



The Blue Beret

6th September 1978

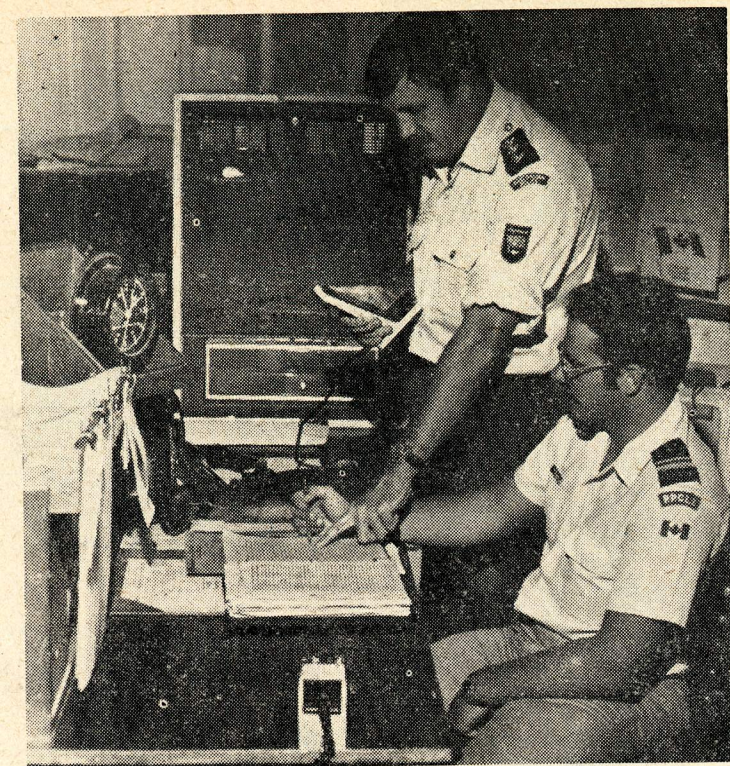
Issued by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

Volume Fifteen
No. 19

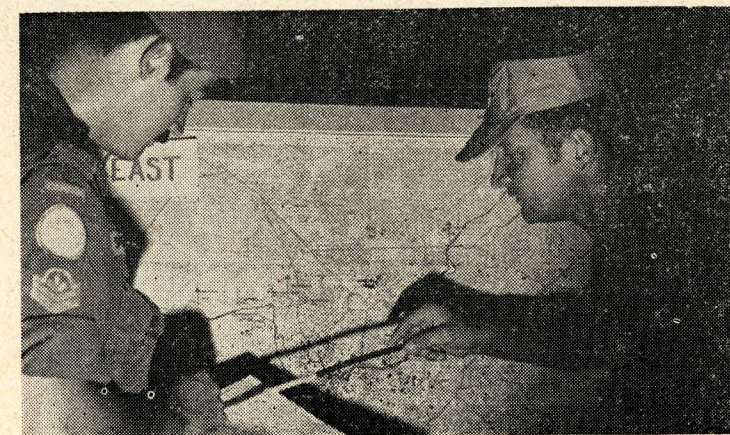
FAREWELL THE LANCERS



At the end of their tour with UNFICYP, Maj. R.E.H. Coghlan leads A Squadron, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) past the saluting dais at the BRITCON Medal Parade.



Sector Four maintains a Joint Operations Centre which functions for both Sector Four Operations and the AUSTCIVPOL attached with the Canadians in Nicosia. Left to Right Chief Inspector Ross Jackson assists Lt Glen Nordick during a routine incident.



Reconnaissance Platoon continually has mobile patrols moving throughout the Sector Four Buffer Zone providing a UN presence in all areas. Left to Right, MCpl Mike Spellen is briefed by WO Rocky Sziptun prior to going out on patrol.



Cpl Rod Hunter makes a delivery on behalf the Red Cross. One of the many and varied humanitarian activities of the Operations Economics Section.



The Signals Platoon provides operational communications support for Sector Four. Cpl Bernie Currie (Right) does repair work 90 ft above the ground.



Pte Dave Hotchkiss our CANCON photographer and a seldom publicised member of HQ Company provides a big service on behalf of CANCON.

