

Brigadier-General Vartiainen is Commander and Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland and holds the Medal for Military Merits of Finland. Born in 1943, Brigadier-General Vartiainen is married and has one daughter.

The new UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Colonel John Powell, was born in 1946 and was educated at Marlborough College and Durham University. He was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1966 into The Green Howards and served with his Regiment in the UK, Belize, BAOR, West Berlin and Northern Ireland (including exercises in Norway, Canada and an attachment to SAF Oman), occupying various appointments from Platoon Commander to Adjutant. He attended the Army Staff Course at Staff College and Camberley in 1977 and 1978, and was posted to the Ministry of Defence as MA2/CGS. He broke his leg skiing after 18 months in this appointment and, upon recovery, returned to the Ministry of Defence on DMO’S staff (MO2) for a further 18 months. He then commanded a company in his Regiment in Cyprus, England and BAOR from 1981-1984 before being posted as Chief Instructor at RMA Sandhurst, running the Standard Military Course.

He was promoted in March 1985 to Lieutenant Colonel to become S01(W) Weapons and Fighting Vehicles on the British Army Staff, Washington. He commanded 1st Battalion The Green Howards from January 1987 to July 1989, mostly in Londonderry and then in Catterick, which included the Regiment’s tercentenary. For his services in Northern Ireland, he was awarded the OBE.

Following command, he moved to the Royal College of Defence Studies in London as S01 JDS(Army), before being promoted to Colonel and posted to HQDT as Col AT1 in October 1991, responsible for individual training. Colonel Powell is accompanied by his wife Jill. We wish them both a happy and successful stay in Cyprus.

The Blue Beret
REGIMENTAL ADMIN OFFICE, SECTOR TWO

RAO Capt J M Whitelaw AGC (SPS)
AGC Det Cond Lt F J Maitland AGC (SPS)
RAOWO WO2 (SQMS) DC Siddall
Imprest Holder WO2 (SQMS) P Whiteside
SFA SSGt SJ A Graham
Chief Clerk Sgt S Davies
Part 2 Orders Clerk Cpl A Watt
Docs Clerk Cpl D Warren
Finance Clerk LCpl MA McKendry
Ovd RN NCO LCpl KD Pembroke
G2/3 Clerk Pte LE James
Mov Clerk Cpl F Stapleton
G Para Bty LCpl I Winterwood
I Para Bty Cpl U Williams
Ops Clk LCpl M Thornton

Following the departure of 2 RTR, the Admin Office of 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery is now responsible for the Finance and Administration of Sector Two BRITCON. After much reorganisation and unpacking of boxes, the department is now fully operational, supplying anything from cash to T-Shirts and postage stamps.

At the helm is Capt John Whitelaw, who spends his days equally between organising football, discussing football and selling T-Shirts. Our recent addition, LCpl Paul Naisbett, has joined us on commissioning and is still finding his way around.

WO2 (SQMS) Sid Siddall has taken over the role of RAOWO, which involves the day-to-day running of the office and paying the troops on the weekly pay run. Being new to the Finance side of things, he is constantly checking his balance after each payment, which can be seen from the photographs, whilst WO2 (SQMS) Pete Whiteside, the anchor man from HQ BRITCON, controls the Imprest account.

SSgt Steve Graham, when he can be found, is responsible for all non-public funds, including the running of the central booze store, and is official taster of all brands he has introduced.

SSgt Steve Davies, the Chief Clerk, is constantly under pressure in an attempt to satisfy the Regimental hierarchy, ably supported by Pte "Airborne" James, who at times allows his mind to wander to the joys of being a baby Para.

The main office is manned by Cpls Andy Watt, Del Warren and Frank Stapleton, as between them share the responsibility for documentation and movements. Del Warren is trying to instruct the other two on the art of blaming each other when things go wrong.

In the outer office you will find LCpl Kev Pembroke, dealing with the mail distribution, whilst LCpl "Mac" McKendry makes all the payments to the soldiers. In a short time, LCpl McKendry has mastered the art of asking everyone who draws cash where they are going and what the night is like there, thus planning his social life around the Intelligence gathered.

Working outside the office are Cpl (Wils) Williams, attached to 1 Para Bty, LCpl Ian Winterwood at G Para Bty with LCpl Mark Thornton in support of the Ops and Ops Info cells.

