

THE BLUE BERET



MAY 1981



MARCH IN RETROSPECT

	ROTATIONS	14 – 16	Dr R Schwaiger, Speaker of the Austrian Budesrat, and Dr D Streiter to HQ UNFICYP and the Austrian Contingent.
	AUSCON		
	MEDAL PARADES		
23	AUSCON	21	Brig Spacie, Commander 7 Field Force to the British Contingent.
	VISITS		
1	Mr M Llewelyn-Smith, Counsellor of the British Embassy, Athens, to HQ UNFICYP.	22 – 30	Capt Chouinard and Capt Roberts to the Canadian Contingent to conduct a security investigation.
1 – 8	Lt Col Lauritzen, Commander DANCON Designate on reconnaissance visit.		
1 – 10	Mr Flodell, Swedish First Secretary to SWEDCON.	23 – 29	Maj Christian de Schell to the Danish Contingent on a familiarisation visit.
1 – 23	60 RAF Cadets visited 84 Sqn Det RAF on various days throughout the month as part of a summer camp programme.	23 – 24	WO Schoeder and SSgt Charleworth to conduct documentation inspection.
2 – 3	Maj J Hutchins to the Canadian Contingent.	23 – 30	Messrs J Perfect, J Cleal and S Payne, Journalists, to the 3rd Bn The Royal Anglians.
2 – 5	Professor Hidejiro Kotani from the Department of Law at Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan, as part of a study of UN Peace-Keeping operations.	27 – 30	HE Ambassador Klestil, Austrian Permanent Representative to UN, to HQ UNFICYP and the Austrian Contingent.
3 – 17	Brig Watts, Maj Deane, Maj Bradshaw, Maj Garrow and WO Asquit on an inspection of the UNFICYP Flight AAC.	28	Lt J Edwards and Flt Lt T Scott to HQ UNFICYP to conduct an inspection of the Communications Centre.
6	Flt Lt Easy to 84 Sqn Det RAF for an annual inspection.	28 – 29	Maj G Munns, Directorate of Army Staff Duties, to the British Contingent.
6 – 10	Mr A Jjertstrand and Mr H Aronsson to SWEDCON to conduct a financial inspection.	29 – 6 May	Canadian Tele-Metropole Team to film training and operational activities and interview members of the Canadian Contingent.
8 – 9	Maj McFadden and Maj Swenson on a visit to the Canadian Contingent.	29 – 21 May	Messrs Cooley, Ferguson and Lufty to conduct an audit on the Canadian Contingent accounts.
9	HE Dr W Backes, Austrian Ambassador to Greece to HQ UNFICYP.	30 – 2 May	Mr Karl Harkonen, Lt Col Vesa Yrjola and Maj Ilkka Tiihonen to the Finnish Contingent for an inspection.
10	HE Ambassador Anders Thunborg, the Swedish Permanent Representative to the United Nations to HQ UNFICYP and SWEDCON.		
13	Sqn Ldr Austin and Sqn Ldr Coates on a visit to 84 Sqn Det RAF.		
13	Dr Ola Ullsten, the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs and a group of 28 dignitaries.		

FUTURE EVENTS

AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

3, Museum Street, Nicosia.

Tel: 021-42152.

Thursday 14 May at 7 pm:

Third Annual Photographic Exhibition (14-27 May) in collaboration with the Biological Society of Cyprus.

WILDLIFE IN FOCUS

(The Fauna, Flora and Sea Life of the Island).

The exhibition will be opened by HE The British High Commissioner Mr P A Rhodes. the following four illustrated lectures will be given:

(a) Thursday 14 May at 8 pm:

"The Evaluation of Marine Resources" by Dr David Grove, lecturer at the Marine Science Laboratory, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

(b) Monday 18 May at 8 pm:

"Environmental Problems in Cyprus" by Mr Alex Efthymoulou, President of the Cyprus Association for the Protection of the Environment.

(c) Thursday 21 May at 8 pm:

"The Cyprus Forests" by Mr Euripides Michaelides, Director of the Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture.

(d) Lecture by a member of the Scientific Film team at Oxford who helped to film the famous series "Life on Earth" which was shown at the British Council in January and February this year. Date, subject and time will be announced later.

Thursday 28 May at 8 pm:

Acted playreading: **HARLEQUINADE** a farce by Terence Rattigan. A famous theatrical couple are touring a production of "Romeo and Juliet" around the English Midlands, when their past catches up with them disastrously. Directed by Jeff Fenwick. The cast includes: Angela Aloneftis Julie Flower, Colette Joannides, Mike Toms, David Marler, David Humphries, Roger Wilde, Gary Bird, and Tim Lewis.

THE TEMPEST

The Limassol Committee for Chest Diseases announces a production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest", in English, which will take place at the Ancient Cumium Theatre on 18, 19 and 20 June 1981 at 8.30 pm. Tickets will be on sale at the British Council. All proceeds go to the Committee for Chest Diseases.

AT THE AMERICAN CENTRE

33B, Homer Avenue, Nicosia.

Tel: 021-73143.

Wednesday 13 May at 7.30 pm:

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS – 113 mins, colour

Gene Kelly starred and also won a special Academy Award for his choreography in this delightful musical, directed by Vincente Minelli, with music and lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin. The film also took the 1951 Oscar as best picture, and several others. The story of a US soldier who stays in Paris to pursue his career as an artist includes a 20 minute ballet designed in the style of Renoir, Van Gogh and Lautrec.

Wednesday 27 May at 7.30 pm:

AMERICAN VALUES AND THEIR EFFECT ON FOREIGN POLICY

A lecture by Professor William C Olson, Dean of the School of International Service, American University Washington DC. Co-sponsored by the Cyprus American Association.

Friday 29 May at 7.30 pm:

THE AFRICAN QUEEN – 105 mins, colour.

