

The Blue

Volume 36

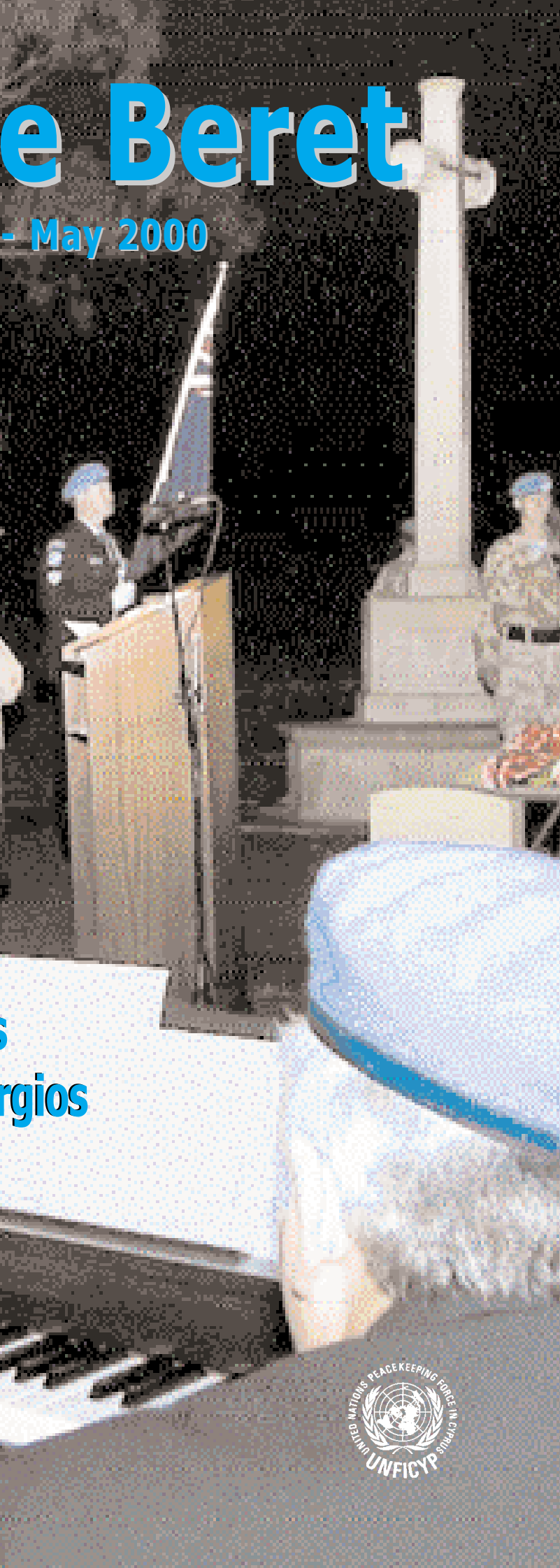
Chief of Mission departs
Pilgrimage to Agios Giorgios
ANZAC Day



e Beret

- May 2000

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Contents

Chief of Mission departs	2/3
Sector One News	4/5
Sector Four News	6/7
ANZAC Day	8/9
Argentinian News	10
Around and About	11
Sector Two News	12/13
Sports	14/15
Sector Two Medal Parade	16

editorial

Working in UN missions, we get used to saying goodbye to colleagues, but this doesn't mean that we don't still feel sorry when people leave. It is with great sadness that UNFICYP says goodbye for the second time to James Holger, who has been Acting Chief of Mission for the past eight months. But just as we get used to saying goodbye, we also find ourselves welcoming new colleagues. In recent weeks, we have seen new faces appear in Sector 1 and UN Flight, and prepare to see a new contingent come to Sector 1. We have also been privileged to receive some illustrious visitors and have commemorated the Australians and New Zealanders who gave their lives at Gallipoli.

About Cyprus,

There is one more thing I would like to have on my CV," says Chilean James Holger. "I would like to have had a diplomatic posting in a South American country, the part of the world where my roots are."

Holger was the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative and then Acting Special Representative for Cyprus in the 1980s. Later he served as Chile's ambassador to the island. In October last year, the Secretary-General asked him to come back from retirement to be the interim Chief of Mission for three months. Now, eight months later, after two consecutive extensions, he is finally packing his bags to go home to Chile.

"The cases are heavier than the ones I brought with me last year," Holger says, enjoying a capuccino in his favourite Strovolos coffeeshop, Il Paesano.

