

THE Blue Beret

April 1992



MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL FINBAR MINEHANE FORCE COMMANDER, UNFICYP



Major General M F Minehane was born in Bantry, County Cork, Ireland on 2 June 1933. He entered the Defence Forces as an Officer Cadet in 1951, and was commissioned into the Infantry Corps on 23 November 1953 as a 2nd Lieutenant. Following a variety of appointments in Eastern Command, he was promoted Captain in 1962.

He was promoted Commandant in 1974, and served thereafter in that rank in both command and staff appointments at Battalion, Brigade and Command levels.

He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1982 and Colonel in 1989, after which he filled the appointment of Deputy Adjutant General at Defence Forces Headquarters. From March 1989 to November 1990, he was Military Adviser to the Irish Delegation at the Conference on Security and Confidence Building Measures and Disarmament (CSCE) in Vienna.

He was promoted Brigadier General in April 1991 and appointed General Officer Commanding Southern Command. He held this position until his promotion to Major General when he assumed the appointment as Force Commander UNFICYP in April 1992.

Major General Minehane served in the Congo in 1961, Cyprus in 1968 and Lebanon in 1979 and 1982. In 1961, he served with the 1st Irish Infantry Group in the Congo, during which time he saw action with the UN Force (ONUC), tasked to undertake action against the Kantangese Gendarmerie and Foreign Mercenaries.

His service with UNFICYP was in 1968 with the 10th Irish Infantry Group, which was then responsible for the Xeros, Lefka, Limnitis and Kokkina areas.

In 1979 as second-in-command of the Irish Battalion with UNIFIL in Lebanon, he again saw action when that unit, supported by Dutch and Ghanaian elements, successfully withstood assault on the Attiri-Kuneen area by the 'de facto' forces of South Lebanon.

He returned to Lebanon as Battalion Commander in 1982 and had first-hand experience of the "Peace for Galilee" operation, when the battalion had the difficult task of attempting to maintain the integrity of a major section of the UNIFIL area of operations.

Major General Minehane married Maura on 16 July 1959 and they have a family of four. The boys, Michael (born 1960) and Cathal (born 1964), live in Ireland. His daughters Anne (born 1962) and Niamh (born 1965) are now living in New York and Munich respectively.

He was an accomplished athlete and tennis player in his youth and still maintains an active interest in sports. He is a keen golfer and former Honorary Secretary and President of the prestigious Elm Park Golf Club in Dublin.

LAST INSPECTION BY GENERAL PHILIPP OF AUSCON



General Philipp and Lt Col Kloss
with Cpl Payer at OP-14

Before retiring, General Hannes Philipp visited the Austrian peace-keepers in Cyprus. General Philipp was not only the Commander of the "Theresianischen Military Academy", Austria's officers' training centre, but also the Austrian Army Commander. He held the appointment of FC in UNDOF between 1974-78, and was also one of the first Austrian officers in HQ UNFICYP in 1964.

In CDL V, Austrian soldiers had the opportunity to discuss current problems with General Philipp, who was impressed by their commitment to duty and their attitude to peace-keeping.

During his two-day visit to UNFICYP, the General had a meeting with Maj Gen Milner whom he knew from earlier days. General Philipp left Cyprus for Israel and Syria.

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 4

APRIL
1992

Published monthly by the Military Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, P.O.Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs together with captions should accompany the articles. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-Eil Press
Nicosia
Tel. 350186

Front Cover

MAJ GEN MILNER WELCOMING
THE NEW FC, MAJ GEN MINEHANE

by S/Sgt Kev Capon

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

In 1964, the Security Council authorised the formation of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and deployed it on the island. Since then, UNFICYP has been fully committed to its task under nine different Force Commanders, each one of whom has had the arduous task of steering a difficult course between military expediency and pragmatic diplomacy during his tenure of office.

In this fashion, the chapters of UNFICYP's history are written, each attributable to the stewardship of the respective Force Commander. On 8 April, those currently serving with UNFICYP witnessed the Change of Command ceremony, during which the transfer of command from Maj Gen Milner to Maj Gen Minehane was effected. Again, a chapter was closed and another was opened. On such an occasion, it is a time for all to reflect on UNFICYP including its successes, its difficulties and its future, not least because of the international debate generated by the recent Secretary General's Report and the subsequent resolution adopted by the Security Council.