An immensely popular film version of C S Forester's tale about a tough skipper and a prim spinster who become heroes — and lovers — during a perilous escape down an African river in 1915. Directed by John Huston from a script by the highly respected film critic and novelist James Agee, with outstanding performances from Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 5

MAY 1981

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

Printed in Cyprus by Zavallis Press Limited,
Tel. 65124, P.O.Box 1142 Nicosia, Cyprus

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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Descriptions of recent local events or of visits to places of interest are welcome. Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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on the cover

Footwear being added to the tree outside
254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron Detachment
on Troodos. Photo George Moffett

THE BLUE BERET



Editorial

I have no doubt that the front cover has puzzled some of our readers. It has become a tradition to nail a pair of shoes, or footwear of any description, to this tree by members of the Signal Detachment before handing over their duties to another member of 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron.

Proof reading is carried out by three persons and despite these efforts errors are occasionally overlooked. Our congratulations to those who spotted them.

Lastly I would like to thank Sgt George Moffett for all the work he has done in UNFICYP over the last year as the Force Photographer. I would like to welcome the new Force Photographer, Sgt Bob Fousert, to UNFICYP.



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UN News: Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus



SWEDCON

By Sven Hovne

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Sgt Ake Elvin in action.

The best motorcross driver in Cyprus is a Swede!

The second Cyprus Motorcross event of the year took place at the Argaka Paphos racetrack, and was organised by the Cyprus Motorcycling Federation. All the local motorcross stars were at the starting line—including 21 year old SWEDCON Sgt Ake Elvin.

At the end of the race Sgt Elvin was the undisputed winner. He not only won the two heats in his own class (250 cc) but the overall class as well and became

the man of the day and a great favourite with the 2000 spectators.

In Sweden, Motorcross is a very popular sport and over the years has produced many world champions in different classes. Sgt Elvin has been an active motorcross driver in Sweden for 21 year old four years.

In Cyprus his racing career began when he visited a local motorcycle firm and presented his credentials. He was immediately given a bike and started training. Motorcross bikes are specialis-

ed and it takes some time to change from one model to another. Sgt Elvin proved in his first race that he had learnt to handle his new bike.

Unfortunately this first race might also be his last. A couple of weeks after his victory Sgt Elvin had an accident during training and the bike fell on him, injuring his foot. The doctors say "No more motorcross competitions", but Sgt Elvin is an optimist; "Of course I will be at the starting line next time", he says.

THE AUSCON MEDICS



Dr Helmut Maier in surgery.

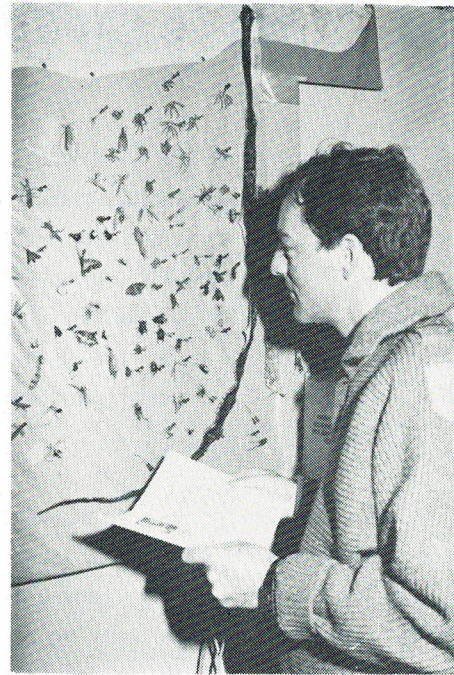
By Hubert Schermann.

The medical welfare of soldiers is extremely important, ensuring their good morale and state of readiness.

AUSCON's Medical Centre is run by two Captains, Dr Peter Reisseger and Dr Helmut Maier. Dr Reisseger, who comes from Upper Austria, heads the medical team and is an "Ear, Nose and Throat" specialist. Dr Maier, who is a native of Styria's beautiful capital Graz, specialises in accident surgery and is an expert on jaw fractures. He is married with two children.

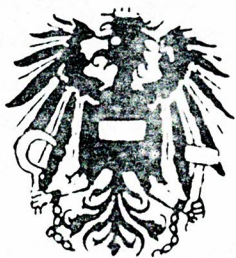
Both our surgeons take part in sporting activities, and Dr Reisseger's special hobby is entomology.

AUSCON soldiers have great faith in the two doctors, and they know that any health problems they may have will be well cared for.



Dr Peter Reisseger and his hobby.

AUSCON CHEFS



Austria has an ancient tradition for producing culinary delights, and the same is true of the Austrian army. The cooks are well-known and very popular with all AUSCON soldiers.

SSgt Leo Grün and Sgt Franz Pernik do a very good job, and are well supported by their kitchen staff. We often get served with Austrian specialities, such as "Bauernschmaus mit Knodel und Kraut" (a mixture of meats with Dumplings and Cabbage), "Gefüllte Schweinsbrust" (Stuffed Port), "Tafelspitz" (boiled beef with grated horseradish) or "Falschen Wildbraten mit Knodel und whortleberry-jam" (imitation game with dumplings and cranberry sauce).

The Austrian Kitchen is appreciated by our guests as well as our soldiers. Guten Appetit!



SSgt Grün and Sgt Pernik preparing "Wildbraten mit Saft und Serviettenknodel" (Roast game with dumplings and gravy).



ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Troodos Signal Detachment



By the Editor

Photographs by George Moffett

A Detachment from 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron is permanently stationed on Troodos at a height of 1730 metres (5400 ft) as the only permanent rebroadcast station for UNFICYP. This involves rebroadcasting of the Force radio net where direct communication is not possible.

Since they are in a position to monitor the main Force radio nets they often become involved in offering communications assistance in the relaying of important messages. Furthermore there are occasions when this involves missions of mercy.

The detachment comprises four men, one of whom was away on the day of the visit by the Editor and the Force Photographer. The man in charge is MCpl Al Rhyno, a Canadian from 2RCHA Sig Tp. His home is Clyde River, Nova Scotia. He is 29 years old and has been in the Canadian Forces for 10 years. Amongst his sports and hobbies are softball, hunting and fishing, and the little known game of broomball. Another member of the detachment is LCpl Craig Wright, an Englishman from 30 Signal Regt whose home is in Leice-



"Who said it didn't snow in Cyprus?" — MCpl Al Rhyno with his snow shoes.

