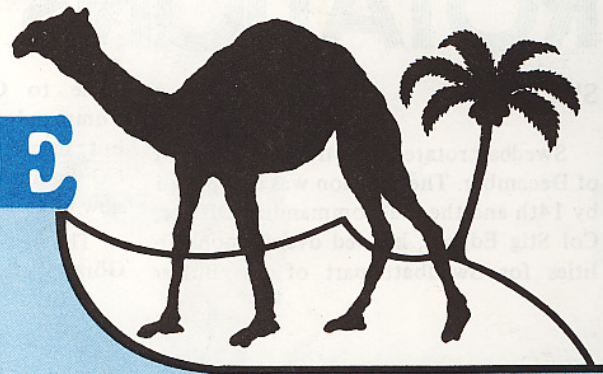




UNEF NEWS

SAND DUNE



Vol 2 No. 5, United Nations Emergency Force, Ismalia. January 1979



ROTATIONS

SWEDBATT

Swedbatt rotated units during the month of December. The rotation was completed by 14th and the old Commanding Officer, Col Stig Edgren, handed over responsibilities for Swedbatt part of the Buffer

Zone to Colonel Göran Wetterlundh, Commander of Swedbatt 72M. In a short, but impressive, ceremony the outgoing CO handed over the UNEF flag to the new CO.

The new CO, Colonel Göran Wetterlundh, who is 44 was commis-

sioned into the Swedish Army in 1957. He served at various levels of command until 1968 when he was posted to the Staff. He served on the Staff until 1977 when he was appointed Deputy Commander of T4 Logistics Regiment in Hassleholm, Southern Sweden, where he remained until his present assignment with UNEF.

Col Wetterlundh is married, with two children.



CO Swedbatt Col Göran Wetterlundh

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

Correspondence to:

MPIO
UNEF HQ (MILPERS)
ISMAILIA
EGYPT

Cartoonist: Sqn-Ldr. Fielding

Cover
Arrival of Santa Claus at Baluza



The New Swedbatt Marching into Baluza Camp on arrival.

INDBATT

Indbatt rotated units in the month of October 1978. The new contingent is commanded by Col Atmanto, 42. Col Atmanto entered the Indonesian Military Academy on completion of his high school in 1957, graduating as 2/Lt in 1960. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a battalion commander in 1971. He remained in this appointment until 1973 when he was posted to the Army Headquarters as an operations officer. In 1974, Col Atmanto had his first stint with UNEF when he came to the Mission Area as Deputy CO. On his return to Indonesia he was appointed a brigade commander, an appointment he held until 1977 when he became Assistant Operations Officer of the Military Regional Command in Jakarta from where he was appointed Commander

of Indbatt IX, which is now in the Mission area.

Col Atmanto attended several professional courses including Company Commanders', advanced Infantry and Army Staff College. He is also a graduate from Combined Services Staff College.

He is married, with 4 children.



Col Atmanto CO Indbatt

NEW BRANCH HEADS

CHIEF ENGINEER OFFICER

Lt Col Antoni Baronwski, the new Chief Engineer Officer, was born in Poland in January 1933. After graduation from the Engineering Officers' School, he served in several units at various levels of command. In 1959, he entered the Military Academy of Technology where he received his Master's degree in building construction in 1964.

After his graduation Lt-Col Baranowski served in several engineering units of the Polish Army. In 1970, he was posted to the Engineering Department of the Ministry of National Defence where he has been serving since, except for the periods he was with the UN. This is Col Baranowski's second tour of duty with UN, the first being from June to November 1974, when he held the same appointment. Lt-Col Baranowski is married, with children.



Lt-Col A. Baranowski Chief Engineer Officer UNEF.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Lt-Col S. Goliszek is the new Chief Medical Officer of UNEF HQ. He took over as Chief Medical Officer on 21 December 1978, from Lt-Col J. Faff, who has since left the Mission Area for Poland on completion of his tour, of duty.

Lt-Col Goliszek, who was born in Poland in April 1935, attended the Military Medical Academy graduating in 1960. After serving in several military units he entered a medical institution to specialise in health protection and laryngology, obtaining his first degree in 1960 and the second in 1970.

Lt Col Goliszek was the Deputy Chief Medical Officer with the previous Pollog succeeding Col Faff, his Chief, when the contingent rotated. Prior to joining UNEF, Col Goliszek was serving in a military hospital as Second-in-Command. He was awarded "the Golden Cross of Service." Col Goliszek is married, with two children.



Lt-Col S. Goliszek Chief Medical Officer UNEF.

MEDALS DAY PARADE

FINDBATT

December was a memorable month for the members of FINBATT. Defence Minister Taisto Tahkamaa and his party visited the Battalion from 4 Dec to 7 Dec 78. Finbatt also celebrated its Medals Parade and the 61st Independence Day of Finland

on 6 Dec 78, with attendance of the Finnish Danny Shown entertainment group.

The four-day festivities reached their apex when on behalf of the Force Commander, the Commanding Officer of Finbatt, Colonel Gustav Hägglund, presented the UN Peace Medals to 182 Finbatt members. This was followed by cocktails, dinner and night-ball in the Supply Com-

pany Athletics Hall. There was a speech by Minister Tahkamaa after which he was made Honorary Member of FINBATT, with a plaque.