Meantime, we bid farewell to Maj Gen Milner, who has served the United Nations so well as Force Commander for three years. We thank him for his leadership, and wish him continued good health and happiness for the future.

On behalf of UNFICYP, we also extend a hearty welcome to Maj Gen Minehane, and wish him well as he undertakes the difficult task of guiding the Force through whatever the future brings.

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NEW SENIOR ADVISER TO UNFICYP



J Paul Kavanagh from Ireland is the newly-appointed Senior Adviser to UNFICYP. Mr Kavanagh has joined UNFICYP following eight years' service in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General on a number of political files including the Iran-Iraq conflict, Namibia, Cambodia, aspects of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis and latterly Yugoslavia, undertaking many field missions in the process. He has assisted the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cyprus in the months prior to his taking up duty in Nicosia and will continue to do so while here.

Before joining the United Nations, Mr Kavanagh served in a number of diplomatic positions for his country, including its Embassy in the People's Republic of China and, briefly, as Private Secretary to the Head of the Diplomatic Service. He had earlier seen service with the Department of Defence (Army HQ) in Dublin.

A Graduate in Modern History of the National University of Ireland, Mr Kavanagh is married to Rosemary, née Cusack. They have two sons.



CANCON SERVICES COY - BBC



Lt Forget, WO Duguay and Cpl Soubrier assumed their new functions at the Pay Office.

10 February marked the arrival of the advance party of the new Services Coy from 3e R22eR, Sector Three. This group was, in the main, composed of the Coy Commander, his officers and NCOs from the different platoons. Their purpose was to learn and understand every aspect of their new responsibilities before taking over from 2 RCR. A week and a half later, they were joined by the main troops, who are now all familiar with their new functions. This Company is supported by national augmentees from different units all over Canada.

The principal task of the Company is to provide first and second line support to Sector Three, similarly so for the Canadian Contingent HQ. We assumed our duties on 23 Feb, and our troops are really enjoying the challenge.

Je me souviens

3e R22eR RETURNS TO CYPRUS



LCol Cagnon presents to LCol Geburt a 3 Vandoos plaque by way of thanks for a successful handover.

On 11 February 1992, the first group from the 3rd Battalion, the Royal 22nd Regiment arrived on Cypriot soil. This arrival marks the 57th rotation of Canadian troops in Cyprus and the replacement of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

The transfer between the two units took place over a two-week period, allowing each arriving flight the time to take stock of their new environment and duties. With their R22eR replacements under their wings, the departing Royal Canadians gave detailed briefings and line tours to ensure the transition would take place without a hitch. With two very eager groups, one to return to the less sunny and distinctly colder regions of New Brunswick in eastern Canada, and the other waiting to take over as soon as possible, the passage of information was completed with the minimum of delay. The final act was the change of command parade, held on 22 February, where LCol Robin Cagnon, Commanding Officer of 3rd Battalion, assumed control from the outgoing CO, LCol Tom Geburt.

We, the members of 3e R22eR, would like to thank the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Royal Canadian Regiment for ensuring such a smooth handover, and we look forward to our six month tour with the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

FROM THE EASTERN MILITIA AREA (QUEBEC) TO SECTOR THREE

by MCpl Martin Higgins, 8 PI Rural Coy



8 Platoon assembled, looking forward to leaving snowy Quebec for sunny Cyprus

The 60 militia augmentees participating with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal "vandoos" Regiment have come from all over southern Quebec in eastern Canada. We, the lucky few to have made it through the selection process, have accepted two challenges. The first - working within the regular portion of the Canadian Armed Forces - requires that for the next six months, the military way of life replaces the studies or civilian employment which normally occupy most of our time. The second challenge is one that we all face: keeping the peace, under the aegis of the United Nations for this 57th rotation of Canadian soldiers on the island.

The first step in our militia selection process was to be chosen from among the hundreds of nominees in Quebec to join the 3e R22eR in early January and begin pre-deployment training. Once this first hurdle was crossed, we still had to convince the Battalion that we could do the job. The physical condition testing and forced marches were just the thing to wake us up after the lazy holiday period between Christmas and the New Year.



