



The Blue Beret

Wednesday

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1972

EVENTFUL AND ENCOURAGING



Major General
D. PREM CHAND,
Force Commander.



B. F. OSORIO-TAFALL
Special Representative of
the Secretary-General.

The year 1972, now drawing to a close, has been eventful and encouraging for UNFICYP, in many ways. The Secretary-General's visit to us in June was a memorable landmark with a most welcome impetus on events in Cyprus, which assisted us greatly in carrying out our role. The reactivation of the intercommunal talks has also been an important development of the year, as emphasized in the Secretary-General's Report for the mandate just concluded. The conscientious and sustained efforts of the members of the Force, both civilian and military, and the admirable devotion to duty displayed by each one of you has ensured that no major incidents occurred in spite of tension and sensitivity from time to time. Further, one of the most encouraging aspects has been the fully integrated manner in which members from so many nationalities have continued to work together towards achieving the aims of the United Nations in Cyprus. I cannot thank you enough for the splendid manner in which you have participated in the Team, and I do so with the firm conviction that you will continue to give your best towards serving the noble cause of international peace and security. To have this opportunity of making a personal and direct contribution to the service of peace is for us a unique privilege and an honour indeed. Let us do so with the hope and the prayer that the mandate which has just commenced will bring lasting peace and prosperity for Cyprus.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

The end of the year provides an appropriate opportunity for a review of past endeavours and for rededication to the tasks that lie ahead. The year that is drawing to a close, although not an easy one, has seen interesting developments. New initiatives have been taken to find a solution to the Cyprus problem and the first meeting of the reactivated intercommunal talks was held in Nicosia on 8 June 1972 in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. These talks are still in progress and we continue to hope that through them a solution to the Cyprus problem will be found. As the Secretary-General has pointed out in his recent report to the Security Council on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UNFICYP has a special responsibility to assist in finding peaceful solutions to the problems that may affect intercommunal relationships while these talks are continuing. This is a task which, I am sure, the Force will willingly accept and discharge in the same manner as it has carried out its other responsibilities. In this connexion, I should like to associate myself with the remarks made by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council when he paid tribute to the exemplary efficiency and the devotion with which the members of the Force have carried out the important task assigned to them under the Security Council resolutions.

In conveying to you my heartfelt congratulations for your devoted services in the cause of peace in Cyprus during 1972, may I extend to you and your families my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, in 1973.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



The Principal Information Officer with UNFICYP, Mr. Jean Back has left after more than three years of service in Cyprus. At the same time Mr. Back is retiring from the service of the United Nations having served here since the 27th March 1946.

Over the years Mr. Jean Back has seen service in UN HQ, New York, Greece, Indonesia, the former Belgian Congo, Austria, Geneva, Turkey, Israel and Brazil.

Mr. Back is now going to settle down in Geneva. Those who know the PIO will know, that he will find ways to enable UN to benefit further from his experiences, gained during more than 26 years in the International service.



ALLE SKIFTER!

Det er oj kun et par af observationsposterne, der ligger ved vej-kanten.

Til Ny Selemani kan man køre.

Men så går toget heller ikke længere.

Alle skifter.

Til æsel eller gåben. Og æslet klarer nok turen bedst, selv om det har mest at slæbe på.

På billedet ser man endestationen på linien Limnitis — Selemani.

Overkonstabel S.G. Karberg spiler æselfører.

Oversergent C.H. Nielsen og korporal H.E.K. Rasmussen er vist degraderet til portører.

Når man er medlem af Drivers Club, ser det ud til, at man har visse forudsætninger for at ligne en stationsforstander.



FORCE COMMANDER PÅ BESØG

Tirsdag den 12. dec. aflagde Force Commander, Major-General Prem Chand, sit første besøg hos Dancon 18.

Generalen ankom pr. helikopter til observationsposten Kokkina West, sammen med sin svenske adjutant og sin danske O-officer, major Jørgensen.

På Kokkina West blev generalen modtaget af Chef-Dancon og Chefen for Let Kompagni og Delingsføreren for Kokkina Camp.

