By Captain Gregorji Hvacija

Slovenian National Day (25 June) is probably the most important day in the year for Slovenian people. This is the day when, in 1991, the former Yugoslavian republic declared its independent status as the Republic of Slovenia.

For Slovenians serving in Cyprus, the 1999 National Day was even more solemn than usual. We have been accorded a great honour: UN OP 139 - previously called after a famous Austrian empress, Marie Therese, has been become a camp with a Slovenian name, Camp Triglav.

SICON has been deployed in UN OP 135 and UN OP 139 since September 1998. As it seems that SICON is likely to continue to look after OP 139, UNFICYP decided to give the camp a Slovenian name. Former SICON commander Major Marjan Videtic set the process in motion, and a month ago the Force Commander, Major General E. A. De Vergara handed over the signature of agreement to the SICON commander.

Then preparations for the renaming began. The contingent wanted to hold the celebration on Slovenian National Day and time was short. The week before the great day was especially busy for SICON and every soldier took part in getting ready for the event. Soldiers were drilling every detail for the ceremony, painting everything they could find to paint at the OP, cleaning the surroundings, and preparing the final programme.

So what does Triglav mean? Triglav is the highest mountain in Slovenia (it’s 2864m) and is a very famous national symbol. It’s hard to find a Slovenian who hasn’t climbed it. The name, which means three peaks (three heads) comes from its shape. We chose it for the camp because it symbolises the union of three contingents, Slovenian, Austrian and Hungarian, serving in the Sector 4 battalion.

For this unique event, the Slovenian Contingent and UNFICYP were visited by a high-ranking Slovenian delegation. This included State Secretary at the MOD, Bogdan Koprivnikar, C7 at Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) General Staff Colonel Primoz Savc; 1st Brigade 2/1c; Lieutenant Colonel Vojtek Mihovec, and former Slovenian Contingent Commander in Cyprus, Major Marjan Videtic.

Everyone met up on the evening of 24 June to celebrate Slovenian National Day and renaming of the camp. After the arrival of the Slovenian honour guard and a salute to the national anthem and flag, the most important guests made speeches. Everyone stressed the importance of multinational cooperation in the mission and the excellent contribution of SICON to UNFICYP.

After the celebration of Slovenian National Day, the guests moved to the entrance of the camp for the renaming. This was a very dignified and dramatic occasion, especially at the key moment, when the sign Camp Triglav was uncovered and the battalion padre Pytlík blessed the camp.

All good hosts prepare refreshments for their guests and we Slovians are no different from anyone else. Guests who were able to wait till it got dark were treated to a show about Slovenia’s natural and cultural treasures.

So the camp has been renamed and the Slovenians are well and truly in residence. Now, we have to make sure we maintain the same quality level of service to UNFICYP, and to thank all the guests, who honoured this event by their presence. We have also particularly to thank Lieutenant Colonel Helmut Pielschneider for his and Sector 4’s help in the organisation of the event.
Chief Superintendent Michael Fitzgerald arrived in Cyprus two weeks ago, to take up a six-month assignment as Deputy Commander UNICYPOL. At the end of the year, when the current Commander, Graham Taylor, returns to Australia, Michael will take over as the next police boss.

Before joining UNICYPOL, Michael spent seven years in his Chief Superintendent Divisional Commander supervisory role with the 500 police officers in Limerick, in the mid-west of Ireland. Limerick, which stands on the River Shannon, is one of the oldest cities in Ireland. Its police force is a busy one, dealing with 4,000 indictable crimes a year—"Murders, armed robberies, and a host of other things."

Michael has also worked in Dublin, Tipperary, and Cork. Kenne travellers, he and his wife Margaret have visited "at least 16 countries" ranging in size from Liechtenstein to the USA. It's one of his ambitions to go to Australia.

"I've been to a lot of places and done a lot of things, but something I really wanted to do was work for the United Nations," he says. "The UN makes a substantial contribution to world peace, and I wanted to be part of this."

He says he is impressed by what he has so far seen of UNICYPOL. "What I like to see here is people working, each doing their little bit. What we have here is a disciplined, a lot of different nationalities and a lot of different backgrounds. And we all have, high expectations of ourselves."

