

THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP



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FIRES, A HOT ISSUE

*By Bombardier Dave Lightfoot and
Lance Bombardier Roger Bramall*



At 15.30 hrs on Sunday 31 May, Gunner Doyle was manning Observation Post 45 when he noticed a large plume of smoke behind one of the National Guard positions.

Call sign 45 Charlie was immediately sent to the scene. When we arrived, we saw the fire was outside the Buffer Zone - but only a few hundred metres away. The wind was behaving unpredictably and it looked as though it might easily spread into the BZ and towards civilian houses.

We crossed the cease-fire line to look closer, when we saw two farmers standing on a high piece of ground watching the fire. On joining the farmers, we could see that the fire was

1.5 km long and 400 m wide and was spreading to the east rapidly.

The two farmers said they'd been unable to tell the civilian fire services what was happening, so Lightfoot radioed through to Battery and Regimental HQ that assistance was required immediately. The fire was getting dangerously close to a stable in the east. Call signs 45 D and E were also sent to help.

The group met up at the "Bengal bus" - an abandoned bus which is one of the landmarks of the Bengal area of responsibility. This became the operation's control centre. Bombardier "Lips" Bradley and his firefighting party were despatched to the east to help the civilian fire services, who had just

arrived on the scene.

During the next hour, fifteen members of Falcon, Irish Bridge, and Kingston troops filtered through the control centre to assist in the worst areas. The UN PA fire service also turned up to support the civilian fire service. Medical support arrived and Sector 2 reserve was deployed to Bengal Troop House.

By 17.10 hours, the fire was under control, except for several hay bales which the civilian fire services were dealing with. At this point, all the UNFICYP personnel left, except for Lance Bombardier "Bullet" Lacey and Gunner "Fist" Doyle, who remained on the ground watching from OP 47 until dusk. The civilian fire services also stayed on to patrol the area.

REFORESTING THE BZ

Five years ago, community groups in Cyprus launched a tree-planting project in an effort to help regreen the island.

This spring, as part of this project, a group of 18 scouts and five scout leaders met up with members of UNCIVPOL to plant 50 trees near the Yerolakkos Railway Station, just off the old Morphou Road, inside

the Buffer Zone.

The new trees will, when they mature, form a backdrop to the ruins of the old railway station house which, for almost 50 years, served as one of the 30 stations and halts along the line which ran from Morphou to Famagusta.

The Yerolakkos Scout Troop says it hopes to plant more trees next year.



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THE BLUE BERET

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personnel

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LABEL INSTRUCTIONS ON CONSUMER GOODS

On packaging for an iron:

"Do not iron clothes on body."

On bread pudding:

"Product will be hot after heating."

On tiramisu dessert (printed on the
bottom of the box):

"Do not turn upside down."

On sleep aid:

"May cause drowsiness."

On frozen dinners:

"Serving suggestion: Defrost."

EDITORIAL

June 5 was International Environ-
ment Day, so it seemed topical for
this issue of the *Blue Beret* to look
at some of the work going on in
Cyprus to conserve wildlife. We
also highlight a few of the threats
to the plants and animals living in
or around the island.

Cyprus is home to a multitude of
flowers. Carnations, cyclamen, and
orchids all grow wild here. Some
300 different bird species have
been recorded on the island. A lot
of these are migratory species
(flamingos, herons, geese, and
ducks) which break their journey
on the salt lakes in the south.
Cyprus also has its very own wild
sheep - the *agrino*, which is related
to the legendary mouflon, and
which is being strictly protected.
In ancient times, Cyprus's forests
were so extensive that it was
known as the "Green Island". St
Paul apparently recorded that he
had to pick his way through thick
forests on his journey from
Famagusta to Paphos - even when
crossing the Mesaoria plain. Key
tree species included the cypress,
different kinds of pine and oak, and
a special cedar only found in
Cyprus.

As a result, the island became an
important exporter of timber and a
major shipbuilding centre - and the
forests were sadly depleted. They
have been further ravaged by the
removal of fuelwood for cooking
and heating, clearing woodland to
make way for farmland, and by the
once free-ranging goats which ate
everything in sight. They have also
been burnt in the fires that sweep
through this part of the world every
year during the long hot summers.
Experts reckon that only 10 per
cent of Cyprus is now forested.
Efforts are under way to replant
trees, and to prevent fires from
spreading. As this issue of *The
Blue Beret* illustrates, UNFICYP is
doing its best to support these
initiatives. We are constantly on the
alert to prevent fires breaking out,
and, if they do occur, we do our
best to control them and minimise
damage to people, property, and the
environment.

Sarah Russell

Der 5 Juni war der internationale
Umwelttag, deshalb erschien es aus
aktuellen Gründen für diese Ausgabe
des *Blue Beret* passend, einen Blick
auf die Bemühungen in Zypern zur
Erhaltung der Tier- und Pflanzenwelt
zu werfen.

Wir wollen auch einige wenige von
den Bedrohungen hervorheben, die
die Pflanzen und Tiere auf der Insel
und deren Umgebung betreffen.
Zypern ist die Heimat einer Vielfalt
von Blumen. Nelken, Veilchen und
Orchideen wachsen hier wild. Zirka
300 verschiedene Vogelarten sind hier
festgestellt worden. Viele von ihnen
sind Zugvögel (Flamingos, Reiher,
Gänse und Enten), welche ihre Reise
an den Salzseen im Süden unterbre-
chen. Die Insel besitzt ebenfalls ihre
eigene Wildschafart, das Agrino,
welches mit dem legendären Mufflon
verwandt und streng geschützt ist.
Im Altertum war Zypern wegen seiner
ausgedehnten Wälder als "Die Grüne
Insel" bekannt. Der heilige Paulus
überlieferte, daß er auf seiner Reise
von Famagusta nach Paphos seinen
Weg durch dichte Wälder nehmen
mußte - auch als er die Mesaoria-
Ebene durchquerte. Die Hauptarten
waren die Zypresse, verschiedene
Arten von Kiefern, Eichen und eine
spezielle Zedernart, die es nur auf
Zypern gab.

Deswegen wurde die Insel ein
wichtiger Exporteur von Nutzholz und
ein bedeutendes Schiffsbauzentrum -
an den Wäldern wurde deswegen
furchtbarer Raubbau betrieben. Diese
wurden weiters durch die Entnahme
von hochwertigem Holz zum kochen
und heizen, Rodung zur Gewinnung
von Ackerland und durch die damals
freilaufenden Ziegen, die alles
Freßbare vertilgten, verwüstet. Die
Wälder wurden auch durch die
Brände die alljährlich in diesem Teil
der Welt während der langen heißen
Sommer auftreten, heimgesucht.
Experten schätzen, daß heutzutage nur
ca. 10 Prozent von Zypern bewaldet
sind. Bemühungen zur Wiederauffor-
stung und zur Verhinderung der Aus-
breitung von Feuern sind im Gange.
Wie diese Ausgabe des *Blue Beret*,
unterstützt UNFICYP diese Initiativen
mit besten Kräften. Wir sind ständig
bereit, das Ausbrechen von Feuern zu
verhindern. Im Brandfall tun wir
unser Bestes, das Feuer unter Kon-
trolle zu halten und den Schaden für
Menschen, Sachwerte und Umwelt
möglichst gering zu halten.

Sarah Russell

El 5 de junio fué el Día Internacional
del Medio Ambiente. Por ende,
tocaremos este tema en la presente
publicación de "*Blue Beret*", para
estar al tanto de lo que pasa en Chipre
al respecto y mencionar los daños que
sufren la flora y la fauna de esta isla.
Chipre tiene una gran variedad de
flores, como claveles, "ciclamen" y
orquídeas, que crecen en forma
silvestre. Chipre tiene también
alrededor de 300 especies diferentes de
aves. Muchas de estas especies son
migratorias, como flamencos, golon-
drinas, gansos y patos, que se pueden
ver en las aguas saladas al sur de la
isla. La isla tiene un tipo peculiar de
ovejas salvajes, como el "agrino" que
se le considera descendiente del
legendario 'mouflon' y está
estrictamente protegido.

