

THE BLUE BERET



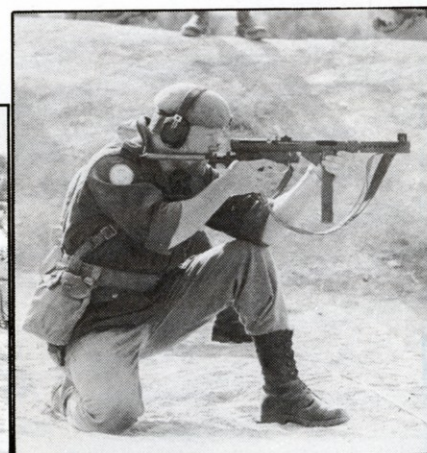
FEBRUARY 1987



SHOOTING



COMPETITION



RESULTS OF THE SHOOTING COMPETITION

RIFLE TEAM	- SECTOR 5	Sgt Karlsson Sgt Johansson Pte Palmblad Pte Johansson	FALLING PLATE	- SECTOR 4	Capt Thorsowem Sgt St-Pierre Cpl Robinson Tpr Burgis
SMG TEAM	- Sp Regt	Lt Pomeroy 2/Lt Hardy S/Sgt Buckley L/Cpl Banner	INDIVIDUALS		
PISTOL TEAM	- FINCON	Capt Kiiski Capt Juslin Capt Kangasmaki S/Sgt Laaksonen			
			RIFLE	- SECTOR 5	Sgt Karlsson
			SMG	- SECTOR 2	Sgt Holmes
			PISTOL	- SWEDCIVPOL	Insp Hansson
			OVERALL WINNERS	- SECTOR 1	

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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
Mine Blowing
in DANCON
By: Sgt A Beaton

THE
BLUE BERET

Editorial

You may have noticed that we have departed from our usual lay-out of this magazine whereby we devoted entire pages to each contingent and are printing small, short stories: some humorous some just news worthy. We hope thereby to encourage some of you to contribute your own experiences and stories you have gathered here in Cyprus, or indeed in your own home countries to the Blue Beret. The message is therefore: if you have a story to tell write it down and send it to us, we would like to hear from you.

Many of you may have been skiing recently. But for those of you who are yet to go I can only say that the snow is holding well and if you can avoid Sundays the lift queues are not to bad. Our Austrian colleagues will run a ski meeting on the 10th March and we hope that as many of you as possible will come and support this, either as competitors or as cheerers-on.

See you on the slopes!

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Hail Glorious St Patrick
dear Saint of Our Isle
On us thy poor children
bestow a sweet smile
And now thou art high
in the mansion above
On Erin's green valleys
look down in thy love.

LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG (ST PATRICK'S DAY)



BY: COMDT W. O'HARA

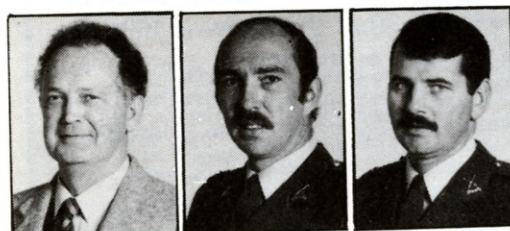
So goes a verse of the song "Hail Glorious St Patrick" which was composed in honour of the Patron Saint of IRELAND. St Patrick's Day falls on the 17th March each year. The day is celebrated in Ireland as the principal national holiday, but is also celebrated across the globe in all areas where Irishmen and Irishwomen put down their roots, even for a short time.

coast. There the ship was waiting and so his captivity ended.

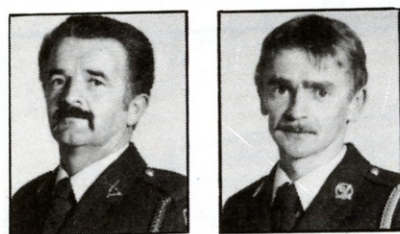
HE CAME BACK!

