SKILLS AND DRILLS IN THE BURNING SUN

Normally, a military skills competition is a combined test of skills, drills, knowledge and endurance. The latter can be particularly crucial - a swift run between different stations can help competitors make up for time penalties incurred during the tests themselves.

But the heat stress indicators on 23 July ruled out running between sections. So each competing group was given a set of wheels to travel from one station to another. And they naturally had to stick to the speed limits.

The car radios came in handy at the signals stand and at the observation and reporting stand. Here, Major Sándor Pávits from Hungary gave the groups a rundown of information on a miniature area of operations. He told them about minefields, ceasefire lines, observation posts and patrol tracks.

Within half an hour, fake forces started working on the minefield, overmanned their post and moved forward, while a hunter intruded the area. All the incidents had to be reported and some had to be reacted on. Austrian Sergeant Chris Holzknecht discovered that this isn’t an easy task. "Actually, this isn’t easy," he admitted. "I think we’ve done better to put a more experienced colleague over here to coordinate the patrol." When his handheld radio collapsed, things became even more difficult.

Slovenian Corporal Ales Franjko liked the abseiling best. "It’s the first time I’ve done it and although it doesn’t count towards the final score, it was great fun. I think we’re doing quite well. We certainly won’t finish last.”

By now we were halfway through the morning. In the distance, at the far end of the main runway, lay the decidedly rough looking mountain bike course. But this wasn’t the hardest section. That distinction went to the bleep test, run by British Bombardiers and PT instructor Mark Collins.

"In the UK army it’s a well-known means to measure a soldier’s physical fitness," he explained. “A taped series of bleeps mark the timeframes within which the competitor has to complete a 20-metre lap. Each next timeframe is shorter than the previous one, so the running speed has to go up all the time.”

The gymnasium of St Michael’s school wasn’t quite long enough so the milskillers had to test over 16 metres. Despite having the airconditioning on at full blast, backed up by fans, everyone agreed that it was the toughest section of the day.

Competition organiser Majors Tim Wood and Chris Wilks kindly provided a welcome respite with the next station: raft-building at the pool. The only real problem here seemed to be understanding the instructions.

"Construct a raft using all the given materials and cross the water. Clothes and equipment all have to reach the other side dry." Most teams stripped off their clothes and jumped in the water, pushing the rafts across with clothing, weapons, and equipment on board. Some, however, sat on the rafts and paddled across on the far-from-stable raft.

Superintendent Ken Uren defended UNICIPOL’s strategy. "Had this been Australia, no one would’ve dared swim for fear of being eaten by a crocodile or shark.”

The argument didn’t cut much ice with the officials.

Still, UNICIPOL, taking part in the competition for the first time, didn’t do too badly overall. They came in an honourable fourth.

Sector 4 (team 1) won, with Sector 2 (team 2) coming second, MFIR (team 1) third, then UNICIPOL, Sector 1 (team 2), MFR (team 2), Sector 4 (team 3), Sector 2 (team 1), Sector 2 (team 3), Sector 1 (team 1) and Sector 4 (team 2).

Observation and reporting

The skills competition is a demanding element of the UNICIPOL training programme. But, as Lieutenant Ron Molenair of the MFR says: “It’s fun. The soldiers love it - it’s way better than doing gate-duty.”
A recent issue UN Information Circular on the potential problems associated with the transition to the year 2000 contained the following tips:

- Individually, what can you do to be prepared, you and your family? That depends, of course, on where you are. Experts generally recognize that planning for Y2K in manufactures is not a solution for a known disaster like a storm of any kind. So, while this list is by no means exhaustive, it is recommended that:
  1. You should have supplies to last several days to a week for yourself and those who live with you. This includes having non-perishable food, water, and prescription medications that you regularly use.
  2. It may also be wise to have some extra cash on hand, in case electronic transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards, and the like cannot be completed.
  3. If you live in the northern hemisphere, extra blankets, coats, hats and gloves to keep yourself warm may also think of acquiring alternative heating devices.
  4. Make sure you have plenty of flashlights and extra batteries stored.
  5. If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure you have enough fuel to run it and only connect what you want power directly to the generator. Under no circumstances should you connect the generator to your home’s electrical system.
  6. You should check your car service prior to the end of 1999, and ensure that you keep it filled with fuel all times after mid-December 1999.

