



The Blue Beret

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

Volume Nine No. 41

Wednesday

5th January

1972



AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VISITS CYPRUS

Mr. E. G. Whitlam, Opposition Leader in the Australian Parliament, last week paid a short visit to Cyprus. During his stay in the island, Mr. Whitlam visited the Australian Police Contingent serving with the United Nations Force, and he also had the opportunity to meet senior officials of UNFICYP.

● (Left to Right) Mr. B. F. Osorio-Tafall, Special Representative of the Secretary-General; Colonel D. E. Thornton, Commander British Contingent; Mr. R. Hall, Private Secretary to Mr. Whitlam; Mr. E. G. Whitlam, Chief Superintendent P. McAulay, Police Adviser at HQ UNFICYP, and the Force Commander, Major General D. Prem Chand.

REDUCTION OF IRCON

According to decisions taken by the Government of the Irish Republic, the Irish Contingent serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus is to be reduced to approximately company strength. 165 men of 21 Infantry Group left the island on 4th January and 90 men will depart on 18th January.

During this period UNFICYP will regroup to ensure continuity.

In the picture (above) Commandant Condron, Ircon, and Major M. Scott 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers, Britcon, exchange plaques as "B" Company of Ircon hand-over Camp Aherloki, Kophinou, to "A" Company of The

Royal Irish Rangers. "B" Company moved to Larnaca on 30th December.



HAPPY NEW YEAR



PROKLAMATION

Vi Neptun - herre og hersker over alle have - søer og damme åer og bække - kilder og floder - badekar og vandfald - vandhaner og høner samt vandfæde - gøre vitterlig.

Vi Neptun er i dag sammen med min yndige og åleslanke prinsesse "Gylden Alge" samt min l. livlæge, min stjernekirger og l. livbar samt min øvrige hofstab, steget op fra mit våde rige på havets bund, for på dette sted at døbe alle I nye indvånere i mit undersøiske rige, der på denne juleaftensdag ønsker at svømme i dette mit yndlingshav, det blå Middelhav.

Men før i kan blive "med-søer" i mit rige vil min l. livlæge, doktor Knogle, undersøge eders helbredstilstand, ligesom han vil give hver enkelt en styrkepille. Min stjernekirger "Brahe-Thycho" vil konst. om hver enkelt stjerne tegn står gunstigt for eders optagelse i mit rige.

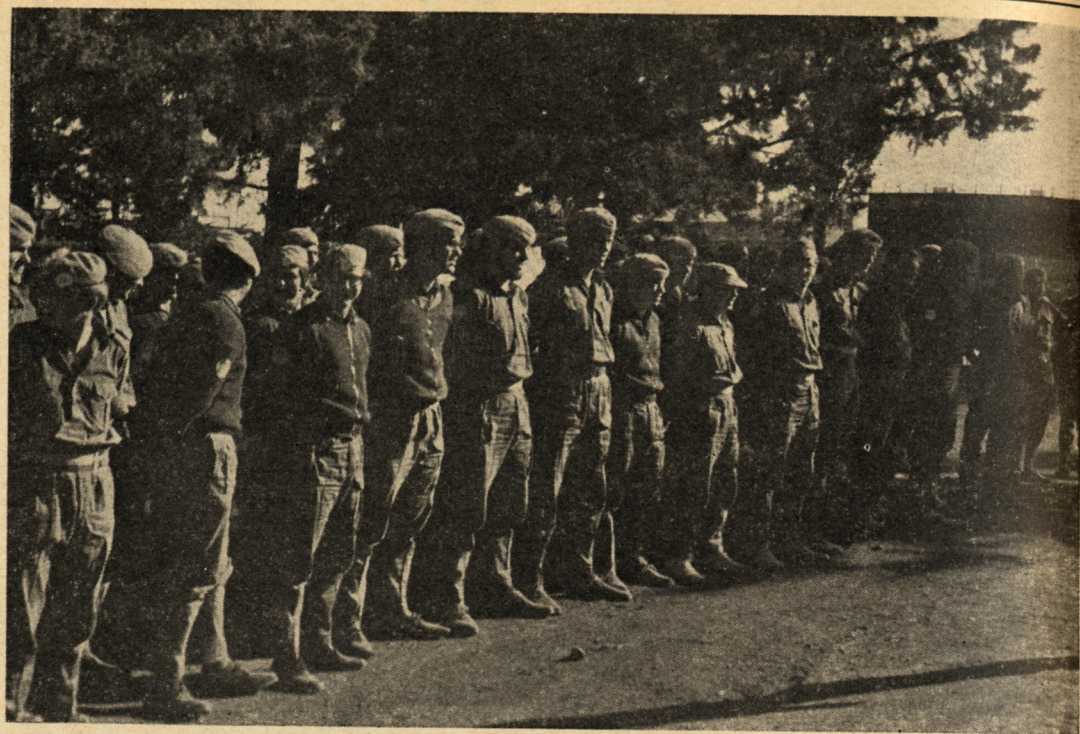
Før I bliver døbt vil min l. livbarber, Mr. Fix, rage skægget af hver enkelt, da skæg ikke tåleres ved dåbshandlingen. Mine to håndlangere og bægersvingere, mr. Knold og Tot, vil træffe de fornødne foranstaltninger.

