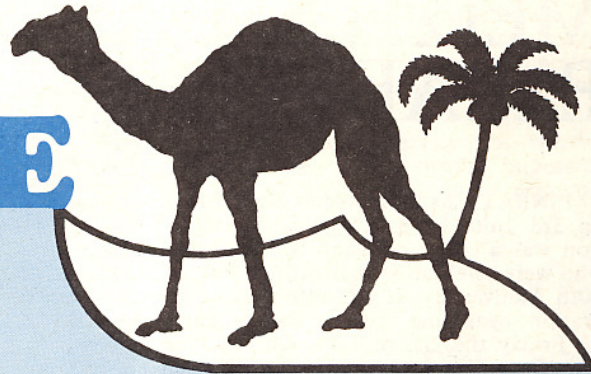




UNEF NEWS

SAND DUNE



Vol 2 No 2, United Nations Emergency Force, Ismailia. July 1978



MEDALS DAY PARADE

FINBATT

FINBATT had its Medals Day Parade on 3rd June 1978. This year's celebration was a grand occasion for the Finns who were celebrating their Armed Forces' 60th Anniversary. It was a three day celebration beginning with a Dinner Party on Friday the 2nd of June. On 3rd June the festivities continued with beach parties, water skiing and other amusements followed by an oriental show and Sauna.

In the afternoon of the same day the Medals Day Parade which was to be the apex of the three-day celebration took place. It was a colourful and impressive ceremony. The salute was taken by the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin. In his address, the commander expressed his appreciation to the contingent for their dedication to duty. He said:

"I am very happy to be here with you on this eventful day. The presence of the Chief Coordinator, General Siilasvuo, Your ambassador to Cairo, His Excellency Mr Pekuri, and the Ambassadors of Australia and Sweden, their Excellencies Mr Ashwin and Mr Edelstam, certainly enhance this colourful parade. As you are aware a Medals Day Parade is a very important occasion for everyone serving with UNEF and today is even more important since this parade has been planned to coincide with the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Finnish Armed Forces. May I congratulate you and I earnestly hope that the Finnish Armed Forces will always be in the front line of the bearers of the peace-keeping banner. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the manner in which you have dedicated yourselves to the tasks entrusted to you. As the contingent farthest away from Headquarters you have often had to rely on resources available within your battalion and I must say that thanks to you and good leadership of the contingent, I have never had any reason to worry about this area".

The Commander congratulated members of the contingent and presented them with the UN Peace Medals on behalf of the Secretary General.

This year's celebration which attracted a large number of distinguished guests including UN Chief Coordinator, General Ensio Siilasvuo, and the ambassadors of Finland, Australia and Sweden continued into the night with a Dinner Ball and fireworks display.

On Sunday 4th June the guests were treated to a special luncheon and a tour of Abu Zenima and Wadi Garandal. The festivities ended with Sauna at Supatupa.

2 Among the Beach Party guests enjoying sun and sea H.E. Mr Joel Pekuri, Finnish Ambassador (left) LGen Ensio Siilasvuo (middle) and H.E. Mr Robin Ashwin, Australian ambassador.



The FC inspecting the guard of honour commanded by Capt K Jaarva.



General view of the Tivoli ground during the Beach Party of the FINBATT Medals Parade. Guests and soldiers were invited to play darts, chocolate wheel, lucky dipping and coits.



CANLOG



Contingent marching on Parade.

CANLOG held its Medals Day Parade on 7th May 1978 at El Gala. It was a great affair for the Canadians who, as luck should have it, were still celebrating their National Day. The occasion therefore was a grand finale for their week-long festivities.

Due to the intensively hot weather which made it practically impossible for any strenuous work to be done out of doors, the parade was held in the 114 ATU hanger, which served the purpose of a parade ground very well. The parade was attended by many distinguished guests, among whom were the Canadian Ambassador to Egypt His Excellency, Mr Dery, the Chief Coordinator, General Siilasvuo, and the Chief LAWIO General El Kateb.

The salute was taken by the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin. In his speech to the troops, the Commander welcomed the distinguished guests and praised the members of the contingent for the excellent manner in which they were carrying out their tasks. He said: "Today is a special day during your tour with UNEF. On behalf of the Secretary General I have presented you with the UN Peace Medals which you richly deserve.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the presence at this parade of your ambassador to Cairo, His Excellency Mr Dery, the Chief Coordinator, General Siilasvuo, the Chief of ARE Liaison Agency with International Organization Major-Generla El Kateb and the Acting Chief of Staff of UNTSO, Colonel Callaghan.

May I again thank you for the excellent manner in which you have dedicated

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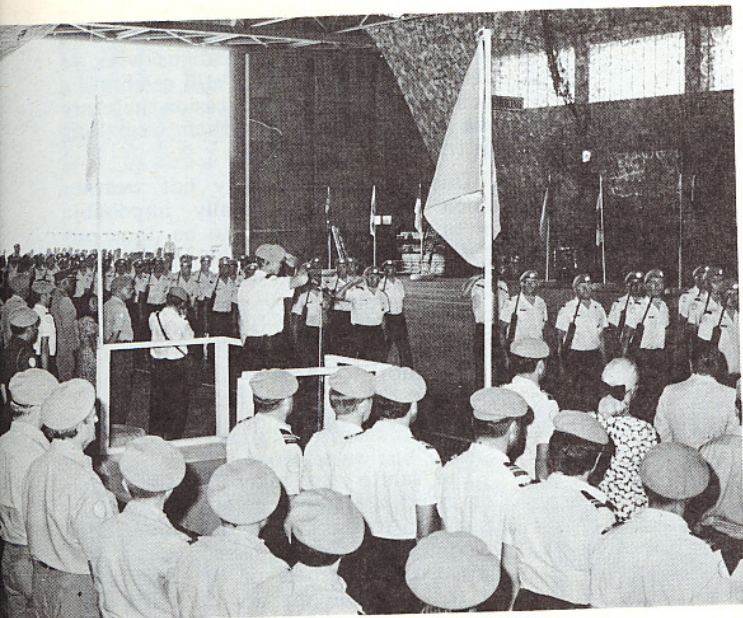
MPIO
UNEF HQ (MILPERS)
ISMAILIA
EGYPT

Cartoonist: Flt. Lt. Fielding

Cover:
The Canadian Regimental Band at
Canlog Medals Parade.



Some of the guests having self-service barbeque luncheon.



The outgoing commander, Brigadier General Baile, salutes as troops march past the saluting dais.



The Force Commander takes the salute during the march past at the Canlog Medals Day Parade.

yourselves to performing the tasks given to you during your tour in the Middle East. You have certainly done your part in maintaining the position of the Canadian Contingent as one of the mainstays of this force. I am proud to serve with you in the cause of peace, and like you, I am looking forward to seeing progress being made in the search for peace in this area.

I consider this parade of special importance because it is also, in fact, the farewell parade for General Baile. I wish to thank you, General Baile, for your cooperation and timeless efforts in getting things done for UNEF. I anticipate having the same good working relationship with General Evraire as I have had with you.

Last but not least, on this occasion I would like to offer you my congratulations on the 111th birthday of Canada which you celebrated last Saturday. I am sure that your country will be known for a long time to come as one of the world's most astute peace-keepers".

The Commander concluded his speech by wishing them the best for the future and hoped they would complete their tour successfully.

Earlier during the parade the Commander on behalf of the Secretary General presented members of the contingent with the UN Peace Medals and congratulated them. As part of the function there was a brief ceremony during which Brigadier-General Baile handed over his duties as Commander of the Canadian contingent in the Middle East to Brigadier-General Evraire. Immediately after this General Evraire took over the command of the parade of the remaining part of it.

After the parade a reception was held for all the visitors, who had come to watch the parade, during which meals and a

special barbeque were served. The celebration which continued to the late evening ended up with entertainment for the troops.



The Force Commander pins a UN Peace Medal on the chest of LtCol Edmunds.

GHANBATT

GHANBATT was the last of the contingents to hold its Medals Day Parade in the month of July. It was a grand and impressive ceremony. Despite the hot summer weather and the fact that it was held in the Buffer Zone it attracted a lot of spectators. Among the distinguished guests who came to witness the ceremony were Ghana's Minister Counsellor to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr Amoo, the Commander of UNIFIL, Major-General Erskine, and a special Armed Forces delegation from Ghana led by Colonel Agbotui, and the Director of the SFM.

The salute was taken by Major-General Rais Abin, the Force Commander. On behalf of the Secretary General, the Force Commander presented the UN Peace Medals to members of the contingent and congratulated them on the award.

