

THE Blue Beret

August 1996





NEW CAO IN HQ UNFICYP



The new Chief Administrative Officer, Ms Shirley Baptiste, arrived in UNFICYP on 19 July 1996. She joined the United Nations in September 1972.

Most of Ms Baptiste's work experience has been in the area of economic and social development. As a member of the Technical Cooperation Unit, Statistical Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (now DESIPA), she was involved in administering and managing a technical cooperation programme in statistics to developing and least developed countries, and served as Chief of the Unit for four years (1984-1987).

In 1987, she was appointed as Chief, Management and Planning Section of the Statistical Division. In that capacity, she assisted the Director in managing the Division which included personnel administration, preparation and implementation of the budget and medium term plans.

In October 1994, she embarked on peace-keeping and was appointed CAO for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)

where she spent 15 months. While there, she was tasked with setting up the organizational structure for the Mission and successfully managed the Mission under very difficult and demanding operational conditions.

Upon completion of the assignment in UNOMIG, Ms Baptiste returned to New York HQ. There she was invited to join the Department for Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), where she served for four months in the Personnel Management and Support Service Section/FALD prior to taking up this assignment.

Ms Baptiste is a native of Guyana, South America, and holds a BA in Sociology from Hunter College, CUNY, New York. She is married, and has three grown children.



RENOVATION OF CHAPEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS BUFFER ZONE

The chapel of Panayia Pallouriotissa, situated in the United Nations Buffer Zone approximately 2 km west of Pyroi, was recently renovated by Austrian and Hungarian peace-keepers and made ready for church services.

The Battalion's engineers spent over 100 working hours on the project, and contributed approximately £500 towards construction expenses. The renovation project was a combination of effort including UN personnel, the Department of Antiquities and the Archbishopric of Cyprus.

The reconsecration of the chapel took place on 20 August, the National Day of Hungary. Within UNFICYP, this chapel is fondly known as "Ayios Stephanos Hungaricos", named after St Stephan, the first Hungarian king who founded the Hungarian state and church.

For this special occasion, Chaplain (Lt Col) Árpád Kóczán flew in from Hungary and began the mass in the Hungarian language. The service then became really international when he was joined by the Austrian chaplain, Dr John Okoro, and the Argentinian priest from Sector One.



Ayios Stephanos Hungaricos

On special occasions, clearance is provided by the United Nations for civilians to attend church services in this chapel, particularly those people living in the village of Potamia.

Following the church service, HUNCON hosted a small party. Included in the day's celebrations were the Force Commander, CO AUSCON, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots from the village of Potamia. HUNCON would like to thank everyone for making this a very pleasant Hungarian National Day.

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Telephone: (02) 359550
Fax: 359753

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Sgt Bobbie Lipsett
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Gabriel Villagran
Sector Two	Lt Sarah Templer-Clarke
Sector Four	Capt Siegfried Perr
AUSCIVPOL	Sgt Denise Cosgrove
IRCIIVPOL	Insp John Leahy
Perm FR	Capt Andy Taylor
MP Elm	SSgt Dale Roberts
Camp Command	Sgt John Gallagher

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.

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FRONT COVER:

UNFICYP HUMAN CHAIN
AT DHERINIA
ON 11 AUGUST 1996

BY CAPT SIEGFRIED PERR

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The month of August witnessed some of the worst incidents of violence since 1974 - the inexcusable killing of two Greek Cypriot demonstrators, two peace-keepers wounded by gun shots, not to mention the many injuries and bruises, some of them serious. UNFICYP's public image was bruised as well, at least temporarily. It took the Cypriot public opinion, shocked by the horrible pictures of violence during the demonstrations which were transmitted live into almost every household, some time to realize that UNFICYP had indeed done its part of the job. UNFICYP personnel performed well under great strain. Two members of IRCIVPOL deserve particular commendation for their dedication and courage (see page 5).

UNFICYP played a unique role in defusing tension between the two parties. During the height of the crisis, rumours and disinformation were rampant on both sides which could easily have triggered military clashes. UNFICYP's liaison officers attached to the police and military headquarters were instrumental in keeping both sides informed of developments and in quickly clarifying any misperceptions.

The tragic events of 11 and 14 August underlined starkly the necessity for the parties to the 1974 cease-fire arrangement to fulfil their respective obligations. The 1974 cease-fire arrangement is a tripartite agreement, with clear obligations for each party. First, each side is responsible for preventing persons from crossing their respective cease-fire lines into the United Nations Buffer Zone. Second, violations by one side do not justify violations by the other. Third, both sides must recognize that the UN Buffer Zone is the sole responsibility of the United Nations. Under no circumstances should either side interfere with the functions of UNFICYP to control the Buffer Zone.