In a circular informative of the ONU recientes emitiendo en lo que respecta a algunos de los problemas que pueden surgir asociados con la transición al año 2000, se incluyen las siguientes recomendaciones:

- ¿Qué se puede hacer para estar preparados y la su familia? En este sentido, el lugar donde se encuentre. Los expertos generalmente reconocen que el problema del Y2K en las organizaciones se pueden preparar para desastres vástagos, pero no para cualquier tipo. Por tanto, esta lista de ninguna manera es exhaustiva, y recomienda lo siguiente:
  1. Deben ser guardados alimentos y elementos que ayudan a sobrevivir variadas, y asegurarse de que está conectado el generador a su sistema eléctrico.
  2. Si puede hacerse verificar su tarifa de luz y gas al año 2000, y se reparan las averías que pueda congelarse.
  3. Si planea utilizar un generador portátil, asegúrese de la generación de consumidores para accionarlo y utilizarlo en caso de necesidad extrema. Bajo ninguna circunstancia se deben utilizar el generador para el sistema eléctrico de su hogar.
Demystifying Life with the UN

By Captain Andreas Vis

One Tuesday in July, Sector 4 organised a four-hour line tour for twelve civilians who wanted to find out more about the life and work of a UN soldier. The main goal was to show them what their husbands do, and where they work.

Major Thomas Hatter prepared and guided this presentation of parts of our sector, which started at OP 140 and continued along the Dherinia line to OP 146 - otherwise known as "Baywatch" - overlooking the maritime security line.

During the tour he was assisted by Major Sándor Pátvís. At OP 142 they saw a video of past incidents in the sector. Afterwards, they moved on to OP 146 to one of the most impressive points of the Baywatch line, with a fantastic view of the sea. A case of water, everywhere but nothing they could swim in.

The presentation: (left to right) Lt Col James Forrest, Clemens Adams, Maj Gen Evergisto de Vergara, Dr Andonis Hadjighannas, Maj Hector Panigíth, and Dame Ann Hercus

On Friday 2 July, ARGAIR organised a party at its famous Banditos club. The Argentines are famous for their food (this time it was asado a criollo - a traditional barbecue) and their dancing, so the turnout was good. However, the main beneficiaries of this particular party weren't the tents to be rented, but the proceeds went to the Neurosurgical Children's Ward of Nicosia General Hospital.

The following week, Major Hector Panigíth, OC ARGAIR, handed over £304 taken in entrance fees to Dr Andonis Hadjighannas, the hospital's chief medical officer.

The Blue Beret

UN FLIGHT CHARITY PARTY

Unfliegende Flugzeuge

EINE KÜRZLICH VERÖFFENTLICHTE UN RUNDVERSICHERUNG, DIE SICH MIT DEM JAHRESProblem befassst hat, enthält folgende Ratschläge:

Was können Sie und Ihre Familie, aber auch Einzelpersonen, tun, um sich vor diesen Schäden zu schützen?


2. Außerdem sollte man etwas Bargeld zusätzlich zur Verfügung haben falls die elektronischen Zahlungsmittel (EC-Karte, Kreditkarte) nicht funktionieren.

3. Wenn sie auf der Nordhalbkugel wohnen sollen sie sicher einige extra Decken oder alternative Heizmöglichkeiten haben - bei der fehlenden Heizung in den Häusern.