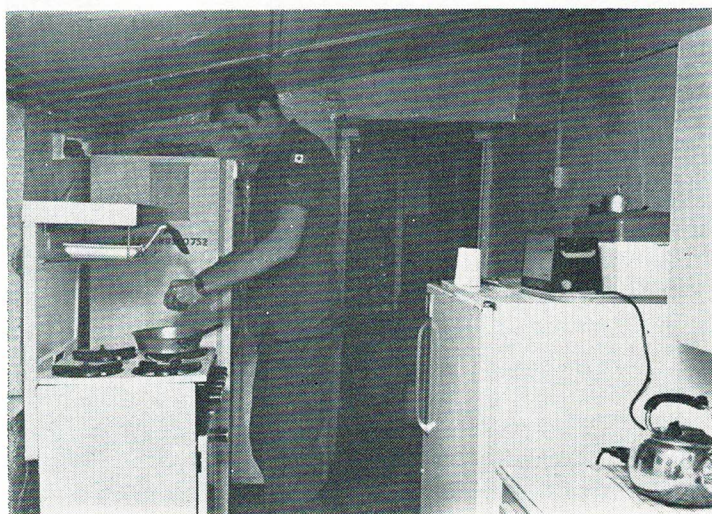


LCpl Craig Wright topping up the radio batteries.

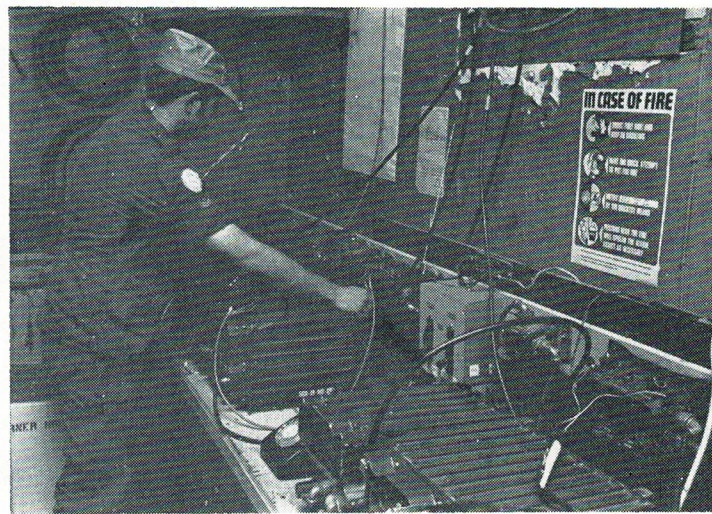
ster, England. He is 21 years of age has 4½ years service. His sport and hobbies comprise skiing, soccer and car customising. The third member present during our visit was Pte Gaston Potuin from QG 5 ET. His home is in Dolbeau, Canada and he is 22 years old with 3½ years service. He enjoys skiing, fishing, sailing and travelling.

This year Troodos experienced the highest snowfall for many years with snow drifts of over 4 metres. The snow made vehicle access a problem for some time before shovels were put to work. During this period stores had to be man-packed and the snow shoes came in useful. Other problems encountered this winter were freezing pipes and the climbing of radio masts, the tallest of which is 50 metres (156 ft) high.

The detachment is entirely self-sufficient and has a generator for the supply of electricity. They do all their own cooking without the help of a trained cook, and despite this they produce some very good dishes. Their off-duty time is taken up with keeping fit with skiing and running, and relaxing watching video TV, films and doing a lot of reading.



Pte Gaston Potuin taking his turn at cooking.



MCpl Al Rhyno checking the radio.



SWEDCON MARATHON

by Sven Hovne

The first SWEDCON Marathon took place on 17 April 1981. At the starting line at Camp Victoria were 118 runners from nine different Contingents and Units from all over the Island. All but seven starters completed the classical distance of 42 kilometers.

The race was dominated by British runners; Sgt Baker from Support Regiment took the lead from the start, and for 40 of the 42 kilometers he looked like the clear winner. Unfortunately, not far short of the winning post, Sgt Baker who was competing in his first Marathon, ran out of steam (a fate shared by many marathon runners) and he was passed by Cpl Bailey of 9 Sig Regt. Sgt Baker managed to defend his second place coming in just ahead of Cpl Elton of Sp Regt.

These three runners were the only competitors to complete the race in under three hours. 34 runners came in under four hours and 75 completed it in under five hours. Fourth place went to a Swede, Pte Sundius.

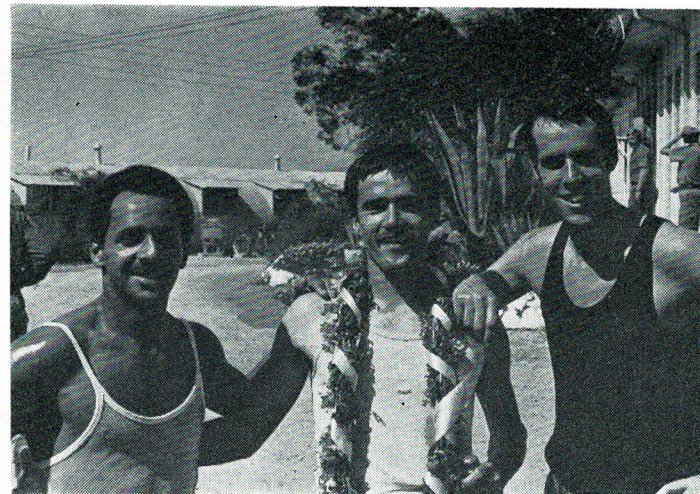
In the women's class, four runners ran half the marathon distance. The winner was Irene Harlin, wife of SWEDCON Major Dennis Harlin.

Results

1.	Cpl	Bailey	9 Sig Regt	2	49
2.	Sgt	Baker	Sp Regt	2	56
3.	Cpl	Elton	Sp Regt	2	56
4.	Pte	Sundius	SWEDCON	3	03
5.	Pte	Aarslev	DANCON	3	11
6.	Capt	Jangalv	SWEDCON	3	11
7.	Major	Maijer	SWEDCON	3	13
8.	Sgt	Wiking	SWEDCON	3	16
9.	Sgt	Pedersen	DANCON	3	18
10.	Pte	Folkesson	SWEDCON	3	18



The Competitors line up at the start of the race.