Providing the necessary direction, guidance and operational support for the Sector Four Companies, and in particular the "Soldiers of the Line", is the role of HQ Company and its sub-units!

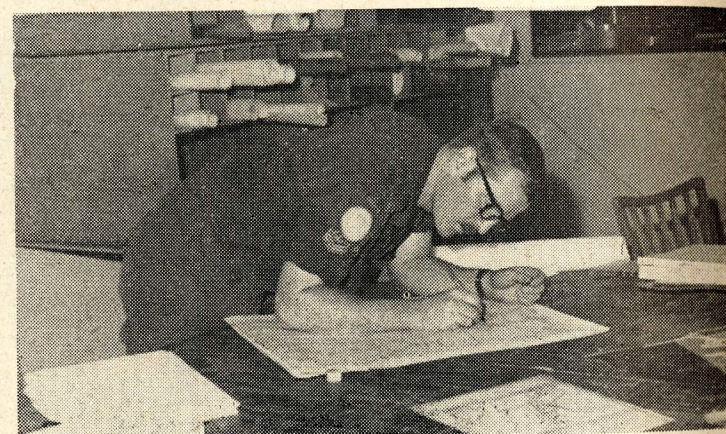
Consisting of some 108 personnel the primary operational sub units include a Battalion Command Section, Operations Section, Operations Information Section, Operations Economics Section, a Military Police Section, a Reconnaissance Platoon and a Signals Platoon. Providing other important but non-operation activities are the Padres, a hotel manager/laundry section, Company Transport and the various mess staffs.

Commanded by Captain Bob Newman, HQ Company works out of Wolseley Barracks while being quartered in the adjacent Ledra Palace Hotel. From this location it is the sub-units of HQ Company who provide the continual liaison link with HQ UNFICYP. Their direction through the companies then has an effect down to the soldiers on the line. In this manner the soldiers of HQ Company take an active part in maintaining "PEACE".

CANCON NEWS



"HQ COMPANY"



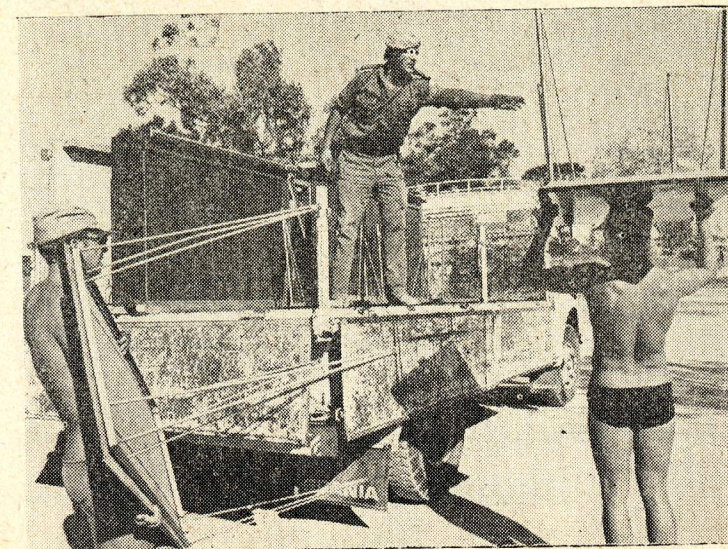
MCpl Gus Pirie of the Operation Information Section carefully marks a map.



NO MORE TENTS AT SECTOR FIVE



The tents are pulled down at "Goldfish Camp" in Larnaca.



The move is under way. There go the Mess tables.

Approximately one year ago, SWEDCON and AUSCON exchanged Sectors and this resulted in a shortage of accommodation for SWEDCON. In order to remedy this situation a tented city for a platoon from No 1 Company was pitched just outside Camp Victoria in Larnaca.