Efter en kort briefing gik turen videre til Loutros og derfra til Limnitis-lejren.

Fra Limnitis gik turen til Xeros, hvor Chef-Dancon og kontingentets O-officer gav en redegørelse for situationen i Lefka District.

Efter denne var generalen gæst ved en forfriskning i officersmessens have, hvor han hilste på repræsentanter for officerer og sergenter. Ved afskeden overrakte oberstløjtnanten Marineregimentets plaquette med valgsproget: "Hverken dumdristig eller frygtsom".

Generalen udtrykte sin tilfredshed med den gennemførte renlighed og orden, han havde bemærket overalt, ligesom han under besøget var blevet overrasket over, at næsten alle konstabler og befalingsmænd uden besvær havde svaret ham på engelsk, når han henvendte sig til dem.

Hvis der nu skulde være en eller anden, der siger til sig selv "Godt

DANCON NYT

Den 8. december klokken 15 viste officererne i Xeros, hvordan man spiller feriefodbold, idet de tabte til konstablerne med 5-0.



Major-General Prem Chand hilser på vagten på Kokkina West. Konstabel Hans Martin Milland, Katten Pusser er ligeglad med de fine besøgende.

det ikke var mig, han talte til"—så gør vi opmærksom på, at der iværksættes engelskkursus omgående—kendskab til sprog er i mange tilfælde den bedste hjælp i mellemfolkeligt samarbejde.

Denne gang tillod programmet det ikke, men næste gang Force Commander kommer på besøg, vil han komme rundt i samtlige messer.



MILITÆRPOLITISTATIONEN

I XEROS

Fornylig kaldte vi infirmeriet med dets døgnvagt for en observationspost iblandt os, sådan at forstå, at det er en af de ting, der skal være her, for at selv ulykkelige situationer kan blive klaret. Men vi håber aldrig at få brug for det.

Det samme kunne man kalde militærpolitistationen i den samme bygning.

Vi kan hverken undgå den eller undvære den. Men vi skulle ikke ret gerne have meget at bruge den til.

Stationen har blandet mandskab, en irlander og to danskere

Det er et meget roligt sted at være, siger militærpolitiet.

Man skal for eksempel tage sig af fulde folk med i byen. Det er et problem i Nicosia og alle orlovbyerne ved kysten, men ikke her.

Der er igrunden heller ikke særligt mange rapporter om tra-

fikuheld. Der har været 42 ialt i år og 2 i denne måned, men når man tænker på, at trafikken ellers er et ømt punkt på Cypern, er det jo ikke mange gange, UN-soldater har været indblandet i Lefka District.

Der kommer for tiden cirka 1000 nye, uøvede bilister på de cypriotiske veje hvert år, og det må jo give problemer, ikke mindst i den farlige vintertid. Det cypriotiske politi kører da også for tiden med trafikinspektioner rundt om på øen, og også UN's militærpoliti har deres vogne ude.

Det er godt at høre, at vor finske og vor irske gæst i militærpolitiet synes om at være her. Der er god kontakt mellem dem og de øvrige medlemmer af sergentmessens, synes de. Selvfølgelig er maden anderledes, end de er vant til, men den er da i det mindste ikke så tung, som den er nogle steder.

Kort sagt: De befinder sig godt iblandt os.

Det er også rart at høre, at der er roligt her i distriktet i modsætning til andre.

Men derfor kan vi jo godt passe på på vejene.

AAB MOD HOKALT HOLD

Den 13. december kl. 14,30 var vi cirka 70 mand fra Dancon til fodbold i Famagusta, hvor det dan-

