A SUN DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

A round 5,000 people flocked to the Ledra Palace last Sunday for the UN’s international open house - an afternoon of entertainment and fun for families from all over. Military, police, and civilians had been preparing the event for four months.

Sector chefs cooked heaps of food which proved just a little bit too delicious - early-comers polished it all off. Contingents laid on a truly comprehensive array of sports and games, as well as exhibition stands. And the music didn’t stop until rain brought a rather soggy end to what was otherwise voted a great afternoon out with a "terrific atmosphere".

Photographs by Corporal Julie Batrill (SBA), Captain Gregorij Hranija and Major Paul Kolken

INSIDE: BB TIPS - NEWS - PEOPLE - REAL LIFE - CLASSIFIED - SPORT
The Blue Beret

The newspaper for UNICFY's civil, military and police personnel

Published fortnightly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, 20 UNICFY/P.O. Box 2164, Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel: (02) 8645589641/16/864408 Fax: (02) 864401 E-mail: blueredcross@uhpmail.com

Editorial Team
Sarah Russell (Editor) Maj Paul Kolken Maj William Taylor
Photography
Photographer: Robert Louis Stevenson

The SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE TO THE UNITED NATIONS DAY

My dear friends,
This year's United Nations Day is a special one. The world's population has just passed the 6 billion mark, and we are about to enter a new millennium. In one sense, both these things are simply statistics. Yet both give us something to celebrate and something to reflect upon. Today, as always, let us mark the opening of a new chapter in human history - a chapter in which, more than ever before, we shall all share the same destiny.

It is a moment to take stock of just how far we have come, and where we are headed - and then to look forward, and think how we can make the new era better than the old. It is shocking to think that half of our species is only 200 years away from being eradicated, and how we have actually done it. But it is this new era that promises hope for human progress, and it is in this spirit that we mark the new millennium.

And it is with this in mind that we look forward to the future. We look forward to the day when the world's population will stabilize, and the world will be a better place for all of us. And we look forward to the day when the United Nations can be truly effective.

I am counting on you - and I thank you all.

The Secretary-General

EDITORIAL

ANSCHLUSS DES UN-GENERALSEKRETÄRS

Lieber Freund,


Ein neues Jahrtausend ist ein Anlass, um über die Zukunft und die zukünftigen Herausforderungen der Welt zu reflektieren. Die Welt hat sich in den letzten Jahren gewaltig verändert. Wir müssen uns fragen, wie wir die Herausforderungen der Zukunft meistern können.

Die UN ist eine Organisation, die auf der ganzen Welt tätig ist. Sie arbeitet an der Lösung von Problemen, die global sind. Die UN ist ein Anlass, um über die Bedeutung dieser Tageszeit zu sprechen.

Liebe Freundin,

Ich hoffe, dass es Ihnen gut geht. Ich wünsche Ihnen frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Start ins neue Jahrtausend.

Der Generalsekretär

QUOTATIONS

What lies ahead of you and what lies behind you is nothing compared to what lies within you.

It's all right to have an open mind - if you know what to let in.

Love is not what makes the world go around - but it surely makes the ride worthwhile.

BB HITS: YOUR DUTY TO BE HAPPY

* Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in simple things.
* Make the best of your circumstances. No one has everything.
* Don't let criticism worry you. You can't please everybody.
* Don't let others set your standards. Be yourself.
* Do the things you enjoy doing, but don't get into debt in the process.
* Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary things are harder to bear than the actual ones.
* Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about many things.
* Don't be one who never gets over things.
* Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself.
* Keep busy at something. A very busy person never has time to be unhappy.

Extracts from Robert Louis Stevenson

Harrazol el, hoy bellot l'isgeli,
Him inbega, lahecha, gysegz dogiokan is omoli talenti.
Tedd jobbii a kómulinnrieyd. Nen khesneg mej meg biq眼eg eprej.
Ne hugay, aby kuta nyiqatayn tale. Nen kevdezhsit mindkii.
Ne hugay, moyiis anfitan an elb normaik. Layg onmagada.
Tedd dek, amot, kanhen texsel s ne ketskedel eljabeleseb.
Ne terfield madag moyiis proble-

ne, kahdsokahdsokok, ghotod okozharit, nani a valods-

pe.
Layg nyotio a vilga dolgair. Ha nem

uatuzaish, olvas erdekes tihmik.
Ne leq ay, a sihoh toma nem tiitele a nedsokahdsok.
Tegy meg mindent azokert, akik

leliselesnek, mint te.
Poglag el, moyiis onmagada. Az efugalti

embersek nincs ideje boldogtalank nemi.