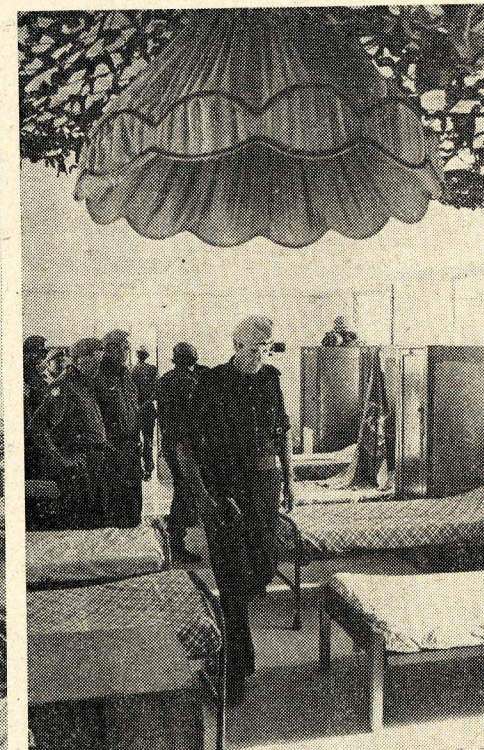
The new camp on the eastern outskirts of Nicosia, known as "Seed Mill" during its construction, was finally occupied at the end of August by the platoon of men from No 1 Company who have been patiently awaiting the move from their tents. Also members of the nearby OP S61 moved out of tents into this new "Goldfish Camp". The tents at Larnaca and those at OP S61 have finally been pulled down and packed away, for good we hope!

The new camp has now started to function after febrile activity to get it ready for occupation. Everyone has adjusted to their new location extremely well and they are especially enjoying the climate, which is far less humid than in Larnaca. There are some minor teething problems, such as a leaking tower and problems with the drainage gullies, but the CPLO, Lt Col J A Hare, OBE, during the take over inspection promised that these problems would be taken care of without delay.

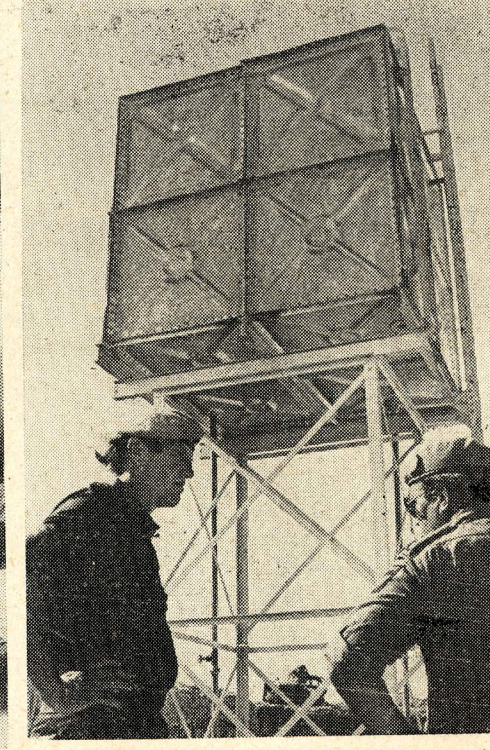
SWEDCON NEWS



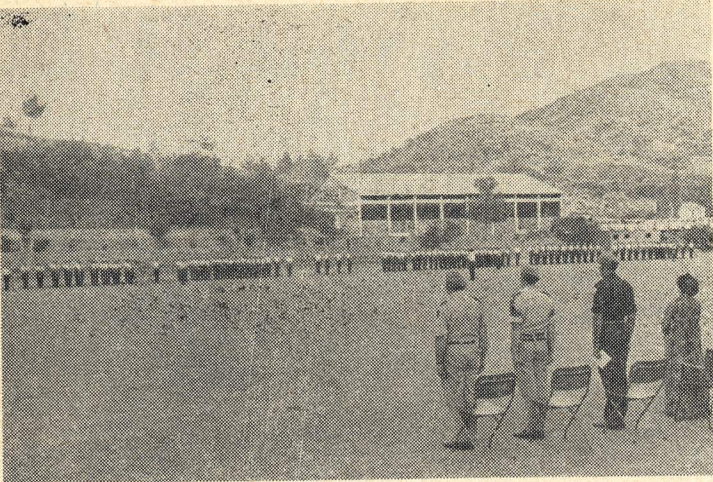
Some confusion caused by the move. But it was soon cleared up.



The CPLO takes a look at the new barrack rooms.



Teething problems.... A leaking water tower!



The parade took place at 1800 hrs and the picture shows the parade presenting arms on the arrival of the Force Commander.