4. Sie sollten die Telefonverbindung mit dem Wetteramt und der Feuerwehr haben.

5. Sie sollten die Adresse und Telefonnummer der nächsten Polizei- und Feuerwehrstation kennen und diese regelmäßig auf den Telefonvorlagen überprüfen.

6. Sie sollten den Telefon- und Elektroaggregate stets in einem besonderen Raum aufbewahren, damit sie leicht zugänglich sind.

7. Sie sollten die Telefonnummer der nächsten Polizei- und Feuerwehrstation kennen und diese regelmäßig auf den Telefonvorlagen überprüfen.

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Eighteen years ago, the Argentinean army started to integrate women into the force, acknowledging that women can be just as capable as men.

And since then, they have proved just how capable they are. Here in Cyprus, the Argentinean contingent has 13 female members, working in San Martín and Rocca Camps. There are three NCOs and ten privates. They work in Logistics, the Signals Branch, and the Health Division, and one works as secretary to the Commanding Officer. All this takes the women out to the OPs, and involves them in conducting health training, performing office tasks, taking part in and organising parades, and doing maintenance work, among other things.

Nowadays, women can enter the Military Academy for Officers and the NCO Army Academy. It takes them four years to become an officer and three to be an NCO. This is a period of hard military training and demanding studies.

Some people might think the army is a little tough for women, but demand for places at the academies is high.

There are more Argentinean women serving with UNFICYP than ever before in its history. They say they think they are fortunate to be here, and that they are happy to be with the UN in Cyprus.

“We never ever dream that we could represent our country in such a mission. It is a dream come true. The army gave us the opportunity and we have to take advantage of this. We really miss our families and friends in Argentina, but this is an unique experience. We feel very proud of our nation and all of those soldiers who accomplish the mission every year.”

Day by day these women work together and are great companions and friends, not only at work. A group of them went touring Cyprus together when they had leave last month. They are also enthusiastic and mutually supportive participants in a range of competitions. A number of them have entered marathons, for example, and one was a member of the Military Skills Competition team.

We men feel very proud of these brave and skillful women in Sector 1. We hope to continue to increase the number of women serving with UNFICYP to show other nations just what Argentinean women are made of.

El Ejército Argentino ha integrado a la mujer en la Fuerza desde el año 1981. A lo largo de la evolución de las sociedades y con la participación de la mujer en diferentes actos, ellas han logrado realizar todo tipo de tareas con la misma efectividad que los hombres.

Después de todo, en cada tarea han tenido excelentes resultadoss. El contingente de Argentina está compuesto por 13 mujeres quienes trabajan a lo largo del Campo San Martín y Campo Rocca. El mismo está conformado por 3 Suboficiales Subalternos y 10 Soldados Voluntarios. Ellas se desempeñan en los Cargos de Logística, Operaciones y Comunicaciones. También colaboran en la División de Salud Médica y en la Secretaría del Comandante de Sector 1. Otras actividades que realizan son de colaboración en los puestos de la línea, entrenamiento de enfermería, tareas de oficina, desfiles, trabajos de mantenimientos, etc.

Al momento, desde nuestra participación en UNFICYP, este es el contingente de mujeres más grande que haya enviado el Ejército Argentino. Todas estas jóvenes soldados, tuvieron la suerte y la posibilidad de concurrir a esta comisión y están muy contentas por esta distinción.

En estos días, la mujer argentina puede ingresar al Colegio Militar y optar a estudiar el Abogado, una carrera que nunca antes se le ofreció. Ahora, las mujeres pueden cursar estudios universitarios en prácticamente cualquier disciplina y tener la misma oportunidad que los hombres.

Aunque el Ejército da la imagen de ser un poco duro de sobrellevar para las mujeres, la República Argentina posee una gran cantidad de candidatas femeninas que son voluntarias para unirse a la vida militar y llevar el deseo de brindar sus mejores voluntades para el país.