Members of the entertainment group were also presented with tokens of friendship.



Defence Minister Taisto Thkamaa inspects the Parade, on his left Lt-Gen Kai Sarmanne, on his right Commanding Officer FINBATT, Colonel Gustav Hägglund.

CO FINBATT makes a speech. He is flanked by members of the entertainment group (from left) Pepe Willberg; Annika Lehtonen, Armi Aavikko, Miss Finland 1977, Matti Kyllonen, "Danny" Ilkka Lipsanen and Jakke Seppala.





Commanding Officer FINBATT presents the UN Medal to his DCO LT-Col Pekka Uutaniemi

MEDALS DAY PARADE

GHANBATT

Ghanbatt held its Medals Day Parade on the 17 January, 1979 at Mitla Camp. The Parade was reviewed by the Force Commander, Major-General Rais Abin, after which he presented the UN Peace Medals to members of the contingent on behalf of the Secretary General. In his speech to the troops the Commander congratulated the contingent for their hard and dedicated work and said that the

award of the Peace Medal was a token of recognition of their efforts in peace-keeping.

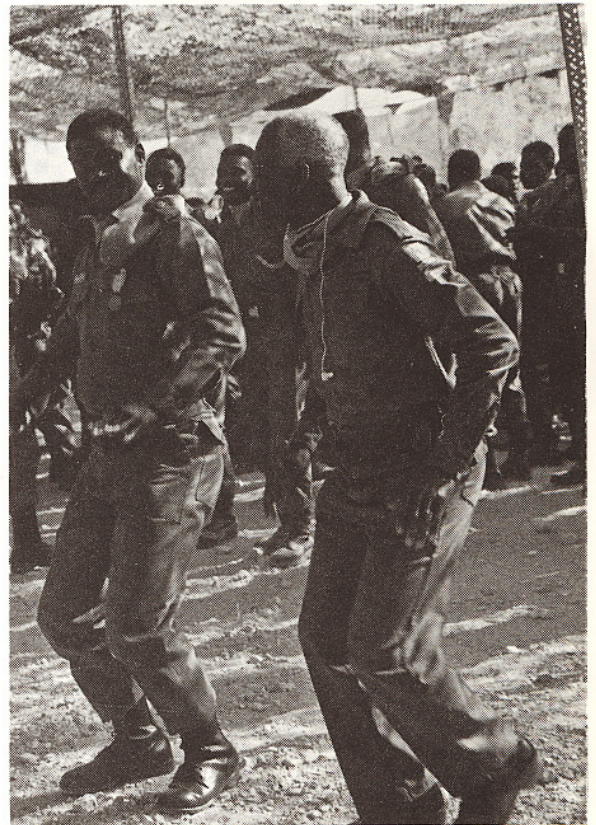
The Commander concluded his speech by reminding members of the Contingent not to relax even if they were nearing the end of their tour of duty and asked them to involve themselves in extramural activities to fight boredom. Present at the Parade were a number of VIP guests among them the Ghana Ambassador to Egypt, His

Excellency, Reverend Commodore Quaye, a Ghanaian Military delegation lead by Brigadier Sam, and a group of Irish Bagpipers, who came all the way from UNIFIL to grace the occasion and Mr. Bahti, Deputy Director SFM.

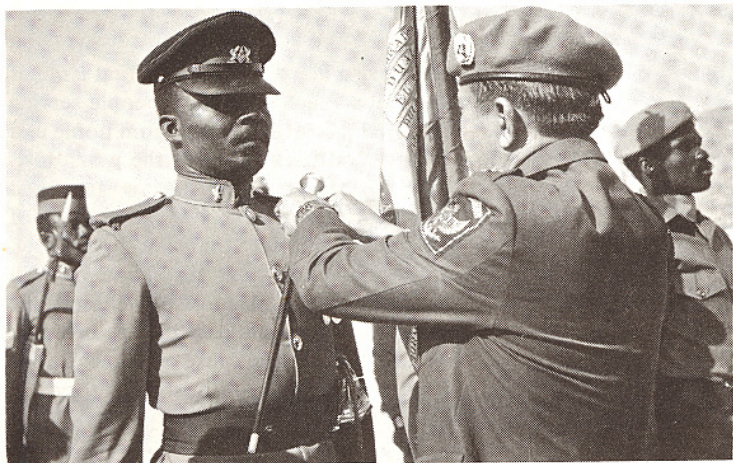
The day ended with a luncheon followed by drumming and dancing. At hand to entertain the guest were, along with the Irish pipers the unit dance band and the Abgadza Drummers – performing traditional Ghanaian music and dancing.



The Unit Colours march on parade



There was a lot of fun after the parade. Traditional dancing forms part of the celebration



The Force Commander decorates the Unit RSM with a UN Peace Medal.



A special presentation was made to M/Cpl Martin, a Canadian maintenance NCO who was attached to the unit in recognition of his meritorious services to the unit.



The Irish Bagpipers from UNIFIL entertain guests as part of Ghanbatt Medals Day activities.