On his return to his family Patrick pursued a religious life and became a priest. Very soon his mind turned to the place of his boyhood captivity. God provided him with the missionary inclination so in 432 AD Patrick

which had three leaves - a SHAMROCK. Which apparently only grows in Ireland. Patrick used the Shamrock to illustrate the three persons in God. (The Blessed Trinity). On St Patrick's Day sprigs of Shamrock are worn. It has such prominence throughout the world that many think it to be the national emblem of Ireland. Of course this is NOT



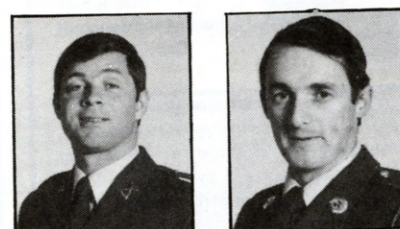
Mr John Nolan, Comdt Barry Goulding, Comdt Willie O'Hara



CQMS Willie Lawton, CQMS Alan Aston



Mr Frank Clancy, CQMS Martin Gaffney, C/S Marty Morrissey



CQMS Mick Soady, Sgt Joe O'Neill

WHO WAS ST PATRICK?

History tells us that early in the fifth century young boys were taken from their homes and families in Wales and brought to Ireland where they were sold as slaves. Amongst those boys was Patrick. The young boy found himself on a mountain area in the North-Eastern part of Ireland minding sheep and pigs.

Patrick came from a Christian family so he prayed profoundly to God on the lonely mountainside while he watched the sheep and pigs. After a period of five years he had a vision of a ship by the coastline waiting to take him home. Patrick felt that God was telling him to leave so he escaped and began his journey to the

returned to pagan Ireland. His christian teaching was accepted very quickly by the inhabitants of the little isle.

THREE-IN-ONE

One of the stories which is considered worthwhile to mention relates to how Shamrock became a symbol of the Irish and particularly of St Patrick's Day. Patrick on his missionary work was talking to a group of people about God. He was trying to explain that God was one, but in God were three others, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Patrick was having difficulties getting the people to understand.

Then he bent down and pulled a little green plant from the lush green field. It was a single plant

SO! the harp is the National Emblem.

THE CELEBRATIONS

The memory of Patrick's great work has been remembered for generations. Ireland's sons and daughters have emigrated to many countries down through the last few centuries. They left their families and homes behind but they brought with them the great tradition of St Patrick's Day. Everybody joins in the celebrations and by the late hours of 17 March the Shamrock is well drowned. PATRICK's name is synonymous with many Irish families, but he has also given his name to a well known whiskey which would warm anybody's heart! SLÁINTE!

TROODOS RADIO DETACHMENT

A Report by Lt Jeff Drummond.

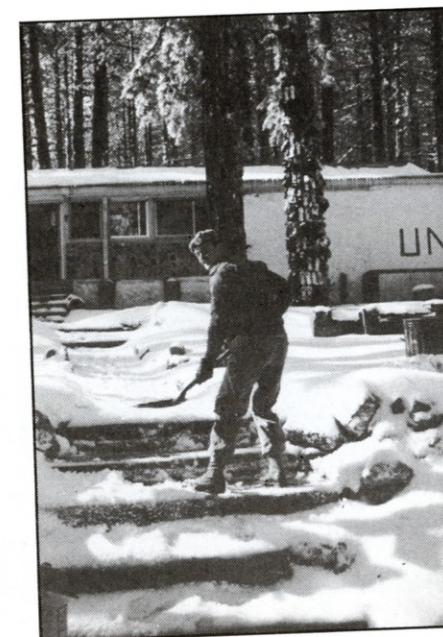
With the height of winter now upon us, many heads turn longingly towards the snowcapped summits of the Troodos mountains - the centre of the Cypriot ski industry.

What most are not aware of, is that tucked away on the south face, 4 members of 254 Signal Squadron are forced to survive these adverse weather conditions as a matter-of-fact daily routine, living off the land plus twice weekly resupply runs to Blue Beret Camp and living with the thought that in the flash of a storm, they may be totally cut off from the rest of the UN (waiting for the day).

Albeit small, this 4 man detachment provides an essential service to the UN. Perhaps better known as "niner-eight" this radio rebroadcast station provides the means for all-island VHF and Motorola communications. Only second in height to Mt Olympus, Troodos provides an adequate vantage point from which to relay Motorola communications to the west side of the island and VHF communications to Sectors 5 and 6.

