES ALL  
CONTINGENTS  
A HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS**

## GREEK LESSONS FOR NEWCOMERS



Sinnvolle Freizeitgestaltung ist ein großes Anliegen von AUSCON. Ein Griechischkurs, den Vzlt Beer abhält und der den jungen Soldaten die Grundbegriffe der Sprache vermitteln soll, hat großen Anklang gefunden.

## SHOOTING COMPETITION



In internen Ausscheidungen ermittelt AUSCON seines besten Schützen, die dann den Bataillonsmeister ermitteln sollen. Im Bild Vzlt Weiss, der DfUO der StbKp beim Pistolschießen.

The companies have been holding their own elimination competitions to select their teams for the Battalion shooting championships. Vzlt Weiss, Headquarters Company weapon training officer is seen above in the pistol practice.

# SILVER JUBILEE MEDALS



A medal parade was held at Wolseley Barracks Nicosia on 4 December to present twenty three of the 38 Silver Jubilee Medals awarded to members of the Second Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment.

Those presented with this medal in Cyprus are: Lt JW Black, CWO Clark H, MWO Murphy GR, MWO Brannon FW, MWO Rector AM, WO Lemoine DG, WO Marcipont WV, WO Walcott JF, WO White JA, Sgt Daigle TA, Sgt Doucet JF, Sgt Muise AA, Sgt Paquette JF, Sgt Surette JR, MCpl Beebe WD, MCpl Clark RD,

MCpl Doyle DW, MCpl Leblanc JH, MCpl McKeough RJ, MCpl Mossor JS, MCpl Moulton DEL, Cpl MacNeil JK, Cpl Purcell DT.

The members of Rear Party 2 RCR who received this decoration in CFB Gagetown are: WO Clements WA, WO Jonson WE, Sgt Benjamin WK, Sgt Burley F, Sgt Duff JW, Sgt Hill FJ, Sgt Ryer ERG, Sgt West RG, MCpl Barrett JL, MCpl Comeau DV, MCpl Doyle RF, MCpl Guitard JD, MCpl McGann AJ, and MCpl Sayer LG.