Extracts from Robert Louis Stevenson

Prepara tu mente para ser feliz. Aprende a encontrar lo bueno de las cosas simples.
Har lo mejor que puedas con lo que tienes. Nadie puede tener todo en la vida.
No permitas que tus críticas te deme-

njen. No se puede conformar a todos. No te dejes que otros te condicionen. Decide por ti mismo.
Har lo que te guste, pero no deses que te domine.
No te compliques. Los cosas de la imagi-

nación pueden ser tan difíciles de entender que es imposible comprenderlas.
Busca incentivos. Si no puedes viajar, lee acerca de muchos lugares.
No seas ajen a lo que nunca superas las situaciones.
Har lo que puedas por aquellos menos afortunados que tú.
Mantén ocupado. Una persona muy ocupada nunca tiene tiempo para no estar feliz.

Extracts from Robert Louis Stevenson

* Besluit gewoon om vrolijk te zijn. Pat vreugde om eenvoudige dingen. * Maak het beste van je omstandig-

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición." 

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición." 

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición." 

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición." 

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición." 

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición." 

La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica: "Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros y suboficiales, con mano, trabajan en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque podíamos ser testigos de los resultados que el personal expresaba al recibir su reconfortante servicio.

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los OPs o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de reparar las partes que se deterioran a un ritmo acelerado y las mantenemos en buen estado para que los oficiales y los soldados puedan trabajar en una buena condición."
Das Feldpostamt 1501
AUSCON/UNIFICYP stellt sich vor


Daher wurde nach dem Muster des bereits gut funktionierenden Feldpostamts am Golan 1500 UNDOF/Aushalt das FPA 1501 errichtet.

Die Aufgaben sind zwar vielseitig, wurden jedoch in folgenden Bereichen erfüllt:

- Annahme von bescheinigten Briefsendungen bis 2 kg
- Abgabe von bescheinigten Sendungen und Paketen bis 2 kg
- Philephilistische Wünsche zu erledigen


Lediglich die Vielfalt der Angebote läßt sich wünschen übrig.

Technisch waren zusätzliche Dienste wie Telegraphendienst, Geldpost, Paketbeförderung bis 31 kg durchaus denkbar, doch das Verkehrsministerium war der Meinung, daß es sich hierbei um eine Erweiterung der Anbieteis nicht eignete. Es sollte nur zu hoffen, daß sich der Verkehr in Zukunft etwas ändert.

Für die Moral der Truppe ist ein funktionierendes Feldpostamt absolut wichtig. Dies bestätigen führende Psychologen.

SECTOR 4's AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

It is always important to keep up the morale of the soldiers, especially when they are far away from home and families, and the Austrian Field Post Office is certainly one office busy trying to achieve this aim. At the inception of UNIFICT in 1964, all post came right through the Cypriot system, but since November 1976, the Austrian Field Post Office has been handling post to and from home using Austrian Airlines. The same service is offered to UNDOF in the Golan Heights.

In Sector 4 there is one post master and one additional soldier for support and replacement during leave periods. The post office only handled letters up to 2 kg, packets up to 2 kg and sold stamps, but the service currently offered and looking to some changes in the future.

Although there are more modern communication methods these days (mobile phones, internet, etc.), the current service is still much appreciated. The post office is staffed at all times, and the post office is always open.

The Austrian Field Post Office is certainly one of the most important offices in the area, providing a vital service to the Soldiers stationed there.

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS MEDAL

By Sergeant Michelle Lomas-Travers

The Police Overseas Service Medal, or POSM as it is affectionately called, was established on 25 April 1991 and recognises service with special international peacekeeping operations by officers of Australian Police Forces. On 13 October, 10 Australian Police Forces were presented with the POSM medals.

The image of the water (Australia's national flower) over the globe represents Australia's police forces serving in a protective capacity throughout the world. The globe is actually centred on Cyprus, signifying the first operation for which the medal was awarded.