In his speech to the troops the Force Commander praised the contingent and assured them that the presentation of these awards was one of the most enjoyable duties that a Force Commander performs since it signifies an appreciation of the contribution the troops have made. He noted that the area occupied by the contingent was a sensitive and an important one and said "I am happy to note that thanks to Lt-Col Achel's effective leadership you have remained physically active and with high spirits. I do not have to stress again the importance of your mission but would just like to repeat that the area under your control is a sensitive part of our Northern Buffer Zone and that your good understanding and working relationship with all the parties concerned, especially the SFM is our main concern.

You have done your job well and I wish you would continue to improve your performances for the good of our peace-keeping efforts in this part of the world. I trust you will finish your tour here successfully and return in the best of spirits".

The Commander concluded his address by extending a special welcome to the Minister Counsellor of the Ghanaian Embassy, Mr Amoo, the Ghana Army delegation led by Colonel Agbotui, and the Director of the SFM.

After the parade the guests were given a reception and dinner. An Egyptian entertainment troupe was at hand to provide music and belly-dancing to the spectators in the evening. The function was crowned with a dance at which the contingent's pop band "The Hot Barrels" provided music.

The Force Commander decorating Unit RSM with UN Peace Medal during the Gahnbatt Medals Day Parade.



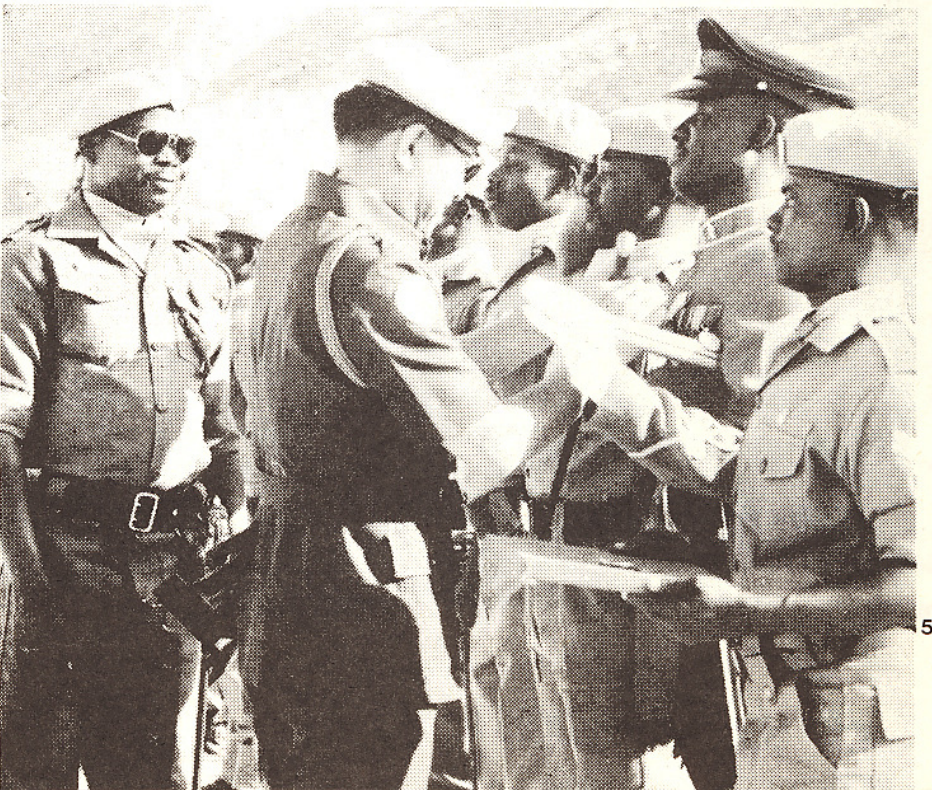
A section of the spectators at GHANBATT medals Day Parade.



Troops from up for the Review.



Force Commander salutes the colours during the inspection.



ROTATIONS

POLLOG rotated in June. The new POLLOG is commanded by Col R. Hibszycki. He succeeded Colonel T. Swaryszewski on 17 May 1978.

In 1951 Col Hibszycki was commissioned into the Polish Army after graduating from the Officers' Military School of Engineering. After serving in several units Col Hibszycki continued his formal education and in 1961 received his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Military Academy of Technology. During his

many years of service with the army he has held numerous command posts and other military appointments. He had also carried out scientific research work.

Col Hibszycki has several Polish decorations and honours, among them the Knight's Cross of Poland's Revival Order and the Golden Cross of Service.

He enjoys hunting and sailing in his off-duty time. He is married and has three children.



Col R. Hibszycki, the new Pollog Commander.



The new commander of the Polish contingent drives a commemorative nail to mark the change of command.



The two commanders, the outgoing Commander Pollog Col T. Swaryszewski, on the right and the incoming Commander Col Hibszycki during the change of command ceremony.



Col R. Hibszycki, the new Commander Pollog congratulates the troops upon their take over of duties as members of UNEF.

Swedbatt also rotated in June 1978. The Commander of the new Swedbatt is Colonel Stig A. Edgren. Born in Boras, Sweden on 10 August 1933 Colonel Edgren joined the army in 1954 and graduated from the Swedish Military Academy as a regular officer in 1957. From 1957 until 1972 Col Edgren held various regimental appointments in In-

fantry, Anti tank, and Tank Regiments. He attended the Swedish Joint Staff College graduating in 1966.

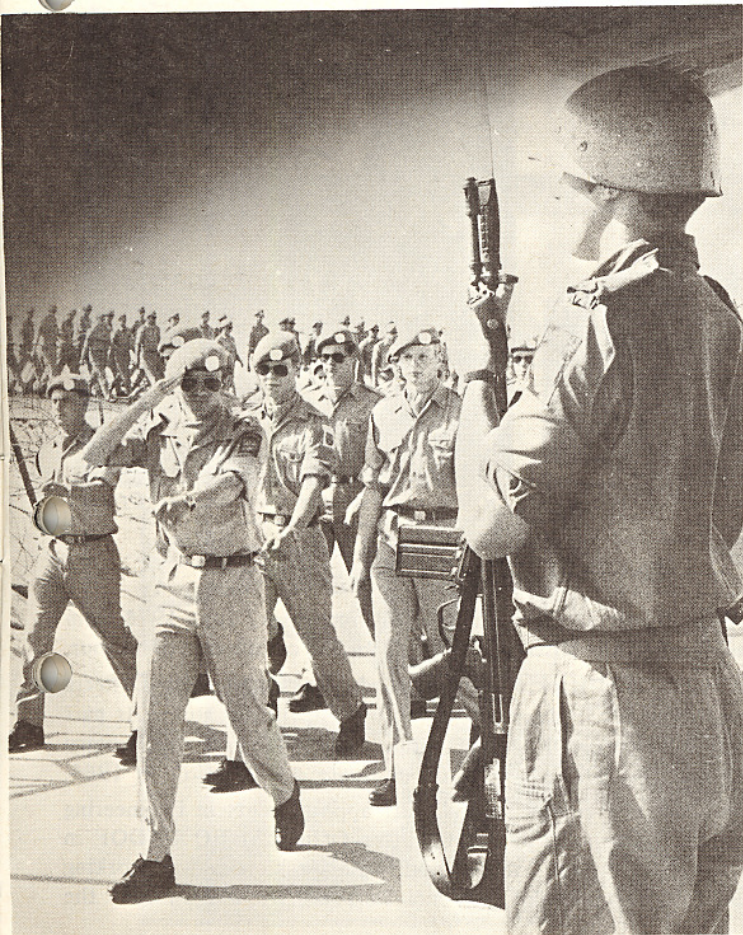
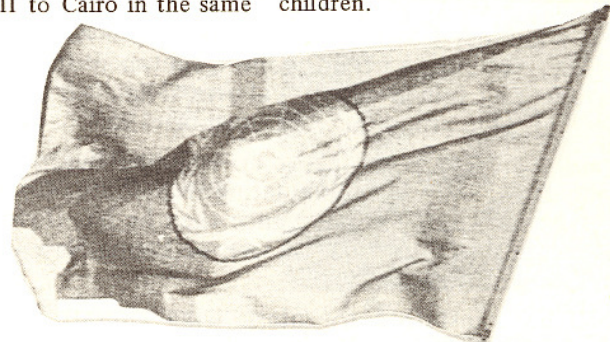
In 1972 Col Edgren was promoted a major becoming a LtCol the following year. He was the Deputy Commander of the Swedish UN battalion in UNFICYP in 1973 and lead the advance party of Swedbatt UNEF II to Cairo in the same

year becoming the Deputy Commander of the Battalion.

