

THE BLUE BERET



DECEMBER 1989



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE FORCE COMMANDER

Christmas, the season of fellowship and goodwill, the time of sharing and caring, is upon us once more, and all of us will realize that as we celebrate the birth of Christ we do so with our families and friends whenever possible. Here in UNFICYP, however, many of us will be unable to celebrate Christmas in the traditional way. It is a sacrifice we must all make

but in the knowledge that it is for a most worthwhile cause - that of peace. As such your contribution is invaluable, recognized and appreciated. I commend all of you for your dedication and perseverance, your patience and good humour, and I wish all of you a happy and safe Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Major General C. Milner



TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

In spite of many previous warnings and despite preventative measures by contingents, the number of road traffic accidents continues to grow. In October, UNFICYP personnel were involved in 35 traffic accidents, the highest figure in three and a half years.

The festive season is a time when particular care is needed while driving. Don't spoil your holiday or someone else's. Exercise greater caution and more restraint than ever.

The Force Commander recently

expressed a wish for an accident free week. Why not start now? Give the Force Commander a very special Christmas present from everyone - make Christmas week accident free.



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P.O.Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: Nicosia 359000, Ext. 2235

Editorial Staff

Editor

Commandant Padraig Murphy

Editorial Assistant

Mrs Angela Smith

Secretary

Mrs Mary Anderson

Photography

Force Photographer

SSgt Ken Webster

and

contingent photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1	Maj Helveg-Larsen
Sector 2	Lt R Crittall
Sector 3	Capt C Hand
Sector 4	Lt C Alge
Sp Regt	Maj P Townsend MBE
FSC Sqn	Capt P Scott-Masson
MP Coy	CCWO L Clifton
AustCivPol	Supt J Roche
SwedCivPol	Ch Insp T Gustavsson

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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Responsible for printing
Dinos A. Zavallis

Front cover

Danish soldier observes from OP DII - the highest point in the Buffer Zone.

by SSgt K Webster

Back Cover

The winning entry to this year's UNFICYP Christmas Card competition by Angela Smith and SSgt Ken Webster.

Editorial

This the Christmas edition, marks a change of editor at the Blue Beret. Comdt Pat Nash has departed for home and Comdt Padraig Murphy assumes the editorship. As editor I hope to continue the harmonious relationship which has existed between the magazine and you the readers. It is perhaps appropriate that Christmas, the time of giving and New Year the time of fresh resolve coincide. The continuing success of the magazine depends entirely on your written and pictorial contributions. Why not make the support of the Blue Beret, UNFICYP's own house magazine, your New Year resolution.

I also wish to pay tribute to my predecessor Comdt Pat Nash. The panache and enthusiasm with which he guided the Blue Beret will make him a difficult act to follow. We wish Pat, his wife Deirdre and family Bon Voyage.

It remains for me on behalf of all The Blue Beret staff to wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

We wish to thank MCpl Doary of Sector 3 for producing an excellent front cover last month.

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AUSCON MEDAL PARADE

The Austrian Medal Parade, held on the Austrian National Day - the 26th October started with worries about the weather. An Austrian proverb says 'Luck is with the competent' and fortunately that is just what happened. The sun broke through as the Battalion marched to the beat of the drums towards the parade ground in Camp Duke Leopold.



The men were presented with their medals by the Force Commander, Major General Milner and the Contingent Commander Colonel Fritsch.

Around 200 guests didn't regret their coming when they saw the smart and proud soldiers - their eyes and heads facing right in the correct manner.

One man - WOI Gruber was far more familiar with the honour as he was presented with his 24th numeral marking 12 year's service with UNFICYP.

We would like to extend our thanks to the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment for providing an excellent musical programme.

At the reception that followed Lt Col Dallinger the CO of the Austrian Battalion, thanked the guests for attending and thus contributing to a great day for all members of the Battalion.

UN MP COY MEDAL PARADE



On 17 Oct 89, 35 members of the UN MP Coy paraded before the Deputy Chief of Staff, Col F. Fritsch, to be presented their UN medals and/or numbers. The UN MP Coy is

unique within the UN as the Coy is made up of all seven contingents.

A reception for the 200 plus guests was held after the parade in the MP Lounge.

The MP coy wish to take this opportunity to thank the Pipes and Drums of the 4 RTR under the direction of Drum Major McSweeney, for a fine performance.

