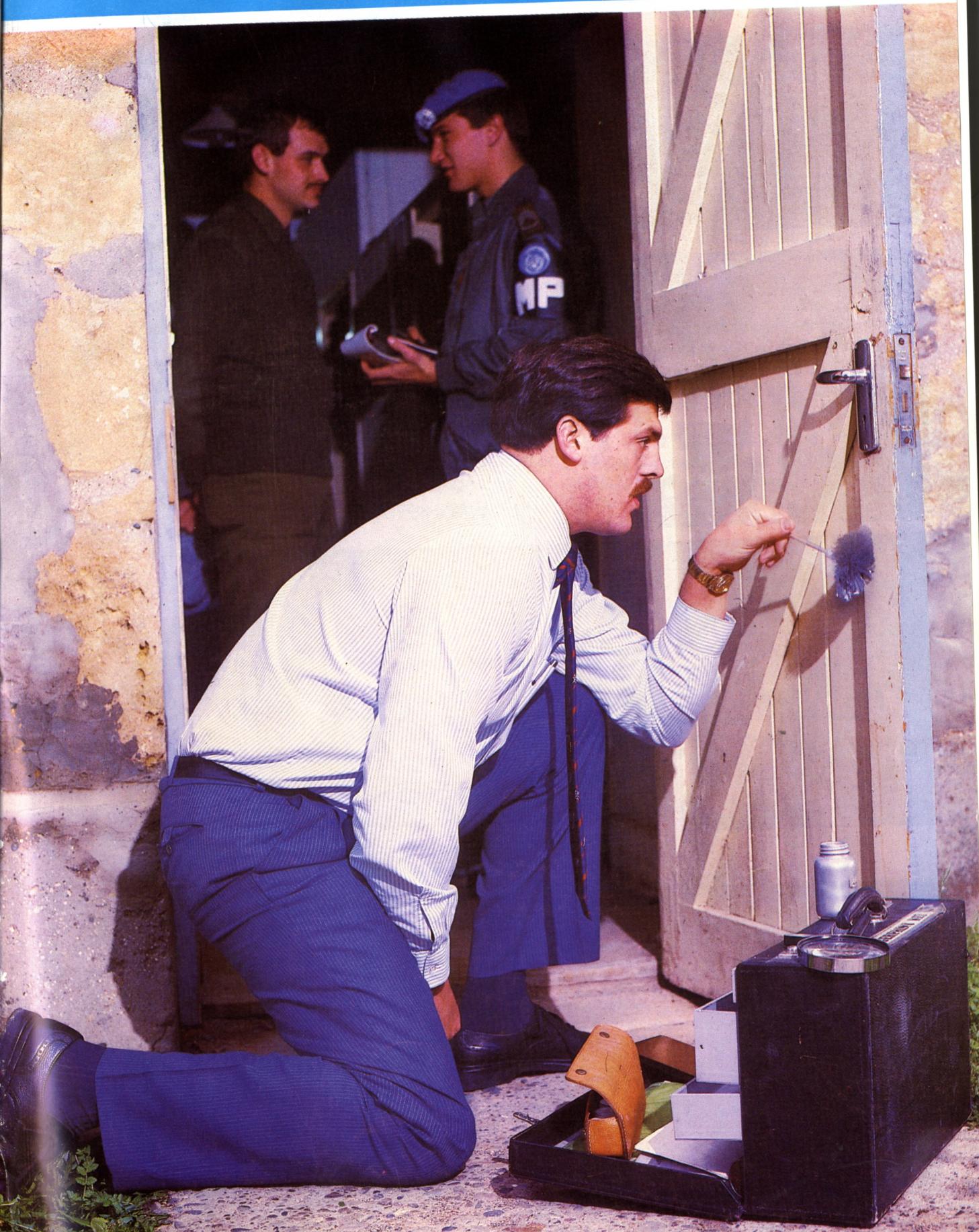
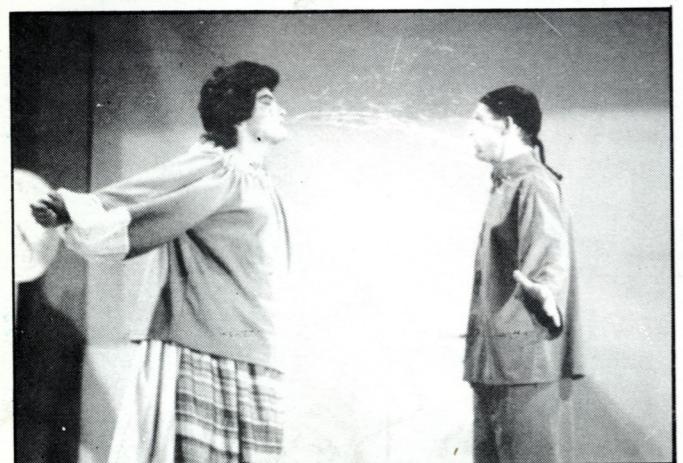
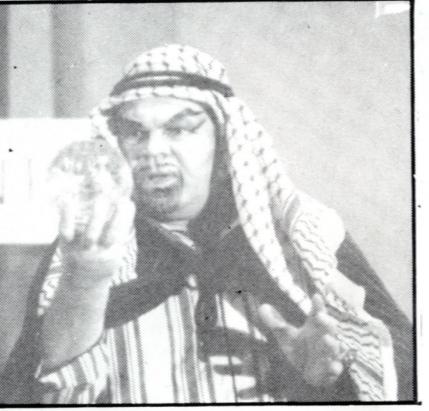
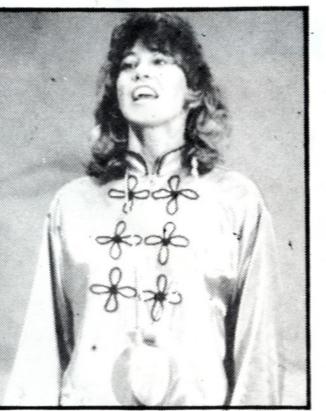