Business as usual, setting into the routine

SECTOR THREE RECCE PLATOON



The reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Battalion commanded by Capt Brian Brulotte.

It was with a sense of enthusiasm and spontaneous relief that the reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Regiment left Canada and set foot upon the

sunny terra firma of Cyprus; after having spent the past three months in frigid arctic-like temperatures, our vandoos eagerly awaited the warmer climate.

A genuine sense of purpose prevailed as the members of the platoon undertook an intense schedule of familiarization with our new tasks, which in the main are three-fold - patrolling the line, escorting dignitaries and training for contingency operations.

Aside from the operational aspects of our mission in Cyprus, two members of the platoon have quickly made a name for themselves. The first is M/Cpl "Sticker" McGraw, who managed to come out clean and produce "the goods" after a brief delay of only three weeks. The second was M/Cpl "Kojak" Lavoie, who recently raised a few eyebrows. He either lost a bet, or he shampooed his hair with neat hair remover. He refuses to discuss that exact circumstances related to his hair loss...

The platoon will soon have settled into an active programme involving our peace-keeping mission. Our period in Cyprus has only just begun, and we look forward to an interesting and rewarding tour.

A DAY IN THE LIFE....

A typical day for a troop in BRITCON starts at 0700 hours, much to the relief of those who have been "staggering on" during the hours of darkness. Breakfast and all other meals are prepared by the troop's "hobby cook". These cooks are not always trained chefs, but may well be soldiers who have volunteered to spend their tour cooking. The level of skill varies, and although their efficiency is often the cause for debate, everyone tends to eat well.

The day usually settles down to a routine of duty in the observation towers and patrols. With patrols three times a day,



Compulsory reading for a hobby cook (L/Cpl G Stout)

dealing with problems such as checking farmers' passes, keeping a wary eye out for illegal poachers or, as the climate gets warmer, avoiding the millenia of bees now starting to populate Western Squadron's area, there is little time left for much else.

However, a great deal of effort is spent preventing boredom and frustration on the line. Adventure training courses are run by our team in Dhekelia. Each man receives two weeks' adventure training, the first week being a round robin of climbing, sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and diving. On his second week, he can do a course of his own choice.

For those who are obliged to remain on the line and who are not involved in military skills training or ranges, there is sport. Most troops arrange internal competitions in addition to those at Squadron level. The popular sports range from football, table tennis and volleyball to more passive activities such as trivial pursuit and monopoly during the consistent bad weather we have experienced this long winter.

To improve the quality of life in their OPs, most troops have started some form of project. These vary from such mundane tasks as redecoration to the building of a barbeque.



L/Cpl Cathrae and Tpr Wilkinson discuss farming with the locals whilst on patrol

With all this going on, it would seem that there is little time for days off. However, a few are lucky enough to relax in Ayia Napa or on the slopes of Mount Olympus. Each troop has a car and a flat dedicated for its own off duty use.

The evenings are a time to wind down after the day's activities with a quiet beer, a video or perhaps a trip down to the local tavern for a huge meze to supplement what the hobby cooks provided earlier unless, of course, you are on duty!



Tpr Bradley briefs 2/1st Dilnot from his OP



Tpr Baston engrossed in a game of draughts.

ROYAL ENGINEER DETACHMENT - SECTOR TWO

A detachment of 13 men of 20 Field Squadron from Maidstone in Kent took over in October 1991 from 9 Parachute Squadron. For some of the sappers, this was their third tour abroad in two years, with two of the Detachment returning to Cyprus after less than a year.

The task of the RE Det is to carry out the day-to-day maintenance of the OPs, provide up-to-date information on the minefields in the Sector, give technical engineer advice to the resident Line Regiment and also carry out some project work. The extent of project work is dependant upon funds and other tasking. However to date, two OPs have been rebuilt, a small soccer pitch and an HLS have been graded, the JRC at St David's Camp has been refurbished and at present the Detachment is assisting G Sqn 15/19H in the construction of an assault course.

On the sport and leisure front, the Detachment completed a run in relays along the entire length of the UN patrol track. This was done to raise money for a sapper from the Squadron who became paralysed from the neck down in an accident in September 1991. The 137 mile route was covered in 14½ hours and to date, over C£1,000 has been collected. The Engineers pass on their thanks to all who contributed, both financially and in assisting the event itself.

