



UNEF NEWS

SAND DUNE



Vol 2 No 4 United Nations, Ismailia. November 1978



FROM THE EDITOR

A year has gone by since our Christmas publication in December last year. In our own small way we have strived to improve our publication by increasing the number of our pages from sixteen to twenty-four and increasing the number of photographs. This is no mean achievement.

For UNEF and for the Middle East, a lot has taken place. As we enter the new year we are doing so with great hopes for peaceful development in the future.

The "Sand Dune" takes this opportunity to wish its readers a Merry Christmas. We hope, while you enjoy yourselves, which you have every reason to do, you do not forget your limit. We wish to see all our readers in one piece, sound and safe, after Christmas. Remember the adage "when you drink don't drive and when you drive don't drink" - A MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all.



ROTATIONS



Austair gets a new Commanding Officer

Wing Commander W.N. (Bill) Robertson, DFC, assumed command of UNEF AUSTAIR on 26 November 1978. He takes over from Wing Commander Nicholson who has completed his tour and left for Australia. Born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1945, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force as pilot trainee in 1964. As a result of injuries sustained in an aircraft accident he became medically unfit for further flying duties and underwent training as an Air Traffic Controller. He served for three years as a controller until he regained his medical category and returned to flying duties, flying UH-1 Iroquois helicopters. He has served as a helicopter pilot in Australia, Vietnam, (where he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross) and Malaysia. From 1972 to 1975 he served as a flying instructor at the RAAF Advanced Flying Training School in Western Australia. Prior to his posting to UNEF AUSTAIR he held the position of Operations Officer at No. 5 (Helicopter) Squadron at RAAF Fairbairn, Canberra. He is married and has children.



Wing Commander W.N. Robertson, Commander Austair.

Ghanbatt rotated units between 4th and 14th of October. The new Ghanbatt, comprising 595 all ranks, is commanded by Lt-Col Seidu Ayumah. Col Ayumah was born on 22 December 41 in Tamale, Northern Region of Ghana. After finishing his Secondary School education in 1959, he joined the Ghana Civil Service in the Office of Government Statistics. He left the Civil Service in 1962 and entered the Ghana Military Academy graduating as a 2/Lt in 1963. He was posted to a parachute battalion on completion of his parachute training in 1964. He attended several courses, both local and overseas, including a small arms course at Hyth and Infantry Course at Warminster, UK. Col Ayumah who became a Captain in 1969 held several appointments including Combat Company Commander and Staff Officer at Army HQ. He is a graduate of the Ghana Defence College and the Australian Staff College, Fort Queenscliff. On his graduation from Fort Queenscliff in 1974 he was appointed a Brigade Major for an infantry brigade, an appointment he held until his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and appointment as Commanding Officer in 1976 of the unit he has now brought to the Mission area. His hobbies include soccer, hockey, lawn tennis and athletics. He is a qualified boxing referee. He is married and has children.

Lt Col S. Ayumah - CO Ghanbatt.

Sand Dune is a two monthly newsletter published by the Military Public information office of the United Nations Emergency Force. The views and opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily of the United Nations or the Force Commander, UNEF.

Editor: Major T.Y. Agbozo
Photographs: by Contingent photographers
Graphic Artist: Lion de Leeuw
Printer: Hamakor Ltd

Correspondence to:

MPIO
UNEF HQ (MILPERS)
ISMALIA
EGYPT

Cartoonist: Sgn. Ld. Fielding

DESERT PARTOL

An AUSTAIR Helicopter on patrol passes over two jeeps from SWEDBATT as they patrol the 'J' Line in the sand dunes of the northern part of SWEDBATT.

MEDALS PARADE

SWEDBATT

The first of UNEF contingents to hold their Medals Parade this month were the Swedes. It was held at Baluza, the Headquarters of the Swedish UNEF contingent. The Swedes, who are known for their clamour and fanfare, left no stone unturned. This was reflected in the crowd of visitors who turned out for the occasion including a large number of distinguished guests. The salute was taken by the Force Commander Major-General Rais Abin. In his address to the troops the Commander praised the contingent for skilfully handling the human problems of the operation in the Northern part of the Buffer Zone. He, in particular, emphasises the well-organised student and family reunions. The Force Commander concluded his speech by congratulating members of the contingent on the award of the United Nations Peace Medal. There was a Swedish entertainment group brought from Sweden for the occasion to entertain the guests after the parade.



Section of VIP guests who witnessed the Medals presentation at Pollog Medals Parade.



A march-pass by one of the Pollog Contingents during the Medals Day Parade.



March past by the colours.

MEDALS PARADE POLLOG

The Poles held their Medals Parade on 12 October at Camp El-Gala. The occasion was arranged to coincide with the Polish Army Day Celebration. The parade which took the usual pattern of a Medals Parade was attended by a large crowd of guests. It also attracted a fair number of important personalities including the representative of the host country, Maj-Gen El Kateb, the Chief Co-ordinator, General Ensio Siilasvuo, the Polish Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, his Excellency Mr Statlav Turbanski, and a Polish Military delegation headed by General Tadeusz Mupalwoski. The parade was reviewed by the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin. Speaking to the members of the contingent, after presenting them with the UN Peace Medals on

behalf of the Secretary General, he congratulated them on the occasion of the Polish Army Day and praised the contingent's contribution to UNEF for the past years. He reiterated his earlier remarks that the contingent is one of the mainstays of the force and said, "Your mine-clearing operations, road maintenance and road repair, round the clock water supply, construction and other engineering activities and transportation capability have always been vital elements in the success of the operation of UNEF as a whole. I can have praise for the way you dedicate yourselves to these tasks. Be assured that this appreciation is shared by all of us in the field and at the Headquarters".

The Commander congratulated the troops on their awards and wished them a safe return home on completion of their tour of duty, which is very near.

CANLOG

Maj-Gen Rais Abin reviewed the parade on 23 Oct while representatives of the other UNEF contingents and guests including the representative of the host country, General El Kateb and the Canadian Ambassador to Cairo, His Excellency Mr Dery, attended the ceremony.

The salute was taken by the Force Commander after which he presented the UN Peace Medals to the members of the contingent on behalf of the Secretary General. In his speech to the troops, the Commander praised the contingent for its invaluable contribution to the task of maintaining peace in the Middle East. On their role as a logistics unit, the Force Commander said, "The Canadian contingent has been with UNEF for almost five years now and your logistical support is still a very vital element of the peace. I do not have to enumerate your specific tasks, I only know that all of us at the Headquarters and in the field are most appreciative of your contribution and dedication. I may add that there are other things which the contingents and the Headquarters are obliged to you for providing, for example - your movies and other welfare activities".

The Commander ended his speech by congratulating the troops on their awards and wishing them a safe return home on completion of their tour of duty. The day was crowned with evening entertainment for the guests.



A fanfarer playing the salute during the Medals Day Parade.



The Canadian Contingent marches pass.

VISITS

MAJOR-GENERAL ODARTEY WELLINGTON

UNEF has been very busy during this period hosting a number of important visitors. The first of these visitors was Major-General Odartey Wellington, Commander of the Ghana Army, who was paying an official visit to the Mission Area to acquaint himself with the UNEF situation. He was accompanied by two staff officers from the Army Headquarters. At UNEF HQ he called on the Force Commander and was later briefed by the Staff on UNEF Operations. After lunch with the Force Commander, he was flown to Ghanbatt, where he spent a number of days acquainting himself with the Unit's problems.



The Ghanaian Army Commander – Major General Odartey-Wellington being taken round Pollog HQ by CO Pollog when he visited Pollog HQ.

AIR VICE MARSHAL S.D. EVANS, DSO, DFC

Air Vice Marshal S.D. Evans, Chief of Air Force Operations, Australian Ministry of Defence, paid an official visit to

UNEF as part of his familiarization tour of the Australian Air Force contingent serving with UNEF. He called on the Force Commander on arrival at UNEF HQ after which he was briefed on UNEF.

At Austair he was briefed on Austair operations and acquainted himself with the Unit. He was later flown into the Buffer Zone to familiarise himself with the situation at various locations there.



