

The Blue Beret

Volume 37 - February/March 2001



Nicosia - Floods and Flowers
Military Skills Competition
NEW: The Blue Beret
Caption Competition



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150,000 and still counting...

As the oldest UN peace-keeping force operating today - established in 1964 and repeatedly extended every six months since then - UNFICYP has been in Cyprus long enough to see soldiers arriving to perform the tasks carried out by their fathers who served in earlier times. With dozens of nations contributing troops, and with most of the troop rotations taking place twice a year, we can make a rough estimate of the total number who have served: approximately 150,000! Thus the equivalent of 15 army divisions have taken part in UNFICYP in nearly four decades.

Some units have returned for another period of Cyprus service. (An example: a young lieutenant, Jeremy Brooks, was a platoon commander in Avlona in 1977; 20 years later he came back as Colonel Brooks, Chief of Staff.) Others have gone on to take part in the many other UN peacekeeping operations which benefited from their experience in Cyprus - where they learned that resolving problems on the ceasefire lines requires tactfulness and sensitivity in addition to their purely military skills. And as the UN has fielded more and more peacekeeping missions around the world, UNFICYP in turn has gained from the presence of soldiers who come to Cyprus after serving in other peacekeeping operations, from the Golan Heights to East Timor and Sierra Leone.

Through their service in a multinational force and their experience in the field, at first dealing with civil strife and later maintaining a ceasefire regime along a 180-km buffer zone, the men and women of UNFICYP continue to carry out the mandated task of preventing a recurrence of fighting. The UN, the contributing nations and the soldiers of UNFICYP themselves still look forward to the day when the Cyprus problem ends in a settlement, and the last chapter in the long history of UNFICYP can be closed.



editorial

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Front Cover: Spring at OP 103

Nicosia - Floods and Flowers



All in the line of duty - an UNFICYP employee gets out his spade and tries to clear the passage to the Procurement Office.

This was the scene on 13 March when heavy rain and storms wreaked havoc throughout Nicosia. In the UNPA, offices were flooded, computer systems broke down, telephone lines were cut - and all within the space of an hour.

Sadly, many newly renovated offices were badly damaged and took several days to dry out - but, thanks to the staff of the ISS Workshops Unit, everything was back to normal in record time.

The rainfall in Cyprus has been well above average this month, which badly affected the offices during the recent flood, but which has a positive side to it. The whole island is unusually green, and spring is well in the air.



MEMORIAL SERVICE: MAJ BOB TURNBULL

Maj Bob Turnbull, SO2 HQ BRITCON from September 1999 to March 2000, was tragically killed in a paragliding accident in Germany last October.

On 6 February 2001, many of his friends and colleagues attended a memorial service at HQ UNFICYP where a plaque was erected in his honour. Padre Philip McCormack read the tribute.

Major T, as he was known to almost everyone, was born in the Scottish border town of Kelso in 1951. He first joined the Gordon Highlanders in 1971 and was later commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals. He was much admired for his professionalism as a soldier and his enthusiasm for fitness.

Major Turnbull leaves a widow, Rosemary, and children Roland and Louise.





*The boys scouts
are having a great
time....*

VISIT OF 23RD SEA SCOUTS FROM LARNACA

Every spring for a few years now, the 23rd Sea Scouts from Larnaca pay a visit to the UNPA. Schoolchildren between the ages of 12 and 15 look forward to the three-hour visit, which entails a general briefing of UNFICYP activities, as well as a technical display of peacekeeping equipment such as the helicopters in UN Flight and the MFR Tactica armoured personnel carriers.

During this last visit, Yiannis Yiannakis, Scout Master, commented: "The children had a wonderful time, so much so they are already looking forward to next year's visit." Yiannis went on to thank the members of UNFICYP who made the visit possible, especially those who gave up their free time to make it a memorable occasion for the children.



... and the girls are too

RAIN FAILS TO STOP PLAY DURING AMBASSADORIAL VISIT

By Lt Alex Martin

On 20th February, amidst some of the worst weather yet this year, His Excellency Mr Singha Bahadur Basnyat, the Nepalese Ambassador to the UK, and Her Royal Highness Princess Jotshana Bahadur Basnyat toured the Green Line.

Throughout their tour, the royal party were accompanied by the Force Commander, Maj Gen Victory Rana, and the CO Sector 2, Lt Col James Everard. The couple, who are usually based out of London, were in Cyprus as the

special guests of the Force Commander and unfortunately brought the worst of the British weather with them.

Despite the torrential rain, everyone remained cheerful underneath the umbrellas and waterproofs as they dodged and waded through the puddles of the BZ in the centre of Nicosia. It was with relief that we finally reached Maple House, where there was a warm fire and steaming cups of tea waiting to fortify everyone before finishing the tour.



AN TAOISEACH VISITS UNFICYP

By Garda Kevin Keys

An Taoiseach (the Irish Prime Minister), Mr Bertie Ahern TD, recently visited UNFICYP as part of an Irish Government delegation which travelled to Malta, Morocco and Cyprus.

Mr Ahern has been the Irish Prime Minister since 1997 and is leader of the largest political party in Ireland. He has vast ministerial experience in many Irish Governments and has served as Minister for Finance on three occasions. Mr Ahern has also played a vital role in the Northern Irish peace process.

The Irish delegation was escorted to UNFICYP HQ by the Commanders of the Irish Contingents in Cyprus, Ch Supt Jack Behan and Lt Col Murt Farragher. At UNFICYP HQ, Mr Ahern was greeted by the Chief of Staff, Col Jeremy Brooks, and inspected a guard of honour. The Taoiseach also met with the Chief of Mission, Mr Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and the Force Commander, Maj Gen Victory Rana.