At present, the detachment is 3 Canadian and 1 British radio operators selected from Radio Troop, 254 Signal Squadron; the detachment commander MCpl (killar) McKellar (he gets his nickname for his prowess as a cook), and detachment members Cpl Bruce, Tpr Mason and Sig Donoghue. These soldiers will spend 4-6 weeks with the detachment and will then be rotated in order to give other troop members the experience of detachment living.

Since the net must be monitored at all times, all detachment members do a 24 hour duty during which they are also responsible to: carry out



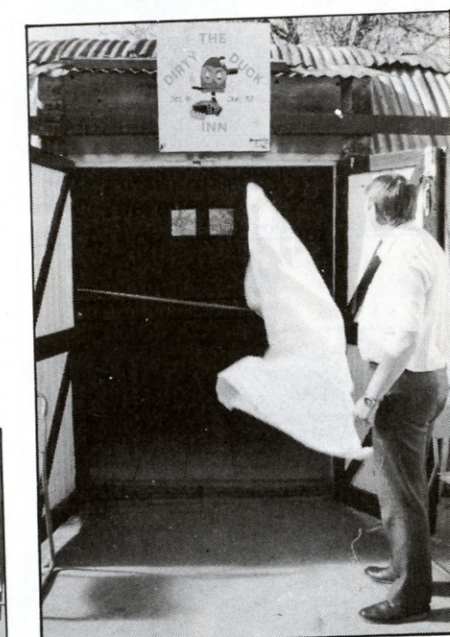
battery maintenance, test the auxiliary power supply to the

detachment, maintain the log book and last but not least, do all the cooking and washing up. When not on duty the others manage to keep busy by improving the accommodation, doing resupply runs to BBC (Tuesday and Thursdays) skiing, running, weight training, watching videos... suffice it to say that no one has yet complained of boredom.

Manning the rebroadcast detachment is a unique opportunity for both Canadian and British soldiers serving with 254 Signal Squadron. Those who have spent some of their leave in Troodos making good use of the spare beds in the back will attest to this fact. For those who have not and wish to hear more - flick to channel 1.

THE DIRTY DUCK INN ST DAVIDS CAMP

The Junior Ranks Canteen at St David's Camp, Sector 2, was officially opened and named "The Dirty Duck Inn" on Saturday 17 January 1987. This name was received with disapproval by the Camp Commandant who felt that a more suitable name should be found with perhaps geographical or regimental associations. To this end a competition was arranged to find a name. The OC was most



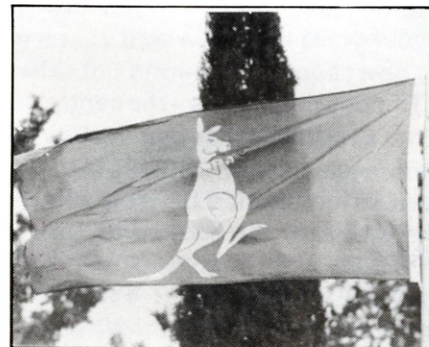
surprised to receive numerous nominations for the "Dirty Duck Inn" and accepted the inevitable. Another blow for democracy do I hear.



AUSTRALIA DAY

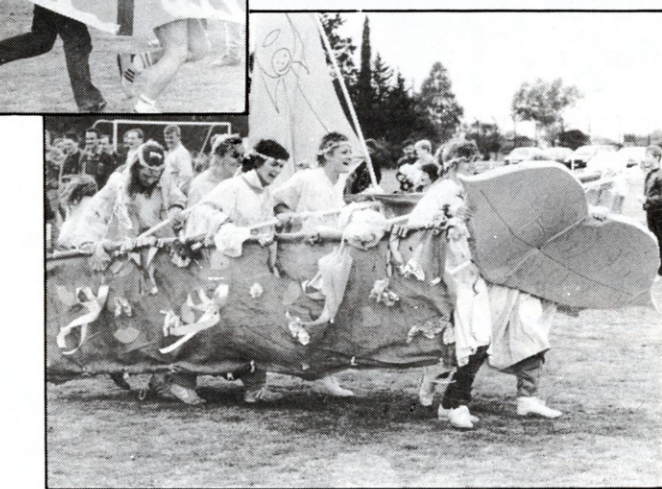
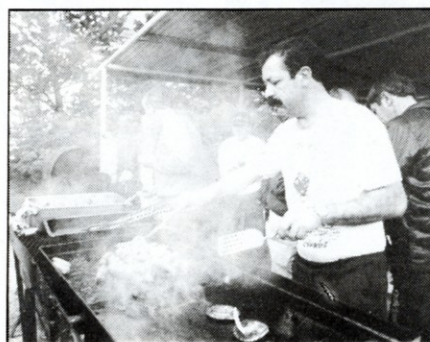
Australia Day is a day set aside to commemorate the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove on 26 January, 1788. The major reason for establishing a colony in Australia was the placement of convicts, as when the American colonies ceased to take convicts, the British prisons became very overcrowded. Harsh laws ensured that there were many prisoners, and transportation was the only solution.