Regrettably, the time on island does not permit us the chance to relay some interesting stories, due to the overload of work to date, however things are settling down and our portfolio of good stories is filling up for future editions.

B TROOP

01 June saw the arrival of B Troop (Sphinx) Parachute Battery RHA attached to 2 Para Bty (Bull's TROOP) RHA in Cyprus. This is the first occasion that the present-day serving soldiers of B Troop have served as part of a UN peacekeeping force.

After our arrival at St David's Camp where we were issued with our equipment, we carried on to our final destination, Camp Liri, situated on the eastern outskirts of the city of Nicosia. The next day we started a full and very comprehensive familiarisation from our boots. As a result of several days, we spent most of our time touring around our areas of responsibility and trying not to get lost within the streets of Nicosia! At first sight a daunting task, but as the days progress we and we became more familiar with the area. A few hours were set aside to take in some of the sights and learn some of the history of this antediluvian city.

Now that the Troop has settled in, a few long-term projects have been started to try and improve the living conditions of the soldiers and to establish good relations with the locals.

On returning to Ortona House after six days on Sector Reserve, it was surprising to see two lorry-containers on the front lawn. It was a bit early for sea freight to be packed! The MFO boxes had only arrived about two weeks earlier. How was everyone to survive without quilts and electric fires? If they were to be shipped off home?? However, there was no need for alarm.

On looking closer, it was clear that these were not lorry-containers, but lorry-apartments. At least the answer to our overcrowding problem had arrived for those who are unaware, overcrowding is a problem when more than two men have to share a room. Though, like Guinessness, we are not bitter, we are thankful that after a few weeks, things are starting to happen. All that remains to be done now is for them to be connected to the electricity supply and the air conditioning fitted.

On 8 June 94, the main body fight arrived at Lamassa Airport, Cyprus to take over the United Nations peacekeeping role from 2 RTR. For most of the members of F Troop, this was their first Regimental tour and also their first UN tour.

After the coach journey to Wolsely Barracks where we were issued all our equipment for the tour, we moved on to Maple House (home for the next six months). No sooner had we arrived than we were straight into our kit and out on the line, learning all the Cease Fire Lines and our beloved OP Briefs.

After a few weeks, we have now settled into our daily routine, maintaining good relations with both the opposing forces and looking forward to the next four months in our peacekeeping role.

They're here! The porta-cabins arrive.

1 PARA BTY (BULL'S TROOP) RHA - SECTOR TWO

Para Bty's area of responsibility begins at Paphos Gate in Nicosia and runs through the city past Omorphia to the Sector boundary with AUSCON.

The Battery is split into three lino troops, and is controlled and administered by a Battery HQ situated at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The three troops are located at Maple House, Ortona and Camp Liri.

The Battery has settled in well having received an excellent handover from Burma Sqn, 2 RTR. Operationally the routine is varied with all elements of the Battery having now faced to face dealings with both sides.

On the sports and competitions front, the Battery was able to provide several members of the successful football team who lifted the UNIFCYP football trophy recently. Battery shots took part in the shooting competition. We are looking forward to what looks to be a hard fought inter-troop multi sports competition, and several members of the Battery are training for the UNIFCYP swimming competition scheduled for 3 August.

Gen Rose, Gen Hennell and LCDR Radford patrolling the BZ in Nicosia.

The Gentlemen of Bull's are here to work hard and play hard, each troop has contributed to this article and each has its own style. Read on.
BHQ ACTIVITIES

After thorough preparation
That filled all our days in May,
BHQ made the move to Cyprus
And was issued the Blue Beret.

"Stag on 7 RHA," was the cry
From the swiftly departing Tankies,
They left us the sun,
And a whole lot of fun,
And a huge load of sweaty old hankies.

And so we began
UN checkpoints to man
And our briefings we held every morning,
OPFR escorts, and meeting reports,
An extensive part of the BZ to scan.

BHQ is the nerve cell
A hard working team
Who'll never miss out on
A Fat-Boy's ice cream.

With the BC and BK
And the old BSIM,
We've more good experience,
Than ten lesser men.