The first three, L to R, Sgt Baker, Cpl Bailey and Cpl Elton



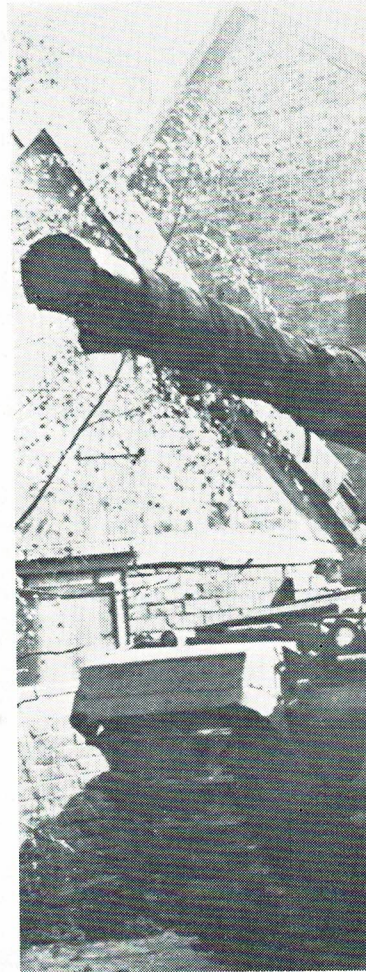
Cpl Bailey is congratulated by Canteen Assistant Miss Kerstin Claesson.



ADC Capt Lars Ohlsson, Major Hallsund and SWEDCON Chaplain Wendefors.



The Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Prince Philip in the driver's seat of a Scorpion armoured car.



A Chieftan tank manned by

QUEEN'S ROYAL

by Charles Comyn

On the 18th March 1981, the Duke of Edinburgh's Squadron Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, took over as the Force Scout Car Squadron.

The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars are an amalgamation of two of the British Army's most distinguished Cavalry Regiments. On 24th October 1958 at Hohn West Germany, the 4th Queen's Own Hussars and the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars paraded before our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Prince Philip, who made the presentation of the Guidon on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, and with this the Regiment began its future.

The 4th Hussars was raised by order of James II in 1685. At this time they were known as Berkeley's Dragoons after their Colonel. At Dettingen the Regiment gained its first battle honour as Rich's Dragoons. Sir Robert Rich accidentally was also the Colonel of the 8th Hussars. Six battle honours with Wellington in the Peninsula War, and further distinction in the Afghan War led to the most famous cavalry action ever which took place at Balaclava; the Charge of the Light Brigade. It was the 4th Light Dragoons who silenced the Rus-

sian guns and supporting them in the next line were the 8th Hussars. It was during this action that Private Samuel Parkes was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courageous defence of the Trumpet Major after the charge.

In 1896 Winston Churchill, a man who has justly been called the greatest Hussar of them all, joined the Regiment. He became Colonel of the Regiment during the last war and remained so until his death.

During the Great War, the 4th Hussars served in France and were awarded twenty-one battle honours. In the Second World War the Regiment fought in the Western Desert, Greece, Yugoslavia, North Africa and Italy. After three years combatting terrorism in Malaya the 4th Hussars returned to Germany.

The 8th Hussars were raised in 1693 by Colonel Conyngham from the Protestant survivors of the Siege of Londonderry. Their first active service was in Spain when, in 1710 at Almenara, they pursued a Spanish Cavalry Corps and, equipping themselves with the cross-belts of the enemy, they cut the Spaniards

down with their own swords. The cross-belts were worn as a distinction for many years, and the nickname "Crossbelt Dragoons" was given to the Regiment.

During the 1745 Rebellion the 8th were in action against the Pretender's forces, both in the North of England and in Scotland. There followed a period without action until 1794 when, in Flanders, they distinguished themselves against the French in the Duke of York's campaign. After active service in South Africa and Egypt they took part in the Mahratta and Nepalese War and returned to India in 1825.

During service in the Crimea, the Regiment charged with the Light Brigade and successfully broke up the Russian counter attack which followed.

After service in the Crimea the Regiment went to India, where the mutiny had broken out. In 1858 at Gwalior, a Squadron charged and routed the vastly superior forces of the enemy. For this action four Victoria Crosses were awarded. At Beejapore a few months later a further VC was awarded to the

FEATURE



the QRH on exercise in West Germany.



The Chief of Staff, Brig J D Bastick, MBE presenting shamrocks on St Patrick's Day to members of the squadron soon after their arrival in Cyprus.

IRISH HUSSARS

Regiment. After further service in India during the second Afghan War, the Regiment was sent in 1900 to South Africa, where it distinguished itself in the latter part of the Boer War.

In the Great War, the 8th arrived in France from India in 1914 and stayed on the Western Front for the whole war. The last mounted charge took place at Villiers-Faucon in 1917 when 'D' Squadron charged and captured the village. The two machine guns which were captured on this occasion now stand outside our Regimental Guard-room.

After service in Iraq, Germany and England, the Regiment moved to Egypt in 1934 and the last mounted parade was held on Armistice Day, 1935.

After a period of Service in Palestine in 1936, the Regiment became a founder member of the 7th Armoured Division, "The Desert Rats". It took part in all the desert campaigns from the outbreak of war until after El Alamein, when it was sent to Cyprus to reorganize after its heavy losses. The Regiment landed in Normandy on 8 June 1944 and fought its way to Hamburg, again as part of the 7th Armoured Division. After the final victory parade in Berlin they returned to

England in 1947. In October 1950, the 8th Hussars sailed for Korea. After the withdrawal from Pyongyang on the Han River, the Regiment fought in the battle of the Imjin and the heavy fighting around Seoul and Kowant-San. This was the first campaign in which the Centurion tank saw active service. After a short period in England the Regiment moved to Luneburg in 1952, where it was stationed until 1958.

After amalgamation the Regiment served in Germany as part of the 7th Armoured Brigade until June 1961, when it left for England in preparation for its move to Aden. During October of the same year the Regiment embarked for Aden and took up an operational role against dissidents in varied forms until October 1962, when it sailed on the SS Oxfordshire for service in Malaysia. For members of the Regiment it was the beginning of a long and multifarious task; many saw service in Brunei and Sarawak on jungle operations during the Indonesian confrontation, and in Singapore as part of the Internal Security Forces.