Med ønsket om at alle guder i og på havene må bevare jer, er det herefter min agt at sende hver enkelt ud i mit våde element. Til slut sendes en hilsen til Færøerne og Grønland, samt til søens øvrige folk.

Givet under vor kongelige

Hånd & Segl

Neptun Rex.



●Her ses resultatet af kong Neptuns håndfaste hjælperes arbejde. Der var en forhåndstilmelding, der sagde, at ca. 80 ville deltage i badningen, der deltog 178, heri medregnet de officerer, der røg i vandet med tøjet på. Efter badningen var der udlevering af diplomer, samt udsækning af varm drik og julebag, som leveredes af Dancivpol. Vi Dancon XVI vikinger siger hermed Dancivpol tak for en festlig oplevelse, og godt gennemført "arrangement".

●Her ser man det store opbud af vikinger, der vil trodse det våde element, spændt afventende kong Neptuns ankomst.

"KONEFLY"

Den 19 DEC 1971 var dagen, hvor de længe ventede damer (+) landede med "koneflyet". Endelig oprandt den store dag, hvor gensynet med familien skulle finde sted, og hvor en del af os skulle hjem til Dania for at fejre julen i familiens skød. Det er uden tvivl den dag, hvor der ved Dancon XVI har været vist de fleste glade ansigter, enten af den ene eller anden grund. Vi fra redaktionen ønsker, at alle besøgende har haft en oplevelsesrig tid på Cypern, idet det er vor absolutte overbevisning, at alle, som har modtaget besøg, har gjort alt for at gøre besøget til en oplevelse for livet.



DANCON

●Kong Neptun ankom d.24 DEC kl 1045 med følge, og fik overdraget de forventningsfulde vinterbadere. Efter overdragelsen førte kong Neptun sit følge og vikingerne gennem Xeros by ud til Dancivpol, hvor afklædning fandt sted. Da denne var overstået, afgav Kong Neptun sin proklamation, som her gengives i sin helhed af hensyn til dem, der ikke hørte den, og derfor muligvis har følt sig ilde berørt ved bag efter at være bleven smidt i det salte vand.



JULBAD OCH DANS

Trevligaste inslaget i samband med stora julbadet svarade de svenska militärpoliserna för. Iförda hjälmar och så "de ribbstickade" rusade de ut i det friska vattnet. Succen var given.

Under övriga julfirandet liksom nyårsfestligheterna framkom också många andra trivsamtigheter och lustigheter. Maten gladdade väl samtliga. Den var ju också som vi så väl känner till väsentlig vid vårt traditionella julfirande.

Åsnan Oskar som deltog vid julgransdansen på tennisplan under julaftonens eftermiddag uppskattades också - särskilt av de yngsta som besökte bataljonen. Oskar var nybadad, шамponerad och talkad - med andra ord riktigt julfin.

Mera om helgfirandet i det strålande fina vädret - speciellt vid julen - kommer i omfattande bild-reportage i nästa nummer av CYPRESSEN.

På bilden till höger MP-na Jan-Åke Uggla, Kjell-Åke Gustafsson och Lars Persson i badtagen under julaftonens dopp vid Mimosa Beach



FINFINT I BADET

Många trodde kanske att det inte skulle bli mera bastubad på Cypern då det gamla värmeaggregatet i bataljonens badbarack lämnade in. Dessbättre hade de som så trodde helt fel. Genom pi-gruppens försorg har nu ett nytt och effektivt aggregat kommit på plats. Det dök upp vid en Scacyp-sändning när de ansvariga nästan gett upp hoppet om att det skulle komma.

Pi-gruppens mannar har också klätt väggarna invändigt i badbaracken och rättat till sittbänkarna. Ja hela anläggningen har "blivit som ny".