Mr Ahern and his entourage then travelled to CIVPOL House where the Irish Contingent



*The Chief of Mission greets
Mr Ahern at HQ UNFICYP*

Commanders hosted a reception and gifts were exchanged.

A reception was later held at the Hilton for Mr Ahern, which was attended by members of the Irish Contingents with their families, and many Irish people living in Cyprus. The Prime Minister then departed for Morocco, ending a very successful trip to Cyprus and UNFICYP.

General Jackson visits Sector 2

By Lt Alex Martin

General Sir Mike Jackson KCB CBE DSO, the Commander in Chief Land Command, visited Sector 2 between 7th and 9th March. During his visit, Gen Jackson met with the Chief of Mission, Mr Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and also the Chief of Staff, Col Jeremy Brooks, before going on to tour Sector 2.

As well as being an official visit, the trip also represented a reunion with Sector 2's Commanding Officer, Lt Col James Everard. In February 1997, Gen Jackson assumed the appointment of Commander ACE Rapid Reaction Corps with the rank of Lieutenant General. He then deployed with ARRC Headquarters as Commander Kosovo Force to Macedonia in March 1999 and subsequently



*Gen Jackson signs
the visitors' book at
HQ UNFICYP*

commanded the Kosovo Force in Pristina until October 1999. During this period, from which many will remember his frequent television appearances, his military advisor was none other than the Sector 2 Commanding Officer.

Throughout his visit, the Commander in Chief, with his considerable experience of multinational operations, was particularly impressed by the high level of cooperation in the Sector between the British and Dutch contingents.

Before leaving, Gen Sir Mike Jackson presented UN medals to Capt 'Rick' Dzeirosynski (aka DZ) and WO2 'Spike' Cresdee.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TRAINING

Members of the MFR have been helping the FMPU train its patrolmen in traffic accident procedures by being "actors" in staged accident scenarios. Each patrolman has to pass a number of training objectives, designed to confirm that classroom training has been sufficient to give them confidence on the ground. The latest scenario had a soldier injured as a result of an accident after falling asleep at the wheel of his car.

Patrolmen were required to carry out the full range of tasks at the scene of the accident, including first aid, breathalyzing the driver and traffic control, as well as an investigation into the cause of the accident itself.



The FPM carries out monthly collective training to confirm the exercises carried out by section commanders in their weekly sessions and ensure similar standards exist across the unit.

OLD COMRADES RETURN

Three British ex-military policemen are resident in Cyprus and regularly visit the International Police Club in the UNPA. Seen here with serving British members of the FMPU, SSgts Phil Neville and Guy Whitehall and the FPM Maj Richard Moore, are ex-WO2 Barrie Johnson (62), a Warrant Officer I/C SIS with the UNMP in Cyprus in the mid-1980s, ex-WO2 Ken Johnson



(66) and ex-WO2 Fred Harrison (82).

All three old soldiers live in Cyprus with their respective partners, and enjoy their retirement in a more forgiving climate than their homeland.

Birthdays for All

Five members of the Force Military Police celebrated their birthdays in the International Police Club in February. M/Sgts Guila Tillmann and Szabolcs Valkulya, SSgt Claudio Acosta, and Sgts Dave Garbutt and Luis Alberto Sosa, all grew a year older under the indulgent eyes of their unit comrades at a club function held in their honour.



Military Skills Competition

18°C, a little rain and mainly overcast - just right for the Military Skills Competition which was organised jointly by the MFR and Ops Branch. On 22nd February, the 13.5 k course, which was marked for speed and lasted all day, stretched the length and breadth of the UNPA. Stands included the pistol shooting range, the assault course, first aid and a raft race.

There were nine teams in all, with each participant having to carry 6k of weight and consisting of one officer, one NCO and four other ranks.

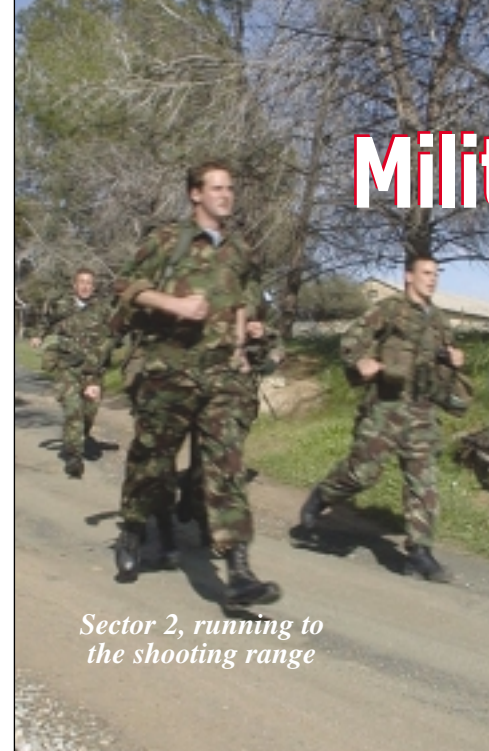
The day ended with prizes being presented by the Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col Brandtner.

The final results are as follows:

- 1st: MFR
- 2nd: Sector 4
- 3rd: Sector 1

Congratulations go to all teams.

Sector 2, running to the shooting range



Argentians tackle the wall



Hungarians on the raft race



Austrians coming out of the low wire entanglement

MPs lead the way in Combat March!