En los tiempos antiguos, los bosques
de Chipre eran tan extensos, que la isla
era conocida como "Isla Verde". San
Pablo, aparentemente, llegó a men-
cionar que cuando tenía que viajar de
Famagusta a Pafos, lo hacía por den-
sos bosques, aún cuando cruzaba la
planicie de Mesaoria. Existían
cipreses, diferentes clases de pinos y
un tipo de cedro muy particular.

Más tarde, la isla se convirtió en gran
exportadora de paja y en el mayor
centro constructor de barcos. También
se comenzó a emplear indiscrimina-
mente la madera como combustible y
se talaron los bosques para cultivar la
tierra. Además, el pastoreo ilimitado
para la cría de cabras fué otro motivo
de depredación de la flora, sin descar-
tar además, los incendios forestales
debido a los largos y calurosos
veranos, característicos de esta parte
del planeta. Es así, como tristemente
los bosques y la vegetación de la isla
se fueron extinguiendo.

Los expertos reconocen que hoy en día
sólo el 10% de Chipre está forestado.
Grandes esfuerzos se están realizando
para la reforestación y prevención de
incendios. Como lo demuestra esta
edición de "*Blue Beret*", UNFICYP
está haciendo todo lo posible para
apoyar estas iniciativas. Nosotros
estamos en alerta permanente, para
prevenir los incendios y si estos
ocurrieran, estamos atentos para
controlarlos de la mejor manera
posible y minimizar los daños que
estos pudieran ocasionar a las
personas, la propiedad y el medio
ambiente.

Sarah Russell

BB TIPS: ATTENTION: FIRE HAZARDS

The single biggest fire hazard at this time of the year is
dry grass and vegetation. So

DON'T.....

- ... drop cigarettes and matches on the ground
- ... throw out glass items such as empty bottles or broken mirrors
- ... park your car near to grass or vegetation (hot engines can cause disasters)
- ... leave the engine running
- ... light barbecues outside designated locations, or leave them unattended
- ... leave a fire in the charcoal after cooking (use water or sand/soil to extinguish the fire)
- ... use water if electric poles are involved in a fire, especially near UNFICYP OPs. Use fire beaters or green tree branches instead
- ... start your patrol without ensuring there are at least four fire beaters in the patrol vehicle
- ... fight grass/Buffer Zone fires alone; always tackle a fire in groups. Ideally, wait for the fire crew
- ... fight grass/Buffer Zone fires up- or downwind, but always from a crosswind direction
- ... forget the fire/emergency telephone number: (02) 86-4777. Radio call-sign 9-India on Channel 14 in the UNPA.

UNFICYP personnel in the sectors should familiarise themselves with their fire emergency number.

Droog gras en struikgewas levert dit jaargetijde enorm
brandgevaar op. Dus geen.....

- ... sigaretten en lucifers op de grond gooien
- ... glazen voorwerpen zoals lege flessen of gebroken spiegels wegwerpen
- ... auto's dicht bij droog gras en struikgewas parkeren. Een hete motor kan een ramp veroorzaken
- ... motor laten lopen
- ... barbeques aansteken waar dat brandgevaar oplevert of zonder toezicht laten branden
- ... houtskool laten branden na het bakken. Gebruik water of zand/aarde om het vuur te doven
- ... vuur met water doven wanneer elektrische bedrading in brand staat, vooral nabij UNFICYP OPs. Gebruik liever vuurzwepen of takken met groene bladeren.
- ... patrouille aanvangen zonder zeker te weten dat er vier vuurzwepen in het patrouillevoertuig liggen
- ... vuurhaarden in je eentje blussen. Altijd het vuur groepsgewijs te lijf gaan. Wacht zo mogelijk op de brandweer.
- ... vuurhaarden boven- of benedenwinds bestrijden, maar altijd dwars op de windrichting
- ... belangrijke telefoonnummers vergeten, zoals (02) 86-4777. Radio roepnaam 9-India op kanaal 14 in de UNPA.

UNFICYP personeel in de sectoren dient zich het brand-
alarmnummer eigen te maken.

Die größte Feuergefahr zu dieser Jahreszeit stellt die ausge-
trocknete Vegetation dar! Also vermeiden Sie:

- ... Zigaretten und Streichhölzer auf den Boden zu werfen
- ... Glasgegenstände wie leere Flaschen oder gebrochene Spiegel wegzwerfen
- ... Ihr Fahrzeug in der Nähe ausgetrockneter Vegetation zu parken (heiße Motoren können Katastrophen verursachen) und lassen Sie den Motor bei abgestelltem Fahrzeug nicht laufen
- ... Außerhalb von eigens dafür gekennzeichneten Orten Grillfeuer zu entzünden oder diese unbeobachtet zu verlassen
- ... Ein Holzkohlenfeuer nach der Zubereitung von Speisen zu verlassen ohne es mittels Wasser oder Sand zu löschen
- ... Wasser bei der Brandbekämpfung von Bränden an elektrischen Anlagen zu verwenden. Benützen Sie Feuerlöscher oder Zweige von nicht durren Bäumen/Sträuchern
- ... Ihre Patrouille ohne zumindest 4 Feuerpatschen im Fahrzeug anzutreten
- ... Grasfeuer/Feuer in der Pufferzone alleine zu bekämpfen, gehen Sie ein Feuer immer in Gruppen an. Am besten ist es, auf ein Löschteam zu warten
- ... Ein Feuer mit oder gegen den Wind zu bekämpfen. Stellen Sie sicher, daß Sie den Wind immer von der Seite haben
- ... Den Feuernotruf, Tel Nr.: (02) 86-4777, Funkrufzeichen 9-India auf MoRo Kanal 14 auf der UNPA zu vergessen.

Das gesamte UNFICYP Personal in den Sektoren hat sich mit
der jeweils eigenen Feuernotrufnummer vertraut zu machen!

22 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY DEPLOYS TO SECTOR 2

22nd Regiment Royal Artillery (The Welsh Gunners) has deployed from the small Lincolnshire town of Kirton to UNFICYP. Normally an Air Defence Regiment, the 22nd Royal Artillery is deploying as infantry to Sector 2 on 9 June under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Huw Lawford.

The Regiment has had a busy time recently, forging international links during overseas military Exercises in America, Italy and Germany. Closer to home, the Welsh Gunners donned firemen's helmets and wheeled out the legendary "Green Goddess" fire engines to help the Essex community during the firemen's strikes in the summer of 1998.

The Regiment was formed in 1933 as a field artillery regiment equipped with guns. It served throughout World War Two, fighting in France up to the evacuation at Dunkirk, and subsequently throughout North Africa and Italy. In 1947 the Regiment converted to the Air Defence role and was equipped with rapid fire anti-aircraft guns. 22nd Regiment was awarded the title of the "Welsh Gunners" in the late 1950s. Since the 1970s, the Regiment has been equipped with the Rapier Air Defence System, and has served in Germany and the United Kingdom. It has also deployed operationally to Cyprus, the Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland.

The Regiment, the largest in the Royal Artillery, is made up of a Headquarters Battery

(15 Battery) and four equipment Batteries: 53 (Louisburg), 35, 42 (Alem Hamza) and 20 Commando. It also has a large Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop to keep everything on the road. It normally consists of 670 men. For this deployment to Cyprus, 22nd Regiment is reinforced by 13 Battery from the Royal Netherlands Army's 13 Air Defence Brigade, allowing 53 Battery to be detached to serve in Northern Ireland. It is also joined by a detachment of 11 men from 9 (Parachute) Squadron Royal Engineers.