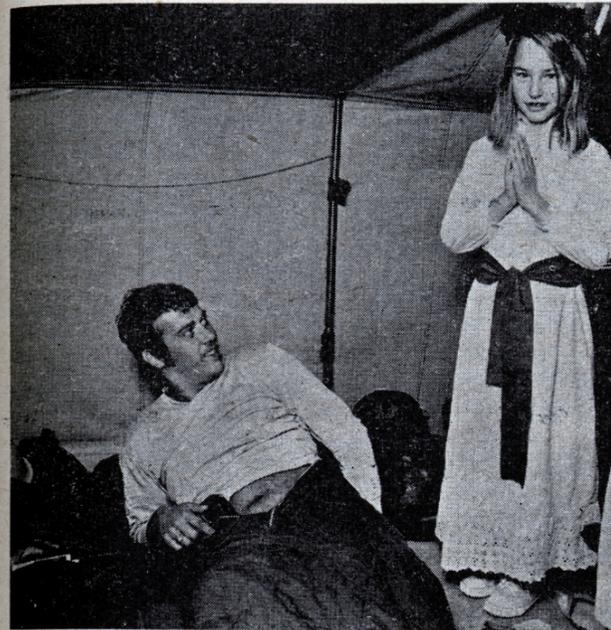
ske hold AaB spillede mod et lokalt professionelt hold.

Selve kampen var fodboldmæssigt ikke nogen stor oplevelse. Derimod forstod de danske tilskuere at sætte kulør på tilskuerpldsjerne, i nogle tilfælde næsten for meget.

Resultatet blev 1-1, hvad AaB nok kan være mest tilfreds med, da det var udpræget feriefodbold, de leverede. Det blev da også danskerne, der scorede begge mål, først et selvmål i første halvleg, derefter udligning midt i anden.

Skal man karakterisere oplevelsen, må det blive som følger: halvdårlig kamp, for mange, der fik for meget øl, men ellers var det en god, men lang tur.

Genuint luciafirande hos Swedcon



Söta lillucian Annabelle Jaako uppvaktade bl a grabbarna i Othello Tower. Här har hon lyckats få liv i Bo Clarin, som dock inte alls hade något emot att vakna.

Årets Lucia-firande hos Swedcon blev en klar succé. Tre stycken flickor hade engagerats plus ett stort antal stjärngossar och andra hjälpredor. Huvudpersoner var dock de tre ljusdrottningarna, Annabelle Jaako, Ann-Christine Lundin och Maj Barreflod.

Redan vid midnatt inleddes lus-

turnen. I tre grupper for man runt till våra OP-poster för att sprida ljus och glädje bland soldaterna. Det blev verkligen uppskattade besök, inte minst därför att kvinnlig fågning är så sällsynt i dessa maskulina miljöer. Lussekatte och pepparkakor är ju inte så dumt det heller....



Vilket angenämt vaktpass! Bo Högberg tar emot Lucia Maj Barreflod med öppna armar, och platsen är Ayios Andronikos.

Det blev en verkligt jobb natt för såväl sångare som lucior. Lagom vid hemkomsten till campen igen stod de olika mäs-sarna på tur. I privatematsalen trodde man nästan det var stjärnfall, när alla fotoflascherna kom i aktion.

Senare på kvällen blev det Lucia-

underhållning i "Muskelhallen", där civpol svarade för arrangemanget tillsammans med campens husband och Monica Herneling. En verklig t oppkväll som inleddes med att civpolarna drog in i gymnastiksalen med polisbil, fulla sirener och saftblandare mitt under allsängen.

NY MARKA

Från och nednyär kommer man på försök att servera sprit på privatemässen. Men att genomföra en så revolutionerande nyordning kräver vissa förändringar av nuvarande mässen. Därför har man exempelvis tvingats bygga en ny marka! Just nu pågår arbetena med nybygget för fullt. Man startade i tisdags och räknar med att vara klara till lagom till jul. Den nya canteenen kommer att ligga i omedelbar anslutning till privatemässen och den gamla skall förvandlas till bar. På bilden jobbar grabbarna med bottenplattan. Lagg märke till att det är två som jobbar, Dick Callenberg och Lasse Åkerman, alla övriga tillhör ledighetsskommitten.



SWEDCON NEWS

Swedish Forces Photos

36 SQUADRON ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT



● From left to right: Squadron Sergeant Major John Kenny, Sergeant (SQMS) Barry Edwards, Sergeant 'Dodger' Green and Captain Bill Watts.