Many books portray the convicts as mostly victims of unjust criminal laws. In fact, many were; but there were also many hardened criminals, thieves and pickpockets. England supplied the largest national group of convicts,



followed by Ireland. Not all convicts were from Britain, as a few had come from the Indian colonies and other British settlements. This system of deportation, now called emigration, is known in Australia as the "Brain Drain".

Here in Cyprus the Australian Civil Police celebrated their National Day with the help of the other contingents which comprise UNFICYP. An annual event known as the Henley-on-Pedhieos Boat Race attracted a most unusual assortment of boat designs, not to mention a most unusual assortment of crew members and spectators, all gathered at the UNPA Sports Field. Novelty events such as boomerang throwing, tug-of-war etc. revealed incredibly graceful and stylish performances - the pictures tell the story!



CAPTION COMPETITION



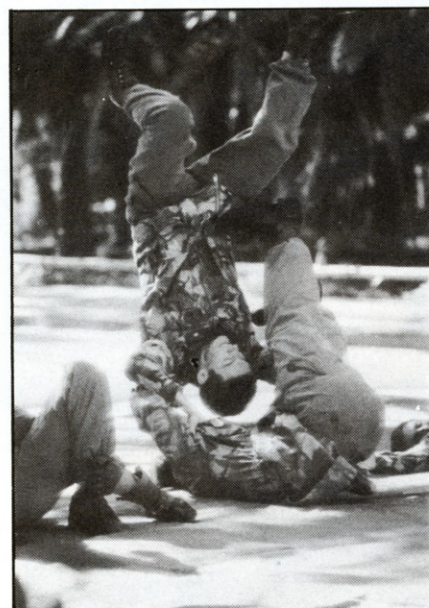
There were many entries for last month's photo, the one chosen as the best was.
"Gee, that was fun, I hope there's no protest about that cable I cut off"
Capt Anders Jansson

other entries were:
"I told them my name was MacInnis, not McAlpine"
- Sgt John Self
"Go On, give me just one more go"
- Sgt Mick Hughes
"I'm determined to pass this resettlement course"
Fus Robert Hewer



6 Plt B Coy 3RRF at B28

"UNARMED COMBAT TEAM DOUBLE MARCH!"



Unarmed Combat Team Double March!" Fourteen soldiers dressed in the distinct camouflaged jump smocks of Canada's Special Forces Service Force shuffles in unison onto a centre stage of spectators. The introduction of the team continues: "The Canadian Airborne Regiment is Canada's elite paratroop force, ready to go anywhere, anytime, for any mission. An inherent limitation of an airborne force is the restricted number of the integral heavy support weapons. As such, the

Canadian Airborne Regiment, perhaps more than any other conventional or light infantry unit, realizes the vital importance of basic field soldiering and, as being demonstrated here, the hand-to-hand unarmed combat".

"Attack!" The spectators are caught surprised in a battle scene - machine guns rattling, whirring noise of helicopters, pyrotechniques blasting off, the stench of gun powder, the eerie smouldering of smoke grenades. The team suddenly breaks all semblance of orderliness and

engage in a mass assault of closequarter hand-to-hand combat. Bodies being thrown crashing onto the floor, kicks being delivered, blocks fending punches, arms twisted and necks choked. Screaming and shouting with facial expressions of aggression and pain.