-Nu skall vi endast också försöka skaffa fram en del krossat porslin att lägga ovanpå värmekaminen, säger pi-chefen Tykko Kalla. Den sten som nu ligger ovanpå kaminen går nämligen sönder då man slår vatten på den.

På bilden provbadar Per-Åke Persson, Olofström, Gören Sternhoff, Sollentuna och Ingvar Andersson från Hälsingborg.

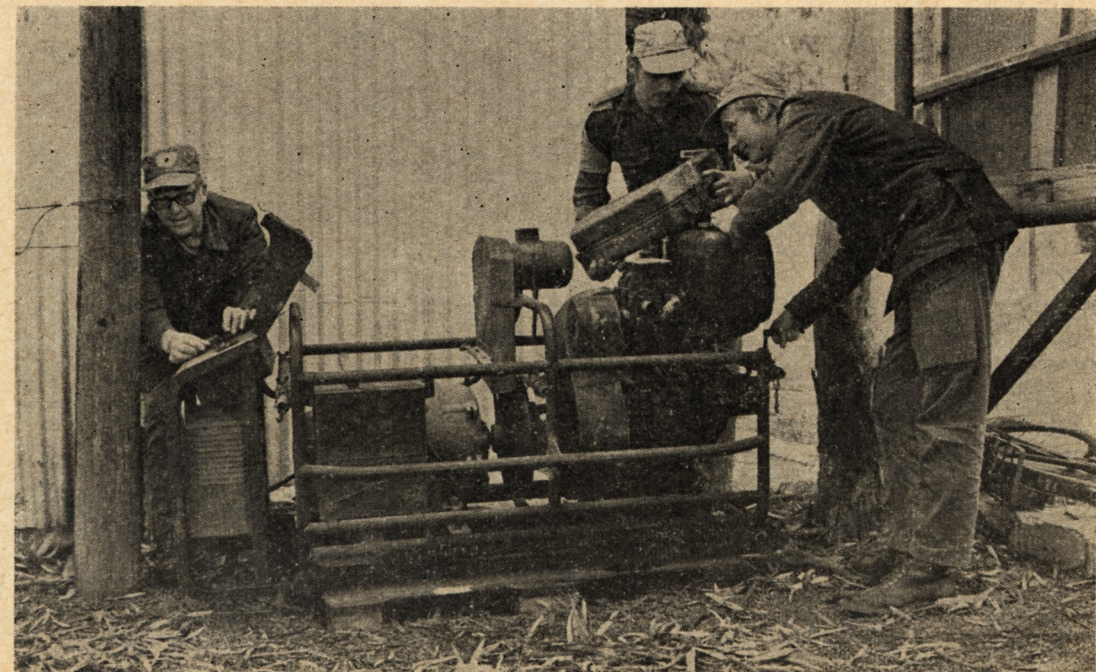
SLITET EL-NÄT

El-systemet inom CGC är långt ifrån "up to date". Experterna framhåller helt enkelt att det är nedgången och mer eller mindre utslitet. Det är därför som vi under senaste tiden haft så många elavbrott. Stormen med nedblåsta grenar och liknande har också bidragit till mörkläggning av campen.

Vidare är en s k fas överbelastad vilket man för närvarande arbetar med att få avhjälpt.

När systemet bryter samman får pi-chen Tykko Kalla ge sig iväg till det museala, diseldrivna elverket som står nere vid sektion l-lången. Ingen kan väl ha undgått att höra dess stänkande gång. Detta elverk på 1,5 kw levererar ström till radio och övrig teknisk utrustning så att vi trots al avbrott kan upprätthålla kontakt med yttrevärlden.

På bilden rustmästare Kalla vid det ålderdomliga elverket tillsammans med Bengt Larsson, Sigtuna och Dag Hackelsjö från Mantorp.



"INITIATIVE"

When they heard that they were coming to Cyprus Corporal Terry Maryan and Lance Corporal Howie Robinson decided to forego the luxuries of Air Support Command and to drive there in a car they were building.

