LEST WE FORGET

By Sgt Erica Hanisch
UNCIVPOL

It's dark. And quiet. Wayne's Keep Cemetery lies still and silent in the pre-dawn darkness of the 25th of April 1999. Not a breath of air disturbs the immaculately-kept graves. The flags lie limp and motionless, and the Stone of Remembrance, illuminated and standing solid as the centre-piece to the upcoming ceremony, keeps a watchful and proud eye on the scene that is about to unfold before it.

As we arrive, a slight breeze stirs and brings with it an eerie feeling that the souls of the dead have woken and have gathered to take part in the service. Two hundred and ten living souls join them in the ceremony to remember those who have fallen: the ANZACs who landed at Gallipoli at dawn on the 25 April 1915, and all other men and women who have lost their lives in war. It's a proud but sad morning.

The ceremony, officiated by the Reverend Philip McCormack CF (UB), the British Contingent Chaplain, takes place smoothly and without a hitch. Second Lieutenant Adam Weinert, a Lt of the Australian Army, reads from Saint John's Gospel. The ANZAC story, a tribute to those who have fallen, is read by Sergeant Andrew Thorp of UNCIYPOL and Captain Matthew Boggs, a New Zealander attached to the 47th Regiment. The Last Post is played, bringing a tear to every eye and a lump to every throat, and after a respectful two minutes silence, George Thorp, a retired 'digger' from the 4th Field Regiment, Artillery, AIF, stands to read The Ode, "Binyon's Lines." It is a very moving moment, given new meaning as it is read by a veteran of New Guinea and Bougainville. I hear many people around me clearing their throats.

After the service, participants retire to the International Mess for a traditional "Gunfire Breakfast", consisting of damper (a type of Australian campfire bread), and tea and coffee laced with the famous Australian Bundaberg Rum. I meet many Australians who have come from all over the world to participate in the celebrations, and all the talk around me is of the ceremony and how moved they were.

This UNCIYPOL-organised ANZAC day commemoration is a potent reminder to us all, wherever we come from, of all those who have given their lives in an effort to bring an end to war.

No one has greater love than this—to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Diego Cordovez Resigns

Statement from New York HQ

Since April 1997, Mr Diego Cordovez has been serving as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General with the primary task of helping him to promote and facilitate negotiations in Cyprus. The Secretary-General would like to place on record his warm appreciation for the dedicated work of Mr Cordovez over the past two years in carrying on the related functions.

While the Secretary-General has now agreed, at Mr Cordovez' request, to relieve him of his responsibilities with regard to Cyprus, Mr Cordovez will continue to be available to the Secretary-General as Special Adviser, primarily on issues relating to Latin America.

Alternative arrangements will be made to support the Secretary-General as necessary in his continuing efforts to help bring about a settlement in Cyprus.

INSIDE: BB TIPS - PEOPLE - REAL LIFE - CLASSIFIED - SPORT
The Blue Beret
The newspaper for UNICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

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QUOTATIONS
We must avoid using statistics as a drunk would use a lamp post - rather for illumination.

If you have both talent and energy, you will be a king. If you have had talent but no energy, then you will be nothing.

Julio Cesar Sorgenti
OC UN Flight

La Fuerza Aérea Argentina ha estado proveyendo a UNICYP de helicópteros, pilotos y personal de apoyo en tierra desde 1994 de acuerdo a la resolución 1640 de la ONU.

La unión de la Argentina con la UNICYP ha sido sin duda una salvación para nosotros. Junto con el apoyo de Italia, un equipo de expertos ayudó a mejorar la eficiencia del equipo de apoyo aero. La Argentina ha sido un proveedor valioso para el equipo de apoyo aero de UNICYP.

BB TIPS: UNICYP'S COMPUTER USER TIPS

La combinación de factores tales como: Tener escritorios demasiado altos, sillas que no son ajustables o incorrectamente reguladas y malas hábitos de uso de la computadora pueden provocar problemas físicos tales como malestar de brazos o muñecas o dolores de cuello y espalda. Para evitarlo, asegúrate lo siguiente:

- La altura de tu escritorio debe estar entre 90-80 cm (permitiéndote apoyar tus brazos con un ángulo de 90-80 grados).
- La parte superior del monitor de tu computadora debe estar a la altura de tus ojos.
- La luz de la pantalla debe reducirse para ello, es de 10% a 20% hacia atrás y evitando el reflejo desde ventanas u otras fuentes de luz que puedan reflejarse.
- La silla debe tener una altura suficiente, como para permitirte apoyar completamente los pies en el piso, con rodillas y caderas en una posición neutra que no cause dolor. La silla debe permitir el mantenimiento de los pies apoyados a la altura correcta.
- El respaldo de la silla debe permitirte que tus pies sean de 2 a 3" por debajo del suelo mientras que la parte superior de tu espalda esté apoyada.
- La silla debe permitirte que tus pies sean de 2 a 3" por debajo del suelo mientras que la parte superior de tu espalda esté apoyada.
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BRATCONE PROUDLY PRESENTS:

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THRE BORES

Bears running through St. Michael's school, chocolate bars flying through the air, and an audience, young and old, really enjoying themselves. That's what the Bratcon actors made happen on the evenings of 23 and 24 April.

Sergeant Ricki Hamisch, director of the play, couldn't hide the fact that she's a police officer. Besides welcoming everybody, she started the evening off with a safety brief.

After three months of learning lines, building sets, sewing costumes, and - eventually - all having a lot of fun, the big night had finally come. Naturally, everything went wrong in the last few dress rehearsals, almost a guarantee for success on the opening night. The actors should be proud of themselves. "I wasn't even nervous," claimed Christian (Benjamin Black) Bell. And who noticed that voluptuous Sadie was played by male Karl Smith?

It was a great performance and great value for money. All proceeds from the two performances will be used to buy equipment for the Bratcon members.

Pam Kingston, the Bratcon youth worker, explains. "The Bratcon members want a computer so they can access the Internet. But since we are not sponsored, we have to find the money in another way. That's why we decided to organise this pantomime." The net result was a lot of fun, a great experience and a tidy profit. So stand by: Bratcon is on its way to the World Wide web!

OPERATION OK, PATIENT KO

"Kill it!" was the unanimous verdict from all the veterinarians contacted by the owner of an emu with a broken leg.

Finally, the call for help at Camp Duke Leopold V. Captain Siwak and Lieutenant Peeritsch, a student of veterinary medicine, drove to the rescue.

They noticed the bird had an open fracture. A 2-cm thick bone stuck out of the skin on its leg for about 15 cm. It was dangling bloody by the skin and sinew. The victim kept trying to stand up, ramming the exposed bone into the soil.

The emu was not a promising one, however, the patient was prepared for transport, a process that involved four men getting an eagle-like bird of 1.25 metres tall and 130-kilogramme bird.

A veterinarian with experience in operating on similar fractures on dogs tried his very best. Unfortunately, the emu died a few days later. It is not known whether this is in spite of the operation, or because of it, nor do we know if the emu has yet appeared on the menu of Camp Duke Leopold V.

Schlachten! Das war die einheitliche Meinung aller Tierärzte als das Bein des Einbruches eines Emus von dessen besitzer kontaktiert wurde. Um das zu vermeiden, wandte sich dieser an die UN und bat um Hilfe. Nachdem es für die Sektor 4 nichts möglichst gibt, eilten Hptm Dr. Szakal und Lt Peritsch (Student des Veterinarmedizin) unverzüglich zu Hilfe.

Am Ort des Geschehens angekommen bot sich folgendes Bild: Der Patient wies einen offenen Unfallbruch auf, bei dem das Knochen des linken Beines ca. 15 cm weit herausragte und das Bein seitlich an der Haut zusammengehalten wurde. Da der Vogel ständig aufstehen versuchte, wurde es fortwährend den freiliegenden Knochen am Boden, was zu einer starken Verunreini- gung des Wundes führte.

Unter diesen Umständen und auf der Grund des Mangels an geeignetem Schienungsmaterial konnte das Tier von den UN-Helfern lediglich für den Transport vorbereitet werden. Dabei waren 4 Mann nötig um den 2,4 m großen und 120 kg schweren Lautvogel eine Injektion zu verabreichen und ihn anschließend zu verpflegen. Im Anschluss daran schienete und verband der einheimische Tierarzt, der über Erfahrung mit ähnlichen Verlet- zungen bei Hunden verfügt und entsprechendes Material besitzt, das gebrochene Bein.


WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS?

The UN is a unique international organisation of 185 sovereign states (known as Member States). It was founded during the Second World War to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations and promote social progress, better living standards, and human rights. UN Member States are bound together by the principles of the UN Charter, an international treaty that spells out their rights and duties as members of the world community.