Margaret, who normally works as a nurse, is with him in Cyprus. Her two sons are still in Ireland - one in his last year at university studying engineering, and the other in the police force. His family and his job are the two most important things in Michael's life. The third is sport. "I'm very keen on rugby and was a member of the two big Limerick

Since January this year, UNICYPOL has been a fully integrated UN civilian police component within UNICYPOL. It comprises 35 police from the American Federal Police and 15 Irish National Police. These officers are posted in police stations strategically situated along the UN Buffer Zone, and also in the UN Headquarters. Australian and Irish police officers work side by side, performing the tasks required of a traditional police force.

It is important that all these officers maintain their integrity and that they are impartial. They need to be in good physical condition, as we are often asked to work long and irregular hours in extreme weather conditions.

Within UNICYPOL, we work closely with the military and civil affairs, doing our best to support them in their work. They, in turn, support us. We have one police officer attached to the Operations Branch and two with the report to the Chief Civil Affairs Officer. One officer in particular is responsible for assistance to UNICYPOL staff. We are involved with the Military and Civil components in outstanding cases. We establish contacts with the police in the north and south, as well as with the central authorities, municipalities, district offices, and schools.

It is our responsibility to deter unauthorised incursions into the Buffer Zone. We monitor demonstrations, receive petitions, and do our best to diffuse potentially volatile situations through negotiation and liaison. We conduct investigations when necessary. In conjunction with the Civil Affairs Branch, we carry out prison visits if people from the north get arrested in the south, and similarly if people from the south in the north. Together, we escort pilgrims from north to south and south to north, facilitate hospital visits, and assist in mail exchanges and money transfers. We also carry out some police patrols along the tracks in the Buffer Zone and in the villages, to provide an atmosphere of security.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our work is in speaking to the police officers in both north and south, and to feel that we are contributing to the restoration of normal conditions inside the Buffer Zone.

Michael Taylor
Commander UNICYPOL

Sinds Januari dit jaar is UNICYPOL een geheel geïntegreerd civiele politiecomponent binnen UNICYPOL. Het omvat 35 politiemedewerkers van de Amerikaanse Federaal Politie en 15 Ierse Nationale Politie. Deze politiemannen werken in politieposten gelegen aan de UN Buffer Zone, en ook in de UN Hoofdkwartier. Australische en Ierse politiemannen werken naast elkaar, zij hetal zij samen met en verschillende traditiepolitiefuncties worden vervuld.

Het is belangrijk dat de agente hun integriteit behouden en dat zij onpartijdig zijn. Ze moeten in goede conditie zijn omdat ze vaak lange dagen onder extreem onweer moeten werken.

Binnen UNICYPOL werken we nauw samen met militairen en met de afdeling civiele zaken. We doen ons best om hen te steunen in hun werk. Op hun beurt steunen zij ons. Een van onze werk als liaison binnen de afdeling operaties, terwijl twee agenten binnen civil affairs werken. Tenzij er iemand die bij de LEU heeft geanchord

Als politie-agent trekken we vaak op als eerste aanspreekpunt tussen de groepen mensen die in de Buffer Zone leven enzij en UNICYPOL anderzijds. Wij behandelen allerlei zaken, soms ongemakkelijk, in omgaan met. Alle houden we nauw contact met de politie en het zuiden als in het noorden, evenals met de centrale autoriteiten, burgemeesters, districtschepen enz.
ON TOUR IN SECTOR 4

New arrivals overlooking Pyla square

On 8 June, COs of Sector 1 and 2, Commander UNCIVPOL, OC UNFIL, and other senior UNFICYP personnel were invited to take part in a site tour in Sector 4. The aim was to familiarise them with areas 1 and 2 and Sector 4's tasks, locations and special features.

CO Sector 4 welcomed his guests at Sector 4’s most westerly permanently manned installation, OP 91. After an OP briefing, the whole party went on to Camp Berger, the command post of 1st Platoon / 1st Coy. Here, LtCol Flischnegger gave a briefing covering the whole area of responsibility of the Austrian-Hungarian-Slovenian Battalion. After looking into the area of Lymia and Louroujina from OP 96, we set off to Camp Izay, named after an Austrian officer who fell on 14 August 1974 together with two comrades as he tried to arrange a ceasefire near Goshi village.

