

# THE BLUE BERET

UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE  
IN CYPRUS UNFICYP  
APRIL 1984



# MARCH IN RETROSPECT

## ROTATIONS

The Canadian Contingent

## MEDAL PARADES

2 The Danish Contingent

23 The British Contingent

30 UN Military Police Company

## VISITS

4-6 Major General A Pickering and Major R. Baynes visited the Canadian Contingent

5 Brigadier R James visited the British Contingent

6 Admiral Sir Peter Herbert VCDS visited the British Contingent

6-8 Mr O Simpson and Captain R White visited the Canadian Contingent

8-15 Three English journalists visited the British Contingent

11-15 Five officers on a United Nations Military Police Course made a fact-finding trip to the UN Military Police Company.

12-22 Major General J B Akehurst visited the British Contingent

13-15 Major General L Prendergast and Captain E Moran visited the Irish Contingent

14 The Right Reverend T Moran visited BRITCON

15-18 Mr. P Borg, Major General K Larsson, Lieutenant Colonel C Harleman and Mr. John Hagard (from Tel Aviv) visited the Swedish Contingent

15-22 Mr. Tony Parker, author, visited the British Contingent

18-21 Captain A Rider and Master Corporal A Boudreau visited the Canadian Contingent

22 Mr Jorgen Almas, Swedish jour-

alist, visited the Swedish Contingent

22-24 Under the Editors Abroad Scheme two members of BBC Radio Stoke attended the British Contingent Medal Parade and the Force Scout Car Squadron

22-29 Seven British journalists visited the British Contingent

22-29 Colonel and Mrs W R Barker visited the British Contingent

22 - 5 Apr. Officer Cadet Glancy visited the British Contingent

24 Major General C J Rougier visited the British Contingent

26 Colonel C R Pickard visited the British Contingent

26 The Right Honourable Sir Humphrey Atkins MP, three members of the British House of Commons Defence Committee and 11 members of Parliament visited the British Contingent

26 General A Batty and Colonel A Bednar visited the Austrian Contingent

26-29 Lieutenant Colonel L Windmar visited the Swedish Contingent

27 Colonel R E Owen visited the British Contingent

27 - 11 Apr. Canadian Customs personnel visited the Canadian Contingent

29 - 5 Apr. Under the Editors Abroad Scheme five journalists visited the British Contingent

29 - 12 Apr. Officer Cadet Wheddon visited the British Contingent

# FUTURE EVENTS

## The American Center

Wednesday 11 April, 7.30 p.m.

"Annie Hall" Film by Woody Allen, awarded the Academy Award for best picture of the year.

Wednesday 25 April, 7.30 p.m.

"Manhattan", Film by Woody Allen

## UNFICYP GRAND SPRING FAIR

At the Community Centre, UNPA, Saturday 14 April 1984. The Fair will be opened by the Force Commander at 13.00 hours and the attractions include a display by the band of 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, cookery demonstration, stalls, refreshments, and competitions. The Grand Draw will be taking place throughout the afternoon. Come and have an afternoon out and support the Fair which is in aid of local childrens charities. Make a note in your diary now.

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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**  
Military Skills  
Competition 1984

# THE BLUE BERET



## Editorial

We are without a resident Editor during April/May whilst we await the arrival of Major R I M MacArthur. However, Major Christopher Le Hardy from JSPRS will be standing in as MP10 and Editor in the meanwhile. We can all stand by for articles on polo!

So, farewell and good luck to Major D C J Emmett, the Editor for the past two years.

In order that the good work may continue, it would be appreciated if readers who have any interesting articles or information, with photographs if possible, would submit them for future editions. Please contact the MP10's office on Ext 2235 beforehand.

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PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS



On 9th Feb 1984 a small medal parade was held at 84 Squadron, Royal Air Force Akrotiri. Seven aircrew members of the Squadron were presented with the United Nations medal by Squadron Leader R F King, Officer Commanding 84 Squadron, on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations. In the photograph are (from left to right): Squadron Leader R F King, Flight Lieutenants K McGuire, R Farley, M Hurrell and C Gibbons, Flight Sergeant D Lloyd, Master Air Loadmaster T Freeman and Flying Officer N McDonnell.



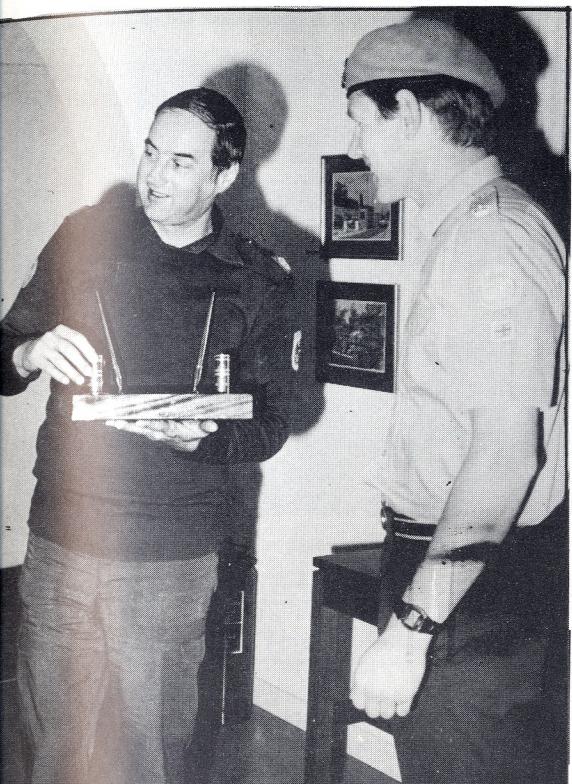
Maj Gen H.M.H. Boysen, Insp Gen Danish Army, who visited UNFICYP on 26 Feb - 1 Mar, receives the DANCON mug from Commander DANCON 40, Lt Col K.L. Hansen. In the background Capt C.B. Olsen.



