



Jim Rankin/The London Free Press

WELL DONE, GRANDPA

Mike Golding, a teacher at Fanshawe College, was among those receiving a social science degree at UWO convocation ceremonies Tuesday. He's holding his seven-month-old grandson, Michael. With Golding is his wife, Janet, the mayor of St. Thomas.

His political science degree can't hurt grad any in Cyprus

Now that he's graduated, Christopher MacLean will be a soldier for the next four years.

By Wendy McCann
The London Free Press

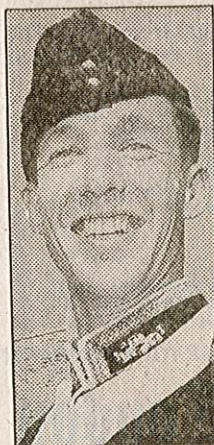
Christopher MacLean spent his school vacations knee-deep in bush and trenches.

Now that he has graduated from UWO, MacLean will put his political science degree to the test, helping keep peace between the Greeks and Turks in Cyprus.

He's a second lieutenant with the First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment in London. He joined the reserves in 1983 and was admitted into the officer training plan in 1985.

"You get paid a salary while you go to school. Tuition and books are paid for," says MacLean, 22. In return for an education, he agreed to serve at least four years in the military after graduation.

Three summers spent in Gagetown, N.B., have prepared MacLean to command a platoon in combat. But the scarlet tunic he wore to Western's convocation Tuesday and his officer's rank haven't come without a price.



Christopher MacLean will spend six months on peacekeeping duty.

GRUELLING TRAINING: Training is gruelling, with rough conditions and little time for sleep, he says. "The worst time during the summer was when we went six days on five hours' sleep. We were wet and cold, performing defensive exercises at night and learning platoon attacks during the day."

MacLean is one of about 500 soldiers posted at Canadian Forces Base London who, with the United Nations, will spend six months keeping peace in Cyprus beginning in September.

On their return, the future of the London soldiers at the base is uncertain. The federal government plans to close CFB London by 1992 to save money.

"It'll affect me if it goes through," he says of the planned closing. But "I'll go where I'm sent."