Camp Izay, otherwise known as Little Budapest is the Coy HQ of 1st Coy and the HQ of 2nd Platoon. From Athienou, the next stop, the visitors were guided through the Buffer Zone to Camp Pyla and Pyla village to hear about the only mixed village in Cyprus and about the tasks and challenges that can occur here.

The Corridor Road took the convoy to OP 142. Here, they were informed about the violent demonstrations which took place in this Dherinia area in August 1996, with two demonstrators being killed.

Everyone who comes to Sector 4 wants to see Varosha. Although access to this area, located at the outskirts of Famagusta, is restricted, it was possible on this occasion.

The status quo of Varosha (for which the UN holds the Government of Turkey responsible) and UN’s tasks were the content of a briefing held on the roof of OP-152, a 12-floor former apartment house. After all the questions were answered, a little problem had to be solved: after 189 steps up to the roof, many visitors were too tired to walk down. The solution: descent by rope. A few, however, after having a look down to the ground, decided to do some more physical training and use the stairs.

SALLY IS NOT BORED

By Sally Kyriakides

When I came for my UNFICYP interview back in 1969, they asked me what my most recent work experience had been.

“Working in an RAF Public Information Office,” I said.

They didn’t have a vacancy in such an office, they told me. So I said I didn’t mind what I did, as long as it was nothing to do with money and figures.

But when I reported for work what did I discover? I’d been assigned to the finance section. I went home and told my husband “I’m only staying here till I find another job.” I never did find another job. But then again, I didn’t really look for one. It took me 26 years to escape from finance, however!

Five years later, on the morning of the second Turkish intervention, I brought my toddler son into work because our house was in a dangerous area. As I was there, I decided I might as well get on with some work, especially as only the Chief Finance Officer and myself had turned up. My son was a very active toddler, but I fed him as long as I could and in the calculators and typewriters, we should be safe. Then, to my great alarm, it was decided that some cameramen from UNHQ, New York, should be based on our office. They left their extremely expensive camera equipment lying all over the place, and I spent most of my time running around after my son, keeping him away from the cameras. The only time I managed to get any work done was when he fell asleep.

While we were camping like this in the offices, our Force Commander often took an early morning walk-about to see how the women and children were getting on. One morning I was making a pot of tea for the campers in Finance and threw yesterday’s dregs out of the window, narrowly missing the Force Commander!

In time, of course, we got back to more normal working conditions, until, eventually, the computer age hit UNFICYP. The finance office got the first one, and I’m sure it was already obsolete when it arrived. It bore no resemblance to today’s machines. We all had to share it. It had two alarming-looking red buttons, and the company who maintained it issued a dire warning not to touch them “unless you have to get out of the programme in an emergency”.

At the time, we had a very volatile Chief Finance Officer. One morning he kept coming into the computer room and asking if we had finished yet. Finally, he could wait no longer, and ordered us to get out so he could use the computer. So we started on the long routine that took us out of the programme. Mr Volatile couldn’t wait for this and he pressed both red buttons. Sure enough, he got out of the programme. But it took weeks to repair the damage, and Mr Volatile never accepted that he had anything to do with the damage.

Looking back over my 30 years of UNFICYP, there are so many more memories, the red chair that mysteriously went missing from the Force Commander’s Office and the fire drill we missed because we thought they were just fumigating the store rooms. Some, like these, are amusing. Others are sad, colleagues who have left or died. And others were even quite frightening.

But one thing’s certain. I couldn’t describe my three decades here as boring.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

By Lieutenant Ferry van Rosendal

I was trained to be an air defender. My tools were high-tech, a multi-million dollar Cheetahs. Their radars can observe an area with a radius of 15 kilometres, their weapons are feared by every sensible jet-pilot, their heaters make sure my personnel don’t get frostbite inside.

So there I am, assigned to work with UNFICYP for a period of six months. My tools are my personnel and their negotiating skills. Through their binoculars, they observe an area with a radius of about one kilometre. Their weapons? I expect and hope they don’t need to use them at all. And if so, only in case of self-defence. And the chances of getting frostbite are considered to be fairly low – expect at this time of year.

My very first impression of Cyprus - another Mediterranean holiday island - quickly faded when I entered the Buffer Zone. Observation points on either side and in the middle, the Falcon troop house - my home, my castle, at least for the coming six months.