The ribbon consists of black and white squares in a chequerboard pattern, which is the internationally recognised symbol of the Police Force. A series of ribbons is used on the ribbon to indicate the location of the service operation which the award recognises.

Police officers must perform 90 days' overseas duty before being eligible for the medal.

TRAIN SPOTTING IN THE BUFFER ZONE

By Corporal Major Mark Kingston

The Buffer Zone has seen by many of us as just a place of work. We study its landscape with a profound awe, ensuring that neither side poses a threat to the other. However, if you stop for a moment and close your eyes, you will discover that it holds some strange and historical surprises.

Trotz HANDYS, Fax usw. erhält jeder Soldat 2 x pro Woche Post von zu Hause und 3 x pro Woche Post auf das geht durch eine eigens angelegte Statistik hervor. Dem Feldpostamt steht ein Postfahnder, der auch in Österreich mit den Agenten eines Amtsetellers beauftragt ist, vor seiner Seite ein Gehilfe, der ihm in Abwesenheit (Krankheit, Urlaub) vermittelt.

Auch für den Soldaten in der Zone ist es wichtig, eine Verbindung zu Hause zu halten.

The Cyprus Government Railway's passenger carriages

I came across one such surprise while travelling in Sector 2. Hidden amongst the undergrowth is a "spotted" 1920s railway coach. Having uncovered this industrial archeological find, I put on my mandatory "spotters" apron and born-rimmed glasses and set out to investigate the lost railways of Cyprus.

In 1904, the railway construction depot was inside the old walls of Famagusta, opposite the Bellapais Monastery. In Sector 2, the Week 4 will now know as the Desdemona Gardens. In order to give access to the docks, three railways were driven into the old Venetian curtain walls, traces of which can still be seen today. Great care was taken not to use stone for the railway construction from the walls and the ancient buildings, although there were rumours that stone was taken from Bellapais Abbey.

The Cyprus Government Railway was narrow gauge. For those unfamiliar with the terminology of "spotters", this means that the track was 2 feet, 6 inches wide. It ran from Famagusta harbour through Nicosa and terminated in Morphou, a distance of 76 miles. There were approximately 30 intermediate stations or halts, a number of which acted as post offices; a prime example of one of these stations can still be found west of the "pig farm" in Sector 2. The entire journey would take from four hours travelling at 20 miles per hour, many Cypriots said that they could cover the distance quicker by donkey and refused to use the service, but this cannot be confirmed as I've never met a "donkey spotter".

Coal was the fuel, which came from England to the Famagusta docks; some even came from the Admiralty yards at Port Said in Egypt over 284 miles away. The trains of course were steam, and but in winter torrents would often sweep the bridges away. Maybe travelling by donkey wasn't such a bad idea.

We tend to think that railways were built for the benefit of passengers, but this is not so, for the "spotters" of the train was often the economic driving force behind its conception. The Cyprus Mines Corporation, which was located in the west of the island and whose mines can still be seen today, adjacent to Camp Roccas, used the CGR for the transport of copper, chrome ore and asbestos to Famagusta docks until port facilities elsewhere in the island were developed. During some troubles in 1931, a number of unsuccessful attempts were made to turn the track as it was regarded as a symbol of British Colonial Rule.

In 1945, the railway trains were still running in time, but then the donkey owners switched to the new 6-ton diesel lorries, against which the CGB could not compete. Road haulage meant the end of the railway. The railway was also faced with the problem of new engines, new track and carriages because the whole system was over 40 years old. There was much gossip that the railway was quite inefficient and the Ministry of Commerce wanted the railway to close down in order to boost its sales of rails and huts in order to prove, but who knows, it may have been the major reason for the closure of the CRG.

The last train left Nicosa for Famagusta on 31 December 1951, and it was then that the CGB was lifted by crane to its final resting place by British army engineers using a 20 ton crane. The engine still stands in Famagusta as a memorial to a marvellous episode in the history of Cyprus.
Lovable Military Policemen 2

By Lieutenant Stephanie Gras-Figgy

A better policeman to know and love: this time a British one. Bricton provides six members of the Royal Military Police, one officer and five NCOs to UNIFICOY’s military police unit. They’ve been explaining to us how they came to join this elite group.