Being deployed to UNFICYP presents an unequalled opportunity for the Regiment's Unarmed Combat Team to assemble and sustain an intensive training in a variety of combative skills. The team trained

under the direction of Lt Yung Jin Hou for two months prior to the Canadian Contingent Medal Parade Mini Tatroo where many members of UNFICYP had the opportunity to be entertained. In addition, the team made several command performances for the visiting CF army generals and the UNPA's KIDCON. The team's most memorable show had to be the one for the delighted CANCON Show Troupe. One particular Argonaut Sunshine Girl went out of her way to convey her appreciation to our Sean "Rambo". AIRBORNE!





UNIFIL V UNFICYP RUGBY

The result of the match was 29-15 to UNIFIL



UNFICYP'S David Kerr breaking out of defence



UNIFIL's Pat Carey jumps highest in the line out.



UNIFIL's injured hooker Benny Ludlow with unfamiliar "props"



UNFICYP's Stewart Moore spearheading a Unicorns attack against Irish Batt.



Unifil's scrum half Brendan Woods passes to his fly half Michael Brennan (No 10).

UNFICYP'S CHESS COMPETITION



The results of the competition were as follows:-

Team:	First	-	AUSCON	10½pts
	Second	-	DANCON	9 pts
	Third	-	CANCON	7½pts
Individual:	- L/Cpl Kochlendorfer - AUSCON			



UN soldiers are always men. Except in the Swedish Contingent! At SWEDCON HQ in Larnaca there are 10 female UN soldiers.

Since 1980 women have been accepted to serve with the Swedish UN Battalion. Every year hundreds of girls in Sweden apply for UN service, but only a few of them are suitable for this kind of



Sgt Eva Eriksson, duty free shop assistant.



Pte Marianne Loweroth, Comcen Operator.

work. The Swedish Contingent have nearly 400 soldiers here on Cyprus. The girls work in various posts, some have secretarial duties, one is a telegrapher, two are nurses and another can normally be found repairing the broken telephone lines.

Back home in Sweden we have compulsory military service, which means the army can call on every man between the ages of

THE GENTLE TOUCH IN SECTOR 5



2/Lt Sigbritt Snare, one of Swedcon's radio officers.

18-47. Every man in Sweden has to do at least seven and a half months of military training, so when a girl has been accepted for UN service she has to do a couple of weeks of the same training. Every Swedish soldier is expected to know how to defend himself in the event of an attack, this rule must also apply to the women.

The personnel in the Staff and Admin Company must be fully conversant with the working of

the OP's, so every girl must visit one during her tour.

Eva Eklof the payclerk says "It is really difficult for us girls to get a job like this. I am very pleased that I was chosen".

Mariann Loweroth, one of the operators at the communication centre says "For me this is such a marvellous experience, although it seems very strange at first living so close to people you have never met before.



Sgt Eva Boden, Staff Clerk.



CANADIAN CONTINGENT MEDAL PARADE



The Canadian Airborne Regiment celebrated the SNOWGOOSE XLVI UN Medal presentation with a combined Mini Tattoo and Medals Parade on 12 Jan 87 at the Ledra Palace Complex, Nicosia.

The festivities began at 1830 with a Band Interlude from the St George's Band, 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, under the direction of WO1 C.C. Attrill. The Mini Tattoo began by a "sentry take out" performed by

the Canadian Forces Europe Pipes and Drums under the direction of Pipe Major Sgt J Langille.

The Medal parade then took place with the "Parade Fall-In and Take-Over" by Major Alan Stephen who ordered the 2 Commando Regimental Colour to be marched onto parade. Following the General Salute, the UN Medals were blessed by Regimental Padre (RC) Capt Jacques Marcous, and pinned on each member of the parade by the



Maj Gen Greindl presents Cpl W Nyenhuis with his UN Medal

members of the Canadian Airborne Regt Unarmed Combat Display Team and a rappelling demonstration. These set the tone for the unarmed combat demonstration under the direction of Lt Yung Jim Hou, and consisted of demonstrations of fighting skills and comical sketches to entertain the audience. This was followed by a display from the Precision Drill Team, composed exclusively from members of Airborne Service Commando, under the direction of Sgt Mark Charlebois and PO Frank Leslie. The team performed 158 synchronized drill movements with the rifle from a single word of command. The Mini Tattoo, directed by MWO John MacNeil, wrapped up with a display from

Force Commander who then closed the Medal presentation Ceremony with an address.