# THE BLUE BERET



JANUARY 1988



**"Aladdin - The Pantomime"**

Congratulations to all concerned for a great success.



**VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1**  
**JANUARY**  
**1988**

Published monthly by the Military Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. HQ UNFICYP  
P.O. Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus  
Telephone: Nicosia 464000, Ext. 2235

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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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Printed in Cyprus by  
Stavrinides Press Limited,  
Tel. 452525, Nicosia, Cyprus.

**Front cover**

**UN MP COY  
SIS AT WORK  
BY: S/SGT A. BEATON**

**THE  
BLUE BERET****Editorial**

A very happy New Year to all of you. I am sorry to say that this is my last editorial in this magazine, as the British Ministry of Defence has directed that I shall leave Cyprus and join the British Army of the Rhine in West Germany. My family and I will leave Nicosia with many memories of the kindness and hospitality shown to me by all people here in Cyprus. We have enjoyed the stunning beauty of the mountains and the coastlines on this island especially when leaving the bustle of the tourist centres and venturing to the more remote parts of Cyprus.

I shall also be very sorry to say goodbye to all the many friends I have made in the UNFICYP. It was a great pleasure and privilege to work with so many excellent people of different nationalities all dedicated to one aim and that is to bring a just and lasting solution to the problems of Cyprus.

Peacekeeping all over the world is a difficult task which is sometimes misunderstood I have seen such operations, made with the best intentions, go sadly very wrong but here in Cyprus it could serve as a model to many such undertakings.

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## A CLUB OF THEIR OWN "TRE KRONOR"

BY CH Insp Dan Furst



The Swedish Contingent wishes to express its gratitude to all who have contributed to the

Club in different ways, especially to those within Cyprus who made it all possible.

Since the withdrawal of the Swedish Battalion and the close down of Camp Victoria the remaining Swedes in UNFICYP, in all 26 men and their families have now got a new place for social life and other activities.

The Swedish Club has been named 'TRE KRONOR' which means Three Crowns. This has been the symbol of the Kingdom of Sweden for a very long time. Tre Kronor has been paid for by the Swedish Government and is very



The official opening by the Force commander.

much welcomed by the contingent. It is located in a reconstructed building nearby the air traffic control tower not far from UNCIVPOL HQ. An open fireplace has been installed in the club and there will be Swedish newspapers made available. Many different items from previous Swedish Camps in Cyprus have also been installed, thus marking the continuity of the Swedish presence in the social life of UNFICYP.

## "YOU CAN'T STAY IN CYPRUS FOREVER"



On 18 Dec 87, WO2 Ian Watts, and family packed their bags and left Cyprus after a hectic 18 months tour of duty. Ian was the WO2 in charge of the UN MP Coy Special Investigation Section. He will now take up duties with the SIB in Wiltshire, U.K.