EVRYKHOUS STADIUM

TRAINING



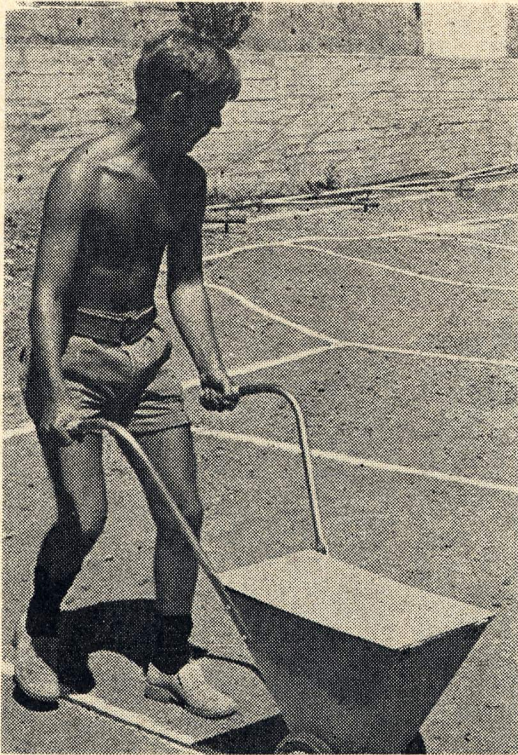
Capt J. Jensen training the Colour Party.

CLEANING

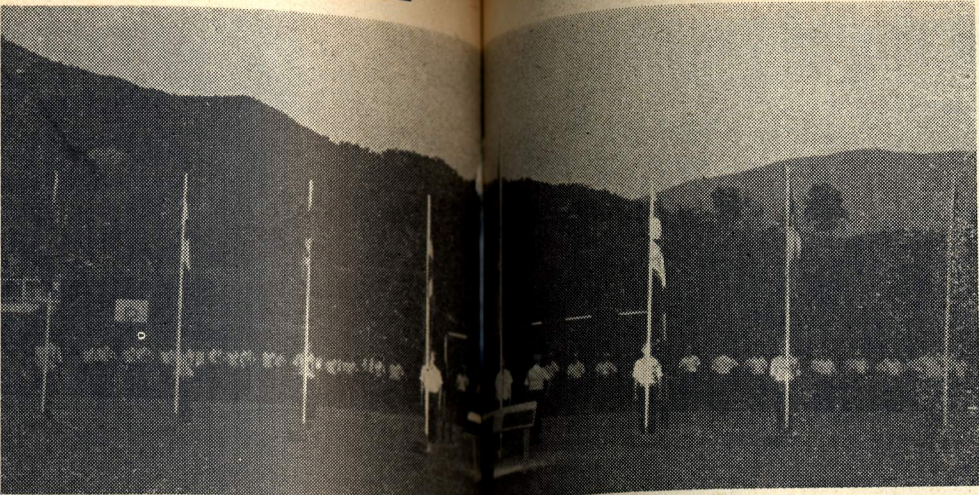


In readiness for the many spectators Ptes B. Dehn and P.C. Dahl sweep the stairs and the seats of the stadium.

MARKING



Among the many arrangements that had to be made for the efficient reception of the guests was the car parking. Lcpl P.A. Olsen marks out the parking area.



The parade closed with the covering of colours and the lowering of flags. It was a most moving moment, taking place as it did with the sun setting behind the hills on the horizon and the sound of martial music in the air.

DANCON MEDAL PARADE

BUT THE PARADE ALSO MEANT THIS

CLEARING



The stadium had to be cleared immediately after the parade. Here the flagpoles can be seen being cleared by floodlight.