A rewarding aspect of the tour is meeting the other Sector engineers, although mainly on a social



Members of 20 Fd Sqn building the assault course under the watchful eye of WO2 Statt

From the right: Sgt Maj Statt, L/Cpl Thompson, Spr Holland, Spr Frost.

basis. The sappers distinguished themselves at the CANCON engineer party and a reciprocal party was held at the Box Factory which was enjoyed by all but particularly the DANCON and AUSCON engineers, who proved themselves reasonably adept at playing some of the party games.

In all, the tour so far has been challenging and has offered immense satisfaction to every one of us.

INDIANA TAB



Mr Chrisp and a grave near Dhenia being used for house foundations.

Quite apart from the usual duties of a United Nations Peace-keeping Force, G Sqn 15/19H have found themselves protecting the island's heritage.

The area around Dhenia, where OP B-24 is situated, stretching down towards the Merika riverbed and the Akaki lands, is the site of a massive prehistoric cemetery made up of rock cut chambered tombs, the hallmark of the Cypriot Bronze Age. The

earliest of these tombs dates from 2,500 BC.

The dead were interned in rock cut tombs comprising a blocked approach passage, "dromoi" and a subterranean chamber. To accompany the body into the afterlife, quantities of burial goods would be left, for example: slaughtered cattle, specialised drinking vessels, pottery, replicas of daggers and sheaths, highly stylised plank shaped pottery, females and clay models of sanctuary areas. Sadly, these goods have always attracted the attention of looters, and unfortunately most of the graves have been robbed, with much of the contents destroyed.

A further problem is the fact that a rock cut tomb provides an excellent place to deposit rubbish and, as seen in the photograph, to position the foundations of a new house. However as the dumping of rubbish, digging and building are not allowed in the Buffer Zone without permission from UNFICYP, efforts can now be made to limit damage in the area.

The result is that members of G Sqn are now familiar with the unusual but essential "anti-looting" patrol!

SECTOR FOUR NEWS

THE AUSTRIAN MEDICAL CENTRE



The medical crew in front of the Austrian Medical Centre. From left to right: Capt Dr Günter Rainer, Capt Dr Reza Homayuni, LCpl Jürgen Mondre, Cpl Ewald Leikam, WO1 Alfred Ruschek, Cpl Hans-Petr Cizek, Cpl Christian Ertl.

One of the most important sections of a battalion is, without doubt, the Medical Section. To date, there was no problem that our Medical Centre could not handle, and we were very proud of this fact. Under the command of Dr Günter Rainer, two other doctors serve the Austrian Battalion. One of them, Dr Thomas Schmoigl, is doing his utmost at our field medical post, based at Camp Izay in Athienou.

Dr Reza Homayuni is the other medical officer, presently serving in Famagusta with six additional medical orderlies, WO1 Alfred Ruschek, 2/SSgt Gottfried Schuller, MCpl Peter Cizek, Cpl Christian Ertl, Cpl Ewald Leikam and LCpl Jürgen Mondre.

Our "San-Villa", situated just beside Camp Duke Leopold V, has an interesting past. King Farouk of Egypt used it as his summer residence many years ago, and the harem was located there too. Now

unfortunately, not even one female can be found at the Medical Centre - apart from our dog, seen in the photo!

In addition to HQ Coy and 2 Coy, civilian emergency cases are also treated. Every month, the medical crew inspects the water for pollution and carries out medical checks throughout the whole Battalion. The Medical Centre includes a five-bed ward and is equipped with modern X-ray apparatus, a small but useful laboratory and a pharmacy. About 130 cases are treated each month with approximately 15 members of the Battalion being admitted as patients.

However lately, more and more soldiers are trying a new treatment practised by Dr Homayuni, known as "acupuncture". This is a very complicated procedure of Chinese origin which requires considerable professional training and an understanding of the parts played by the meridians (or kings), "yang", "yin", etc. Acupuncture needles, applied without pain, are the visible aspect of this treatment, and the procedure is repeated at 5-7 day intervals for approximately 15 sessions.