Most of us have seen a good deal of the island and by the end of the tour we shall have driven about 850,000 miles. The highlights of the tour are behind us with Christmas and our handover left. We will have memories of the Turkish Rotation, an interesting exercise in transport lift. The Medal Parade was successful and our Rotation Vehicle Inspection results have been very good.

During the last few months we have had the pleasure of receiving many visitors who include:-

Major General V H J Carpenter MBE — Transport Officer-in-Chief (Army).

considerably easier by the co-operation of all contingents. The friendship shown to us has been very welcome.

The day of departure is drawing closer, the Advance Party leaves on 28 December and the Main Body on 5 January. We are to be relieved by 38 Squadron RCT which like us is based in Germany. Perhaps now is the time to reflect upon the last six months.

We have had a most interesting, fruitful and worthwhile tour with the Force. To most of us it has been a new experience and one which we shall all treasure.

The task of running the transport has been satisfying and made



● Corporal Brian Kay, Mr Andreas Papagarergo (known to all as "Chamois") and Staff Sergeant Dug Keith.

entered in the ESBA Minor Units League and are currently in the middle of the table having won six games and lost eight, it is hoped that by the time we leave the Island our position will have improved so leaving our relief, 38 Squadron RCT who have a good footballing side, a chance to finish in a favourable position.

FICYC Championships and turned out a good average side. We have a good Cross Country side kept in trim by SSM Kenny with some very good up and coming young runners who have the build and stamina and are constantly training to improve their speed. In the UNFICYC Cross Country event our best Athlete came in seventh, the team was placed fifth.

In the Famagusta Town Race we again came fifth. No doubt

Major General RWT Britten — Deputy Quarter Master General.

Lieutenant Colonel JM Greenwood RCT — CTMO NEARELF.

Lieutenant Colonel PWC Seabrook — AA & QMG Ops/Plans MODUK.

apart from routine visits by the Force Commander and Commander Britcon.

Some of the more adventurous have travelled to Jerusalem, Beirut, Tel Aviv and on a Cruise to Venice and back calling in at many places en route. At this stage I must mention our gratitude to the Canadian Contingent for allowing us to fly to Germany for leave on their flights. We are truly grateful for these morale boosting trips.

It remains for me only to wish all our users and those with whom we deal a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We know we can count on you to give 38 Squadron the same support and understanding over the next 6 months.

that on our return to BAOR the team will continue as it did last year in the local Cross Country League.

Our own Squadron Club "The Wheel-Em-Inn" has been a great success and the focal point of much of our entertainment. To this club we have been happy to welcome the guards from 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment and the 3rd Battalion the Queen's Regiment when based in Camp UNFICYC. We have had ties with many from the contingents and games nights with SBA Units resulting in reciprocal invitations being offered.



● In the picture above are: standing from left to right, Lance Corporal "Smiler" Wilkie, Driver Ian Brown, Corporal "Hotlips" Walker. Front row: Corporal Jack Roy, Second Lieutenant Ralph Leitch and Corporal Stan Ramsbottom.

VOLLEYBALL

As the team was only formed on our arrival in Cyprus having never played the game together before, all interested personnel soon learnt to like and enjoy the game; we went about playing friendlies against teams in the SBA Area and in our own Squadron Hanger against UN Teams with great success, the only team we did not beat was 9 Signal Regiment MT, but the final crunch came when we were annihilated by the American Embassy. Of late the team has been plagued with injuries so that we have fallen back on our reserves, and have really had to struggle to win.

ATHLETICS

The Squadron have not done much on the Athletics field, we formed most of the BRITCON Team that took part in the UN-

SPORTS NEWS

We have taken a great interest in sport and have played a variety of sports acquitting ourselves well on the field of play. Some of the highlights of these are given below:-

CRICKET

Having arrived during the middle of the Cricket season we were too late to enter any league, as 7 Squadron did not partake in the sport we had no fixtures to carry on with, nevertheless we did play some friendly games twice against 58 Squadron RCT at Dhekelia winning both home and away games and then against the Australian Police losing one and winning the other.