The Ops Officer's lunatic
Of sensible sorts,
On sea fish and salmon
And raw slugs are his thoughts.

As for young officers,
There's a couple of those
To bungle and bluff,
And be kept on their toes.

By juggling Staff Fletcher
(He's totally awesome)
And Sergeant Major Commander
That makes up the foursome.

And, at times, it occurs,
(Though I hope it's true)
That we're all at a loss
When an IMREP comes through.

Is it a trick?
Some odd kind of lure?
What this incident needs
Is a new kind of cure.

And so he appears
In a bold shade of blue,
The crowd's going wild,
"UN MAN, it's true!"

What else do we cover?
The odd demonstration
Of the coup anniversary
And the Turkish intervention.

And last but not least,
We must mention the clerk,
Who when typing this piece
Stayed in long after dark.

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

On Monday 11 July 1994, Brig RM Lambe, MBE, as one of his last acts as Commander of the British Contingent, presented two members of the Contingent with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Warrant Officer Griffin is the Chief Clerk in the Contingent Headquarters, while Sergeant Taylor works in the Army Supply Detachment.

The medal is awarded for 15 years' exemplary service in the British Armed Forces.

UN MP MEDAL PARADE

On Friday 24 June 94, the UNFICYP MP Element held its half yearly Medal Parade with the FC, Maj Gen Minehan, presenting the recipients with medals and a medal in recognition of their service. As the FC moved down the front rank, the "Veterans" receiving their "number 2s" were easily spotted, as they had a deeper and darker suntan than everyone else present.

At the end of the parade, the FC said some very true words of praise about the valuable contribution the Element provides to the Force, and the effectiveness with which its members carry out their duties. He then went on to reprimand MCpl Gerry Grenier and Glen Perron for being improperly dressed (shock horror) and then, ordering them forward, he rectified the situation by presenting them with Sgt stripes and an unexpected promotion!

We then all retired to the bar for war stories and beer, making sure of course that we'd all booked taxis home first.

UN MP CANADIAN ROTATION

We are undertaking quite a large rotation within the UN MP Element at the moment and, as part of this change, we bade a fond farewell to our entire Canadian Contingent of Sgt Jim Goudie and MCpl Eric Levesque, Fabio Duchenes and Andy McLean, who are now back in their resident stations in Canada after a very successful tour with UNFICYP. In their place we say welcome to Sgts Bob Tarras, Eve Gaudreau, Glen Perron and Gerry Grenier. Since their arrival, both Gerry and Glen have received promotion to Sgt by none other than the Force Commander, Maj Gen Minehan, himself and all four were properly introduced to the MP Lounge that night during a Mug Out which consisted of a Karaoke and a spit roast pig.

All four have already settled in well to their roles as UN MP patrolmen and, if initial impressions are anything to go by, they will prove to be a credit to the UN MP Element, UNFICYP and Canada. Welcome, lads.

ARGENTINIAN PERSONALITIES AROUND HQ UNFICYP

LT Col Carlos Simonini graduated from the Argentine Military College in 1973, after which he served with the 8th Armour Regiment (AMX 13), 2nd Armour Regiment (SK 105 Kurasier) and 3rd Independent Scout Squadron (AML 90).

In 1983, LT Col Simonini was posted to the Cavalry Armour School as Armour Instructor for a Company Commander's course. In 1989, he graduated from the Staff Officers' School, following which he was posted there as a Staff Officer/Personnel & Logistics Instructor for doctrine and training.

In 1991/92, he joined the UN as a Military Observer in UNAVEM II (Angola). His last posting was with the General Staff of the Argentine Army at Buenos Aires City.

LT Col Simonini is married to Bibi and they have three daughters, all of whom are with them in Cyprus. His favourite sports are horse riding, jogging, tennis and pistol shooting.
The UNIFCYP Force Commander Major General Michael Minehane, talks to the Blue Beret about his last assignment with the United Nations on peace-keeping operations, his personal experiences and thoughts on the effectiveness and role of UNIFCYP in Cyprus.

Blue Beret: Now that you are coming to the end of your assignment with UNIFCYP, what kind of experiences have you had?