Sobre sus participaciones en UNFICYP, las Soldados Voluntarias opinan: “Nunca pensamos en nuestras vidas, que algún día lo haríamos en nuestro país en esta Misión. El Ejército nos entrega esta oportunidad y debemos sacar ventaja para desarrollar todos los conocimientos posibles sobre esta vivencia. Realmente extrañamos a nuestras familias y amigos de Argentina, pero esto es necesario. No sentimos muy orgulosas de nuestra Nación y de todos esos soldados que cumplen con la Misión cada año.”

Día a día estas mujeres trabajan juntas y son grandes compañeras y amigas, no solo en el Ejército. Un grupo de ellas ha visitado lugares exóticos de Africa en el mes pasado, durante sus vacaciones. Así también participaron en competencias que se desarrollaron en la Isla y obtuvieron valiosos premios por sus capacidades.

Nos sentimos orguosos de estos valientes soldados quienes demuestran sus condiciones en cada actividad que se realiza en la misión. Aquí experimentamos a las mujeres, que a través del servicio y la inclusión nos integramos a estas agradables mujeres durante nuestras misiones, y así podemos mostrar a nuestros compañeros extranjeros cuán bellas y capaces son las Damas Argentinas.

On 12 July, Lance Corporal Zoe Edwards and myself set off to do a two-week basic parachuting course in Dhekela. We had no idea what to expect and nerves were running high. They calmed down, though, when we met the rest of the course participants and the lessons began.

When you know your life is at stake, you certainly pay full attention to what the instructors tell you. By the end of the day we were all wandering round muttering over the reserve drills: “Peel, Punch, Pull, Arch.” This was just in case any problem should occur and the reserve chutes have to be deployed. The day soon ended with all our drills well tuned. The next morning we were to jump for the first time. Needless to say, my nerves had revved up again, ensuring that I didn’t sleep at all.

The first jump was a static line jump and was a bit of a blur as my emotions took over. The second and third jumps were also static line jumps to ensure that we left the plane and got into position correctly. Each time it got a bit easier to leave the plane, and by the third we were ready to move on to the next phase.

Phase Two consisted of doing dummy pulls, until we were proficient enough to go “free-fall.” No one found any real problems with this phase and I got really excited when I was given the all clear to go free-falling.

Your first free-fall is the most dangerous jump. You just mustn’t let your nerves take over as you have to stay calm and composed to be able to pull your chute. I was the first one to do a free fall jump and I went (even if I say it myself) brilliantly. My exit and position were correct with the landing being really soft. Zoe had a good jump too, but her moment of glory didn’t last long as her next one went wrong. She jumped out but left the plane incorrectly, which meant she was plummeting to the ground upside down. In a split second she pulled her chute, but as she was upside down, both her legs got tangled up in the parachute. Luckily, she managed to free her legs, but not in time to prevent a hard landing. A lucky escape proves how dangerous a sport it is.

All the training culminated in a 30-second free-fall which has to be one of the best moments of my life. To say that I am now totally hooked on parachuting is an understatement, and I thoroughly recommend the Dhekela course to anyone. It has made my day and I hope to complete the advance course while I’m out here.
NEWS

WEDDING IN THE UNPA

By Captain Attila Rabai

Neve in the history of Hungarian peacekeeping has a Hungarian soldier married abroad. MCpl Tamás Kuti and Ms Vivien Brenner broke with tradition and tied the knot on 17 July at a wedding ceremony held in St Barnabas Church in the UNPA.

Having got the blessing of both sets of parents for this very unusual wedding, permission had to be obtained from the appropriate Hungarian authorities.

All wedding preparations were well in hand. Sector Four Padre, Austrian Alexander Pytlík, contributed to this very special occasion by undertaking a very hard task - again a first. He managed to learn the wedding ceremony in Hungarian and conducted it in the language of the bride and groom.

The wedding party was held in Camp Izay, where the young couple and their guests recalled some traditional Hungarian wedding customs, for example the "stealing of the young woman".