A quick supper followed by the first of many briefings. About my area of responsibility, about my personal combat scheme, about particularities, about … almost too much to remember. But slowly it began to be coming to know and understand my new environment.

One of the particularities in the Falcon area is the Armenian cemetery. Every once in a while there will be a funeral, even though the premises is inside the Buffer Zone. To be introduced to the Armenian Bishop, a priest and the chairman of the church board, my predecessor took me to the bishopric. Prepared for an evening talking about religion, I was surprised by the topics raised: soccer, Feyenoord and beer. "You aren’t drinking beautifully," the priest told me. I suppose the church doesn’t have a "two can rule" like ours.

Which brings me to the next surprise: a few days after I was ordered to visit a range of bars and nightclubs in downtown Nicosia. All in the line of duty, honestly! I was the Emissary Underly Officer for the night, checking that everyone was behaving themselves.

It promises to be an interesting tour.

ST. COLOMBA'S CHURCH

With summer upon us, the congregation of St Colomba’s Church in the UNPDA has decided to move the time of the morning worship service to 0900 on Sunday mornings. Our primary concern for this change is the heat, and moving the Sunday service to 0900 will help a little, especially during the hotter months of July and August. We are also hopeful that this new time will possibly attract some new worshippers, who may feel encouraged to come along.

At the moment we are studying the Gospel of John in our service, and everyone is welcome to join us. If you are interested in learning more about the Bible and its relevance for modern society, feel free to either join us or contact the Reverend Pi McCormack, the Sector 2 Chaplain (home tel: 35918).

A warm welcome for everybody at Colomba's church
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO SERVE WITH UNFICYP?

By Lieutenant Sebastian Hitz

One obvious answer is hot. But there are other points worth mentioning. Spending day and night under a tent is not the way to be forced to live with people you’ve never met. It’s a bit like suddenly finding yourself married to six complete strangers. Sharing everything, supporting one another in sickness and in health. No one at home told us it would be like this. Still, bonds quickly develop. You have to rely on each other and the sooner you realise this the better. Personal weaknesses can’t remain hidden for long.

This can be a good thing, in fact. Just think of the money you might otherwise spend on psychotherapy. Here in Cyprus we get it free - from our colleagues. At home, in civilian life, people go home (on work, keeping their own thoughts about what happened during the day away). Here there are no such answers to doubt or misunderstanding - things that never get cleared up. Here, you live with the problems 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And there’s no keeping things quiet. Everything comes out in the open. And most things get sorted out too.

So much for the inner life of the peacekeeper. Now for a look outwards.

This sort of job brings you into contact with people you barely know, in places you wouldn’t have gone otherwise. But there you are, part of your life.

Keeping in touch with the communities on both sides of the Buffer Zone - and inside it - is crucial. Many problems can be solved (and even prevented) over a cup of coffee with a town clerk.

I can’t think of many places where uniformed soldiers walking through a village are so warmly welcomed. To be fair, we do make a real effort to be friendly, firm, and fair. Indeed, we are so impartial that when we run through the Buffer Zone and we need to clear our mouths, we make sure we do so in both directions so no one can get offended.

So, you can’t help liking work for UNFICYP? Unlike anything I’d ever expected. But extremely rewarding, all the same.

VISIT TO SECTOR 1

Sector I has recently said goodbye to Jeanette Everett, Assistant Director of the UN in Argentina. Jeanette spent five days here to update herself about what the soldiers do and how they live. This is important as it is her job to deal with all UNHQ in New York, and to advise on the rotation of UN missions, logistics issues, and airline charters.

She has been with the UN since 1970 and has visited a number of missions: she said it was five years since her last visit to Cyprus.

She confessed she always felt proud when a new Argentine contingent left the country.

“This visit gives me the chance to see you all again and check out the Argentinian troops are working and care and dedication in this distant land,” she said. “I hope I can see all of you when you come back to Cyprus. Meanwhile, I wish you a quiet and successful mission in Cyprus.”

A CASE HISTORY?

A car approaches the Mobile Force Reserve soldier at Foxstar Gate. The woman behind the wheel hands over her blue plastic card and the soldiers react.

“Why do you come here often,” asks the lad.

“Yes, quite regularly,” replies she, “My husband works here.”