New CO in Sector 2: Lieutenant Colonel H R Lawford, Royal Artillery

Lieutenant Colonel Huw Lawford studied economics and politics at Durham University before going to Sandhurst. On completion of the Young Officers' course he joined 22nd Regiment in May 1982 as a Troop Commander in 11 (Sphinx) Battery. He has served in the Falklands and Northern Ireland, and was the staff officer responsible for the simulation of direct and indirect fire weapons systems in support of the Gulf War. In South Africa, as a founder member of BMATT, he assisted in the assembly of the previously exiled members of the military wings of the ANC and PAC and their selection and subsequent integration into the South African National Defence Force.

He assumed command of 22nd Regiment on 12 April 1999. Married, with two daughters, he is an ardent rugby and cricket follower and would be an enthusiastic golfer, but his handicap is closely guarded.



UNFICYP's FIRE BRIGADE



MFR personnel training to fight fires

By the MFR on the UNPA stands the stately and venerable UNFICYP fire engine: an ancient scarlet 4 x 4 Bedford truck, converted so it can

carry 1,500 litres of water and 100 litres of foam compound, along with a Godiva water pump and the two people needed to operate it.

In 1998, the UNFICYP fire engine, and its back-up water trailer which carries another Godiva pump, tackled eight potentially serious fires within the UNPA.

The crew also went out to a large number of small grass fires and a wide variety of emergencies. These included saving dogs from burning rubbish or sewage, rescuing a cat from the international cafeteria, to retrieving a goat from a 100-foot deep well. Not to mention moving fallen trees, removing rain water from offices, handling leaking water pipes, plus dealing with the odd false alarm and hanging around in the background at UN celebrations to make sure all is well.

UNFICYP fire equipment includes around 2,500 first-aid fire appliances and one of Cyprus' best fire extinguish-

er servicing and maintenance workshops. In 1998, Fire HQ serviced 1,646 different types of first aid fire appliances.

But one of the most important tasks for the UNFICYP Fire Headquarters is to run six different types of fire fighting/prevention courses. In 1998, 483 personnel underwent such training. Trainees include all new arrivals to the Mobile Force Reserve; members of UNCIVPOL; UN Flight; Camp Administration; the Military Police Unit; sector fire officers and civilians. The chief instructor is Fire Officer Paul Qadir, assisted by Kypros Kyprianou.

Numbers to remember:

Fire/emergency: 02-864777.

Enquiries: 02-864453/4. Radio call sign: 9-INDIA on Channel 14.

Az evnek ebben a szakaban a tuzveszely legfobb forrása a száraz fu és a növényzet. Így hát:

NE:

- ... dobd a cigarettát vagy a gyufát a földre
- ... dobj ki üvegtárgyakat ugymint üres üvegeket vagy törött tükröt
- ... parkolj száraz fu vagy növényzet közelében (a forró motor tüzet okozhat) és ne hagyd begyújtva a motort
- ... gyujts tüzet tuzrakásra kijelölt területn kívül és ne hagyd azt orizetlenül
- ... hagyj ego tüzet fozés után: oltsd el vizzel földel vagy homokkal
- ... hasznalj vizet elektromos tuz oltásához vagy ha vezeték is ég a tuzben, (foleg un op-k közelében) használj tuzcsapót vagy friss nedves ágakat
- ... menj járörözni amíg meg nem bizonyosodtál hogy legalább 4 tuzcsapó van az autóban
- ... kezdj tuzoltásba egyedül csak csoportosan, a legjobb megvárni a tuzoltókat
- ... oltsd a tüzet szélnek háttal vagy szélle szemben, mindig csak kereszt szélben
- ... felejtse el a sürgösségi telefonszámot: 02 86-4777. Vagy a 9i(india) hívónevet a 14-es csatornán az unpa területén

A szektorokban dolgozó unficyp alkalmazottak ismerjék meg a saját sürgösségi telefonszámaikat.

Najvecja nevarnost za pozare je v tem letnem casu, razlog zanj pa sta suha trava in ostalo rastlinje. Zato:

NE:

- ... odmetavaj cigaretnih ogorkov in vzgalic na tla
- ... odlagaj v naravi steklenine, kot so prazne steklenice in razbita ogledala
- ... parkiraj avtomobila ob suhi travi, ker lahko toplota motorja zaneti pozar
- ... puscaj prizganega motorja
- ... prizigaj raznja, ce nisi na za to dolocenem prostoru
- ... puscaj zivega ognja v raznju po koncanem pecenju (pogasi z vodo ali peskom)
- ... uporablaj vode, ce se v pozaru nahaja elektricna napeljava, posebno v blizini UN OPs; namesto vode uporabi protipozarne metle, ali zelene veje
- ... odhajaj na patroljo, preden se prepricas, da so v vozilu vsaj 4 protipozarne metle
- ... lotevaj se gasenja sam, ampak vedno v skupini
- ... idealna resitev pa je, ce pocakas na gasilsko ekipo
- ... gasi pozara celno ali hrbtno na smer vetra, ampak vedno tako, da stojis bocno na veter
- ... pozabi naslednje telefonske stevilke: (02) 86 47 77 in radijskega klicnega znaka 9 India na kanalu 14 v UNPA

Pripadniki UNFICYP-a naj pridobijo tudi klicne stevilke, znacilne za njihov sektor.

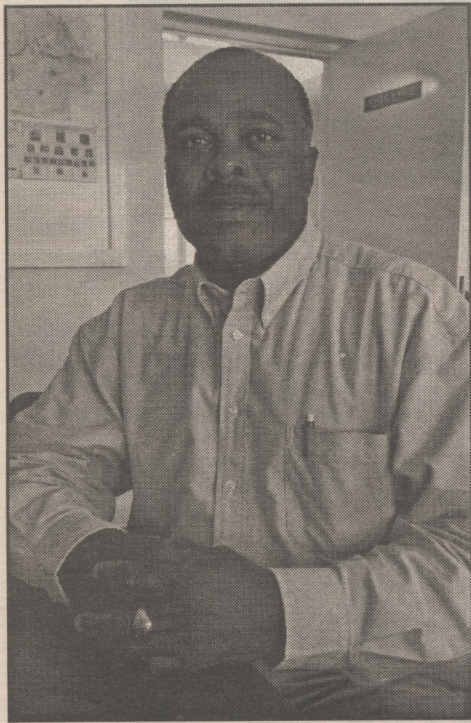
La causa más usual de incendio en esta época del año, es: La vegetación. Por lo tanto hay que evitar lo siguiente:

- ... Tirar cigarrillos o fósforos en el piso.
- ... Tirar objetos de cristal como botellas vacías o espejos.
- ... Estacionar el vehículo cerca del césped o de la vegetación (el motor caliente puede ocasionar desastres), y nunca deje el motor de su vehículo en marcha.
- ... Encender las parrillas de carbón para asar fuera de las áreas asignadas y nunca desatenderlas.
- ... Dejar el carbón prendido una vez terminado de asar. (Utilizar agua, arena o tierra para apagar el fuego.)
- ... Usar agua cuando el incendio sea ocasionado por cables eléctricos, especialmente si es cerca de las instalaciones de UNFICYP. Siempre utilizar extinguidores, o en su lugar, ramas verdes.
- ... Salir de patrulla, sin antes asegurarse de tener, por lo menos, cuatro extinguidores en su vehículo.
- ... Extinguir un fuego forestal en la zona de amortiguación, individualmente. Siempre hacerlo en grupo. Preferentemente, esperar al personal capacitado y/o bomberos.
- ... Extinguir un fuego forestal en la zona de amortiguación con dirección del viento, sino lo opuesto, o sea, en contra del viento.
- ... Olvidar el número telefónico de emergencia e incendio: (02) 86-4777. Radio se al 9-India, canal 14 en la UNPA.

El personal en los sectores de UNFICYP, deberá familiarizarse con el número de teléfono de emergencia e incendio en su área respectiva.

REAL LIFE

Four Field Service Gypsies



Keith Cole: "We provide continuity"

Jamaican Keith Cole, admin officer for Sector 2, who recently arrived in Cyprus from Liberia, is a mine of information about the UN Field Service - the organisation that sends civilians from different countries to support peace-keeping operations around the globe.