#### GIRLS ON THE MARCH

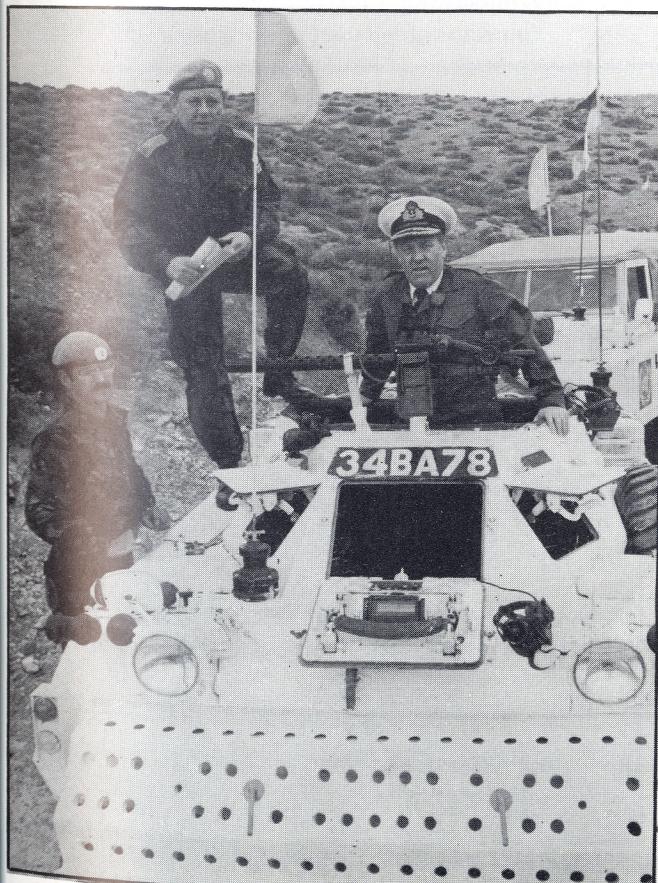
Starting from scratch, without knowing thing about military drill, the female members SWEDCON have got a drill team together. blood, sweat and tears but finally they were to perform at the SWEDCON Medal Parade

PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS



▲ The "Poachers" winners of the UNPA Seven-a-side Football Competition held on 19 Feb 84. Runners up RCT.

◀ Major Brian Nutt REME presented the Force Commander on 29 February with a desk set to be used in the new Entrance Hall to HQ UNFICYP. The set was made by Cfn Woolnough from the UNFICYP Workshop.



Adm Sir Peter Herbert (VCDS) visited UNFICYP on 6 Mar 84. In the picture he is being briefed by (centre) Maj A Durie OC Force Scout Car Squadron. Cpl Farrell is the driver.



LONELINE '84. The Royal Engineers prepare to commence patrol track repair in Sector Five on the approach to UN OP S48.

## ENGINEER SERVICE IN SECTOR 6

By 2/Lt Riss Alfred



Pte Lang Franz - wall building

Photographs by Pte Robert Dengscherz



2/Lt Riss and SSgt Stocker on the building site

**A**ustrian pioneers are trained mainly in combat engineering. In Austria during peace-time soldiering, all building and maintenance work in barracks is completed by the civilian authorities. So we are not so well prepared for the job that we have to do here. Therefore our task in Cyprus means a great challenge to us. We have to look after one central camp and thirteen OPs. At the moment we are working on a new officers accommodation and a new cold storage room at Camp Duke Leopold V. The new accommodation will have ten bedrooms and five lavatories. For these houses

we have been given an additional crew. That's very fine because otherwise we would have to neglect our soldiers on the line. The buildings are making good progress and after days of hard work we finish some evenings sitting together and enjoying good Austrian beer. Perhaps you will hear the poem once, which is interpreted as follows:

You don't know how to carry a beam  
You don't anchor in any stream  
You never have driven a pile  
You won't grasp the Pioneer's style.

## A KINGDOM FOR A HORSE.....

**S**omebody cried out those words. I can't remember who, but I'm sure that Insp. Hans Andreasson, at the SWEDCIVPOL Sub-station in Pyla, has thoughts in that direction when he patrols by foot in the village, for he is normally a mounted policeman in Stockholm, and I believe he sends one or two thoughts to his faithful work-mate.

I asked Hans to tell us something about the mounted police and their horses. 'There have been mounted police in Sweden since 1885, but now it is only the three biggest cities, Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Malmö that still have them. In Stockholm, where I had my duty, there are 37 police officers and 10 civilian grooms. The stable contains 47 horses, of which 10 are young horses, being trained. We buy the young horses when they are three years old and train them for 2 years before we use them as permanent-duty horses.'

What special demands do you have for the duty horse?

'An indispensable demand is that the horse has to be trained to be absolutely obedient. This means he has learnt to remain still during heavy shooting in close vicinity, even indoors; to respond to orders, to go forward or sideways no matter what is standing in the way. For example, a very hot-tempered and screaming crowd which exposes the horse to different kinds of provocation. The horse must never back for any reason and must be able to jump over and work close to open fire and walk through water. He has to be absolutely safe on the road.'

In what kind of situations do you use the horses?

'We use them regularly for patrol duties in the parks and forests in the Stockholm areas, and, of course, at big activities that gather lots of people, such as sporting events, controlling riots and sometimes for traffic supervising. From



Inspector Andreasson (second from right) in Stockholm preparing for the day's duty

horseback you are able to see a lot more than from the ground.'

I leave Hans as he gets lost in a reverie and I am merely stating the fact that it would have been a fine spectacle to see this 'Sheriff' patrolling in Pyla on horseback.