The Force Commander briefing Air Vice Marshall Adams during his visit to UNEF HQ.

POLISH MILITARY DELEGATION AT UNEF

Since the Polish Army Day was celebrated on 12 October this year, the Medals Parade of the Poles was arranged to coincide with their National Day making it a double celebration. For this

occasion, the Polish Authorities sent an Army delegation headed by Lt-General Tadeush Hupalovski, the first Deputy Chief of Staff of the Polish Army, to take part in the celebrations with the Polish contingent with UNEF. The delegation called on the Force Commander at UNEF HQ and paid a courtesy call on the

Chief of the Liaison Agency with an International Organisation (LAWIO). The delegation which stayed in the Mission Area from 9-13 October visited a number of UNEF installations and acquainted itself with matters affecting the Polish contingent. The delegation also visited Polish personnel serving with UNDOF.



The Polish delegation paid a courtesy call on the Chief LAWIO – Major General Kateb.

INDONESIAN DELEGATION

Between 5 and 12 November, UNEF hosted a delegation from the Indonesian International Peace-keeping Team. The delegation was led by Brig-Gen Pudjo Prasekyo and included Col Susanto Wismoyo and Col Thrihaesono. The members of the delegation were here to acquaint themselves with operational procedures in peace-keeping to enable them to prepare training schedule for future peace-keeping forces. The delegation first called on the Force Commander at UNEF HQ where they were briefed and later left for the Buffer Zone to spend a number of days with the Indonesians.



A Group picture with Indbatt's Staff Officers.



Brigadier-General Pudjo Prasetyo (centre) discussing a point with 1st Lt Darsono Platoon Leader (right) and Col Susanto Wismoyo (left).

ENCOUNTER IN THE DESERT

Sometimes you find friends when you least expect it — as Cpl Richard Brouillard of the 73 Canadian Signal Squadron found out when a young Bedouin attempted to assist him at the scene of a desert accident where Cpl Brouillard lay helpless.

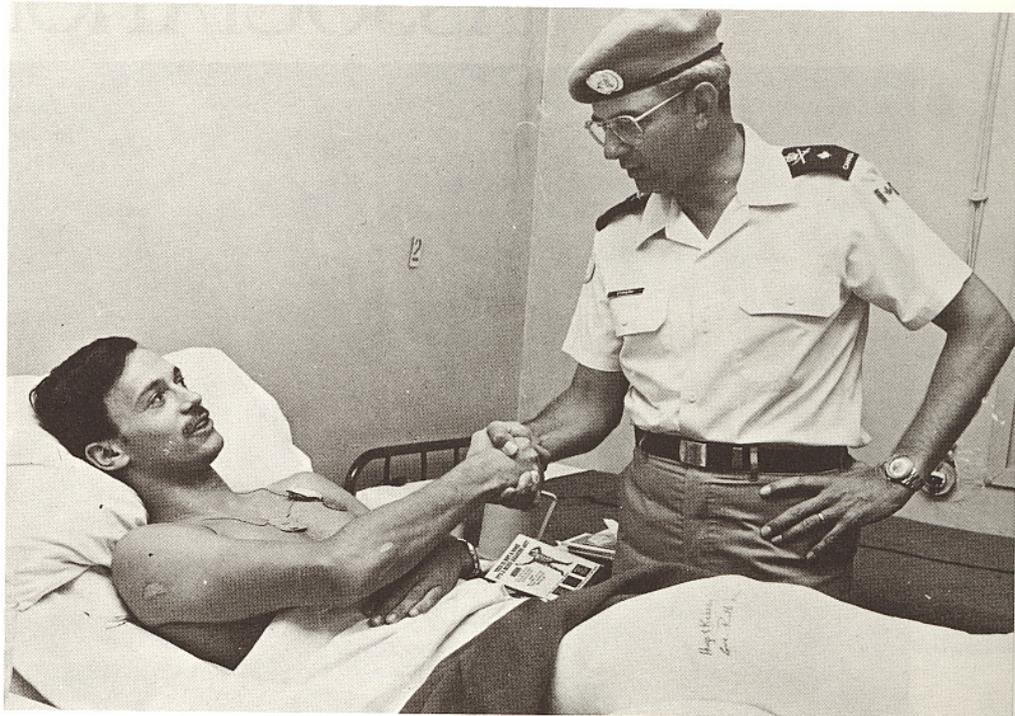
Cpl Brouillard, a Canadian radio operator working in the Buffer Zone with Swedbatt, was a passenger in a jeep which left the road and overturned in the Sinai Desert. Cpl Brouillard's leg was trapped and crushed. The driver, MCpl Michel Dumais, managed to free the injured man, made him as comfortable as possible and left for help. Lying helpless, Cpl Brouillard could hear dogs howling nearby, perhaps attracted by the scent of blood. From out of nowhere, a young Bedouin, Uda Ottailla, appeared. Dismounting from his camel, he removed his headdress and wrapped the injured leg. Next he gave Brouillard water and attempted to move him by camel. The Bedouin then realized that moving the injured man would only cause further injury so he decided to go for help. However, before leaving, he left Brouillard with one of the Bedouin's most prized possessions, a radio, tuned to music to keep the dogs away. With visible emotion, the Bedouin embraced and kissed Brouillard, promised to return soon with help, and left.

Ultimately, medical aid, summoned by MCpl Dumais, arrived from Swedbatt. The injured man was transported to Rabah and then by an Israeli helicopter from the Israeli border to the Be'er Sheva hospital. Cpl Brouillard has subsequently been airlifted to Canada after receiving his United Nations Peace Medal from BGen Richard J. Evraire, Commander of the Canadian Contingent.

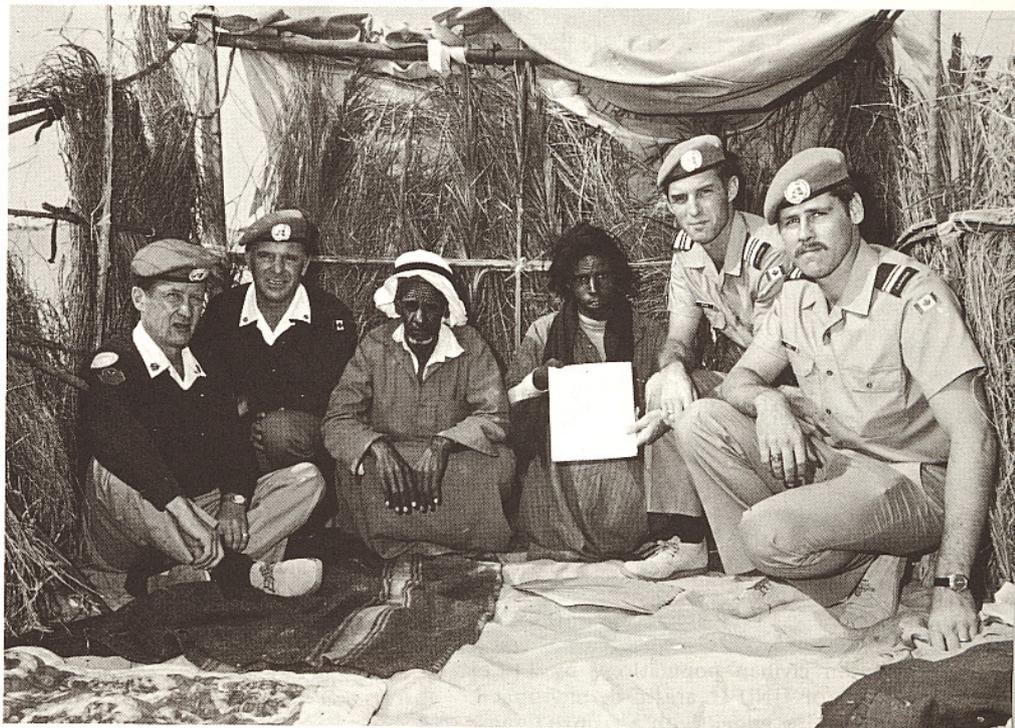
On the same day that Cpl Bourillard was flying home, a delegation from his unit 73 Cdn Sqn, led by the Commanding Officer, Maj Mike Jackson, visited the Bedouin village to meet with the would-be-rescuer, Uda Ottailla.