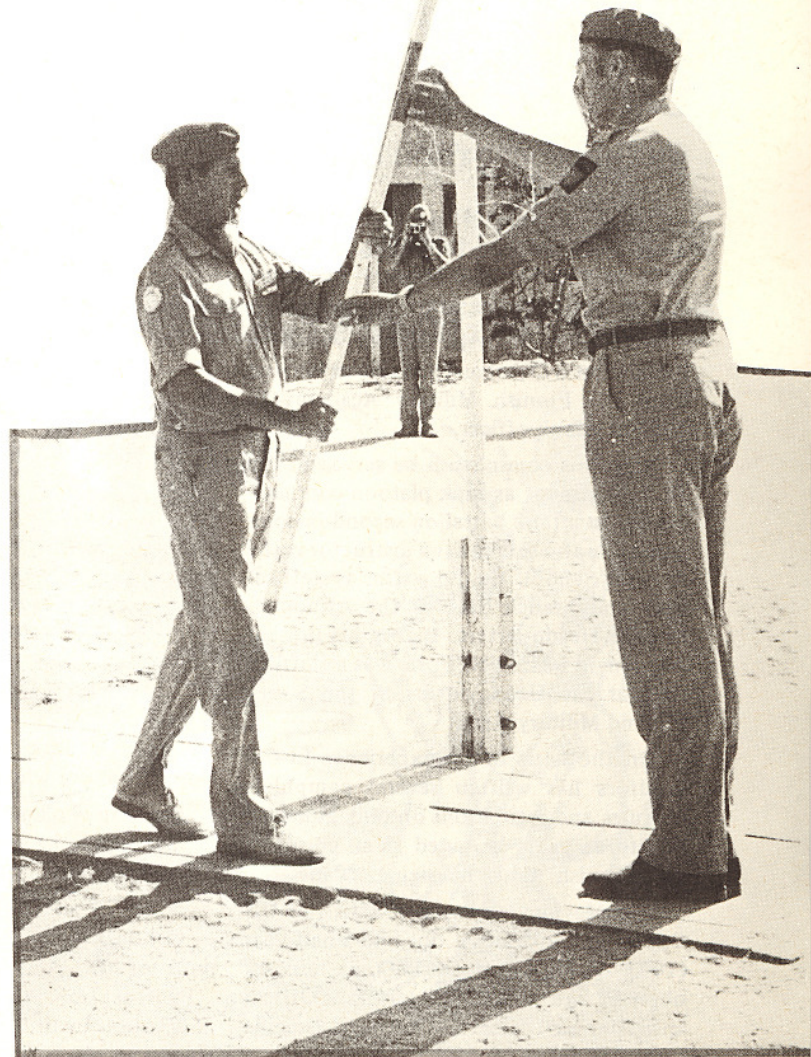
From 1973 until 1977 Col Edgren was a staff officer at the Swedish Army Headquarters. Before his present assignment with UNEF Col Edgren was Commander of a Tank battalion. He is married with children.



Col. S. Edgren Co Swedbatt.



A Guard Salutes as the members of the incoming Swedbatt march into Baluza Camp.



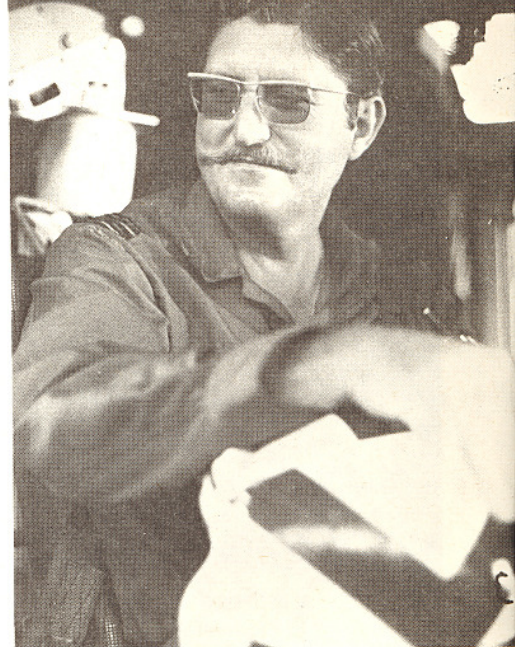
Flag changing ceremony at the Swedbatt Rotation parade.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Wing Commander C.A. Nicholson is the new Commander of Austair. He took over command of the contingent on 5 June 1978. Wing Commander Nicholson joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1955 as an apprentice engineer, graduating in December 1957.

He spent two years working as an engineer before being selected for Pilot training in 1960. After graduating from Pilots' Course he was posted to fixed wing transport aircraft. Since then he has flown several types of transport aircraft in Australia, as well as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

In 1970 he transferred to rotary wing aircraft and has been flying helicopters since that time. He has flown helicopters in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, USA, Australia and now in Ismailia with the UNEF.



Col Nickolson, Commander Austair

NEW BRANCH HEADS OF UNEF HQ

MILITARY PERSONNEL BRANCH

Lt-Col Aimo L.J. Lindfors, Finnish Army, was assigned to UNEF on 4 June 1978 as Chief of the Military Personnel Branch at UNEF HQ.

He was born in the city of Turku in Finland on 8 October 1931. He graduated from the Finnish Military Academy in 1955 as a tank officer.

After his commission he served in the Tank Regiment as tank platoon commander up to a tank battalion second-in-command. He also served as an instructor in the Armour School. He did a stint as staff officer and branch head at the Armoured Brigade Headquarters. Before his present assignment with UNEF, he was a staff officer at the Headquarters of the South Finland Military Area.

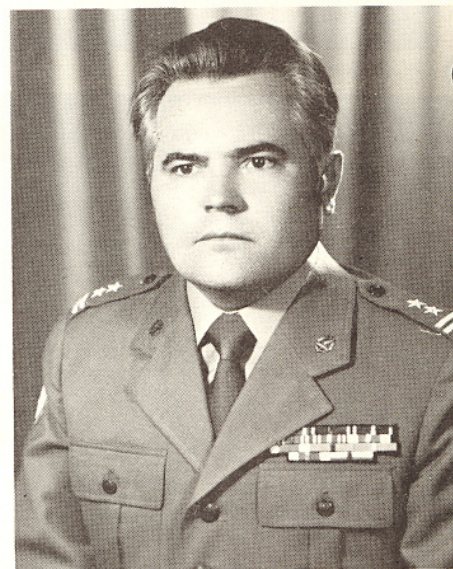
On the basis of his experience Lt-Col Lindfors has written several pamphlets on rules and regulations on tank gunnery. For three years he acted as an editor of the Finnish tank magazine "Panssari".

His previous experience with the UN Operations includes a one-and-a-half-year (1971-73) tour with UNTSO as a military observer and Assistant Operations Officer and later as Officer-in-Charge of Ismailia Control Centre.

He is married, with two children.



LtCol A. L.J. Lindfors, Chief Military Personnel Officer.



LtCol B. Jaskiewicz, Chief Engineer Officer.

ENGINEERING BRANCH

Lt-Col B. Jaskiewicz took over as Chief Engineer Officer on 12 June 1978 from Major E. Kocoj who has since left the Mission area for Poland on completion of his tour.

Born in Poland in 1934, Col Jaskiewicz attended the Engineering Officers' School where he graduated in 1955. He served in various engineering units. As part of his post-graduate education he went to the Engineering Faculty of the Military Technical Academy in Warsaw, obtaining his post-graduate qualification in 1964.

Col Jaskiewicz has held several command and staff appointments in Engineering units of the Polish Army. He was the Force Engineer Officer at HQ UNDOF in Damascus from 1977 to 1978. Before joining UNEF Col Jaskiewicz was working in Central Institutions of the Ministry of National Defence. He was awarded the Knight's Cross of Poland Revival Order.

Col Jaskiewicz is married, with two children.

MEDICAL BRANCH

Lt-Col Jerzy Faff replaced Lt-Col J. Przedlacki as the Chief Medical Officer, HQ UNEF.

Lt-Col J. Faff was born in Warsaw, Poland on 15 August 1934. He completed his medical studies at Lodz University in 1958. He was commissioned into the Polish Army the same year, after graduation from the Military Medical Academy. After serving in various military units Lt-Col Faff went on to continue his studies, specializing in Toxicology and obtaining his doctorate in Medical Science in 1965. In 1975 he obtained his second degree: Doctor of Science and became Assistant Professor of Pharmacology in the Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Warsaw.

He carried out scientific research in clinical and experimental pharmacology and biochemistry and published over 60 papers in Polish and international medical journals.

Col Faff's hobbies include reading, gardening, and tennis. He is married, with a daughter.



LtCol J. Faff, Chief Medical Officer.

CAMP COMMAND

Lt-Col Juhani "John" Vikstrom has taken over the appointment of Camp Commandant UNEF HQ. Col Vikstrom was born on 10 October 1936 in Turku, Finland. After completing his elementary and secondary school education in Salo, he joined the Finnish Army in 1957. He entered the Finnish Military Academy in 1960 and graduated as an officer in 1962.