Once potential military policemen or women have completed their basic military training, they attend the Royal Military Police in Chichester, West Sussex. For six months, the students are taught legislation and its implication to service life. They learn about policing British Army garrisons and their role in the military community. They are also instructed in the RMP’s role in operations such as the Gulf War and the former republics of Yugoslavia. If they complete the training successfully, they are promoted and can be posted to any provost company in the world. As well as doing general police duties they have numerous opportunities to specialise. For example, they can follow intensive courses and apply to join the SIB (Special Investigation Branch) or move into close protection.

Having heard all this, we had to decide which of our Brits to introduce you to. But in the end, the choice was obvious. Many of you will already know him - but for those who don’t, we are shining our spotlight on Bricton’s Sgt Dave Cook.

Dave comes from Wigan, Lancashire and joined the RMP in May 1986. He has served with provost companies in Germany, Spain, Austria, the UK, and Canada, and the UK. He has also taken part in major military exercises in USA, Belgium, Italy and Germany. When this tour ends, he’ll be posted to Police Force in Germany. But for the moment we can all enjoy the company of this professional, friendly, sporting, patient, and constantly smiling police officer.

Sgt Dave Cook knows the route

GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME

By Captain Vicki Walker

It is common knowledge that some soldiers count down the number of days they still have to do on a tour before returning to their families and loved ones. Captain Guy Wood, Ops Officer Sector 2 East, however, is counting down for a different event. 22nd Regimental Group return to Britain and Holland on 9 December, Guy gets married nine days later on the 18th.

His fiancée, Gayle, has been out to see him during his R&R. The holiday here, however, was not quite as relaxing as Gayle was hoping. Gayle had some of her wedding outfit made, so it was a case of turning round the shops in the search of “just right”. They spend time on the phone most evenings and the bills do mount up as they discuss the important things like what colour the balloons should be for the reception.

The wedding will be a military wedding with Guy in “Blues” and an honour guard made up of officers from the Welsh Gunners, all in “Blues” with swords and proudly earned UN medals, but the connections with the Army go deeper than just Guy’s involvement. He first met Gayle during his first posting at 47th Regiment (who served in Sector 2 from December 98 to May 99). Her father still serves with them as the Quartermaster and it is down at Thorny Island (47th Regiment’s location) that Gayle and Guy will tie the knot in a little 12th century church.

Guy admits that it is difficult being apart. Being away for all of the preparations is a double edged sword. He misses out on all the responsibility (although he did organise the honeymoon in Canada) but also feels that he is missing out on the excitement. His reputation as a boy-racer (always seen taking the first place on the UNPA go-karting circuit) has also influenced his organisational input into the wedding plans; they will leave the wedding in Guy’s own Caterham 7.

So in between meetings with the OPFORS and briefings, Guy has little time to get nervous about the forth coming event, although he is looking for some extra time off to get ready for the big day.

BORN TO COUNT

Kadena Marathefti, Finance Section, Payroll

By Noel Evdokiou

Kadena Marathefti is one person it pays all local UNIFICOY staff to be nice to. In charge of the Finance Section, she is responsible for ensuring local employees’ salaries are safely deposited in the bank at the end of each month.

As UNIFICOY employees since 1995, the staff insists that the job - strictly for those with a head for figures - would not be everyone’s cup of tea. “It is a very complex job and certainly needs 100% accuracy, but I enjoy it,” she says.

It is also one that she was groomed for from a very early age. Her Greek Cypriot father - her mother is Irish - owned a barber’s shop in London for years, which meant that Kadena’s life in accountancy started from a very young age.

“He used to bring home all his earnings in a large brown carrier bag,” she recalls. “In those days, Sterling was in £s.d. (pounds, shillings and pence), and a hair cut cost about 2/6d, so his earnings were mainly in coins. The currency system was made up of farthings, pence, three penny pieces, six penny pieces, shillings, florins, half crowns, ten shilling notes, pound notes, and five pound notes. I don’t remember any ten pound notes, there were certainly some about, but never came into our household! There were also guineas, which were the equivalent of one pound and one shilling, but they were only used to price very prestigious goods (such as money).