"My wife Cecilia says that when I enter a bookstore, I act like a ten-year-old boy on his birthday. He sees the big cake, and wants to eat it all at once. Last weekend, I counted the number of books I've bought in the past eight months: there are fifty in total. I've actually read only twenty of these, so there are some spare ones to enjoy when I'm in Chile again. I read them following a priority list. One is a present from Mr Denktash, an 800-page volume about the life and work of Kemal Ataturk. I prefer to read books about international relations, political science, travelling and history. Luckily, I can read quite quickly, but I need to be able to concentrate. When I read, I never play music. When I do play music, I never read. Music is perhaps my hidden vocation."

Interviewing James Holger is not hard. He is a good storyteller, full of details and interesting anecdotes. Asked about the major influences on his career, he comments:

"First of all, of course, my childhood. My father was an officer in the Chilean Navy. He finished his career at the rank of Vice Admiral. I was born in Washington DC, where my father was posted as naval attaché. At the age of three, I attended my first medal parade, something I did most recently at Wolseley Barracks on 5 May.

"I went to nine different schools. You can safely say that suitcases have always played an important role in my life. So I'm used to travelling, to establishing new contacts.

"Another thing that I think was very important in my career was when Erich Honecker, the former President of Eastern Germany, asked for asylum at the Chilean



THE BLUE BERET

The magazine for UNFICYP's civilian, military and police personnel

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The Blue Beret is the in-house journal of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. The views expressed are those of the authors concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

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Published monthly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 21642, Nicosia, Cyprus.

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Front Cover: Dawn Service on ANZAC Day

culture and coffee

By Major Paul Kolken

with James Holger

Embassy in Moscow. The President of Chile, Mr Aylwin, asked me to mediate between Mr Honecker and the governments of Chile, Germany, and Russia. I spent six months in the company of Mr and Mrs Honecker, a very interesting period. The negotiations with the parties concerned were delicate and difficult. As mediator, I finally worked out a formula that proved acceptable to Mr Honecker and the three governments involved."

Kimon Georgiou, the owner of Il Paesano, pours a second cup of his excellent coffee, before Holger continues.

"When I spoke to *Kibris* newspaper in the north, the journalist wanted me to give a time-frame for solving the Cyprus problem. I explained to him that although there has been speculation that it would be solved this year, I thought that would not be the case. I don't want to appear

pessimistic, but the problem is very complex. There are certain issues that will probably require the setting up of working groups and technical commissions. This will take some time. I think the problem will be with us for a couple of years yet. It's obvious that the people of Cyprus want a peaceful solution. The question is, of course, on what terms. UNFICYP is not here to impose a solution, we are just a facilitator.

"I must say that in Alvaro de Soto we have a very skillful negotiator. I once described him as a diplomatic cool cat. He never loses his temper, always manages to bring down tension at the negotiating table, and is always conciliatory and imaginative. I hope he will do for the people of Cyprus what he did for the people of El Salvador, where he negotiated the agreement that put an end to a very bloody civil war. Many people ask why he isn't in Cyprus. Since the talks are the first priority, Mr de Soto has to fully commit his attention to the talks and the preparatory work this entails. There is a lot of travelling involved in that: London, Washington, Brussels, for example. De Soto is in close



touch with Mr Verheugen, Mr Solana, and with representatives of governments which are assisting him in his negotiating efforts."

Let's leave the political level, and focus on the military side of UNFICYP. Were you in close contact with the soldiers working in the buffer zone?

"It is necessary to know exactly what happens in or near the buffer zone, so I always maintained close contact with all branches of UNFICYP, visited the sectors, and attended all daily and weekly briefings. At the same time, I feel that a civilian senior official should not get overly involved in exclusively military matters. Our soldiers know how to perform their duties."

What do you see as the major change within UNFICYP since your assignment in the '80s?

"I was very glad to see that military contingents are integrating to a great extent. The Argentinians have soldiers from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, the British have Dutch soldiers, the Austrians have Hungarian and Slovenian soldiers. I'm glad to say that even the presence of Chilean officers is being considered. This enables personnel to learn to respect other cultures and to take the best of every respective country. I see that as the basis for a successful co-existence: communication with each other and respect for each other."

Will Cyprus see more of James Holger in future?

"Well, I don't know yet. I have a lot of friends in Cyprus, on both sides. I like the country and the people. Don't be surprised if you meet me in one or another coffeeshop. And I will definitely return to the island at reunification time."

me and my OP

Sector One News

Buenas Días. I am Lance Corporal Daniel Rodriguez from Baja Blanca, Argentina. I am 33 years old, married, with two sons and two daughters.