The parade was dismissed and replaced with a guard who fired a Feu de Joie.

COMMANDER FINCON

Major Carl-Bertel Eriksson took over from Major Raimo Koskela on the 6 December the Finnish Contingent. The new commander has served among others in Kashmir. We thank the old commander for his good work for UNFICYP and wish all the best to the new commander, who will work as the SO Personnel in HQ/UNFICYP.

Maj Carl-Bertel Eriksson



Force Commander salutes the Regimental Colour

The Grande Finale of the Canadian Contingent Medals Parade brought all participants back on stage for a musical interlude from the St George Band and the Combined Forces Entertainment Pipes and Drums. As the Lone Piper finished "Amazing Grace", the General Salute was ordered and all marched off en masse.

Over 250 spectators enjoyed the Canadian Contingent Medals Parade which was a success due to the hard work and preparation by over 150 members of the Contingent. A job well done! AIRBORNE!



NUMBERS PARADE.... INDEED!



Brigadier General Foster presents Capt Kemp, MWO Miles, WO True and Sgt Barnard with their silver insignia denoting their third tour of UN duty in Cyprus.

"Number's Parade", the very name contemptable to the RSM. These men are not numbers (not withstanding selected members may be quite contemptable from time to time!) These men are called onto parade as the "Vetrans" by RSM Collier. To Julius Caesar they were the cohorts of his victorious legions, to Napoleon they were "the Old Guard", grey of hair, wise in war and unstoppable in battle; their duty, victory where others faced defeat.

These men have survived the campaign through the Nicosia night spots not only once, but at least twice for most. Still others weary of the battle to hold back the scourge of whiskey dollies can proudly acknowledge tour number three. Some fewer still proudly stand awaiting their small silver four to add to the blaze of ribbons on their chest.

A precious few remain in the forefront of the paade to be

presented with the coveted silver "5", and so proudly stands Col Bob Gaudreau our Regt Commander, watching as his "Old Guard" are presented their "Fives" by the Commander of the SSF, BGen Foster, a past Regt

Commander of the Canadian Airborne Regt and proud comrade of the "Vetrans" on this 9th of January 1987.

In the background the 8 foot "Old Ranger" mutters "Numbers Parade.... indeed"

FORCE COMMANDER'S COMMENDATION



On August 1986, Sgt Vince Mylett and Sgt Greg Slater were involved in rescuing a civilian from an area in which there was a confrontation between Canadian UN Forces and Turkish Cypriot

soldiers. For this action they received the Force Commander's Commendation in appreciation of distinguished service rendered to the force in Cyprus.

'HE WHO KNOWS

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool. Shun him.

He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a child. Teach him.

He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep. wake him.

He who knows, and knows that he knows is wise. Follow him.

From the Persian



The inaugural meeting of the Fusiliers SDC Wives Club took place in the "Dirty Duck Inn" at St David's Camp on Wednesday 21 January, but got off to a rather inauspicious start as none of the wives turned up! It is thought this may have been due to the fact that none of the 3rd Fusilier wives are on the Island. However, this had been thought of beforehand, and a low key advertising campaign took place to encourage other more fortunate members of the Force to loan their wives, but surprisingly to no avail.

The proprietor and members of the "Dirty Duck Inn" consulted LCpl Blore, Cpl Kelsall and Cpl Woolley (who do not wish to be named) who said they were disappointed with the turnout but hoped future meetings may be better attended.

The next meeting will be on 18 February when the Battalion polo team will be giving a display in the UN pool if they can get the horses.

3RD FUSILIERS WIVES CLUB



EMPTY

We waited in vain!

"DON'T TACKLE WITH THE HACKLE"

This month has seen considerable activity in Sector 2 as the Fusilier's tackle the tasks allotted to them with great gusto. We have taken part in all the various activities particularly rugby and hockey, where the Battalion is well represented in both UN teams.

As we get into the swing of things, R and R and adventurous training began to bite into our

SECTOR TWO

available manpower. Nevertheless all manner of sports, canoeing, windsurfing, diving and now skiing are being enjoyed by as many Fusiliers as possible.

On the military front our shooting team were narrowly beaten into second place by the Danish Contingent and we look forward to the Military Skills competition with enthusiasm.