Force Commander: The mission of any peace-keeping force is the establishment of conditions under which the parties involved in the conflict could work peacefully together to reach a viable solution. The character and composition of UN field missions vary according to the peace-keeping tasks which may range from maintaining civil order to monitoring the implementation of complex agreements, including performing the role of peace-keeping operations as buffers between hostile elements in a conflict.

The experiences I have encountered during my present assignment are in many ways unique and different to previous appointments, both in content and level of accountability. They range from the traditional military command to responding to the changing requirements of HQ UN New York, coordinating troops from different contributing nations, maintaining the required level of knowledge and sensitivity of politics in Cyprus, and remaining calm under conditions of strain. The main events encountered on the military command side were:

- The withdrawal of two main contributors, ie Denmark and Canada;
- A draw-down by 50% from the UK;
- The resultant major redeployment;
- The inclusion of a Contingent from Argentina;
- Learning to live with a unique financing system; and

Civilization of the functions of a large UK Support Regiment.

Blue Beret: What do you think has been your personal contribution to UNIFCYP?

Force Commander: I think that my previous experience with UN missions as far back as 1961 in the Congo, followed by Cyprus in 1968 and the Lebanon in 1979 and 1982 have provided me with accumulated knowledge of the modus operandi of UN missions, and have helped me to co-ordinate effectively a complex organisation comprising a variety of disciplines such as operations, administration, logistics and financial departments, manned by specialists originating from a number of UN member states. It is not hard to appreciate the difficulties and imperfections that are inherent in such an environment. However, with determination and dedication to the UN mission, a workable system was maintained throughout my stay as Force Commander.

Blue Beret: Professional soldiers are the first to say that their prime aim is to prevent war. However, to achieve this, you need sufficient military strength. Would you say that following the recent reductions in the UNIFCYP presence on the island, the role of the UN in Cyprus has been reduced to a "symbolic" one?

Force Commander: I would not agree that our role has become symbolic. Yes, we are much reduced, but our presence is a moral as well as a symbolic one. We remain an essential physical presence in the Buffer Zone, representing the UN. Our supervisory presence and our availability as an impartial intermediary remain critical for stability and peace on the island, a condition essential to the pursuit of the Secretary-General’s mission of good offices.

Blue Beret: Is peace in Cyprus more fragile now than before?

Force Commander: No, I don’t see peace in Cyprus as more fragile than before. Despite the rhetoric, the situation is stable and our presence is appreciated by both communities. Interposed, as we are, between the two communities, we have contributed to creating the conditions necessary for peaceful settlement through negotiations.

Blue Beret: Do you think that the role of the UN has been enhanced over the last few years?

Force Commander: Following the important changes witnessed over the last few years, a greater number of states see the United Nations as a means, if not the means, of maintaining international peace and security. Looking at the Cyprus situation, out of necessity, we find ourselves with fewer soldiers doing the same tasks. The perception of us must surely be that we continue in a very pragmatic way to contribute to peace and security on the island.

Blue Beret: Having served in an international organisation, where is home for you now?

Force Commander: Home will be Dublin. My wife Maura and I retain strong links with Cork, where we have many relatives and friends.

Blue Beret: Is there a message you wish to convey to the members of UNIFCYP?

Force Commander: These last two years have been an extraordinary time for everyone. The Force lost long-term contributors and friends whom the Swedes, most of the Canadians and Danes were withdrawn. Their service and national character had become firmly implanted upon UNIFCYP to their great credit. Those remaining assured that the upheaval was minimised when Austria and the UK, between them, held the ring.

Yes... our presence is a moral as well as a symbolic one.**

To the relief of many, Argentina came to UNIFCYP’s rescue to reinforce a depleted line. Its Task Force arrived and quickly impressed us all with its robust professionalism and its universal popularity. As UK hands over responsibility to Argentina for providing the UNIFCYP Flight in September, I wish the new boys well.

The role of IRCIVPOL and AustCIVPOL expands monthly, as does their reputation for firm and fair dealing. IRCIVPOL’s setting up and running of the Ledra Exchange Point has been a marked success, as has IRCIVPOL’s presence in Pyla.

We have nearly civilised all the administrative functions, once performed by a Logistic Support Regiment, and it is very much to the credit of the civilian administrative staff, assisted by the military logistics staff, that the replacement of a 30-year-old system has caused so little turbulence.