UNFICYP lived up to its responsibility - it is vital that the two other parties to the 1974 cease-fire arrangement fulfil their obligations as well.

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CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN UNFICYP



The month of August once again underscored that, even after 22 years, UNFICYP's presence in Cyprus is still indispensable. Faced with disturbances of a magnitude not witnessed on the island for years, UNFICYP proved the value of peace-keeping, both in terms of doctrine and in its application in times of crisis. The demonstrations in the UN Buffer Zone on 11 and 14 August compelled the Force to go into crisis management mode: to anticipate the unknown and to be prepared for the unforeseen.

Conceptually, effective crisis management requires a clear objective. UNFICYP's mission in this regard is clear: to maintain, in cooperation with the parties, the integrity of the UN Buffer Zone (UNBZ), or, where this fails, to contain incursions or violent incidents to the extent possible. UNFICYP is solely responsible for control within the UNBZ. Neither party is permitted to interfere with this function. Once persons have crossed the respective cease-fire lines (CFLs), UNFICYP's role is to deny access to the opposite CFL and to ensure that they leave the UNBZ as soon as possible. Against this objective, all levels of the Force must exercise sound judgement and react quickly.

Information is the second element of critical importance, both for the operations of the Force and for the mobilization of political cooperation and support. As a peace-keeping operation, UNFICYP obtains information from a wide range of open sources. Comprehensive liaison with the parties at all levels generates confidence and allows a two-way flow of information. Proper liaison arrangements also facilitate the rapid defusion of any tension that may result from disinformation and rumours which usually are rampant during crisis situations.



Communications - vital for crisis management

In addition to its internal needs, UNFICYP has to provide information to the opposing parties, the Secretary-General and the Security Council in New York. At headquarters level in New York, accurate, concise, and, most of all, impartial information is a vital means for the United Nations to keep Member States apprised of developments and to muster their support for whatever measures may be appropriate to address a crisis situation. These information needs may vary in both timing and substance. Last, but by no means least, UNFICYP has to be able to quickly and accurately respond to the media.

These demands, all with their own priorities, necessitate an accurate flow to and assessment of factual information by the central Command Centre established in HQ UNFICYP to manage crises. The central Command Centre produces a "fusion" of the available information and then responds quickly to changing circumstances. Force assets are controlled from one and the same location, permitting information and common decisions to be passed on accurately and expeditiously.

The existing Joint Operations Centre (JOC) becomes the communications focal point for the Command Centre, enabling routine messages, faxes and telephone calls to be processed without disturbing the Command Centre staff. In addition, a small room next to the JOC has television sets installed, with translators capable of monitoring events broadcast on local television stations.

During the demonstrations, UNFICYP applied the above principles flexibly with the assets available. However, while past Force reductions have constrained some options, there can be little doubt that UNFICYP has proved its ability to carry out its tasks and to cope with unforeseen events in an effective manner.

Coping with the unforeseen requires a particular mind-set. Members of the Force have to be ready to respond quickly to any eventuality, to move swiftly from their normal area of operation to another. They have to develop a responsive attitude and a sense of urgency. This places particular and unusual demands on commanders at all levels who have to grasp the situation, plan for all eventualities and instill a sense of preparedness, speed of reaction and a high degree of urgency. Sound and frequent training and an understanding by all ranks of the functioning of UNFICYP and their part in it are essential. If the reasons for the actions are understood, they are much more easily implemented.

The ability to manage a crisis is not something which can be achieved instantly; it requires long-term preparation. In whatever it is doing, UNFICYP needs to bear in mind the requirement of impartiality. The establishment of firm, fair and friendly relations with the parties is an essential element in gaining their trust. This trust is directly affected by the everyday behaviour of the Force as well as the manner in which it responds to challenges. A professional response to incidents, combined with responsible and professional behaviour, both on and off-duty, play an important part in earning the respect of both sides which is so vital to the success of the mission.

UNFICYP's performance during the events of the second week of August is proof that the Force can handle crises effectively. This period was one of considerable strain and exertion at all levels. Preparations had been completed during the lengthy build-up and all involved had been briefed. A detailed and manpower intensive liaison system was established and personnel deployed. The HQ Command Centre was running. All that could be done, had been done.