Dr Homayuni, who has been serving with UNFICYP since the last Austrian rotation, has already had great success in treating hay fever, migraine, vertigo, ear, nose and throat problems, sexual disorders, toothache, arthritis, sciatica, gastritis, asthma, weight disorders, etc. Smokers in particular have the opportunity to get rid of their vice!

Dr Homayuni also points out that modern medicine can cause side effects, whereas acupuncture does not. If anyone would like to consult Dr Homayuni, he can be contacted at Sector Four on Ext 181.



Dr Homayuni with a courageous soldier!



SECTOR FOUR NEWS

BELIEVE IT OR NOT



DO Steubelmüller before the treatment

It was yet another rainy day on this fair island of Cyprus, and the Camp hairdresser had already closed his shop. DO 1/Lt Armin Steubelmüller continued his work for the day, then parked his car in the old town and rushed through the pouring rain to the barber. The shop was busy, a tell-tale sign of a dependable barber. This reassured Armin, so he sat down with a Turkish coffee and waited his turn. He was the last customer - everyone else had left, and he was alone with the barber and his 10-year-old

assistant. The barber's eyes keenly scanned his client and found a small, circular bald spot near the right temple. He asked the origin of this peculiar bald patch, and Armin told him that it had been there for as long as he could remember. The barber then announced that he had a "cure" for this type of problem, used by his family from the 19th century...

The barber went about his duties, cutting his client's hair at a dazzling speed. The blades of his scissors separated and united in a wild dance of hair-cutting glory! He then reviewed his work - Armin's hair had been cut as precisely as an English lawn. The barber then used a small torch to burn the fallen hair from his ears, and the small boy filed his fingernails. Armin had not intended having a manicure, nor his neck massaged with a warm cloth!

The barber then spoke again of his cure for the bald spot. "Today", he said, "you have only seven hairs in this spot - on Friday you will have 20!" Finally, Armin agreed to try the method. The barber graciously offered him another cigarette, and then sent his lad to fetch a linen cloth and some garlic, while he himself brought salt on a

plate. It was then that Armin began to wonder if he had made a mistake. While he was wondering, the barber wrapped the cloth around his index finger and rubbed the victim's temple as hard as he could. Armin sank further down into his seat and his muscles became cramped and tense with the intense pain, as most of his skin had been rubbed away.

Now what? At this point, it was too late to stop the surgery. The garlic was cut and the barber proceeded to press it into the now open wound. The pain was excruciating. It was like someone prodding at one's brains or scratching at one's skull from the inside! To top that, the barber covered the open wound with a layer of salt - the final burning touch.

The only thing now in Armin's mind was to get out of there. As he was escaping, the barber called out "and on Friday, you will have 20 hairs!" Armin paid and left.

Out in the open, each drop of rain pounded on the open wound. Whilst driving back to the Camp, Armin looked into the mirror - nice haircut, he thought. What a hair raising experience!



Three weeks later... Nobody can doubt the result!

SHOOTING COMPETITION AT UNAB



A Shooting Competition recently took place to discover the best Austrian riflemen. 1 Coy, 2 Coy and HQ Coy took part in the competition, which was held at the shooting range in the UNPA.

HQ Coy came top in all sections of this contest, i.e. shooting competition, rifle competition and the Falling Plates. Pictured left is HQ Coy's winning team.

A FAREWELL TO THE 35TH AUSTCIVPOL CONTINGENT



Sgt Toni McNeill with the hospital bus. Over 1,000 patients were shuttled to hospitals in the South.

The 35th AUSTCIVPOL Contingent left Cyprus in March with mixed feelings. Whilst happy to be returning to their families back in Oz, many felt that leaving the island meant saying farewell to friends they had made here. The past six months had provided many operational and social highlights, and for some it was their first opportunity to travel outside Australia.

Most of the Contingent arrived in September 1991 to 40 degree temperatures and hot winds. Having just left an Australian winter, it took a little time to acclimatise, but the lure of the swimming pool and the SWEDCIVPOL Camp in Larnaca helped them settle in quickly.

After a one week introduction course, the 35th were left to get on with the job. Early tasks included enquiring into complaints related to damage to crops and equipment owned by farmers working in the Buffer Zone, investigating shots fired in the Buffer Zone and of dogs killing sheep. This meant the new Contingent had to start meeting the locals as well as the military in the sectors in which they worked.