Earlier this year, the British members of HQ UNFICYP were required to complete their annual combat fitness test. This consists of a timed 12km march wearing field equipment and carrying rifles.

In the photograph, the FPM, Maj Richard Moore and FMPU Crime Reader, SSgt Guy Whitehall can be seen enjoying the final stage of the test; the end of which most soldiers enjoy best!



The Aliwal Gardens Explained

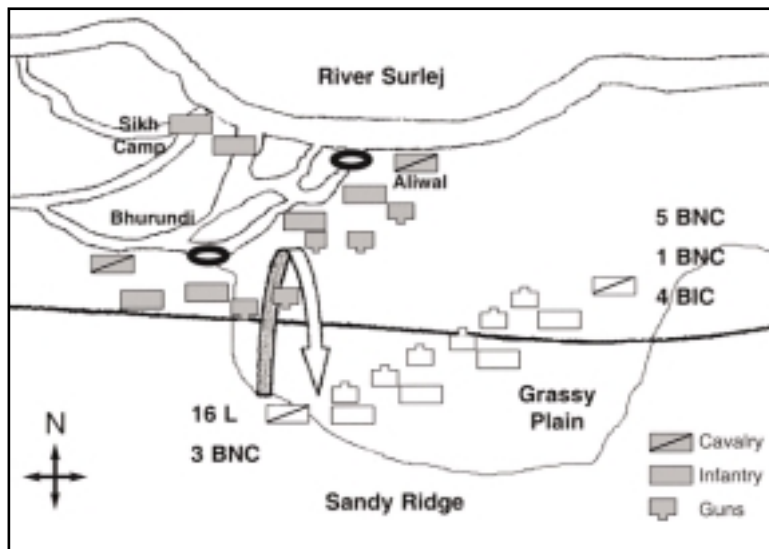
By Lt Alex Martin

The MFR held a barbecue on Sunday 28th January to celebrate Aliwal Day and the opening of the Aliwal Gardens, situated behind the International Cafeteria in the UNPA. A number of guests attended including the UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Col Jeremy Brooks. Earlier in the day, OC MFR, Maj Ian Gibb, had retold the history of the battle, simultaneously translated into Spanish, before serving 'Gunfire' (tea mixed with rum) to the assembled company.

It was 1845 and the Regiment was in action again, this time against the Sikhs of the Punjab. After the death of Maharajah Ranjeet Singh, the Punjab fell into a state of near anarchy, with the mutinous Sikh army demanding to be led across the river Sutlej to free their fellow Sikhs living under the rule of East India Company.

On 11th December 1845, a Sikh army of 30,000 crossed the Sutlej into Company territory. 16L were ordered to join Gen Gough's army after the first two battles of Mudki and Ferozeshah, where British casualties had been high. Gough's army pushed deep into the Punjab and were awaiting the arrival of their siege artillery from Delhi. A separate Sikh force now crossed the river further to the east and threatened the siege artillery; Gen Gough therefore dispatched Maj Gen Harry Smith on 28th January to intercept this force. After a difficult forced march, Smith's force intercepted the second Sikh force outside the village of Aliwal. 16L were the only British cavalry in his force.

The forces massed against Smith's 10,000 at Aliwal consisted of 40,000 Sikh infantry; they covered a frontage of about two miles connecting the villages of Aliwal and Bhundri, supported by 37 pieces of artillery and flanked by cavalry. In the initial stages of the battle, Smith's infantry advanced and took Aliwal. The capture of Aliwal meant the loss of the Sikh's best ford across the Sutlej; they therefore had to recapture it and attempted to do so with a body of 1,000 cavalry. Smith saw this threat and immediately dispatched a Squadron of 16L and a Squadron of the 3rd Bengal



Native Cavalry. The 3rd Bengal failed to charge, while the Squadron of 16L under Captain Bere did, and scattered 1,000 Sikh cavalry, over 10 times their number. Aliwal was not lost, but the cost to 16L was the loss of 42 of the 100 who charged.

Smith's main body continued to be harried by the Sikh guns, and he therefore ordered the main body of 16L under their Commanding Officer, Maj Rowland Smyth, to take the guns. Smyth led his two Squadrons in a headlong charge against the guns that continued to fire right up until they were overrun. The momentum of 16L was so great that they charged past the guns and were faced by the massed squares of the Sikh infantry. Smyth realised that to pull up and retire would enable the Sikh infantry to lay a withering fire in his rear; he therefore spurred his horse, jumping into the centre of the first square and charged on through. Naturally, 16L followed their Commanding Officer and charged head on to the square. Many were injured, including Smyth who received a bayonet wound to his abdomen. However he still managed to reform his Regiment and charge back through the broken Sikh squares. This proved to be the decisive action with the Sikhs breaking contact and attempting to withdraw back across the Sutlej under withering British artillery fire; they left 3,000 dead and all their guns on the British side of the river.

Of all the battle honours gained by 16L, it was the battle of Aliwal that they chose to commemorate each year. The 16L also starched and crimped their lance pennons 16 times to represent the lance pennons after the battle, which were so encrusted in blood that they stood upright and stiff.

Aliwal is the Battle Honour of the 16th (The Queen's) Lancers, one of the regiments which was amalgamated to form The Queen's Royal Lancers of today. The battle honour is still celebrated by the Regiment and, in particular, by A Squadron, the 16 Lancer Squadron.

On 9th April, the Queen's Royal Lancers will celebrate Fondouk Day, the new Regiment's battle honour.



FC inspects Sector 2

By Lt Alex Martin

Maj Gen Victory Rana, the Force Commander, inspected Sector 2 East and West during 29th and 30th January.