WHO RUNS THE UN?

The UN can only do what its Member States have agreed it can do. Representatives of the Member States discuss and vote on major issues in the General Assembly. All countries have the same voting rights. No country, however powerful, is able to dictate UN policies single-handed. The vote of the General Assembly is a good barometer of world opinion and its decisions, though not legally binding, represent the moral authority of the community of nations.

WHAT DOES THE SECURITY COUNCIL DO?

The Security Council is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Meeting on an almost continuous basis, it deals with crises as they arise. Security Council decisions are legally binding, and Member States are obliged to carry them out.

The Council is made up of 15 members: 10 non-permanent members, periodically elected by all Member States for a two-year term, and five permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the UK and the USA). Any of these five countries can block a proposal by casting a negative vote, even if the other four permanent and all non-permanent member states vote in favour the "veto" power.

A General Assembly working group on reform of the Security Council is currently considering possible changes. The Secretariat, under discussion, are, among others, adjusting the membership, modifying the veto, and improving working methods.

WHAT DOES THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DO?

The Secretary-General is the UN's top official and its chief administrative officer—the symbol of the organisation to the world. The Secretary-General draws world opinion to major global issues, from development to disarmament to human rights, as well as bringing to the attention of the Security Council any problems which threaten international peace and security. The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. This means that the Secretary-General's selection is subject to the veto of any of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Blue Beret Favourites

This issue's candidate for the Blue Beret Favourites quiz is Commander Graham Taylor from UNCTVPOL. His favourites are:

- Colour: "Pink"
- Food: "Goulash"
- Place: "UNPA"
- Heroine: "Dame Ann"
GURKHA SAPPERS WITH UNFICYP

In 1981, when India was a British colony, the Government decided to expand its territory by taking the eastern bordering kingdom of Nepal. An attack was launched, but the campaign collapsed. The Gurkha soldiers were renowned for their ability to move relatively fast with their supplies and to fight with discipline under tough, sticky conditions. Having more than proven their abilities, the Gurkhas were invited to become permanent members of the British Army. They’ve been there ever since.

The Engineer Detachment from the 69th Gurkha Field Squadron, Queen’s Gurkha Engineers joined the 47th Regiment Royal Artillery when they came out to become part of UNFICYP. This is, in fact, the third opportunity for the Queen’s Gurkha Engineers to serve with UNFICYP. Unlike previous tours, this time there are two Dutch Army Engineers working alongside their Gurkha comrades. The detachment is

Capt Damar Ghale beside Gurkha Gate

13-strong with two electricians, two carpenters, two plumbers, one plant operator, one bricklayer, one welder, one painter/finisher, one driver, the Det Con, Capt Damar Ghale, and his 2/c.

Their mission is to "provide engineer support to Sector Two" (BRITCON) in order to create and maintain safe working conditions for UN operations. So, what have they been doing since they arrived in Cyprus? Capt Ghale says: "In the initial stages, we were extremely busy and our tradesmen worked like headless chickens, trouble-shooting emergency callouts and carrying out maintenance tasks. Due to the age and dilapidated state of the buildings, there were constant water heater breakdowns and power failure problems. But now, I’m glad to say that we have most situations under control.”

The detachment has also carried out a number of minor projects. To name a few, the constructions of a new barrier gate at Wosley Barracks, now formally known as the "Gurkha Gate", the installation of Buffer Zone "No Entry" signs, refurbishment of QPs, new electrical and plumbing installation works, patrol track repairs, etc.

Has their tour been what they expected? "Well," says Capt Ghale, "there was one function here we didn’t expect to complete which doesn’t exactly come under the "engineering" umbrella. We were requested to perform the khukuri dance in the presence of the Chief of Mission to bid farewell to the outgoing British High Commissioner. This is a traditional dance using the khukuri knives which are issued as part of the Gurkha uniform, and the dance is accompanied by the muddal, a drum which is a fundamental instrument in the rhythm of the dance."

How about their spare time? Despite the hectic schedule, they organised a fund-raising event for the Pahur Trust, a charity which helps to build schools in the remote mountain regions in Nepal where the majority of Gurkha soldiers come from. A total of £4,655.85 was raised, which will be presented to the founder of the charity, Mr Tim Langridge MBE, on their return to the UK.