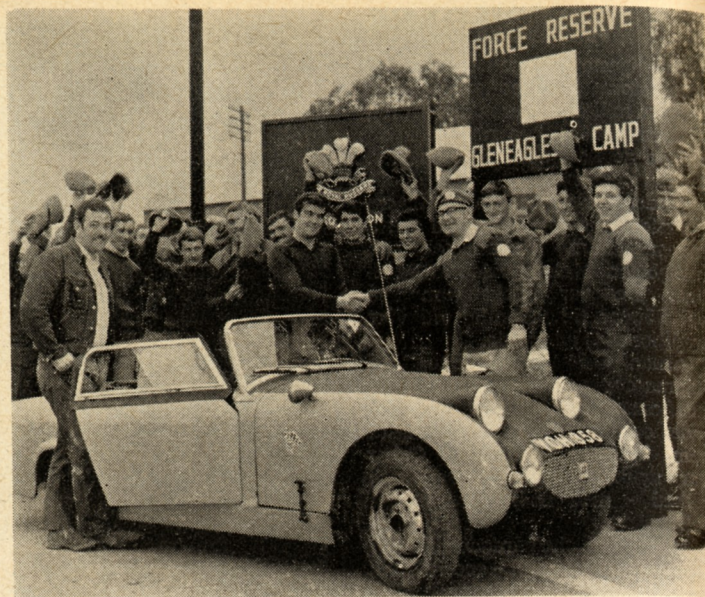
The car is basically an Austin Healey Sprite which they have completely rebuilt from spare parts.

As a tribute to their engineering skill the drive was comparatively uneventful. However, an oil leak in the Alps tested their ingenuity when four old tyres and a farm gate were used to prop the car up while the sump was removed.

The St. Gottard Pass defeated them 200 feet from the top because of snow. However, the drive down to Brindisi was uneventful.

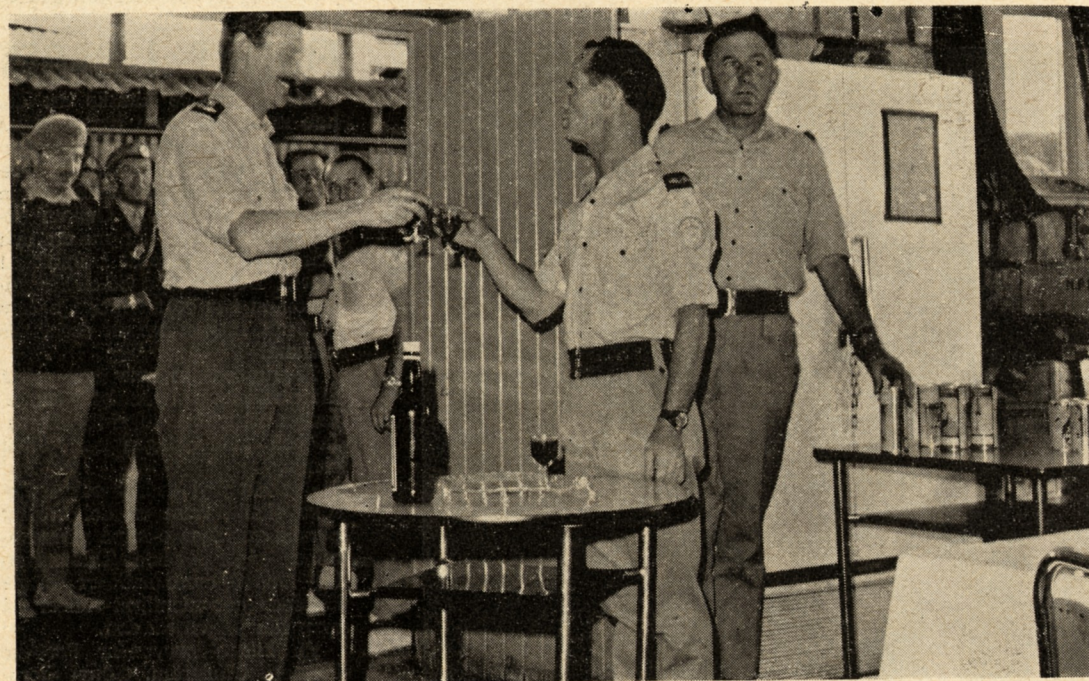
They arrived in Cyprus on December 13th the trip having taken 11 days and covering a total of nearly 2000 miles.

Now that the car is here they intend to make the best use of it and see as much of the island as possible.



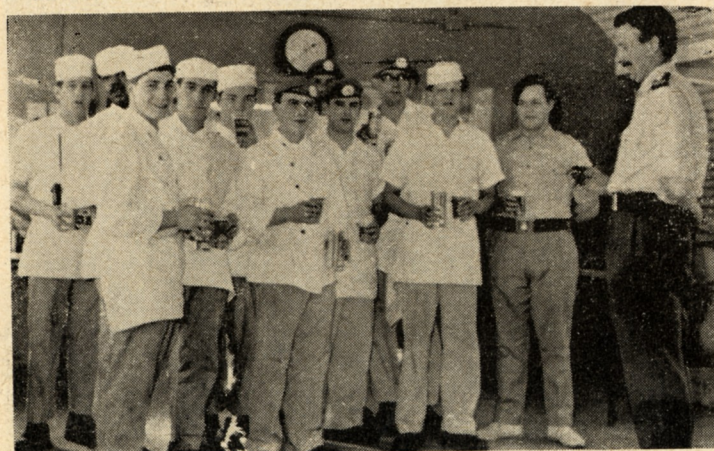
● Corporal Maryan and Lance Corporal Robinson being welcomed to Cyprus by Staff Sergeant Phippard.