NATIONAL REFERENDUM



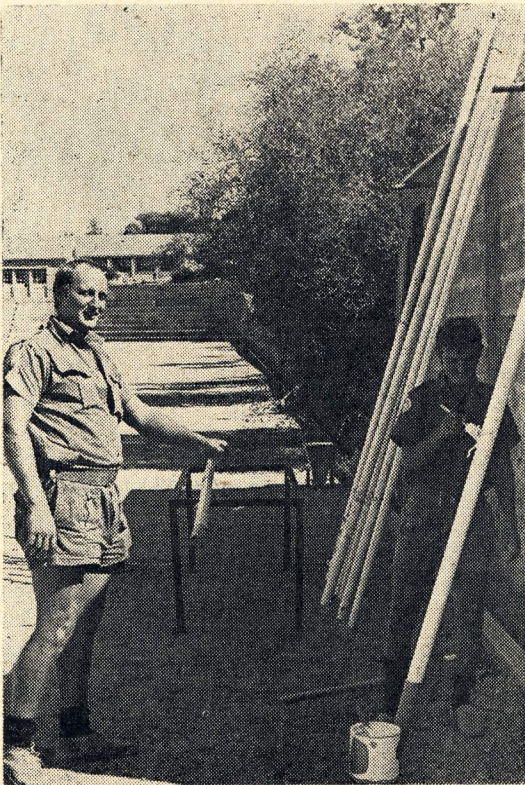
Whilst DANCON were preparing for the parade they were involved in a national referendum. The Folketing, the Danish Parliament, had decided to hold a referendum to find out if the country wished to lower the electoral age from 20 to 18 years. Maj S. and Ssgt H. Jacobsen are seen taking the vote.

DANCON



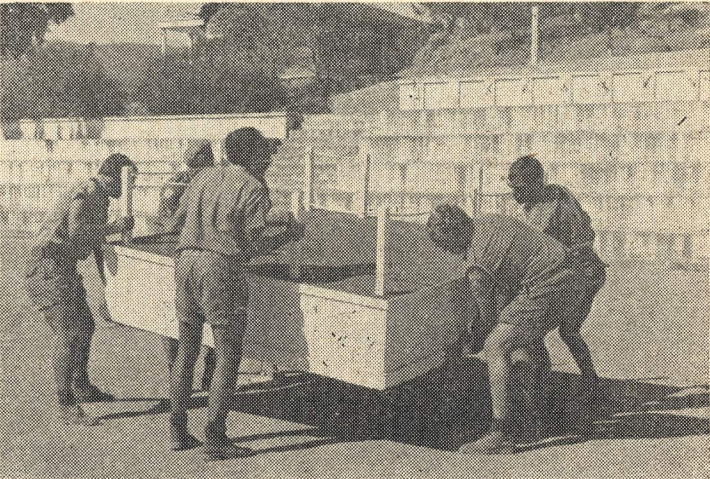
NEWS

PAINTING



Having been transported to the stadium all the flagpoles were repainted by Lcpls E. Eskildsen and P.A. Olsen before being erected.

PREPARING



The dais for the Inspecting Officer is moved into position.

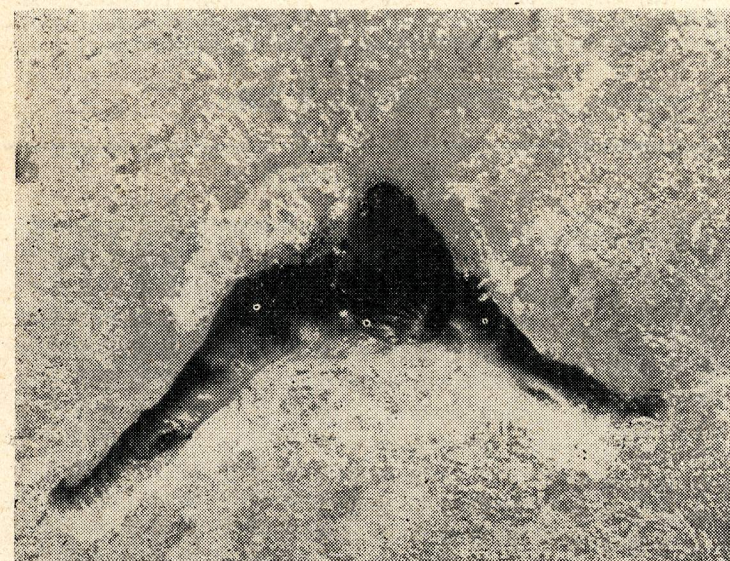
DECORATING



DANNEBROG, the Danish national flag, is hung on the stadium wall above the spectators' seats by Ssgt P.P. Olsen and Ptes B.T. Pedersen and L.T. Christensen.