CHRISTMAS IN UNEF

This is our Christmas issue of 1978 and it also happens to be the first issue of the New Year. For many people serving in UNEF, Christmas away from home and family is a difficult time of the year. However, of the many jobs that we are asked to perform, none expresses the "Spirit of Christmas" better than Peace-Keeping. We all hope that next year Christmas will be spent in the place of our choice, but this year we can take pride in the work we are doing in the cause of peace. In this issue we print the "Christmas Story" in UNEF with pictures.

CANLOG

To members of Canlog, Christmas 1978 was a time of reflection, but it was also a time to enjoy as much as possible the warmth of friendship in the best traditions of the Season, so there was an open invitation for all UNEF members in EL GALA and ISMAILIA to participate in the festivities with them. There were parties, pre-

sents and dinners. and as many ways of celebrating Christmas as there are people in UNEF. The New Year was a special affair for Canlog. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, Canadians and guests from other contingents were treated to first class entertainment, when the Canadian Armed Forces all Star Revue appeared on stage in El Gala.

The show included top-notch entertainers in the persons of pop singers Gloria

Kaye and Mel Deacon, country and western artists Diamond Joe White and Penny White, plus the grass-roots wit of Les Pavelick. The show started strong and kept rolling to the end, thanks to M.C. Michele Finney, the Margo Kane Dancers, the sleight-of-hand of magician Mickey Hades, and the musical strength of Privilege.

Audience reaction to the All Star Revue certainly indicated an appreciation for the talent, time and effort put into this show.



BGen Evraire joins the cast and crew of the Canadian Armed Forces All Star Revue in singing Aulde Land Syne.



Dishing out Christmas grub at the BBC are LCol Marc Terreau, Sgt Mike Ramsden, WO Reg Gabriel, and MWO Gus Hardy.



Penny White and Diamond Joe White sing Country & Western favourites.



The Margo Kane Dancers move to the music.



Gloria Kaye, recording artist, dancer and television star – certainly an El Gala favourite.

SWEDBATT

Swedbatt celebrated Christmas in a really grand style, not-with-standing the fact that the unit arrived in the Mission Area only a few weeks before the Yuletide and a number of the soldiers might not have adjusted themselves fully to the new environment.

On Christmas eve, the unit went into full gear for the celebrations. Here and there one saw soldiers decorating X'mas trees, putting up fittings on the walls of the various messes and, of course, a group of cooks were especially tasked to prepare the Christmas dinner. This was to be as close in preparation, taste and appearance to what one would find in Sweden on Christmas as possible. In the same evening all were gathered in front of the Mess for X'mas service where the Chaplain conducted the service and the Commanding Officer delivered his Christmas speech.

Christmas day was a day of celebration,

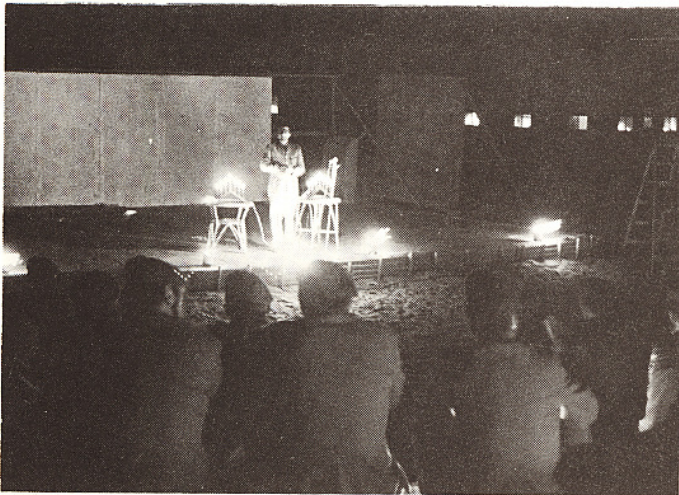


well-wishing, and presentation of gifts among the troops at all the contingent locations. At Baluza, the Christmas dinner, Swedish style, was ready. On Boxing Day, Father Christmas on his traditional desert-mobile (a camel) arrived ready to make his annual presentation to children.

General Ensio Siilasvuo, the Chief Co-ordinator on his way to Jerusalem from Finbatt, where he had had his traditional Christmas celebration, decided to spend the Boxing Day with Swedbatt. In all there were thirty guests, including Swedish observers with families from Damascus, Jerusalem, Gaza and Cairo. The day ended with games and other recreational activities.



The Christmas Dinner – prepared Swedish style; looking on is the proud group of contingent personnel who prepared it.



The Contingent chaplain conducting Christmas midnight service



There was a lot of fun on Boxing Day 26 Dec; here some members of Swedbatt engage themselves in tug-of-war.

Guests helping themselves at the Christmas party



GHANBATT

Ghanbatt Christmas celebration was similar to that of Swedbatt except that the Battalion had its traditional Wassa, a typical Ghanaian Army Christmas celebration for the troops, a few days before Christmas day. At UNEF HQ where a Company from Ghanbatt was based for Guard duties the Wassa which took place at the "Youth Centre" attracted both locals and staff from UNEF HQ. The celebration was marked with drumming and dancing and of course special Ghanaian dishes such as Fufu, Akple and Emutuo were served.

The Christmas day activities included the Christmas day church service conducted by the padre, gifts, drink and dinner parties with traditional Christmas greetings.



There was drumming and dancing, in this picture, members of the contingent are seen doing "Agbadza", a Ghanaian traditional dance.