As is usual Ian would not have been allowed to leave Cyprus had

his replacement WO2 Jim Wiggam, not arrived. Jim and his family come from Dusseldorf, Germany, Where he was SIB Detachment Commander.

Traditionally the SIS Commander is a British SIB WO2, who has four military policeman from different contingents under his supervision.



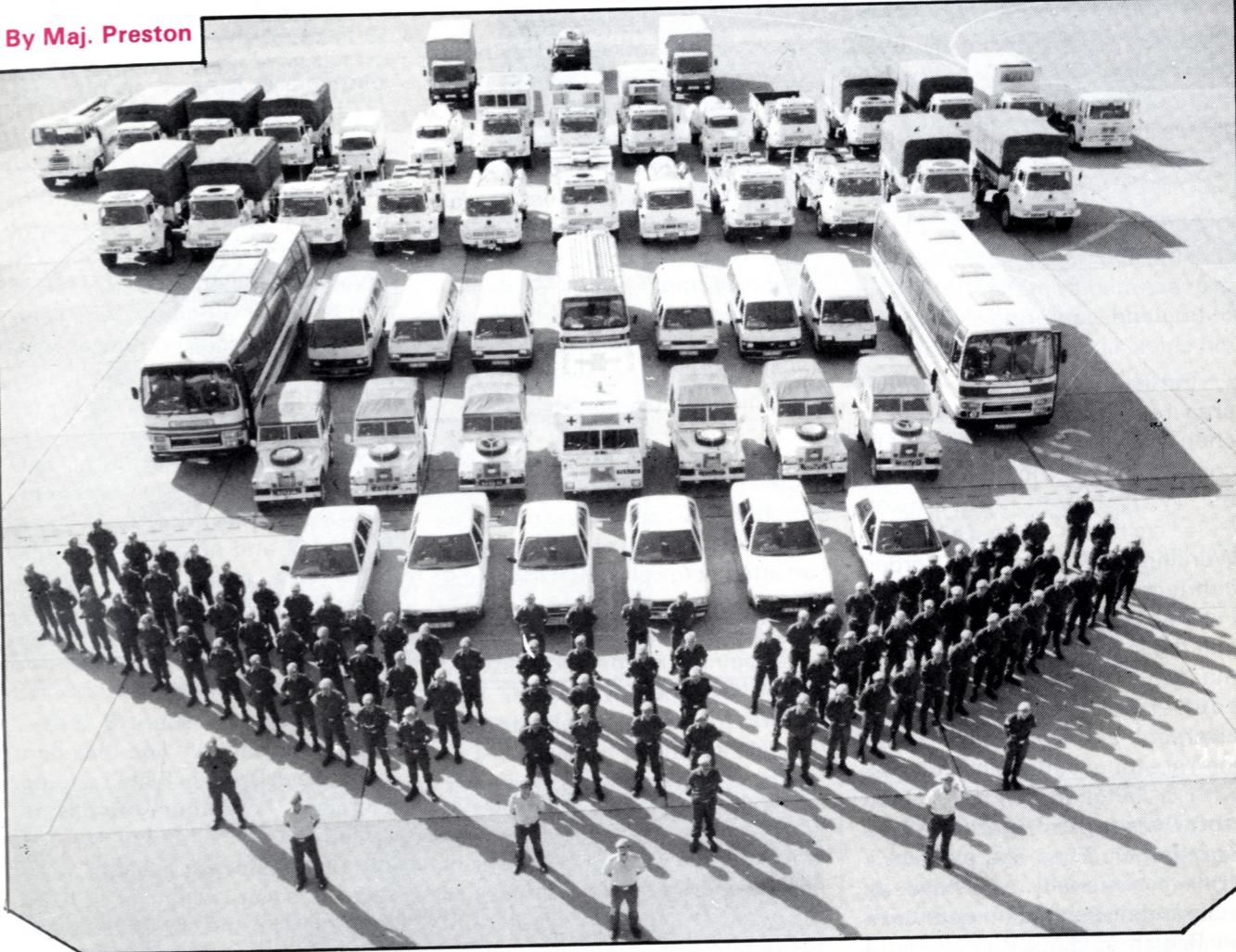
WO2 Ian Watts (left) congratulating QO2 Jim Wiggam on his appointment as the SIS Comd.