Gurkha men are naturally fit because of the hilly terrain of their homeland - they walk everywhere! All personnel in HQ Sector Two undergo a physical training programme, including two days of road runs, one day’s circuit training and aerobics once a week. It was not therefore surprising that the 47 Regt RA team, comprising one Brit and three Gurkhas, came second in the Akrotiri 10km Road Race.

Although Gurkha soldiers are very keen on fitness training, they found their first taste of aerobics quite stressful. They all had the impression that this was a somewhat "feminine" form of exercise, but when they tried it for themselves, they found it wasn’t quite as easy as it looked. Now they see aerobics in quite a different light and consider that they have learned an extra skill.

Asked what Capt Ghale thinks of his tour in UNFICYP, he says: "Even though the Gurkhas have a different way of life and culture from the British soldiers in 47 Regt RA, we have not had one single problem during our tour. In terms of service, it makes no difference to the Gurkha soldier whether he is in the UK or even Botnia - we are still away from our families and country. But I speak on behalf of all the Gurkha sappers in the force when I say that the chance to serve in a peacekeeping mission such as UNFICYP is a privilege, as well as a duty, for us. It is a time we shall never forget."

The traditional “khukuri” knife dance

LCpl Ramesh and Spr Khum, Gurkha plumbers

FINNS ARE BACK IN REBUILDING MISSION

If you walk around the UNPA these days, you could be forgiven for thinking you've gone through a time warp, given the number of Finns you see working around the place. Finland provided a sizeable contingent to UNFICYP from its inception in the Sixties up until the late Seventies, when it still had 200 men on the ground helping to keep the peace.

But times change, and in recent years, the Finnish presence has been limited to one or two officers helping out with operations, one of the most notable of these being the last but one Force Commander, Gen Ahti Vartiainen.

A Finnish law that states that only 2,500 of its soldiers can serve abroad at any one time has had a lot to do with this. Given that Finland, a traditionally neutral country, has continued to contribute to the constant needs of UN peace keeping missions throughout the world, not just in Cyprus,

But now the Finns are back in force. Eight of them are carrying our building and repair work in barracks and other buildings within the UNPA before moving off to the sectors to look at what needs to done to improve living conditions for UNFICYP soldiers serving on the line.

The Finnish team is made up of a Warrant Officer, Rainer Kettunen, and Corporals Ilkka Taimuri, Jussi Ahola Jyry, Raislimaa, Erkki Hieskanen, Harri Talgren, Kimmo Tuomanen, and Markku Leinonen. They are all either bricklayers, electricians, carpenters, or plumbers, and will be out here for a year.

All are veterans of other UN peacekeeping missions, having served in places such as south Lebanon, ex-Yugoslavia, and the Golan Heights. Asked if Cyprus may be a little too peaceful for them after what they've experienced elsewhere, Corp Ahola Jyry said: "We've had enough action." He adds: "Cyprus is a different kind of mission. It is almost like civilian work, but the weather is nicer."

Most of the team are single, but one of the married guys, Jussi Ahola, left his wife and four children back home because he did not want to uproot the children from their schools. Asked why he volunteered for the mission, he appeared to be speaking for Finland in general when he replied: "Peacekeeping is close to our heart."
Clemens Adams, UNFICYP's Chief Administrative Officer, is a German national whose first 'real' job was working with Indo-Chinese refugees in the Philippines. Clemens, who is a qualified mechanical engineer, gave advice on technical installations, building, and infrastructure in a 15,000-person resettlement camp for refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

From there, he moved to a remote Indonesian island to take up his first UN appointment - with UNHCR, the refugee agency. Looking back at this period, Clemens comments that: "It was a really hard post, that one. I only realised just how hard it was when I did a stress management course in New York a couple of years ago! I recognised an awful lot of the symptoms."

While in Indonesia, Clemens heard that the UN was looking for people to join its peacekeeping mission (UNTAG - the UN Transitional Assistance Group) in Namibia. "Again, my main task was infrastructure and, later, election logistics," explains Clemens. The Namibia mission is often described as one of the UN's more successful peacekeeping efforts. Clemens believes that this is partly due to a general desire in Namibia for this transition, "which had been a long time coming." "What I found very special about this assignment was the way that people worked together. Everyone worked very, very hard, but they enjoyed themselves. There was a great spirit, a wonderful atmosphere."

From Namibia, he moved to New York. "I'd never thought of myself as a headquarters person, but everyone told me I should go, so I did. I ended up spending eight years there - planning and supporting peacekeeping operations around the world. And I'm glad I did it."