On behalf of the 73 Canadian Signal Squadron, Uda Ottailla was presented with a letter of appreciation signed by BGen Evraire and a cash award of \$75.

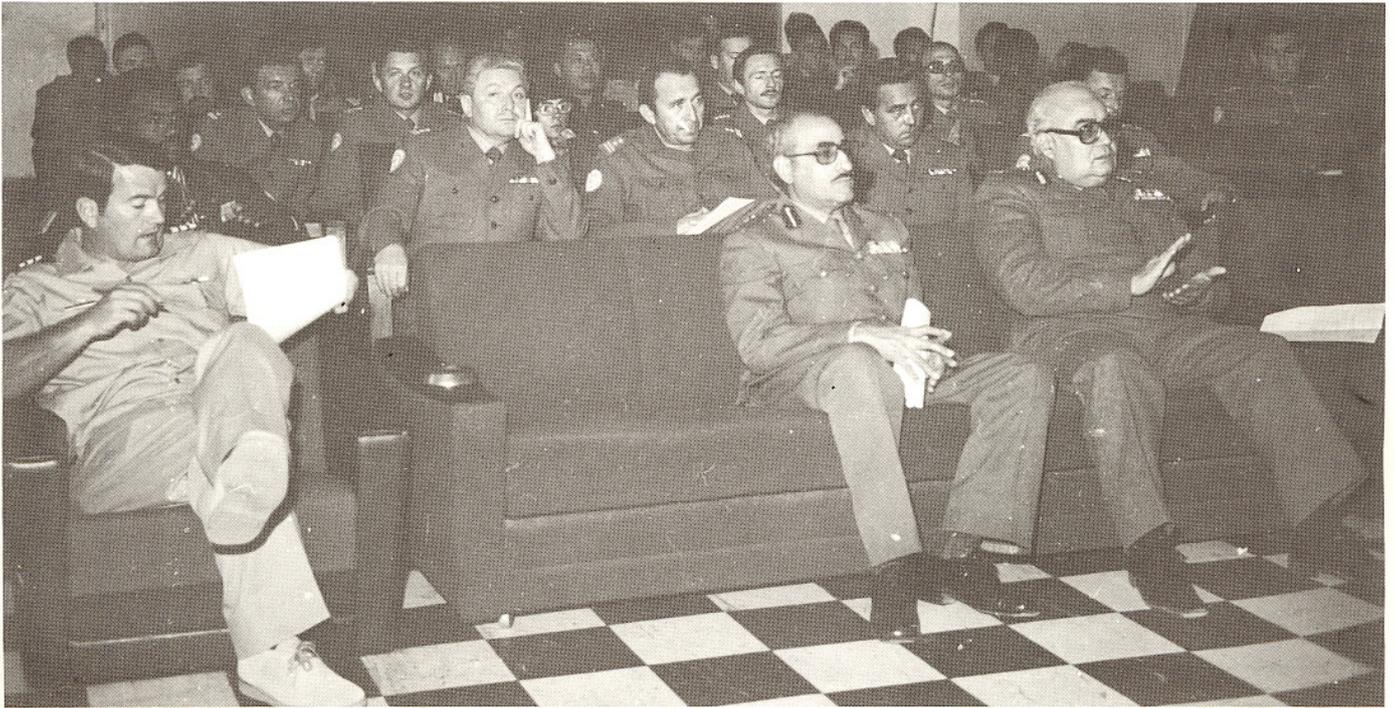
A delegation from 73 Canadian Signal Squadron visits the Bedouin village and presents Uda Ottailla with a letter of appreciation and \$75. At the presentation were: Sgt Al Vranckx, Wo Bill Calagan, Uda's father, Uda Ottailla, Maj Mike Jackson, and Lt Jeff Post.



BGen Evraire presents Cpl Brouillard with his UNEF medal.



THE MIDDLE EAST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING



A section of the delegates who took part in the Middle East Medical Seminar.

The 28th Middle-East Society meeting was held at CANLOG, Camp El-Gala Ismailia on 8 November under the chairmanship of Lt-Col J. Faff, the Chief Medical Officer for UNEF.

The conference was formally opened by Brig-Gen S. Nihlén, Chief of Staff UNEF, after which there was delivery of special greetings from Brig-Gen Evraire, Commander of Canlog. The conference was attended by medical officers from all the UN Missions in the Middle-East. A special invitation had been extended to the Military Medical Service of the host country whose members participated as observers.

As usual, a number of medical papers were presented, followed by lively discussion. Among papers presented during the twenty-eighth session was a study on "Diagnostic methods of liver disease" by Lt-Col Dziwiski of UNEF Hospital and another on "Malaria imitating surgical diseases of abdominal cavity" by Major K. Fudala also of UNEF Hospital. Also papers on "Drug resistance in Enterbacteria strains" by Mrs J. Matras of UNEF Hospital and "Medical view on civilian population" by Lt-Col Juglard of UNIFIL are to be mentioned. The meeting ended with a visit to Canlog sick-bay and UNEF Hospital Ismailia.



The Chief of Staff Brig. Gen Nihlen delivering his address during the formal opening of the Middle East Medical seminar.

A bird's eye view of the buffer zone

by Sgn. Ld. Fielding

While most people within UNEF have the opportunity to see the Buffer Zone, or part of it, by road, few have as good a chance to see all of it from the air as do the air crews operating the helicopters of AUSTAIR.

Flying daily patrols from Ismailia to all parts of the Buffer Zone, they have a unique opportunity to gain a "bird's eye view" of the entire area. This is our opportunity to give the reader a "glimpse" of the Buffer Zone as viewed from the air.

For this purpose the Buffer Zone is best divided into its four battalion areas as these will be the most familiar to the reader. Let us then get airborne and head north to SWEDBATT.

SWEDBATT

Naturally, to the north we have the long curving coastal beach of the Mediterranean. Along this beach there are scattered numerous small huts that house the Bedouin who regularly fish in the sea and, more intensely, the large lake, Lake Bardawil, which covers the eastern half of the coast. This lake is quite shallow and from the air the huge nets, some up to 1 km in length can be seen stretching out into the water and then back to the shore. The Bedouin also string large 'gill' nets for distances of up to three kilometers along the coastal area to trap some of the many thousands of birds that migrate through the area during September to November each year. These birds then provide a source of fresh meat for the Bedouin. On the western edge of the coast where the 'E' line meets the sea, there are the remains of the Israeli fortress, 'BOUDAPEST'. From the air the many hundreds of craters surrounding the position provide a silent testimony to the intensity of the battle fought for the position. This is now UN position 550 where everything is quiet and peaceful for the SWEDBATT personnel camped there.



HELICOPTER PATROL

A helicopter of AUSTAIR passes low over the remains of a destroyed tank in the buffer zone.



ROMAN RUIN - SWEDBATT AREA

The remains of an old roman fort situated in the salt flats south of Position 550. This fort was once very close to the Nile River delta but is now isolated in the middle of very broad salt flats.

To the south of 550 and in the centre of a very large and flat salt pan, which is brilliantly white in places and deep red in others, are remains of a Roman fort. This ruin, about thirty meters long, twenty metres wide and eight metres high, serves as a landmark for the helicopter crews as they fly low across the salt flats to 550. The ruins are a relic of the days when the river Nile had its delta in the area. To the east of this ruin and north of BALUZA lies the old Roman town of BALUSEUM, now a very extensive ruin whose size and layout is easily seen from the air.

The northern half of SWEDBATT area is what most people would imagine a desert to look like. Rolling sand dunes up to 300 meters high and 60 degree slopes with an isolated oasis of date palms at the base of the occasional dune. These sand dunes are a barrier to all vehicles travelling north to south and are traversed by vehicle only along the patrol track on the 'J' line and its access routes. This area is the home of the Bedouin who are often seen wandering the dunes with their camels and sheep. The sand dune area, while spectacular to view particularly toward sunset, is very inhospitable and has only few wells to provide water for both stock and Bedouin.