## UNFICYP TPT SQN JUL 87 - JAN 88



By Maj. Preston



## FAREWELL FROM 60 SQUADRON - ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

After almost 7 months on the island it is time for us to say goodbye to UNFICYP and hello again to our families and friends in UK. We go at the end of a very successful tour of duty that has introduced many of our soldiers to the relatively modern art of peacekeeping.

Looking back our tour has been dominated by 2 things, firstly the long hot summer that strained our resources of fridge and water vehicles, and secondly the reorganisation of the Force as a result of the Swedish battalion withdrawal. This has certainly added significantly to our workload and will continue to do

so for the next 6 - 9 months. We have driven over 650,000 miles in Cyprus and have had only six accidents (which gives us rate of 100,000 miles per accident).

Bearing in mind the unfamiliar road and driving conditions we consider this to be a very good, professional achievement and are delighted to take home a Force Commander's Road Safety Certificate for 'excellence'.

Good use has been made of the constant flow of taskings to train and upgrade some of our junior soldiers in their driving skills and we were very pleased indeed with the successes we

achieved in the UNFICYP Safe and Skilled Driving Competition.

Apart from improving our skills behind the wheel we have made use of the good water sports facilities in Cyprus, to train at both dinghy sailing and boardsailing; we now have a variety of Squadron personnel who can not only sail away from the shore but also come back!! A very enthusiastic team entered the DANCON marches in September and we were delighted that Driver Brown achieved one of the best times recorded for years - 6 hours 33 minutes.

## AN EXPLANATION OF THE BATTALION

Having had the official history of the Battalion in last months edition of 'The Blue Beret' it might be worth be worth a few column inches to give a further insight into The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

First and foremost, the soldiers are recruited from the North West of England, centering around two old cities, Lancaster and Carlisle.

Carlisle and the surrounding area produces a hardy breed of chap known as a 'Marra'. They come from towns in Cumbria such as Whitehaven, Egremont, Frizington, Kendal and Workington. This is the 'Border' connection of the Regiment. Further South, from Lancashire and the surrounding area, we get the 'Kings Own' connection and soldiers from Warrington, Liverpool and Lancaster. These men are tough, adaptable fellows, with a language of their own (totally unintelligible to a Southerner). They like to have a drink occasionally and have an outstanding sens of humour. Like all British soldiers they spend a

good deal of time cribbing (complaining) but there's an old saying in the British Army - 'A soldiers not happy unless he's cribbing'. They are easy to spot in civilian clothing, as most of them have a fascinating array of tattoos, they wear old jeans, white socks (always) and T-Shirts or similar. They tend to have short hair and all these things make them quite distinctive. If you ever spot one, buy him a drink, quickly.

Officers in the Battalion can come from more or less anywhere in the UK and can often be observed rushing around madly in an attempt to hold down their jobs. They are something of a 'mixed bag' (all groups represented) but one common bond exists between them all. They will never turn down the opportunity to get outside a drink or two.

In civilian clothes they have a habit of wearing striped shirts, loud ties, jumpers, cordroy trousers and suede shoes or brogues. If you ever spot one, invite him to a party immediately.

particularly if he is on his own, (he's probably lost).

The Battalion spent 2 years on active service in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was a very successful tour, and most soldiers actually enjoyed it immensely. Service in NI can be fairly gruelling, with long periods of working without a break and a very real threat. Urban patrolling in areas of Belfast and rural patrolling in South Armagh (on the border with Eire) has become 'old hat' for even the youngest members of the Battalion, and manning OPs and VCPs is a skill familiar to all. Hence the move to Cyprus and UN Duties shold present few problems for them.

Last year we spent 6 weeks training in Canada, and took part in a 3 week Brigade Field Training Exercise. This tour represents something of a reward for the Battalion following several hard years. It is a priviledge for us to be working with the UN, and we are planning to make the best of it.



On New Years Eve, Dave Boyle from BFBS visited the Battalion, collecting money for 'Wireless for the blind'. The Battalion raised over £100. Here the Commanding Officer hands over the money at St David's Camp.



Lt Morgan + 2 Lt Urquhart Christmas night.



## KINGS OWN BORDERS PICTORIAL

The Drums Platoon under Drum Major Berry were in action on Boxing Day. Normally found at St David's Camp doing a variety of Camp duties. The 26th December found them down at Ayia Napa playing for (and with!) a Greek Cypriot audience.