CHRISTMAS "RANGERS STYLE"



● By "Regimental Custom", at Christmas the oldest soldier in the Battalion proposes a Christmas Toast before the Christmas dinner is served. Corporal Curlett is here seen proposing the toast to the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers, Lieutenant Colonel M.N.S. McCord, MC.

HERE'S TO YOUR FRYING PANS!!!



● The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers has a congratulatory drink with the battalion cooks after they had prepared the Christmas dinner.

JUST AS GOOD AS MUM'S !!!



● Ranger Asquith, a regimental cook with the Royal Irish Rangers, tests the readiness of a turkey before the Christmas dinner.

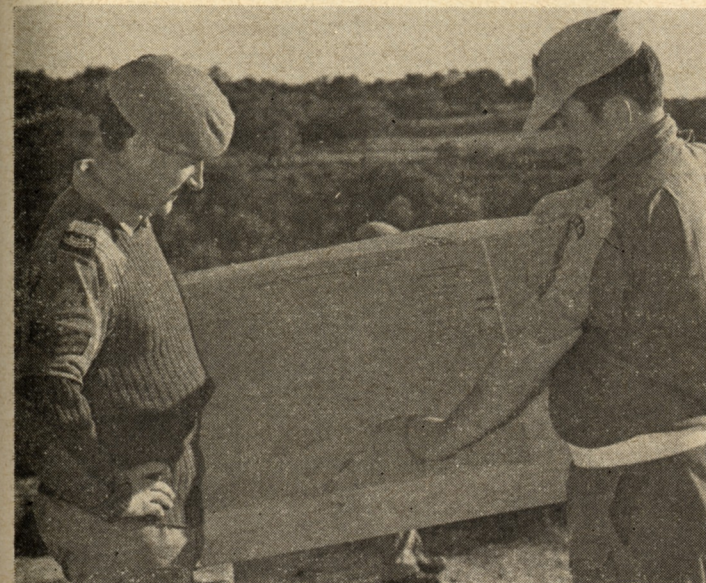
BIRTCO NEWS

WAITER THERE'S A... IN MY SOUP

● The Officers and Sergeants of 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers serving dinner to the men of the battalion on Christmas day at Polemidhia Camp.



POINTS TO NOTE...



On 8 March 1970 Corporal P. Walsh of Ircan had the honour of assuming command of OP Skarinou from 3 Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment. On 29 Dec 1971 he handed the care and custody of this OP

back to another Britcon Unit, namely, 1 Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers. The photograph shows incoming OP Commander Corporal J. O'Kelly (left) being orientated by Corporal P. Walsh atop Skarinou OP.