There is little to no grass in the area while the only trees are those of the scattered oasis of date palms. At the base of a large dune at barrel 55 on the 'E' line stands one of the landmarks of the area a solitary tree next to a well in an area that is otherwise without vegetation. This tree has come to be known as "The Forest", and is the gathering place for many of the Bedouin and their stock as they take on water from the well.

The southern half of the SWEDBATT area is also covered by sand dunes although they are of lesser height and number than in the northern area and less spectacular. South-east of EL TASA opens a large area

of gently rolling dunes that are, by comparison to the rest of the area, heavily vegetated. From the air this area with its many clumps of grass and small bushes stands out as a large dark patch when viewed alongside the other sand dunes. The only other noticeable feature in this area is the familiar, long north-south supply road with its associated east-west access routes. Within SWEDBATT area there are a large number of destroyed aircraft, trucks, guns and tanks that serve as a grim reminder of the wars that preceded the formation of the Buffer Zone.

GHANBATT

This area, is doubtless the true 'no-man's land' of the Buffer Zone. Apart from the western plains covered with low sand dunes and scattered patches of grass through which Wadi Giddi runs, the greater part of the GHANBATT area is rugged and inhospitable with steep mountains and valleys being its main features. Nestled at the base of these steep hills in the Mitla Pass area is the GHANBATT HQ and base camp. To the north of this camp run some very spectacular vertical-walled ravines that are a most impressive sight from above. These many ravines and Wadis lead out into the large Wadis of Giddi and El-Hagg. At the head of Wadi Giddi is the spectacular, steep-sided Giddi Pass with checkpoint Charlie nestled on the road along the cliff.

Flying south, past the ARE Early Warning Station El, toward the Mitla Pass, one comes across a large plain which is the start of Wadi El-Tawa. This area is mostly sand dune country with scattered grass and few small trees. Flying along the equally spectacular Mitla Pass road one sees many small Wadis heading north out of the steep-sided plateau that forms the edge of the mountain range that leads south-west along the 'J' line.

South of Mitla Camp there are a series

of barren, vertical-sided wadis that are large enough for a helicopter to fly through. Such a flight is an impressive experience as you wave your way through the many bends and features in the wadi, all the time flying about 50 ft above the ground but 100 metres below the cliff tops. These wadis are a favourite route along which smugglers travel in the GHANBATT area. Further south the mountains continue on into the INDBATT area.

INDBATT

The INDBATT area is divided into two by the 'M' line, thus the northern sector is within the Buffer Zone while the southern sector is in the Demilitarized Area. In the north, the area is bounded on its eastern side by the rugged mountain ranges on the 'J' line, the northern part of these ranges spreading across the 'J' line into the INDBATT area.

East of Wadi Reina is the look-out for position 854 which sits perched on the edge of 300 metres and looks out over the entire plains area leading up to the Gulf of Suez visible on a clear day definitely a look-out with a vista. North-east of the checkpoint spread, a series of spectacular steep-sided valleys about 30 metres wide and 80 metres deep that lead out to become Wadi Reina. North of these lies a large plateau that continues on to Wadi El-Sharqi and then to Mitla Camp.

West of the main north-south road that passes by Wadi Reina camp is a large expanse of flat rocky ground through which both Wadi Reina and Wadi-Choked-With-Sand run. The latter wadi is well named as it is all sand. This area has a number of small ruins throughout as well as caves dug into the sides of the wadis. These are used by the Bedouin as they cross through the area. An occasional well, set in the bed of the wadi, provides

A UN helicopter casts its shadow over a group of camels during a patrol in the SWEDBATT area.



CAMEL TRAIN - SWEDBATT AREA

A camel train consisting of 17 camels and their Bedouin handler passes through the endless sand dunes in the central part of Swedbatt area.



water for the travelling camels and Bedouin.

Toward the 'M' line and south into Ras Sudar and the INDBATT portion of the Demilitarized area the country is rather flat with patches of sand and some small isolated hills situated in the northern part of this area are extensive minefields, tank traps (long trenches about 10 metres wide and 8 metres deep) and masses of barbed wire entanglements. To the south of the area are the first of the oil wells that soon become a typical feature of the Southern Zone. Just inside the IDF area near barrel 34 on the 'M' line flows a natural spring that throws water up to 18 metres into the air. On a windy day it has a plume of spray blowing out to 50 metres from the spring. This water is trapped in a large pond and used by the local inhabitants and IDF as a much needed source of water in the area.

Along the western edge of the area expands the coast with its clear blue water and sandy beaches. In the sea many forms of life, notably sharks, porpoise, stingrays and turtles as well as varieties of fish are visible. This is the coast of the Gulf of Suez stretching south to the bottom of the Buffer Zone at checkpoint 11 in FINBATT area.

FINBATT

This area stretches along the coastal plains to the southern checkpoint bounded on the eastern side by the 'M' line. The western coastal area is very flat for varying distances inland where it then meets the mountains that rise very steeply upwards. The steepest rise, and the highest peak, is in the area of OP-2 north of ABU ZENIMA where the mountains climb nearly vertically out of the sea to a height of 517 metres near the look-out and relay station. Like position 854 in INDBATT area this position commands a superb view to the west over the Gulf of Suez and on into Africa, while to the east it looks out over the rugged and steep slopes of the ranges and then into the higher peaks of South Sinai. While this position may have its spectacular and favoured scenery it is behind a very long and arduous four-wheel-drive journey up the winding road, where one false move could prove disastrous. For the extra fit and keen personnel it means a two-hour climb up the steep ridge on the northern side of the mountain to get there. The 'M' line in this area passes through rugged valleys and ranges until it finally nears the coast-line at ABU ZENIMA before heading south-east again into the mountains and then down to the coast at checkpoint 11.

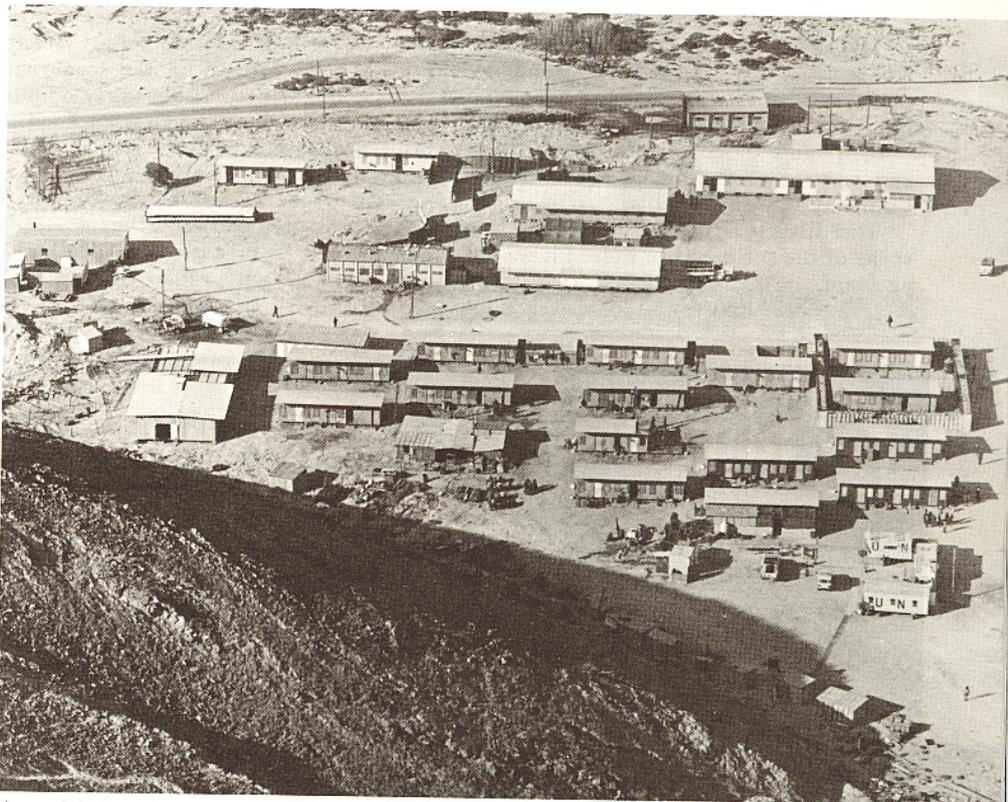
North of 1 Coy FINBATT on the

ROMAN RUIN

The ruins of an old chapel situated in Wadi-El-Tawal north of Mitla camp in GHANBATT area.

coastal plain is Wadi Gharandal. This wadi has the unique distinction of being the only wadi in the UN area that has running water all year round. Naturally it is well inhabited by Bedouin and their stock. South to ABU RUDIES along the coastal plains and beyond, are the many oil wells that produce some of Egypt's much-needed oil. These wells with their familiar pumps and storage tanks also produce the dirty oil slick that here and there contami-

nates the coastline in the area. Despite this oily, sticky contamination the nesting sites and tracks of sea turtles are visible in the sand to the south of ABU RUDEIS. Continuing south, we meet the lonely outpost of checkpoint 11 and the end of the UN Buffer Zone. Nestled on the coast at the base of a mountain that rises nearly vertically to 450 metres this position is the end of our flight, 290 kms from where we started on the Mediterranean coast.