CO Lt-Col. S. Ayumah of Ghanbatt, and Camp Comdt Major Sorkpor serving troops at their Wassa activities at check-point Echo.

POLOG

Christmas in far away Poland is time for cultural as well as religious splendour. It is also family holiday, when friends and relatives gather for reunion. It is a season of greetings, feasts and merry making. To

the Polish soldier in the Sinai, therefore, anything short of this deprives him of one of his reverend celebrations. The Polish Command made sure this did not happen. Special Christmas trees were brought down for the troops and of course relatives, friends, workers and school children in

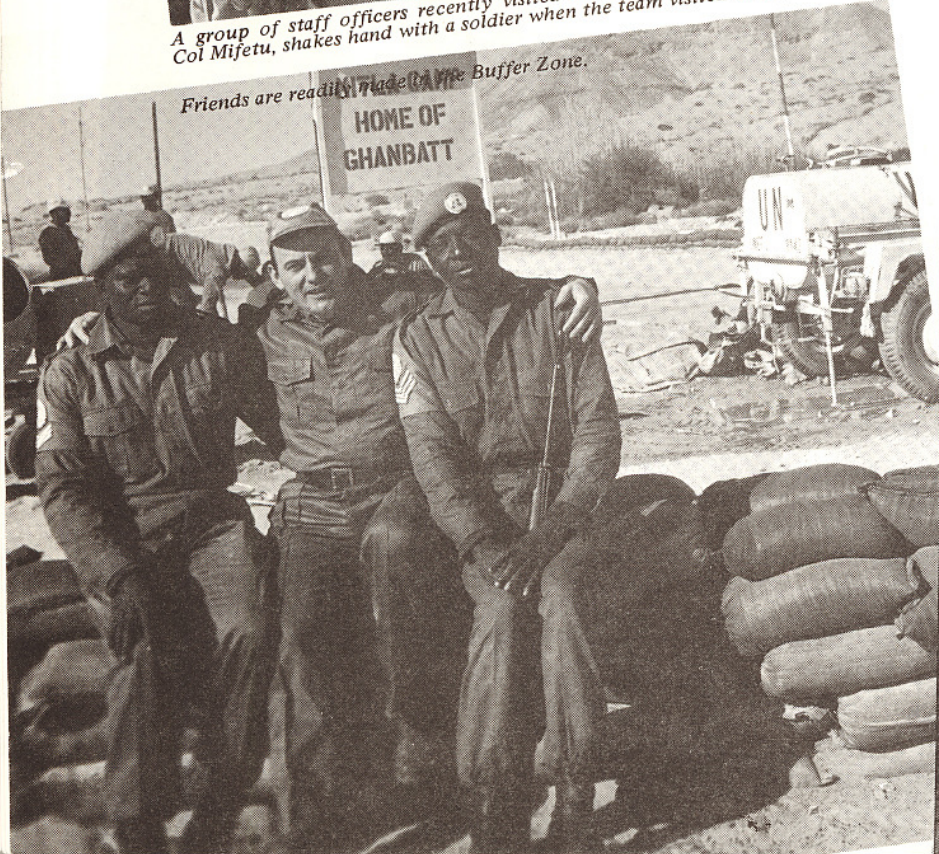
Poland sent to the mission area parcels of gifts to be distributed to every Polish soldier. This was done on Christmas eve amid singing of Christmas Carols. As part of the Christmas celebrations special tours were organized to members of the contingent to visit interesting places in Egypt.

news in picture



A group of staff officers recently visited Ghanbatt. In this picture the leader of the delegation, Col Mifetu, shakes hand with a soldier when the team visited Check Point Golf.

Austair
Christma
Lapins. T
Fielding.



Friends are readily made in the Buffer Zone.