Hans-Henrik Christiansen

Army Chaplain DANCON 40

## DANISH BAPTISM IN A GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Photograph by

Pte P H Hansen

On 12 Feb, the Army Chaplain of DANCON 40, baptised a little girl, the daughter of a Greek Cypriot mother and a Danish father living in Kakopetria. The baptism was carried out according to the Danish National Church new ritual. The girl's parents, having lived for some years in Denmark, wished to have their child, Sylvia Janet Jensen, baptised according to the new Danish ritual because her two elder brothers and sister were baptised in Denmark.

Even if the rituals in the Greek Orthodox Church and the Danish National Church are very different, there are common denominators, namely that the child is baptised into a brotherly affiliation with Jesus Christ. Therefore, there are no complications in baptising a Greek Cypriot child by Danish custom, both Churches are recognizing each others baptismal service.

The church in Kakopetria was crowded, mainly by the members of the mother's family, but a few Danish soldiers from B-Coy in Skouriotissa had made their way to the church too.

After the christening all guests were served cocos macaroons very nicely wrapped up in red silk. The celebration afterwards took place in a restaurant in Kakopetria. Different dishes of local origin were served together with Cyprus brandy, which is nick-named 'Local' in DANCON. The grandmother walked around among



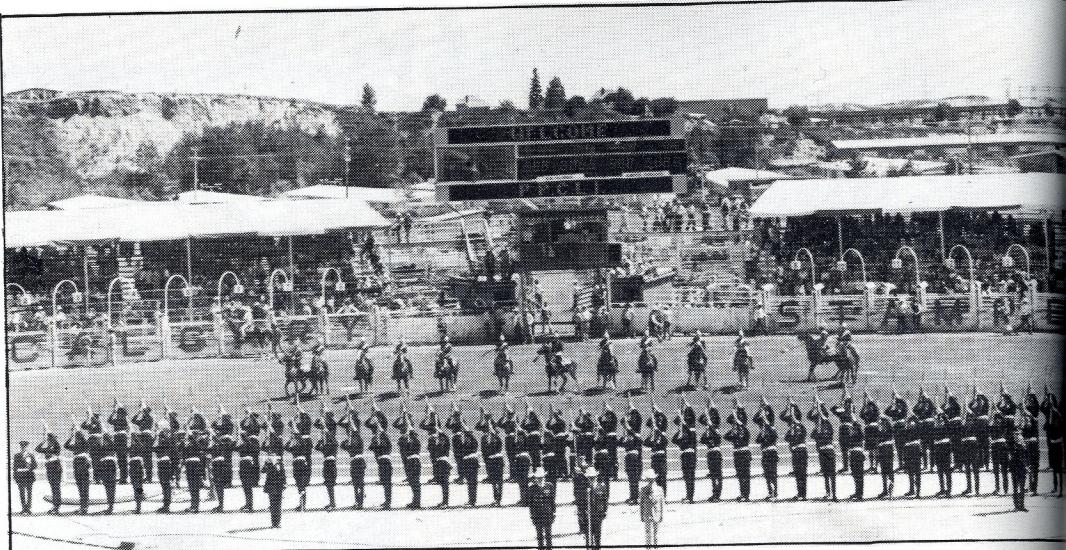
Army Chaplain H-H Christiansen reading the baptismal words and a proud grandmother

the guests with a silver censer from which a delicious smell arose.

Apart from celebrating the christening of a small child, a Cypriot family also expresses great joy by being together and take great pride in parading their children for each other, as it is not very often that large families have the opportunity to meet.



Guard of Honour at  
Calgary Stampede  
during Armed Forces  
Day.



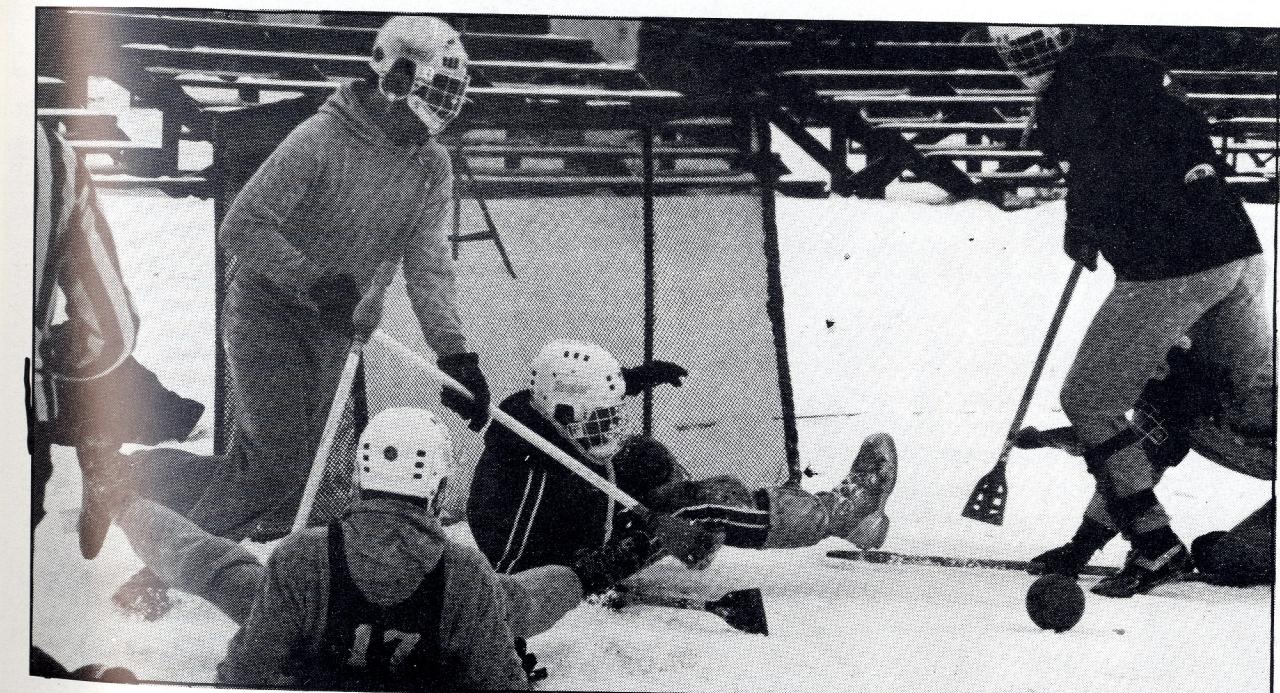
## FIRST BATTALION PRINCES PA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY



**By Captain Y W J Leblanc**

**Photographs**  
**by Unit Photographer**

CO, Lt Col Kempling inspects Armoured  
Defence Platoon in preparation for Brigade  
Commanders annual inspection.