What I learned in New York is a huge help to me in the job I'm doing here. My own experience had been mostly on the technical and logistics support side. In New York I came into contact with colleagues from different areas of expertise and picked up a lot from them. And it was an interesting - and busy - time to be there. The peacekeeping business boomed and we set up more than a dozen peacekeeping operations. Some of these were the largest and most complex the UN had ever fielded. At one point we had to deploy five field missions at more or less the same time."

But he didn't spend all his time in the office. He took part in a 10-week training course for senior administrators from field missions, which he describes as "invaluable - it put me in touch with people with an enormous range of experience. He also went on electoral survey missions to South Africa and Eastern Slavonia and played a central role in developing logistic support concepts and related budgets. Just before coming to Cyprus, he was "parachuted" in to help set up a new mission in the Central African Republic. "There were ten of us: seven military and three civilians, and we had to start everything from scratch. It was very exciting. And very different from life here, in a long-established mission with 1,500 personnel? Absolutely!"

What exactly brought him to Cyprus last summer, one day before the new Chief of Mission? "A mix of experience is important. And I'm very much a family person. Now I'm married and have two young children, it's not that easy to find challenging field posts where we can all be together. Cyprus is one of the few places we can."

He sees his main role here as providing support so that the different strands of UNFICYP - military, police, and civilian, can all function properly, and ensuring that the necessary resources are available and then when they are needed. At the same time, it is his job to see that UN rules are followed and that Member States' financial contributions are being used prudently. He meets every week with the Chief of Mission and attends all senior management meetings.

He points out that a lot of people working here at UNFICYP are unfamiliar with UN rules. Armies and police forces all have their own regulations and ways of doing things, even though the basic principles are often very similar. "It's often just the red tape that's different, but dismantling the tape can be a real headache!"

What has given him most satisfaction over the past eight months? "I'm happy to see that the mission's senior management (civilian, military and police) working closely together. There's a high level of mutual respect which I believe derives from the very open way in which we all interact."

But he's under no illusions about the difficulties associated with the ongoing integration process. "It's easy to move boxes on an organigram, but to make things work on the ground involves a lot of trials, retrials and fine tuning. In addition, we are having to revise SOPs (standard operating procedures) and review a number of administrative instructions, and this is all very time consuming."

And what does he see as the next big item on the horizon? "The next phase in carrying out the General Assembly's directive that we should pursue outsourcing of general and support services. Earlier this year we carried out a study into the cost-effectiveness of procuring janitorial services at UNFICYP HQ through a commercial contractor. The study showed that outside contractors could provide a more efficient service and offer better value for money. This means that the contracts of clever cleaners will not be renewed."

Clemens points out that the local staff unit has been constantly kept informed about developments on the outsourcing initiative, and that UNFICYP is making efforts to help affected staff find alternative employment. "Making decisions like this is extremely hard. We know they affect people's lives. It is incredibly painful to know that a decision you make can impact on a family's livelihood. Nevertheless, in today's economic climate, we have to make sure that we are spending the funds we are given in the most efficient way possible. In the case of the cleaners, we found that outsourcing would cost almost 50 per cent less than the old system. On that basis, it would have been impossible for us to just say no outsourcing."

He emphasizes that UNFICYP is not cutting costs for the sake of it, but because it has to. "I had to go to New York to defend this year's budget in person. Headquarters and the Member States scrutinise every item in every line, and I have to be able to explain why we're spending every cent we do. This inevitably means we have to change the way we do things. What is encouraging is that people are themselves coming up with ideas of saving in one area so that we can fund other priority tasks."

And one word to describe his job? "Challenging! But maybe that's an understatement! It certainly isn't the holiday assignment some people in New York think it is."
SECTOR TWO MEDAL PARADE
ALL PRESENT AND CORRECT

"Oefening baart kunst" is what the Dutch say, or in other words, "training pays off". It was obvious to all present that Sector Two personnel had worked very hard for several weeks to organise a ceremony well worth watching.

The event opened with a rendition on bagpipes from a Gurkha soldier and the excellent drills demonstrated the professionalism of all those on parade. The reception was no less spectacular and was enjoyed by all.

Force Commander Major General Evergist de Vergara in his speech, pointed out that by presenting this medal: "The UN honours the nobility of the soldiers’ daily task and the tireless effort of endless miles of patrolling, displaying constructive impartiality, patience and restraint."