25th AUGUST 1978

AUSCON NEWS



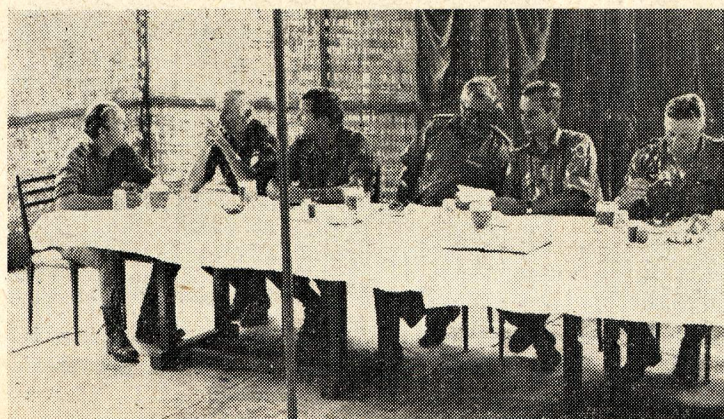
"JUMP TO IT!"

On Thursday 31st August the strange cry of "Jump to it" echoed around the Blue Beret Camp swimming pool. AUSCON members were encouraging their competitors in the UNFICYP Swimming Competition that was taking place. Teams from all seven contingents contested fiercely with each other throughout the afternoon.

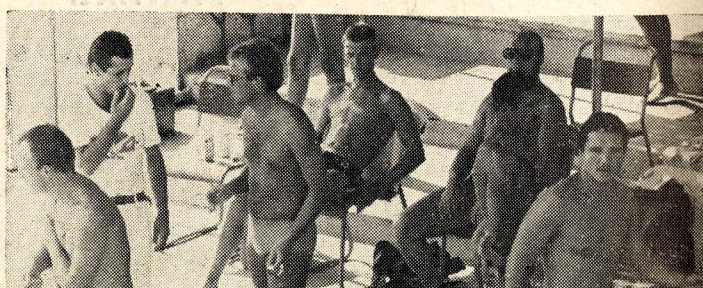
Our team had trained very hard and they were very keen. There is no doubt they entered the competition intending to win but in the end they had to accept the Olympic ideal that to win is not important, to compete and to do your utmost is what really matters.

Incidentally, we did not do as badly as all that, we achieved third position in the relay race! However, it was a disappointing day for us on many counts — in the 50 metres crawl we thought we had a winner, but it was not to be; our competitors faces fell when a Swede was announced the winner.

STRENGTH IN UNITY



Pictures above and below show the close competition in the butterfly race, an exiting event fought out with only centimetres separating the leaders. We had to bow to the undoubted superiority of the Swedes. They were just too good for us all and certainly deserved to win.



Here you can see how stunned our team were when they heard we had not won the crawl.

On Tuesday 22nd August the monthly meeting of the Sector Commanders was held in Sector 6. The aim of these meetings is to help Sectors understand one another's problems and relate the problems to the ground.

After being briefed on our problems and deployment the Sector Commanders were taken around the Sector. They visited many OPs, including the Othello Tower, Varosha and the Dherinia line. The tour finished back at Camp Duke Leopold V where the Sector Commanders had a round-table discussion on current problems in all their Sectors before having lunch together.

The relaxed and friendly atmosphere is very evident in the accompanying picture of the Sector Commanders at the lunch table.

SAFE DRIVING TROPHY



Col P F B Hargrave presents Capt K Laight, 1 RRF with the BRITCON Road Safety Trophy, won for an accident-free month in July. Capt Laight is the MTO for Sector 2 at St. David's Camp. During the month his 57 assorted vehicles were driven by 130 drivers both on metalled roads and across country. Looking on is Maj A Rennie, RCT, the Road Safety Officer for Sector 2.



It can happen to YOU

It can happen to you. After nine years of trouble-free driving WO1 Pat Watmore attempted to overtake a white van. After taking all the proper precautions, he moved out to overtake. Whilst in the process of overtaking, the van pulled over to the right, struck Mr Watmore's Datsun and sent it rolling down a thirty-foot embankment. The car rolled over five or six times; incredibly Mr Watmore and his passenger got out suffering from only cuts and bruises. Mr Watmore had experienced a very bad accident caused by bad driving by another road user. Bad driving is rife in Cyprus, so here are a few rules to keep in mind when overtaking.