On arrival, he was given a briefing by Lt Col James Everard. He then inspected Wolseley Barracks and the Ledra Palace, and during the two-day visit, he continued along the line in Sector 2's area of responsibility.

During the evening of the 29th, the Force Commander returned to Wolseley Barracks for dinner in the Officers' Mess, along with his MA and the Chief Operations Officer. The FC then completed his visit on Tuesday 30th by inspecting Sector 2 (West).



Cooking up a Storm with Sector 2

Some of the officers and men of Sector 2 are currently exchanging their rifles for wooden spoons and their helmets for mixing bowls as they take up cooking lessons. The Master Chef, WOII Paul Simpson, and Sgt Steve Little are running weekly lessons in cookery, and so far, 15 people have signed up.

The first lessons were in compulsory food hygiene to qualify those taking part to use the kitchens, but the budding chefs quickly moved on to more exciting projects. The first cookery lesson's menu was red mullet and tagliatelli, followed by summer fruit pudding.

The recipe for the pudding is shown below to allow those out on the line to join in on our gastronomic adventure. **Bon appetit!**



Summer Fruit Pudding (serves 4-6)

For a 1 pint pudding basin.

Ingredients:

12 slices - white bread
4oz/100g - black currants
4oz/100g - red currants
4oz/100g - raspberries
4oz/100g - strawberries
6oz/150g - blackberries
4oz/100g - diced apples
4oz/100g - sugar
1 tablespoon honey
Fruit juice (orange)

Directions:

1. Wash the fruit and drain lightly.
2. Put apple and sugar into a pan, add a little juice for

stock. Simmer until apple starts to soften.

3. Add the rest of the fruits, firmest first, and simmer gently (1 min each).
4. Once fruit is cooked strain the mixture.
5. Cut the crusts of the bread. Cut 1 (round) slice to cover base of basin. Cut two to cover top, and then cut the remainder into strips (3 strips per slice).
6. Soak the bread in the strained juice and line the basin, overlapping each slice.
7. When complete, fill the lined



basin with fruit and a little juice, then cover with soaked bread. Cover and refrigerate. (Keep remaining juice and fruit).

8. Once the pudding has set, turn out onto a plate and glaze with remaining juice.
9. Decorate with cream and fruit.



By Capt Andreas Scherer

One part of UNFICYP's mission is to maintain the integrity of the buffer zone, and from time to time, this requires applying the arts of crowd control. To be well prepared, exercises are held periodically.

In the scenario for this exercise in Sector 4, demonstrators try to enter the buffer zone - some are peaceful, others are not. In order not to interfere with everyday life, the deserted village of Petrophani was chosen as the training ground for the exercise, and one group of Sector 4 soldiers (Austrians, Hungarians and Slovenians) acted as "demonstrators".

The Ops Branch of the UN Austrian/Hungarian Slovenian Battalion built up a Forward Command Post for on site command and control of a specially lined up exercise company and reserve

elements. The soldiers of 1st and 2nd Coy/Sector 4 were reinforced by UNCIVPOL officers and the MFR.

The common task was to prevent the outbreak of riots and unauthorised entries into the BZ, and to prepare the reinforcement by Force Reserve Elements. Checkpoints on all access roads with additional road blocks were created and manned. In addition, proper medical treatment and the evacuation of injured soldiers and demonstrators was an objective of the exercise, and training took place with the support of a UN helicopter from ARGAIR.

During the whole exercise, many different incidents had to be managed in an escalating scenario with all personnel involved giving their best.

Austrian Culture comes to Cyprus

By Capt Andreas Scherer

Love, they say, is a never-ending story. It is also the focus of interest and main topic of music for the three young, charming Austrian sisters known as the "Thorn Roses", who flew to the island at the end of February to perform for UNFICYP's peace-keepers.

It was only six months ago that the sisters, who come from the small village of Kobenz in Styria, started combining their talents. Not only do they compose the songs they sing, but they write the lyrics and play instruments as well.

It was the Austrian Peace Support Command who organised their very welcomed tour to Cyprus, which were followed by tours to the Austrian peace-keepers in Kosovo and on the

Golan Heights.

Beside the concerts given specifically for AUSCON soldiers in Pyla and Famagusta camps, one special event took place at the All Ranks Club of the International Mess in the UNPA, where the whole of UNFICYP's international community was invited to come along and listen. The audience was just bewitched.

However this wasn't the only musical event organised by the Austrians in February. The Gospel Ensemble known as "Chess & Canto" arrived at the same time on the island to visit the Austrian soldiers serving in UNFICYP. The 25-male and female singers also gave concerts for the general public in Dherinia, in the Church of Troulli and in St



Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia. A month of true Austrian culture!

Six months ago, the UNPA Community Team was born. It replaced the UNFICYP Community Welfare Committee. This is an international group whose membership is drawn from every section of the UNPA community; UN international and local staff and all military personnel.

The aim of the team is to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the quality of life of the UNPA community. This includes managing the UNPA Community Fund, which is made up of non-UN money raised from events and donations.

The team will fund-raise, consider requests and allocate funds to existing UNPA facilities and activities such as improvements to sporting and recreational facilities/clubs. It will also carry out market research to ascertain demand for new facilities and activities and allocate funds accordingly.

The team will also organise community events to raise funds. The first major event to take place was the Fireworks and Halloween Party last November. With over 800 people attending and in excess of C£500 being raised, this was a great success and testimony to the effort put into organising this evening by Sally Brookes and her team.