The officers about to score their winning goal. 17 March 84.



Brig Gen Vail, Brigade Commander, Alaska Brigade, visiting A Coy's winter camp. (1 to r) Capt. WHC Ramsden,  
B Gen Vail, Maj DS Ethell, 13 Jan 83.

After an absence of six years, the First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry is returning to Cyprus to serve the United Nations. The Battalion will be assuming the duties of the Second Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment in Sector Four and is looking forward to fulfilling its commitment of maintaining the peace.

In spite of its short history the Regiment has served with pride and distinction since its inception nearly seventy years ago. On August 3rd, 1914 Mr Hamilton Gault offered to raise and equip a battalion for overseas duty in the event of war. Three days later his offer was accepted. Her Royal Highness, Princess Patricia of Connaught consented to give her name to the battalion and on August 10th the Charter was signed, signifying the birth of the Regiment.

Mobilization began the following day and was

completed by August 18th. The call to duty attracted old soldiers from every part of the country; of the 1000 all ranks, 1049 had seen previous service. The Regiment was allotted to 80th Brigade, 27th Division and sailed for France on December 20th, 1914 where it became the first Canadian combat unit to reach the theatre of operations.

The newly formed battalion took part in numerous campaigns throughout the war, earning many battle honours and for three Particias, the prestigious Victoria Cross. Names such as Frezenburg, Flers, Courcelette, Vimy Ridge and Gravenstafel Ridge never fail to stir vivid memories of the vicious and costly battles in which the Battalion fought. After the Great War, the Particias were reconstituted as a unit of the Permanent Active Militia, where they remained until the outbreak of World War II.

The first three years of the war proved uneventful, with considerable time spent on training and coastal defence duties in the United Kingdom. The Particias finally saw action in early July 1943, when they hit the beaches of Sicily as part of the 8th Army. From there they landed and fought their way through Italy, eventually finishing the war in Holland. Once again this proud Regiment had confirmed the fighting ability of the Canadian soldier.

In 1950 the Particias earned the title "Regiment" with the formation of the Second and Third Battalion. Very shortly thereafter the Particias saw action again, this time in Korea. The Second Battalion quickly distinguished itself by earning the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation at Kapyong, Korea on April 25th, 1951. Since that time members of all three battalions have served the United Nations in Egypt, Cyprus, Israel, Syria and

Lebanon.

The First Battalion has been stationed in Calgary, Alberta since 1946 and is fortunate to be within sight of the beautiful Rocky Mountains with its numerous hot springs and ski resorts. The city is well known for the Calgary Stampede, an annual rodeo involving the top rated cowboys from across Canada and the United States. Calgary, site of the 1988 Winter Olympics, is renowned for its hospitality and looks forward to extending to all future visitors a warm, western welcome.

This will be the fourth United Nations tour in Cyprus for the First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. For many Particias, however, this tour will be the first and all ranks are looking forward to becoming a part of the UNFICYP family.

# SCOUT CAR SQUADRON SO FAR

**By Captain Mark Ridley**

**'B'** Squadron 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers took over as the UNFICYP Scout Car Squadron on the 22nd January.

Four days after our tour began we were tested by HQ UNFICYP with our first Force Reserve Exercise. The exercise, however, was brief, and once over, our next main event was our annual Regimental holiday on the 28th January, when we celebrated the charge of the 16th Lancers at the Battle of Aliwal (1846).

A combined officers and sergeants dinner was held on the eve of Aliwal Day, to which all 16/5 Lancers on the island were invited. Our guest of honour was the senior Scarlet Lancer in Cyprus, Lieutenant - Colonel Brooke. The following morning the officers and senior NCO's had little time to recover from their party as they delivered "Gunfire" (tea laced with rum) to the soldiers in bed. As this was being done the band of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, who share our camp, played suitable music in order to create the correct atmosphere for the day. Once all had risen, we began an inter-troop 'Jeux Sous Frontier' competition, which was eventually won by 4th troop. A large buffet lunch was then consumed through the afternoon, during the course of which all officers and senior NCO's were ducked in a tub of extremely cold water. The day was concluded by a Squadron barbecue in the evening. It was a very quiet and subdued Squadron that returned to the line the following day, but the verdict that it had been one of the best, if not the best, Aliwal Day, was unanimous.

Apart from our routine UN tasks, one of our main jobs has been to execute the re-equipping of the Squadron with both new Ferret Scout Cars and a new range of radios. 5th troop spent ten days at Akrotiri fitting radios into the new up-armoured Ferrets and then drove them all to Prince William Camp where the troops exchanged them for their old cars.

As we had predicted before leaving England we have had numerous visitors. Amongst them was the Force Commander on the 13th February, when he was able to meet many Lancers and to see some of our equipment. He watched a tactical demonstration by 'G' and 4th troops, before retiring to the Sergeants Mess for drinks and then to the Officers Mess for lunch. The Force Commanders visit was followed by that of the Chief of Staff on the 23rd February, when he not only visited Prince William Camp, but was able to tour some of Sector 6 in the now famous "bucket" (Mk 1 Ferret).