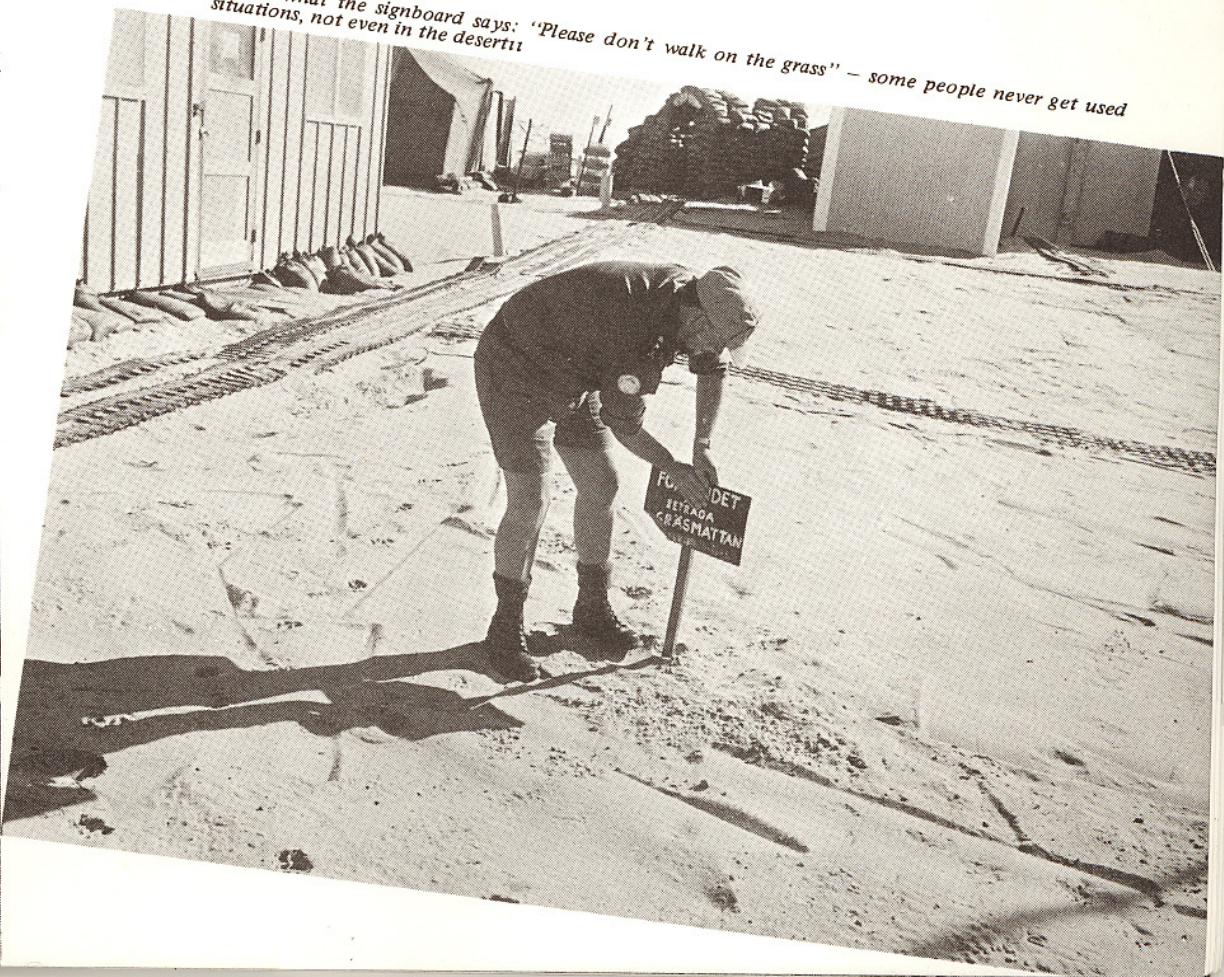
SIGNAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

The UNEF Signal Officers' conference was held in Finbatt in November with participants from different contingents. Attached a photo from that occasion. From left, Capt Nono Sukarno Indbatt, Capt H. Hulkkonen Finbatt, Lt J. Sarvelainen Finbatt, Capt. E. Klutsey HQ UNEF, Maj S. Tuusanen Finbatt, Capt R. Hanebrink Swedbatt, Lt Col R.H. Smedmor HQ UNEF, Lt S. Adjei Ghanbatt, MVO J.H. Veilleux HQ UNEF, F/Lt Harun Faridan Indbatt.

Flight to Swedbatt. Santa is FS Andy
The elves are F/L Al Huish, S/L Mark
and Cpl Dave Russell.



Guess what the signboard says: "Please don't walk on the grass" - some people never get used situations, not even in the desert!



On December 21, 1978 U.N. AUSTAIR Heli pulled out the aerial on the top of a hill at Posn 854 to INDBATT Base Camp Wadi Reina.



rift valley fever

LT COL GOLISZEK
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER UNEF

Recently there has been a lot of talk both in Egypt and Israel about the Rift Valley Fever. What is it and what are its causes, are there any cures or preventive methods?. In this issue the Chief Medical Officer, UNEF, attempts to highlight some aspects of the Rift Valley Fever.

The Rift Valley Fever was first observed clinically in the area of Aswan in 1971. Since then it has spread to a number of other areas in Egypt. The disease is characterised by a high death and abortion rate in sheep and a high abortion rate in cattle and buffaloes. It was originally thought to be of no danger to human beings but recent research and incidents have indicated its occurrence in humans as well. Its out-break takes three to six weeks to reach its peak. But on the whole its total effect on the human population in any given area is very small. In fact, it is less than 5%. The Rift Valley Fever may be present in regions which have had any contact with areas where the disease is already known to be prevalent. Because of this it could appear in any part of Egypt and indeed within the UNEF area. This does not, however, necessarily mean that the disease poses any serious health threat to UNEF nor is there any cause for alarm at the present time.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FEATURES

The Rift Valley Fever is caused by a marburg - like virus. This is also known as Ebela, after the name of a river in Zaire where the disease is known to have a high epidemic rate. Its incubation period averages seven days though it can take as long as sixteen days, or as little as four. Epidemiologically the culex mosquito is thought to play a dominant role in transmission of the virus. However, it cannot be ruled out that animals, especially rodents, may be implicated as carriers of the

Ebela virus. Laboratory tests on guinea pigs injected with virus have shown a marked survival percentage of the virus. It may therefore be safe to presume that such other animals as bats, monkeys and even birds, especially the garden species cannot be excluded as possible carriers of the virus.