VICTORY FOR SP REGT AT UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

PHOTOS BY MCPL DOARY



Standing: Capt Giles (Team Captain), Sig Burdus. Kneeling: Sgt Wilkinson, Cpl Thompson and Cpl Barney.

Seventeen teams from all Sectors, UN MP Coy and FSC Sqn battled it out in the very demanding Military Skills Competition on 19th October. A 10km forced march at a cracking pace of under 54 minutes, followed by a shoot at 100m started the day. After a short break teams were subjected to



a recognition test, a map reading exercise and a grenade throwing practice. The final event, which would dictate the overall placings, was a most gruelling team test requiring stamina and technique. The Force Commander congratulated all the participants on their guts and determination to succeed.

RESULTS:

- 1st Sp Regt team A
- 2nd Sect 1 team A
- 3rd Sect 3 team C

SWEDISH UPDATE

The new Commander of SWEDCIVPOL and SWEDCON is Ch Supt Håkan Thelin. He took over from Ch Supt Lennart Petersson when SWEDCIVPOL rotated on 17th October.



Maj Bergstrom

Ch Supt Thelin was born in 1943 and joined the Swedish Police Force in 1971 after studying at University. In Sweden he serves as DCOMD at Norrkoping District Police - the town where he was born. He has been a teacher at the Police High School in Stockholm and was commissioned at the Ministry of Justice. He has served as an officer in the Swedish Army Reserve and in Cyprus in 1962 as the Ops Info Officer at SWEDCON.

He is interested in sport and has been an excellent handball player. He is Secretary for the European Police Sport Federation and since 1986 Assistant General Secretary for the European Police Sport Feder-



Ch Supt Thelin.

ation. Through this, he has been in contact with many policemen from different countries.

Ch Supt Thelin is looking forward to his new responsibilities in Cyprus.

As Ch Supt Håkan Thelin took over command, SWEDCIVPOL was increased by three men and now consists of eighteen policemen.

Major Mats Bergstrom took over as DCOMD of SWEDCON from Maj Goran Bengtsson, who left the island in September. Maj Bergstrom works in the Humanitarian Branch at HQ UNFICYP and will stay there for one year.

In Sweden he is in the Army and serves with the 13th Infantry Regiment also known as the Dalecarlian Regiment in Falan. This will be Maj Bergstrom's 3rd UNFICYP tour having served here in 1966 and 1981.

Lt Lars Holm joined us in October as Admin Officer and will be looking after all administrative and financial matters for the contingent. He is stati-

oned at Camp Flamingo with the majority of other members of the Swedish Contingent. Lt Holm has had previous experience of UN service in both Cyprus and Lebanon. He comes to us from UNIFIL where he worked in Force Movement Control.

With its 26 men SWEDCON is now the biggest of the small contingents within UNFICYP.



Lt Holm



UN MP COY HOLDS MEMORIAL SERVICE

On 24 September 1967 Cpl Kenneth A. Salmon, Canadian and member of the UN MP Coy died of natural causes. As was the custom of the day, Cpl Salmon was buried at the Dhekelia Military cemetery. On 20 October 1989 the UN MP Coy paid their respects to Cpl Salmon by holding a memorial service in his honour. Present

for the wreath laying was Maj G. Nault, FPM, representing the UN MP Coy, Capt K.O. Bendixen representing the six other contingents of the UN MP Coy and CWO D. Nolan, Canadian Military Police Branch Chief Warrant Officer, representing the Canadian Military Police Branch.

AN AUSTRIAN CHRISTMAS TALE



One Christmas in the village of Lochtau on the shore of Lake Constance in Austria, there lived a fisherman's son named Christian.

Christmas was fast approaching and Christian's parents asked him to write a list to the Christmas Child of all the things he would like for Christmas to put under his pillow on Christmas Eve.

Christian was very curious. He wanted to know just who this Christmas Child really was and became determined that this Christmas he would see him

with his own eyes. He began to think of ways that he could achieve this.

Christian had often watched his father lay out his fishing hooks in the evenings and he noticed that by the next morning there were always many fish and eels caught in the hooks. An idea came to him.

The night before Christmas he stole one of his father's fishing hooks, attached his list to the Christmas Child and put it under his pillow.

When he woke up the next morning to his surprise and



great dismay he did not find the Christmas Child. Instead he found the fish hook which was blood stained and attached to it there was a note. It read: 'You are such a naughty boy, you deserve to be spanked but I am the Christmas Child so to punish you I have decided not to leave any presents this Christmas'.

The moral of this story is:

'Don't search for something mythical. It is the belief that will make you happy - not the knowledge!'.