He served at various levels of command in the Finnish Army and passed the Cap-

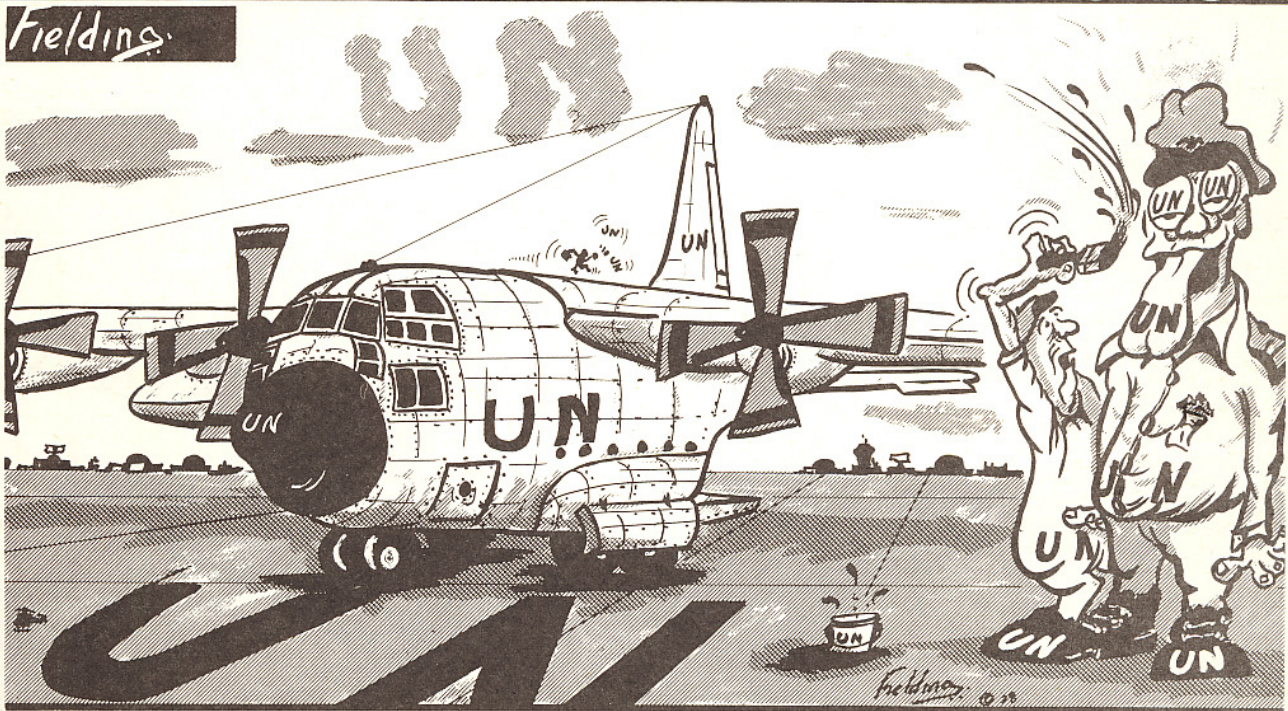
tains' qualifying course in 1965. He was appointed an Infantry Company Company Commander and served with UNFICYP in Cyprus. On his return from Cyprus in 1967, he was appointed an instructor in the Finnish Military Academy.

From 1969 to 1970 Colonel Vikstrom served as an UNMO in Ismailia and Cairo. On completion of his tour he went to the General Staff College where he graduated in 1975. Until his present assignment with UNEF, Colonel Vikstrom was serving as a staff officer at the General Headquarters of the Finnish Defence Forces.



LtCol J. Vikstrom, Camp Commandant.

Fielding



THE GENERAL SAYS EVERYTHING WOT STOPS HERE HASTA BE WHITE WITH UN ON IT !!!

VISITS

UNEF continues to attract important visitors to the Mission Area and the months of June and July were no exceptions. In June Major-General Henuhili of the Indonesian Army, who is the officer responsible for National Reserves, paid an official visit to UNEF. He was accompanied by two staff officers from the Indonesian Army. At UNEF HQ he called on the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, to have discussions with him. The visitors were later briefed by the Staff on UNEF Operations. He was taken to the Indbatt location in the Buffer Zone where he visited a number of Check Points and positions occupied by the contingent. Later he made a brief visit to Mitla, GHAN-BATT location. The visitors have since returned home.

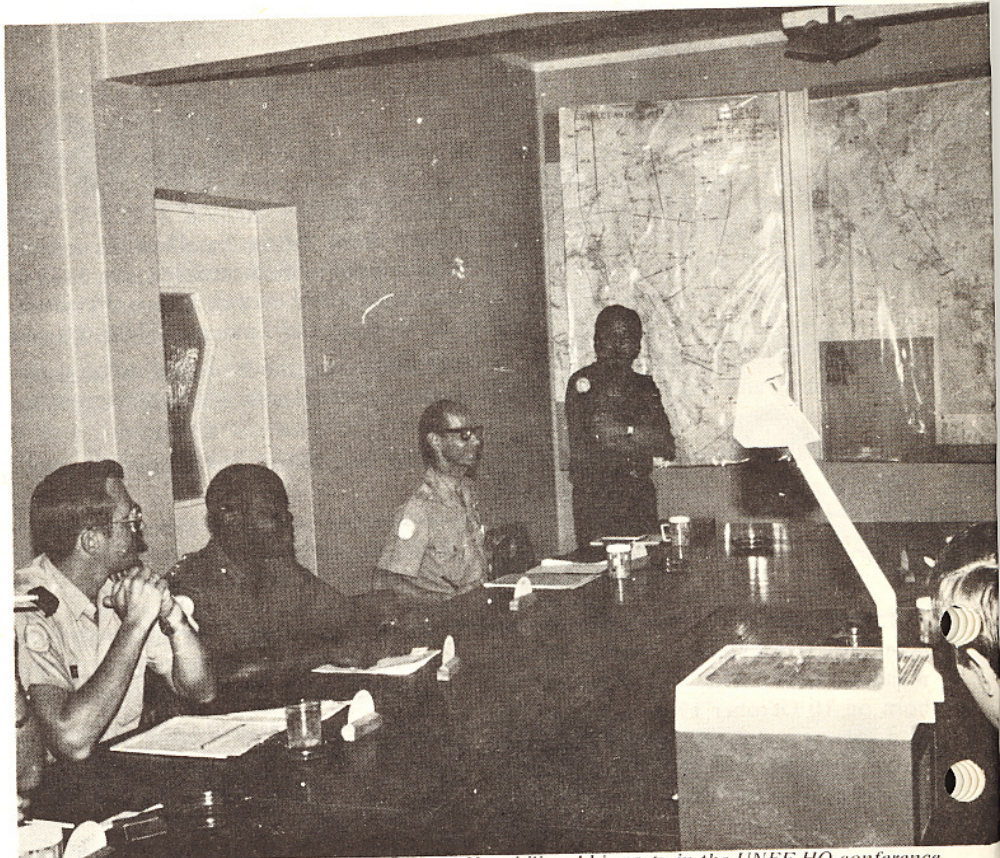
Another group of important visitors to the mission area in June were a group of officers from the Canadian National Defence College. The group was given a briefing by UNEF Staff Officers at Camp El GALA. After the briefing they had discussions with the staff and later toured some installations of UNEF.

On 11 July an Indonesian journalist, Mr Paragkoan, visited UNEF HQ. He called on the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, and had a discussion on the activities of UNEF. He was briefed on UNEF organization and its operations and was taken around the Headquarters installations. He has since left UNEF to visit a number of African countries as part of his tour.

On the 18th of July Air Vice Marshall Adams of the Australian Air Force paid an official visit to UNEF. He called on the Force Commander Major-General Rais Abin for a discussion. He was briefed at the Headquarters by staff officers from UNEF. As part of his tour he visited AUSTAIR and the Buffer Zone before leaving for Jerusalem.



The Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, on the right poses with the Indonesian delegates at his office. On the Commander's right is Major General Henuhili.



The Force Commander briefing Major-General Henuhili and his party in the UNEF HQ conference Room.



BRIG-GEN BAILE DEPARTS

After a two-year service with the UNEF as the Commander of CANLOG Brig-Gen Baile has left for Canada. General Baile first came to Ismailia in August 1976 not only to serve with UNEF but also as the Commanding Officer of all Canadian contingents serving with the UN Middle East Operation.

As part of Gen Baile's departures programme the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, organized a farewell dinner in his honour. The dinner, which was given in the residence of the Force Commander, was attended by the Chief of Staff, all the contingent commanders of UNEF, the CAO and a few invited principal staff officers of UNEF.

In a farewell speech, the Force Commander praised General Baile for his able command, leadership and, above all, his cooperation. The Commander concluded his farewell speech by wishing the Bailes a safe return home and said; "Though I and all members of UNEF are sorry to lose you, we are sure your next assignment will find you in a higher position".