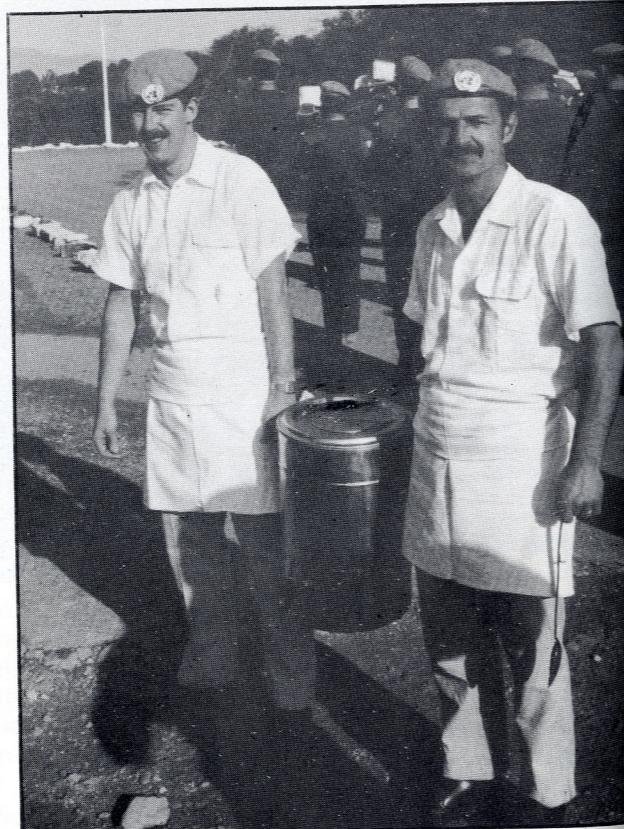
On the social side we have also had numerous visitors, particularly from our 'A' Squadron, who were serving with BRITFORLEB. Most of their officers and senior ranks, as well as many of their soldiers, paid us a visit and many war stories were exchanged. One unusual group of visitors came from a touring Jockey Club Team. Amongst them were Willie Carson, Yves St Martin, Snowy Fawdon and Colin Turner, all of whom joined our officers and senior ranks for dinner. The evening was a great success and our guests departed laden with UN and Regimental souvenirs.

Outdoors the Squadron has taken part in several competitions including the shooting, military skills, skiing and cross country competitions. We have also had members playing sports ranging from boules to polo, and including rugger, soccer, skiing, tennis and squash. Finally, while on the subject of sports two points are worth noting. Firstly Mr Var-

**Photographs by Unit Photographer**



The Force Commander is shown a night sight by Sgt Reddyhoff.



LCpl Pratt and Pte Bonshor with "Gunfire" on Aliwal Day.

dinek has not yet begun to parachute as he is unable to find a course vacancy, and secondly, much to the Second-in-Command's disgust, the Squadron Leader's "naval patrol" is now a reality as he has finally managed to launch his yacht and has parked it in Larnaca marina.

As you will have gathered, life in the Scout Car Squadron has been busy and with several visits imminent and the arrival of summer we are not expecting a dull time.

# THE ROYALS SAY FAREWELL

**By Lieutenant Don Haisell**

**Photographs by Unit Photographer**



The Commanding Officer of 2 RCR, Lt Col W.J. Aitchison CD presents Cyprus medals to our soldiers during the Medal Parade held at the end of February.

The time has come when we must bid farewell to the island of Cyprus and return to our homes and loved ones. Our tasks in Sector Four have now been turned over to 1 PPCLI and we wish them all the best for the next six months. For those of you who gave us your support and friendship, we thank you.

You may notice a subtle difference in the character of the new soldiers. You see Canada maintains three regular infantry regiments of which two are English speaking. The Royal Canadian Regiment is mainly from the eastern part of the country whereas the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry are to be found in the west. What this means is that after dealing for six months with a lot of fishermen and lumberjacks, you now have to be concerned with farmers and cowboys! As with any two proud units a healthy rivalry has always existed between us. Since I will be in Canada when this article is published, I think I can safely challenge the Patricias to try and maintain the Royal standard! PRO PATRIA



2 RCR man the new OP Royal



## UNFICYP SKIING COMPETITION Winner SWEDCON

Photography Sgt A. Hodgetts

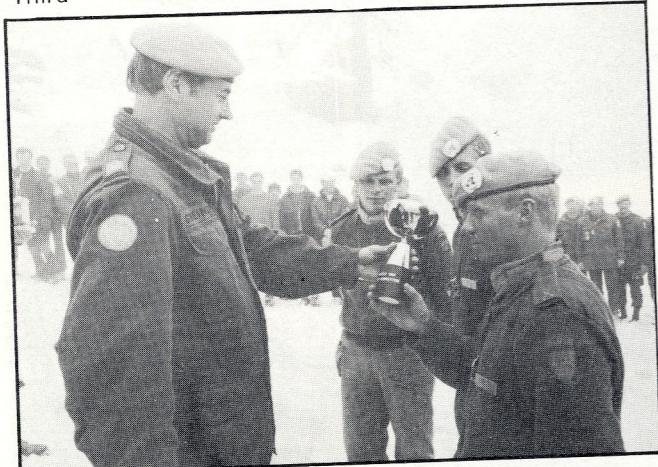
On Wednesday 7 March, the UNFICYP Skiing Competition took place in the Troodos Mountains.

The Austrians were the favourites, and as far as they were concerned, they had got to win....! However a little Swede, who hails from the same hamlet as the great Ingmar Stenmark, had other ideas, and together with his compatriots managed to put the Austrians into second place. And much to the Force Commander's, and everybody else's surprise, third place went to Britcon - yes, the "Poachers" no less.