A GREEN (LINE) CHRISTMAS

The sun, always the sun, beat down continuously as the soldier shifted from foot to foot inside the cramped OP. Nothing stirred, not even a BZT, on this the day before Christmas. Cyprus retained its Mediterranean beauty but the Canuck pined for the blinding white brilliance of a Canadian Christmas.

Unconsciously humming a fragment of "Jingle Bells" the soldier observed a bunker and was startled by strong memories of snow forts and sleigh rides. Ever vigilant, he allowed a fraction of his thoughts to ponder past Christmases in Canada.

The soldier was fortunate he reflected. Canada, vast and diverse, had a variety of Christmases to offer and he had been a part of many. As such, he didn't feel too upset that he would experience a new and different Christmas. Besides, he chuckled to himself, HE was hardcores!

Despite being fortified by the thought that he was going to be a part of a singular season to remember, (and that an officer would be doing his shift tomor-



Pte Brent Crellin, at OP CS 52 gave the first AIR Rep on Christmas Eve. (photo by MCpl Doary)

row!) he still missed the crunch of snow underfoot, the patter of crystal flakes on window panes and the sight and smell of a traditional family dinner. Eggnog, carolling and candle lit services, all flashed through his mind as yet another radio check broke the air.

Tomorrow, despite everything, was Christmas! He had

realized that the celebration of Christmas was not dependent on location - it revolved around the spirit of PEACE and GOODWILL. He, through his goodwill, provided the peace and many were the better for it.

MERRY CHRISTMAS UNITED NATIONS FROM ALL CANADIANS IN CYPRUS AND IN CANADA!



MERRY CHRISTMAS ACROSS THE MILES

The establishment of three new United Nations peace-keeping missions during 1988, in Iran-Iraq, Namibia and Angola, has put the UN Secretariat under heavy pressure in respect of staffing. Civilian staff have had to be detailed to help these new missions build up their administrative support services, often from scratch and under difficult conditions.

It is in such circumstances that the UN is lucky in having as part of its secretariat, a special corps of mobile field personnel, known as the Field Service. This particular category of staff was created in 1950 following a decision by the UN

General Assembly authorizing the Secretary-General to establish a UN Field Service to provide certain technical services to field missions. The services provided fall within the fields of security, transport, communications and administration. Field Service staff must be highly mobile and ready to move to other missions at very short notice.

As UNFICYP's Field Service staff is an experienced group, with years of service in other peace-keeping missions behind them, it was natural that UN Headquarters turned to them for assistance in building up the services in the new



The Skold family



The Seconde family

missions in Africa and in the Gulf area last year. Nine Field Service Staff members have therefore been called away from UNFICYP for this purpose.

They are:

Victoria Barbado, Dominador Bermejo, Edilberto Chiong,	PA to the SRSG, Radio Officer, CCO,	to Namibia to Iran-Iraq to Angola and later to Centl. Amer. countries
Pablo Cornejo, Carlos Orozco, Nabor Riquelme,	Radio Technician, Radio Officer, Radio Technician,	to Namibia to Angola to Namibia, and later to Nicaragua
Elias Seconde, Lars Skold, Berndt Wikstrom,	Radio Supervisor, Accomm. Officer, Registry Officer,	to Iran-Iraq to Namibia to Iran-Iraq and later to Namibia



The Wikstrom family



The Orozco family



The Cornejo family

These new missions are not considered as family missions, and all of the out-posted UNFICYP staff members have therefore been obliged to leave their families behind in Nicosia. A few families may be able to go out and visit their fathers briefly at their duty stations during the Christmas Holidays. Other are expected to come home for a few days. But some of the families will have to spend Christmas and New Year without the father at home. In this festive season our thoughts and best wishes go to them and their absent dear ones.



The Riquelme family

NEWS FROM SCOUT CAR SQUADRON

With the end of our tour approaching, life seems to be ever more busy. We have had our Balaklava celebrations, the UNFICYP Military Skills and Shooting competitions.

Balaklava celebrations were 'low key' this year. The inter-troop football competition was won by 2nd Troop and an inter-troop volleyball competition was won by 1st Troop.

The highlight of the celebrations was undoubtedly the Sergeant's Mess Ball to which 120 people attended. We were very privileged to have Major General Milner as our guest of honour.

Our Military Skills and Shooting teams both performed admirably particularly bearing in mind the size of the Force Scout



Maj Gen Milner at the WO and Sgt's Mess Balaklava Ball.