## DRUMS PLATOON IN ACTION



On Christmas Eve, a Carol Service took place at St David's Camp. Here the Commanding Officer reads a lesson, with the RQMS shedding light on the situation.



## GUNFIRE!



Gunfire is an old British Army tradition, dating back to The Crimean War.

It is a mixture of tea and rum, distributed to soldiers on Christmas morning by Officers and SNCOS. Pictured here, Colour Sergeant Cars of The Assault

Well done Pte French, Burma Coy. He's just earned himself an extra weeks leave in the OP briefing competition, sponsored by OC Burma, Major Flanagan. Pictured here giving one such briefing it has to be said that he is quite good. Shame about his beret though.



# \*\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES PICTORIAL NEWS \*\*\*\*\*

## SUPPORT REGIMENTS CHRISTMAS LUNCH 23rd December



Christmas lunch in the Elizabethan Club, Jubilee Barracks.



The Support Regiment Lt Col Charles Pyman serving the Christmas pudding.



Magic Show at the UNPA Childrens Party.



Santa visits Auscon.



Christmas Carol Service held at Holy Cross Church.



Christmas parcels arriving in Auscon.

## \*\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES PICTORIAL NEWS \*\*\*\*\*



Christmas Festivities at DANCON.



The Ritual Xmas Bathing - Boxing Day at Sector 1.



The 1987 UNFICYP pantomime 'Aladdin', performed on 10-12 Dec, realised a profit of £1170. The above photograph shows Typhoon the Panda (Lydean Collins) presenting a cheque for that amount to Mr Krishno Dey, the Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, who received the money on behalf of UNICEF, the United Nations Childrens Fund. Looking on are Mrs Myroulla Potonidou, the Senior Admin Assistant, UNDP, and WO1 Alan Barton, who directed and produced the pantomime.



Members of Arroyo company celebrate Christmas Eve in the Lions Inn at S.D.C.

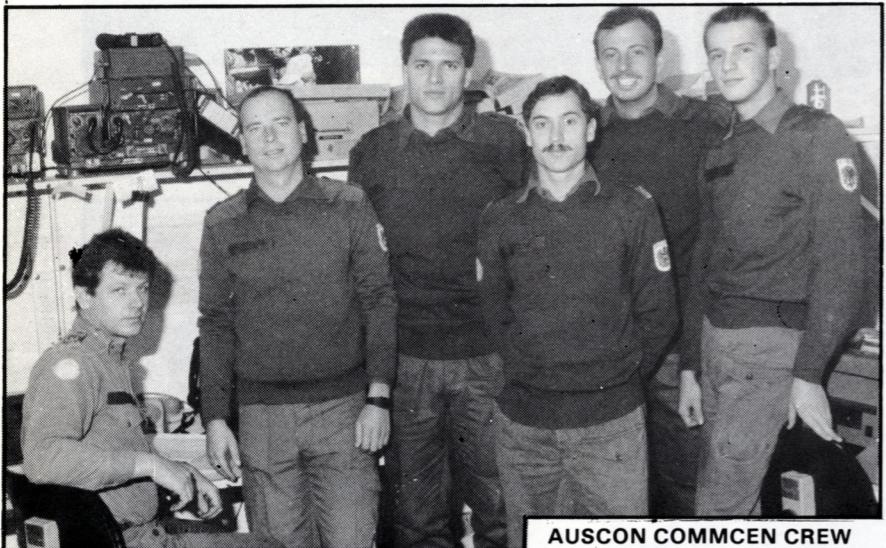


C S M Chris Walker Serving Christmas Launch at B18

# THE AUSCON COMM CEN CREW

By LCpl E. ROETHY

0700 hrs.: I open the door to the COMM CEN, enter and take place, still tired from the last very hard night. the radios and telephones are working, just the RV - our connection to Nicosia - is out of order once more and I try to fix it.



AUSCON COMM CEN CREW

I get really busy: One call after the other, one message on the radio followed by another and, of course, the teleprinter is working, too.

## 60 SQN RCT FOOTBALL TEAM

Football has been our main claim to fame in the sports arena and we have even managed a match against the Mayor of Nicosia's Team. Our final results are: played 20, won 12, drawn 2 and lost 6.