My stint with UNFICYP has been the first time my family has been alone for such a long period. But I write a lot of letters and I am a regular user of the internet. During my time off, I like to go on trips to see a bit of this lovely island. I've seen the richness and beauty of Kykkos monastery and I've also spent some time on the sandy beaches. While I'm serving in this multinational force I'm trying to improve my English, although I must

confess I'm not doing a course.

I serve with Charlie Coy, which consists of personnel from the IMARA (marines) and the navy. Here in Cyprus, however, we serve in an infantry role.

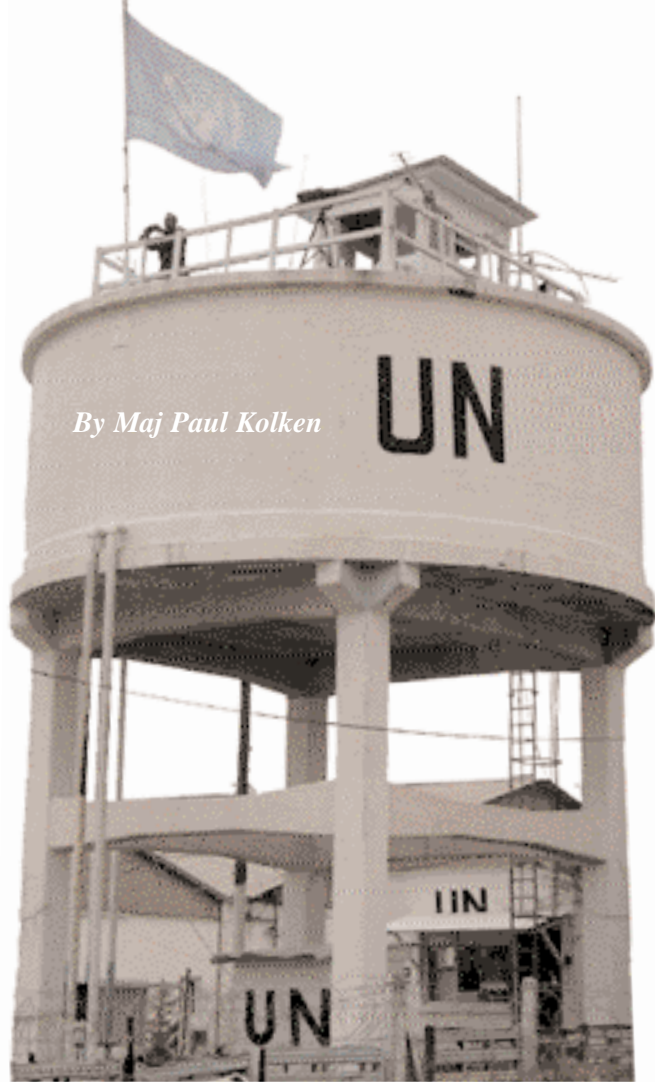
My OP, OP 32 (known as the box factory), is located on top of a water tower. Some hundred metres to the west, there is a well. From there, the water is pumped up into the water tower I'm standing on. The village of Pano Zodia, just north of the buffer zone, gets all its water from my tower.

I have a clear view of the area between Astromeritis and Pano Zodia, where around 1,200 farmers tend their crops, and beekeepers have positioned more than 1,100 hives.

Using my binoculars, I monitor the two daily foot-patrols my unit conducts from the box factory. This is especially important in summer, since the patrol is nine kilometres long each way. The patrols are supposed to take enough drinking water with them, but I keep an eye open just in case someone becomes dehydrated and gets into trouble.