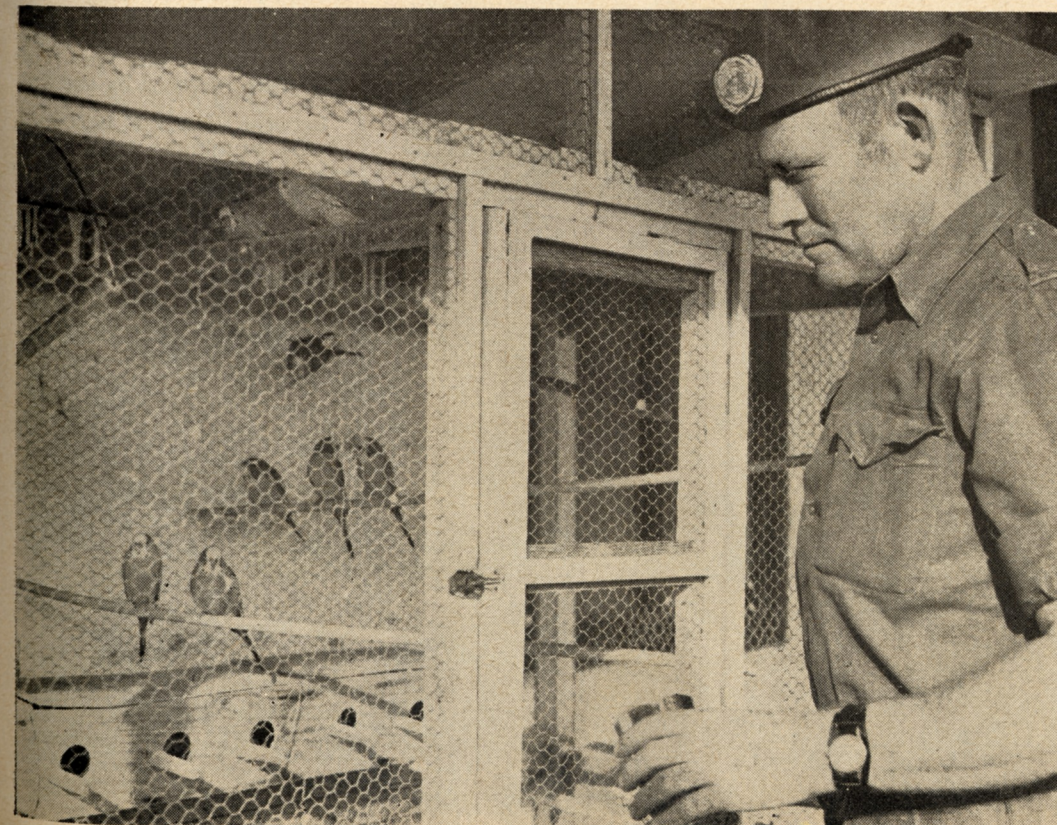
SAD FAREWELL

One man whom the birds will miss in Zyyi is Sergeant Sean McNamara; for along with his official appointment in the "Q" Platoon he is also in charge of the Camp's canaries. The birds, who number twelve in all, are the property of the NCO's mess and Sergeant McNamara is the man who supplies them with seed, greens and water; not to mention a freshly cleaned cage once or twice a week.

Sergeant McNamara is very experienced in this role for at home also he has quite an aviary; it includes canaries, linnets and goldfinch. He is one of the many bird fanciers to be seen at the Liberties bird market in Dublin each Sunday and no doubt he is looking forward to renewing acquaint-

anceship with his fellow bird fanciers shortly.

His main regret on leaving is that the mating season is now almost over and the young chicks are about to break forth into the World; he hopes they arrive before his departure and, indeed, so do we all.



"TRUMPETER WHAT ARE YOU SOUNDING NOW?"

No believer in an Officer's privacy is Private Robert Raymond of the unit's pipe band. His melodious bugle notes can be heard hanging in the air at the most inopportune times i.e. inopportune for the weary gentlemen of Zyyi trying to catch up on lost sleep. Private Raymond, an accomplished piper as well as a bugler, is sometimes relieved by Company Sergeant O'Connor who himself is well able to master all the bugle calls, but generally it is Private Raymond who is the man whose "trumpet goes a 'speaking' in Zyyi Camp.

IRCON NEWS



THE ROYAL 22nd REGIMENT

The 2nd Battalion of one of Canada's most famous regiments, the Royal 22s or as they are more popularly called, the "Van Doos", is presently the Canadian battalion here in Cyprus. Seven years ago the 1st Battalion of the Regiment was the first group of Canadian soldiers to arrive on the then strife torn island.

The "Van Doos" were formed in 1914 when authorization was given from the Canadian Prime Minister to build a force entirely of French speaking Canadians. Up until this time French Canadians who joined the forces were intergrated into English speaking units.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Gaudet became the first Commanding Officer and in 1915 took 1.250 officers and men to war.

Their first assignment made them real veterans as they fought in the battle at Ypres. In 1916 they left there for more bloody fighting at the Somme and Courcellette.

After this came Vimy, Lens and Hill 70, Passchendaele, Maricourt, Amiens, the Hindenburg Line, Cherisy and finally Cambrai and victory. It was at Cherisy that the 22e broke the defences of the Hindenburg Line.

The war took a great toll of the regiment. In August 1918 there were only 39 men left commanded by a Sergeant



Major. Every officer was either killed or wounded and of 700 men there remained 40.

The regiment was reformed in time for the final breakthrough of the Hindenburg Line and in Christmas 1918 occupied the Rhineland.

Demobilized in 1919 the 22e came back in 1920 to be elevated to the status of Regiment and became part of the order of battle of the Canadian Per-

CANCON NEWS

Canadian Forces Photos

manent Force. Their home was the Citadel of Quebec and Field Marshall Foch their Honorary Colonel. In 1921 His Majesty King George V bestowed the title "Royal" on the regiment.