Other popular out-of-hours activities have been visiting Ayia Napa (very popular!), kart racing and helping to look after the CSPCA Dogs Home we helped to move from eastern Nicosia to new premises near the Morphou Gate.

Overall we have gained a great deal of experience from our tour in UNFICYP and we hope that in exchange we have contributed something towards life in the Force. See you again in 1990!

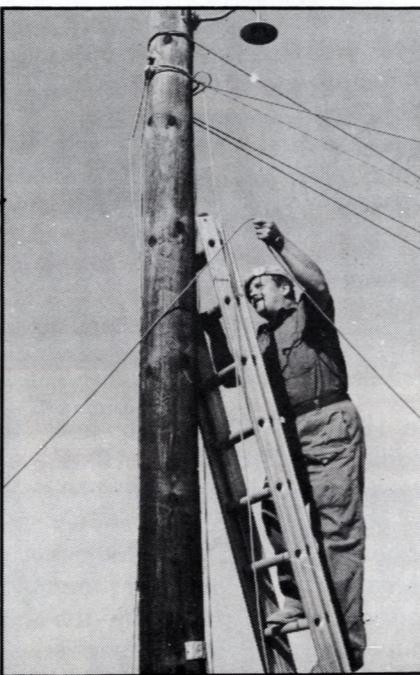
TROPHY: C.O. SP REGT FOOTBALL TROPHY WINNERS



BOTTOM L to R. S. DOYLE, D. HEYABIRD, S. BURNS, L. HUNT, A. COWANS, C. SIMPSON.  
TOP L to R. A. LOWES, K. ROSS, J. HUGHES, J. KING, W. LONGBOTTOM, K. SLATER, J. PATERSON, J. DANCE.



Photographer:  
SSgt G. SAKOPARNIK



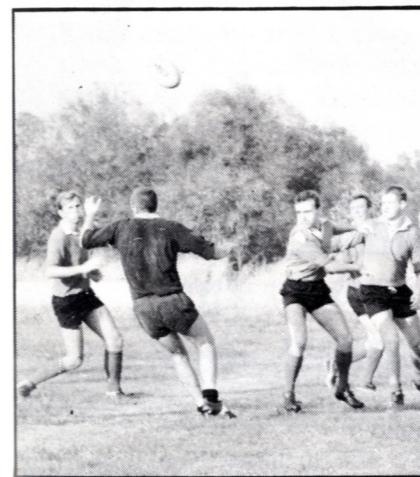
are on the road, see a lot of things and even meet nice people. It's a pity that nobody notices our work except if there is a breakdown, but nevertheless - if you call the AUSCON and hear the friendly voice of the operator - it's me or one of my comrades.

# UNICORNS RUGBY 1987/88

By Capt D J Croxford



Rugby is a game played by men with odd shaped balls ... and they certainly don't come much odder than the UNICORNS Rugby Team. The team is predominately British with members from Sector 2, Support Regt and the FSC Sqn. However UNCIVPOL have produced some good players even if the rules are slightly different in Australia.



UNICORNS 'V' STAGS (AYIOS NIKOLIAS)



The UNICORNS have met with remarkable success considering that team selection happens only 15 mins before kick off, once those who have managed to get away from duties turn up. Under the Captainship of WO2 Mick Jory from Support Regt the team won the Plate in the All Island Rugby Tournament held at Ayios Nikolias in November. SSgt Chris Bird has now taken over as Captain and is hoping for 1st place in the Island

League. UNICORNS are currently 3rd after narrowly losing to the FLAMINGOES (Akrotiri) by a lucky try in the 59th second of the 89th minute of the match. C'est la guerre! At least UNICORNS won the 3rd half!

WO1 Roy Collins is the hard working coach and manager and any aspiring Barry John wishing to play one of the original 'blood sports' contact him on ext 2286.

## UN SQUASH COMPETITION' 87



The final of the UN Squash Competition was played between Sector 2 and Sp Regt, with Sector 2 winning 3 matches to 2. Many thanks to FSC who organised the event.



Sector 2 - Winners



Sp Regt - Runners-Up.

## A CYPRUS STORY IN PICTURES



1. While Capt Woodbridge earned his nickname...



2. L/Cpl Middleton won prizes for cooking.



3. Cpl Steane let the pressure of the Ops Room get to him



5. and those moments on the beach.