Car Squadron compared to other units. In particular the team in the 'Falling Plate' shooting team did extremely well to reach the semi-finals of the competition.

C Squadron 9th/12th Royal Lancers (PWO) have now completed a very successful recce and we look forward to seeing their pre advance party on 14th December.

Christmas is now fast approaching and our thoughts go back to England to our families and friends.



Tpr's Hoyland and Haliwell at the UNFICYP Mil Skills.

In England it is traditional to have a large lunch on Christmas Day (25th December) of roast turkey and Christmas pudding with all the family. In the Regiment, prior to Christmas leave, the soldiers are served a Christmas lunch in the cookhouse waited on by the officers and senior ranks. The officers and senior ranks are then invited to the Officer's Mess for drinks which often go on long into the afternoon!

The Force Scout Car Squadron would like to wish all members of UNFICYP a very Merry Christmas.



Sgt Bill Rawlinson (Auctioneer), PMC Keith (Pincher) Martin and Sgt Jeff East (Auctioneer).



People anxiously awaiting the draw of the Melbourne Cup.

AUSTCIVPOL NEWS

On no he's not still here. Well no he's not he's gone but because of deadlines etc he had to write for the Christmas edition of the Blue Beret. Last Christmas I wrote about Christmas in Australia and this Christmas I shall be there nine hours before the majority of UNFICYP are awake partaking in the chicken and champagne on Manly beach. My thoughts will stray to last year's Christmas day when it was bleak and cold with the snow capped Troodos Mountains observed when I traversed the short distance between our Winter Bar and the kitchen either to collect another dish of the traditional Christmas fare or to return some used dishes. This year I will be thinking of all my friends in UNFICYP and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a

happy and prosperous New Year.

My successor is Superintendent John Cooper an Englishman who had the exquisite taste to become an Australian citizen years ago. Welcome John and your wife and family. I do hope your two year posting will be a highlight in your career. I have certainly enjoyed it and there is no reason why you shouldn't enjoy it more because of your comprehension of the official language in UNFICYP.

This year's Melbourne Cup was won by Tawriffic. The Scottish Mafia Syndicate! (Members of 4RTR and friends) won a total of £600 between them.

I reflect upon last year's Melbourne Cup which was won by Empire Rose. The celebra-

tions of Australia Day followed the calm of Christmas and then the thrills provided by the Henley-on-Pedhieos Boat Race.

I also reflect upon the Dancon Marches, the Rugby Union final, the cricket matches, the friendly village of Kokkino Trimithia, the happy hour at the Australian Mess every Saturday evening and the friends I've made and the sadness when they leave the island to a posting elsewhere.

For 25 years now UNFICYP has been in existence and even though some progress has been made hopefully a solution is not far away - one must always have a positive attitude. I would like before I die to return one day to a united Cyprus and feel that in my own small way that I had contributed to such an achievement.



The Raghead Syndicate! at the Melbourne cup.



Dwr Rogers receiving the keys to the first Pajero in AUSTCIVPOL from Maj McGhie.

SUCCESS FOR SECTOR 4 IN UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION



Lt Scharinger (front row, third from left) with the winning Austrian team.



HQ UNFICYP winners of the Team Pistol.

"Load...Ready?... Anyone not Ready?...Fire".

The voice of Lt Scharinger even reached Camp Duke Leopold, all the way from the Training Area for the UNFICYP Shooting Competition - three kilometres away.

The three Austrian teams were worked so hard that the soldiers could oil their weapons with the drops of their sweat!



RESULTS:

OVERALL:

- 1st Sector 4
- 2nd Sector 1
- 3rd Sector 3



TEAM PISTOL:

- 1st HQ UNFICYP
- 2nd Sector 1
- 3rd MP Coy



Support Regiment were the winners of the Falling Plate Competition.

TEAM RIFLE:

- 1st Sector 4
- 2nd Sp Regt
- 3rd Sector 3

Best Individual Shot Rifle:
Maj Peck (Sp Regt)

Best Individual Shot Pistol:
Sgt Proksik (Sect 4)



BAMA RALLY-EXERCISE TRACKMASTER 1989



The Tpt Sqn team.