The actual demonstrations turned out to be totally unpredictable. As a result, UN Flight helicopters had to be continuously re-tasked to track the movements of the demonstrators. Liaison officers were ringing in to the Command Centre with minute by minute accounts of the demonstrators' fluctuating moves. The ever changing routes of the demonstrators necessitated the placing of further reserves on reduced notices to move, and then their movement to new flash points. The Sectors were re-briefed, and further reserves generated. Blocks were established or reinforced in those areas deemed to be the most



Exhaustion at Dherinia

likely targets for the demonstrators. The entire Force was in position, on the move or preparing to move. All this occurred under a constant bombardment of enquiries from the media which had to be met with quick and accurate replies.

Any plan is only as good as its execution. When changes occur, responsibility tends to devolve to the person on the ground. UNFICYP's police and soldiers on the line proved their mettle. Their dedication was exemplified by the bravery shown by two members of IRCIVPOL (see below) during the demonstration on the 11th. Their actions saved the life of one young person, placing themselves at great personal risk. They exhibited the true quality of well-motivated, peace-keeping personnel.

UNFICYP showed that it can handle its given mission in support of its mandate. The procedures for crisis management worked. Nevertheless, there are always lessons to be learned if the response to future crises is to be successful. *In a peace-keeping operation, there is never room for complacency, as the price to be paid by everybody would be too high.*



Detective Sergeant Lorraine Stack has been assigned to Famagusta since 16 Jan 96. She joined An Garda Siochana in 1979, and has served in Dublin City for most of her career. She has worked in both uniform and plain clothes, and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1987.

In 1990, Lorraine was appointed Detective Sergeant, and was allocated to the Serious Crime Unit in Dublin with special responsibility for sexual crimes of violence against women and children. She is the holder of an advanced

diploma in Child Protection and Welfare.

Garda Frank Flood was assigned to Famagusta on 17 Nov 95 and is now working in Pyla. Frank joined An Garda Siochana in 1984 and has served mostly in Dublin City. He has worked in many areas of policing too numerous to mention.

Frank is married to Helen. This is his first UN posting. His father, Lt Col Danny Flood (retd) is also noted peace-keeper, having served in UNFICYP in 1968, three times in UNIFIL and also in Central America.



WHAT DO YOU DO?

What do you do when there is a leaking pipe or a power cut, when you want to install fly screens or set up car shelters, when you think that your accommodation or office should be refurbished, or when the patrol track needs repair?

You do the obvious - you call for the engineers! The Force Engineer is the key person who co-ordinates and controls all engineer resources allotted to UNFICYP. Furthermore, he liaises with the Public Works Department (PWD) and Electrical and Mechanical Services (EMS) of the Cyprus Government, the Cyprus Electricity and Water Authorities and the UN Support Services Workshop Unit, as well as with the Property Manager. He is responsible for all new works and maintenance of all properties and accommodation used by UNFICYP, and for the engineering budget and budget planning which amounts to approximately C£600,000 per annum. The Force Engineer is supported by the Sector Engineers and the civilian staff within his department, as well as by the agencies mentioned above.

The FE's work is multi-faceted and involves primarily the updating of the engineering budget and engineering policies. He has to balance the needs of all contingents against the availability of funds, taking into consideration weather conditions and potential resources.

For more than 20 years, the Force Engineers have been Canadian. However, following the withdrawal of the Canadian Contingent in 1994, the post was taken over by the Austrians.



Major Hannes Stippel, top left,
next to Mr George Andreou from the PWD.
Below from the left are: Pitsa, Antigone and Irene

The first (and current) Austrian FE is Major Hannes Stippel, who is supported by three lovely ladies - Pitsa, Irene and Antigone. Together with his staff, he does his best to improve cooperation with civilians and military alike, and fulfils a tremendous scope of work, including the acquisition of a UN-owned JCB (light wheeled tractor) to be permanently available for all major projects, thus saving time and money. Apart from constant repair and upkeep of UN accommodation and the patrol track in the Buffer Zone, projects which have been realized during his tour are the rewiring of Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta, and the commencement of the new CSS Workshop in the HQ. There is - almost - nothing in the engineering field which cannot be achieved. Well done Hannes!

QUIZ NIGHTS AT HQ UNFICYP

A competition which has not in the past received much advertisement within UNFICYP takes place on a regular basis, and is somewhat different, in that it tests not physical power - but brain power! It is held in the various Clubs within the UNPA, being hosted each time by the winning team. The last quiz took place in July at the Hibernia Club, run - of course - by the Irish.