It is hoped that all those who live, work and play in the area will support the efforts of the UNPA Community Team. Suggestions/ideas for improving the quality of life are welcome, and there are funds for this purpose, so please ring extension 4505. All calls welcome!

The UNPA Community Team



A Touch of Cyprus

The UNPA Officers' & International Staff Club's New Millennium Party, held at the Navarino Wine Lodge on Saturday 20th January, was an evening that many people are still talking about and will go down in UNFICYP's annals as one of the best parties for a very long time.

It was very well attended, with 186 members and guests dressing up in their "posh gear" to enjoy a superb buffet supper and dancing till the small hours. A magician circulated round the tables performing his tricks and magic, a Grand Charity Raffle with over 70 prizes was held and the brilliant DJ ensured that every taste was catered for and the dance floor was full all night. The piece de resistance, however, came in the form of not one, but two, stunning belly dancers, who had no problem in persuading the revellers to join them on the dance floor.



By Sgt Mike McKay



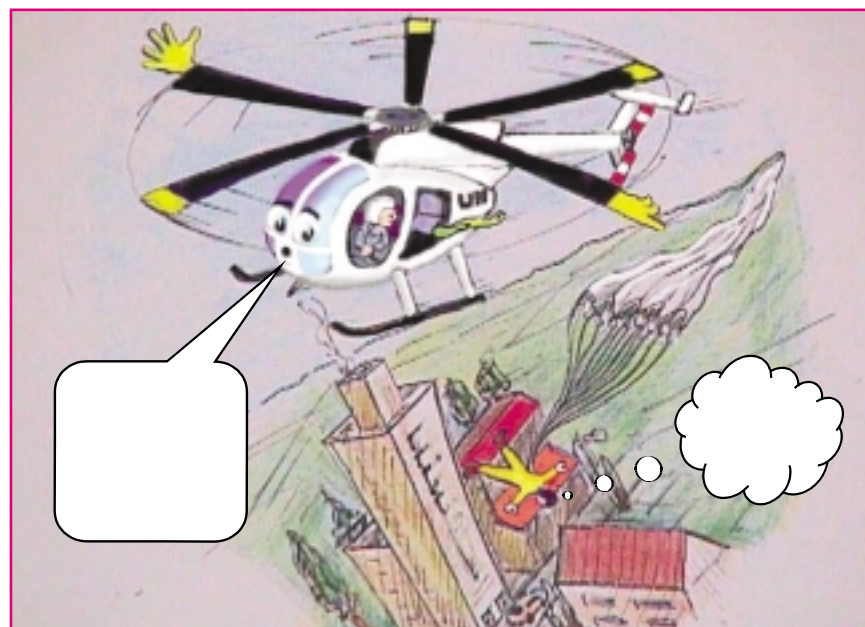
We (the Australians) would like to thank our High Commissioner and his family for the great start to Australia Day, to the Irish members of UNCIVPOL for their assistance during the evening, and to all who came to celebrate Australia's birthday with us.

By Sgt Mike McKay

Deputy Commander Donovan is no stranger to the UN, as he was deployed to the 2nd Australian Police Contingent in East Timor during 1999/2000.



The winner will receive a full colour portrait.



By Lt Martijn Kitzen

As regards our daily routine, our main jobs are to secure the UNPA and to provide patrols for the different sectors. The first one is a tedious job, as



All in all, I can say that working with the MFR is quite a challenging job - from the plain soldier up to Squadron Commander. And I hope that everybody in the MFR will enjoy the next three months in the same way I've enjoyed the last three!

By 2/Lt Alejandro Ojeda

At present there are nine Tacticas loyally maintained by their drivers and a team of three mechanics, who consistently keep these vehicles in good condition and ready for operational use in times of need.



THE NEW UNCIVPOL COMMANDER

By Garda Kevin Keys

Ch Supt Jack Behan took over as Commander of UNCIVPOL on 1st February 2001, following the return of Graham Gartside to Australia.

Jack is a career police officer, and will shortly have completed 39 years' service in An Garda Síochána - Ireland's national (and only) police service. This is his first UN mission, and prior to his assignment here, he headed the Irish Traffic Division based in Dublin Castle. He also had responsibility for escorting VIPs, and amongst his prized possessions are signed photos with Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Jack is a third generation policeman, with his grandfather joining the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1875 and his father enrolling in An Garda Síochána on the first day of recruitment, following independence from



Britain in 1922.

Jack has spent nearly all of his police service in Dublin City. He was I/C of the Community Relations Department for a number of years and during that time the hit TV programme "Crimeline" was launched in which the public was shown crime reconstructions and asked for their assistance. He has lectured promotion courses on crime prevention and community relations.

Jack arrived in Cyprus last July accompanied by Patricia, who has settled into the Cypriot lifestyle with newfound friends.

The Behans have four adult children - two daughters and two sons, both sons now residing in Australia.

Jack lists his favourite sport as golf, and can be seen at weekends encouraging the ball in its flight to the 'browns'.

The new Commander is proud of his Irish colleagues, is full of praise for members of the Australian police and enjoys their direct humour. He has enjoyed his UNFICYP experience to date, and is pleasantly surprised at the camaraderie and good interaction between the different nations.

The New COO

By Capt Andreas Scherer

UN - and particularly military - life is full of abbreviations. So what is the "COO"? This abbreviation stands for Chief Operations Officer.

And, following the departure of Lt Col Martin Jawurek, the post is now filled by Lt Col Helmut Brandtner. He is not, however, a "new COO". He has twice before served in UNFICYP, but on both occasions in Sector 4.