4. While the rest of the boys relived memories of the summer with letters postmarked 'Sweden'

VISIT OF THE AUSTRIAN  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

The Austrian Minister of Defence Dr. Robert LICHAL visited the AUSCON from 11th until 13th December.

He was very keen to inspect the Austrian UN - Contingent and to become acquainted with the new sector.

Of course, our soldiers did their best as always and when the Minister left Cyprus he was satisfied that the Austrian peacekeepers are doing their job well.



COY  
PIPER

The UN MP Coy is unique. Personnel who make up the 52 man company, from seven different nationalities, bring with them a repertoire of musical talents ranging from baritone voice to musical spoons.

Our most recent musical acquisition is Sgt Frank Stubbett from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. His claim to fame is that he is, 'The best piper in the UN'. Well that would be hard to dispute



Sgt Frank Stubbett  
the "best piper in the UN"

as to our knowledge he is the only piper serving with UNFICYP.

Since Sgt Stubbett's arrival in Cyprus on 23 Nov 87, he has played for six official functions already and several spontaneous gatherings.

He is in great demand and will be happy to play for your official function when he is not engaged in his primary duty of MP Shift Commander at Nicosia. He tells us that his fee is negotiable.





## HMS BRAZEN



2 Tp prepare to board the good ship Brazen

The 4200 ton ship HMS Brazen docked in Limassol Newport at the end of November, on her way back from duties in the Gulf. HMS Brazen is a type 22 frigate equipped with Exocet, Seawolf, torpedoes and Bofor guns as well as having two Lynx helicopters. Her visit to Limassol was particularly well timed, as she is the affiliated ship of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

An invitation to visit was put out by the officers and crew and around 40 members of the

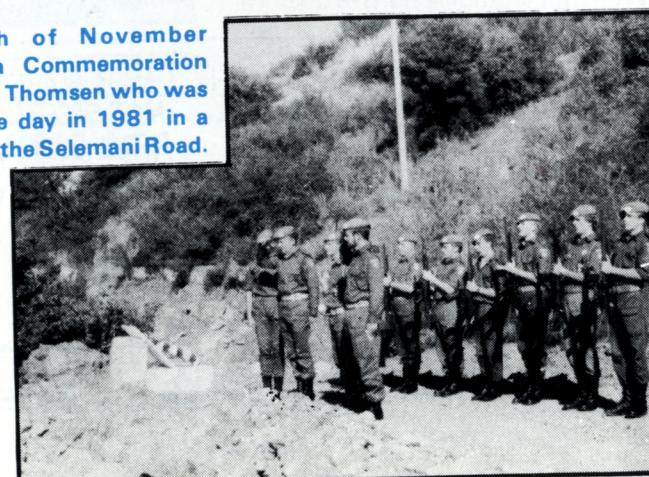


HMS Brazen is the affiliated ship of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

Squadron set off for Limassol by coach. They arrived to find Four Troop already onboard heavily engaged in the more important task of finding the various wardroom bars. After a quick tour beneath decks, members of the Scout Car Squadron disappeared to every corner of the ship to begin the true purpose of the visit. At the last port of call before Limassol the ship had replenished with the usual necessities, but had greatly overestimated the beer requirement, in fact there were so many cans of beer that HMS Brazen was in danger of sinking when she docked in Limassol.

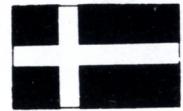
### COMMEMORATION

On the 26th of November DANCON held a Commemoration Service for LCpl F. Thomsen who was killed on the same day in 1981 in a traffic accident on the Selemani Road.