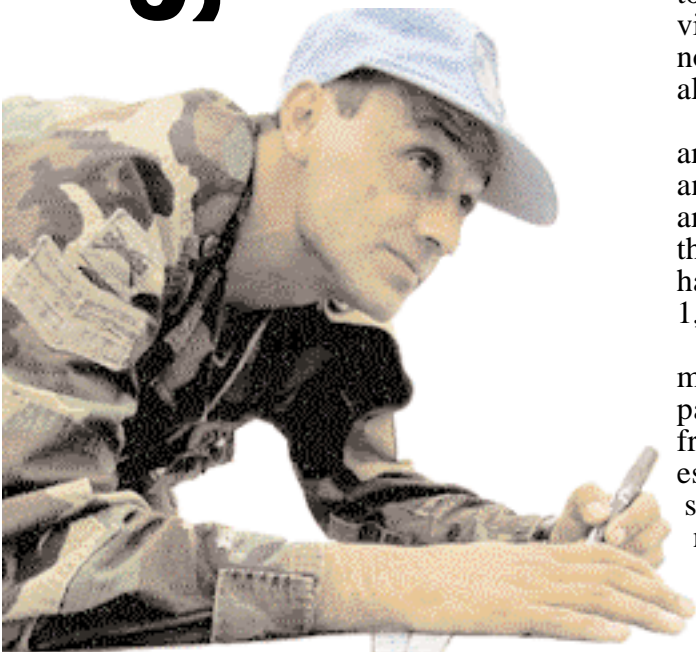
The area looks very peaceful, but it still bears the signs of conflict. There are minefields all around our location.

By Maj Paul Kolken



Recently there was a fire east of the box factory. All we could do was wait and hope it would die out. We could not go to fight the fire, since it was inside a minefield. As far as I can recall, that was the only time our location could rightly be called a hot spot.

The box factory's pet dog waits patiently until his friends come down from the OP



Daniel marks the directions on top of the water tower, to easily position his binoculars

Pilgrimage to the Agios Giorgios Church

One of the four elements of the UNFICYP Mandate is to "return the buffer zone, as far as possible, to normal conditions pursuing social and economic development".

In each sector, the Civil Affairs Team (SCAT) works to the best of its ability to do just this. On 1 May, Sector 1's Civil Affairs component helped 188 Greek Cypriot pilgrims from the Limassol Refugee Association to attend a pilgrimage and a short religious service in the church of Agios Giorgios. This church is located southwest of the Varisha village, 800 metres south of OP 11, inside the buffer zone.

The Alfa Coy was in charge, reinforced by UNCIVPOL members and assisted by SCAT 1. The pilgrims gathered at a temporary checkpoint 1,000 metres from the church. From this point, groups of about 50 or 60 people were able to walk straight to the church, escorted by UN personnel.

Many pilgrims were old people who had lived in the village next to the church before the 1974 war occurred



and, of course, they were moved when they could recognize, even from the distance, the houses where they were born and had spent most of their lives.

It was a moving occasion for all of us - pilgrims and soldiers alike.

El mandato de UNFICYP prevé 4 tareas, siendo una de ellas la siguiente: "Retornar la Zona de Amortiguación, tan pronto como sea posible, a condiciones normales promoviendo el desarrollo económico y social. Por supuesto que el Branch de Asuntos Civiles desarrolla varias de estas actividades. En este caso, lo que se logró fue permitir la asistencia de 188 peregrinos Greco chipriotas, pertenecientes a la Asociación de Refugiados de Limassol, a una peregrinación y posterior servicio religioso en la Iglesia de Agio Giorgio, el 1º de Mayo próximo pasado. Esta iglesia se encuentra al sudoeste de la villa de Varisha, 800 mts. Al sur del OP 11, dentro de la Zona de Amortiguación.

La Ca. Alfa estuvo a cargo del operativo, desplegando a su personal en el área de interés. Fue reforzada por miembros de UNCIVPOL y asistida por el SCAT 1.

Los peregrinos fueron concentrados en un check point temporario localizado a 1.000 mts de la iglesia. Desde este punto se armaban grupos de 50 o 60 personas a las cuales se las autorizaba a cruzar dicho check point y eran escoltadas hacia la iglesia.

Muchos de los peregrinos eran gente mayor de edad que habían habitado la villa cercana a la iglesia antes de la guerra de 1974. Todos ellos se emocionaron cuando pudieron divisar, aun desde la distancia, las casa donde habían nacido y pasado la mayor parte de su vida.

Finalmente, los resultados fueron altamente positivos. Para aquellos Greco chipriotas que asistieron a la iglesia, porque pudieron reencontrarse con su juventud y sus viejos afectos. Y para nosotros porque, aunque fue un día feriado, pudimos dar otro paso que permitió cumplir con el mandato de UNFICYP.

AMONG FRIENDS

By Capt Flavio Lajoia

Since the beginning of last November, the Brazilian Contingent - myself and WO I Ismael Pires - has been living in the heart of Sector 1 in San Martin Camp.

UNFICYP's two Brazilians first met in the departure lounge at Buenos Aires Airport. We've stuck together ever since, and really do make a team, despite our very different backgrounds.