Transmission of the disease from persons, however, requires an extremely close contact with blood or body fluids with high virus concentration, especially those containing blood. The virus normally enters the body through abrasions of mucous membranes. Transmission through droplets are considered unlikely as some people have been observed to share the same room as the patients without being infected, although this should not be taken as a hundred percent guarantee. By far the most common means of contact is through nursing, for example insufficiently sterilized syringes may have played an important role.

CLINICAL INDICATORS

In almost all cases of the diseases there was a sudden on-set of fever (38° - 48°) with several myalgia, headache, conjunctivitis and nausea, sometimes accompanied with vomiting. In fatal cases jaundice may set in about the sixth day of infection. In fatal case bleeding may occur about the fifth day, although loss of blood is not uncommon even in mild cases. Abortion and massive metrorrhagia are frequent in pregnant women. Death may occur between the fourth and tenth day of the attack. Recovery is usually slow with a persistent complete loss of appetite. Until the disease is categorically diagnosed it is difficult to distinguish it from malaria, typhoid, shigellosis and yellow fever. For confirmed cases of the Rift Valley Fever with acute clinical symptoms, with isolation of the

virus presence of specific antibodies the specific treatment should be undertaken as quickly as possible. So far, from the limited experience, convalescent plasma appears to be useful therapy and at the present time it is the only form of specific treatment.

Complications of the disease may fall into three main groups:-

- a. Ephtalmological
 - b. Central nervous system
 - c. Hepatic involvement often associated with haemorrhagic manifestations.
- Fatalitis usually occur in this latter group.

PREVENTION

d. For our purposes in UNEF, the following steps are recommended as prevention:

- (a). All personnel with symptoms suggestive of the Rift Valley Fever should be immediately isolated for a period of ten days following the initial onset of the illness.
- (b) Blood from the suspected victim should be taken, and collected in sterilised ampules for laboratory tests.
- (c) All suspected cases should be reported to UNEF Hospital.
- (d) All personnel employed in messes and kitchens should undergo special medical supervision (washing before work, protective clothing, avoid skin abrasions on hands etc).
- (e) Anti-mosquito campaign should be carried out regularly by the Force Hygiene Team.

This article is not intended to raise any alarm among personnel in the Mission Area, but rather to alert them to the possibility of the disease being present in the area. As indicated earlier an incidence of the disease is high in animals and very low in humans, however, it will be wise to take note of the various symptoms and the preventive measures recommended.

tit~bits from the units

POLLOG

THAT'S AN ENGINEER'S BUSINESS

Our Polish engineers continue to play their very important role in the Mission area — making the Buffer Zone safer. Their courage and skill in mine clearing and demolition of unexploded shells, abundant in the vast Sinai, cannot be allowed to pass without praise.

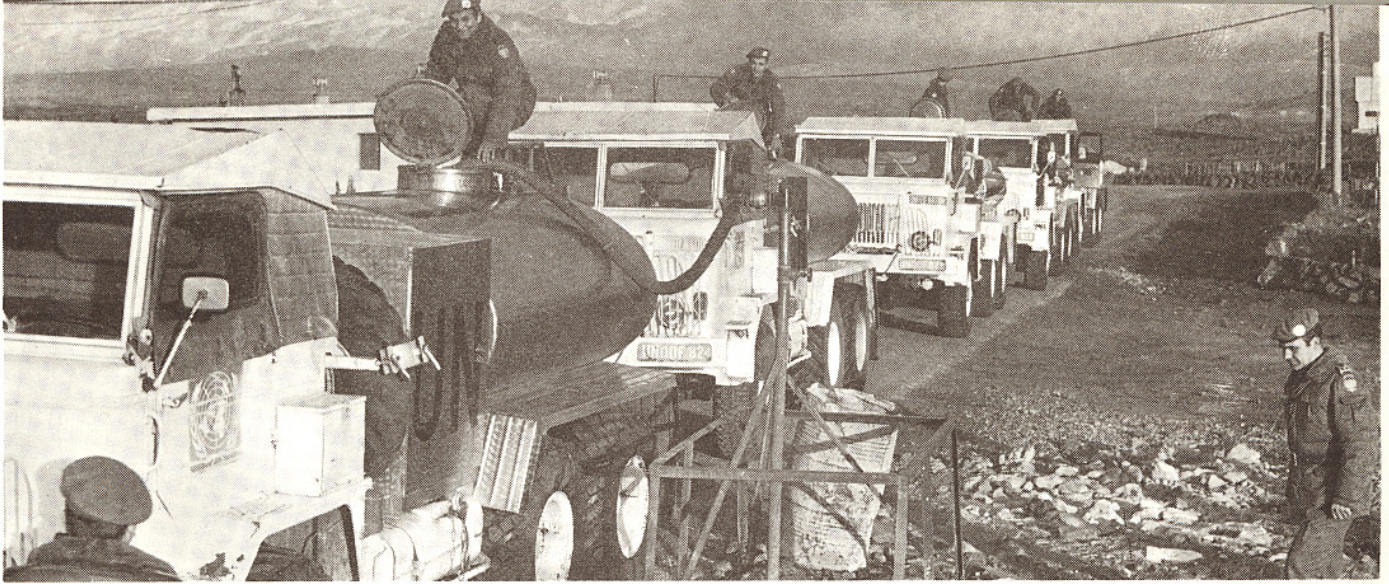
Since the present rotation of the sappers arrived in the Mission area, no

less than 180 mixed mines, 540 shells and 120 hand grenades and bombs have been cleared.