In September 1964, the Regiment returned to Germany to form part of 1 (BR) Corps troops stationed in Wolfen-

buttel, and it was engaged on patrol along the East/West German border.

January 1968 saw the Regiment again in England, converting from the armoured car role to that of an armoured Regiment. Their stay in Perham Down Hampshire, was brief; for during August of that year the Regiment took up a new role as the RAC Centre Regiment. After two years in this task the Regiment returned to Germany as a Chief of Armoured Regiment located in Paderborn, where it remained until its return to Tidworth in 1979.

The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars have been stationed at Tidworth in England since July 1979, with C Squadron permanently at Warminster as a Demonstration Squadron for the School of Infantry. In England our peacetime role is to provide any number of tanks for demonstrations, trials, and training with the Junior Leaders or Territorial Army. Our role in war would be to reinforce BAOR, a role which we practise on the recent Crusader 80 Exercise.

Our six months with UNFICYP is a welcome change for the Squadron, and no doubt we shall make many new friends in Cyprus.



UNFICYP SPRING FAIR

Photographs by Bob Fousert

On Friday 24th April, UNFICYP held a Spring Fair at the Community Centre, UNPA, Nicosia. The afternoon was a great success with just over C£1000 raised for charity. This money will be used to buy equipment for the disabled children in Cyprus.

The brains behind the successful day were Pip Johannson and Phil Morris. A lot of effort was put in by members of the Families Club, ably chaired by Mrs Anne Bastick.

Marc Tyley from BFBS, assisted by Chris Pratt also of BFBS, were there to open the Fair.

A special thankyou to all organisers and participants. For the record the following were the attractions:

AUSCON – the Austrian Band which provided music all afternoon.

AUSTCIVPOL – "Wanted" posters.

MP Company – Static display and radar gun.

84 Sqn Det RAF – Whirlwind helicopter display and Fire Engine static display.

UNFICYP Transport Squadron and Ordnance Detachment – "Noddy Train".

UNFICYP Ordnance Detachment – Coconut Shy.

254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron – Electric Wire game and Public Address system.

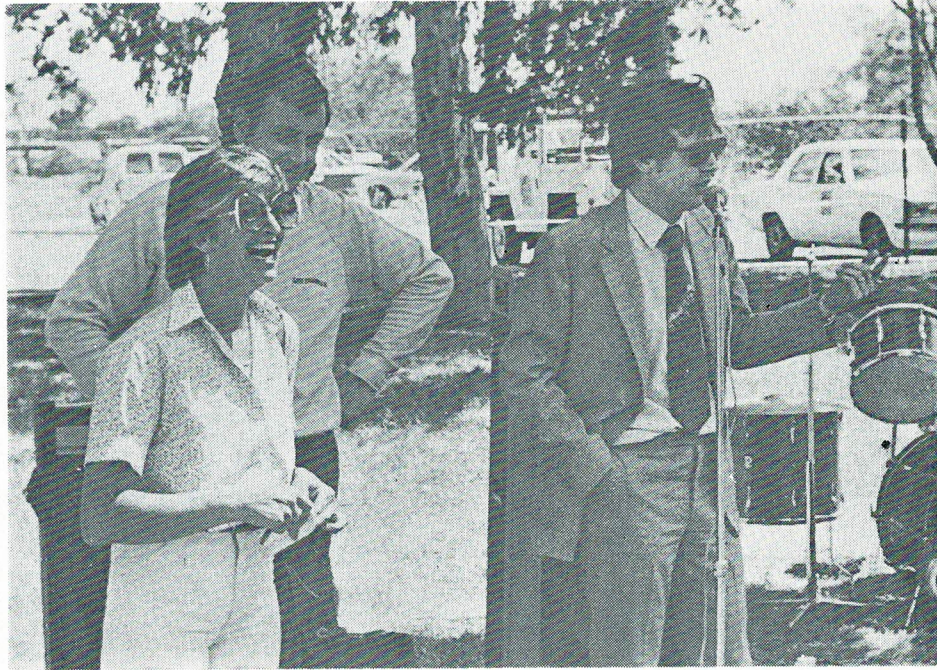
UNFICYP Flight AAC – Alouette static display.

Force Scout Car Squadron. Ferret Scout Car Static Display.

WO & Sergeants Mess – Shooting Tunnel.

Guides/Scouts/Youth Club – Fortune telling and Doll Raffle.

Reg Fear and Ginny Pit-away – donkey cart and horse rides.



The brains behind the Easter Fair (on the left Pip Johannson, Phil Morris) with Marc Tyley from BFBS who opened the Fair.



"It's a dog's life"! The helicopter is an Alouette of UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps.

WO2 Leggett – "Guess the Weight of Scoobie the Dog".

Sgt Hancock – Scalextric racing cars.

WO1 Killilea – Hot Dogs and Hamburger stall.

Nomads Club – Bar
Mercury Club – Disco
Mrs Bastick – Handicrafts
Mrs Willis – Bottle Stall
Mrs Gill – Book Stall
Mrs Dooley – Bread Stall

Mrs Buckle – Cake Stall
Mrs Smith – Tea and Coffee

Mrs de Broe Ferguson – Pick a Straw

Mrs Bell – "Guess the Weight of the Cake".

Pip Johannson – Raffle and Fashion Show.