UNPA CAROL SINGERS

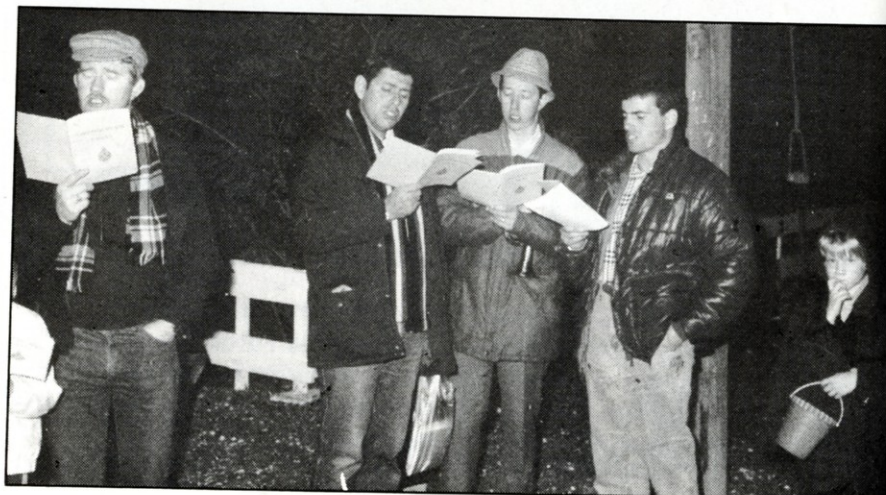
Carol singing in Cyprus is sometimes considered a non-event because many of the things associated with carol singing; cold biting winds, snow and thermal underwear, are missing. Not to be deterred the carol singers of the United Nations Protected Area assembled at St Michael's School on the evening of Tuesday 23 December 1986, under the guidance of members of the UNFICYP Support Regiment Workshop. Some were slightly overdressed with scarfs, gloves and woolen hats - nostalgic memories of cold December evenings in England!

The singing was conducted by Padre Brooke who brought along his trio of sons to boost the vocal onslaught. The singers went through their repertoire from one

lamppost to the next, while the younger element of the group knocked on doors collecting the rewards, or payment to move on as the case may be!

After a final encore at Lieutenant Colonel Pyman's

house the evening finished having collected £78.49 for the BFBS Wireless for the Blind appeal. The carol singers would like to thank the occupants of the Nicosia married quarters for their generosity.



Out & About in Cyprus

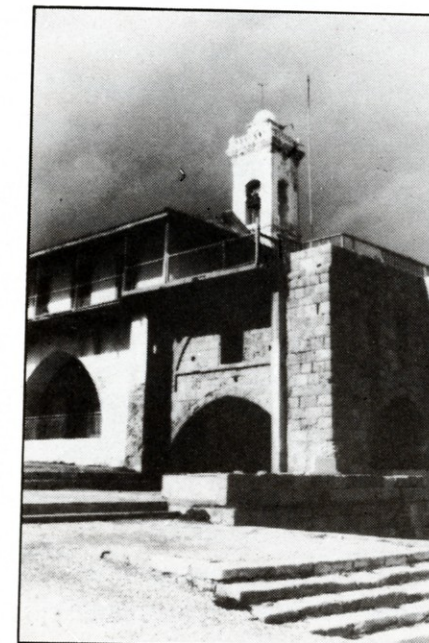
AN EXCURSION TO THE KARPASIA PENINSULA

By Dr. K Miklautsch, Capt

Photos by LCpl Joksch

On a fine Monday morning in January, I set out with my photographer L/Cpl Roland Joksch, to make contact with a part of Cyprus that until recently I knew little about. This part is the so-called panhandle, the 80 kilometre long KARPASIA PENINSULA, situated in Sector 6.

From Camp Duke Leopold V we pass the ruins of Old Salamis, onto Triкомо, from where we leave the coastal road to cross the eastern part of the Mesaoria, the former granary of Cyprus. Very soon we find ourselves up in the thinly fir-tree covered Karpas mountain range to get a panoramic view from Kantara Castle, the once so mighty



Monastery Apostolos Andreas.



Philon north Rizokarpaso.

stronghold of the Byzantines and the Lusignans.