“Now with all this coinage, in order to make things really difficult, there was no decimal system. There were four farthings to one penny, twelve pence to a shilling. Two shillings and six pence to half a crown, and four half crowns to a pound note. This was my father’s earnings and enter them in an exercise book with three columns for £s.d. This exercise book was then given to his accountant so his taxes could be worked out and paid. The coins had to be counted and put into small thick paper bags given to us by the Post Office. These were all different colours according to the coinage and were pale pink, pale blue, pale green, etc. I used to sit at the dining room table and count the coins and put them into their respective bags. This coinage system certainly made good practice for long division sums. If the exercise book balanced on the first go, there was a big sigh of relief from me as this meant I could now go out to play.”

Nowadays, Kadena’s counting is all done in her head, with all the help offered by modern technology, such as calculators and computers.

But newer is not necessarily better, given that computer glitches can often lead to anything from frozen screens to hard disk crashes to the system going down.

“Sometimes I long for the good old days,” she admits. However, she has been promised new software in the year 2000 that should iron out any remaining problems.

One of Kadena’s difficulties is that not one wage slip is the same, even for people on the same pay scale. There are always the differentials to work out, such as various benefit entitlements.

Not surprisingly for someone in her position, Kadena has the inevitable task of having to pass on requests for advances from time to time.

But the Chief Finance Officer has always stood by the book, knowing that it could only create chaos out of the order that Guy has managed to keep.

So local employees take note. The official pay date remains the last day of every month.

The good news is that salaries are paid into the Bank of Cyprus’ main branch three working days before the deadline in order to be processed promptly, so people always get their money on time.

Guy Wood in his wedding outfit
OVER the past five months, Sector 2 has received more than 800 visitors. Some of them are VIPs, some of them are VVIPs.

Recent big names have included US envoys Moses and Weston. Otherwise, the last two months have seen the Field Marshal, five generals, five colonels, 22 lieutenant colonels, seven ambassadors and 382 other personnel coming to Sector 2 - we seem to become even more popular when the weather begins to cool off.

Most visitors want to go on the Nicosia "Green Line Tour". Every Tuesday, morning and afternoon, a group of visitors is led through the buffer zone in the old city of Nicosia. Many a bemused tourist stands by to watch a guided tour walk past on the way back to Wolsley Barracks, wondering where to go to pick up tickets to join in.

Those who can do the tour hear a host of stories from the past 25 years.

One of the first they encounter is the sad tale of Annie Coupas. Annie was determined to stay in her house after 1974, despite its proximity to the buffer zone - her front door was right on the ceasefire line. The problem was that there was no exit at the back, which meant that the only way out was into the buffer zone. So an agreement was reached that when she wanted to go out, UNFICYP soldiers would escort her through the buffer zone to the nearest gate, known as Jeppe Gate. Her family would have nothing to do with her after she decided to stay in the house, so she was "adopted" by UN soldiers who used to share their rations with her and generally looked after her. In 1991, Annie died. She was 91 years old. UNFICYP personnel attended her funeral.

"Spear Alley", as the soldiers call it, used to be one of the most militarised areas in the world, with three companies of soldiers (UN and opposing forces) living along a stretch measuring less than 100 metres in length. It also included the narrowest part of the buffer zone.

The buffer zone has seen many things miraculously grow over short amounts of time, including walls, bunkers and painted maps. "10 Plus Wall" was a wall that kept on growing. After a little investigation, UNFICYP discovered that one of the opposing forces kept adding layers of bricks - i.e. altering the military status quo of the buffer zone. UNFICYP hit on the idea of painting the top row of bricks white so it would be easy to see if any more bricks were added. But the wall kept on growing and the line stayed in the same place. The opposing force had been taking off the top row of white bricks, adding a couple more rows and replacing the white line. UNFICYP's next step was to count down ten bricks from the top and paint the white line at that level. Since then, the wall has stopped growing.

Each Sector 2 rotation appoints a Visits Officer. On arrival, one of the Visits Officer's first tasks is to work his or her way through the stories and learn them by heart. And then we tell them over and over again. It's a job that might threaten to become boring. But I have to say that the reactions one sees and hears from the visitors as they walk through this sadly empty part of Nicosia make it all worthwhile.