An aerial view of the GHANBATT camp at Mitla. Nestled at the base of a very rugged mountain range, this camp is the Headquarters of GHANBATT.



**EMMERGENCY – A TYPICAL
RESCUE OPERATION IN THE
BUFFER ZONE – LT-COL FAFF
– CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
UNEF**

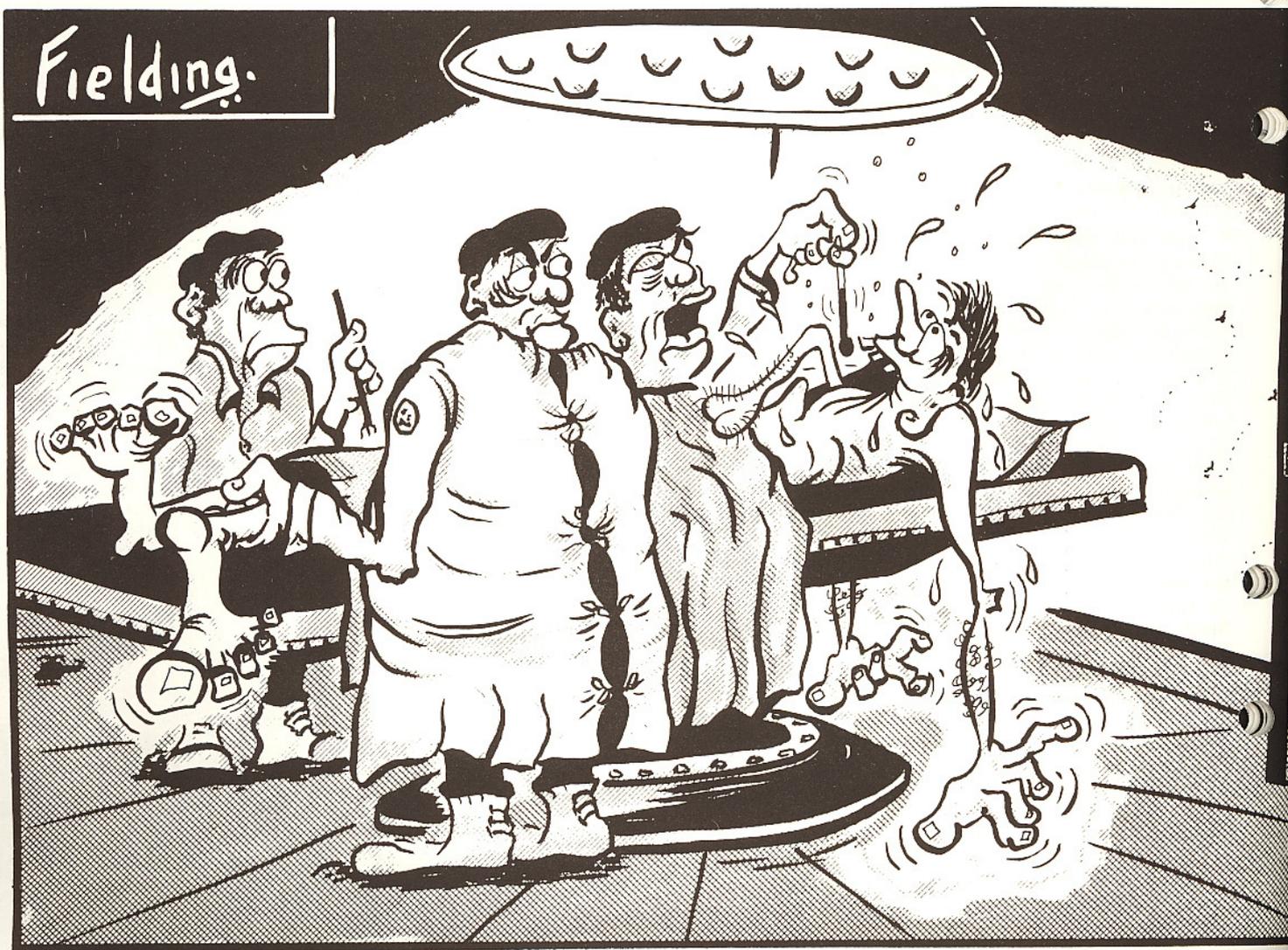
It was like any normal afternoon. Pte Kokkonen, the Finbatt 1st Company operator was relaxing when the telephone rang. The only words he could hear were "beach" and "help". He raised the alarm and very soon the rescue squad of the Company was on the move.

The first two persons to get to the scene of the accident, for indeed it was an accident involving six Polish officers, were a medical NCO and his driver, with

their ambulance, soon to be followed by the 1st Company CO and his alarm squad.

Now they were face-to-face with a horror, a UNEF jeep with six officers on board had fallen off the road along a cliff and plunged about six metres and ended up on its roof on the beach. Every one was thrown out of the vehicle except one who was apparently trapped. The rescuers got to work, and soon all the victims were recovered, Finbatt Medical team was called upon and the CMO for Finbatt soon arrived on the scene with another ambulance. Within thirty minutes after the alarm was raised a whole medical team headed by Lt-Col Pentti Ouri was ready to carry out emmergency. The patients needed evacuation by air, but how?. It was getting dark and UN helicopters were not allowed to operate after dark in the area. A cable with initial diagnosis was sent to UNEF HQ and soon the UNEF

chief Medical Officer was in contact with the Finnish Medical Officers. After a brief discussion it was agreed that two of the badly injured officers should be moved – but to where: – the only possible place was to IDF hospital, the IDF was contacted and they agreed. The two officers were evacuated to an Israeli hospital while the other four were taken to the Finbatt hospital for further treatment and examination. The following day a UN helicopter arrived at Finbatt with Polish doctors to evacuate the patients to UNEF Base hospital at Ismailia. So within twenty-four hours of this accident with prompt action from Finbatt and well established emergency procedures a situation which might have carried into a grim one was saved. This is yet another example of emergency procedures laid down by UNEF to save its personnel who operate across the Sinai sometimes without radio communication.



STOP COMPLAINING – IF THE MOSQUITOES WERENT SO FRIENDLY YOU WOULDNT HA

MAJ. JONES WINS MILITARY AWARD



Major W.A. Jones, at present serving as Staff Officer at UNEF Headquarters has been made an 'Officer of the Order of Military Merit' by Canada for meritorious service in duties of great responsibility during his military service prior to arriving in the Middle East for duty with UNEF. Major Jones flew to Ottawa

on 19 Nov 78 where he received his award from Governor General Leger on 22 Nov 78.

Major Jones who has 31 years of military service belongs to the Military Engineering Branch of the Canadian Forces on behalf of all members of the Force the "Sand Dune" congratulates Major Jones. Well done, Bill!

UNEF AND THE WORLD PRESS

Recently the Press has taken extraordinary interest in the activities of UNEF. The first to show interest was the NBC Television Company who asked for permission to televise activities of UNEF. Permission granted, the company spent a whole day in the Buffer Zone televising activities of various contingents in the Buffer Zone.