### RESULTS

OPEN/UNFICYP INDIVIDUALS  
First Pte Rödstrom SWEDCON

UNFICYP TEAM  
First SWEDCON  
Second AUSCON  
Third BRITCON



The Force Commander presenting the winning team trophy to members of the SWEDCON team.



Winner Pte Rödstrom (SWEDCON) at the start of his second run down the North Face Ski Slope.

## REME CYPRUS QUADRANGULAR GAMES The UN - REME - WIN

The REME Cyprus Quadrangular Games took place in the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia on Monday 12th March. This is a biannual competition between 48 Cyprus Workshop REME based in Akrotiri, Dhekelia Workshop REME, REME Units in Episkopi and the UN REME from the UNFICYP Workshop, the UN AAC Flt, Sector 2 and the Scout Car Squadron. The competition lasted a complete day and its aim was to encourage contact between the various REME Units in Cyprus.

This time the UN REME hosted the Games and chose the sports which were 7 - a - side rugby, 6 - a - side football, 6 - a - side hockey, volleyball, basketball, ten pin bowling, a 2 mile run and four evening sports to be played in the bar. All sports, apart from the run, ten pin bowling and the evening sports were played on a knockout basis. Despite threats of rain throughout the day all the games were completed and the final positions in each competition were as follows:

	Dhekelia Wksp	UN REME	48 Cyprus Wksp	Episkopi
Rugby	2	1	3	4
Football	2	1	4	1
Hockey	2	4	3	3
Volleyball	4	1	2	2
Basketball	1	1	4	4
10 pin bowling	3	1	2	4
2 mile run	2	1	3	4
Evening Games	4	1	2	3

At the end of the day the final positions were first UN REME, second Dhekelia Workshop, third 48 Cyprus Workshop and fourth Episkopi. The prizes were presented by the Commander Maintenance, Cyprus, Lt Col R Steel REME who commented on the evident success of the day's activities. All who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, both on the playing fields and in the bar. We now look forward to the next Games in September when the venue will be Dhekelia.



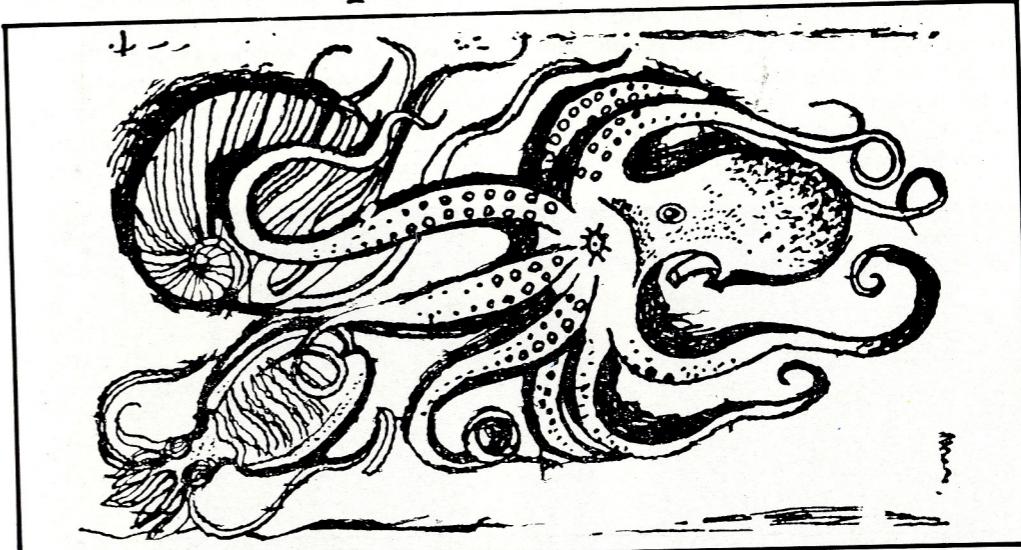
# INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK



## FISH

### Octopus and Cuttlefish

By Mrs Joan Nield



#### OCTOPUS

The octopus sounds alarming to those who have not travelled in the Mediterranean; it is in fact an excellent dish when properly prepared, rich and with a reminiscence of lobster.

In Cyprus the large octopus are dried in the sun; the tentacles are cut into small pieces, grilled over a charcoal fire and served with your aperitif.

To cook them fresh the large ones must be carefully cleaned, the ink bag removed (unless they are to be cooked in their own ink, which makes a rich black sauce, with a very strong flavour), and left in running water for some minutes, then beaten like a steak (in fact I have seen the Cypriots bashing them against a rock), for they can be very tough. Then cut off the

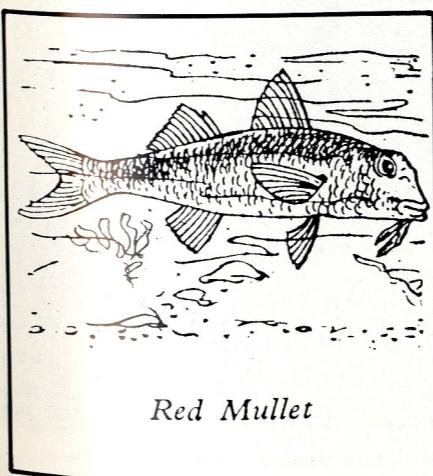
tentacles and cut the body into strips about the same size. Blanch them in boiling water, drain them and peel off the skin. The pieces are then put in an earthenware casserole with 2 or 3 large onions cut up, garlic, a branch of thyme, salt and pepper, and 2 or 3 tablespoons of tomato pulp, and covered with red wine. Simmer very slowly for 4 or 5 hours.

There are two London fishmongers, Richards, and Hitchcock's, both in Brewer Street, Soho, who sell fresh squid, but although octopus are found in great quantities in northern waters I have never seen them for sale in England, so this recipe can be used equally well for squid or ink fish.