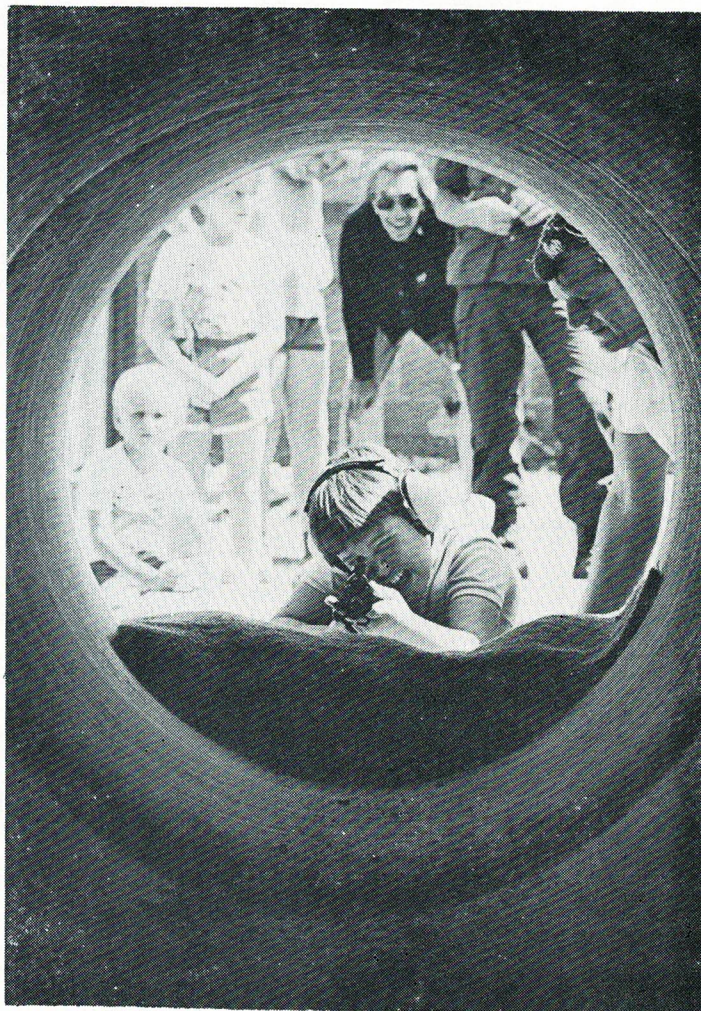
Capt and Mrs Nash – Treasurers.

and all members of the Fair Committee.

RAISES MONEY FOR THE CYPRUS DISABLED



The Tug of War was an added attraction—Heave!



The shooting stand was popular. John Nash, age 9, fires the rifle whilst RSM Brian Bell looks on.



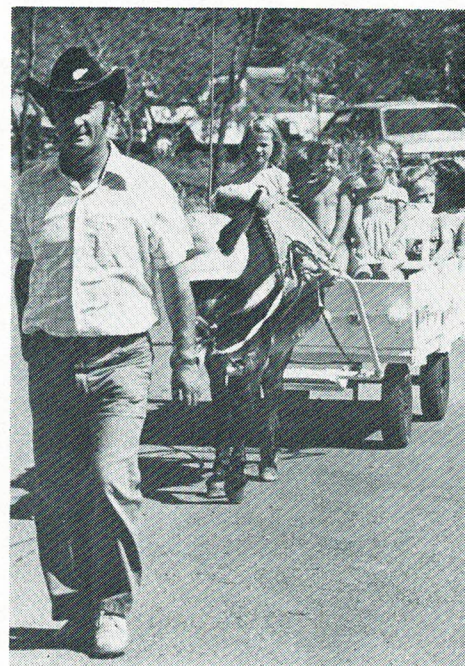
The "Train" run by the UNFICYP Transport Squadron and Ordnance Detachment was highly popular.



"I want to be a fireman when I grow up".



All little girls love horseriding; Suzannah Whitehead is no exception.



Reg Fear leads the donkey and cart with full load of happy children.

Out & About

AUSTRIAN

by Hubert Schermann

After a long, cold winter, Austrians look forward happily to the beginning of Spring. The countryside blossoms with life and the days become longer and warmer. These simple things herald the coming Easter festivities, our most popular annual festival. Christianity recognises this occasion as a celebration of peace, of reconciliation, and, because of the resurrection of Christ, mankind's conquest over death. Many traditional customs are based on this Christian philosophy.

Each of Austria's nine provinces celebrate Easter in their own individual way. However, one custom which is common to all provinces is "Palmkaetzchenbinden" (Catkin Binding). A few days before Palm Sunday, children collect "osier-switches" and wreaths which are bound and plaited. These are then either carried in processions or used to decorate the interior and exterior of the houses. The Palm Sunday processions are a wonderful sight with everyone carrying their own handmade "Catkins".



Visitors notice that church bells are not rung from Maunday Thursday until Easter Sunday. This is to indicate a period of mourning for the death of Christ. During this period you will hear the so-called Easter "Ratschn" which, according to tradi-



Artiste a la "Easter Bunny" adding the final touches.

tional legend "flew" to Rome on Maundy Thursday and returned after the resurrection of Christ. A "Ratschn" (noisemaker) consists of a wooden cogwheel and a handle fitted with a wooden catch. By rotating this vigorously, the catch causes the instrument to make a loud clicking noise. Children go from house to house making a lot of noise with their "Ratschn", bringing peace and wellbeing. As they go on their rounds, they are given red and blue coloured eggs, symbolising love and loyalty.



The Easter Egg is the most important symbol (of life) during Easter. The "Osterhare" (Easter Bunny) brings these, hiding them in specially made Easter Nests. On Easter Sunday morning children search for the nests and, if they have been good, they will be richly rewarded.

Another popular tradition is to "Burn the Winter" which is why many fires are kept alight