“O.K.,” the soldier continues, “I will give you a free pass.”

“But why,” she asks, “Other times I am allowed straight in after showing my identity card.”

“Well, madam,” the soldier answers, “this is not your identity card, this is your credit card.”

SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND...?

By Captain Jeremy Mawdsley

Only a handful of people in the world can speak Anglogermanyrawinian to colloquial standard. Even fewer can also speak Spanish. Unfortunately for the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR), there is currently no one with these talents serving at the UNPA. As a result, most MFR soldiers now accomplished mine artists - although the MFR should never be described as a charade. All soldiers carry a notebook, in case a quick sketch is required to put a point across. There are a few linguists among us, but generally speaking the common language is English. That said, it is good to see how everyone takes an active interest in learning the basics of each other's languages. Within two weeks of arriving, most MFR soldiers can pass the test of day in at least four or five of the languages spoken by the different nations which contribute soldiers to the MFR.

The MFR is a company-sized group set aside for the Force Commander's personal direction and tasking. The platoons and sections of the MFR are structured by rank, not nationality. A typical platoon will consist of two British, one Dutch, three Hungarian, three Austrian, and five Argentinean soldiers, all mixed within the sections. National differences are further subdivided into marine and army - which can create a healthy rivalry between different MFR members.

The major benefit of working in such a diverse community is that it gives us the chance to adopt "best practices". We all bring new and different ways of doing things. Not all styles suit all situations, but there are lots of ideas, taken from a pool of experiences from theatres all over the world.

Since the arrival of a new British contingent a few weeks ago, the MFR has had a new commanding officer. Major Tim Wood, plus a new regiment of personnel from the UK. We have been working hard to integrate sub-units, use a common language, employ a mixed structure, and take part in joint sporting activities.

The only aspect of MFR life that is not integrated is the accommodation. It is vital for everyone to have the chance to relax together and talk freely - in their own languages.

Nonetheless, a tour round the UNPA in the evening will reveal groups of mixed groups of soldiers, all chattering in a strange blend of dialects, hand signals, and languages. A visitor could be forgiven for not knowing where any of us originally came from.

The MFR is a stimulating environment to work in. It gives us the chance to understand different cultures, beliefs, working practices, and a complete range of personalities. We do have differences of opinion, but these should be respected. What should be emphasised is the effort we make to understand each other. The MFR is, in a sense, the UN in microcosm: a group of people from different countries working together to achieve one aim: peace.

Tratar de entender y darse a entender

Solo unas cuantas personas en todo el mundo pueden hablar "Anglogermanyrawinian" de forma coloquial. Más difícil todavía es hablar castellano. Desafortunadamente, para la fuerza Movi de Reserva (FMK), no hay nadie que cuente con estos talentos dentro de la UNPA. Como resultado, muchos soldados de la FMR, se han convertido en "mimnos", aunque la FMR nunca debería ser descrita como un "mimno". Todos los soldados llevan consigo un cuaderno de notas en caso de tener que dibujar un "boecito" para darse a entender. Hay pocos de nosotros con características lingüísticas, por generalmente hablando, el inglés es el idioma común. Este, es bueno saber cómo cada qui español en los ejércitos es aceptado para el idioma del otro campo. Dos semanas después de haber llegado, la mayoría de los soldados de la FMR, pasan la mayor parte del día hablando en escuela. Seis tres, cuatro de los cinco idiomas hablados por diferentes naciones que contribuyen con soldados a la FMR.

La FMR es un destacamento especial formado separadamente bajo el control directo del Comandante de la Fuerza. Los pelotones y secciones de la FMR están estructurados por rango y no por nacionalidad. Un tipo peloteo de soldados, se compone de unidad británica, nueva holandesa, tres húngaras, tres austríacas y cinco argentinos, todos repartidos en las diferentes secciones. Diferentes dependerá de la línea nacional, que corresponden a la línea de la que pertenecen, entre la marina y el ejército, lo cual puede ser una fuente de saludable entre los diferentes miembros de la FMR.

El mayor beneficio de trabajar en una comunidad tan diversa, es de que nos brinda la oportunidad.
THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

Megértetni másokat és megértetni magunkat!