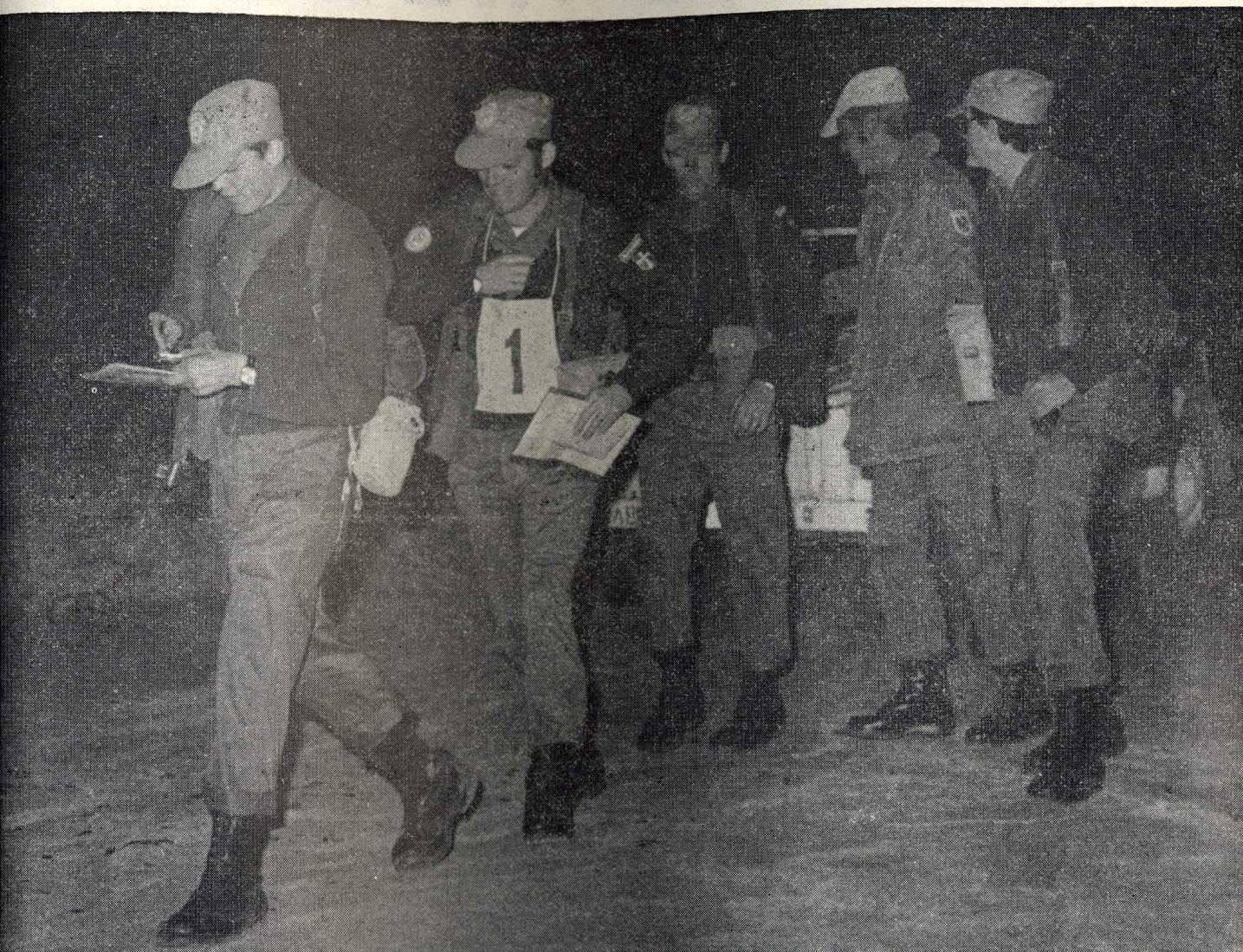


WO Marcipont WV is presented with the Silver Jubilee Medal by LCol J.R. Macpherson.

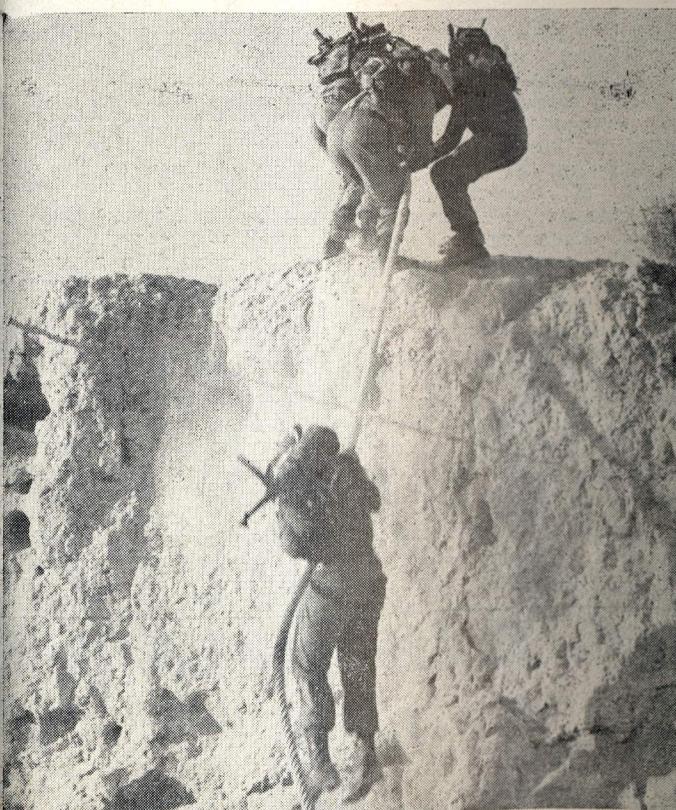


WO Lemoine DG is presented with the Silver Jubilee Medal by Commander Sector 4.

# PATROL COMPETITION



The Danish team setting out on the night march.



Going Down.

## SWEDCON WINS



The Force Commander, General Quinn pictured presenting the prizes to the winning Swedish Team.