Commander British Forces Cyprus, Major General Angus Ramsey and Commander 11 Airmobile Brigade, Brigadier General Rein van Vels, present medals to their soldiers

The Force Commander also quoted Secretary-General Kofi Annan, saying: "I pray that others may see the wisdom of your choice (to become a peacekeeper) and follow in your footsteps."

He used the opportunity of this medal parade to present a commendation to Dutch Lieutenant Stefan van Herpen, the commander of Falcon Troop. After a diving accident on 24 January, Stefan applied his knowledge of first aid on the unconscious body of a fellow diver who sadly did not survive, and also showed compassion with the other divers.

Ten other soldiers, both British and Dutch, received a Certificate of Professional Excellence for their actions, instrumental in saving lives after several separate incidents.

Those soldiers who were not on parade received their medal during separate ceremonies the following day. All were encouraged to: "Wear your medal with pride, for your sacrifice, in devoting a part of your lifetime, away from your families. Serving the cause of peace earns you and your nations respect and admiration now and for future generations."

In a few weeks, the new units from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands will arrive to keep up the high standards set by their predecessors.

THE NEW LIAISON MEN

Two more new faces have recently appeared at UNFICYP headquarters. They belong to Major Juha Mattila from Helsinki, Finland, (right) who arrived a month ago and Lieutenant Colonel David Griffin (left) from County Clare in Ireland, who started work here this week.

They are UNFICYP’s new Liaison Officers - Juha liaising with the military in the north, David with the National Guard. Describing the job, Juha explains: "We try to sort things out that haven’t been solved at sector level. We also work on issues that are handed down to us by the Force Commander, Chief of Staff and Chief Operations Officer."

David adds: "We make sure that UNFICYP is in daily contact with the opposing forces - either on the phone or face to face. This means that there is a permanent communication channel open."

David has carried out similar work before, for UNDOF (the United Nations Disengagement Force) in Damascus. For Juha, who has a signals background and describes himself as "more of a communications and information systems officer", it’s a new - but nonetheless interesting and demanding - experience.

Both officers also act as commanders of their respective contingents. Juha is one of nine Finns, David has eleven fellow Irishmen currently serving with UNFICYP.

And both are keen to explore the island, expressing a shared interest in the history and archaeology of Cyprus. Juha’s wife Helena, an enthusiastic historian, is already here, busily delving into the distant past. David’s wife Celine and their student sons are due out here later in the summer - "but only for a holiday" says David ruefully.

Force Commander látogatása magyar kontingensnél

**CARS FOR SALE**

Peugeot 405 QB1, white, Nov '88, air, radio/cass, duty paid, 41,500 miles. Tel: 4453518 or 664856.

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Meda 626 Estate 2.0 GT. Genuine 7-seater, a/c, cruise control, 65,000km, Ph: 0669970 (M).

Meda 626 white, 4-door sedan, 5-speed, a/c, power windows, keyless entry. Very good condition, 65,000km,担 duty free: (1,200) OBO. Available Tel: 776400, Ext 2059 (O).

Volkswagen Golf automatic saloon, 3 doors, duty free, only 17,000km, (15,000) Ph: 771834.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE**

Black leather sofa with 8 chairs, new upholstery, (220). Ph: 774325 or (220) 6498.

Complete house contents for sale including furniture, carpets, electrical appliances, crockery, crystal, pan and pans, many small prices are low and negotiable. Make an appointment to view. Tel: Mrs Dropoul at (221) 7790911/12 (O) or 731920 (D).

**ITEMS FOR HIRE**

**HIVE ITEMS FOR HIRE**

The UNPA WOA & Sins' Moss (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 2500/- per event. Two DJs are also available and separate arrangements should be made with the UNPA. Bookings for the disco should be made through the PMC, WO2 (071) 220666. (220) 65276 (D) at least seven days in advance.

Having a Party? The Youth Club is now available for hire. Many facilities including 5,000 vinyl records, 12,000 CD's, glasses, bar service, stage, seating and plenty of space are available. Tel: 731920 for more details.

**PROPERTY TO LET**

Flat in Lycavitos. Third floor, 3 bedroom, storeroom, covered parking, C/H, provision for a/c. Can be let furnished or unfurnished. Rent: 4000 (negotiable). Phone Yannos on (22) 344461 or 344357 or Yanna on (22) 806542.

Second floor apartment in a well-located 3 bedroom area for rent. Living room, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 balconies, 355m². Rent: €210. Phone Mrs Leto, 374820 or 591513.