FEWER WARS AND MORE DEMOCRACY IN THE 1990S

Some 5.5 million people have died as a result of armed conflicts worldwide dropped from 35 in 1992 to 39 in 1998.

As UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan pointed out at a World Bank meeting in Washington DC in October: "More old wars have ended than new ones have begun."

At the same time, the number of democracies has almost doubled. Annan points out that since 1990, the number of democracies (even when countries are very poor) have very low levels of internal violence compared with non-democracies. He added that "balanced development" - which helps everyone, not just a ruling elite - is another major factor.

"If war is the worst enemy of development, healthy and balanced development is the best form of conflict prevention," Annan stressed.

By Captain Vicki Walker

MASTER DRIVER GORDON'S SAFETY TIPS ON WINTER DRIVING

By WO2 Gorman, Master Driver HQ UNFICYP

1. Summer is over. The days are getting shorter and the weather is getting worse with heavy rainfalls and the possibility of snow in the Troodos mountains.

2. So now is the time to think about the following points:
   a. When was the vehicle last serviced?
   b. Do my tyres require changing?
   c. Is my vehicle battery topped up with distilled water? Are the terminals greased?
   d. Have I checked my windscreen wipers? Do they need changing?
   e. Are my washer jets working properly and does the washer bottle contain enough water and anti-freezing cleansing fluid?
   f. Do all my lights work properly?
   g. Is there any anti-freeze in my engine radiator?

3. Winter hazards include: WINTER SUN - Dazzle from winter sun is a highly underestimated hazard. Reduce your speed when driving into the sun especially in wet or icy conditions. Use your sunglasses and sun visor of the vehicle.

FOG - Drive slowly, allowing more time for your journey. If you have them, turn on your fog lights front and rear.

ICE - Braking distances multiply by 10 in ice conditions. If you are travelling at 80 kph on the motorway and you hit ice, it will take you 53 metres x 10 = 530 metres to stop in an emergency, or - more realistically - the distance to the car that you smash into in front of you. At speed it could be fatal. So SLOW DOWN.

RAIN - Heavy rain will reduce visibility particularly from vehicle spray. Always use dipped headlights and reduce speed. At night, wet conditions worsen the glare from headlights so again, slow down.

SNOW - Falling snow reduces visibility so always switch on your lights. Even treated roads can be slippery, so drive slowly in the highest gear possible, manoeuvre gently and avoid harsh braking.

5. These are only a few points to take into account whilst driving in Cyprus. Listen to the radio to get updates on the weather report and try not to make the journey if it is not essential.

REMEMBER: SLOW DOWN AND ALLOW MORE TIME FOR JOURNEYS

IT COULD SAVE A LIFE - YOURS!
SPORT UNIFIES

Sport seems to be a truly unifying element all over the world. At least this proved to be the case on UN Day. Several sporting events took place, including a rugby demonstration by British soldiers and an impressive martial arts demonstration by Hungarian soldiers. Austrian powerlifter Christian Chmela showed his preparation for the World Championships in November is well on track. The Dutch organized several typical lowland games, including a bicycle race, a greedy pole contest and a sack race.

Those who chose not to take part at least had the opportunity to observe the achievements of the soldiers and participating visitors.

ORIENTEERING IN THE UNPA - FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

The sport of orienteering developed in Sweden in the 1900s as an extension of military map-reading exercises. The idea slowly spread worldwide and has really taken off in the last couple of decades becoming one of the fastest growing sports. Whatever their level, in search of a series of numbered or lettered control points marked on a map they carry. They must clip the appropriate box on their control card to prove they have reached the correct controls in the right order. In competitive events, the orienteer who completes the course in the fastest time is the winner. At novice level, the majority of participants simply trot round the course, regarding the map reading aspect of the sport as an unexpected dimension which adds interest to a jog or brisk walk in the countryside.

Since June 1999, when the Officers’ Club became the venue for the running of a much acclaimed Novice Orienteering Competition, some 70 participants - including over 30 children - have enjoyed navigating the courses set in the UNPA. The regular core have become quite competitive and a small league with points has developed. There are usually two courses: an ‘A’ course of between 4½ to 5 km and a simple ‘B’ course of approximately 2½ km. Currently in the lead on the ‘A’ course is Supi Ken Uren, followed by Janet Forrest, Col Colin Green and WOII Mark Kingston. On the ‘B’ Course the Adams family are joint leader in front of Missy Green and the de Weever family.