UNFICYP, incidentally, has 23 Field Service staff members working in communications, finance, general services, integrated support services, personnel, and in the three sectors.

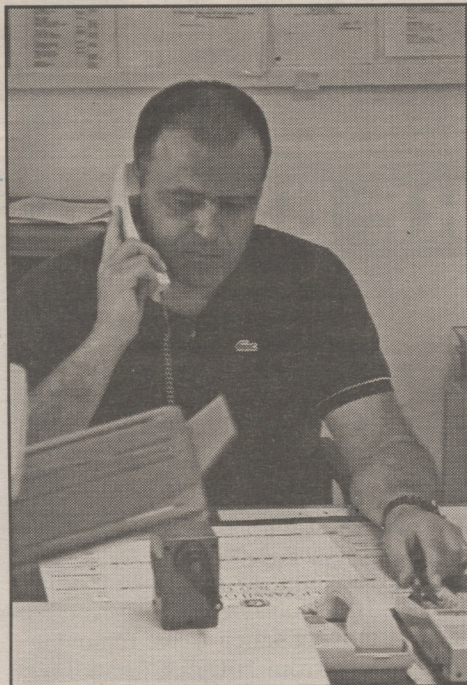
"The Field Service was established 50 years ago now. It employs over 600 people from more than 50 countries," he explains. Keith sees himself as a liaison officer, liaising between contractors, the military, and the United Nations. "Every six months a new unit arrives, unaware of the UN rules and regulations. We provide the continuity," he says. "We make sure the buildings used by the mission are serviced, and that oil, water, and electricity are delivered. Right now, I'm busy doing the in- and out-survey for the rotating Roulement Regiment of Sector 2. This is a job that needs to be done every six months, to establish the amount of reimbursement to be given to the contributing nations."

Ivor Pezer, UNFICYP radio operator, has been with the Field Service for nine years now.

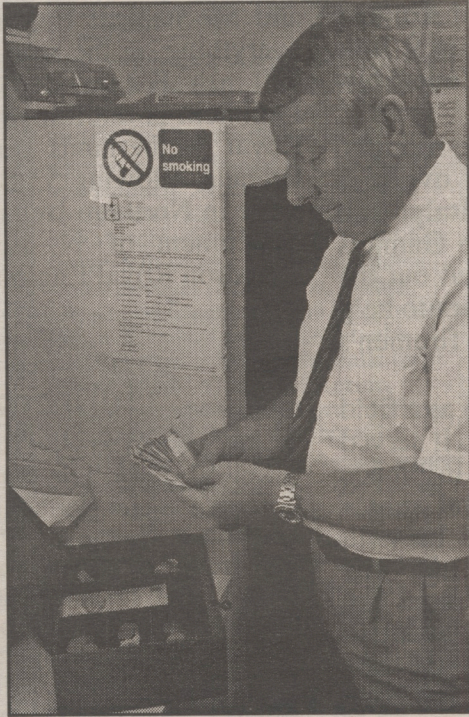
"The first year was a busy one. I joined the UN after working in a communication centre in my home country, Croatia. First I worked with UNTSO in Jerusalem, but soon I was sent to Honduras in Central America. Before returning to UNTSO again, I stopped for two weeks in Croatia to get married. My last posting that year was in Amman, just after the Iraqi invasion in Kuwait. I joined UNFICYP during the Gulf War. We ran a 24-service in the radio room. Since then, the only time I've been posted away from Cyprus was for two years in Haiti."

So what does the job involve?

"Sometimes the work can be pretty dangerous. Some of my friends and colleagues have died in air crashes. And I had some friends who got caught by bad weather after visiting a repeater station. They had to abandon their car, but luckily they were carrying their private radios and GPS (global positioning systems). Once they managed to contact us, they simply gave their grids. Within half an hour, just before it got dark, a helicopter rescued them."



Ivor Pezer: "Sometimes it's dangerous"



Philip Davies: "We are like gypsies"

An incoming phone call interrupts the information flow, but Ivor is soon back.

"When the Field Service was established back in 1949, only unmarried men aged between 25 and 40 were enlisted. Understandably, family life can suffer a lot when you work for the Field Service. You have to be able to leave for a new destination within a very short time. But there are also a lot of advantages. You have to pass a stiff medical examination, and demonstrate high levels of professionalism and flexibility to get in. Every time a new mission is launched, the Field Service technicians, logisticians and administrators go in first - just as they have in East Timor in the past few weeks."

Philip Davies from the UK is the finance assistant at the UNPA. He has worked with Ivor before. "That was in Amman," he recalls. "I've also served in Cyprus before. Back in 1970, when I was with the army, I did a tour in Dhekelia. I left the army and joined the Field Service in 1979. Since I entered the service, I've worked in Israel, Lebanon, Haiti, Cambodia, Angola and now Cyprus. We're like gypsies. On one hand it's disruptive to family life - we are allowed to be married

now, but a lot of missions are unaccompanied ones. But on the other, it's very interesting. I move around so much that back home people think I'm some sort of mercenary soldier."

What's it like working in the finance department?

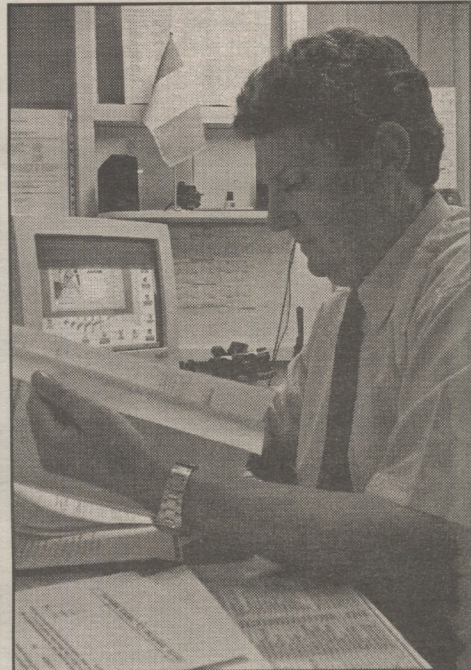
"It's a huge challenge to keep up with new developments, new rules and regulations, and to try to do the job even more efficiently and effectively."

Pat Brennan, finance clerk and Philip's neighbour in the office, agrees. He adds that in the Field Service, it is crucial to be flexible: "When I retired from the Irish Army, I started off doing security for the Field Service. But six weeks later I was asked to join the admin corps. It's all part of our contract. We may have designated jobs, but if there's a fence that needs to be painted, we might well be asked to take that on too."

Philip points out that: "Not only is the Field Service the first on the ground to establish a mission, it's the last to go home after a mission is completed."

What has he enjoyed most?

"Probably the best post I had was simply erecting communication masts. Working outside, being my own boss..."



Pat Brennan: "Flexibility is the key"

SECTOR FOUR PRACTISE RIOT SCENARIO

A rally is expected. Number of participants: approximately 2,000. Anticipated problem: unauthorised entry into the Buffer Zone. This was the scenario for an exercise carried out throughout Sector 4 on 17 May.

Seven crowd control platoons, two medical teams, and a firefighting team were deployed. In addition, eight checkpoints were manned at potential access routes, while vehicle patrols added to the constant surveillance of all areas.

When soldiers are deployed, it is normal for commanders to be on the line too. So a forward command post was erected to ensure command, control, and communication throughout the exercise.

Once each unit had reached its location, further orders were issued. We were given the unwelcome news that those inside the Buffer Zone included a large number of (very mobile) bikers, meaning that we had to adjust our deployment to deal with them.

The exercise provided good training in checkpoint procedures and crowd control techniques as well as orientation and radio communication. All in all, it was a good performance, though in a few cases, there's still room for improvement.

We hope never have to use such techniques practised - but still, it's better to be prepared...



Practising contingency plans

FINNISH MEDALS

On the occasion of the Finnish Day of the Armed Forces, Friday 4 June, Fincon commander, Major Juha Mattila, and eight Finnish engineers received their UN medal. The eight engineers recently joined UNFICYP and are currently working on refurbishing accommodation buildings in Blue Beret Camp.