Farewell speeches were also made by the Chief of Staff Brig-Gen S. Nihlen and the Chief Administrative Officer Mr P. Beirne. In their speeches they also praised General Baile for his cooperation and comradeship. They wished the Bailes a hearty farewell and good prospects on their return home.

In his reply, General Baile thanked the Force Commander and the other speakers for their kind words and said he and his wife were really grateful for the friendship and kindness shown them by all. He praised the contingent commanders for their cooperation and wished all of them a happy stay and hoped that with their service peace will finally come to this part of the world.

Gifts were later presented by the Force Commander and his wife, the Chief of Staff and all the contingent commanders to the Bailes. As a reciprocal, the Bailes also presented gifts to the Force Commander and his wife, and all other guests and their wives who were present.

The Chief of Staff, Brig-Gen S. Nihlen making a farewell speech.



The Force Commander presenting a gift to



D/CO, Finbatt, LCol Happonen presents a gift to Mrs Baile during the farewell dinner.

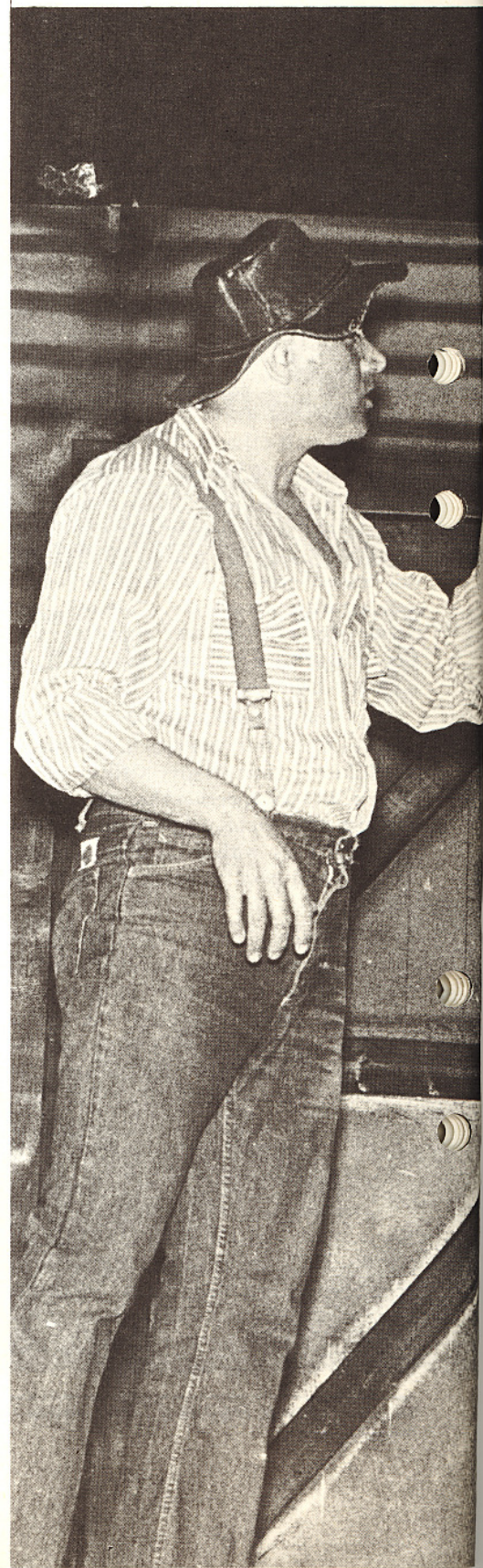
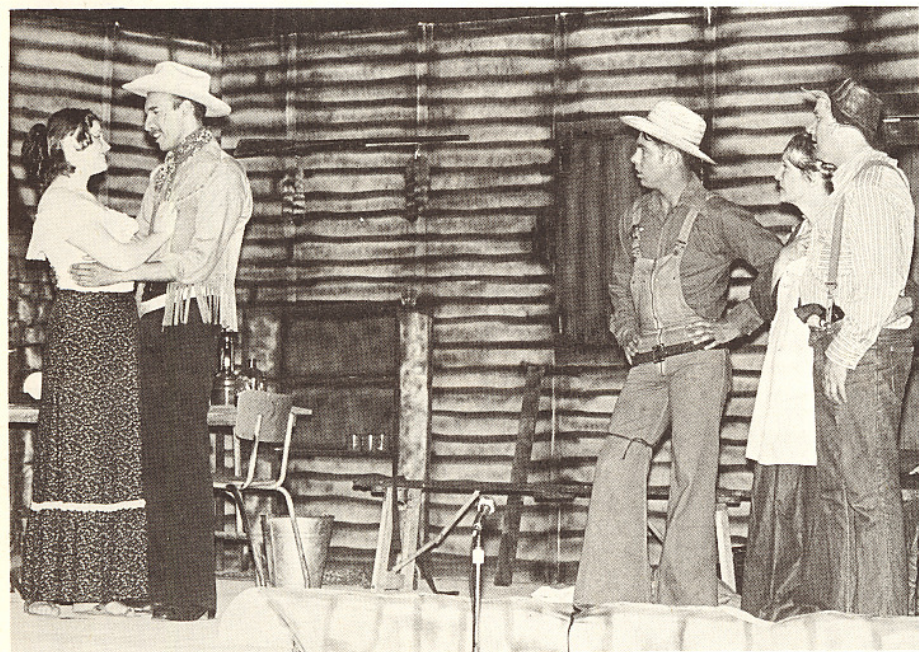


The Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, making a farewell speech during the dinner.



news in pictu

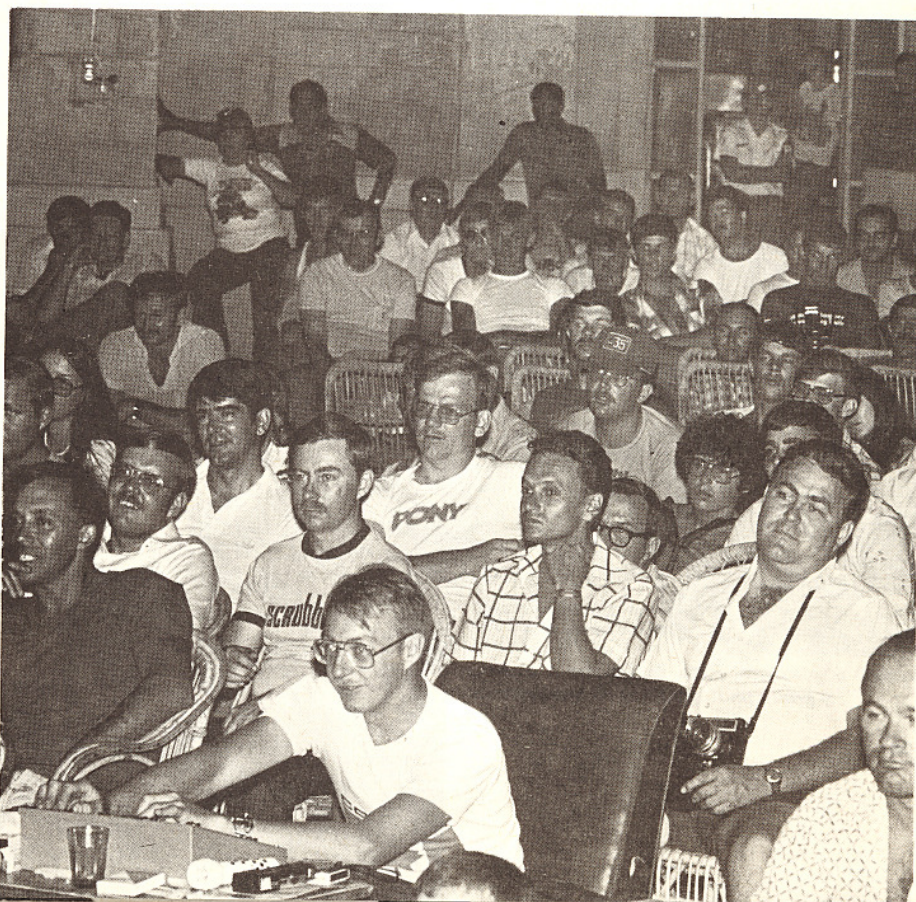
RECENTLY THE LAHR DRAMA CLUB PRESENTED A WESTERN SATIRE IN TWO ACTS BY RENE DE OBALDIA OF PARIS ENTITLED "WINDS IN THE BRANCHES OF THE SUSSAFRAS" AT EL GALA. THE PLAY, WHICH WAS WELL PRESENTED, ATTRACTED A FAIRLY LARGE GROUP OF SPECTATORS. BELOW ARE SOME OF THE SCENES FROM THE PLAY AND THE AUDIENCE.



ires



RECENTLY AN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP FROM CANADA ENTERTAINED MEMBERS OF UNEF AT EL GALA. THE TWO PICTURES SHOW MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PERFORMING AT EL GALA.