Recently, Swedbatt had the opportunity to appreciate the work of the sappers when the road to Posh 550 was washed into the sea. The sappers used rubber boats to ferry food and water to the personnel at Posn 550. When it was decided to move this position to another location the sappers were called in to prepare an access road, clear mines and put up shelters for the personnel. The sappers are doing really good work.

Polish guards preparing for their duty.





Since arrival in the Mission Area two months ago the Polish drivers have covered thousands of kilometers and carried nearly 280 tons of supplies and water to the Buffer Zone

Cpl Janusz Matusiak, a sapper, preparing a demolition for unexploded shells on the Mediterranean beach.



Engineers of the platoon commanded by 2-nd Lt Roman Szczech marking a new road leading to the rest resort of Swedbatt.



SWEDBATT

In the month of December, not long after the arrival of the new Swedish contingent in the Mission Area, there was a mishap at the Bedouin village of Baluza. A Bedouin child was severely burnt. The parents, not knowing what to do, rushed the child to the UN location at Baluza, the Swedbatt HQ and within minutes the child was in the casualty ward being treated by the Chief Medical Officer of the Contingent. Fortunately, all went well, the child survived and was returned to the parents. This is yet another step in improving the ever-growing good relationships between the local population and UNEF personnel in the Buffer Zone.

TRANSITIONS

On 20 December, barely a week after arrival in the Buffer Zone the contingent carried out its first supervision of Student exchange and family reunion at El Kherba in the Buffer Zone, organised by the International Red Cross in cooperation with UNEF. Students from Gaza who are studying in Egyptian institutions are allowed to spend their holidays with their parents in Gaza and those whose holidays have ended are allowed to return to Egypt. Families, separated as a result of the war, are also allowed to pay visits to either side for a brief reunion.



Each transit provides a source of amusement and sight-seeing for local children from El-Kherba. Here the children crowd round Swedish soldiers curiously.



Families and students going through security checks before being allowed into either Egypt or Israel.



The Chief Medical Officer of Swedbatt treats a Bedouin child rushed to Baluza Camp with severe burns.

Tents are usually erected to serve as security centres.

The UNEF Polish Hospital renowned for its efficiency in the medical field, is slowly carving another name for itself. Within the past few rotations it has become a centre of intense cultural activity, as there is an artist group formed in each rotation by members with common cultural interests.

The present rotation has among its members two doctors, Lt-Col Engeriusz Papiernik and Major Krzysztof Buczylo

who have done well to keep the cultural touch burning at the Hospital. They have been able to organise a cabaret, the "Green Stork" troupe. Their first show did not only astound the spectators but drew a loud and endless applause. Of course, the troupe is a voluntary organisation whose members have to rehearse and perform during their own free time. Already, the troupe has put up several shows at El-Gala, Suez and El Tassa. From a lowly beginning the cabaret

is being transformed into a sort of "Soldiers' Poetic Theater" and will soon come out with a show entitled "Palestinian Landscapes" based on poetry of an outstanding Polish poet, W. Borniowski, with music taken from Chopin.

It is worth mentioning here that the troupe is always ready and glad to accept invitations from any of the UNEF contingents for an evening of entertainment. Why not have an evening with the "Green Stork" troupe?.



Cabaret "Green Stork" singing one of their hit songs

Ladies of the Cabaret "Green Stork".



POETS' CORNER

Time, playing with a kaleidoscope
(his toy)
Moved it a bit with a twist of his wrist –
Breaking the pattern;
And other shapes come settling in place
And colour makes room for colour –
Forming another pattern,
Until Time, playing with the kaleidoscope
(his toy)
Moves it a bit with a twist of his wrist –
Changing the pattern again.

Bepsi

SQN LEADER FIELDING – OUR CARTOONIST DEPARTS

Today we say good-bye to Sqn-Ldr. Fielding, who came to the Mission area with Austair as a pilot and became a de-facto member of our editorial staff for the six months that he was with UNEF. Throughout these six months he kept

our readers amused with his cartoons and very informative articles and photographs.

We are sorry to lose Sqn-Ldr Fielding but we are sure he will soar to even higher altitudes and greater achievements when he arrives in Sunny Australia.

Fielding.



FAREWELL TO ALL AS I HEAD FOR HOME - HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Guard Changing at UNEF HQ

Guard changing ceremonies are always special occasions at UNEF HQ, because they brighten, once in a while, the otherwise monotonous routine of the compound. On 1st December, Ghanbatt took over UNEF Guard Duties from Swedbatt. As usual the event was marked with fanfare and pomp and it attracted a crowd of spectators from UNEF HQ and the local population. The next guard changing will be on 1st February when Indbatt takes over duties from Ghanbatt.

The new guards present arms as the old guards march off.



Duties of the guards have been handed over to Ghanbatt and the Guard Sergeant is seen reading out duties of the guard company to the guards.





The old guards from Swedbatt on parade awaiting the arrival of the new guards.

SHARK!

“SOUTH SINAI SHARK CLUB OR HOW TO NET A SHARK”

An instructive story from FINBATT
(The original article was culled from
“PUSKURI” and freely translated into
English by Captain Pitkanen of UNEF HQ.)