Support Regiment convincingly won the 1989 British Army Motoring Association rally, Exercise Trackmaster held on 27 and 28 October 1989 in the Troodos mountains. Maj Collinson and LCpl McTeggart were the overall winners of the rally and the team from the Transport Squadron took the first team prize. Lt Booth and Cpl Kemp crewed the second vehicle. The Support Regiment entered five vehicles into the rally. Two

vehicles were from the Transport Squadron, two from the UN Flight and one vehicle from the RE Yard. The two vehicles from UN Flight entered as a team and won the award of second team. The UN crews achieved excellent results in this prestigious BAMA event.

There was a large field of 38 entrants for the event. The rally started in Bloodhound Camp west of Episkopi and quickly wound its way up into the



The UN Flt team.

CHANGE OF COMMAND IN SECTOR FOUR



Lt Col Dallinger

The Commanding Officer of the Austrian Battalion in Sector 4, Lt Col Dallinger left the island on the 30th November. He has been the longest serving CO for Sector 4 since 1973.



Deas (Tpt Sqn).

We wish Lt Col Dallinger all the best as he rejoins his unit in Austria as the Deputy Commander to the HOUS, the Austrian SNCO's training centre, and we welcome Lt Col Pacher-Theinburg who now assumes command of Sector 4.



Giles (Sig Sqn).

AGONY!

Members of the Support Regiment winning team during training for the UNFICYP Military Skills Competition.

SWEDISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

An old Swedish tradition celebrated every year on 13th December is called 'Lucia' or 'Lucia Day' - the Queen of Light which must have a lot to do with the long and dark Nordic winters. Usually Lucia is represented by a young, nice looking woman or girl with long blonde hair, wearing a long white dress carrying burning candles in a chaplet on her head. The celebration also consists of Lucia's maids and Star Boys' who are dressed in long white shirts and

pointed caps. Lucia, the maids and Star Boys sing Christmas carols carrying burning candles in their hands.

The problem for SWEDCON this year will be to find a nice looking girl with long blonde hair amongst our policemen and soldiers!

In Sweden, Christmas Eve is the day when families gather at home to celebrate Christmas. It's the day when Tomten (Santa Claus) arrives with gifts and people eat typical Swedish

Christmas food, Julskinka (Christmas Ham) prepared in a special way, different kinds of pickled herrings, sausages, bread and other delicacies from the Swedish 'Smorgasbord' all washed down with the famous Swedish schnapps.

At SWEDCON, UNFICYP, there is also an old tradition of jumping into the sea on Christmas Eve to gain membership to the 'Polar Bear Swimming Club'.

NEW CCWO FOR UN MP COY

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Lemieux left replaced Chief Warrant Officer Clifton as CCWO of UN MP Coy on 3rd Nov 1989.

CWO Lemieux from CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, is serving in his 30th year with the Canadian Forces, as a member of the Canadian Forces, as a member of the Canadian Pro-

vost Corps and as a Military policeman since integration.

He is no stranger to the Island having served a previous tour in UN MP Coy in 1972-1973. The "RSM" as he likes to be called is looking forward to his tour and working with the members of the other contingents.



The officers of Support Regiment



CHRISTMAS IN DENMARK

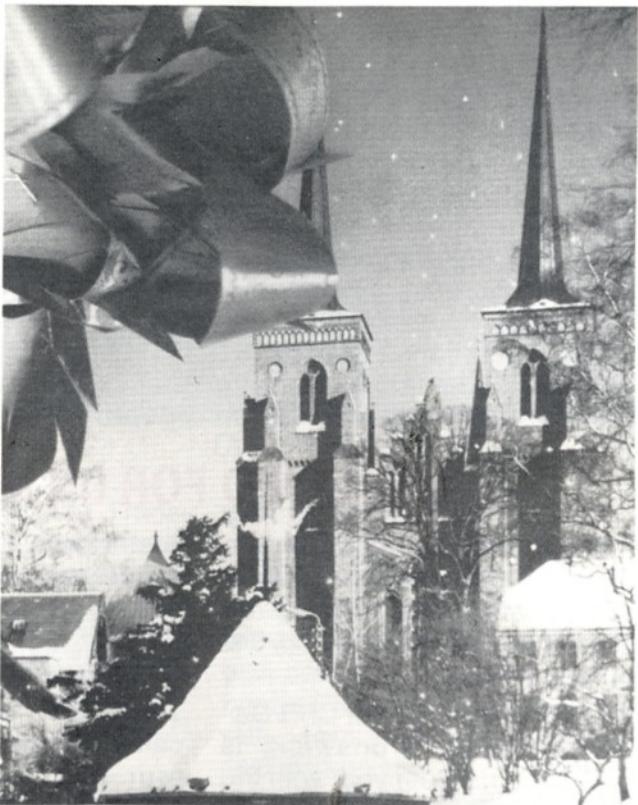
In the Danish Christmas paganism and Christianity are woven together in such a way that it is difficult to see where one begins and one ends.