This was soon followed by the BBC Television which also carried out a similar programme. Other News Media which showed interest included the Dutch Tele-

vision Company which carried out a television programme in the Buffer Zone including an interview with the Force Commander. Among News Media personalities who visited the Buffer Zone was Mr. Anthony Vrieer, a British journalist and member of the Institute of Strategic Studies, who visited UNEF collecting material for a book he is writing. Other personalities who took interest in UNEF activities are Mr. Jay Bushinsky of Chicago "Sun Times" and Mr. Paul Davies of "Visnews" who visited Ghanbatt to acquaint themselves with UNEF activities.



E MALARIA



The NBC Television Team shooting a scene in the Buffer Zone

POLISH TRANSPORT ON SINAI ROUTES

(A Report from a Journey) by Maj K. Niciski



A long convoy of tankers such as this are often seen in the desert heading for the various contingents locations for fuel delivery.

Transportation of water, food fuel and other products and materials to the UNEF contingents spread in the Buffer Zone, is one of the most important tasks of the Polish contingent. Each journey from the African part of Egypt into the Asian land begins on a Suez Canal ferry-crossing. Today it is extremely crowded. Waiting for the ferry, which is operated by Egyptian sappers, are "jeeps" from Swedbatt, a "Studebaker" with the Ghanaians, and a Canadian refrigerated-truck along with Polish fuel-trucks of "Star-600" type, a common sight. There are also some "Star-29" refrigerated-trucks heading with foodstuff for Ghanbatt, into the area of Milta, or to the Indonesians, who have their base in Wadi Reina.

Some of the fuel-trucks from Capt Paszkowski's Coy go to Abu Zenima at the Gulf of Suez. The fuel convoy commanded by a non-commissioned officer, Master Chief Sergeant Jan Szmit, is meant for Finbatt's fuel-base. It is there that all the UNEF - vehicles operating in the Southern part of the Buffer Zone, controlled by the Finns, are being supplied with POL.

Chief of POL Service, Maj Stanisaw Dziadosz, is going with the convoy today and I am going with him. It is only when we are by the Suez Canal, that he reveals to me the convoy is carrying 5 million litres of fuel. The canal-crossing begins, surprisingly, on time, at 7 a.m. The fuel-trucks take the second crossing. Now we are on the Eastern Bank, the ARE check-point inspects our ID Cards, the drivers receive the last instruction from Sergeant

Szmit and there we are - on the desert road heading for the South of Sinai. Ahead of us lies nearly 250 km driving among endless sand dunes and rocky hills of the Sinai Peninsula. Although it is still early in the morning, the sun is shining sharply and the heat becomes oppressive, the glare hurting the eyes. It is difficult to see anything without sun-glasses. We are driving along the Canal in the direction of Suez, in the Egyptian Limited Forces Area. Here and there are scattered pieces of destroyed military equipment, and bent railway-tracks, poking out of the sand as evidence of a railroad which connected Suez with Port Said some time ago. On the bends of the desert-route I look back - white silhouettes of "Star-660" with attached containers, all in even distance from each other, shining in the sun which burns more and more aggressively. The column of cisterns carrying the fuel, seen against the background of the light-yellow surface of the desert, resembles now an enormous white serpent searching for an asylum from the heat. After an hour's driving - first break. The drivers jump out of their vehicles and gather on the road-side. Drops of sweat glitter on their foreheads. But they are all smiling. A cigarette smoked during a friendly chat tastes really good. Some drag out the containers filled with cool juice to quench the thirst. "You just don't think about it when you are driving" they start explaining all at once when I ask, "Do you have to concentrate on the driving itself?". Monotonous landscape,

heat from the engine, the odour of fuel and constant glare of the sand are exacting and require enormous resistance and strong willpower in order to overcome the desert and oneself. They drive two or three times a week with the fuel for El Tasa, Wadi Reina and check-point Mike. The convoy for El Tasa starts every Tuesday. Each driver has thousands of km behind the wheel of the fuel-truck on his record. Although fuel transportation is not an easy task, they all like their job. They know every route in the Sinai by heart, they know those stretches of the road which are easy, and those requiring special attention. They perfectly know that carrying fuel when temperature reaches over 60° C is no game.

The leader of the convoy - Sgt Szmit gives a signal. We move again. From the distance of some hundred metres ships on the Bitter Lake are well visible, waiting for their turn of the water-route. After two hours of driving we leave Suez with its smoke hanging over the petrochemistry chimneys. Now, the road runs along the Gulf. We see fields under cultivation, little oases with some palms and from time to time - azure of the sea appearing between the dunes. Shortly before noon we reach Ras Sudar. One of the fuel-trucks swerves out of the column. It is driven by Lance Corporal Henryk Ezymanski. It carries fuel cargo for an Indonesian base spread among a few buildings in a little town near the Bay. Driving for some time we meet a few of our "Star-29" refrigerated-trucks returning from delivery points. In charge of the first two is Lieu-

tenant Lindeck. He has already delivered food for the Finns in Abu Zenima and is hurrying back for the mid-day canal crossing. Not far behind those two trucks are the next with Chief Warrant Officer Zdzislaw Jawor. These are returning from Wadi Raine, from the Indonesian, whom they have supplied with foodstuff from the Canadian stores in Ismailia and Cario. They, too, are heading for the Ismailia canal-crossing. It is at midday that we reach the place, where the asphalt ribbon of the road comes to an end and turn left to the bow of the Suez Gulf – the stretch of the road here is nicknamed by the drivers a “wash-board”. The hands of a driver, Corporal Krzysz Madajczyk, tighten on the steering-wheel, the UAS starts to vibrate. The sound of containers “jumping” on a “wash-board” can easily be heard. Dust blows into the cabin of a truck and even the nearness of the sea does not help to reduce the heat.

At the entrance to the rock ravine – cross-roads, on the right, a road-sign says: “HQ 2 Coy” – Finbatt. Three fuel-trucks turn to the Finnish Detachment. One carries gasoline, the others fuel oil, and the last one kerosene for heating. The rest of the vehicles disappear among the rock precipices. Documents are checked at an ARE check point, and then off to a UN check point. Forty minutes of driving through the red-hot rock takes to an IDF controlled area. We reach two other posts, this time IDF and UN. The road makes a sharp turn left and a deserted little village emerges in front of the column, lying at the bottom of the coloured hills. It is Abu Zenima. Deserted one-storeyed houses and chemical works together with a dead harbour make a gloomy impression. Among these buildings, two blue UN flags are flying in the air. This is Finbatt’s POL Base, and just beside it – a Polish picket responsible for water delivery for the Finnish Posts operating in the southern end of the Buffer Zone.

The fuel-trucks turn right from the road and arrive at a large courtyard with enormous steel containers on a concrete base. A wide roof above them casts a long shadow in which crews of the trucks, successively arriving, find shelter.

It is two o’clock – over six hours in the desert sun. Sgt Kelahaara, a fair-haired store-keeper of the Finnish POL Base, receives documents from the leader of the convoy and accompanies him during the unloading. After an hour, the empty trucks form a file in front of the Polish picket. The drivers can now have their meal. They stay here over-night. Tomorrow morning, when the sun emerges from behind the hills, they will again be on the Sinai routes.



The Canal crossing – All UNEF vehicles are ferried across the canal everytime they deliver supplies to troops in the buffer zone.



Fuel tankers are inspected, then loaded for delivery in the buffer zone.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Remembrance Day – 1978 Australian personnel attached to UNEF in Ismailia lay a wreath at the grave of an Australian Air Force airman killed in action in World War 2. Major D. Tresise, Flt Lt G. Windever, Flt Lt R. Stott and Lieut G. Ledger RAN.



Recently a Swedish entertainment group toured UNEF. In the picture the group is seen doing one of their numbers which drew wild cheers from the spectators.



Commissioning a new water pipe line. This is the new pipe line in the Northern Buffer Zone to carry water to the various Swedbatt locations.



Spiritual welfare of the troops is well catered for. The Cantlog padre is seen celebrating high mass with Ghanaian troops.