In the last six months, AUSTCIVPOL undertook hospital runs where over 1,000 patients were shuttled from the North to hospitals in the South and back. Other humanitarian functions included visiting isolated communities and escorting released prisoners across the Buffer Zone. During their time in Cyprus, the Contingent members undertook a number of medical evacuation escorts including dangerously ill tourists and others needing to cross from one side to the other.

The police were called upon to attend demonstrations and to investigate about 15 fires in the Buffer Zone. In

the winter months, police joined with Sector One to dissuade hunters from entering the BZ. Although there was some conflict between the hunters and the UN, many problems were sorted out by police without escalation of the incident. The 35th Contingent has investigated over 600 incidents in all Sectors.

Of course, not all of the past six months were spent on operational tasks. Many Contingent members recalled the social highlights of the tour. Some told of Viking feasts, Lion Dancers in the Aussie Mess, fancy dress parties, the Austrians' carnival and Krampus nights, Swedish pancakes with pea soup, the Aussie Bush Dance and singing to the karaoke until the early hours of the morning.

Others went skiing, 5% of the Contingent contributed to the Unicorns' winning streak and, before winter set in, many went diving and sailing. The accommodation, the food, the "cold" and the exchange rate will stay in the minds of many, but most of all, the sharing of cultures and the many friends made will never be forgotten.

The 35th Contingent is returning to an Australian winter (three in a row for those who arrived in September). Their contribution to UNFICYP is greatly appreciated, and a big welcome goes out to the 36th Contingent who have just arrived.



Dave McCarthy (left) and Brett Simpson about to attack the Troodos slopes.



FSC SQN NEWS



Mr Freeland, 9th/12th Lancers, getting some much needed refreshment in Sector Two's area.

D Sqn 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers have settled down well to their role as the Force Scout Car Sqn and are already a third of the way to earning their UN medals. The Sqn is now used to the routine task of patrolling the Buffer Zone, and are happy with their first Force "crash out".

For the Sector Troops, the settling-in process was quick; they now prepare to rotate to their next Sector. For Third Troop, their first five week tour took them to Skouriotissa Camp in the heart of the Danish Sector. The living quarters, formerly

the home of the manager of the once thriving mining community, now renamed the "Old Vicarage" by its new occupants, was blessed with a somewhat overgrown garden. Thanks to Tprs Bray and Plaskitt, it is rapidly becoming a blooming "Kew Gardens".

Operationally, the Troop has been busy on treacherous and muddy patrol tracks, something Tprs Deakin and Borrall will vouch for! However between the hectic patrol programme, sports and maintenance, they have managed to spend a day at the Kokkina ranges and a couple of days skiing on Troodos.

Sector Two is Second Troop's operational area, an interesting part of the Buffer Zone in that it has both rural and urban patrols. This has been taken up manfully by our composite Lancer Troop with members from all three regiments. Led by Lt Freeland representing the 9th/12th Lancers, Sgt Jones, Tprs Cooke, Foley, Richards and Sealey representing 16th/5th Lancers and L/Cpl Hawksley from 17th/21st Lancers, all combine to make a formidable yet diplomatic troop of peace-keepers. As well as their patrolling, they have been involved with the many visits that we have already hosted. All have had a very interesting time so far.

First Troop has been hosted by the other new UNFICYP arrivals, the French Canadian Battalion. The main liaison forum is the bar-b-q and



Sgt Maj Bond on duty in Sector Four

in this, the Troop's main representatives are Cpl Roberts and Tpr Adams.

The Troop has also had a comprehensive patrolling programme which has run smoothly, but for the melting snow which caused the inevitable "bogged Ferret". However, Sgt Pike, Cpl Roberts and Tpr Adams eventually managed to set it free.

Finally, Fourth Troop are at Camp Izay with the Austrians who are undoubtedly very hospitable in every way. Cfn Gammon joined the Troop for the tour, and like the rest of the LAD has done sterling work in keeping the Ferrets on the road. While not on patrol, the Troop has been able to carry out its own fitness programme, including skiing in the Troodos mountains which enticed most Troop members! (Lt Morley, Cpl Radford, L/Cpl Holland and Tprs Williams and McCann).