Back in Austria, Lt Col Brandtner serves as Operations Officer of the 3rd Mechanized Brigade. "It was the challenge of working at Headquarters level that attracted me to volunteer for another mission. And it certainly won't be my last," says the father of two (the first child having been born in Nicosia). "Offers came for Sarajevo, New York and Nicosia - it was pure chance that I came back to Cyprus, but serving here is what I really want to do."

So, welcome back and good luck in your third tour.



Just Checking



The New Bell 212



By Lt Mariano Garbini

Looking at this picture, you may think that these men are searching for Engine No 2 that our pilots "lost", or (if you read the last issue of *The Blue Beret*) that they're trying to catch the mouse that ran loose when the cat was on holiday - but you'd be wrong.

In January last, UN Flight received a new helicopter (a Bell 212) replacing UN 023 which was redeployed to Argentina. The new heli, UN 024, together with the six-year-old veteran Hughes 500 (UN 021), will cross the skies of Cyprus in the service of UNFICYP.

The crew in charge of helicopter maintenance is basically the same as a Formula One team consisting of an engineer, an inspector, technicians, a specialist in aerodynamics, instruments and electrical systems and last, but not least, the test pilots. All work together checking and testing the history, files, components and systems of the helicopter, both on the ground and during flight. You can be sure that when you're flying with UN Flight, you're in safe hands.

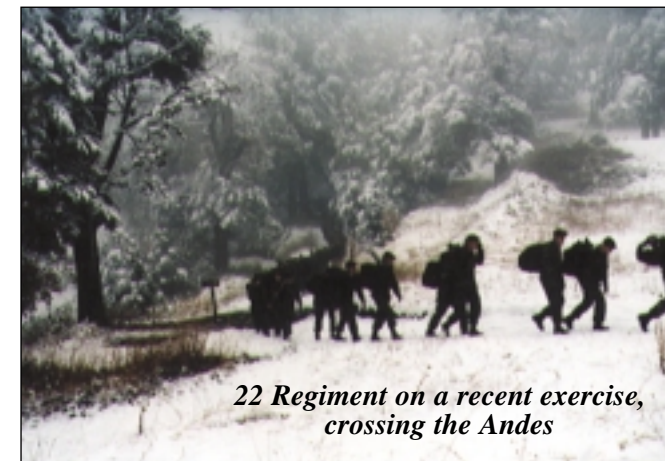
Who's Who in Sector 1

By 2/Lt Franco Ponce

Bravo Coy: Mountain Infantry Regiment 22

This is the start of a series of stories that describe where the members of Alfa, Bravo and Charlie Coys of Sector 1 belong. In this issue we begin with Bravo Coy - Mountain Infantry Regiment 22.

All regiments in Argentina have a number and a name, sometimes an historical one. Mountain Infantry Regiment 22's name is "*Lt Col Juan Manuel Cabot*", and the story goes as follows.



22 Regiment on a recent exercise, crossing the Andes

In the middle of the 19th century, the rifle battalion was first stationed on the side of the San Juan River in the Argentinian province of San Juan, located near the San Emiliano dyke. Then in 1898, the battalion was moved to Marquesado city and formed part of the very first military garrison.

On January 1st, 1940, the then President of Argentina, Roberto Ortiz, created by decree the 22nd Mountain Infantry Regiment. Its first CO was Lt Col Emiliano Alvarez and the regiment consisted of an infantry battalion, a light mortar platoon, a heavy machine gun company and an artillery section, in all totalling 1,000 soldiers.

22nd Mountain Infantry Regiment is a relatively new regiment, which has already achieved many successes in military competitions against other more established regiments.

This prestigious unit received the "Palmas Sanmartinianas" prize from the National Sanmartiniano Institute, following its contribution to the glorious Andes Army, the Unit which first crossed the Andes mountains at the beginning of the 19th century to emancipate Chile and Peru.

Here in Cyprus, a platoon from the 22nd Mountain Regiment forms Bravo Coy. Together, with all members of the 16th ATF, they are improving their knowledge and training day by day.

GETTING A FEEL OF THE BUFFER ZONE

By Lt (Navy) Jorge Mobilia

In order to better familiarise themselves with their area of responsibility, Sector 1 personnel now carry out marches inside the buffer zone. The first of these events started on 12th February at OP 42 in Charlie Coy's AOR, where, laden with rucksacks, members of Sector 1 trekked along patrol tracks for eight hard but (they say) enjoyable hours until they reached OP 08 at Alfa Coy.

The reasons behind this effort, initiated by Lt Col García, are two-fold: first as a purely physical challenge, and second to familiarise personnel with their areas of responsibility and therefore increase operational control.

The second phase took place on 19th February in Bravo Coy's area of responsibility over a very hilly distance of approximately 25km.

Other marches were organised so that most of Sector 1 personnel could participate. The rough

terrain and strenuous conditions under which they took place will ensure that the Argentinians will long remember the Cypriot countryside.



SECTOR 1 ENGINEER PLATOON

Within the armed forces of all nations, we always remember the infantry, cavalry and artillery who fought battles - we even remember those who lost them.

Here in Cyprus, we talk about the men on the line, staff officers, etc. However working in the background are those who, with the same level of determination and efficiency, support the line members. This is the case of the Engineer Platoon.



In the short time they have been with Sector 1, they have worked hard to improve the standard of living on the line, particularly in the section and troop houses. Plumbers and electricians have been in constant demand since their arrival, frequently working around the clock.