A "Cyprus Veteran" returned to the UNFICYP Force Military Police Unit on 23 March. Austrian WO2 Werner Lechner came back after two years of absence. Another career milestone, which will make up seven years in Cyprus with UNFICYP.

Lechner, (or Mac, as his friends call him), started with UNFICYP in 1983 as a Deputy OP Commander in what is now Sector 4. In 1989 he returned as an OP Commander and Deputy Platoon Leader in Sector 4 and joined the then Ministry of Security Company 1991.

In civilian life he is a Private Investigator, mainly for organised crime: He has been divorced twice, and has two daughters (Adina, 14 and Patricia, 13) who live in Austria.

In his free time he buzzes over Cyprus in various aircraft and the flying hours are building up as he makes for his Professional Pilot’s Licence.

So watch out: new trials and speed traps from the air may be a regular feature of the FMPU.
NEWS

NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

On 30 June, the UN Security Council unanimously agreed two resolutions on Cyprus. Resolution 1250 requests the Secretary-General to invite the leaders of the two sides to negotiations in the autumn of 1999. It calls upon the leaders to commit themselves to four principles: no preconditions, all issues on the table; commitment in good faith to continue to negotiate until a settlement is reached; and full consideration of relevant UN resolutions and treaties.

Resolution 1251 renews the UNFICYP mandate for another six months, expressing “grave concern at the increasing practice by both sides of engaging in provocative behaviour along the ceasefire lines” and calling on the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to continue to “work intensively with the two sides” to achieve a “new agreement on further specific tension-reducing steps”. The Council reiterates its “grave concern at the continuing excessive levels of military forces and armaments in the Republic of Cyprus and the rate at which they are being expanded, upgraded and modernised” and calls upon all concerned to commit to a reduction in defence spending and in the number of foreign troops on the island.

The resolution also reaffirms that a Cyprus settlement “must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereign and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence, territorial integrity safeguarded and comprising two politically equal communities ... in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession”.

SECTOR 2 ROCKS TO THE 1999 CSE ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

By Captain Vicki Walker

Take one comedian, two bands and three dancing girls, add 200 eager listeners, a kicking sound system and a dash of sultry night atmosphere and you have it: the 1999 Combined Services Entertainment Show brought to our very own Ledra Palace.

The setup was simple: a stage on the car park and plastic chairs arranged in rows, but the atmosphere was great and all thoughts of sampling were banished to the back of soldiers’ minds as Jim Tavare took the stage. Everyone was fair game for the comedian, although as they say, some are fairer game than others. On this occasion, UNCIIPOL and the RSM of Sector 2 were singled out for special treatment. Sgt Vrede, from 13 back of soldiers’ minds as Jim Tavare took the stage. Everyone was fair game for the comedian, although as they say, some are fairer game than others. On this occasion, UNCIIPOL and the RSM of Sector 2 were singled out for special treatment. Sgt Vrede, from 13

HUNGARIAN VISITORS

Zsolt Lanyi meets and greets his fellow countrymen

By Captain Attila Rábai

Június 10-én 9 magyar parlamenti képviselő látogatott meg az Osztrák-Magyar-Szlovén szakorvosok és szakértőkkel. A képviselők Zsolt Lanyi, a magyar parlamenti bűvölt osztrák magyar orvos, Budapestről és Lajos Csokor, a magyar katonaképviselő Cipruson.

A bizottságot Lányi Zsolt, a magyar parlamenti bűvölt osztrák magyar orvos, Budapestről és Lajos Csokor, a magyar katonaképviselő Cipruson.

STUDENTS VISIT KOKKINA

By Corporal Major Mark Kingston

On 26 June, two buses carrying 42 students from Falmagusta University crossed the Buffer Zone at Kato Pyrgos to visit Kokkina - an area of special significance for the Turkish Cypriot population.

The students were escorted by members of the UNFICYP Headquarters Civil Affairs Branch, UNCIIPOL, and Sector 1. As the buses passed through the village of Kato Pyrgos, local Greek Cypriots lined the roads and waved. Touching by this warm welcome, the students waved back.

Once at Kokkina, the students took part in a short service and wreath-laying ceremony at the Students’ Memorial. They then attended a barbecue and football match, laid on by the resident military personnel.