EASTER CUSTOMS



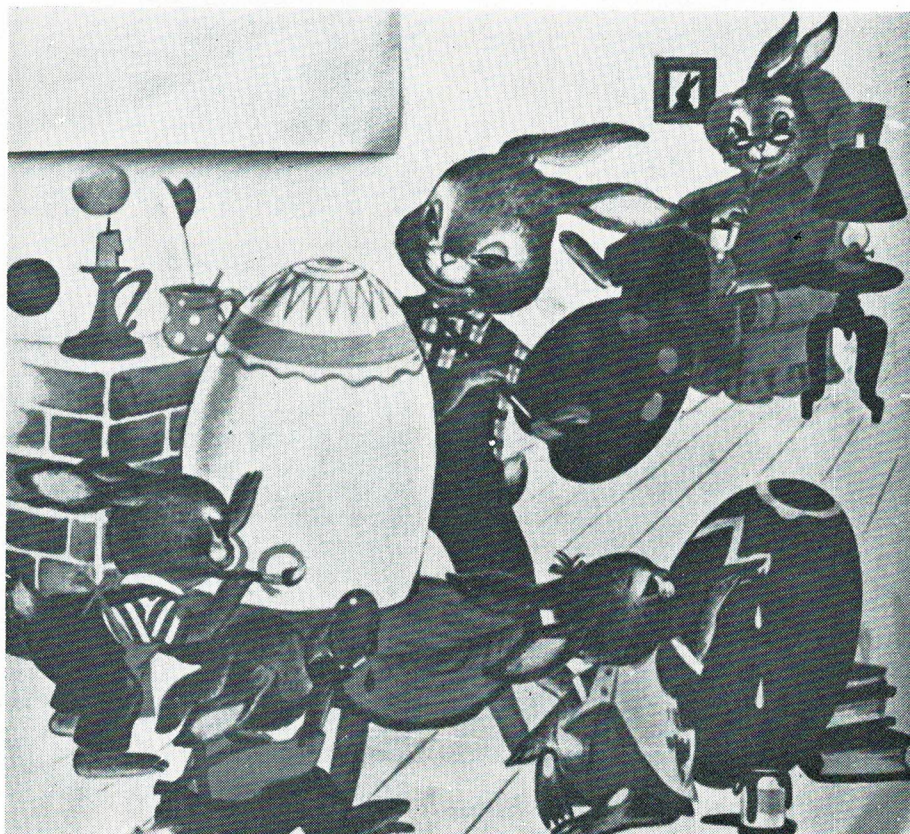
Traditional "Easter Fire". "Burning Winter" in Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta.

from the eve of Holy Saturday to Easter Sunday. These fires are normally located on hill tops.

In the past, the Foreign invasions of Austria in 1529 and 1683 were the reasons for the traditional lighting of Easter Fires. In those years the invading army attempted to conquer Austria. History relates that when they passed through the province of Styria, the inhabitants were warned by great fires on hill tops and during the night the people knew how far away the enemy were. This was a swift means of communication. Nowadays young couples jump hand in hand over the fire; this is a traditional way to indicate that they will soon marry.

In the country, Easter Fires are blessed by local priests and young boys carry the smouldering branches through the villages, fumigating houses on their way. This is a kind of fertility rite and legend also has it that evil spirits will either perish or vanish once they have smelt the holy vapours.

Traditional Austrian Easter foodstuffs (Easter hams with horseradish, Easter Bread and Easter lambs formed out of butter) are also blessed in churches. These bear the symbols of Easter, the "Osterhase" (Easter Bunny) and "Ostereier" (Easter Eggs).



Tradition and family togetherness—the essence of true Easter spirit.



In some parts of Austria you may come across an "Osterbaum" or Easter Tree. This is often an ingenious work of art made of painted wood, leaves of Indian Corn and draped with colourful Easter Eggs. Blossoming bushes draped with Easter Eggs are simpler versions of the "Osterbaum."

In Alpine regions, traditional Rifle Clubs salute on Easter Sunday. This custom identifies directly with the setting of Easter Fires. In other words, winter should be expelled by fire and thunder and Spring heralded by the salutes.

Pictorial news

VISITORS



On 9 April 1981 His Excellency Dr W Backes, Austrian Ambassador to Greece, visited HQ UNFICYP.



On 10 April 1981 His Excellency Ambassador Anders Thunborg, the Swedish Permanent Representative to the United Nations, visited HQ UNFICYP.



On 29 April 1981, His Excellency Ambassador Klestil, the Austrian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, visited HQ UNFICYP..

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE



On 23 April 1981 AUSCON held a Medal Parade at Camp Duke Leopold V. The medals were presented by Maj Gen Gunther G Greindl, and the Band of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglians under WO1 Leask provided the musical accompaniment.

VISIT OF COMMANDER NATIONAL GUARD



On 14 April 1981 Lt Gen Ioannis Komninos Commander National Guard visited UNFICYP and inspected the Guard of Honour. The picture shows Lt Gen Komninos on the left with Maj Gen Gunther G Greindl during the inspection.

VISIT OF COMMANDER TURKISH FORCES



On 5 May 1981 Lt Gen Dogan Kromors Commander Turkish Forces visited UNFICYP and inspected the Guard of Honour. The picture shows Lt Gen Kromors on the left with Maj Gen Gunther G Greindl during the inspection.

VISIT OF COMSEC

On 14 April 1981 Mr Eric Slater, Command Secretary Headquarters British Forces Cyprus, visited UN-FICYP. He is the Ministry of Defence's financial adviser to the British Bases. In the photograph, Mr Slater is seen inspecting the Quarter Guard provided by the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