FOOTBALL

On the Football field we have done fairly well, considering that we have a young side and numerous injuries, most notable of which being the loss of the Team Captain Sgt Mal Breen. We

BRITCON NEWS

CATERING

When one remembers the dictum that "an army marches on its stomach" its easy to appreciate the importance of the job performed by the cooks of a unit like the 23 Infantry Group. At all times they have to see to it that "the inner man" is satisfied and in the process are one of the busiest sections in any unit having to work from early morning to late evening and sometimes when there is an operational need or when social functions are held they are required to work until late at night.

At this time of year however with Christmas fast approaching our catering section is even



● The catering staff at Wolfe Tone Camp (left to right) Privates Gay Breen, Christy Sherry, Oliver Brennan, Pat Ryan, Dick Kelly and Sergeant Bobby Donoghue.



● Private Pat Ryan draws rations for the observation posts watched by Sergeant Bobby Donoghue (left) and Private Gay Breen.

busier than usual. An important part of the Christmas festivities is the Christmas dinner and our cooks will try to ensure that when our soldiers sit down to their Christmas dinner here in Cyprus they will be able to enjoy a traditional meal just as good as if they were sitting down in their own homes.

Turkey, ham, plum pudding and Christmas cake in particular are the important items on the Christmas dinner menu and in charge of the team who will cook them is the cook Sergeant, Sergeant Bobby Donoghue, who will be cooking his second Christmas dinner in Cyprus having previous-

ly prepared one when stationed in Lefka district in December 1969. Sergeant Donoghue will be ably assisted by Privates Gay Breen, Oliver Brennan, Dick Kelly, who is a Master Baker as well as a cook, and the sharpshooter of the catering section Private Christy Sherry. Corporal Gerry Guidon will look after the cooking in the Officers' Mess while Pat Ryan will take care of the men in the Observation Posts.



● Privates Oliver Brennan (on left) and Gay Breen begin preparations for the Christmas dinner.

POSTMAN

At all times the unit postman is an important man but when a unit is serving overseas and personnel are separated from their families the importance from the morale point of view of receiving letters from home is enormous. Corporal John McEvoy our post Corporal is even busier than usual just now with Christmas approaching as the tradition of exchanging Christmas cards and presents with families and friends is a very strong one with Irish people. Corporal McEvoy can barely be seen these days behind the masses of incoming and outgoing Christmas mail.

Corporal John McEvoy sorts the mail while B.Q.M.S. Joe Gibbons waits to see if there is any letter for him.



A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

On Wednesday afternoon December the 13th, Ircon played Swedcon in Larnaca. After a fast exciting game Ircon managed to gain a 3-3 draw with two great goals from Lieutenant Terry Young late in the second half. The Swedes were the faster team and displayed tremendous ball control, their running off the ball was another feature of the game. For Ircon Lieutenant Terry Young had his best game in a long while, with Private Jimmy Greene having yet another great game. Others to impress were Corporal "J.J." Coy and Sergeant John Ging in defence and Lieutenant Ray Twomey who displayed tremendous energy with 90 minutes of non stop running in midfield.

Volleyball

Our volleyball team competed in the inter-contingent competition held at Cancon on Friday December 8th, unfortunately our

first opponent were Fincon who defeated us decisively. However we had the consolation of being beaten by the eventual winners of the competition.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

A traditional feature of Christmas is the "piping in" of the plum pudding and the man who will do this in Wolfe Tone Camp is Sergeant Tony Morgan. Ser-



● Corporal Seamus McKenna seems to be supervising Sergeant Tony Morkan's practice on the pipes.

IRCON NEWS

UNFIGYP VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

If you stand in the centre of the volleyball court in Wolseley Barracks gymnasium you can still hear the cry "Fincon, Fincon, Fincon" echoing through the building. In the recent inter-contingent volleyball tournament Fincon emerged victorious in the final over the Canadian Contingent.

On their way to the finals Fincon defeated Iron and Sweden, while in their half of the draw, Cancon overcame Camp UNFIGYP and UNCIVPOL. In the final the Finnish Contingent defeated the Canadians in three games in a hard fought and exciting contest. Congratulations are extended to all teams for the fine sportsmanship and volleyball exhibited throughout the competition.