I hail from the noble and traditional cavalry and am used to dealing with horses and tanks. I live in Rio de Janeiro where the weather is hot and we have carnivals and beaches.

My Warrant Officer, however, is an artillery man. He lives 1,600 km south of Rio where temperatures can drop as low as minus 5 degrees Celsius,

where the wine is good and where there is a strong Italian influence.

We get on fine with our Argentinian colleagues. We are learning a lot - they have good planning methods. The structure of Sector 1 is very solid and relations within the sector are friendly. They are a very special people with many traditions. We have never had the opportunity to work with them before and, most importantly, we are making friends with them. But not everything is roses. There is one sensitive subject that we can never discuss with them: soccer.

As for the rest of UNFICYP, we are enjoying our contacts with military personnel and civilians of other nationalities.



It's a fantastic chance to learn about different customs, to understand these customs and respect them.

So all in all, we're proud to have the Brazilian flag flying here in Cyprus, and extend our best Brazilian wishes to all *Blue Beret* readers.

Easter Loaves

By Capt Andreas Scherer

Just before Easter, 38 teachers and education officials arrived in Cyprus from Austria. Each visitor brought a loaf of brown bread and some bacon as an Easter treat for the soldiers on peacekeeping duty with UNFICYP.

But the visit was more than a simple supply run. Peter Gruber, who served with UNFICYP's field hospital in 1964 and who is now an official from the education authority in Salzburg, explains.

"This trip to Cyprus is a study visit. In Austria, one of the four pillars of our security doctrine is the 'Geistige Landesverteidigung'. This means we try to make Austrians aware of the need to prepare for crisis situations. Aid organisations have to establish contacts and develop plans, and make their systems compatible. Citizens have to know what to do and what not to do, and to be informed of which organisation they should contact for which problem. It's all about information and communication. Responsibility for these matters lies within the Ministry of Education and its authorities. Luckily, the Ministry of Defence



The visitors in Camp Duke Leopold V with CO Sector 4 (far left)

supports us. Almost 600 Information Officers - ranking from lance corporal to general - visit schools giving briefings and discussions about security and defence politics.

"This is the tenth study visit I've organised, and I can say that Cyprus has proved to be a good example of a conflict with all its consequences, as well as an example of successful peacekeeping efforts of the international community, including Austria. As you know, Austria has contributed troops to UNFICYP uninterruptedly since 1964. It goes without saying that I reserved one day in the programme to visit the soldiers of the Austrian-Hungarian-Slovenian Battalion."

One of the visitors commented: "It is a pity that people in Austria don't know much about the important duty our soldiers do here and in other peacekeeping missions."

As a result of this trip, however, school-children will be hearing a lot more about Cyprus, and the role Austria is playing in keeping the peace here.

Meanwhile, the group donated a sum of money for the battalion's social fund, and left behind the loaves of bread which played a central role in the Easter celebrations at the Ayia Marina church in between the two ceasefire lines. Sector 4's military priests, Mag Christian Diebl and Dr Karl Trauner, laid on an impressive night-time Easter service in which they blessed the loaves. After the service, representatives of HQ Coy and of the Austrian-Slovenian Company distributed the bread to the soldiers.

Peter Gruber:
One of the aims of 'Geistige Landesverteidigung' is to enable citizens of the Democratic Republic of Austria to be responsible members of society. We want to enable them to deal with different problems on their own, and we hope to create a broad political, social and economic understanding.



Military priests (Mag Diebl and Dr Trauner) bless bread and bacon before offering them to the soldiers of AUSCON. The ceremony took place at the beautiful church in Dherinia, one of the three churches in the buffer zone that lie within Sector 4's area of responsibility. It was restored by Austrian soldiers.

15 May - Celebration Day

By Capt Andreas Scherer and Capt Bernarda Volcanjk

15 May is of historical importance for two of the three contingents serving in Sector 4: Austria celebrates the anniversary of its State Contract while for Slovenia it's Army Day.

In 1955, after 17 years of occupation, first by the National Socialists and then by American, British, French, and Russian soldiers, the Foreign Ministers of the Allies signed a State Contract in the Belvedere Palace in Vienna. This signalled the birth of Austria's second republic.

In a short speech during the flag parade held in Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta on 15 May, the CO of Sector 4, Lt Col Kienberger, reminded the AUSCON soldiers of this milestone in Austria's history, when the republic regained its full

sovereignty and freedom.

After the official military part of the occasion, Austrian peacekeepers were provided with celebratory beer and an earlier end of duty.