The manner in which the group sang the National Anthem without the support of musicians, and the fact that spouses were involved in presenting the medals, gave this moving ceremony a very special flavour.



PEOPLE

THE AUSTRALIAN AUSTRIAN

By Major Horst Ehling

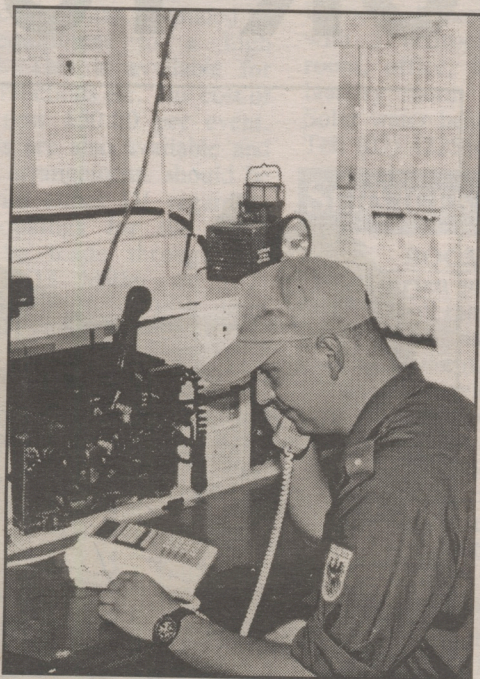
"This is 2 Coy, COMCEN. How can I help you?" The greeting is friendly, but sometimes a little confusing. Normally internal communication on this part of the line is in German. But sometimes, even though his German really isn't at all bad, Corporal Ray Liska falls back into his native Australian English.

This all came about because Ray's father emigrated from Vienna to Australia. There he found a good job in a construction company in the Snowy Mountain area and fell in love with an Australian woman. One of the results is Ray (plus one more son and a daughter). Born in Sydney, Ray first went to Austria when he was four.

After finishing technical school in Australia, he worked as an electrician, dealing with construction and communications. But in order to improve his German, especially the grammar, he decided to go to Austria.

In late 1997, he volunteered for the army. He began his military career in Salzburg, and then, after the basic training, and because of his language skills, he was transferred to the Austrian Training Centre.

It was here that he became interested in the United Nations. After finishing his common service he joined UNFICYP. His present appointment is COMCEN operator at CP-10. Addition-



Ray at work

ally he often has to fulfil special tasks such as repairing phones, checking switchboards etc.

Unfortunately nowadays he can't use his spare time for his favourite hobby which is skiing. So he uses his off duty time to work on his German and help his Austrian friends with their English. He also plays that not-very-Austrian game - rugby.

NEW PILOTS

Two new pilots from Argentina, their first impressions:

Time has gone quite fast since we were told that we were coming to Cyprus. One day our Squadron Leader came to the pilots' office and said he had something for us, some kind of surprise. That surprise was the news that we would be coming to be part of UNFICYP for six months. And that, in a lot of ways, was the beginning of our tour.

Normally the pilots who come to Cyprus are from an air force base in the capital, Buenos Aires. However, we (1st Lt Pablo Asis Bas and Lt Bernardo Odoriz) come from western Argentina, from a province called Mendoza.

We fly a helicopter designed for high altitudes: the SA 315B Lama, which can fly at 12,000 metres. It is a French-made helicopter that was originally built for India, where it has to be able to fly in the Himalayas. It is our squadron's job to do search and rescue missions. As we have the Andes mountains marking the border between our country and Chile, we need a helicopter that can fly very high. Every summer we carry out a campaign to verify the landmarks on the border in the Andes.

Anyway, as soon as we knew we were coming to Cyprus, we had to make all sorts

of arrangements and go on different courses. We had to study English and we had to learn how to maintain and service the Hughes 500 (the helicopter we fly here). We also had a course which gave us a general view of the political and social situation of the island, as well as what UNFICYP, UNPA, UN Flight, etc. were.

Time went by and we finally arrived here after a very long journey - but not as long a journey as the Australians have! It takes about 20 hours to get here from Argentina. At the beginning we found that many things were quite different. This doesn't mean they were necessarily good or bad - they were just different. The barracks, for example, the food, timings of meals at the international mess, etc.

What we really found very hard was to learn to fly the three sectors of the Buffer Zone. It took us about two weeks to really know them well and to see where the cease fire line of both sides were.

Four weeks have passed, and we can safely say that we know all sectors by heart and that we have adapted to this new "environment", that is to say, to the food, timetables, etc. And now, when we are asked to do something, we are able to safely say: "No problem!"



Pablo Asis Bas (l) and Bernardo Odoriz (r): "No problem."

He's No Billy Idle

UNFICYP's supply officer, Captain William O'Connell, is known as Billy to his friends.

But no one would dream of calling him Billy Idle. The Irish logistics officer is responsible for ensuring that everyone in UNFICYP is supplied with what they need to carry out their duties, from food to desks and chairs. As part of this task, he oversees delivery of 40 tonnes of dried foodstuffs each month and three deliveries each week of fresh rations, such as bread, milk, and fruit. The annual cost of these supplies is \$2m.

He also oversees the delivery of UNFICYP's share of the \$14m worth of other food provided each year to this mission, UNIFIL and UNDOF by the UN's official supplier, Economat de l'Armee.

In addition, all office equipment (other than computers, which are the EDP's responsibility) and anything else that meets the material needs of the force, from bedding to cleaning agents, come from the supply warehouse which is run by the ever-diplomatic FOWO, Mr Tony Smith.

To ensure that supplies reach their intended destination, Billy has to carry out spot checks at the various UNFICYP stations along the Buffer Zone.

With such a responsibility on his head, it's hardly surprising that Billy has suffered a few sleepless nights during the nearly two years that he has been posted to UNFICYP. His wife claims he has aged 10 years since taking over the post.

As he points out, "It is a very busy job".

Thankfully, no one has starved on the line, or if they have, we're not aware of it," he laughs.

The importance of providing supply for demand is crucial in any military organisation.

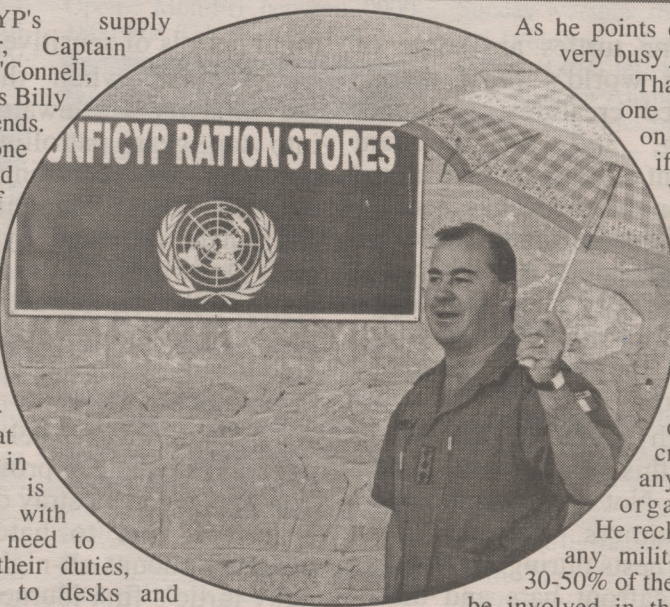
He reckons that in any military set-up, 30-50% of the Force will be involved in the adminis-

trative side of meeting the needs of the remainder. As he says, "An army marches on its stomach. Food and army morale are closely related. It helps the guys to know that they will be fed well each day."

Since UNFICYP's reorganisation in September last year, with the amalgamation of the military and civilian side of the operation, the central stores now order and arrange deliveries for each sector and the international mess. Before then, each sector received its supplies directly from the different suppliers.