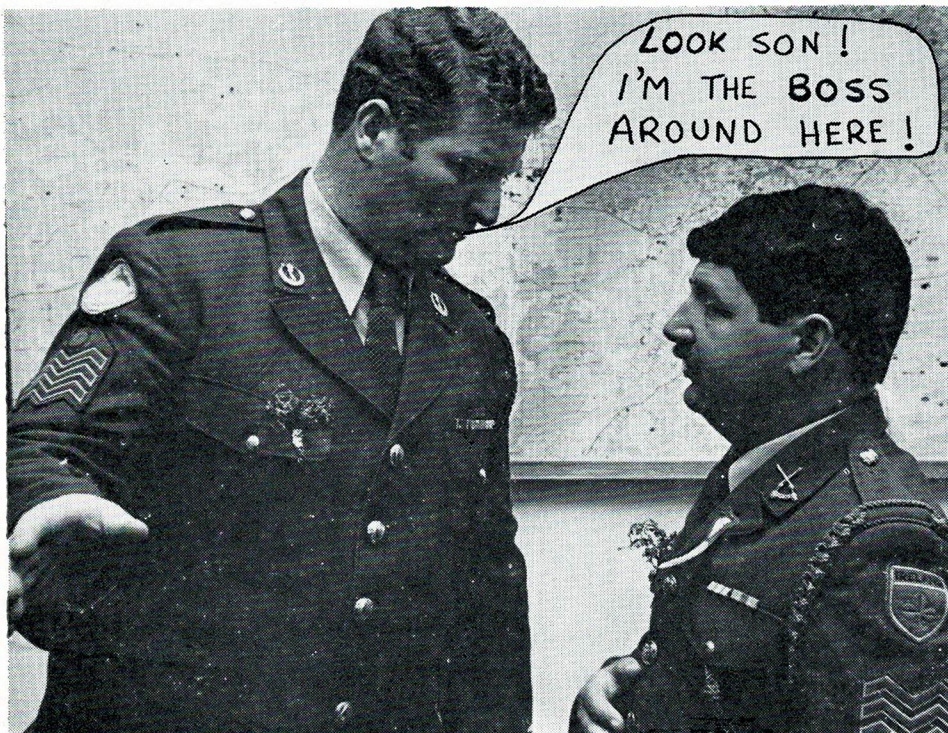
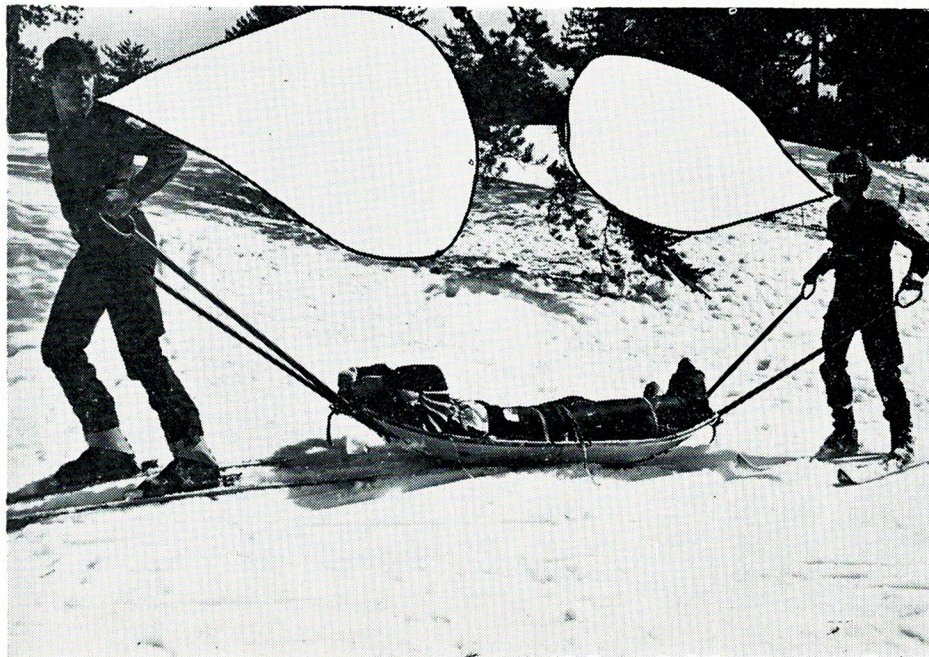


PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Captions are invited for the picture of the "blood-wagon". Submissions should reach the MPIO, HQ UNFICYP by 31 May 1981.

The caption for the April Photo was sent in anonymously.





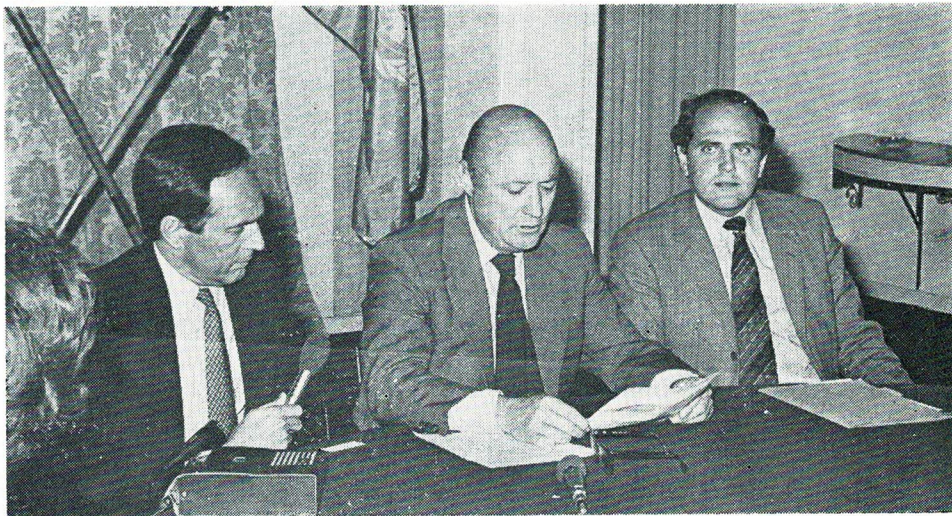
UN NEWS



COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS IN CYPRUS

Photos Bob Fousert

At a brief ceremony at the Ledra Palace on 22 April 1981 Ambassador Hugo J. Gobbi, the Secretary General's Special Representative announced that agreement has been reached on the setting up of a Committee to determine the fate of missing persons in Cyprus. Representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Communities were present during the announcement.



Mr Hugo Gobbi makes the announcement. On the left is the Acting Deputy SRS, Mr Gilberto Schlittler-Silva and on the right is the Political Officer Mr Oswald Schneidratius.



Seated on the left is Dr Latife Birgen, the Turkish Cypriot Representative with relatives of the Turkish Cypriot missing persons seated behind.

Mr Gobbi noted that there had been intensive efforts over the past few months to bring about the setting-up of the Committee. On the basis of the agreement it was now possible to proceed with its establishment. The development represented a very important step forward in the solution of a long-standing issue of great concern to the two sides.

Mr Gobbi said the Secretary-General wanted to thank both sides for their co-operation which had made the agree-

ment possible, and also the International Committee of the Red Cross for its contribution in facilitating this significant achievement.

The Secretary-General's Representative said it was hoped the efforts of the Committee on Missing Persons would strengthen the spirit of co-operation and the joint endeavour undertaken in the framework of the Intercommunal Talks.



Seated on the right is Mr Theophilis Theophilou, the Greek Cypriot Representative with the Reverend Papachristoforos and relatives of the Greek Cypriot missing persons seated behind.