A very pleasant evening was had by the many participants who crowded out this small club. Most people arrived between 8.30 and 9.00 pm, and, after having their first cool beer, an absolute delight on a hot Cyprus evening, settled down in the comfortable surroundings to battle out their wits. Teams were arranged in groups of four. There were ten rounds in all with questions on geography, history, general

knowledge and IQ - after all, who doesn't know whether a cow's ears are in front or behind its horns? During half time, very welcomed plates of titbits were passed around - in order to give extra energy for the last five rounds...

The evening passed very quickly and was a resounding success. So, why don't **YOU** get your departmental team ready for the next session? Watch out for the venue and come along - you will enjoy yourselves!



Comdt Ray King
calling out the questions

Prize Giving - Old City Run Quiz



Many thanks go to all those who participated in the Famagusta Old City Run Quiz (June edition of the Blue Beret). In the final analysis, only three among all the entries were correct. Even more of a surprise was that all three were from the same family! The draw was made and Santiago Rozas Garay (right in the photo) was selected the winner, his brother Manuel (left) came in second and their mother Susana third. They were presented with an Austrian Army watch, a bag and a knife, all the same design and colour.

They say the reason for their success was good teamwork, and a detailed study of legs at the UNPA swimming pool!



←
Face A
goes with
Legs 2



←
Face C
goes with
Legs 1



↑
Face E
goes with
Legs 4



→
Face B
goes with
Legs 3



→
Face D
goes with
Legs 5

Some of you may just be interested in seeing which face goes with which legs... So we have, for the sake of ease and posterity, matched them up so that you may see for yourselves!

It is interesting to note that one of them in particular drew many more correct answers than the rest. If, by chance, you would like to find out which personality this was, I'm afraid you will have to ask me yourselves...

Capt Siegfried Perr



THE AUSSIE MEDAL PARADE



The Australians from the 47th and 48th Contingents proudly took part in their Medal Parade, which was held on Thursday 18 July 1996 in the precincts of the Kangaroo Club, UNPA. Representatives from the various forces within UNFICYP attended to commemorate this important day for the Australians. Eleven members of the Australian Police were presented with the United Nations Medal by the Force Commander, Brigadier General Ahti Vartiainen, and a further six members received numerals.

The event was a resounding success because of the esprit de corps amongst the forces of UNFICYP. 240 guests attended and were treated to music by the Argentinian Band. Again the Irish came to the aid of the small Australian Contingent and provided members to cater for the large number of guests at the reception.



Goodwill abounded during the course of the evening and a thoroughly good time was had by all.

AUSTCIVPOL would like to thank all those who contributed in making this a most memorable day.

FROM NORTHERN IRELAND TO PYLA

On 23 July 1996, a group of ten youths from Northern Ireland visited IRCIVPOL in Pyla. The group consisted of five members from each side of the political divide in Northern Ireland. Their trip to Cyprus was arranged by an organisation called the Spirit of Enniskillen. This organisation was set up following a bomb in the town in 1987, at a World War II commemoration, which killed 11 people. The visit to Pyla was organised by Mr Niel Howe, Deputy Chief Constable of the SBA at Episkopi. Niel is a former member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's Police Force.

The party arrived at Pyla at 11:00 am and were met by the DCO

IRCIVPOL, Supt Matt Cosgrave. Following lunch in Pyla, hosted by AUSCON, the youths were given a briefing and were then taken on a tour of the patrol track, including a stop at OP 126. They were very interested in learning about the UN role in Pyla, and found the visit most enjoyable.



ON THE AIR

On 6 August 1996, Argentina's Task Force 6 started a radio programme, transmitted over 106.3 FM. The station is based in the village of Astromeritis, and is run by Maria Veronica and Gustavo Calvi (the daughter and son of the CO Sector One), Capt Gabriel Villagran, the announcer and WOIII Pedro Pablo Paez, the programme assistant.

The programme is broadcast in Spanish with the personnel of Sector One in mind, particularly those serving on the line. It goes out from Monday to Friday between 1:00 to 2:00 pm, and anyone can ring through and take an active part "on the air"!



Capt Villagran, hard at work, with Veronica Calvi

FARMING ACTIVITIES IN THE BUFFER ZONE

The land surrounding Pyla in late spring/early summer resembles an ocean of golden waves with field after field of wheat and barley, waiting to be harvested. This is the busiest time of the year for the farmers, who are hard at work from dawn to dusk, harvesting their crops.

IRCIVPOL members based in Pyla and Athienou are in the heart of the agricultural areas and, in the course of their daily patrols, are in constant touch with the farmers. The Irish members take a keen interest in agricultural matters, as Ireland is mainly an agricultural country and many a discussion takes place with the farmers concerning the different types of crops and methods of farming between the Cypriot and Irish farmers.