There will be two more competitions before the end of the year. The next event is on Sunday 21 November at 10:30 hr from the Officers’ Club patio and everyone is welcome. Maps are provided and all under 18s receive roses - so just turn up with your running shoes on!

CLASH OF THE TITANS

UNITED NATIONS DAY TUG O’ WAR COMPETITION

By Major Miles Brown

It was a group of sixteen good-looking, heavily-muscled men. Divide the group into two teams. Put a team at each end of a thick rope, then tell them to pull as hard as they can until they collapse with exhaustion or they succeed in dragging the opposition four metres through the dust. That, in a few lines, is the ancient sport of Tug o’ War!

Some months ago, Sergeant Dave Burge came up with the idea of having an inter-troop Tug o’ War competition within Sector 2. His idea quickly took root and within a few weeks it had grown into a full-scale event open to all challengers within UNFICYP. UN Day appeared to be the perfect occasion to hold the competition and the excellent response from throughout the Force promised that the battles on the rope would be both exciting and hard-fought.

As hosts, Sector 2 entered a number of troop teams and also a team consisting of ageing yet still hardy seasoned warriors from Sector HQ. The MFR turned up with a truly multinational force; ALSCON fielded a typically efficient and well-disciplined team, whilst HUNCON had clearly decided to forget good looks in favour of big muscles (sorry HUNCON, only joking). The Dutch in Sector 2 West made a rare break from integration with the British in order to combine their best players into one team. They were obviously looking for an unexpected win!

The event was split into two phases, with the preliminary rounds taking place in the morning and the final stages being held as part of the UN Day celebrations. In fact, some of the best battles were fought in the morning with particularly notable performances from the MFR and Ledra Troop, and a big display of power from the Hungarians. The stage was set for a highly entertaining afternoon and the combat commenced with the MFR winning the Sector 2 inter-troop pull (I could have sworn that the MFR was a company!). On came the big boys and after the conflict of the semi-finals the big Hungarians were left with the prospect of an easy final against the old men of Sector 2. Oh how wrong they were. They forgot the first rule of war, which is never to start a fight unless you’re pretty sure you can win! Victory was claimed by HQ Sector 2, captained by WO2 (ROQMS) Calpin, proving that old heads can still beat young muscles!

Overall it was an excellent competition which was made all the more exciting by the huge crowd of supporters who had flocked from all over Cyprus to attend UN Day. Every team performed with great energy, friendship and humour and everyone vowed that next time the Tug o’ War trophy would be leaving the British sector. Thanks must go to Sergeant Burge for his organisational skills, and to the patient officials who had to explain the rules outlined above more than once.

Final congratulations must also go to all the competitors who distinguished themselves through their team spirit and great sportsmanship.

Misty Green on a map-reading course

THREE IN A ROW

28 November 1999, Spring Aphrodite Half Marathon, Cyprus. Mari’s Sports Centre, Pafos. The start will be at 10.00 hrs while the 5km Fun Run will start at 10:05. Entry fee, CYP 7/00.

Further information can be obtained from the Cyprus Health Runners Club, PO Box 28417, Strovolos 2091, Nicosia, Cyprus. Tel: (02) 420559, Fax: (02) 420559, e-mail: runc lub@spidermetal.com.cy or www.cylink.com.cy/halfmarathon

Application forms must be received by 13 November 1999.

2 and 3 December 1999, Cyprus Challenge Half Marathon 1999. Start and finish on 2 December, will be at the Rodon Mount Hotel at Agios. The start on 3 December will be at the square of Lefkara Village. The finish will be at Vatavounis Village.

Further information can be obtained from the Cyprus Challenge Half Marathon, PO Box 10063, 2540 Lakatamia, Nicosia. Tel: (02) 3705396, Fax: (02) 370404, e-mail: skakour@spidermetal.com.cy

5 December 1999, Kolossi Marathon, Half Marathon and 10km race. More information can be obtained from Kolossi Marathon, PO Box 12062, 2340 Lakatamia, Nicosia. Tel: (02) 370596, Fax: (02) 370404, e-mail: skakour@spidermetal.com.cy.