Nicosia - Floods and Flowers
Military Skills Competition
NEW: The Blue Beret Caption Competition
150,000 and still counting...

As the oldest UN peacekeeping 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 mandatory 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: MAJ BOB TURNBULL

Major 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. First he 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.
Visits

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.

Rain fails to stop play during ambassiodorial visit

On 20th February, amidst some of the worst weather yet this year, His Excellency Mr Singh 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... and the girls are too

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 Mission, Mr Zbigniew Włosowicz, and the Force Commander, Maj Gen Victory Rana.

Mr Ahern and his entourage than travelled to CIVPOL House where the Irish Contingent 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 Włosowicz, 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’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 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 tour, 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.

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!
Cooking up a Storm with Sector 2

By Lt Alex Martin

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, WOI 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 cooking 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)

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 - diced apricots
- 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 decorate with remaining juice. 9. Decorate with cream and fruit.
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 Support Command who organised the exercise wanted to prepare the reinforcement by Force 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.

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 468. All calls welcome!

The UNPA Officers’ and 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.

One of the three young, charming Austrian sisters known as the “Thorn Roses”, who flew to Cyprus, which were followed by the Austrian Peace Support Command who organised their very well welcomed tour to Kosovo and on the small village of Kobenz in Styria.

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 welcome tour to Kosovo and on the small village of Kobenz in Styria, the sisters, who come from the small village of Kobenz in Styria, started combining their talents.

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!
On 26th January 2001 Australia celebrated its 213th birthday. This occasion was not missed by the Australians working in Cyprus. The Australian members of UNCIVPOL attended an official function at the residence of the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Frank Ingruber, in Nicosia. After an enjoyable afternoon, the Australian members of UNCIVPOL returned to the UNPA and hosted a traditional Australian BBQ at CIVPOL House. From all reports the evening was a great success, and from an Australian perspective, it felt like being back home doing what we do best - “having a good time”. 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.

Ch Supt Behan has taken over the role of Commander UNCIVPOL for the next six months, and the new Deputy Commander, Fred Donovan, has arrived on the island from Canberra.

Deputy Commander Donovan is no stranger to the UN, as he was deployed to the 2nd month deployment to Cyprus and has returned during 1999/2000.

The beginning of February has seen a number of changes to UNCIVPOL. Commander Gartside has finished his 12-month deployment to Cyprus and has returned to Melbourne.

Ch Supt Behan has taken over the role of Commander UNCIVPOL for the next six months, and the new Deputy Commander, Fred Donovan, has arrived on the island from Canberra.

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THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY

By 2/Lt Alejandro Ojeda

It is unlikely that any of our readers are aware that we have an artist in our midst... in the name of Maj Luis Estrella, the current Air Safety Officer. Luis has been on the island for six months, and has already sketched many posters for UN Flight.

The Blue Beret felt the creation on the left was so good that we would publish it as the beginning of our Caption Competition. Readers are invited to submit their suggestions to the Public Information Office, HQ UNFICYP.

TACTICA MAINTENANCE

By 2/Lt Alejandro Ojeda

It is one of the MFR's tasks to be ready for immediate deployment within the buffer zone during moments of tension. Quick response time is of the essence, and it is the Tactica, the Armoured Personnel Carrier in use by this Unit, which is the most suitable vehicle for this type of tasking. Its high-speed armoured protection and personnel load capability make it the perfect tool for the job. At present there are nine Tacticas joyfully 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.
New COs on the Block

The New UNCI POL Commander

By Garda Kevin Keys

Chief Supt Jack Behan took over as Commander of UNCI POL 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 assignment, and prior to his appointment 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 joining 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 VC 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 ‘brows’.

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.

Who’s Who in Sector 1

By 2/Lt Franco Ponce

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 “Palmis Sammartinianas” prize from the National Sammartiniano 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 Infantry 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

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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 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. 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.

SILENT WORK: PART II

By Lt (Navy) Jorge Mobilia

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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 Raberto, WOII Rivero, WOII 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.

Felicitaiones!

The Women in Sector 1

By Cpl Mariana Rivadeneira

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here 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 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 recognizes 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 manicured course 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 philosophy behind the opportunities that other postings do not offer?

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 Roulment Regiment Adventure Training Team (UNRRA T) at Dhekelia in the British-retained Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

Presently, the team offers the soldiers of both Sector 2 and the MF R a variety of 17 different activities, ranging from cliff jumping to rock climbing, windsurfing to mountain biking, paragliding 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 UN settle for another scrum against 62 Engr Regt. The UN eventually won, 17-5.

The UNFICYP 4x4 Relay Run

By Angela Milne

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

The Paphos Marathon

By Angela Milne

I was early on Sunday, 4th April 2001 when a team of runners from UNFICYP were seen pushing a UNPA through the buffer zone 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 Barstow, Sg t Tony Barry, 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, Cpl 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 Sg t Scott Gilbert, Sg t Jason Kennedy, Sg t Darren Thomas, Sg t Brendon Withers, the honorary Australian on the team, Sg t Tony Goodway and Sgt Jimmy James of the ORL. There was also excellent representation from Sector 4 from the Australians and the Slovenians.

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

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

The Island Watchers, Madeline Garlick with their trophy.

The winning team: Capt Remi van Strien, Sgt Scott Gilbert, Sg t Jason Kennedy, Sg t Darren Thomas, Sg t Brendon Withers, the honorary Australian on the team, Sg t Tony Goodway and Sgt Jimmy James of the ORL. There was also excellent representation from Sector 4 from the Australians and the Slovenians.

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 tie the knot?

Sgt Gabor Raesko, 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.