If anyone wants to know more about this practice - ask one of your Hungarian colleagues.

GOATLESS NO MORE

By Captain Vicki Walker

F irst of all, I would like to report, somewhat belatedly, the sad demise of the Welsh Gunner’s loyal servant, Bad Attitude. At the end of last year, we were abruptly left without the services of the evil-tempered, over-active goat, who had helped us through so many official parades and events.

The regiment’s deployment on operational tour to Cyprus thrust us back into a hectic whirlwind of visiting generals, politicians and civil dignitaries. Wishing to provide an appropriate ceremonial element to these visits, Sector 2’s SCAT team was tasked with Operation Goat – “The acquisition of goats, one, for the parading of”.

Major Phil Curtis delegated the chore and SSgt Andy Griffin and Sgt Dave Burge duly delivered after much searching around - with load protests from both that “I’m not looking after it if we find one.”

In fact, finding a goat in Cyprus is no problem. But they tend, unlike the ones we’re used to in the UK, to be brown with long, flowing ears.

The SCAT team managed to explain that we were looking for something rather lighter in colour, with smaller, perter, ears and curly horns. They also dodged attempts to present us with an over-sized sheep. (We’re the Welsh Gunners; of course we know the difference between a goat and a sheep.)

Thanks to the kind generosity of one of the Buffer Zone farmers, they finally came home with a white goat with ears that stick up, answering to the name Myfanwy.

Myfanwy is currently residing in Wolseley Barracks in a temporary paddock, awaiting transfer to her new permanent stables and looking distinctly nervous at the prospect of “Coat Training” with the Provost Bdr, Robbie Reynolds.

Her first engagement is the official Sector 2 cocktail party - we trust our guests will be as pleased to see Myfanwy as we are. But we are a bit worried as to how the chefs will react.

THE THOUSAND-POUND SWIM

By Corporal Major Mark Kingston

On 23 July, the UNFICYP Community Welfare Committee, handled over a donation of CP1,000 to two children’s charities. The donations were warmly received by the Eipilda Foundation and the Help Those With Cancer Charity. Both charities provide care for children suffering from cancer.

The money will be used to buy badly needed equipment. Both charities remarked on the committee’s continued generosity, and invited members to visit the hospitals to see what their hard work had achieved.

Over recent months, the committee has organised a firework display, band concerts and children’s events such as the Easter Egg hunt and support to other activities. The latest event organised by the committee was the 13 July swimming competition reported in the last issue of The Blue Beret.

Much of the credit for the success of this evening - and so many other events - goes to Susie Coats. Susie leaves Cyprus in September, after two years of unflagging work as chair of the committee. While she has been here, the committee has raised more than CP8,000 for deserving causes.

As Susie points out: “The money the committee’s raised has not only helped Cypriot charities, but has helped our own UNFICYP community in many ways.” She adds: “I would like to pay tribute to the committee, and all those who have helped us, for all their hard work during my time in Cyprus.”
**NEWS**

### Y2K CONSCIOUS

Newspapers and magazines are full of dire warnings about the impact changing over from the 1990s to the 2000s is going to have on the world’s computer systems. No one is really sure what will happen, but the general consensus is that it’s better to take precautions now.

Clearly, a vast organisation like the UN has as much at stake as anyone. So a worldwide effort has been taking place to ensure that its computer systems are upgraded to such an extent that they are “Y2K-proof”.

As part of this campaign, UNFICYP is updating the system in its Finance Section. Effie Petrou from NetU, a computer company in Nicosia, has spent a week training all personnel within the section on the new Sun Systems accounting software which includes ledger accounting, multi-currency report writing, purchase order processing, and an administrative course.

The aim is to change all the software in Finance from the current version (406) to the upgraded 425 software package in the autumn, in good time for the next millennium.