After the presentation of trophies, all competitors were hosted by the Canadian Contingent at a barbeque held in the Chimo Club.

Even a violent thunderstorm, which forced festivities indoors, did not dampen the spirit of international friendship prevailing throughout the entire day.



● Brigadier General G.G. Brown, (far left) Commander 1 Combat Group with headquarters in Calgary, Alberta, leaving Wolseley Barracks on an inspection tour of Nicosia District. Accompanying General Brown are Lieutenant Colonel J.H. Allan, Major G.S. Wharton, Captain D.P. Montgomery and Chief Warrant Officer J.A. Heyman.

THE POPPY FAMILY

Susan and Terry Jacks — better known as The Poppy Family — will be singing their latest hit records at the Municipal Theatre, Nicosia on 5 January 1973. Two concerts, an afternoon matinee and an evening performance, will be held.

Terry Jacks has just released his version of an old Buddy Holly hit "Jim Gonna Love You Too" which looks destined to be as big a hit as his first solo record, "Concrete Sea". Susan Jacks will be releasing her first solo album within the next few weeks. Members of the Canadian

Contingent will be among the first to see the live performance of these new numbers by one of Canada's most successful international recording groups.

"We appreciate that at this particular time of year members of the Armed Forces, who are serving overseas, feel a need for ties with home", said Robert H. Hawkes, Q.C. President of Rothmans. "We thought it would be a good idea once again to give them a touch of Canada and the best in entertainment at the same time".



● The Poppy Family in concert. Susan and Terry Jacks, who will be visiting Cyprus on 5 January 1973.

TAKE CARE WHEN OVERTAKING

TERVEISIÄ BEETLEHEMISTÄ

Kävin viikko sitten Beetlehemissä, joulun pääpaikalla. Kauppiat ja maksua haluavat turistioppaat tappelivat kovaäänisesti asiakkaista Jeesuksen syntymäkirkon pihalla. Ihmiset ovat tehneet joulusta business-homman. — "Me käymme joulun viettohon niin maisin miettiin."

Mikä meille on tärkeintä joulussa? No tietysti pukki, lahjat ja muu ousuhumu. — "Turhuuden turhuus kaikki on niin turhaa touhu tää. Me ahjat jaamme runsaat, lapsi unhoon vain nyt jää". Nykyisen Beetlehem melusta huolimatta tuon sieltä hämmästyttävän sanoman. Se on salainen viesti. Siitä ei saa selvää ellei hiljennä aukaisemaan sen salakieltä. "Oj ystävät, jos myöskin me kuin tietäjämme nuo, tulisimme Beetlehemin rakkaan lapsen luo. Niin silloin meille joulu maallinen ois" alku joulun tavisen." Koetapa avata tuo sanoma!

Pastori

FINGON NEWS

AMPUJAT VARMOINA

Finconin ampujat haastoivat Canconin pistooliampumaotteluun Nicosian kansainväliselle ampumaradalle viime torstaina. Kuuden miehen joukkueet kummastakin laukoivat sekä koulun että kuvion. Yhteispisteissä korjasi Fincon noin 500 pisteen voiton, mutta henkilökohtaisen kilvan paras oli Kanadan maj Kerry Wharton. Vänpeli Komi sijoitti toiseksi ja kapteeni Nieminen kolmanneksi.



● JOULUSAUNA TEMBLOKSEEN Pataljoonan pioneerit ovat innolla rakentaneet uutta saunaa Tembloksen vanhan telttasaunan puitteisiin. Löylypuoli onkin kunnossa kiuasta ja lauteita lukuunottamatta. Pioneerien siirryttyä kiireellisempiin töihin odotellaan Tembloksessa jännityksellä kuka pataljoonassa joululöylyt saa. Kykkossakin kuulemma tehdään joulusaunaa....