AMERICAN JOURNALIST VISITS UNEF

An American Journalist, Dr Harry May of the US Daily "The Tennessean", recently visited UNEF as part of his fact-finding tour of UN Peace Keeping Missions in the Middle East.

He said on his arrival that people in the US are somewhat ignorant about the work of the various UN Peace Keeping Missions in the Middle East and to a large extent are rather skeptical about their achievements. His paper therefore sent him to the various mission areas to find out what the peace-keeping forces are doing and to what extent they have achieved the aims and goals for which they have been sent down. As part of his tour he visited Israel, where he called at the Headquarters of UNTSO and also visited Lebanon to see UNIFIL at work, as well as Syria to see for himself what UNDOF was doing.

At UNEF HQ he had discussions with the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, as well as the Chief of Staff Brigadier-General S. Nihlen and the Chief Administrative Officer Mr. P. Beirne.

THE MIDDLE EAST SIGNAL SEMINAR

Recently UNEF hosted a Signal Seminar for the various signal detachments in all the UN Peace Keeping Missions in the Middle East. Representatives from UNIFIL and UNDOF as well as all Signal Officers from all UNEF contingents attended the seminar which was held at UNEF HQ. Lt Col D.W. Edmunds was the chairman of the seminar.



Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General Nihlen stressing a point during the formal opening of the seminar.

A group photograph of the participants.

FIRE OUTBREAK AT UNEF HQ

In the early hours of 5 July there was a fire outbreak in the Hammarskjold Mess. This fire would have led to a major disaster but for the prompt action of the HQ Fire Team and assistance from Ismailia Fire Station. By their help things were quickly brought under control and the fire soon put out. The cause of the fire was attributed to a leaking gas bottle in the mess kitchen.

Damage was quite extensive, kitchen ware, tables, and wall fittings were destroyed, and the mess had to close down temporarily to allow repairs to be carried out. It is estimated that repairs will be completed by the end of July and normal mess activities will be resumed thereafter.

We learned that the authorities have decided to employ a new system of gas connections in all kitchens and living accommodations in UNEF to prevent such accidents in the future. It is hoped that with this change such accidents will be reduced to the minimum.



Fire-fighting team in action at UNEF HQ.

The conference was formally opened by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General S. Nihlen. In his opening address the chairman outlined the aim of the seminar which was to bring all signal officers in the Middle East together to get to know each other and discuss the problems facing their various contingents in their communication set-up.

After the opening address, the floor was declared open to all the participants to present papers on their communication

set-up, the problems they face and steps being taken to forestall these problems. Each presentation was followed by discussions and recommendations on any special problems facing a particular contingent.

At the end of the conference there was a reception for all the participants followed by a dinner at the 101 Mess in the evening.



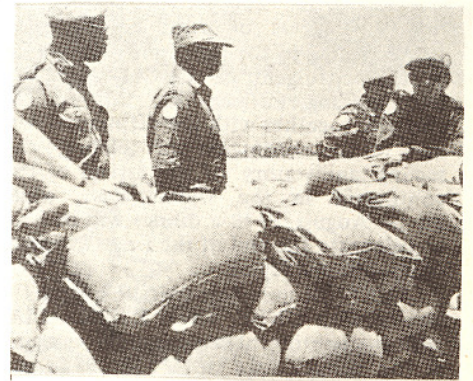
THE FORCE COMMANDER VISITS GHANBATT & SWEDBATT

The Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, visited GHANBATT and the SFM to inspect various Check Points within the battalion area and acquaint himself with operational and administrative difficulties facing the unit. He had discussions with the CO on operational and logistics matters and later on toured the unit area. He visited Check Points Alpha, Golf and Bravo. During the tour he noted the inaccessible nature of some of the Check Points and the acute shortage of transport in the unit. He directed that allocation of new vehicles to the unit should be undertaken by UNEF HQ as a matter of urgency and requested UNEF Engineers to take up improvement and repair of roads in the area. He also visited the Sinai Field Mission as part of his tour. The Commander was accompanied by a number of staff officers from UNEF HQ.

The Force Commander visited Swedbatt on 26th July 78. The first leg of his visit was to the Battalion Headquarters at Baluza where he inspected a colour guard. He later had discussion with the Contingent Commander Col S. Edgren. He also visited a number of checkpoints and positions occupied by the Contingent. On an earlier visit to Swedbatt the Commander met the Chief LAWIO and his party at check point 553 where they had discussions.



The Force Commander talks to United Nations Military Observer at Checkpoint Bravo.



O.C. 'C' Company Major Dziekpor answering a question put to him by Force Commander at Checkpoint Bravo.



The Force Commander in discussion with the Co of Swedbatt, Col Edgren.



The Force Commander, Major General Rais Abin, inspecting a Colour Guard at Baluza During his visit to Swedbatt.

AUSTAIR COMPLETES TWO YEARS OF OPERATIONS BY FLT LT D.M. FIELDI W/G- AUSTAIR

The months of July and August will see the contingent members of AUSTAIR celebrating the end of the contingents first two years of duty with UNEF.

According to the programme drawn up by the contingent, on 5th July 1978 the Commanding Officer, Wg Cdr G. Nicholson, together with the offices and Airmen of the contingent will celebrate the second anniversary of the arrival of the contingent in the Middle East, while on 1st August 1978 a dinner will be held to celebrate the end of the first two years of operational flying.

AUSTAIR members spend 6 months in service with UNEF, based at ISMAILIA, with the contingent accommodation being at the 'Sinai Palace Hotel'. Servicing and maintenance facilities for the contingent are based at the hangar, co-occupied with the Canadian 114 ATU, and the 'plastichut' at EL GALA airfield.

The total strength of AUSTAIR is 47 Officers and men plus 4 UH-1H Iroquois helicopters. This total strength includes administrative and hygiene staff together with maintenance team required to complete all routine servicing on the aircraft.

The aircraft receive routine servicing and maintenance in the hangar at EL GALA and are then rotated in turn to Australia for major overhauls. Despite the harsh operating conditions in particular the very sandy environment the aircraft have had very few problems and rarely has a planned task had to be cancelled due to aircraft unserviceability.

In the two years that AUSTAIR has been operating, there has been very little change in the contingent's roles if any. These include routine planned recce patrols, logistics support to buffer zone outposts, and medical evacuation. The greater proportion of the contingent's tasks are pre-planned on a monthly basis as follows:

Recce Flights. These are pre-planned and provide approximately two patrols per battalion each week. The aircraft are used to fly the UNMO's and battalion personnel on airborne patrols of the more inaccessible parts of the buffer zone.

Medical Evacuation. AUSTAIR maintains a 7 days a week, daylight hours only, search and rescue medical evacuation stand-by. In addition to this crew and aircraft, aircraft already on patrol in the buffer zone can be diver-

ted to carry out immediate search and rescue tasks.

Special Flights. AUSTAIR is often tasked with a number of special flights. These are usually VIP flights to convey the Force Commander and other important persons on inspections of the units in the buffer zone.

AUSTAIR operates throughout the entire buffer zone, covering weekly the areas occupied by SWEDBATT, GHANBATT, INDBATT and FINBATT. In any one week AUSTAIR pilots will have flown the entire buffer zone boundaries following the drums on the E, J and M lines and the coast to the north and south. In addition to the fence-line patrols the aircraft fly across the many thousands of rolling sand dunes that comprise the buffer zone. Operation within the zone are usually done at low altitude to enable the observers to get a better view of any tracks or strange markings in the sand.

Flying conditions vary throughout the year, though for the greater part of the year it is fine and clear with good visibility. Despite the generally good conditions, the occasional sand storms and the very hot days make flying a bit different from that encountered in Australia and add to crew fatigue that is common on the longer patrols. Navigation is a problem for the newcomer, there being a distinct lack of trees, railroads, rivers, towns, lakes

and other navigational aids: Despite these shortcomings the crews soon get to know the area and before long feel quite 'at home' in the desolate buffer zone. From reports in the AUSTAIR history sheets the only other hazards to flying appear to be the odd stray camel or high-flying Bedouin!

While the many users of AUSTAIR services over the past two years are able to fully appreciate the role it has played in support of UNEF operations, those that have been less fortunate and unable to fly with AUSTAIR can gain some appreciation of what has been achieved in the past two years from the following collection of statistics. Since AUSTAIR started operations on 1st August 1976 the contingent's UH-1H helicopters have:

Flown	3,404.1 hours
	5,628 sorties
Carried	14,675 passengers
	100,047 lbs freight
	35 medical evacuations.