Barley is the primary crop for the Greek Cypriot farmers. Some of it is sold to the Government, some is used to make beer and the remainder is used as cattle feed. If the crop fails, or if the yield is down, the farmers receive compensation. This year, the yield is down 30% in Pyla. (By the way, there is no truth in the rumour that IRCIVPOL members are stocking up Keo in case of a shortage later on in the year!) The other crops include potatoes and olives which are picked by the farmers and sold to make olive oil. The Greek Cypriots cannot live entirely off the land and need to supplement their income by having a second job. The average size of a Greek Cypriot farm is 40 to 60 acres.

The Turkish Cypriots are mainly livestock or dairy farmers. One of the more familiar sights around Pyla is the shepherd watching over his flock of sheep as they graze in the fields at the side of the road. This is the primary income for the farmer, who has an average of 100 sheep which are milked twice a day. This milk is then used to make cheese. Some discerning members of IRCIVPOL swear that the flavour reminds them of Guinness...

Both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot farmers work side by side with mutual respect and cooperation. The only problem that may arise is when animals stray into neighbouring land, as there are no fences or barriers dividing the land. Sheep know no boundaries.



A Turkish Cypriot farmer, left, with his Greek Cypriot fellow villager, centre, and IRCIVPOL member, Insp Liam Conlon

However, an unusual problem arose in the Louroujina Pocket recently when a Greek Cypriot farmer, having sowed a field early in the year with barley seed, arrived back expecting to find a ripe field of barley ready to be harvested, only to find that it had already been cut. It transpired that a Turkish Cypriot had cut the crop, as he claimed that he has been farming this field for the past 20 years. The Greek Cypriot claims that the land has been in his family for generations and produced legal papers to back up his claim. The end result? After much persuasion by IRCIVPOL members from Athienou, it was agreed to divide the crop, which amounted to 115 bales, into two. Both sides appear to be happy with this, and, of course, next year is another story...

The harvesting has now finished and the fields will be bare until it all starts again next year. The success of the crops, which of course affects both communities, will determine the lifestyle and livelihood of the farmers within the Buffer Zone.

SOCCER FRIENDLIES

Some of the best "policed" sports events took place earlier this year. Two games of football were played between the Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE) and AUSTCIVPOL (with a little help from their friends). The first took place at the UNPA sports field, and was the first game ever between the two teams - which might explain the torrential rain on the day! Despite desperate attempts to come to grips with the pace, youth and talent of the TCPE, AUSTCIVPOL were clearly outclassed. The closest we got to them (in sporting terms) was before the kick off and later, when the two teams retired to the Kangaroo Club for 'light refreshments'. At this stage, embarrassment dictates that the final score be kept a secret...

The TCPE hosted the second match which was played in north Nicosia. Still smarting from the result of the first game, the Aussies had an intense recruiting drive within the UNPA and naturalised a few more 'would be' Australians for the Day (Irish, British and Argentinian). This time, the weather was fine and hot (about 37 degrees too hot), and the football ground was in magnificent condition. International 'AUSTCIVPOL' were full of confidence, but unfortunately, so were the TCPE... Despite a valiant effort by the multi-nationals, the TCPE were once again just too good, and although there was a noticeable improvement, we still came second. As with the first game, the final score will be kept a secret! After the match, the teams were well entertained at the TCPE police club.



Above are both teams, after their ordeal. And now the truth is out!
First game: AUSTCIVPOL: 3, TCPE: 12 Second game: TCPE: 10, AUSTCIVPOL: 6

Having already played two matches, the third game between HQ National Guard and HQ UNFICYP was eagerly awaited - by some!



The HQ UNFICYP team

It was played in ideal conditions at the UNPA earlier this year before a small but appreciative group of spectators. HQ

half-time, as they scored four goals in the second half, including one by veteran defender George Burton - to snatch victory by 4:3.

The fourth game was played in hot, humid conditions on the beautifully manicured pitch at HQ National Guard. Conservation of energy was a crucial factor and both teams coped very well. The 1:1 score line was regarded by all as a fair result, and leaves the way open for the fifth in the series - perhaps?



The team from HQ National Guard

NG had the better of the first half, playing some good football and deserving of their 2:0 lead at the interval. HQ UNFICYP obviously benefited from some good "advice" from their team manager at

THE UNFICYP SWIMMING COMPETITION

by 1/Lt M Oberfeld

Hosting a swimming competition is not an easy job for a small unit like the Permanent Force Reserve, and especially on those days when everybody is keen to jump straight into the crystal clear water of the UNPA swimming pool.