## LOWLANDERS IN HIGH GROUNDS

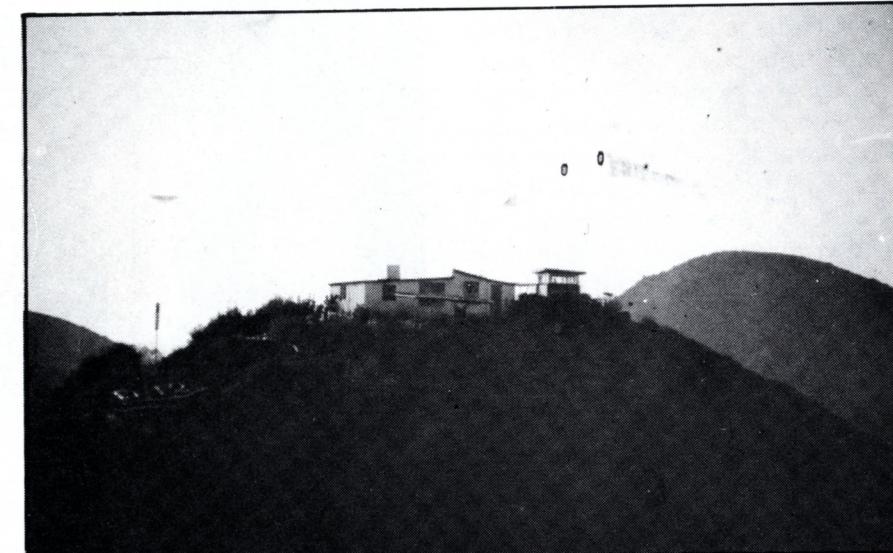
BY: Maj L.-E. Horup



CHARLIE COMPANY looks after the westernmost part of Sector 1 from the KOKKINA enclave to the Xeros river. A distance, as the crow flies, of 24 kilometres. As the landrover crawls, however, the journey takes the better part of three hours.

The Kokkina unit will be described separately in a later article.

The Company operates eight observations posts, each manned for two weeks at a time with 4 UN-soldiers. Each OP has unique and characteristic features. D-11 Kato Pyrgos observes the sea north of Cyprus and salutes travellers passing by 50 metres below the OP on the road to Kato Pyrgos. From the highest OP in Cyprus, 371 metres above the sea at the very top of the Selemani Mountain, the view down to Selemani valley from D-12 is breath taking. Until recently the OP was inaccessible except by helicopter. D-13 Varisha overlooks the deserted village with the same name while guarding the water dispensing tower where three different padlocks had to be opened simultaneously by the muchtas of Loutres, Varisha and Galini when someone wished to inspect the



correct water distribution to the villages. D-14 Kambos Road still maintains the old virtues of the former roadside restaurant in which it resides. Now only UN patrols may enjoy the kind hospitality on the shady porch. When approaching D-26 Ambelikou your nostrils may suddenly catch the sweet smell of fresh bread. The OP hut is located in the old village bakery and the UN soldiers there have carried the tradition and the skills over to modern times. D-35 Mavrovouni overlooks from its 264 metres above sea level, the ancient

copper mines of Mavrovouni. In addition, the OP is located right in the centre of one of the best hunting areas in Cyprus.

The UN patrol track connects all these interesting places. It is patrolled daily by reconnaissance squads from CHARLIE Company. During the rainy season, the track becomes hazardous to a degree where only the most experienced drivers from the company are permitted to use it. Heavy rainfalls in the Troodos mountains each year erode the track in several places and turn the usually dry rivers into dangerous streams.

Until a few years ago, all resupply and rotation was done by Wessex helicopters. This solution is still an option open to us when things are really bad.

Camp CHARLIE is in Limnitis/Yesilirmak on the north side of the UNBZ. From the base, food and other supplies are distributed three times a week to the men "at the top". All general service functions are performed by the personnel at Limnitis Camp.

Without them the main task: maintaining peace and stability could not be accomplished.



The Charlie Track

— A Hairy, All weather Experience



## HEARTBEAT CANADA 1987



There is definite tone of excitement in the air. You can almost smell it; cut it with a knife. The audience is full to capacity as it approaches seven o'clock. Suddenly, there is a rumble, a roar of music and the houselights go out. The gunners in the bleachers rise to their feet to greet the oncoming three hours of entertainment with an applause that almost drowns out the small voice saying, "ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Heartbeat Canada, 1987".



The singers and dancers of the CANCON show gave a performance not soon to be forgotten in the hearts of all our gunners. There were many hours of hard work that went into rehearsing an event such as this.

The sound checks, the dance routines, the songs, the lighting; everything rehearsed and re-



rehearsed, trying to reach perfection in every performance. It paid off in the end as the lights finally went out and the performers entered on stage.

Heartbeat Canada 1987, a tour which brought the performers to our soldiers in various parts of the middle-east and Germany, and ended its tour in Cyprus, was a tremendous success. Our gunners were more than eager to welcome them with a heart-warming round of applause, worthy of any homecoming greeting in Canada. They had waited since the beginning of November for this show and now it was finally here! For the gunners in the bleachers it was an evening which brought them back home. One only had to see the smiles on their faces to attest to this fact!