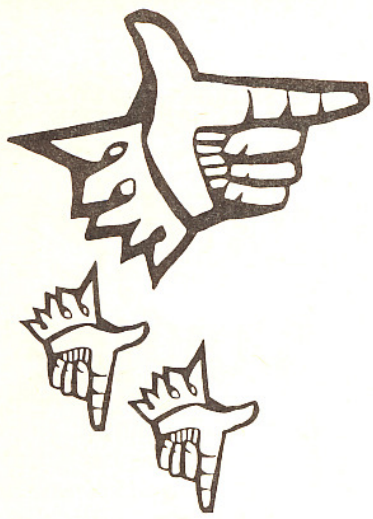
Though our road traffic accident statistics, as reported in 'SAND DUNE', do not appear to equate too well with the other contingents, we can certainly claim a good record in flying. For the past two years AUSTAIR has flown 490,190.4 kms without a single accident!

With the continually improving living conditions at the 'Sinai Palace Hotel', the opening of our swimming pool and sauna at EL GALA and the chance to travel on leave in the Middle East and Cyprus the members of AUSTAIR are able to return to Australia at the end of their 6 month tour with many an enjoyable experience to recount. Added to this is the chance to mix, both at work and socially, with the members of the other contingents.

The past two years have been most memorable and it is hoped that the units supported by AUSTAIR have had as much satisfaction in receiving our support as AUSTAIR has had in giving it.



Medvac! A soldier involved in an accident in the Buffer Zone being evacuated to UNEF base Hospital at ISMAILIA.



A helicopter being refuelled at Baluza in the Swedbatt location.



A helicopter doing low altitude flying during a recce patrol in the Buffer Zone.



A helicopter on a schedule flight makes a stop-over at Abu Rudies, FINBATT location.



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURE

The months of June and July have ushered in a number of both Military and Civilian Staff members to the Mission Area. The new arrivals are: LtCol Jaskiwiewicz (Poland), LtCol A.L.J. Lindfors (Finland), LtCol J. Vikstrom (Finland) and Wg Cdr C.A. Nicholson (Australia).

Civilian Staff members who arrived at the Mission Area during the period are: FSO Hector Ibanez, FSO Fernando Angeles, FSO Osmo Seppanen, FSO Seppo Rautiovaara, FSO Leovino Enriquez.

DEPARTURES

A number of our staff also left the Mission Area after completing their tour of duty to join their home organization or take up new assignments in other mission areas. Those who left during the period include:

Lt Col D.W. Edmunds (Canada), Col R.D. Leech (Canada) Major E. Kocoj (Poland), LtCol A. Muszynski (Poland), Major L. MacClean (Australia) and Wg Cdr J.H. Dunn (Australia).

Civilians who left the mission area during the same period are: FSO Jarl Astrom, FSO Arturo Gatpayat, FSO Crispin Bispham, FSO Dermot Connolly, FSO Coline Fulford, FSO Donald Stead.

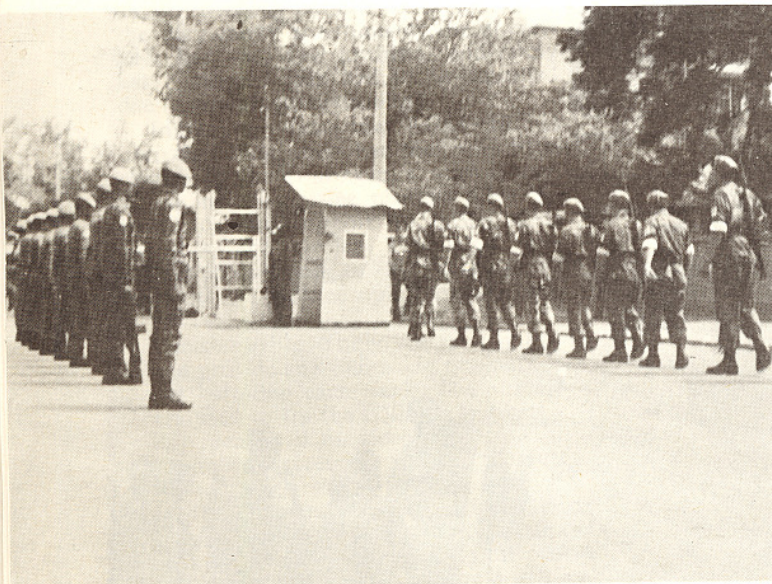
UN AGENCIES MEET AT UNEF

Recently there was a meeting of directors and representatives of the various UN Agencies in the Arab Republic of Egypt. These Agencies include the UN Information Centre, WHO, FAO, UNDP UNICEF and other UN agencies. The aim of the meeting was for the representatives to brief each other on the various projects and programmes conducted by their agencies and on what they have been able to achieve.

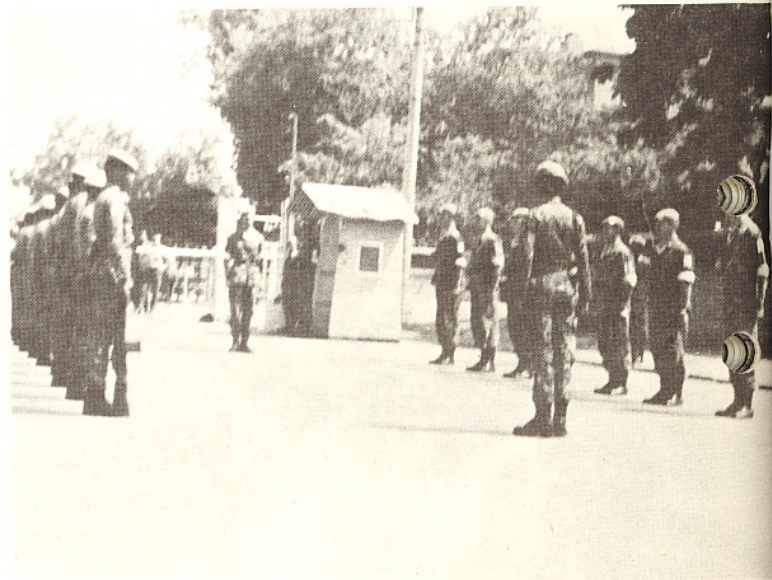
A briefing on UNEF was carried out by the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, the Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General S. Nihlen and the Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Patrick Beirne.

Guard Changing at UNEF HQ

UNEF HQ Guards were changed at UNEF HQ on 1st June 1978. The old Guards from Finbatt handed over duties to the new guards from Indbatt after two months guard duty at the HQ during a brief ceremony at the UNEF HQ Main Gate.



The old Guards from Finbatt marching off from the main gate.



Commander of the old Guards hands over duties to the new guard commander.

FORCE COMMANDER VISITS INDBATT...

The Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin visited Indbatt on 13th July 78. He was accompanied by Senior Staff Officers from the Headquarters. The Commander was visiting the contingent to discuss with the Commanding Officer problems affecting the Unit and also to see how well the contingent has settled into their new base camp at Wadi Reina. The Commander visited the various check-points and positions occupied by the contingent. He returned to the Headquarters the same day after the inspection.



Force Commander inspecting shelter trenches at an Indbatt location.



The Force Commander at the Unit Cookhouse.



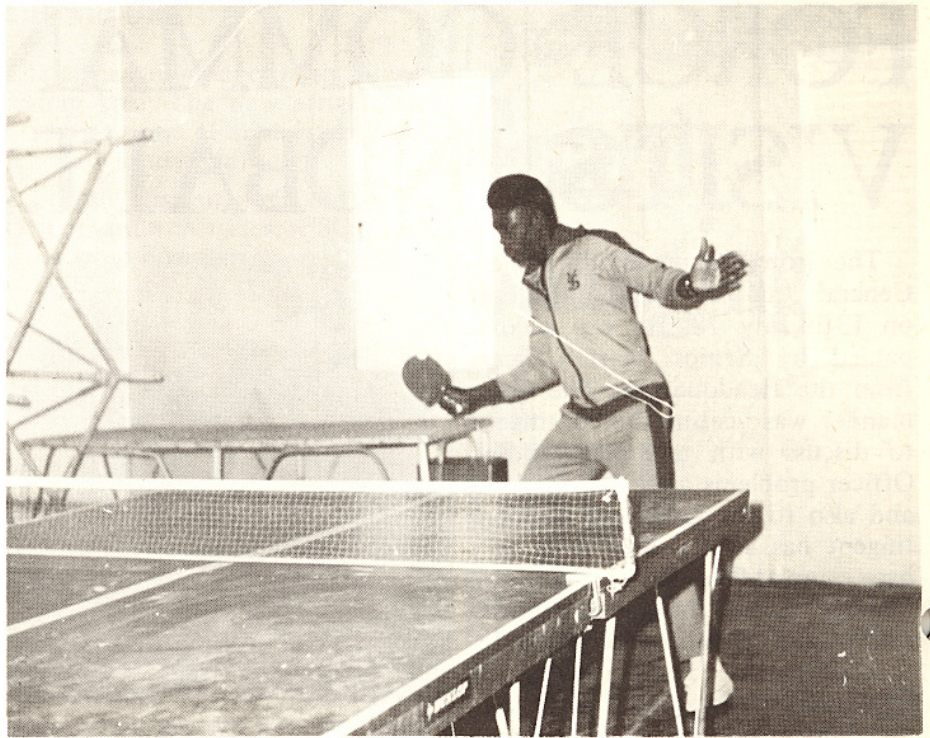
The Force Commander discussing a point with staff officers when he inspected the Unit water supply system.