Capt O'Connell's two year stint with UNFICYP ends this month. He and his wife, Triona, who until recently was working in the reproduction centre, and daughter, Sinnead (3), will then be returning to Ireland. He said: "I've enjoyed it here. But I'm ready to move on. Many thanks to my staff without whose loyalty, dedication, and expertise I do not think the job could have been performed."

And the man who has become an expert in meeting people's needs knows what he will have to take with him when he goes back home. "I'll be buying an umbrella," he said.



CAPTION COMPETITION



There are occasions when *The Blue Beret* office receives photographs worth a mention. The above shows a demonstration of the Mobile Force Reserve keeping fit, but can our readers think of a caption with a difference? Entries to the Public Information Office, HQ UNFICYP by Friday 18 June please.

NEWS

NO PICNIC FOR TURTLES

Marine turtles are some of the world's most threatened creatures: pollution, overfishing, and the rampant development of tourism have meant that life for the turtle has become increasingly precarious. These are creatures of habit, so when the females are ready to lay their eggs, they make for the beaches on which they were themselves incubated and hatched.

Through much of the Mediterranean, this has become almost impossible. Not only do sunbathers and swimmers stamp about destroying nests during the day, but at night, seafront bars and discos create a turtle nightmare. What right-minded turtle would go and lay her eggs to the throbbing beat of a disco? Marine biologists report that female turtles, swollen with eggs, swim round and round, looking for somewhere peaceful to dig a nest. Eventually, they abort the eggs, and another potential generation of the endangered species gets wiped out before it has even been fertilised.

Fortunately, however, not all Cyprus' beaches have been developed, and there are still havens where turtles can come and nest in peace. These include Alagadi in the north and Lara in the south. Concerted conservation efforts are under way at both.

Other nesting beaches have been found within the British Sovereign Base Areas. SBA Turtlewatch groups keep an eye on beaches, looking out for turtle activity. Once they have seen something, the SBA Administration puts up notices identifying the beach as a potential turtle breeding area and advising the public of prohibited activities. SBA police carry out

night patrols of sensitive areas.

In June, when the nesting season starts, Turtlewatchers move into top gear, patrolling beaches regularly and recording all turtle activity. Using techniques and equipment provided by the Fisheries Department in the Republic of Cyprus, the Turtlewatchers do all they can to ensure that turtles are able to dig their nests and lay their eggs in peace.

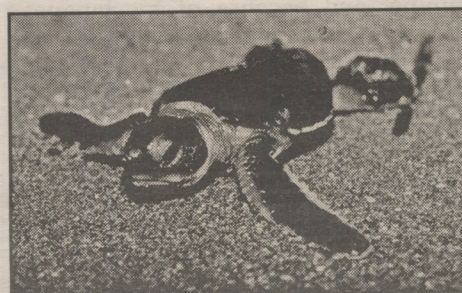
It takes seven weeks for turtle eggs to incubate - providing they don't get eaten by stray dogs. When a nest is due to hatch, Turtlewatchers mount all-night vigils. A baby turtle's first journey, from the nest to the sea, is a perilous one. Crabs and birds love turtle hatchlings, and half the tiny babies will be devoured before they get to the water. Even when they make it to the sea, the chances are high that the young turtles will get eaten by



Turtlewatch volunteers clearing sand from a nest

some predator or other. And if they survive to adulthood, they then risk getting entangled in fishing nets, eating floating plastic bags which they mistake for jellyfish, and getting strangled by the plastic rings that keep packs of drinks cans together.

No wonder the turtle's future looks bleak.



A newly hatched green turtle

Message of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Occasion of World Environment Day

5 JUNE 1999

The theme for this year's World Environment Day, Our Earth - Our Future - Just Save It!, is an urgent appeal to each and every one of us to renew our pledge to cherish and respect the planet that sustains us.

Although saving the Earth has become a popular cause, there are clear signals that we are still making

excessive demands on the environment. Today is a day to remember - that the environment should be valued in itself and not simply as a means to satisfy our needs. It is a day to realise we should not take the environment for granted, for it will not be there tomorrow if we do not make a strong commitment to protect it today.

New Charges for Pay Phones

Effective 19 May 99, charges for public pay phones have been reduced. The list below compares the amount paid (in Cyprus pounds) for a three-minute call to the country specified. Reduced rates apply every day between 22:00 and 08:00 hours Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday.

	New Rates		Old Rates	
	Normal	Reduced	Normal	Reduced
Argentina	3.76	2.90	6.75	4.91
Australia	3.76	2.90	6.75	4.91
Austria	1.76	1.43	2.57	1.86
Canada	3.76	2.90	2.57	4.91
Holland	1.76	1.43	2.57	1.86
Hungary	1.76	1.43	2.57	1.86
Ireland	1.76	1.43	2.57	1.86
Slovenia	1.76	1.43	2.57	1.86
UK	1.97	1.53	3.00	2.08
USA	3.76	2.90	6.75	4.91

SAFE DRIVING

Use your common sense and remember to:

- ... keep within the speed limits
- ... ensure you and your passengers wear seat belts
- ... look in your mirrors frequently and keep an eye on what's behind you
- ... drink plenty of water before you drive and always carry plenty of drinking water in your vehicle
- ... never use a mobile phone while driving
- ... never change cassettes yourself while driving

NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE

CLASSIFIED

ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE

Mitsubishi Lancer GLX, 1993, aut, a/c 60,000 km, all maintenance records available. £2,000 df. Phone Steve: (02) 352211.

Mazda 626 GLX, 1993, 4 door-sedan, aut, a/c, 54,500 km new tyres, available in July, £2,000. Call Mary, (02) 771921

Mitsubishi Galant Super Saloon 1800, aut, 09/93, 64,500 km, df, a/c. £1,700. Ph: (02) 864518.

Hyundai Excel L.S. 4 doors, 26,000 km, duty free. Phone (02) 779842.

Volkswagen Polo SP, lhd, 1984, red, duty-free, RC, 150,000 km, £400 (negotiable). Call (02) 664362 (o) or 666485 (p).

Peugeot 405 Saloon GL, white, Nov '88, a/c, radio/cass, duty-free, £1,000. Phone (02) 445318 or 664068.

BMW 525 TDS, '96, 40,000 km, rhd, red metallic, a/c and many other extras, £12,600. Phone M. Schroder, (02) 664362 during working hours.

Mobile Sandwich van, new engine and interior, 2-flame gas grill, 2 built-in electric fridges. Phone (09) 698374.

Mazda 626 Estate 2.0 GT. Genuine 7-seater, a/c, cruise control, electric windows, sun roof, low mileage. Excellent condition. £3,500 ONO. Tel John or Bronwyn Jones at (02) 753001 (O) or 660997 (H).

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Suzuki Intruder VS1400 GL, 1997, 3,700 km, all original plus leather saddlebags. £3,500 df or approx 4,400 dp. Phone Steve: (02) 352211.

Sony TV with super trinitron 72 cm picture tube, dolby surround and video recorder **PAUSE-CAM/NTSC**. £950. Phone Francine Petit, (02)769202 (O), (02)355475 (H) or (09)644002

Household Items. TV+VCR, £150; fridge-freezer, £90; washing machine, £75; drinks trolley, £25; plus other items. All as new, prices negotiable. Tel: (02) 356758.

Intel Pentium 200 MMX computer, 32 MB RAM, 3.2 GB hard drive, 24 sp CD ROM, speakers, monitor, colour printer, Windows 95. £450 OVNO. Computer Table £15. Contact WO2 Barry Green on ext 4510 or (02) 359001.

Black dining table with 8 chairs, new cloth upholstery, £220. Phone (02) 774325 or (09) 614068.

Complete house contents for sale including furniture, carpets, electrical appliances, crockery, crystal, pots pans and many, many extras! Prices are low and negotiable. Make an appointment to view. Tel: Mrs Drogoul at (02) 779910/11/12 (O) or 513039 (H).

Lady's (Marin) diving suit with jacket for sale. Medium size, as new. Call Joanne on (02) 864485 during office hours.