During the months of January and February, the whole of the track in Alfa Coy's AOR was improved and, along some stretches, rebuilt. This was in an effort to prevent accidents which have happened in the past during the rainy season. Because of the dangerous mountain terrain, the work was hard, but it did not deter the engineers. In addition, a new water tank was installed in Camp San Martín.

SILENT WORK: PART II

By Lt (Navy) Jorge Mobilia

Control of the JOC is primarily the responsibility of the Duty Officer, but there are those in the background who also contribute largely to the smooth running of the centre. These are the NCOs who update maps, files and operational documents located in the JOC, as well as many other taskings on a daily basis. Their jobs are equally as important, yet they seldom get

recognition. Thanks to the efforts of WOII Augero, WOII Oliva, WOII Ruberto, WOIII Rivero, WOIII Jimenez and Cpl Rivadeneira, Sector 1's JOC runs smoothly with no problems at all.

Another group of "silent workers" are those who get up very early, yet finish their duties late at night. No, they don't go out on patrol, but they are responsible for the wellbeing of personnel in Sector 1. These are the chefs of San Martín, Roca and Brown Camps, who tirelessly do their best to provide the best cuisine possible for their fellow peacekeepers, namely, WOII Pingarelli, WOIII Montenegro, SSgt Cachi, WOII Rodriguez, Sgt Trogu and SSgt Vedia.



Promotions in Sector 1

Congratulations and best wishes go to all officers and NCOs in Sector 1 who have received promotion.

At a small ceremony in Camp San Martín on 29th December, all those concerned were warmly greeted by Commander Sector 1, who presented the new rank markings.

Felicitaciones!



The Women in Sector 1

By Cpl Mariana Rivadeneira

There are almost 400 Argentinian men assigned to duty in UNFICYP - and there are four brave women who share the same enthusiasm in tackling their duties and facing the day-to-day tasks in Sector 1, having received the same briefings on the situation in Cyprus as their male counterparts.

Now to introduce them. Medical assistance is offered by 1/Lt Stella Maris Prada and Sgt Rosalia Cerezo, who, together with the men in the Medical Centre, care for all those in need of attention within the confines of Camp San Martín.

We also have Cpl Mariana Rivadeneira, a translator working in the CO's office, and Pte Veronica Mena, who is always ready to help HQ Coy with various tasks. During the recent hunting season, Mariana and Veronica formed part of the team assigned to combat possible intrusions into the buffer zone.

The men of ARGCON would like to thank this group of women for their patience and tolerance - we are grateful to have them in Sector 1's team.



SPORT & ADVENTURE TRAINING

The British Army is currently deployed on five operational tours worldwide, including the United Nations tour in Cyprus. However, the UN tour is very different in view of the opportunities it offers its soldiers outside the normal operational duties.

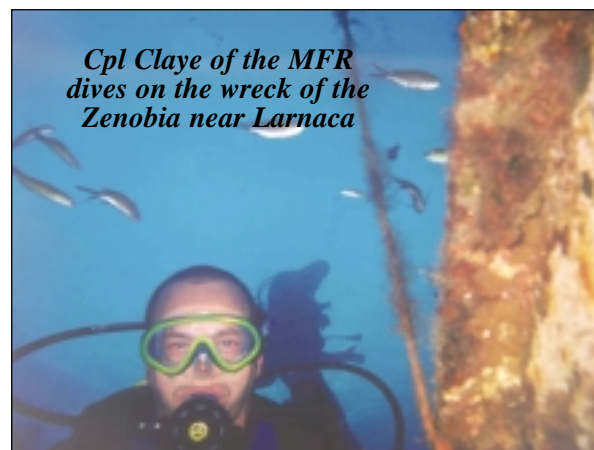
The philosophy behind the opportunities offered is that the army recognises the value of training in a different environment in terms of planning, leadership and man-management, as well as developing its soldiers' robustness and physical ability.

Cyprus, despite being a small island, offers a myriad of both sports and adventurous pursuits. Currently, the UN rugby and football teams are both successful and multi-national in their make-up. Each team has a pool of approximately 30 players, suggesting (perhaps) little potential for other sports to develop. "Not true," say the golfers who regularly make use of the carefully prepared 'browns' at the UNPA, nor the volleyballers, tennis and squash players, basketballers, hockey players, weight trainers, swimmers and polo players who have been attached to the UN in recent months.

The UN settle for another scrum against 62 Engr Regt. The UN eventually won, 17-5.



Outside the parameters of more conventional exercises, the UN offers its soldiers the chance to try more adventurous sports. The British and Dutch contingents have capitalised on this and set up the United Nations Roulement Regiment Adventure Training Team (UNRRATT) at



Cpl Claye of the MFR dives on the wreck of the Zenobia near Larnaca

Dhekelia in the British-retained Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

Presently, the team offers the soldiers of both Sector 2 and the MFR a variety of 17 different activities, ranging from cliff jumping to rock climbing, windsurfing to mountain biking, parachuting to hand gliding and clay pigeon shooting to bungee jumping.

The activity that has been most popular to date by far is sub-aqua diving. The geography of the island lends itself to some spectacular sites that can be visited by divers of all standards. For the beginner, the coastline near Ayia Napa offers Cape Greco, an underwater playground of caves and tunnels at a maximum, safe depth of 16 metres.

For the more experienced is the 65 metre long wreck of HMS Cricket, a World War 1 gun boat lying in 30 metres of water. However, the most famous and easily most popular dive on the island is the Zenobia, a Swedish ferry that sank off the coast of Larnaca in 1980, with a compliment of 104 lorries on board. With the top of the wreck at 16 metres and the sea bed at 42 metres, the water during the summer months resembles a 'fog' of divers descending towards the 12,000 tonne underwater museum.