The Danish word for Christmas is 'Jul' an old Nordic word which has an affinity with the word 'hjul' meaning wheel - a circular and repeated understanding of time.

Christmas and the winter solstice are one and the same - and here the new year begins. In the 15th Century when the Julian calendar was still in use, there was a complete identity between solstice, Christmas and the New Year - a secular new year where the 1st of January did not exist. On the last day of the year - which is now our Christmas Eve - it was common practice that the house lord summoned his household and let the 'Skol' (bowl) full of beer or mead to pass from his hand wishing "Christ's and the New Year's Skol" to each person who in turn took a sip from the bowl. To propose a 'Skol' originally meant to spend a round.

New Year's Eve (Christmas Eve) was celebrated in candle lit churches all over Denmark throughout the night with the community singing popular Lutheran songs. At dawn people went home to breakfast and to prepare for the real Christmas.

Christmas (Jul) was, and is, up to this day the real Christian (Pagan) festival in Denmark. It is full of blessing, and everyone has a strong and living feeling of divine presence. It is customary for every house to make a bed for the guest from heaven and all his angels. The table is laid for dinner with the best the house can offer visitors (Christ as well as other guests). You then participate in the divine blessing and you give your blessings in the form of hospitality



and gifts in return because of the gospel message: "For unto us a Saviour is born", a Saviour who brings us up from an era of sin, darkness and death, to an era of grace, light and eternal life.

The gospel remains the same today, but it seems as if Christmas has lost some of its significance and meaning through commercialism and secularisation. In spite of this - or maybe because of this - the Danes offer enormous attention to the customs and rites in 'sweet Christmas time' and 'Julens' (carols), hymns and songs will always have room in the hearts of Danes.

SIX MONTHS LATER

As long as the Cyprus problem exists so the UN continue striving to solve it using good organisation, friendship and diplomacy. Danish Vikings, Scottish clansmen, Canadians and Austrians each with proud histories and deep pride in their forces rise to the challenge.

The art of peacekeeping can be difficult and is not something that is taught in military academies or parade grounds. Suppressing hard learned military skills and adopting the role of

diplomat and mediator has not been easy but six months in UNFICYP has allowed us to master with success this new role.

Within 4 RTR we believe we have done our job well using the limited resources at our disposal. We have completed our mission and can justifiably and proudly claim a new qualification - that of Peacekeeper.

We will depart soon but UNFICYP carries on. We welcome our successors - 2 Field Reg-



United Nations soldier using skill and patience.

Good luck in all that you do.



the Canadian Christmas



KEY:

1. **A REAL CANADIAN PINE OR FIR TREE.** Preferably freshly cut. Artificial trees are for Europeans. The tree is always decorated, usually surmounted with a star or angel. Trimmings consists of either candles or lights, glass bulbs, popcorn strings and angel hair, or tinsel. Decorating the tree once selected, is a family ritual.
2. **SNOW.** No Canadian Christmas is complete without a fresh layer of sparkling, white, crisp snow. The deeper the better, 2-4 feet is good. Unless you're from New Brunswick where 2-4 meters is normal.
3. **PRESENTS** must be wrapped and placed under the tree. The opening of Christmas gifts may take place anytime from Christmas Eve till late Christ-
4. **THE FEAST (OR FEASTS).** Christmas dinners are very important affairs and are usually numerous. They often include turkey, goose or ham. Tortiere if you are French Canadian, perogies if you are Ukrainian
5. **THE PAPER SNOWFLAKE** that the kids made in school is given a place of prominence.
6. **A REAL LOG FIRE.** Canadian hardwoods like Maple or Oak are best, sometimes cut from your own wood lot.
7. **STOCKINGS.** Hung by the chimney with care.
8. **PICTURE OF DAD IN CYPRUS** — so that we don't forget him.
9. **MISTLETOE.** (Unfortunately this is a wasted gesture since everyone we want to kiss is in Cyprus).



I told them! But they said NO ONE gets into the BZ without a pass!

Canadian, fresh pies, cakes and pastries, Christmas Pudding and of course Egg Nog or Moose Milk. Mulled wine is a must, especially after a day skiing or tobogganing.

5. **THE PAPER SNOWFLAKE** that the kids made in school is given a place of prominence.

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