I hand over the Force with mixed emotions. I have derived great pleasure from serving with you, and will take away many amusing and memorable images of you, the Force carrying out your duties. I am sad, too, because we shall not meet again. You have shown Maura and me such generous hospitality and friendship which we will treasure.

You must try to maintain the integrity of every square inch of the Buffer Zone, as you must maintain strict self-discipline in your duties.

While none of us would say these duties are inspiring or exciting, I must emphasize the importance of your presence. It is you who allow the politicians and diplomats to seek solutions in an atmosphere of relative security. But your task, I suspect, will remain long-term and one which I am sure you will continue to do to a high standard. May I wish you godspeed and a safe return to your families at the end of your tour. Thank you for your hard work.
FAMAGUSTA OLD CITY RUN
AND
ASC FUN COMPETITION

Saturday 11 June was a very spotty day for AUSCON and a fair number of international guests.

A series of sports events started at 0900 hrs with the Famagusta Old City Run, a 10 km event which led some 60 competitors - including 10 veterans - three times around the walled city. 71 sportsmen succeeded in finishing the tour, with Sgt. Chris Leeson as the winner of the men's class, and WO 1 Hernan Tadeo Cortinex as the winner of the veteran's class and also overall winner.

Then at 1300 hrs, the AUSCON Sports Club Fun Competition started in Camp Duke Leopold V, Sector Four's Headquarters. A decathlon took place including golf, shooting, billiards, coin throwing, can hitting, a bicycle trial, tennis, soccer, dart, and the wheel of fortune - all of which had to be completed to get a chance of winning a mountain bike, a sound machine, a camera, a weekend for two at the Cyprus Hilton or one of the numerous fun prizes.

The participants in the competition undoubtedly enjoyed the afternoon, as well as the subsequent evening with typical Austrian food, drink and music.

The overall winner, WO 1 Cortinex, with Lt Col Kloss and Maj Eder during the prize giving ceremony.

DELTA 17 PATROL BASE
by Lt Victor Sosa

D-17 stands out, due to the large area of responsibility that it covers, ie approximately 15 km comprising different geographical features such as hills, rivers, dams, valleys and plains. In some places, the survey of both Cease Fire Lines is performed from the OP's watchtower, some others from the top of the highest hills and the rest while conducting foot and vehicle patrols.

The personnel serving at D-17 are also deployed to occupy unmanned UN OPs on a random basis and for short periods to ensure a UN presence all along the Buffer Zone.

In cases where a specific point of interest cannot be reached due to minefields or terrain features, the weekly heli patrol provides adequate support for the task.

This type of operation was initiated about four months ago in order for the present Sector One to accomplish their mission more efficiently and with the same success that their predecessors attained.

SHOOTING COMPETITION - ARGCON
by Lt (Navy) Carlos Kamereth

A bit surprisingly, the month of June was a rather quiet period for peace-keeping troops deployed in Cyprus and it was, thus, a good opportunity to test professional skills, for example shooting. Therefore, on 30 June, in soaring temperatures, competitors from several contingents showed up on either the rifle or pistol ranges.

From the start, AUSCON were the favourites, due to their outstanding record in years gone by. However, the other teams decided to give the Austrians a run for their money, no matter what weapon they were going to use!

The final results were as follows:

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The Austrian team with their Steyr rifles.

The Argentinean team with the FALs.
FARMERS CONTROL EXERCISE

by Lt Gabriel Terza

On 1 June from 07:30 to 13:00 hrs, Charlie Coy (Marines), which runs the eastern area of Sector One's TAOR along the Buffer Zone, conducted an exercise aimed at checking UN permits granted to local workers by the Humanitarian Branch, thereby obtaining reliable data for statistical records. On this occasion, we counted on the professional support of the

AUSTCIVPOL Detachment based in Linou.

Charlie Coy deployed eight checkpoints between Potamis River and the eastern 20's, the boundary with the British Sector. Two Marines were posted with a radio at each checkpoint set on all the roads entering the Buffer Zone, while mobile patrols drove along the intermediate areas and secondary roads.

The local population openly cooperated with UN personnel and received with interest the explanations given by the Argentinian Marines, who then related the date and place where the Sector Humanitarian Officer would meet local farmers, shepherds and other workers to issue or renew Job Passes.