So, whilst the UN OPs continue to be manned and the OPFORs carefully monitored, what better way to indulge in activities during our spare time that other postings do not offer?

The UNFICYP Skiing Competition

The UNFICYP Skiing Competition finally took place on 8 March - the very last time this event will be organised by the Austrian Contingent, prior to their forthcoming departure from UNFICYP.

It was touch and go whether the competition would take place since snow conditions were uncertain until the last moment.

However it went ahead and was a great success.

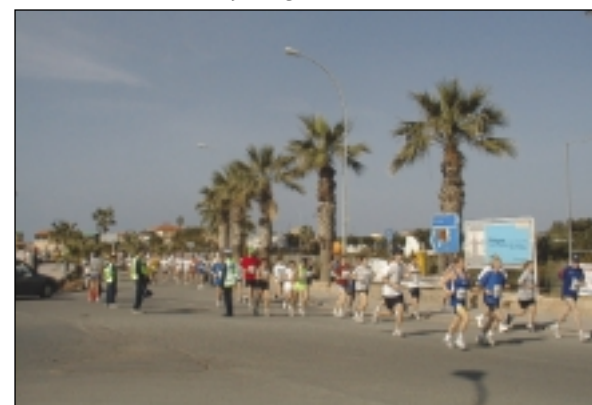
Following the prize-giving ceremony, all competitors and spectators were invited to the "snow bar" where typical Austrian and Hungarian drinks and delicacies were offered - with Alpine music giving the finishing touch to this very popular event.



The winning ladies team

Paphos Marathon

By Angela Milne



It was early on Sunday, 4th April 2001 when a team of runners from UNFICYP were seen pushing a UN minibus to get it going and reach the start line in time for the Paphos race.

The "Island Watchers", made up of Ann Gallacher, Cpl Tracy Bairstow, SSgt Tony Batty, Sgt Carl Radford and BQMS Joe Quigley were happy to compete in the 10 km road race, as they were the first ones back to start in on the free Carlsberg beer at the finish line. The "UNFICYP Pace-keepers", Madeline Garlick, Angela Milne, C/S Mick O'Neill, Maj Gyula Macsotai, Maj Bela Andrassy, and Capt Tanja Pecnik competed in the half marathon and had to wait a little longer for the free Carlsberg. And when the Aussies heard that Carlsberg were sponsoring the race with free beer at the end, they too entered their "Back on the Horse Team" comprising Sgt Scott Gilbert, Sgt Jason Kennedy, Sgt Darren Thomas, Sgt Brendon Withers, the honorary Australian on the team, Sgt Tony Goodway and SSgt Jimmy James of the QRL. There was also excellent representation from Sector 4 from the Austrians and the Slovenians.

The race was run along the coastal road of Paphos and ended in the heart of the city near the Paphos castle. Everyone was happy to finish the race.... except for the fact that, with stiff legs, our teams were, once again, seen pushing our minibus around the parking lot trying to start it.

4x4 Relay Run

By Angela Milne

A 4 x 4 km charity relay race was held in Nicosia on Saturday, 17th March 2001. Money was collected and donated to "Elpida", an organisation which helps children with cancer and leukaemia here on the island.

UNFICYP was very well supported with three teams from the



The MFR team

Headquarters, two teams from the Mobile Force Reserve, and three teams from Sector 1. The Headquarters teams managed to raise C£350 to donate to the charity, and would like to thank everyone



Madeline and Angela with their trophies

for their support and sponsorship.

The UNFICYP ladies team were placed first in the ladies category, bringing back a trophy for UNFICYP.

Sector 2 Cycle Relay

By 2/Lt Ronald Verkuijl

Saturday, 27th January was the date set for the first Sector 2 cycling event. It was a relay race and the temperature was good - a perfect day for cycling.

The first part took the cyclists from LPH to the UNPA through the buffer zone, passing all the Sector 2 West troop houses. The Ops Officer Sector 2 West, Capt Remi van Strien, managed to get a seven-minute lead. The distances between the riders got wider - but their faces showed that the route was just fine.

The second part started close to the YMCA on the UNPA and took the riders around the airport area. The team of Capt van Strien kept the lead, with Sgt Maj Theo de Wit who managed to keep in front of SSgt Erik Nieuwland. The second part was not as tough as the first, but some exciting declines made the difference.

The final section was back to LPH and was the fastest part of the race. The last cyclist (2/Lt



The winning team: Capt Remi van Strien, Sgt Maj de Wit and 2/Lt Verkuijl

Verkuijl) kept the lead, which was created by Capt van Strien, and the Dutch team won the race with four minutes to spare. Second place went to the second Dutch team of Sgt Maj Laarman, SSgt Nieuwland and Tpr Slofstra, and in third place was the British team of Lt Owens, Sgt Walbank and Tpr Borge.

The race was a great success, mostly thanks to WO2 Bennison who took charge of the organisation. More cycle events are planned in the future.



*You're young, fall in love and want to get married - so where's the best place to do tie the knot?
Sgt Gabor Racsko, serving in UNFICYP as a military policeman in the Dherinia MP station, and Timea Csizmadia, a beautiful Hungarian girl, married on 27th February in the Nicosia Town Hall. When Gabor was posted to the island, the two young and romantic souls decided that Cyprus, "The Island of Love", was the perfect place to get married - and they did.*