#### GRILLED CALAMARI (cuttlefish, inkfish, squid)

Turn the pocket-like part of the fish inside out, clean under a running tap, remove the ink bag, the intestines, the hard beak-like protuberance and the transparent spine bone. Season the fish with salt, pepper, lemon juice, and marjoram, sprinkle with oil and put them under the grill for about 10 or 15 minutes. Served cold and cut into strips crossways, these creatures make a good hors d'oeuvre.

They can also be stuffed, with spinach or with savoury rice, and cooked en ragout, with a wine or tomato sauce. Cut into fairly large pieces, they are often added to a paella or risotto aux fruits de mer, and to fish soups.



Red Mullet

#### MULLET

Red mullet has firm, white flesh and a very delicious flavour. The liver is considered a great delicacy, and is always cooked and served with the fish. Do not scale the fish but wipe it, cutting off the fins and removing the eyes. Serve baked, grilled or fried; red mullet is not good steamed or boiled.

#### BAKED RED MULLET IN CASES

This is a simple and popular method of cooking red mullet and is particularly suitable, since the skin is very delicate and the flesh is apt to break when cooked, making it difficult to dish the fish neatly.

To prepare the fish, wipe it, trim off the fins and tail with scissors and remove the eyes. The entrails may be left in or removed according to taste; the liver should remain in either case. Season well with salt and pepper and sprinkle with lemon juice and chopped parsley. Put each fish in an individual paper "envelope", well buttered, and fold over the top several times so that the fish is completely enclosed. Lay in a greased fireproof dish, cover the whole with a piece of greased paper and bake in a moderately hot oven for about 15-20 minutes, according to size. Arrange the fish, still in their cases, on a hot dish, and garnish with parsley and lemon.

# THE SWEDISH MEDAL PARADE

**By Lt B E Andersson**

**S**WEDCON has had its Medal Parade. And although the Swedish Army is a conscript one, the impression the drill teams gave was indeed truly professional.

For the first time in UNFICYP a female drill team appeared (see Pictorial News) consisting of twelve women, in fact the total number of women in the Swedish Contingent. However, the seven minute long exhibition the male drill team gave was the highlight. "It has taken us about one hundred and thirty hours of practising to make it work and I have not been kind to the boys", says Drill Master Stisse



**Unit Photographer**

Johansson. "But I think everyone has enjoyed it most of the time, and after all, everyone in the drill team has volunteered."

The programme was organised by Stisse Johansson but he has had some help. "I have been to Cyprus once before and when I was nominated to organise a drill team I contacted the Drill Master from a previous Unit who gave me some valuable clues, but the details he had forgotten! We had to find that out for ourselves! And obviously they did. The drill exhibition was the highlight of the Medal Parade.

Drill Master Stisse Johansson walking between the whirling bayonets.

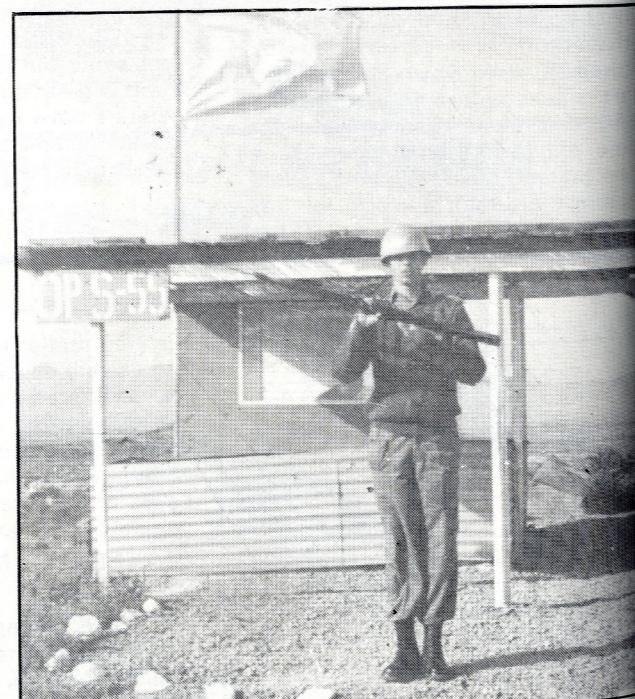
## LIFE IN THE BUFFER ZONE - SALUTING

**D**riving on the UN road between Larnaca and Nicosia you always get a smart salute from the sentry at one of the OPs close to the road. It is the Swedish OP 55 which has got that saluting as an extra duty.

It is usually very calm in this area thereby permitting time to undertake this task. "But you must not concentrate so hard on approaching vehicles that you forget to watch the buffer zone", says Sgt Jonas Bjärned who is stationed at the OP.

It is a very special kind of weapon drill the sentries are exercising. It is definitely not a Swedish standard drill. "Some you learn from the previous contingent, some you find out yourself", says Sgt Bjärned. "I try to do something different for each passing car. That makes it less boring."

It takes many hours to learn - and quite a few bruises on hands and arms - in the beginning, but after these months in Cyprus the Swedish soldiers are experts at swinging their weapons. "In a way I think it is a little silly. I didn't come to Cyprus to salute cars. But on the other hand it is appreciated and that makes it worthwhile. Especially the English seem to like it. They usually slow down their cars and have a good look", says Pte Peter Tylnicki another of the inhabitants of OP S55.



Sgt Jonas Bjärned swinging his rifle in a salute.