Overtaking Rules

Before attempting to overtake sound your horn to warn the driver of the vehicle in front that you are going to overtake. Be prepared for the vehicle to move towards the right.

Drivers of vehicles that are parked never seem to check that the road is clear before opening doors, nor do they check before pulling out on to the road. Be

careful then, when passing parked cars.

Many of the 'fast' stretches of road in Cyprus run over a series of small hills. Make sure that you are not approaching one when overtaking.

Local drivers tend to swing to the right before a left-hand turn or to the left when taking a right-hand turn. So beware of vehicles that have pulled to the left-hand side of the road giving the appearance of going to stop; he could be well preparing for a right-hand turn. Likewise, if a vehicle moves to the centre of the road, giving the appearance of positioning for a right-hand turn, don't try to pass on the nearside unless he is definitely indicating that he intends turning to the right, he may just be getting a bit more room to run left.

When approaching the top of a hill or a corner, keep well in to the left. Many local drivers seem to think that the best part of the road to drive on is the centre.

Finally, the golden rule again — if in any doubt, at all, don't try it.

UNFICYP Workshops Backup for "It's a Knockout"



The picture above shows some of the workshop personnel who gave up many of their off-duty hours making the equipment for the "It's a Knockout" series. The man in the funny hat is WO1 P Weston, who commented during the games.

Many readers of the "The Blue Beret" will have seen and enjoyed the "It's a Knockout" series that have taken place in the swimming pool at Blue Beret Camp. This year three presentations of the games have taken place. The first was by the UNFICYP Support Regiment who played four teams. This proved so popular that two more "It's a Knockout" took place. For the BRITCON presentation reported in "The Blue Beret" four teams entered for the display of skill and humour and then this in turn was followed by an UNFICYP presentation in which all the major contingents, save AUSCON, entered their teams.

The idea of having an "It's a Knockout" started in the UNFICYP Workshops and was the brain child of WO1 P Weston. All the equipment used in the games was manufactured in the workshops by the REME person-

nel, who make it all in their off-duty hours. Although the equipment has very largely remained the same, many of the games changed during the series. Maj J Drew, the Workshops OC, and WO1 Weston would decide what the games were to be, get the existing equipment adapted and then two days before the games took place, the REME lads would transport it all down to the pool for testing.

The organisation of the series did not stop at the making of the equipment. Rules had to be decided on, the timings for the various events, a speaker system installed a the pool, judges provided and, unknown to most people, four safety men, two each side of the pool were also in attendance.

All those people who saw and enjoyed the "It's a knockout" series owe a great vote of thanks to all the background boys, who gave up much of their spare time.

Sixty Eight Years of undetected crime



Col P F B Hargrave is seen here after presenting LSGC medals to (from left to right) Sgt D J Taylor, ACC, 18 years; Sgt

H Parker, ROAC, 18 years; WOII Nicolas, ROAC, 18 years. The 68 years of undetected crime do not include the Colonel's



UN NEWS



Namibia – UNTAG

New Force Outlined by Secretary-General

In a report to the Security Council at the end of August, the Secretary-General outlined a plan of action calling for the dispatch of 9,000 UN Peace-keeping troops and civil administrators to Namibia to pave the way for elections leading to independence for the territory.

His report was based on the findings of Martti Ahtisaari, his Special Representative, who had just completed a survey mission involving extensive consultations with representatives of various population groups in Namibia as well as with the South African authorities.

The report envisages a lapse of seven months from the time the Security Council gives the UN operation a go ahead until elections are held. It says that the South African authorities, having previously set 31st December 1978, as the date for independence, felt that elections should take place as scheduled. But a majority of the political parties stressed the need for sufficient time to ensure free and fair balloting. It was also pointed out that the actual date of independence would fall within the competence of the constituent assembly to be elected.

The report anticipates a one-year operation by the UN transition assistance group (UNTAG) which might cost up to 300 million dollars.

