CONTENTS

Basic facts about UNEF I

Chapters

1. Introduction 1
2. The Middle East up to the end of the Suez War, 1956 5
3. The first UN peacekeeping force 17
4. The first UN battalion is organised 25
5. Mobile operations 37
   - Cease-fire and withdrawal of the British and French forces, November-December 1956 37
   - Israel withdraws from the main part of Sinai, November 1956-mid-January 1957 49
   - Israel withdraws to the original armistice lines, March 1957 61
   - UNEF deploys along the ADL, March-April 1957 70
6. Relief 76
7. Serving as a buffer between Egypt and Israel 87
   - General background 87
   - The Swedish contribution 90
   - Recruitment and training in Sweden 94
   - Tasks for the battalions and more important events 96
     - The period up to the intervention in the Congo, July 1960 96
     - The period following redeployment to the Congo 103
     - A stable situation at the ADL, November 1961-April 1966 107
   - Rebuilding and enlarging the camps 111
   - Motor vehicles - a constant headache 116
   - Health care in UNEF 119
   - Cooperation with UNRWA 122
   - Calm on the surface 123
8. Company commander, summer 1959 125
  Preparation and relief 125
  Deployment and tasks 128
  How we lived 130
  Our support 133
  How we spoke 135
  Our environment 137
  Contact with the local population 139
  Sport and training 142
  Some ‘incidents’ 142
  The mine accident 144
  Recreation 145
  Relations with other nationalities 148
  Leave trips 150
  Sharm el Sheikh 151
  Home to new tasks 157

9. UNEF withdrawn 159
  The general situation 159
  The Swedish battalion 163

10. Experience and analysis 180
  The experience reviewed 180
  The personnel 181
  Material and logistics 184
  Crime and punishment 192
  Welfare 195
  Man’s best friend 202
  Costs and financing 204
  Organisation and stand-by force 209
  Attitudes to Swedish participation 217

Appendix 222
  – Senior officers in UNEF
  – Egyptian liaison officers to UNEF
  – Swedish personnel who died on service with UNEF, 1956-67

Sources and literature 223

Index of persons 229
MAPS

1. Countries of the Middle East 6
2. Division of Palestine as recommended by the UN General Assembly in November 1947, and the result of the armistice agreements, 1949 10
3. Forward positions of the British, French and Israeli invasion forces at the cease-fire, November 1956 15
4. UNEF area of operations, 1956-67 36
5. Deployment of the Swedish battalion in Port Said, 21–23 December 1956 44
6. Deployment of the Swedish battalion west of the border of the old Palestine Mandate, 28 February 1957 (sketch). 57
7. Deployment of the Swedish battalion in the Rafah area, March 1957 65
8. UNEF in the Gaza Strip, July 1957 95
9. UNEF in the Gaza Strip in the winter of 1959–60 101
10. UNEF in the Gaza Strip, spring 1965 109
11. Southern Sinai peninsula with the UNEF detachment at Sharm el Sheikh 153
12. UNEF in the Gaza Strip, May 1967 166

FIGURE

Chain of command of UN peacekeeping operations 187

PHOTOGRAPHS

British positions at El Cap, December 1956 14
Vaccination in progress 34
Swedish soldiers at Capodichino airfield, Naples, November 1956 40
A Swedish sentry outside the Suez Canal Company office, Port Said, December 1956 42
Swedish machine gun position, Port Said 43
Egyptian prisoners of war on their way to an exchange 53
Swedish position, January 1957 55
Disabling land-mines before striking camp 55
Preparing a Swedish position west of the IF, March 1957 59
Presentation of a Swedish sword of honour to the Force Commander, Major-General E.L.M. Burns 97
Swedish observation post at the demarcation line (ADL), summer 1957 98
Soldiers in a searchlight tower at the logistics base, Rafah, summer 1959 102
A close shave 104
The Swedish battalion en route to the Congo, July 1960 104
Jeep patrol at the ADL, winter 1964/5 108
Road through the Swedish battalion area, winter 1959 113
2 Company headquarters 129
Local life seen on way to OP Niklas, Wadi Gaza 132
A night patrol 132
A helpful company commander 147
Blown-up coastal artillery, Ras Nasrani 155
Hill 88 camp 165
The Force Commander, Major-General I.J. Rikhye, inspecting the Swedish battalion, April 1967 168
UN flag lowered as UNEF’s task ends, 19 May 1967 168
The battalion commander negotiating with an Israeli officer concerning the evacuation 175
Spraying against insects, Carnac camp, January 1957 189
Producing the camp newspaper, Camel Post 196
The marriage school 196
Dag Hammarskjöld on a visit to the Swedish battalion, Christmas 1958 199
St Catherine’s Monastery, Sinai 201
Dog handler with mine dogs provided for Battalion 4, 1958 203
Visit to Battalion 6 by Army Commander and others 210