This proves that the buffer zone is not only for guard duties and patrols. It also has its bliss as this picture depicts – there was a wedding recently at Baluza Swedbatt location.

TIT-BITS FROM THE UNITS

Ghanbatt

SHELTER

On arrival at the Mission area the first step taken by the new Ghanaian contingent was to improve the shelter trenches in their location. Because, as many a newcomer realises, survival in the Buffer Zone in case of emergency or the unexpected depends on how good your shelters are. It is therefore no surprise that the new Ghanbatt prepares new shelter trenches and improve on the existing ones.

PARTING OUT

It is always a big credit when you are honoured by your superiors with a parting gift. Recently the Force Commander organized a farewell-party for Lt-Col Achel at UNEF HQ who completed his tour of duty and was returning to Ghana with his battalion. As an appreciation of good work done the Commander presented Lt-Col Achel with a big parcel as a parting gift.

PLAYING HOSTS

The new Ghanbatt had hardly settled down when it started playing host to a number of VIP guests almost one after the other. Lt-Gen Tadenz Hupalowski, who led an official Polish Military Delegation to UNEF, visited Ghanbatt as part of his tour of the Buffer Zone. On the same day Maj-Gen Boysen of Canadian Army also paid a visit to the unit.

TROOP EXCHANGE

There was an exchange of personnel between Ghanbatt and Swedbatt. Each group spent a day in the other's location. The troops performed various duties together with their counterparts and ended the exchange with visit to interesting places in the various sectors. The troops agreed that it was a good experience to work together and are looking forward for more of such visits.

Swedbatt

FAMILY REUNION AND STUDENT EXCHANGE

Swedbatt continues to supervise family



Maj. Gen. Boysen inspecting a guard of honour. Swedish Entertainment group doing magic display.



reunions and Student Exchanges at El Kelba. As many as 400 people are affected in this exercise every week. This is organised for families who were separated as a result of the war to meet and exchange greetings, or for students from Gaza who are pursuing courses in Egyptian institutions to spend their holidays in Gaza.

ACTIVITIES AT CHECK POINT 567

Check point 567 continues to be one of the busiest in the Buffer Zone. It is the main entry/exit between Israel and the Buffer Zone. In addition, this check point controls the movement of those who decide to leave the Buffer Zone temporarily to go to Israel or those who return from Israel into the Buffer Zone. It is therefore usual to see the guards checking the identity of personnel here anytime, day or night.

WEDDING AT SWEDBATT

Who says the only activities in the Buffer Zone are the guarding of checkpoints, and patrols or clearing of mine fields, and sand dunes? The Buffer Zone can also have its moments of bliss. Recently there was a wedding ceremony at the Headquarters of Swedbatt, Baluza.

PLAYING HOST

Swedbatt had its share of playing host to important personalities in the Buffer Zone. Recently Brig-General Smedler of the Swedish Army paid an official visit to UNEF. He was guest of Swedbatt for a few days.

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the normal unit training that takes place in the contingents' areas, units try as much as possible to organize the out of the normal training for the personnel, either for the experience or for the sheer fun of it. One of such activities, organised by Swedbatt with a large number of people volunteering to train, is dog handling. This is very easy for Swedbatt to organize since they already have a number of guard dogs brought from Sweden. The training normally attracts a lot of people even from other contingents. It takes a lot of courage to stand in front of an Alsatian a few feet away, howling at you while you try to control it.

ENTERTAINMENT

In addition to local entertainers amusing the troops here, some contingents takes it upon themselves to bring entertainment groups from their home countries to perform for the troops. Recently a Swedbatt group visited the Buffer Zone

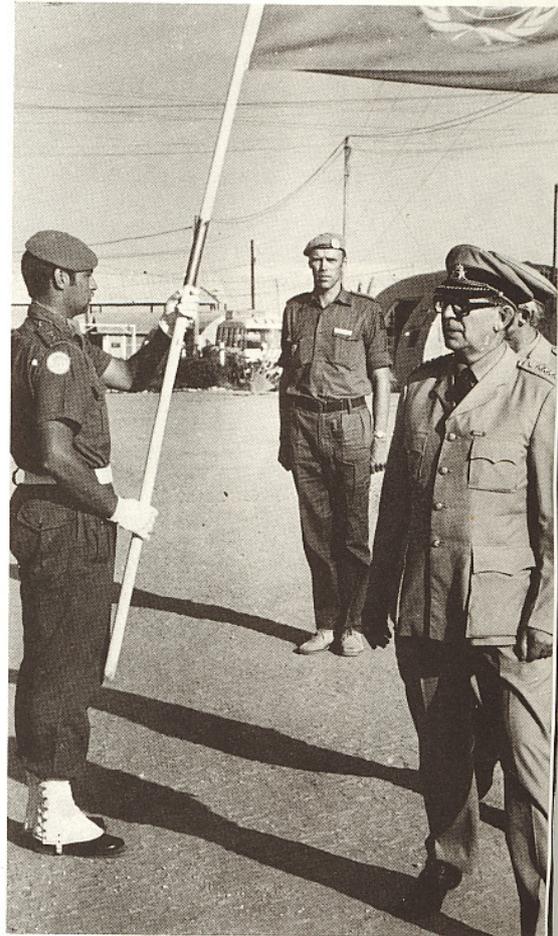
to entertain Swedbatt. One of their performances which drew loud applause was the magical display. The following pictures show that the group is fully professional. Fortunately they did not confine themselves to Swedbatt alone. They toured all the contingents and what a display they put up!



A busy checkpoint!— this is 567 the entry point into Israel. The Swedish guards here are always very busy checking visitors in and out of the buffer zone.



Family Reunion and student exchange El-Kelba — a Swedish soldier gives a helping hand during one of the transitions.



Brig. Gen. Smedler inspecting an honour guard at Baluza.

SPORTS AND GAMES

UNEF inter-contingent games continue in the various fields of sports. Though the finals of some of the competitions have ended, others are still in play. Those which have been completed include soccer, volley ball, and pistol shooting, the rest are lawn tennis and table tennis tournaments. Now to the details:—

SOCCKER

After the preliminary series, the finals were staged at the Ismailia Sports Stadium on 3rd and 4th October. It was an interest-

ing competition with a lot of suspense drawing a lot of applause from the large number of spectators. But one thing the fans missed was the absence of the GAN-BATT team, which due to the units rotation at the time of the competition could not take part. The overall winners of the matches was SWEDBATT with aggregate score of 26 goals followed by POLLOG, UNEF Hospital and FINBATT.

VOLLEY BALL TOURNAMENTS

The volley ball finals took place at

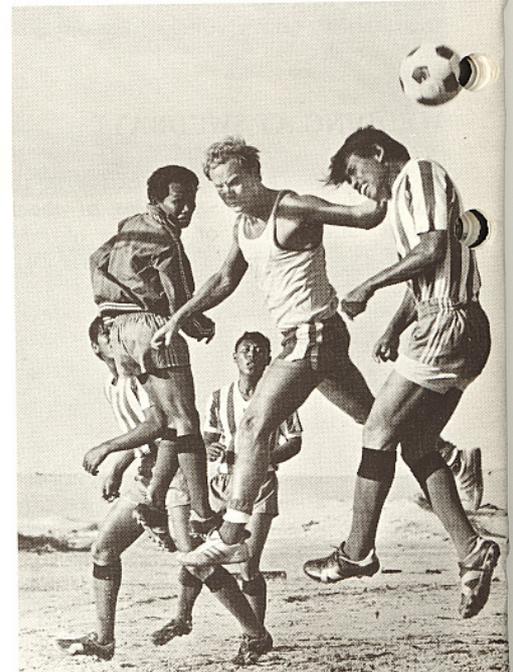
the UNEF Hospital pitch of 3rd and 4th October. The teams which took part in the finals were Finbatt, Swedbatt, Pollog and UNEF HQ. Below are the pairings and the results:—

FINBATT	—	UNEF HQ	3 — 1
FINBATT	—	POLLOG	3 — 0
SWEDBATT	—	POLLOG	3 — 2
SWEDBATT	—	UNEF HQ	3 — 0

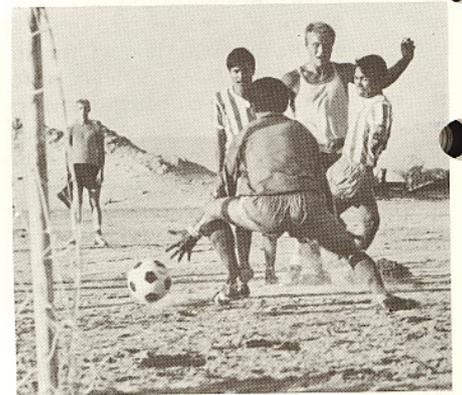
The overall winners were FINBATT, followed by SWEDBATT, POLLOG and UNEF HQ.



