

CHRISTMAS FOR FORCES

UN EMERGENCY FORCE

It was an improvised Christmas for Canadian soldiers serving in Egypt with the United Nations Emergency Force, but it was pretty close to a traditional one with the exception of snow.

The supply officer for the UNEF, Capt. Lloyd Leonard of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and Camp Borden, Ontario, searched high and low to find suppliers for the Christmas dinner and managed to obtain all the "fixings".

Most of the nations in the force got the same Christmas menu. However, one of the small problems which cropped up was that the Yugoslav contingent required its Christmas rations on December 22-- the date they celebrate the holy day.

The ration provided one pound of turkey per man, cranberry sauce, mincemeat, fresh vegetables, plum pudding, fruit cocktail, nuts, raisins and fresh fruit.

Paper plates replaced mess tins for the dinner and the officers served the other ranks their main meal. As an added attraction the senior NCO's voted to take over guard duties from the lower ranks for the day. There was a special ration of two quarts of beer, two chocolate bars and plenty of cigarettes. Forty Christmas trees were procured and a quantity of decorations was purchased locally.

Protestant and Roman Catholic services were held at midnight on Christmas Eve conducted by Capt. O.A. Hopkins, of Perth, Ontario, Protestant chaplain; and Capt. L.C. Schmidt, of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, and Calgary, Roman Catholic chaplain.

Arrangements were made to bring outlying Canadian detachments to the base area for the day.

NATO AIR DIVISION

For members of the RCAF's Air Division on NATO duty in Europe and their families, it wasn't a "white Christmas" but it was a "sharing" one.

Some 1,200 orphans in the United Kingdom, France and Germany were entertained at turkey dinners, parties, and other Christmas festivities. Several hundred old people, indigent families, as well as 1,300 East German refugees were also remembered with gifts, food and clothing.

While each Air Division unit saw to a Merry Christmas for at least one orphanage, 4 Fighter Wing at Baden Soellingen, Germany, undertook an even larger programme. Parties were held at five orphanages where 340 children were entertained by the Wing's airwomen, the

Catholic Ladies Guild, the Wing Maintenance Section, 414 Fighter Squadron and 422 Fighter Squadron.

No. 444 Fighter Squadron, also of Baden Soellingen, raised \$400 for Hungarian refugees and the Protestant Chapel Committee bought a new washing machine for a Protestant children's institution.

Baden Soellingen's station fund gave \$2,000 in the form of redeemable vouchers distributed at a Christmas party for East German refugees at a camp near the Canadian base. More than \$100 went to the German Red Cross, to be spent on refugees living in another small camp nearby and 24 children from the camp were given a party by the 4 Fighter Wing Boy Scout Troop.

The Air Division's Christmas charitable works were in addition to \$24,000 and 10½ tons of clothing and food collected for the Air Division's Hungarian Refugee Relief Fund. Personnel strength of the Air Division stands at approximately 6,000.

CANADIAN "ATTACK"

The 1st Battalion, Le Royal 22e Regiment launched an "attack" on two German orphanages in the town of Werl, West Germany, bombarding some 150 children with clothing, toys, food and candy. The objective was to make Christmas 1956 one of the happiest in the lives of the "parent-less" youngsters, many of whom have never known a Santa Claus.

Plans for this year's orphan drive began several weeks ago when the men of Le Royal 22e Regiment established a special yuletide fund. All ranks shelled out on four successive pay days and when the contributions were tallied it was found that \$626.86 had been donated.

D-Day for the orphans came about when a delegation of officers and men descended on the two institutions delivering goods designed to gladden the children's hearts. Leading the delegation were the unit's commanding officer Lt.-Col. Bernard J. Guimond, CD, 36, of Montreal and Quebec City.

This Christmas marks the second year that men of the 1st Battalion have carried out a festive attack on the same institutions. Last Christmas the battalion contributed about \$460.

The scheme started more than three years ago when the 2nd Battalion of the regiment first moved into their new Fort St. Louis Barracks, near Werl. Since then the regiment has unofficially adopted the two orphanages for Christmas giving. Both institutions, the Elisabeth Kinderheim and the Walburgisheim, are operated by a Roman Catholic order.