Sports and games

The UNEF inter-contingent championship games continue to dominate recreational activities of UNEF. The table tennis championship competition was held at Swedbatt HQ Baluza from 23 - 25 May 78.

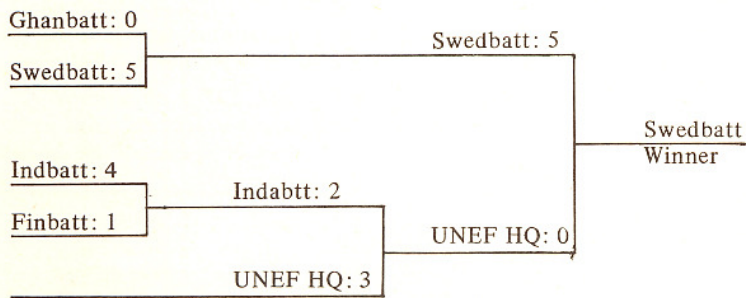
In the inter-contingent competition Swedbatt won the Gold Medal followed by UNEF HQ with Silver and Indbatt with Bronze.

In the individual championship the Gold Medal went to Sgt Sam of GHANBATT the Silver to Sgt Sjoblom of SWEDBATT and the Bronze to Sgt Nilsson of SWEDBATT. Below are the pairings and detial results of the games.



The winner of the individual table-tennis championship Sgt. Sam of Ghanbatt.

Team Competition:

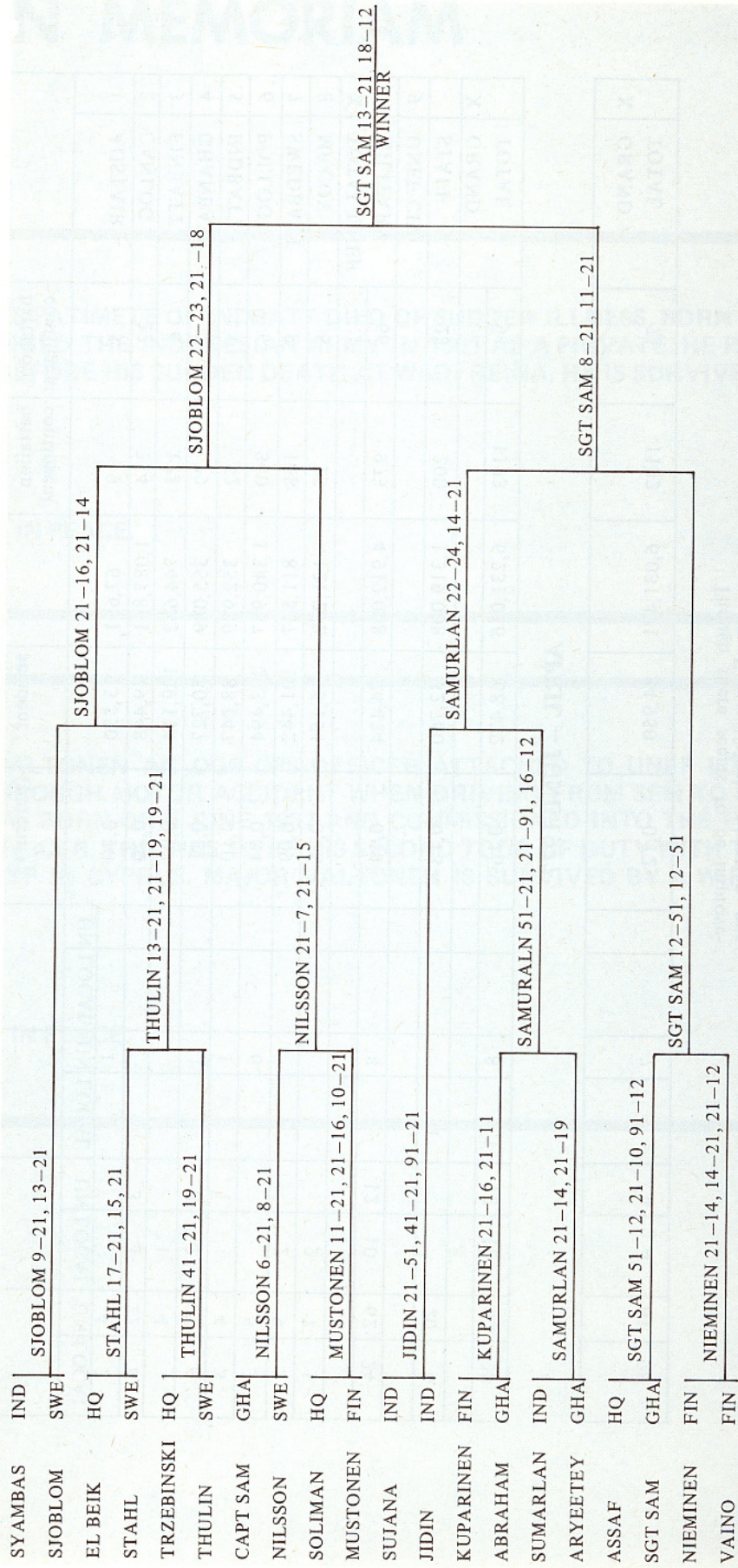


Match for 4th and 5th places: Ghanbatt 4, Finbatt 1



"All work without play makes Jack a dull boy" so goes the saying. Members of UNEF indulge in various recreational activities to reduce boredom. Here members of Ghanbatt are enjoying a game of soccer.

THE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Match about 3rd and 4th place: NILSSON - SAMURLAN 21 - 13, 12 - 17

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT'S REPORT
SECOND QUARTER

APRIL - JUNE 78

UNIT BATTALION CONTINGENT	Total No accidents in unit battalion contingent	Total No of vehicles in unit battalion contingent	Total No of kilometres	Total No of kilometres in one accident	Total No of Accidents on 10,000 km (percent)	DEATH		SERIOUS INJURIES		SLIGHT INJURIES		Total No of damage Vehicles	
						UN	LOCAL	UN	LOCAL	UN	LOCAL	UN	LOCAL
1 AUSTAIR	5	9	67,651	13,530	0,70			1				4	2
2 CANLOG	22	214	1,087,861	49,448	0,20					3	3	22	6
3 FINBATT	6	125	744,682	129,114	0,07					1	1	4	
4 GHANBATT	7	79	355,089	50,727	0,21					8	2	7	4
5 INDBATT	4	52	352,989	88,247	0,10			1		1		4	3
6 POLLOG	6	360	1,340,967	223,494	0,04			6				5	3
7 SWEDBATT	8	108	811,537	101,442	0,09							2	9
8 MP COY	8	25	121,232	15,154	0,76							2	7
X TOTAL UNEF MILITARY	66	973	4,912,008	74,424	0,14			8		12	10	62	24
9 UNEF CIV STAFF	25	200	1,319,008	52,760	0,18				1			20	4
X GRAND TOTAL	91	1173	6,231,016	68,472	0,16			8	1	12	10	82	28
X GRAND TOTAL	71	.1132	6,031,471	84,950	0,12			7		4	4	61	28

APRIL - JUNE 1977

Though there seems to be improvement in Force Vehicle situation our accident statistics do not seem to be on the brighter side. During the second quarter total Force accident rate has increased by 25%.

IN MEMORIAM

ON 2 JUNE 1978 CPL JOHANES PATIMETE OF INDBATT DIED OF SUDDEN ILLNESS. BORN ON 4TH APRIL 1943 CPL PATIMENTE JOINED THE INDONESIAN ARMY IN 1961 AS A PRIVATE. HE ROSE TO THE RANK OF 1ST CORPORAL BEFORE HIS SUDDEN DEATH AT WADI REINA. HE IS SURVIVED BY A WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

MAJOR JAAKO JOHANNES VALTONEN AN OGS OPS OFFICER ATTACHED TO UNEF LOST HIS LIFE IN THE BUFFER ZONE THROUGH MOTOR ACCIDENT WHEN DRIVING FROM SFM TO MITLA. MAJOR VALTONEN, A FINN, WAS BORN ON 5 JUNE 1937 AND COMMISSIONED INTO THE FINNISH ARMED FORCES AS A NAVAL OFFICER. THIS WAS TO BE HIS SECOND TOUR OF DUTY WITH THE UN THE FIRST BEING WITH UNFICYP IN CYPRUS. MAJOR VALTONEN IS SURVIVED BY A WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