As a result of this exercise, 87 vehicles and 120 persons were identified, including 16 farmers.

Marines controlling pass permits during the exercise without permits and two with outdated ones.

It should be mentioned here that Sector One received excellent cooperation from the civilian population during this exercise, which will provide the background for efficient management of humanitarian activity in the Buffer Zone.

SPORT IN SKOURIOTISSA

by Capt Julio Belfi

At the end of May, a tournament was held in Skouriotissa Camp between the five Argentinian Companies based in Sector One including football, volleyball and swimming. Although all competitions were interesting, the most outstanding was the swimming race which, apart from the normal crawl, breast stroke and relay races, ended up with a funny contest called the "iron frog" - all, incidentally, won by the personnel of Skouriotissa Camp!

The most outstanding competitor was definitely 51-year-old Hernan Cortez, who, in addition to his performance on this occasion, has also won numerous prizes abroad in many sporting competitions.

ST MICHAEL’S SCHOOL - THE END OF AN ERA


St Michael’s Primary School is situated in the United Nations Protected Area at Nicosa. However, sadly, on Friday 15th July, the bell rang and the children skipped off home for the last time. Huge reductions in manpower over the last 18 months and the demise of Support Regiment have led to falling rolls. Now, with just twelve children remaining, the school has fallen victim to the government’s cost-cutting measures and been forced to close.

St Michael’s has always been a community school in the true sense of the word, and it has been a pleasure to work in partnership with parents and military personnel who have been committed to its success.

It was difficult to know how to mark such a sad occasion as the closure of a school, but, with a Barbecue for the children and their parents and a Thanksgiving Service conducted by Padre Joseph Lovelace, we think we struck the right balance. The children were fully involved in the planning and organisation of both events-making kebabs and sheftalia for the BBQ and learning songs and poems for the service - and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

THE ARGCON FOOTBALL COMPETITION

by Lt Cdr Raul Luna

This event took place between 20-29 June 1994 on the UNPA pitches, and was hosted by Sector One, with teams from Sectors One, Two, Four and HQ, UNICYP taking part. The best record was claimed by Sector One, and in the final against Sector Two, this team won 3-2. However, the overall winner was Sector Two.

Prizes were presented by the COO and CPO, who congratulated everyone for their competitive and friendly spirit throughout the event.

THE COO VISITS ALFA COY’S TAOR

by Capt Cesar Cassini

On 6 July, UNICYP’s outgoing Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col HJ Brünings-Hansen, visited all the OPs and OPTs in Alfa Coy’s TAOR in the western part of the Buffer Zone during his handover programme for the incoming COO, Lt Col Franz Leitgeb.

During this Line Tour, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen briefed his successor on different matters such as terrain features, the Status Quo, UN installations and tasks fulfilled by the Sector personnel. Lt Col Leitgeb thanked everyone for their assistance during the handover programme, and urged the personnel of Sector One to continue their efficient service to them as they have done in the past.

The visit concluded with a light lunch in Kokkinia Camp.

AUSTCIVPOL and their "LEARN TO SWIM" CLASSES

Once again, the Australian Police Contingent conducted "learn to swim" classes at the UNPA pool during May, June and July. The classes were open to children five years old and over, and ran for six weeks each Saturday morning, well attended by 15 children.

The highlight of the classes was to teach confidence in the water, standard safety procedures and then move on to instruct in basic freestyle and breaststroke techniques. At the end of the course, the children were proudly presented with a certificate of merit for their achievements.

A great time was had by all, instructors and children alike. Many of them can be seen at the pool during the week, playing and practising their new skills. Keep up the good efforts, kids!
INAUGURATION OF THE K.u.K. LETTERBOX

by MSgt H Smetana

The Austrian Field Post Office in Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta has a new letterbox, a facsimile of a "Maimz-Weber" which was in use during the days of the Austrian-Hungarian empire - a real K.u.K.

A masterpiece of craftsmanship

(which stands for Kaiserlich und Königlich, ie the Imperial and Royal) letterbox.

FPM Gerhard Meithuber had the idea of trying to get such a mail box, after he received a postcard from Austria with a photo of one on it.