On 17 July, this event materialized. There was a lot of work to do before the competitors were able to reap the fruits of victory! Eventually, five teams (out of a possible 10) entered, and following a strict training schedule, they presented themselves on the day in a fighting-fit condition. Along with a variety of different musical accompaniments, the races started.



The race is on!

The individual events started with the 100 m backstroke, followed by 100m butterfly, 200 m breast stroke and 200 m freestyle, all of which were won by members of Sector Four. Then followed the relay races, and again, all events were won by Sector Four.

However, there were two outstanding performances in addition to the successes of Sector Four personnel. The first was the excellent butterfly relay 4 x 50, where only two teams managed to finalize. Secondly, we should all praise the efforts

of the four "young stars" in the HQ team, who, once again in the butterfly event, displayed excellent swimming skills.

One aim of this event was to change the spirit of UNFICYP competitions. As opposed to the pure military skills contests, such as the mandatory UNFICYP Military Skills and Shooting Competitions, the PFR tried to organise a sporting event which would be:

- * open to every member of UNFICYP, be it military or civilian personnel, dependants or any UN ID card holder;
- * more motivating than frustrating;
- * more fun than force and, of course;
- * a change from the day-to-day routine.

This "new spirit" was encouraged by all Training Officers in order to promote a better understanding of competitors, organisers and spectators alike. The PFR, itself an international unit, hope that this understanding will spread, and that everyone will get into the Olympic spirit - after all, participation is more important than victory.



The Force Commander congratulating Gráinne King

VISIT OF THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER

The Duke of Westminster paid a flying visit to the island on 6 July in his capacity as Honorary Colonel of the Scottish Yeomanry. The tour of Sector Two started with a briefing on the background of the Cyprus situation in the All Island Briefing Room. The Duke was then driven to UN 75, from where he walked along the Green Line to Maple House. During his brief tour, the Duke talked with officers and men from Sector Two on their duties and life style whilst serving with UNFICYP.

The Duke being briefed by Major Staveley, with Lt Brunswick on the right





THE ARGCON TRIATHLON



On 9 July, to celebrate Argentina's Independence Day, the first ARGCON Triathlon was held at Gen San Martin Camp, Skouriotissa. This was a Triathlon with a military angle to it, involving swimming (500 m), running (11 km) and shooting (five rounds at balloons). A total of seven teams, consisting of five members each, set off at half hour intervals. The rules concerning team composition were quite strict, and thus only three of the teams fulfilled the official requirement of having a senior officer participant - although all teams managed to find a mandatory lady member!

The clock started from the moment each team dived into the pool, and kept ticking for each member until they had fired their last round. Individual times were then added and divided by five with bonuses or penalties for shooting. A draw was held for start times. 20 lengths of the pool and a stagger to put on running shoes preceded the run westward along the horrendously hilly roads and tracks of Sector One to the disused open cast mine where the shooting range was set up. Here, thanks to the efficient organisation of ARGCON, participants were handed their rifles, magazine and rounds and were quickly pointed in the direction of the mats from which to fire at the five balloons which wobbled tantalisingly some 100 m away - a difficult task, having arrived out of breath after over an hour of continuous physical exertion.

First to dive into the pool at 0700 hours was the team from HQ UNFICYP. Supt Mike Sheely was obviously the star, and was first out of the pool, first to the mine and even managed to hit three of the balloons, which was one of the best shooting scores of the day. He was closely followed some 40 seconds later by Maj Marcelo Rozas Garay in a total time of 1:08:45.

The Sector One team was next away and, although her swimming was not so fast, Pte C Vazquez made up for it on her run and finished in a very creditable time of 1:12:32, putting her instantly in the lead for the ladies' prize.

Sector Two's ace was WOII Clive Coleman, who appeared at the mine in just over an hour in 1:01:36! This brilliant time amazed everyone, and it took a nail-biting hour while scores were totted up before it became apparent that his incredible feat had sadly not been enough to pull his team's average time into first place. This honour fell to HQ UNFICYP in a team average time of 1:12:01,

only 1½ minutes ahead.

In the Open Category, 39 Regt RA's "B" team had the fastest average time of the day in 1:07:43. Capt Emma Watson-Mack finished strongly in 1:14:40 to pick up the prize for second lady. Sgt S Waters of this team was narrowly beaten by four seconds into third best individual time by Sgt S Brown of 39 Regt's "D" team, who himself was only 14 seconds behind WOII Coleman.