Afterwards we head for Dhavlos to see the bizarre and animal-like formations of sandstone, "sculptured" by the waves. Then we cross the mountains again for Triкомо, Boghaz with its picturesque fishing port, to Ayios Theodoros and Leonarisso, from where we make a short trip to the ruins of

Lythrankomi and to Yialousa. At Ayios Thyrsos the road leads close to the sea again. One cannot help but be impressed by the yellow, green and blue contrasts; this is from the flowers, the meadows and the sea. Passing many inviting bays, we eventually reach Rizokarpaso where still quite a few Greek Cypriots live. From there a single-file road with many bends and bumps, is winding its way towards the "end of the

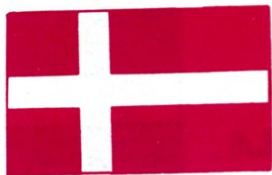
world". The few houses along the coast were deserted a long time ago.

All one can see are flocks of sheep and friendly shepherds. The island itself gets more and more barren and civilization disappears altogether. Now and then one can see wild olive and carob trees. But what a sight before Galounopetra Point! Hardly anywhere on the island can you find a finer beach and clearer water. Here we would like to take a long rest, but we must press on to the Monastery of Apostolos Andreas. Getting closer to this place, we realize that it is almost empty, except for three sows keeping siesta in front of the former pilgrims' cells, then policemen and Greek Cypriots appear and show us around.

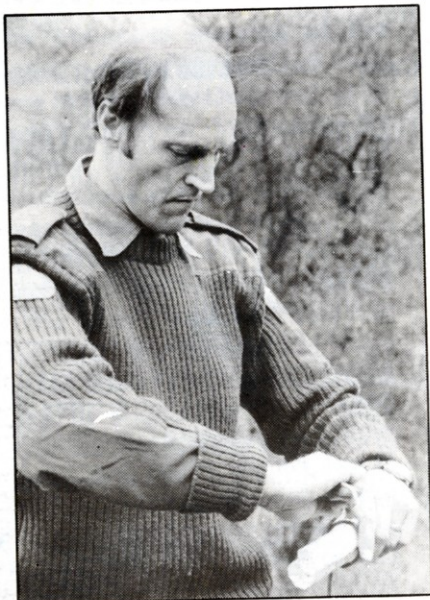
After the tour of the fine inconstancy and a delicious cup of Karpas tea, we continue our excursion. On foot we reach Cape Apostolos Andreas, a place that is rich in legends and history. From the top of the rock that once crowned an Aphrodite temple, we get an impressive view over the Klidhes Islands that look like grey specks in the aquamarine water. In the meantime the wind has gathered strength and turned into a storm. A whirlwind is playing its game off the island. When one is up there, one has to think of all that have set foot on this island, via the Karpas Peninsula: Greeks, Assyrians, Egyptians, Romans, Venetians, Turks etc. One also has to think of Isaak Komnenos, who was captured by Richard the Lionheart up here.

On our way back we visit the magnificent places of Ayios Philon and Aphrendrika, centres of early Christianity in the Byzantine Era.

Who could think of a better way of starting another week!



BIG BANGS IN DANCON



The detonating cord must be wrapped tightly around the sticks of plastic explosive.



Working alone the Eng Off prepares the detonator and safety fuse.



After his final checks he will ignite the safety fuse.



Clusters of the explosive are placed around the mine.

"Mine!" A cry sure to strike fear into any soldier's heart.

Mines are an indiscriminate weapon posing a deadly threat long after their initial deployment and intended period of use. The UNBZ has many marked minefields remaining, with mine explosions having claimed several UN lives.

So when the decision was

made to open the Kambos road in Sector 1, thus improving access to DANCON C Coy Ops, a mine clearance operation was mounted. (This area yielded 19 Anti-Tank mines in searches during Nov 1986).

The search operation was carried out by a party from Sector 4, as Sector 1 has insufficient Combat engineers (the Sector 1 engineers are mainly conscript "Artisans") and one more Anti-Tank mine was unearthed.

Destruction of this mine was the responsibility of Sector One Engineer Officer, assisted by his Pioneer Sergeant and one sunny January morning work began.....



BANG!!!



Has anybody seen the Engineer Officer??