The medical platoon was bursting at the seams with fishing spirit. Many a medic was found staring at the wide, open Red Sea with longing looks, dreaming of delicious catches. But there was one ‘hitch’. No net, no fish. To tell the truth there had been a pair of tattered nets in the platoon a while back, but it had been rather troublesome trying to get them into the teeming depths from a rickety rubber boat. The storms lashing the shoreline in these parts are heavy and the wobbly dinghy pretty light..... but, anyway, the aforesaid nets went AWOL one sunny day. There was some speculation as to how they disappeared. Some said a big fish, others said small weights. Whatever!

Soon the urge to go fishing grew into an obsession in the platoon. After countless sessions, “symposiums” and briefings, it was decided that a couple of “real” nets be bought for the platoon. “Real” in this context is taken to mean “strap nets”..... hook and sinker men may look up the meaning in the ‘Camford Students’ Dictionary of Piscine English’. The Platoon did not rely too much on local procurement channels as far as nets are concerned, and so the Battalion Hygiene Officer, who was due for home leave, was inveigled into purchasing a few. (To be exact, the platoon had collected money for two nets, by passing the hat). So the prospects of obtaining the fishing tackle were promising, but what about the boat?.

Oh, wonder of wonder as if in answer to everybody’s prayers, “Cross I” (our Chaplain) started to organize a boat-building club. There was no lack of volunteers. However, everyone wanted to be an adviser, consultant, even a supervisor..... After three months of hustle and bustle the craft was ready. Spic-and-span it was waiting to be properly christened on the Supatupa beach, a scene for many never-to-be-forgotten events.

Unfortunately, in this case, nobody remembered the good ship’s name the day following the launching ceremonies. And nameless is the vessel to this day.

Well, it was quite an ordinary Saturday afternoon in the South-Sinai, when the older Master-Corporal told the younger Master-Corporal to load the tackle into the Land-Rover and head for the sea. “The mission”, said he, “was to put down the nets in the right spot.....” He would, in person, take care of the latter as soon as he had been rowed out to sea. It was to be a steeply sloping bank where the light-green water turned into murky blue.

“Good old witchcraft doesn’t hurt any in fishing”, the older Master-Corporal said and spat in the sea. “You do the same”, he added. The younger one did as he was told and, wiping his face, humbly admitting you always learn something; never spit in the wind. Thus the trap was appropriately set for the “cattle” of Poseidon. In the mess it was agreed that the catch would be collected by six o’clock in the morning and, to give the affair a touch of elegance and authority, the young platoon lieutenant was invited to join the party.

Here is the lieutenant’s story, “We approached the net from the leeside. The younger Master-Corporal was rowing and the older one started to pull up the tackle. I was ready to give some advise should the need arise The first net came up slowly, sea urchins, clearly hostile seaweed one small sting-ray and two very large pieces of coral nothing! The second “Damn, it’s stuck”, said the older one, pulling with both hands, “we’d better tie a float here and try from the other end no use losing a good net”. He gave it one more jerk. “It’s loose now, but there is something heavy a stone maybe no! There is something alive in the net!” “Perhaps a sea-monster”, said the younger one. “No”, said I, “there are no sea-monsters, they are just a harmless piece of folklore, but it could be a dolphin. There are quite a number of them around here” Soon something whitish was looming under the surface and the net came up vertically like from a well...

At last the creature could be seen – a shark! Easy to recognize by the huge jaws. The net, partly torn, groaned and creaked, when the horrid despot of the depths lazily rolled around its axis. It looked like a live torpedo ready to explode “How do we get it up we don’t even have a fish-gaff or hook”, said the netter in a trembling voice, perspiring with the effort. “Well”, said I calmly, “just slip the ancor rope around it and yank it in the boat” This bright suggestion of mine didn’t appeal to the beast in the least, and it started a determined fight for survival, beating the water around into foam, threatening to sink us all. Suddenly the shark was in the boat viciously trying to snatch our toes However, it being rather exhausted, we soon got the upper hand and the enemy was ours..... On the beach the shark became a focus of huge interest..... dozens of cameras appeared from nowhere..... innumerable questions as to where, how, what, when, who, why,.....” It is a two-meter, thirty-kilo herring shark, frightened out of its wits by your stupid questions. Let’s put it out of its misery”. said our know-all, smart-aleck clerk, and it was done.

It took almost the whole night and a lot of refreshments to reach a unanimous decision as to what to do with the shark. It was then realized that a new batch of pinkies were arriving in a few days’ time and that it would only be proper to honour both them and the big fish by introducing them to each other. So the shark was cut up, prepared, and put into the deep-freezer and, in due course, transformed by our Chef into a delicious festival dinner for the pinkie celebrations. The pinkies had no way of refusing to partake in the delicacy and down it went. The smart old hands had the foresight to provide various beverages in sufficient quantities both before and after the meal to help digest the fish better. Many toasts were raised to the beast of the Red Sea, not forgetting the brave fishermen. May this instructive story encourage other peace-keepers to take up the challenge of the deep blue seas.”

UNEF

SAFE DRIVING WEEK

ARRIVE ALIVE



Rather 20 minutes too late in this life than 20 years too early in the next!

18-23 december