As can be seen in the picture above, two of AUSCON's engineers, L/Cpl Fötschli and L/Cpl Reiter, built a true copy of the original within 45 working hours. The new letterbox was attached to the front side of the Post Office and solemnly inaugurated on 2 June 1994 by CO Sector Four, Lt Col A Kloss, FPM G Meithuber, L/Cpl C Fötschli and L/Cpl H Reiter.

FPM G Meithuber, who deals with approximately 300 kg of incoming and 100 kg of outgoing mail per week, is also a master of the violin, well-known all around the island as "Paddy Murphy". Furthermore, he uses his limited leisure time for extended bike tours.

NEW BRANCH HEADS WITHIN HQ UNFICYP

On 24 June 1994, Lt Col Adrian Ris handed over the post of Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer to Lt Col Roberto Osvaldo Ferrer, the first Argentinean to hold this post.

Lt Col Ferrer was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 17 Dec 73. He is a specialist Staff Officer who, having carried out the basic infantry, para, free jumping, special jumping, infantry advance and staff courses, has also completed postings in mechanized and airborne regiments. Lt Col Ferrer has previous UN experience in the Golan Heights (1989-1991) as a Military Observer and Operations Officer.

Lt Col Ferrer is married to Maria Mercedes Lagleyze, and they have four children, two girls and two boys aged between 16 and 2. He is interested in tennis, volleyball, swimming, horse riding and jogging, and his hobbies include classical music and reading.

THE NEW CPLO

On 13 June 1994, the last Dane to serve in UNFICYP, Lt Col Hans Brünings-Hansen, handed over the post of Chief Operations Officer to his Austrian successor, Lt Col Franz Leitgeb.

Lt Col Leitgeb was born in Styria, Austria on 21 July 1960. In 1978/79, he carried out his Basic and Reserve Officer's Training, and between 1979-1982 he attended the Military Academy.

From 1982 to 1988, he was OC of a Tank Coy and a Staff Officer in the HQ Cavalry Battalion. From 1988 to 1991, he attended a General Staff Course at the Defence Academy, and from 1991 to 1994, he was Deputy Chief Logistics Officer in 3 (Mech) Corps.

Lt Col Leitgeb is married to Bernadette, and they have a two-year-old daughter, Marietta Sophie.

THE BLUE BERET FUN AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PAGE

This page is aimed at helping Blue Beret readers to improve their knowledge on matters related to UNFICYP and the UN organization in general. I hope you find the Blue Beret Fun and Test Your Knowledge page useful. Your comments would be most welcome.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BB No 01

This is it - your chance to win a bottle of stimulant transparent liquid, highly recommended and kindly donated by the UNFICYP Spokesman! It will be given to the first all correct entry to be drawn out of the the Editor's top helmet! Solutions to arrive at the Spokesman's Office, c/o Asst Editor, HQ UNFICYP not later than 30 September 1994.

Clues:

Across:
1. Sweets, chocolates, etc.
8. Military Unit
12. UNFICYP SRSG (1967-1974)
13. Military ceremony
14. Together
15. Tests accuracy
17. Showing against authority
22. Ex UNFICYP SRSG: now Defence Minister for his country
23. Man's name

Down:
1. Cabs (anagram)
2. Nautical measure of speed
3. Colour or discus
4. You would keep it in your purse
5. Private vehicle
6. Organ of reason
9. Drink the health of
10. North American Indian
11. Harrow
16. Backless seat
17. Harbour
18. Use no words but act just the same
19. African River
20. Country found in Rain
21. Name of UNFICYP mediator (1964-65)

THE BLUE BERET TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. When did Cyprus become independent?
   a. 1958
   b. 1960
   c. 1963

2. When was UNFICYP established?
   a. March 1964
   b. October 1967
   c. July 1974

3. When was the UN Headquarters inaugurated?
   a. 1944
   b. 1947
   c. 1952

4. Who was the longest serving UNFICYP Commander?
   a. Lieutenant General D Prem Chand
   b. Major General G Grendel
   c. General K S Thimayya
DEPARTURE OF
MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL MINEHANE

During Major General Minehane’s tour in Cyprus, UNFICYP went through great changes. The above montage depicts some of the events which took place during this time.