The students cemetery in the Kokkina pocket

No more heroes any more

The Blue Beret 8 July 1999

9
BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

STRONGEST AUSTRIAN

On 19 June, WO2 Christian Chmelu won the Austrian powerlifting championships in his weight class, 100 - 110 kg. Christian improved his personal best by lifting 230 kg in squad and 260 kg in deadlift and by benchpressing 122.5 kg. This result secures his participation in the World Championships which will be held in Canada in November. Keep training!

WELSH GUNNERS RUGBY

By Major Miles Brown

The Welsh Gunners took to the rugby field against Dhekelia Lions on Wednesday 30 June. It was the regiment’s first game since arriving in Cyprus a month ago, and the Welsh were keen to try out their skills in the island’s hard, hot conditions - a far cry from wet and windy Lincolnshire! Despite leaving a number of experienced players in Britain, the regiment was able to put out a young team, eager to prove themselves against an acclimatised and determined opposition. They were rewarded with a creditable 48-0 victory, although the score did not reflect the Lions’ pressure and missed opportunities. There were strong performances throughout the Welsh Gunners’ team, particularly from Corporal Richie Yeomans in the centre and Lieutenant David Blackburn at fullback. The Welsh even had some luck: Captain Rhys-Evans scoring from a fortunate ricochet off an opposing player. All in all an encouraging start, but much work still to do on the training ground!

LYNCH UNBEATABLE

By Lt André Pereira

Methala’s Menelaou was a young man from Lythrodontas who devoted his life to helping people fight drug addiction and to carrying out other good works. Tragically, on 11 February this year, he was killed in a car accident near his home. On 18 June, to celebrate Methalas’ memory, 141 runners gathered in Mithalas, the village where he died. Their task: to run the 4,300 metres to his home village of Lythrodontas. The first runner to cross the finish line was UCNIPOL’s super-charged Sg t Con Lynch, who covered the distance in 14'10".

Meanwhile, most of Sector 1’s 16 entrants came within the first 50. Soldier Alberto Leiva came second in the 20-29 age-group, and Soldier Alejandro de Leon was the second fastest woman under 34.

At the prizegiving session, Sector 1 was presented with a momento to record its participation in the race, and was warmly invited to come back again next year.

TOO BUSY LOOKING GOOD

By Staff Sergeant Dave Picken

Back in April, 20 Commando Battery RA and 13 Brigadiers Battery NL started training for their new role as the UNFYCP Mobile Force Reserve. Along with training for duties such as guards, patrols, fire-picket and QRF that everyone knows can be quite mundane, an additional task jumped out: “Pool Life Guard”. Eight soldiers dived at the chance of becoming trained as lifeguards and gave up their precious time off to undertake the pool lifeguard training course before they deployed.

Kids and grown-ups playing about in the water for six hours at a time and make sure no one drowns.

It’s now a month into the tour and another 12 soldiers of the MFR have thrown themselves forward to volunteer for lifeguard training and pool duty. Sue Norton of Dhekelia Garrison is the island’s chief Royal Life Saving Society examiner and will be conducting all training for the soldiers in the MFR. They will undergo 33 hours of intensive training over five days. The course runs concurrent with all normal MFR duties and the soldiers happily give much of their hard-earned time off to get the qualification. The course consists of one Hungarian, three Austrians, three British and five Dutch giving the MFR a total of 20 fully trained lifeguards.

It should be noted that the 50-metre Dolphin Pool was built by the British Army back in 1957, and the costs of maintaining it are largely borne by the British. All UN personnel have the right to use the pool in their free time, on payment of a fee, which helps pay for its upkeep.

PARTNERSHIP UNITED NATIONS AND FIFA

On Friday 18 June Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the President of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), Joseph Blatter, announced during a joint press conference that FIFA has agreed to fly the United Nations flag at all World Cup games, beginning with the FIFA Women’s World Cup series. The next day, Kofi Annan officially opened the FIFA Women’s World Cup at the Giants Stadium in New Jersey. These games are being held in the United States ending 10 July.

Both organisations also announced a series of joint activities to publicise United Nations activities throughout the world. The joint programmes will promote the themes of tolerance, health, development and social integration. They will address topics such as gender equality and efforts against racism; physical fitness and campaigns against smoking and drug abuse; children’s rights, education, social opportunity and the plight of children in armed conflict.