The years between wars were uneventful but in 1939 when war broke out the Royal 22e were again en route to England where they began training for that country's defence. They trained for three years until finally committed to action in July 1943 at Sicily.

After Sicily came Reggio, Gambatesa, Ortona, Casa Berardi and others in the Italian peninsula.

They then joined the 1st Canadian Army in North West Europe and fought in the

● The "Van Doos" don't often have sunny climates such as Cyprus for their operations. Here they exercise in a few feet of snow in Valcartier, Quebec.

liberation of Holland.

At the close of the war in Europe a second battalion was formed for operation in the Pacific but Japan's surrender led to its demobilization. The regiment came back to Canada in September 1945.

In 1950 war broke out in Korea and a 2nd and 3rd battalion were raised with the 2nd being sent to Korea in 1951. The 1st battalion replaced the 2nd in 1951 and one year later they were replaced by the 3rd.

Between 1953 and 1959 each of the battalions spent two years in Germany with the NATO Brigade.

In 1964 when trouble broke out in Cyprus the 1st Battalion was sent and by 1969 all three battalions had completed a tour of duty on the island.

The regiment's motto "Je me souviens" means "I remember". Its nick-name is "Van Doos" and the mascot, a goat.

The present Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Colonel G. H. J. Lessard.

● From the snows of Valcartier to the jungles of Jamaica. The Regiment goes through its exercises to maintain its operational readiness.



PATALJOONAMME JOULUNVIETTO



"Paavo saarnaa, pirtti roikaa, hän on talon aika poika."

Joulukirkkoja oli oman pataljoonan puitteissa kaksi ja kolmas vietettiin kaikkien kontingenttien yhteisenä joulujuhlana Dhekeliasa. Kapteeni Timo Ylöstalo luki siellä jouluevankeliumin, kaikki suomalaisen kontingentin edustajat lauloivat yhdessä suomalaisen joululaulun "En etsi valtaa loistoa". Juhlan päätteeksi kontingenttien pastorit lukivat siunauksen kukin omalla äidinkielellään.

Kaikissa yksiköissä katettiin jouluuutena juhlliset joulupöydät koristeltuihin ruokaloihin. Jouluevankeliumin ja rukouksen jälkeen nautittiin jouluateria suomalaisten joululaulujen säestyksellä. Yksinäisiä vartiopaikkojakaan ei unohdettu jouluna. Komentaja ja pastori vierailivat kaikilla vartiopaikoilla talousupseerin huolehtimissa joulupukin tehtävistä.

Paikallisen radioaseman kautta kuultiin kolmena iltana suomalaista ohjelmaa. Suomen puolustusministeri, puolustusvoimien komentaja ja pataljoonamme komen-

Pataljoonamme jouluun pyrittiin saamaan mahdollisimman paljon suomalaisen joulun tuntua. Oli joulukirkko, jouluruoat, joulukuuset ja saatiinpa vielä aivan uusi saunakin Kykkoon.

FINCON NEWS



"Puuseppää aina tarvitaan...."



"Herkkua on siinä monen laista, kuiske kuuluu miltä ruoka maistaa..."



"Olen pienestä pojasta osannut lyödä vasaralla nauvoja..."

taja esittivät radiossa joulu- ja uudenvuodentervehdyksensä.

Aivan yllättäen saatiin Kykkos-sa kutsu uuteen saunaan. Pitkään

on sauna ollutkin tekeillä, mutta viivytyksellä ei ole johtunut rakentajain huolimattomuudesta vaan määrärahojen viivästyttämisestä. Hyvältä löyly tuntui tilavassa ja ilmastossa ulkoapäin lämmitettävässä saunassa. Pesuhuone on tilava ja suihkuja on tarpeeksi. Runsaasteista pian saatavine avotakkoineen on näin kylmänäkin aikana mukava toutumishuone. Saunoijat ilmaisivat tyytyväisyytensä ja kiitoksensa pataljoonamme rakentajille.

Pastorin virkistysmatkat

Pastorin virkistysmatkoille lähdetään Kykkosta sunnuntaisin klo 10. Tammikuussa suoritetaan matkat seuraavan ohjelman mukaan:

Sunnuntaina tammikuun 9 päivänä lähdetään Kyproksen luoteisosaan Cape Kormakitin niemelle. Paluu tapahtuu Kyrenien kaupungin kautta.

Sunnuntaina tammikuun 16 päivänä mennään etelässä sijaitseville Kolossi ja Curium nimisille historiallisille paikoille.