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### FIRES IN UNPA

A fire broke out on the afternoon of 22 June in the UNPA, beside the road running from the headquarters complex down to the car rental kiosk. Bone-dry grass meant it spread rapidly. The MFR, the UN Fire Crew, the military police, Support Services, and the local fire brigade got everything under control within a couple of hours.

This provides a timely reminder of the very real risk fire poses to us here in Cyprus. See Blue Beret Issue No 9 for tips on how to prevent fires breaking out, and what to do if you come across one.

Most important of all, if you spot a fire, call the JOC immediately (ext 4455).

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### THE CHANGING FACE OF THE UNPA

Recent media reports have highlighted the fact that UNFICYP has announced the closure of a number of shops and businesses currently located in the UNPA.

UNFICYP’s Chief Administrative Officer, Clemens Adams, explains that there were several factors behind the move, not least the need to rationalise UNFICYP’s operational costs as part of the UN General Assembly’s clear directive that the Force must find ways to reduce spending.

While the businesses may have appeared to run themselves, he points out, the cost of maintaining utilities such as electricity and water supplies for the premises was until recently covered by UNFICYP. Concessionaires now pay a token contribution for utilities.

UNFICYP’s financial burden has been increased by having business and other activities scattered across the wider UNPA area. This legacy from the days when there were more people living and working in the UNPA has proved both inefficient and costly. From now on, UNFICYP will work to “reduce its footprint” on the area, as Adams puts it, by consolidating facilities at the central camp.

The civilian police have already moved down to the main camp from their old location near the airport terminal. And the central warehouse is being transferred to the main camp from its previous site near UN Flight. All this means that space in the central camp is now at a premium - a key reason why some concessionaires are being asked to leave.

In addition, accommodation for soldiers is being transformed from the old-style barracks blocks to units with common rooms and indoor toilet and washing facilities. The old blocks slept twelve; the new ones eight. The administration is therefore having to find more buildings to use for accommodation.

Adams added that an extensive survey had been carried out among UNFICYP personnel before decisions were taken on which businesses were to be maintained and which were to be closed down. A questionnaire established how often different businesses were being used and assessed levels of customer satisfaction. It also highlighted the point that many businesses were duplicates - there are currently two barbers located side by side, for example, one of which has been doing much more trade than the other. All concessionaires have now received copies of the questionnaire, which indicated that some outlets had almost no customers at all. They were also given three months’ notice.

David Moussa, who runs a small sandwich and souvenir shop opposite the Civil Affairs Branch, complained that concessionaires were not given an opportunity to negotiate with UNFICYP about remaining on the site. He said that businesses such as his provided a convenient service for UNFICYP personnel.

Acknowledging this point, Adams said that a small number of essential services would be retained. New concessions will be given out for these, and current providers of services will have the chance to submit their proposals in a competitive bidding process. They include a single fast-food shop, one grocery store, one barber’s shop, a banking outlet, a tailor, and a laundry facility.

Meanwhile, the Cyprus Government has been encouraging UNFICYP to make greater use of downtown shops and restaurants, and to minimise the facilities available in the UNPA, concerned that shops and restaurants in Nicosia have been losing trade to the UNFICYP-subsidised UNPA premises.
**BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION**

**INTRA-SECTOR 2 SOCCER**

By Warrant Officer 2 Sjirk van der Werff

Football fever was high at the UNPA on the evening of 26 July. The Dutch 13 Battery (aka Sector Two West) had been lined up to play Turkish Cypriot forces, but the latter pulled out at the last minute, leaving 13 Battery with no one to play. The British 22 Regiment, however, came to the rescue.

This was the first time the Sector 2 West team had sported 13 Battery Air Defence shirts. The first half started off slowly for the Dutch, but by the second half the players had sorted themselves out and things began to gel. Team captain, Sgt Danny Wolff said after the game: “We weren’t that good in the first half as it was the first time we had played together, but after the break we were much better and started scoring.”