FINGONIN YLIVOIMAA LENTOPALLOTURNAUKSESSA



● Vaikka Fincon nujersikin Canconin toissa viikkoisessa lentopalloturnauksessa, ei se suinkaan alistunut vähällä, vaan yritti henkeen ja vereen loppuun asti. Suomalaisen yhteispeli ja pallon käsittelytaito olivat kuitenkin sen verran parempia, että kanadalaiset lyötiin suoraan kolmessa



erässä. Mestarijoukkueeseen kuuluivat alarivistä vas. alik Rautiainen, alik Heikkinen, valmentaja, yliv Ake, kers Rähä; ylärivistä jääk Ruuhinen, jääk K Piispanen, jääk Lammi, jääk Lankinen ja ylik Harva. Kuvasta puuttuu alik Ojanen.

MP NOTEBOOK

ACCIDENTS — UNFIGYP

Week Ending 15 Dec 72	— 10
Same Period Last Year	— 6
Total This Year	— 350
Same Period Last Year	— 311

Main Cause Of Accidents This Week:

DRIVING WITHOUT DUE CARE AND ATTENTION

Two members of the contingent received their Canadian Forces Decorations in a brief ceremony in the Commanding Officer's office, Wolseley Barracks. The picture shows Lieutenant Colonel J.H. Allan congratulating Corporal Cec Badcock, Maintenance Platoon. On the right is Corporal Fred Bridges, Suburb Company.

CANCON NEWS

CORRECTION

In the last issue of The Blue Beret we wrote that the former Force Commander, Martola, was a Major General. His correct title is Lieutenant General.

HOHER BESUCH IN PAPHOS

Botschafter Dr. S. Koller, der erst kuerzlich sein Beglaubigungsschreiben dem Staatspraesidenten Zyperns ueberreichte, benutzte eine der ersten Gelegenheiten zu einem Besuch des Auscon im Paphos - District, um sich in personlichen Gesprachen mit den Soldaten, einen Eindruck von den Aufgaben, aber auch von den Sorgen und Problemen, zu verschaffen. Bei seinem Zypern Aufenthalt konnte Botschafter Dr. Koller beide oesterreichische Kontingente, das Oesterreichische UN-Militaer-Kontingent einschliesslich Austrian Field Hospital und das Kontingent der Oesterreichischen Zivil - Polizei kennenlernen.

Botschafter Dr. Koller ist seit 1947 im diplomatischen Dienst, war oesterreichischer Generalkonsul in Muenchen, Frankfurt und Hamburg, Leiter der Suedtirolabteilung im Bundesministerium fuer Auswaertige Angelegenheiten, mehrfach mit diplomatischen Aufgaben im Rahmen der United Nations und des Europarates betraut, sowie in den Jahren 1962 — 1967 oesterreichischer Botschafter in Budapest.

Zuletzt war Dr. Koller Stellver-



● Karte und Wirklichkeit ergaenzen einander.

sich in Begleitung des oesterreichischen General-konsuls Dr. Marangos befand, den Soldaten in Paphos und Polis einen Besuch ab.

St. Barbara und St. Patrick



● Frau Edith Koller (rechts), die charmante Gattin des oesterreichischen Botschafters.

treter des politischen Direktors im Bundesministerium fuer Auswaertige Angelegenheiten. Waehrend seiner Verwendung im Aussenministerium mit dem Verbindungsdiens zum Bundesministerium fuer Landesverteidigung beauftragt, ist Dr. Koller mit den Problemen der oesterreichischen Landesverteidigung bestens vertraut. Doch auch familiaere Beziehungen zum Bundesheer bestehen: Der Sohn des Botschafters, Funker Thomas Koller, versieht seit Oktober 1972 Grundwehrdienst beim Tel-Bataillon 1 in der Maria-Theresien-Kaserne in Wien.

Auftakt des Botschafterbesuches bei Auscon war die Teilnahme an einer Feierstunde im Austrian Field Hospital am 8. 12.72, anlaesslich der Segnung einer Marienstatue und eines schmiedeeisernen Kapellenkreuzes.

Am 9. und 10. 12. 1972 stattete Botschafter Dr. Koller, der

zeigten sich bei "Kaiserwetter" im Schmuck der United Nations Fahne und der oesterreichischen Staatsfarben Rot-Weiss-Rot.