# POACHERS PROGRESS

**By Captain M J Beard**

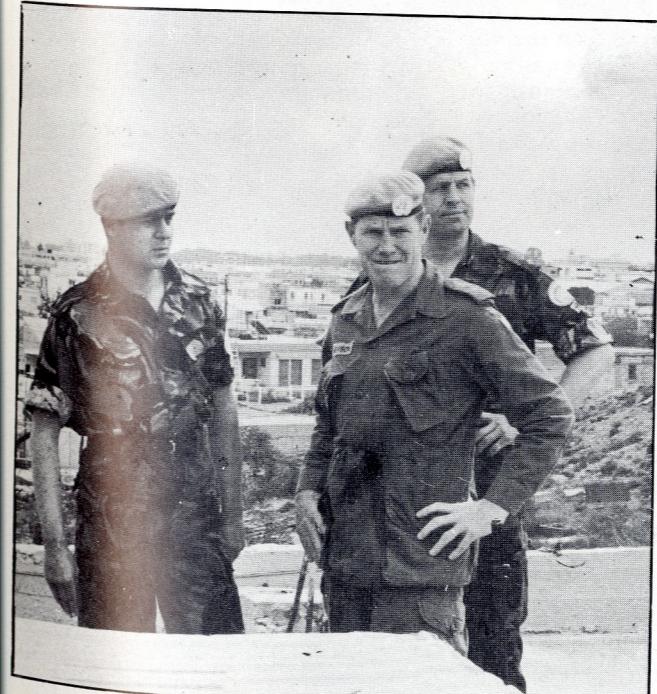
**T**he past four weeks have seen many visits paid to Poachers 'on the line' in Sector 2. Visitors have included the Vice Chief of The British Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, the Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, General Sir Timothy Creasey, and Brigadier General Hewson.

There are now many new faces in Sector 2, for the Poachers are now half-way through their six month stay and A and D (SP) Companies have replaced C and B Companies. Prior to departing for Dhekelia, OC B (Eastern) Company organised a wreath laying ceremony at the British Military Cemetery near B18.

The physical side of life has been dominated by the Military Skills Competition and the continuing attendance of many Poachers at adventure training and skiing courses. Amazingly, the only bone breakage to date has been through horse riding!



Major Domeisen, OC B (Eastern) Company, lays a wreath at the British Military Cemetery near B18 on Sunday 4 March.



Brigadier General Hewson takes in the view at B20 during his visit to the Poachers on 8 March 1984.

**Photographs by LCpl Easey**



Pte Andrews of B Company emerges unscathed from an outpost near B19



The Corps of Drums practise with their flutes in St. Davids Camp.



# UN NEWS



## MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION 1984



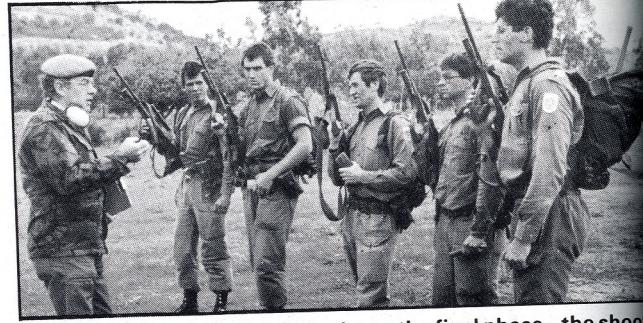
Support Regiment team nearing the end of their "forced march" phase.



The victorious SWEDCON team with the trophy and diplomas.



CANCON dig up the track at the Signals stand.



AUSCON team being briefed prior to the final phase - the shoot.

The UN Military Skills Competition took place in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area on 8 and 9 March. The competition is an arduous test of military knowledge, character and endurance, and this year the standard was extremely high. Fourteen teams took part and, unlike last year when three teams dropped out, all teams finished the competition.

Each team is five strong and only the team leader, an officer, and the 2 i/c, a SNCO, can be nominated in advance. The other members of the team are chosen at random from a nominal role of the two lowest national ranks in each contingent. This arbitrary selection is made just two weeks before the competition and thus the composition of a team is literally a lottery. As training time is short, much depends on a good draw.

The competition itself is in three phases:

Phase 1, held on the first day, consisted of a series of basic military skills stands including map reading, first aid, judging distance, signals and grenade throwing. All team members had to complete these stands equally. This in itself was a slight change from last year and it was no good having just one expert in the team as all had to be equally skilled.

Phase 2, was held throughout the night. It involved each team setting up a tactical OP and observing a series of incidents. Concurrently three team members had to complete a night navigation exercise.

Phase 3, which began on the second day, when all teams were suffering from loss of sleep, consisted of an assault course competition against the clock, a rigorous 15km march and a shoot. In previous years the shoot had been a simple falling plate competition, but this year it was much more demanding involving a difficult snap shoot.

As with all years, the competition was hard fought and right up until the final shot was fired the result of the event was still in dispute. In the end however a strong SWEDCON team was the clear winner. This win was even more commendable considering the Swedish team had suffered from a tragic road traffic accident during training that had left one soldier dead and another injured.

Competition for the remaining places was equally fierce. Only 15 points separated six teams between third and eighth place, equivalent to just three hits on the shoot or forty-five seconds on the assault course.

The competition this year was an unreserved success. It was well organised, teams were all aware of the scoring system (and the penalties and objections and protests were few). Credit for the excellent organisation and smooth running of the competition must go to the competition hosts, 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment.

This is a challenging, difficult and demanding competition, but a rewarding experience for all who took part and undoubtedly one of the premier events of the UN calendar.

Final places were:

1st SWEDCON 1 :	960.8 pts
2nd UN Sp Regt 2 :	912.0 pts
3rd SWEDCON 2 :	877.0 pts
4th AUSCON 1 :	869.8 pts
5th UN MP Company :	869.6 pts
6th BRITCON 1 :	867.2 pts
7th CANCON 2 :	866.6 pts
8th BRITCON 2 :	862.2 pts
9th UN Sp Regt 1 :	850.2 pts
10th AUSCON 1 :	822.6 pts
11th DANCON 1 :	814.0 pts
12th FSC Sqn :	809.0 pts
13th DANCON 2 :	804.0 pts
14th CANCON 2 :	740.8 pts