As the sun rose over the picturesque pine-clad terrain, so did the temperature, and it became evident that the later starters, namely the PFR, had obviously pulled the short straw. Those teams wisely made frequent use of the hydration posts set at intervals along the arduous route.

Back at Gen San Martin Camp, having all safely finished and recuperated sufficiently, the competitors paraded in front of CO Sector One, Lt Col Gustavo Calvi, and his DCO, Lt Col Daniel Oneto, for the prize award ceremony. A beautiful replica of the curved sabre, used in the last century by Gen San Martin himself, was the trophy presented to the HQ UNFICYP team of Lt Cdr Oscar DeMayo (FSMO), Maj Marcelo Rozas Garay (Ops Branch), Supt Mike Sheely (POLOPS), Cpl Mick Walsh (Camp Command) and Ms Diana Bridger (Front Desk). This fine prize will be kept in HQ UNFICYP's trophy cabinet until the next ARGCON Triathlon.

Maj J Costas, ARGCON's Sports Officer, himself a competitor, must be congratulated for such a well organised and smoothly run event, which involved more back-up personnel than participants. The culmination of the morning's exertions was an enjoyable barbecue on the terrace overlooking the swimming pool, where it all began some five hours earlier.



The winning team from HQ UNFICYP



NEW 2IC IN SECTOR ONE



Major Ernesto Salvador Canaves was born in 1953 in Buenos Aires. He joined the Argentinian Military Academy in 1973 and was commissioned as a 2/Lt in 1976 in the cavalry branch. His first Unit was the 5th Cavalry Regiment "Gral Guemes" Salta, where he held the position of platoon reconnaissance squadron leader.

In 1977, Major Canaves had the opportunity to join the crew of the frigate "LIBERTAD" which took new navy officers on a trip around the world. As a junior officer, he was posted to several cavalry units, and was an instructor for four years at the Argentinian Army Academy. In 1987 he attended the Command and Staff Course at the Army War School. Then he was promoted to the rank of senior officer (1990).

During his command at the Independent Reconnaissance Squadron in Corrientes, situated

in the north of Argentina, he received his posting as the new 2IC of ARGCON's Task Force N°7 (Aug 96 to Jan 97) and N°8 (Feb 97 to Jul 97).

Maj Canaves is married to Beatriz Bibiana Gonzalez. They have a five-year-old daughter, Maria Sofia, and a three-year-old son, Ernesto Salvador. As a good cavalry officer, he loves riding, but what he enjoys most is polo, a sport he plays in many parts of Argentina.



BISHOP FOR A DAY

Subordinate powers is quite a familiar term to us in the Military; they are granted by an officer holding such power to another to perform certain duties in the absence of the officer holding the power.

The Church, it would seem, can behave similarly. Such was the case last July at the Vigil Mass in St Columbas Church in the UNPA, when Father Tim Forbes-Turner, Force Senior RC Chaplain, conferred the sacrament of confirmation on Caroline, daughter of Sgt Joe Naughton (UN MP Elm) before a large congregation.

The Bishop to the Forces, Bishop Francis Walmsley CBE, is resident in the UK and visits Cyprus every three to five years, with his next visit due in 1998. For this reason, he delegated the faculty to confirm to Father Tim, a decision not taken lightly by a Bishop.

Caroline underwent the usual course of preparation at school, and was asked the

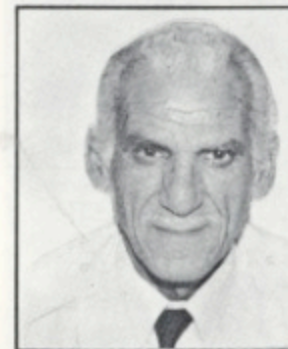


Caroline with Father Tim, just before the ceremony

regulation "question" prior to receiving the sacrament. Father Tim, who is an ebullient, extrovert character, decided to add to the occasion by wearing red socks and trousers, but left it at that so as not to get carried away by his "Bishop for a Day" status.

A UN FAMILY

Around this Headquarters, Mr Pambos Avraam is one of the oldest-serving employees, having worked for over 32 years with UNFICYP. As a UN driver, Pambos travels both north and south of the Green Line on his daily duties, delivering newspapers and mail to various agencies on the island.



He remembers the very first UN Mediator in Cyprus, Mr Sakari S Tuomioja, and the first Force Commander, Lt Gen PS Gyani. His wife, Dora, also worked for the United Nations for 20 years.

Pambos comes originally from the village of Prastio in the Morphou district and now resides in Nicosia.