In Gesprachen, die Botschafter Dr. Koller mit den Soldaten im Lager und auf den OPs fuehrte, konnten sich der hohe Besucher und die Damen und Herren seiner Begleitung ueberzeugen, dass Auscon's Soldaten den Dienst im Rahmen der UN mit Eifer und Freude erfullen.

Die menschlichen Aspekte dieses Besuches bei den Oesterreichern waren nicht zu uebersehen. Grossen Anteil an der betont herzlichen Atmosphaere hatte vor allem Frau Edith Koller, die Gattin des oesterreichischen Botschafters.

AUSCON NEWS

ANERKENNUNG

Blue Baret benutzte die Gelegenheit an Botschafter Dr. Koller einige Fragen zu stellen:

Wie denken Sie als hoher oesterreichischer Diplomat und Kenner der Lage im Mittelmeerraum ueber die UN-Mission oesterreichischer Soldaten im Rahmen der UNFICYP?

"Die oesterreichischen Kontingents erfullen ihre Mission im Auftrag des Sicherheitsrates der Vereinten Nationen. Die United Nations betrachten es bekanntlich als ihre vornehmste Aufgabe, Friede und Sicherheit aufrecht zu erhalten. Dieser wahrhaft grossen Sendung dienen auch die auf Zypern stehenden oesterreichischen Soldaten und Polizisten, indem sie den ihren konkret erteilten Auftrag ausfuehren."

Welchen Eindruck haben Sie, Exzellenz, von dieser sterreichischen Truppe, nachdem Sie Gelegenheit hatten, unsere Soldaten an ihren Einsatzorten zu besuchen und mit ihnen zu sprechen?

"Ich schatze mich gluecklich, feststellen zu koennen, dass die in hohem Grade anerkennenden Aeusserungen hoechster verantwortlicher Stellen der Republik Zypern ebenso, wie der Vereinten Nationen ueber die Taetigkeit der oesterreichischen Kontingente, mit meinen persoenlichen Erfahrungen und Eindruecken voll und



● Staatswappen der Republik Oesterreich fuer eine Verwendung im Rahmen des Artikels geigelt.

WEIHNACHTS GRUSS

Herzlichen Dank, Herr Botschafter, fuer dieses Gesprach. Erlauben Sie abschliessend auf richtige Festtagswuensche aller Soldaten des Austrian Contingent und verbringen Sie, Exzellenz, angenehme Stunden als Gast unserer Soldaten.

"Darf auch ich, allen Offizieren Unteroffizieren, Soldaten und Polizisten der oesterreichischen Kontingente zu ihrer so erfolgreichen Taetigkeit herzlich beglueckwuenschen und die Gelegenheit wahrnehmen, um allen auf Zypern in Einsatz stehenden Maennern, wie auch ihren Familien, ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein glueckliches Neues Jahr wuenschen."



● Als geborener Seebodener fragt Botschafter Dr. Koller: "Ist einer der Soldaten aus Kärnten?"

ganz uebereinstimmen. Die oesterreichischen Offiziere, Unteroffiziere, Soldaten und Polizisten leisten hier eine Arbeit, von deren Bedeutung die Heimat, wenn ueberhaupt, so leider oft nicht die richtige Vorstellung hat."

EINFACH ZUM NACHDENKEN

Liebe Freunde!

Was ist eigentlich der Grund zum Feiern zu Weihnachten? Mehr Freizeit, der Christbaum, die Weihnachtsport — oder was eigentlich?

Für den Christen ist der Inhalt des Festes folgender: Der für uns unfassbare Gott wird einer von uns, wird ein kleines Kind wie Du und ich es gewesen sind. Damit hat Gott sich festgelegt — denn ein Menschenleben kann nicht widerrufen werden — und damit hat Gott seine grenzenlose Liebe uns bewiesen. Er setzt sich uns gleich, er wird uns Bruder in der Geburt Christi. Seit diesem Ereignis haben wir Gott nicht mehr im unzugänglichen Himmel zu suchen, sondern unter uns Menschen.

Das ist der Sinn des Festes und der Grund zum Feiern und zur Freude.

Zu diesem Sinn frohe Weihnachten
Euer Kaplan