The new FSC Sqn is now well settled and looks forward to the rest of its tour in some warmer weather!



On patrol in Sector Three



Sgt Foley, Tpr Plaskitt, Cpl Fallows and Tpr Bray in Sector One's area.

UN MP DETACHMENT, LARNACA



From the MP Detachment in Larnaca, four military policemen, representing three different contingents, monitor UN personnel in the major leave centres of Larnaca and Limassol. This is not an easy task, but Sgt Rowlands (Det Comd, Canada), Sgt Horvath and Sgt Scherer (Austria) and Sgt Palvala (Finland) are quite capable of handling it.

Part of their duty is searching cargo bound for UN flights, regardless of the national origin. Cpl Dave Eddy of the RAF Provost and Security Services from Episkopi provides a valuable service, as he is a dog handler whom we call upon to conduct bomb searches. Dave does, of course, have the easy job - the hard work is done by his able assistant Jip, seen here searching a cargo of foodstuffs being prepared for a flight to the Middle East. By the way, Dave is the one with the short ears!

ARRIVALS FROM DETMOLD



The photograph on the left shows Sgt Tim Selwood and Cpl Andy Pender, REME Aircraft Technicians, who have recently arrived at the Flight from 4 Regt AAC in Detmold, Germany. Tim was in Cyprus in 1988 when the UN Fit was being re-equipped with the Gazelles, and this is Andy's first tour with UNFICYP.

Having both served in Northern Ireland, BAOR and most recently Op Granby together, this is a most welcome "break" for the pair.

NEW UNFICYP SPOKESMAN



Waldemar Rokoszewski, who replaced Charles Gaulkin in late July 1991, was officially appointed UNFICYP Spokesman on 12 January 1992. Mr. Rokoszewski has worked for UNFICYP as a Political Affairs Officer since July 1988.

A career diplomat, he worked at CSCE process, public relations, human rights and economic questions. During his 20 years in diplomatic service, he was posted to Canada and Sweden.

Mr Rokoszewski, a national of Poland, was born on 28 August 1946. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Foreign Trade of the Higher School of Planning and Statistics of Warsaw. His wife, Danuta Halina, is with him in Cyprus. Their daughter, Joanna Luiza, is currently studying at the University of Missouri, USA.

THE GOLDEN OLDIES!



The smiles of the quartet hide the real thoughts of what lay ahead for them during the weekend of 7/8 March as they prepared to start the 50 km DANCON March.

Proving that age was no barrier to participation, Nelson Weatherby of HQ CANCON and Tony Chaytors of Support Regiment, whilst not willing to declare their age, were excused from carrying the under 50s' added weight!

In case of any "cardiac" related problems, they cleverly took along the CMO, Lt Col Skipworth (with BERGAN) and their more sprightly 'nurse' Lynda Chaytors!

Despite the somewhat gruelling nature of the March, they all felt a great sense of personal satisfaction in completing it, and would recommend this "fun" to anyone contemplating the DANCON March.

7 SQN RCT NEWS



WPlte Val Morrison on the DANCON March

March has proved to be a very busy time for the UN Tpt Sqn. By the beginning of the month, the Sqn felt fully settled into their operational role having got to know the personalities and various routes that are required for their taskings. Also, the serious business of training for the UNFICYP SAA and Military Skills Competitions commenced, at the end of which the Sqn gained very creditable results.

The Squadron also provided over 20 people to take part in the DANCON Marches, and although this proved quite painful for many,

all participants enjoyed their time in Sector One.

The month of March also saw three of the Squadron's SNCOs receive news of promotion. WO2 (SSM) Tonks has been selected for promotion to WO1, and both S/Sgts Brown and Appleby heard of their promotion to WO2. Congratulations to all three.

Looking forward, we are due to welcome a new face to UNFICYP, Capt Lorenzo Cariglia, who is currently on 7 Squadron's strength on attachment from the Italian Army. Lorenzo will take over as Squadron 2i/c at the beginning of May 1992.