The independence plan, and the work of the group, would be carried out in stages, as detailed in the Namibia settlement proposal of the five western members of the council — the United States, Britain, France, The Federal Republic of Germany and Canada. First would come a cessation of all hostile acts by all parties, and the withdrawal, restriction or demobilisation of the various armed forces. Second, the conduct of free and fair elections to the constituent assembly, with pre-conditions including the repeal of restrictive laws, the release of political prisoners and voluntary return of exiles, and the establishment of effective monitoring by the UN and an adequate period for electoral campaigning. The next stage would involve the formulation and adoption of a constitution by the elected assembly, to be followed by the entry into force

of the constitution, and independence.

The military component, made up of infantry battalions totalling about 5,000 men plus 200 monitors, along with logistic and other support element totalling about 2,300 would be under the command of Major General Hannes Philip, who has been serving as Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights.

The functions of the military team would include monitoring the cessation of hostile acts by all parties, the restriction of South African and Swapo armed forces to base, the phased withdrawal of all except the specified number of South African forces and the restriction of the remainder to specified locations.

The military team would also have the task of prevention of infiltration as well as surveillance of Namibia's borders, monitoring the demobilisation of citizen forces, and supporting the civilian part of the UN operation.

The civilian component of UNTAG would include about 360 civil police officers whose duties would include taking measures against any intimidation or interference with the electoral process. The non-police element would be made up of some 1200 personnel who would supervise and control all aspects of the electoral process, advise the Special Representative as to the repeal of discriminatory laws, and assist in arrangements for the release of political prisoners and peaceful return of refugees.

The report emphasises that if the UN operation is to proceed effectively it must at all times have the full support and backing of the Security Council as well as the full co-operation of all parties. It also stresses the need for the co-operation and support of the neighbouring countries.

Lebanon – UNIFIL

Force Commander rejects Lebanese call for aggressive action

The Commander of the United Nations peacekeeping troops in Lebanon recently said that he is firmly opposed to suggestions that his men should attack Right wing militias in the southern border region.

Major-General Emmanuel Erskine was commenting on a Lebanese government call for more effective moves by the 6,000 strong UN Force.

He told Reuters the idea of fighting to seize control of the volatile area from the Israeli-backed militias had been discussed several times, but that he believed the problem should be tackled by political rather than military means.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council on 4th September the government questioned UNIFIL's ability to complete its task within the limits set by its peacekeeping mandate, and urged the Council to redefine the force's duties. The note added: "It would be in the interests of all parties concerned to discuss more effective moves..."

The UN Force was set up in March to confirm a withdrawal of Israeli invasion troops and to help the Lebanese government re-establish its authority in the area. The militias have so far refused to relinquish control of a six miles-deep belt of territory stretching the entire length of the border, which they inherited from the departing Israelis.

In an interview at his headquarters in the southern coastal village of Nagoura, General Erskine said: "I am firmly opposed to the military option. This has been discussed several times, including during a recent visit to the area by Under

Secretary General Brian Urquhart. From my own assessment, and I have made this very clear to my superiors, the problem here is not a military one. It is political, and I see it being resolved as such". The General said it would make no sense to send his Force, which was lightly armed, against militias equipped with tanks and heavy artillery. "It would require a completely new mandate, more men and the necessary weapons to convert us into a strike force. In addition the countries contributing detachments would also have to accept that their soldiers would be at war and would suffer casualties. Even then, what would we do? Bomb the villages where we are supposed to be keeping the peace? It would not make sense".

The UNIFIL Commander rejected Lebanese criticism and urged government co-operation. He said: "The Northern area of our zone is the most peaceful and secure in the country. I would like to see the Lebanese re-establish their authority there. Why haven't they? I would like to stress the border region is a political problem and political solutions take time. The Lebanese government is in too much of a hurry. I wish the Lebanese, instead of criticising UNIFIL, would give us their maximum co-operation". General Erskine said that 90 percent of the refugees who fled the South during the Israeli invasion had returned to their homes. He said: "The only personal satisfaction we get is from giving humanitarian aid and I believe we have done a good job in this respect, but this is ignored by those who criticise UNIFIL".

(Reuter)

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Two weeks ending 1st September 1978	8
Same period last year	12
Total for the year	172
Total same time last year	151

LESSON OF THE FORTNIGHT

The question is not how well you CAN drive — it's how well you DO drive.