22 Regiment managed to hold out against 13 Battery to secure a 3-2 win. Team coach WO1 RSM John Hood said: “I enjoyed the game and 13 Battery played very well.”

The Dutch coach of the Dutch team, WO2 Sjirk van der Werff, said after the match: “This first game was a good start for the team and during the match they played better and better. We’ve established a good foundation to build upon and will play better in the next game.”

At the end of the match there were drinks and food for everyone, provided by personnel from Ypenburg. Goals were scored by Gnr Lucas and Ldnh Roberts for the Dutch, and Cpl Butler, Cpl Crabtree and Cpl Wallace for 22 Regiment.

**WELSH GUNNERS SHINE AT AKROTIRI**

By Major Miles Brown

When the news came through that we were going to Cyprus for a six-month period that included the summer, the Welsh Gunners’ Rugby Football Club decided to join the Akrotiri International Fododit 10s competition, which was fought out during the week 19-23 July.

The knowledge that the two previous winners had been teams representing the entire British army and air force did little to convince our modest regimental club that the competition would be anything other than brutally competitive.

The campaign started slowly with an unsatisfactory draw against the Army Veterans, although the result seemed to indicate we were doing better when the Veterans went on to win the competition. The result turned out to be just the shock that the team needed and a change of strategy brought devastating wins against a confident RAF Alligator (46-0) and the Akrotiri Ospreys (49-0). The Welsh played fast, open rugby, scoring from almost every attack under the leadership of Sgt Ned Kelly. Lpl Rich Yeomans distinguished himself by scoring a hat trick in each game. The Eplikopi Eagles were then dispatched in the quarter-final. The Gunners then came up against the rarely on-form Army team.

The match turned out to be the game of the tournament. Following massive hype and speculation from FBBS Cyprus everyone turned out to see if the Welsh Gunners could pull off the biggest upset for years. The Army took to the field resplendent in white, whilst the Gunners wore the traditional red, white and green of Wales. The referee blew to start the game, the army kicked off and full back Lt David Blackburn took the game forward with Lpl Yeomans and Capt Gareth Rhys-Evans in support. There was a lot of pressure and to the Army’s astonishment the Gunners had scored. SSgt Hall converted the try, making the perfect start to the match. Shaken but undaunted the Army pressed back and were rewarded with a try to make it 7-7 at half-time. The game settled down with chances for both sides, however well into the second half, under huge pressure, the Welsh scored a second try. They then had to suffer heartbreak when scrumhalf Lt Matt Young was knocked into touch only a yard from scoring what would have been the try of the season. The game ended in defeat, but by only 5 points to an Army side that then went on to beat the RAF by a larger margin in the final.

It was a hugely satisfying moment for all involved with the Welsh Gunners’ RFC. Army trials beckon for a number of players and everyone is now looking forward to the ‘99/00 season with new resolve. If anyone’d like to take us on, get in touch.

**UP WHERE WE BELONG**

By Lieutenant Sebastian Hitz

The lift goes up where we belong, where the eagles cry on a mountain high... Guess what we Austrians miss most in Cyprus?

Yes, That’s it. Snow and the Alps. (Sorry, Cyprus - the Troodos are nice but they aren’t quite the same.) So no wonder mountain guide, Captain Volkmar Ertl, was anxious to set up holds on the wall of UN position 49 in Varoshia.

The new climbing wall is quite something. The holds are very challenging and can be compared to a 6, partly 7 degree mountain. I recently joined the climbing enthusiasts who meet at the bottom of the wall in the evening, when the heat has abated. It was, of course, expert alpinist Captain Ertl who showed us the way up. Captain Matthias Ritz, Sector 4’s second mountain guide, was hot on his heels.

Their shared interest in climbing also leads the two officers to Cape Greco. From below, it looks as though they dance up and down the cliffs. It’s an amazing spectacle - two guys, completely at home in this sheer environment, hauling themselves up almost as quickly as they let themselves down.

“Dancing on the cliffs”