House in Strovolon (11), Herodou Arhutou St. 220 sq.m with 3 bedrooms, hall, living room, kitchen, study, 2 bathrooms, laundry room, garage and c/h, overlooks sea. Rent: €150. Tel: 0222155.

Bedroom penthouse flat to let in Strovolon. 80 sq.m. Situated/dining room, TV room, study, large kitchen, bath, bedroom. Fully furnished, including all kitchen appliances. Split unit and separate shower in bedroom. Large veranda overlooking park. C/H and solar plan. Huge selection Available from end of May. Address: Ermoupolis Str. Tel: 0245. Call 337004 (O) or 024577 (D).

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**

Detached 3 bedroom furnished house for sale in Kifissia, 15 mins from UNPA. Large garden with orange and lemon trees. Phone (22) 906374.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

SERVICES AT ST. COLUMBIA'S CHURCH, AMPHITHEATRE, ELEUTHERIUS

Saturday 1st May, 18:00 hrs.
Saturday 8th May, 18:00 hrs.
Saturday 22nd May, 18:00 hrs.
Sunday Worship.
Sunday 22nd May, 10:00 hrs.
Sunday Worship.

The Vicar's Office (LPH), tel: 884760/1, Ext 301
BIG CHAPLAIN: Padre Philip McCormack.
Dutch Chaplain, Padre Peter "t Hooft.
BRITISH RC Chaplain - Father Kevin Prince

**FACILITIES**

**NICOSIA LIBRARY**

The Nicosia Library, 23 Syraco Road, UNPA. Tel: 395317. 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. Hurry! Prices of fiction & non-fiction books for adults and children.

Book search and reservation services.
Language classes and books in various languages.
Many music cassettes and books on tape.

**BRITISH TRAINED SEAMSTRESS**

All tailoring is in stock and available for formal occasions, ball gowns, wedding dresses and outfits, etc. Address: Betty Chandler, Mrs Chris Broad. 28 Yazanti Street, within UNPA (10 minutes walk from UNPA near Astra garage). Tel: 773206.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

TERRY TOYS PLAYGROUP, UNPA. Children from the UN and international community are most welcome. The group meets twice a week. Excellent facilities, air-conditioned, for English pre-school curriculum. Small numbers in class. For further information Tel: (22) 356655 (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. We are open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6.30-8.30 pm at St Michael's School in the UNPA. Our club is free of charge. We do everything from sporting activities to staging our own pantomimes.

Come along and make some new friends. For further information, contact Pat Faggion at (22) 359112, or pop in on one of the nights we are on and find out for yourself. Membership is £1.50 per term or £4 annually. Nightly subs. 50p for members and 75p for visitors.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED. The "BRATCON" youth club urgently requires new volunteers to help us at our twice-weekly sessions. If you have some free time and would like to work with a bunch of happy kids, please contact Pat on (22) 359112 for more information. Don't delay - pick up the phone NOW!

**NICOSIA LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW**

This week's book review was written by Jane Marley. The winners in the different categories are: Laura Themis, Martin Adams, Emily Moppett, Michael Murray and Anne Partledges.

Runners-up: Poppy Carter, Alison Carter, Lucy Egerton-Krist, Jamie Green, Frances Carter, WO2s Bayliss and Brieler.

All library members are invited to the prizegiving on the Nicosia Library on Tuesday 4 May at 1700.

SUMMER OPENING HOURS now effective: 10.00-13.00 & 17.00-19.00

**THE NICOSIA DOG SHelter**

We require a trainee volunteer for mornings with a view to full-time paid employment. Apply before April/May. Call (22) 359010.

It also desperately needs good homes for its many dogs and also needs help at the Shelter. The Charity Shop is open daily and needs donations. If you have any suitable household items, bric-a-brac, please call (22) 395958 and help to support a good cause.

To advertise in the Blue Beret, send your ad to the Advertising Office at HQ UNIFICYP or e-mail to blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com.
LARGE UN PARTICIPATION IN VIVICITTA RUN

A brief announcement in the previous issue of The Blue Beret was enough to attract over 30 UN personnel to take part in the international Vivicetta run on 18 April.

About 20 Argentinian soldiers left their camp in Skouriotissa early Sunday morning to reach the Strvolos athletics grounds behind the English School in time. Other runners were already warming up, helped by the good weather. An early-morning temperature of 28 degrees made it clear that to avoid dehydration, a good drinking discipline was necessary before, during and after the race.