RETURN TOUR

At the end of February 1992, WO2 (SSM) Bill Henderson (right in photo) officially handed over the appointment of Squadron Sergeant Major of 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron to WO2 (SSM) Benny Bennett. We bid fond farewell to Bill Henderson and his family, who are off to the UK for their last six months in the Army.

WO2 (SSM) Bennett is on his second tour with 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn, having served before as Radio Troop S/Sgt from 1987-1989. His service also includes several tours in BAOR and Northern Ireland. In 1982, he was fortunate to serve with 139 Signal Squadron in Australia.

WO2 (SSM) Bennett has jointed us again from Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps, and is looking forward to serving once again with this multinational force. He is supported by his wife Evelyn and two daughters, Deborah and Donna. We wish them all an enjoyable tour.



THE PEACE-KEEPERS

Between 12-18 February 1992, a television team from the UK was hosted by Sector Two. The aim was to make a programme on the role of UNFICYP with special emphasis on BRITCON. Over the one-week period, the team visited all Sectors and Contingents, delving into every aspect of the UN's life and operations in Cyprus. The Director was Mr John Rudley-Doyle, assisted by a locally hired crew of Australians, Mr Scott Hillier and Mr Chris Lewis from News Force, Nicosia.

Interviews were also obtained with the FC, the UN Special Representative and Commander BRITCON. The visit was a great success and our thanks go to all Contingents and personnel who assisted and participated in the project. A 1/2 hour programme was shown on British Forces television, and copies will be forthcoming in the near future.



The SSVC team: Mr Rutler-Doyle, Mr Scott Hillier and Mr Chris Lewis

VISIT FROM THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF DEFENCE



The Minister inspecting the Guard of Honour at HQ UNFICYP

On Wednesday 4 March, the Swedish Minister of Defence, Anders Björk, arrived in Cyprus from the Lebanon on an official visit, together with personnel from the Swedish Ministry of Defence, Lt Col Nils Alstermark from UN HQ in New York and the Swedish Ambassador to Cyprus and Israel, Mats Bergqvist. During the morning, the Minister met several officials both in Nicosia and within UNFICYP, and was given briefings on the Cyprus situation.

Later in the day, the Minister and officials visited the village of Pyla, and in the evening he was invited to a dinner at the Swedish Camp Flamingo in Larnaca, when he expressed his sincere thanks for the hospitality shown to him during his short stay in Cyprus.

SWEDCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE



The COS presents UNFICYP medal to Comander SWEDCIVPOL

SWEDCIVPOL comprises 18 police officers who are drawn from the ranks of the Swedish national police force. SWEDCIVPOL has been part of UNFICYP for the past 28 years, the first group of police officers having arrived on the island in 1964.

The 59th SWEDCIVPOL Contingent held its Medal Parade on 28 February 1992 at the Sandy Beach Hotel in Larnaca. The medals and tour numbers were awarded



Insp Jan-Erik Fors receiving his medal

to the 17 SWEDCIVPOL members by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier NL Fredenslund. After the formalities, a buffet dinner was served to all members and guests.



Admin Offr Lennart Malthed being decorated by the COS.



Chief Insp Christer Kindberg being congratulated by the COS

THE DANISH MEDAL PARADE



Following the cold and rainy periods of December and January, the members of DANCON 56 were rather apprehensive regarding the weather prospects for the forthcoming Medal Parade, due to take place at the beginning of February 1992.

The outlook appeared grim in the Skouriotissa area when heavy rain fell the day before the parade. There remained only one hope - the Danish padre, always an obliging friend in an emergency. He readily promised to refer the matter to "higher authority".

The great day fast approaching, we received instructions that units from Xeros and Limnitis were to proceed via Astromeritis to Skouriotissa, the road to Lefka having been destroyed by heavy rain, adding 1½ hours to the normal journey time. However we were amazed to find during our journey that, instead of rain clouds, the sky was blue and the sun was shining: in fact, ideal weather for the DANCON Medal Parade. Our chaplain had achieved the miracle of divine intervention on our behalf!

On presenting the medals, Brig N L Fredenslund referred to the fact that summer had indeed come to Cyprus, especially for this occasion.

Our thanks to the chaplain for his help, and our congratulations to all in DANCON who received their awards.





Ferret Scout Car on patrol in Sector Three