ITEMS FOR HIRE

HIVE ITEMS FOR HIRE

The NICOSIA HIVE operates a comprehensive loan store. Items available are: VAX machine, child's car seats, pushchairs, backpacks, high chair, travel cots, children's toys and bikes, cool boxes, sun loungers, golf

clubs, radio/cassette players, BBQ, etc. Call the HIVE to check availability.

DISCO FOR HIRE

The UNPA WOs' & Sgts' Mess (The Vic Club) has upgraded its disco equipment to a high standard. This is available for hire for functions etc. The cost of hire is now £50.00 per event. Two DJs are also available and separate arrangements should be made with either DJ regarding fees. Bookings for the disco should be made through the PMC, WO2 Miller on (02) 359760 ext 126 (W) at least seven days in advance.

HAVING A PARTY?

The Youth Club is now available for hire. Many facilities including new disco equipment and lights, barbecue and plenty of space! Contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more details.

250 sq.m. house at 11 Papa-

PROPERTY TO LET

flessas Street, Makedonitissa. Phone (02) 350896 or (09) 673293.

Four-bedroom unfurnished house in Makedonitissa. Fully equipped kitchen, 2 bathrooms, laundry room, 2 telephone lines, c/h and a/c. Big garden. Available end June. Call Antonis (09) 644511.

Three-bedroom ground floor house in Makedonitissa. Large kitchen, 2 WCs, parking and large garden. £260. Phone: (02) 351348.

Three-bedroom ground floor house in Makedonitissa. Large kitchen, spacious reception area, a/c, c/h, parking, large garden. Phone (02) 351498 or (09) 610646.

Four-bedroom upper two-storey house in Makedonitissa. Large master bedroom, guest room with bathroom, large kitchen and large sitting-dining room, a/c, c/h, many appliances. Phone (02) 350451.

Fully furnished three-bedroom penthouse flat to let in Acropolis (Hilton area). 175 sq.m. Sitting/dining room, TV room, study, large kitchen, bathroom, 2 WCs. Including all kitchen appliances. Split unit and separate shower in master bedroom. Large verandah overlooking park. C/h and solar water heater. Available from end June. Address: 2 Ermokleos St. Rent: £395. Tel: (02) 337044 (O) or 335534 (H).

Double-storey house in Anthoupolis area, 10 min from UNPA. Big living room, large solid wooden kitchen, 4 bedrooms, split unit and spare shower in master bedroom, big yard, c/h and solar water heater. £400. Contact Stelios: (09) 621143

Luxury house at 33 Ioannis Psycharis Street, Ayios Andreas. 3 bedrooms + master bedroom, sitting room with bar, modern kitchen with all amenities, c/h, a/c, flower and fruit tree garden. Contact (02)771039 or call opposite the premises for Mrs Alexia Hadjigeorgiou.

Flat in Lycavitos. Third-floor, 3 bedrooms, storeroom, covered parking, c/h, provision for a/c. Can be let furnished or unfurnished. Rent: £400 (negotiable). Phone Yannis on (02) 344461/09-693993 or Yanna on (02) 864524.

Second-floor apartment in Romanos Street (Hilton area) for

rent. Living room, 3 bedrooms, 2 WCs, bathroom, CH, car park. Rent: £210. Phone Mrs Leto, (02) 374820 or 591153.

First floor house in Strovolos (11 Herodou Attikou St). 220 sq.m. with 3 bedrooms, hall, living room, office, kitchen, 2 WCs, laundry room, garage and c/h. Solar water heater. Rent: £400. Tel: (02) 422516.

SERVICES

BABY BOOM Nursery & kindergarten provides 28 to 30 places, a full range of educational toys, morning and afternoon care in a friendly environment, parent advisory services, care for toddlers and newborn and baby parking by the hour. See the principal, Child Psychologist Irene Louca, at 9a Vasilis Michaelides Street, Engomi, or phone (02) 665978 or (09) 430016.

NICOSIA LIBRARY

The Nicosia Library, 23 Sycamore Road, UNPA. Tel (02) 359317. Many new books now in stock. For the new entrance please follow the arrows round the side.

Opening Hours:

1000-1300 and 1700-1900 hrs Mon - Fri.

All nationalities are welcome

Huge selection of fiction & non-fiction books for adults and children

Book search and reservation service.

Language cassettes and books available on long-term loans.

Many music cassettes and books on tape.

Videos now available on loan.

Photocopying at 5c per copy.

Computer & CD-ROM for use with military studies. "COIC Career Builder" programme.

YMCA NEWSFLASH!! Spring is in the air and the staff of the YMCA are just "abuzz" with ideas to improve our service to you. Visit Jackie, Carol and Ann at the canteen and sample our great sandwiches, English breakfasts, tea or coffee. We make a mean milkshake, and yes, Rose will be baking again. Need a card or a gift wrap for a special occasion coming up? How about stamps, stationery, etc. Call into the YMCA and see Rose.

NICOSIA HIVE NEWS

The NICOSIA HIVE is open for information and advice and is located at 21 Sycamore Road, UNPA (within the Married Quarters area). Tel (02) 359316. The Nicosia HIVE Coordinator is Geraldine McKendrick.

All nationalities are welcome!

Opening Times: Mon-Wed-Fri, 0930-1230 and 1500-1700 hrs.

FACILITIES

Why don't U.Network@the UNPA?

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 16 June at the HIVE. Come along and exchange news and information with a friendly group of spouses from UNFICYP and diplomatic missions. More info from Helgard Adams on (02) 591933.

BEAUTY TREATMENTS BY NIKI. Are your legs and feet ready for spring? Niki will be at the HIVE on Thursday 17 June. A wide range of facials, manicures, pedicures and waxing treatments available. For appointments or

more information, call Niki on (05) 391640 or the Nicosia HIVE on (02) 359316.

SANDRA'S HAIR FASHIONS

Sandra's Hair Fashions is situated at 21 Sycamore Road on the Married Quarters Patch. Open Mon-Fri between 0900-1800 hrs. Tel: (02) 776454.

MISCELLANEOUS

ENGLISH LESSONS

Qualified and experienced teacher available to teach English to small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Tel: (02) 772991.

EVENING BABYSITTING AND ASSISTING AT PARTIES

Lady available for evening babysitting and assisting at drinks/dinner parties. Tel Maroulla: (02) 330296 after 1600 hrs.

MATURE BABYSITTER Reliable, mature lady available for babysitting. Tel: (02) 623850 after 1600 hrs.

FED UP WITH THE IRONING BOARD? Mature British lady takes in ironing. Excellent service, reasonable rates. Tel: (02) 661787.

UK-TRAINED SEAMSTRESS available for alterations, zip replacements, costume making, etc. Also specialises in beautiful creative home fabric decorations. Contact Stella on (02) 491840.

JOB WANTED: Woman is looking for houses, offices and staircases in Nicosia + area to clean. Own transport available. 12 years experience. Call (02) 433811.

BRITISH TRAINED SEAMSTRESS

Specialises in dressmaking for formal occasions, ball gowns, wedding dresses and outfits, etc, also alterations and repairs. Mrs Chris Broad. 28 Vyzantiou Street, Ayios Dhometios, Nicosia (close to UNPA, near Astra garage). Tel: (02) 773206.

TEDDY TOTS PLAYGROUP, UNPA.

Children from the UN and international community are most welcome. Ages: Two to rising five. Excellent facilities, air-conditioned, follows English preschool curriculum. Small numbers in class. For further information Tel: (02) 359655 (school) or 359225 (home).

"BRATCON" YOUTH CLUB.

If you are aged between 8-16, and want to have some fun, "BRATCON" is the place to be seen. We are open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6-8.30 pm at St Michael's School in the UNPA. Our club is run by volunteers. We do everything from sporting activities to staging our own pantomime.

Come along and make some new friends. For further information, contact Pam Kingston on (02) 359112, or pop in on one of the nights that we are open and find out for yourself. Membership is £1.50 per term or £4 annually. Nightly subs - 50c for members and 75c for visitors.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED.