Winners of the Soccer competition — Swedbatt — a group photograph of the players.



Soccer finals — a tussle for the ball — this is the climax of the match between Swedbatt and Indbatt.



A Goalmouth scramble Swedbatt Vrs Indbatt.

Moment of joy — the Swedes scored a goal during one of their winning matches.



The Swedish team winners of the pistol group shooting competition.



A hectic moment – this is one of the tense moments during the lawn tennis finals.



The overall winners of the pistol shooting competition displaying his diploma.

LAWN TENNIS

The lawn tennis tournament took place at CANLOG from 26 to 29 Oct. The results were rather spectacular. The hopefuls from HQ did not fair well, especially in the Singles. Below are the results:—

SINGLES

- 1ST PTE PEDERSEN — SWEDBATT
- 2ND PTE LARSSON — SWEDBATT
- 3RD LT-COL BUHANUDDI — INDBATT
- 4TH LT-COL FOGELBERT — SWEDBATT

DOUBLES

- 1ST SWEDBATT — 1ST TEAM
- 2ND SWEDBATT — 2ND TEAM
- 3RD UNEF HQ — 2ND TEAM
- 4TH INDBATT — 1ST TEAM

PISTOL SHOOTING

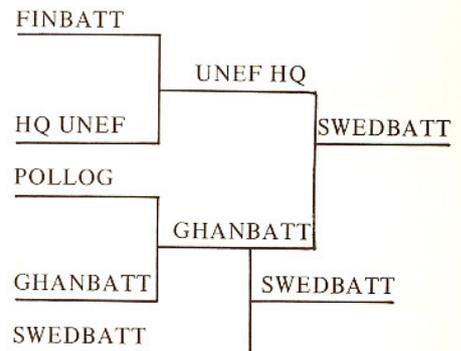
The pistol shooting championship was held at Baluza from 31st October – 2 November. This was both a group and an individual affair. In the individual competition Sgt Vaisanen of FINBATT won the gold with 289 points MWO Borgesten won the silver with 288 points. The bronze went to WO Carleri of SWEDBATT with 285 point.

In the team contest, SWEDBATT won the gold with 903 points, followed by FINBATT who won the silver with 892 points. The Bronze went to POLLOG with 815 points.

TABLE TENNIS

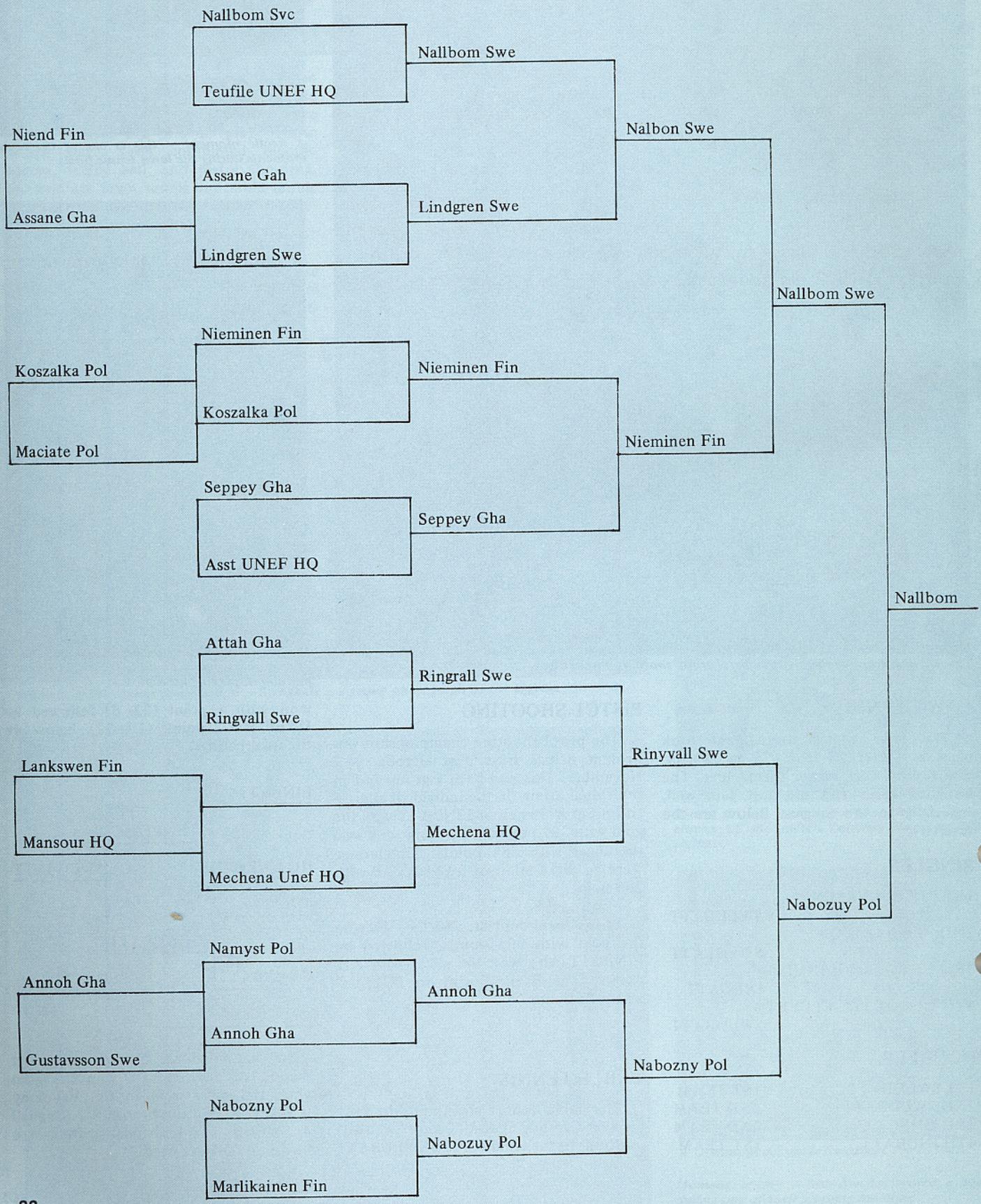
The table tennis championship took place at Camp King Karl, 2 Coy Swedbatt position. In the team contest SWEDBATT

won with 4 point (22–8) followed by UNEF HQ 2 points (17–22), below are the final parings:—



In the individual championship, Sgt Malbon of SWEDBATT won the gold while the silver went to Cpl Vabozmy of POLLOG and the bronze Sgt Ringuall of SWEDBATT. Individual pairings are shown on the next page:—

Individual Championship Parrings



IN MEMORIAM

On 5 November, Sgt A. Sabar of Indbatt died at Kaplan Hospital in Israel as a result of injuries he sustained in a traffic accident on 20th October near Ashkelon, Israel. The late Sgt Sabar was born in Purwuorejo, Indonesia in 1943. He joined the Indonesian Army in 1965 and rose quickly through the ranks to become a sergeant in 1972. He is survived by a wife and four children. May he Rest in Peace.

Cpl Muhammed Fahri died on the spot when the vehicle in which he was travelling, was involved in an accident in the Egyptian Forces Limited Area near the Suez Canal on 22nd November. The late Cpl Fahri was born in 1944 in Kualuh Hulu, Indonesia. He joined the Indonesian Army in 1962 rising to the rank of corporal. He is survived by a wife and three children. May He Rest in Peace.