ARGENTINIAN TASK FORCE 6 SAYS GOODBYE



After six months of hard work, the members of the Argentinian Task Force 6 say goodbye to Cyprus. At the end of our tour on the island, the officers, NCOs and soldiers leave with a feeling of satisfaction that we have completed our mission to the best of our ability.

Of course we are happy at the prospect of returning home to our loved ones, however the many hours we have shared with the various nationalities within UNFICYP will be remem-

bered for a long time. We shall not forget the comparisons we made of professional, military matters and also the chances we had to discuss our traditions and culture with so many people.

When you read this, we shall all be back in Argentina, remembering the good times we had and the friends we left behind in UNFICYP. ARGCON's Task Force 7 is now responsible for Sector One, and we are confident that they too will complete their mission to the best of their ability.



The Officers from Argentinian Task Force 6

FLYING VISIT OF POLICE CHIEF

On Wednesday 10 July 1996, the Chief Constable SBA Police, Mr Eric Vallance, visited the Military Police Element UNFICYP. He was accompanied by Lt Col Colin Greasley, Comd Army Legal Services, Cyprus and Sqn Ldr Allan Johnston, OC RAF Provost and Security Services, Cyprus.

The visitors arrived courtesy of 16 Flight AAC, Dhekelia, and were met by the Force Provost Marshal, Capt Mark Brown. A VIP brief was then given by the COS UNFICYP, Col IR Talbot, which was followed by a line tour of Sector Two.

Lunch was served in the UN MP lounge, following which the group moved to Pyla where they were briefed by Ch Supt Liam Quinn, Comd IRCIVPOL, and Maj Helmut Brandtner, Sector Four. Pyla and the surrounding area was obviously of great interest to the Chief Constable, as the proposed new motorway extension passes through



Mr Eric Vallance with members of the UN MP Element

the Buffer Zone and into the Eastern Sovereign Base Area. There was much discussion over jurisdiction and a good exchange of ideas.



DEPUTY ARGENTINIAN CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS SECTOR ONE



On 20 June, Admiral Jorge Enrico, accompanied by his assistant, Lieutenant Commander Julio Eiff, paid a visit to the Argentinian Task Force 6 in Cyprus. The visit began with a courtesy call on the UNFICYP Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, and the Force Commander, Brigadier General Ahti Vartiainen.



Admiral Enrico, speaking with members of the Guard of Honour

Admiral Enrico then made a tour of the various installations within the Headquarters complex, and continued on to inspect UN Flight (ARGAIR). From there, he was taken via helicopter on a line tour of Sector One's area of responsibility, from Kokkina to Charlie Coy.



The impressive band from Sector One playing the "Retreta del Desierto", traditional military music

During the afternoon of 20 June, Admiral Enrico presided over a ceremony in honour of the Argentinian Flag Day. He then met with the officers and men in the Argentinian Marines and relayed messages to them from Argentina.

Later that day, Admiral Enrico attended a small Medal Parade for those members of Sector One who did not receive their decorations on 18 June. The setting for this event was in Soli, a beautiful amphitheatre, where once again, a most impressive ceremony took place, as can be seen above. Following the medal presentation, all present attended a delightful reception at the Officers' Mess in Gen Roca Camp - a fitting end to Admiral Enrico's visit.

NEW CHIEF HUMANITARIAN OFFICER: LT COL JORGE FEDERICO TISI BAÑA



Lt Col Jorge Federico Tisi Baña was born in Buenos Aires in 1949. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1973 and was commissioned as a 2/Lt in the 3rd Cavalry Armoured Regiment. Among other units, he served as a Company Commander in the 1st and 2nd Cavalry Armoured Regiments and later in the historic "Regimiento Granaderos a Caballo General San Martín" (the Presidential Escort Unit).

Between 1985-1987, he attended the Command and Staff Course at the General Staff Academy. On graduating as a Staff Officer, he was appointed Operations Officer in the 10th Cavalry Armoured Regiment and later as Operations Officer in a Mechanized Brigade.

From September 1992 to September 1993, he was commissioned to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO) as a Military Observer, where he was designated as DCMPO.

In 1993 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was appointed as Staff Officer of the Deputy Chief of the Army's General Staff, which is his current appointment. In 1995 he was commissioned to the General Staff of the United Nations Peace Force in the former Yugoslavia (UNPF), where he was designated Deputy G-3 Land Operations. In July 1996, he took up the position of Chief Humanitarian Officer at HQ UNFICYP.

Lt Col Tisi Baña is married to Marcela and they have two sons and two daughters. One attends primary school, one is at secondary school and the older two are at University.

ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE: 20 JUNE 1996