Sunnuntaina 23 päivänä ajetaan Xeroksen kautta kalanviljelyalueille.

Sunnuntaina 30 päivänä tutustutaan Nikosian museoon ja kahteen pääkaupunkin suurimpaan kirkkoon.

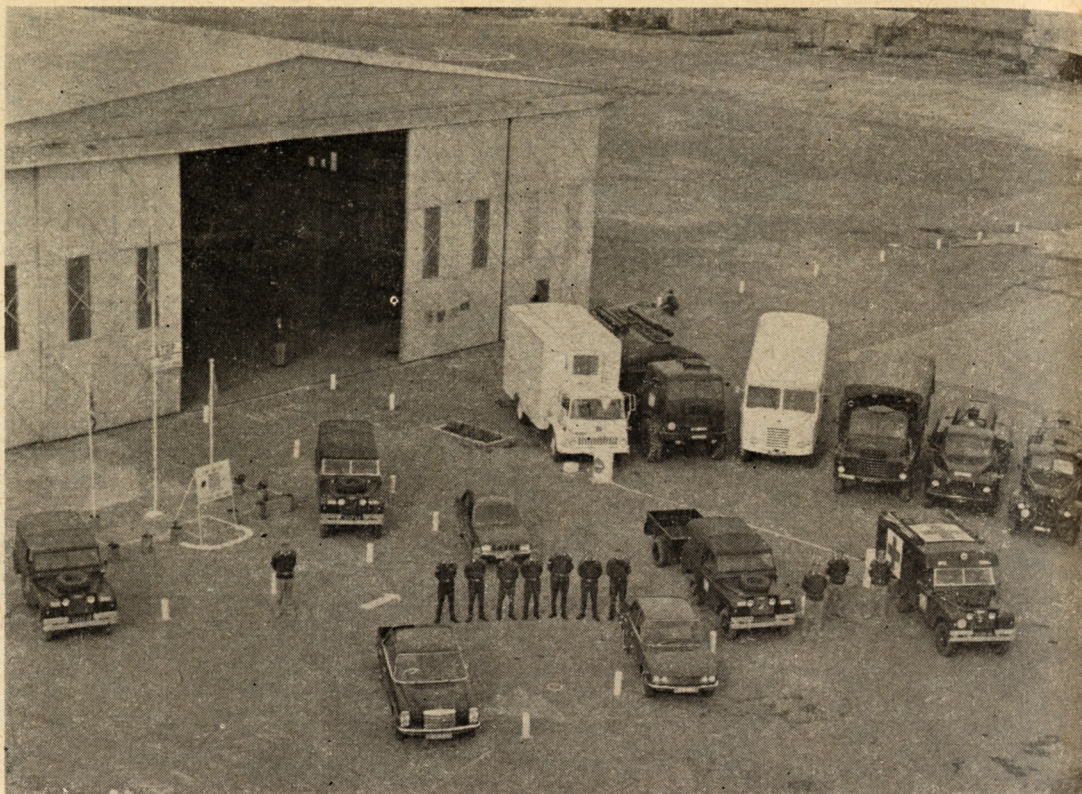
Talvisaikaan teemme matkoja vain tasaisille maisemille, sillä vuoristotiet ovat liukkaita. Tervetuloa mukaan näille virkistys- ja opintomatkalle.

SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS?

After six glorious sun-soaked months, 8 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport is going back to its ancestral home in Longmoor, Hampshire, England. The squadron has made its mark on the island both in work and play.

In keeping with the squadron's policy of staying in the eye of the public, the photograph (right) was taken of a representative selection of the various vehicles driven by them. In creations such as these they have managed to drive almost one million miles during their sojourn here — a feat that is not only laudable but barely credible.

Now, with only some 8 days left, they are eagerly awaiting the main body of 7 Squadron RCT, commanded by Major T. Allum, the advance party having already arrived.



● Daily routine for members of 8 Squadron RCT!

● Ready to go! — Four different vehicles ready for details.



● Outgoing Force Photographer Sergeant Paul Cooper checks the inventory list of darkroom equipment as he hands over to Sergeant Frank Osgood whose first task was to produce the Christmas front page picture.



MP NOTEBOOK

ACCIDENTS — UNFICYP

Week Ending		
30 Dec 71	—	5
Same Period		
Last Year	—	3
Total This Year	—	323
Same Period		
Last Year	—	351

Main Cause Of Accidents This Week:

DRIVING WITHOUT DUE CARE AND CAUTION