At 10.30 hours, the participants started off on their 12-kilometre run, fighting the heat, the bulls and their opponents.

First, all had to do two-and-a-half laps on the circuit. Major Paul Kolken immediately took the lead, but was overtaken by several younger runners overtook him. Before finishing, 14 altogether, would do so.

One of them was the then unknown Austrian Corporal Patrik Malek, who only needed 46 minutes, 12 seconds to come first in his age category. (See: Future Mr Iron Man, above right).

The Civil Affairs branch was represented by John Galvin and Danny OFlynn. Normally, their colleague, Madeline Garlick, would certainly have participated. But this time, she had a very good excuse, taking part in the London Marathon. Madeline did very well and finished in 3 hours and 55 minutes. Her comment: "Running the marathon was all right. The hard part was rushing back to Cyprus, being confronted with delays and not being able to sleep. But I made it in time for the Monday morning briefing."!

THE FUTURE MR IRON MAN

"Not very hard to do," said Austrian Corporal Patrik Malek, when he heard the winning time of last year's Faggusta Old City run.

If you don't know Patrik, you might think this sounded a bit arrogant. But Patrik is a very good sportsman with an enormous endurance capability. His favourite sport is the triathlon, and he wants to compete in the one and only real Iron Man Triathlon in Hawaii next year. To be able to swim 3.5km in open water, to ride 180km on a bicycle and to run a whole marathon (42.2km), you need to train hard. "I want to finish within 10 hours," says Patrik. "So at home, my weekly training includes 15 kilometres of swimming, 400 kilometres on a bicycle and 100 kilometres of running. I hope to find the appropriate training facilities in Cyprus to train in my spare time."

Certainly not the first weeks of his tour. Sector Four conducted an extensive training phase after the new rotation came in. But expect to see more reports about the fast iron man from Knittelfeld, Austria, on this page.

Als der Österreichische Korpsal Patrik Malek die Vorjahresziele des Alstadtlaufes in Faggustau hörte, sagte er: „Nicht sehr schwer zu machen“.

BOATING IN THE "IN VICTA" BAR

The Gurkha Sappers have organised a number of social events and entertained numerous personalities within UNFICYP over the past five months. In their typically hospitable fashion, these events always start with the traditional Gurkha curry, followed by a variety of entertainment. Events included typical Nepalese dancing, pool, darts, and the "balancing boat".

The latter is perhaps the most unusual. As you can see from the quote (right), the competitor (in this case the Regimental 2/6) sits in the boat with a simulated paddle and four targets in front and two at the rear. The point of the game is to knock as many targets down within a given time frame - the individual who knocks down the most wins.

"NO WALK IN THE PARK"

A total of 28 teams gathered early on 17 April at Athalassa Park. All teams were to take part in the 12 Signal Unit Walkabout competition. Among them were seven UNFICYP teams: five male, one mixed and one female.

The three mixed teams set off for a cross-country orienteering over a 40 to 50 kilometres course. Diana Bridger and Gunners Sarah Phillips and Nicola Burgham joined Thea Joyce from the UNFICYP medical team training. Twice a week for a month, they ran in rain, wind and even snow. The benign chatter of what RSM Stephen Rowbotham describes as the "serving circle", kept the women going, and possibly kept the men away from training with them!

Following an equipment check to make sure each team had water bottles, waterproofs, whistles, compass, first aid kit, and torch, competitors were bussed out to a spot in the Troodos mountains, just north of Kapilo.

From here competitors had to navigate through five checkpoints back to the Albatross Club. Was it quicker to climb straight up through the vineyards or to find a track and run on that? A quick check in, water refill and off to Kallavas, the next checkpoint. False summits, daunting climbs, gorse undergrowth and lots of scratches were obstacles on the way to glory.

But there were also magnificent views, breathtaking nature and a fair bit of ancient history. Behind Curium, the old cobbled Roman road to Paphos led the competitors back to Episkopi.

Two hours after the EPI RUNNERS reported back in, the UNFICYP women claimed fourth place overall. They had to wait 100 minutes to see the mixed team finish. All five other UN teams were still competing. Falcon troop demonstrated the need for helicopters in this terrain: they didn’t have any, and finished in a time of 10.38 hrs.

As Lance Bombardier SJ Young commented: "It was a good day, a chance to brush up on map reading and to have a beer afterwards. If nothing else, it provided a change of scenery from the line."