### Results :

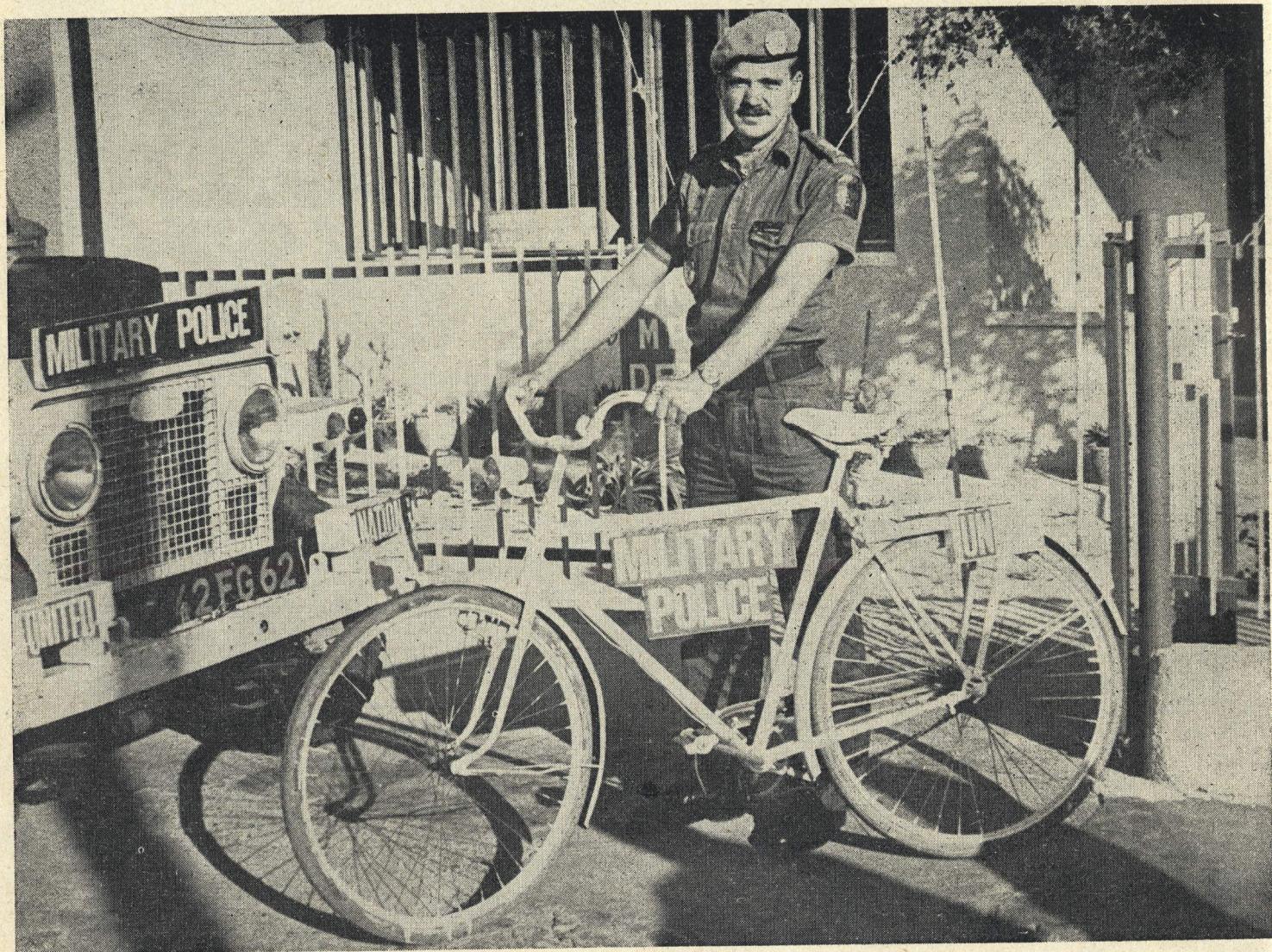
1. Swedcon
2. Auscon
3. Cancon
4. Support Regiment
5. Dancon
6. Force Reserve
7. 1 Kings.

The six monthly Force Military Patrol Competition took place in the Salt Lake area at Larnaca two weeks ago. The concept of the competition was worked out by the Austrian Contingent before the redeployment moved it to Sector Six, and so both the Austrian and the Swedish Contingent organised an extremely exciting and testing event. The competition was designed to test all the military skills, endurance, fitness, map-reading, first-aid, observation and grenade throwing.

It was extremely well organised. The Austrian team led up to the last event, when they were beaten into second place by the Swedish team. In all seven teams, each of four competitors took part in the competition, which began with a night march.

At the end, the Force Commander presented the prizes to the winning team and congratulated all the teams on the high standard they had shown.

# POLICE NEWS



The upgrading of the Military facilities and equipment continue apace, and will undoubtedly save petrol. Speedy soldiers in Larnaca District beware!



Every year at this time Provost Marshals (or for the purists Provosts Marshal) sit down and compose lengthy exhortations to their public on the need to temper their Christmas spirit with moderation in the consumption of

those other jolly spirits which flow with such abandon during the festive season. Such messages, while sincere in their intent, quite often lose their impact because Provost Marshals (or Provosts Marshal) who as we all know, are second only to Saint Nick in their desire to spread goodwill, frequently ignore their own advice happy in the knowledge that a duty MP is always available to drive them safely home.

This year for a change I have been asked to say a few words on behalf of a close friend who shares my concern for our mutual wellbeing over the demands of a heavy social season — my stomach. For those who have not met him, "Ole Rumbles" as he is affectionately known to his

friends is a hard-working, forward looking, well rounded personality who takes everything as it comes and has survived prolonged attack by all manner of international cuisine including the devastating assaults of those culinary shock troops, the Brussels Sprouts. Even such a well seasoned campaigner now views the arrival of another Christmas and the New Year with something approaching panic. Neither of us is getting any younger. Is it to be the same again? The floods of schnapps and Brandy Sours; the great lumps of turkey thundering down upon the peanuts and puddings and pies and the poor unfortunate fish hard aground on soggy crackers; and more schnapps

and beer and Irish Cream and... ugh!

Even supposing the Provost Marshal is fortunate enough to survive the traffic, or his own speed traps, on the cold eye of the fiend of FOXTROT, shall his December mornings be spent with poor "Ole Rumbles" enveloped in something resembling a ton of cold whale fat wrapped around a nagging conscience? Only YOU can help by keeping an eye on your Provost Marshal over the season and encouraging him to moderate his feasting. To see him clearly of course you will have to moderate your own drinking and consequently enjoy the benefits of safer driving and — A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## TRAFFIC STATISTICS

2 weeks ending 24 Dec.	16	last year
Previous year	12	Lesson for the month
Total for this year	224	WHY DIE IN
Same time last year	245	PERFECT HEALTH !

**HAVE A SAFE CHRISTMAS**  
**DON'T**  
**DRINK AND DRIVE**