The "BRATCON" Youth Club urgently requires new volunteers to help out at their twice-weekly sessions. If you have some free time and would like to work with a bunch of happy kids, please contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more information. Don't delay - pick up the phone NOW.

Louis Shoe Repairs, travel goods, belts, purses and handbags. 15, P. Katelari Street (opposite main bus station) or Engomi, 19, Grivas Afxentiou Street.

Church Services

SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH, UNPA: ANGLICAN EUCHARIST:

Roman Catholic Mass, Saturdays: 18:00 hrs.

Sunday worship: 09:00 hrs.

All Welcome. Sector 2 Padre's Office (LPH) tel: 864760/1, Ext 301. Britcon Anglican Chaplain: Padre Philip McCormack.

Dutch Chaplain, Padre Frank Duyvenvoorde.

MICHALEA 99 ANTI-DRUG ROAD RACE

4.3 km road race on Saturday 19 June, 7.30 p.m. at Mathiatis as starting point and ending at Lythrodontas village.

Registration: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Participation: free.

Finishers will get a T-shirt. Information: (09) 411411 or (02) 333462.

Fax (02) 420089.

SEE CYPRUS FROM ABOVE

Sightseeing flights over Cyprus available. Experienced pilot. 4-seat, high winged aircraft gives excellent view. Great fun. An experience not to be missed. For more info, call (02) 864669. Ask for Mr. Lechner

WANTED: PIANO PLAYER

International Officers' Club looking for piano player seeking opportunity to perform occasionally in informal but appreciative atmosphere.

For details, contact Major Style at HQ UNFICYP, (02) 864514/9

Staff required for YMCA Mon-Fri, 0800-1300 hrs Would suit a dependant.

Please contact Rose at 359308 or enquire at the YMCA

THE NICOSIA DOG SHELTER

Volunteers needed to help in our charity shop. Can you spare a couple of hours at any time on any day? All money raised is for the Nicosia dog shelter. Please help. Call the shop on (02) 669568 and help to support a good cause.

One beautiful, intelligent puppy looking for a home...

Small breed

Three months old and wonderful with children

Tel: (02) 624758 or (09) 542154

To advertise in the Blue Beret, send your ads to the Public Information Office at HQ UNFICYP or e-mail to blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com.

BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

IKARUS OVER CYPRUS



By Lieutenant Sebastian Hitz

Give me ten cents for each photo taken of me in the air and I'll be a rich man. I'm a rich man anyway, when I fly above the cliffs of Cape Greco. The bird's eye view relieves me of many troublesome moments on the ground. The most exciting thing about paragliding is the take-off when I feel the power of my glider, as it wants to pull me up. One step forward, over the cliff, and I'm airborne.

Flying is the oldest dream of mankind. In history, Ikarus, who also lived on an island, did not have the appropriate materials. Nowadays, progress in technology has made the dream of being able to fly come true. Strangely enough, the most dangerous thing about paragliding is that it is so easy to learn. My advice is: never fail to respect the medium air - unless you want to end up like Ikarus.

THE FINAL KINGSTON CHALLENGE

The final Kingston Challenge was focussed on having fun. The 29 May event was split into a land and a water phase. All six teams were required to complete the land phase at the UNPA before commencing the water-phase in the Dolphin swimming pool. A series of short and diverse timed events ranging from football dribbling to cycle skills, including an Enduro Go-Kart Relay, meant that the land phase was far from the normal Kingston format. After several pit stops, half a dozen broken eggs, and wearing a blindfold in the fierce sunshine, most competitors were looking forward to the start of the swimming pool session. They were not disappointed.



LBdr Lacey, LCpl Smith, Bdr Lightfoot and LBdr Bramall certainly enjoyed themselves

Following the spirit of the land events, the teams were invited to participate in some light-hearted water-based activities, with varying degrees of success! Each event was designed to cater for all levels of skill/strength to prevent a team of strong swimmers from wiping the board.

Despite all attempts by the competition organiser to 'fix' the final result and allow the 'Bengal Cowboys' to win the competition, the team from Liri Troop came through as overall winners.

S-4 VS NATIONAL GUARD: 1-8

Ennio Morricone's music was missing, but apart from that, all other ingredients for a western were in place. Heat, dust, and two opponents on 2 June. This duel, however, was a friendly soccer match between members of the three nationalities of Sector 4 on one side, and sportsmen from the 1st Regiment National Guard on the other.

Team leader WO2 Zach was outranked by the NG team leader, Major Nyssos. Zach tried to stimulate and motivate his team as best he could, but at half-time, the score was already 5:1. The audience cheered on both teams, but by the time the final whistle blew, the NG had gained three more goals to win 8:1.

But it was a good game, enjoyed by both players and spectators. The Olympic saying "Taking part is more important than winning" was today's credo too. Later this month, Sector 4 are scheduled to compete against a team from the north.



For the history books. Left: Sec 4, right: NG

GROUND TROOPS TAKE TO THE WATER - AND THE HILLS

During their tour in Cyprus British and Dutch soldiers serving in Sector 2, and the Mobile Force Reserve in the UNPA are lucky enough to benefit from the excellent water-based training facilities at Dhekelia and the mountaineering facilities in the Troodos mountains. The British-Dutch staffed UN Roulement Regiment Adventure Training Team, UNRATT, runs a wide variety of challenging courses under the heading of Adventure Training.

This type of training is a key objective for both nations fostering

courage, team spirit, initiative and physical fitness. Courses include sub aqua, parachuting, climbing, abseiling, water-skiing, windsurfing and mountain biking, sailing and orienteering. Everyone with Sector 2 and the UK/NL element of the MFR is obliged to carry out at least five days of adventure training during their tour of duty with UNFICYP, and is also encouraged to apply for additional training, provided this fits in with daily duties.

At present, there are 11 instructors. Among them, Bombardier Harold "Pinkie" Floyd trained as a windsurfing instructor whilst in Dortmund, Germany. He is on his second tour with UNFICYP, and confirms that although the emphasis is on 'adventure and challenge', accidents are rare because "we are all very safety conscious".

Another is SSgt Jan Joosen, a Dutch instructor, specialising as a mountaineering/climbing instructor. Asked why, coming from the flatlands of Holland, he decided to specialise in this sport, Jan replies: "In Holland, we consider mountaineering to be a sport which trains and allows you to relax and also teaches you to rely totally on your partner. These are useful exercises, especially in times of crisis - which military people often have to face."

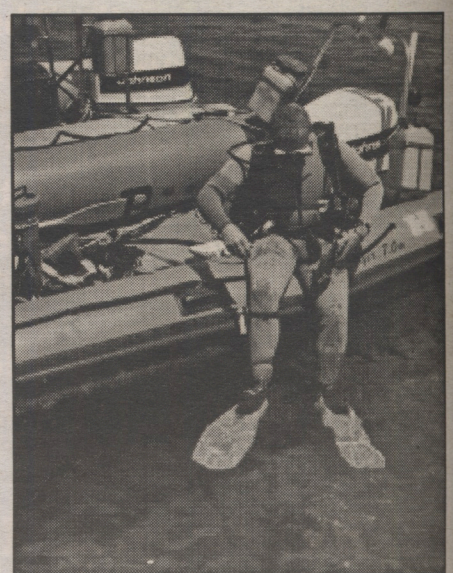
In fact, he has even trained



Splish, splash

Gurkhas how to climb. Jan says: "They may well be the 'men from the hills', but very few of them are familiar with the techniques of mountain climbing, orienteering or mountain biking."

Jan adds that this is his first tour with UNFICYP and he is really enjoying it. "The facilities here are so good. One leave day last winter, we went water skiing in the morning. We then drove up to Mount Olympus and three hours later, we were skiing down the slopes of the Troodos mountain range. Some can now say "I learned to ski in Cyprus - both on water and on snow."



Ready, steady, go



"Pinkie" (left) and Jan