Meanwhile, the Slovenians held a small unofficial party on



Slovenians preparing celebration day delicacies

Camp Triglav (UN-139 OP). All 29 members of SICON and their guests celebrated the Slovenian Army Day.

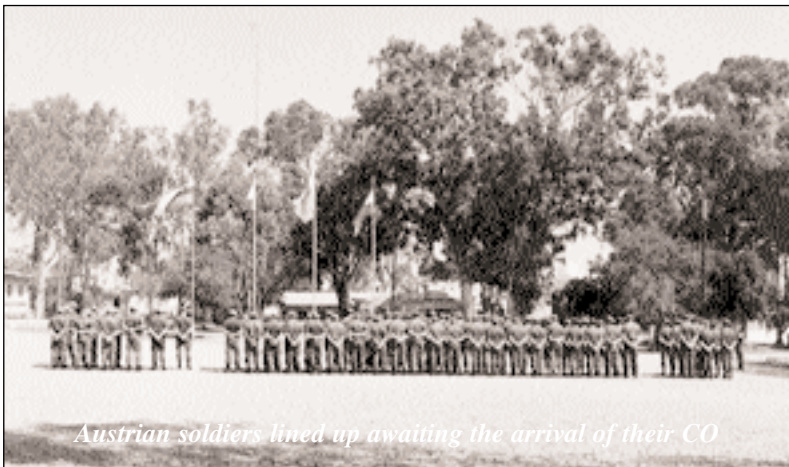


CO Sector 4 speaking on the Austrian State Contract

Army Day celebrates the establishment of two military school centres, where the first Slovenian conscripts started their compulsory military service. Although these centres were established in May 1991 and the Republic of Slovenia has only been independent since June 1991, Slovenian military tradition goes back to the 7th century when the first Slovenian state was established. Slovenians have always proved themselves to be good soldiers and we now proudly continue this tradition throughout Europe and the world.

Photos by SSGT Horst Goupp

Sector Four News



Austrian soldiers lined up awaiting the arrival of their CO



Two Puch Gs during training

No accidents, no injuries and no damage to cars - official or private. A worthy aim, but sadly one that we rarely manage to achieve.

To help cut down the number of accidents in Sector 4, 1/Lt Vogel's Motor Transport branch recently ran Safe Driving Training courses for all newly arrived soldiers.

Safe Driving Training in Sector 4

By Capt Andreas Scherer

At the beginning of April, an on- and off-the-road course was set up in the area behind OP-139 (Camp Triglav - named after Slovenia's highest mountain).

"Most accidents happen because drivers misjudge the size of their vehicles in relation to space available," says the leader of the drivers' squad, MT NCO WOI Veigl.

So drivers were presented with a zig-zag route marked out with tyres, parking exercises, gear-changing on asphalt and off-road, and a whole range of other tests.

There was also a vehicle maintenance section.

"The feedback was very positive" says Sgt Arrich from the MTO's office. He is convinced of the value of the course. Although soldiers of Sector 4 won the last two Military Skills Competitions, which included tasks to prove their "vehicle skills", driving conditions in Cyprus are very different from those in Austria, Hungary, and Slovenia. And with their 120 privately-owned vehicles, the soldiers of Sector 4 own more cars than any other sector.



"Come in Sp

By Sergeant J

Happy Berlowitz, one of two Australian veterans attending the service, was one of the legendary "Rats of Tobruk" from World War II. Although Happy lives in Queensland Australia, this was his second service in Cyprus.

Without a doubt, for many people the second shock of the day (after getting out of bed at 3am for the Dawn Service) was having the "Gunfire" Breakfast. The shock here derived from the shot of Australian rum brought over to Cyprus in the luggage of Australian police officers. Considered to be Australia's finest, the Bundaberg Rum is nevertheless very



strong stuff. Even diluted in coffee or tea, the tot of rum left a perceptible mark on many breakfasters for the rest of the day.

One of the guests for the ANZAC Day functions was the Australian Federal Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone. Senator Vanstone is responsible for a number of federal law enforcement agencies in Australia, including the Australian Federal Police, which has provided personnel to UNFICYP since 1979.

Minister Vanstone was on an extensive working tour of Europe, and took the opportunity to visit Australians serving with UNCIVPOL on ANZAC Day.

"I of course wanted to visit our police officers serving here and get a first hand perspective of what they do. I feel fortunate to have also visited on ANZAC Day, to have been part of such a moving ceremony, and to be with the war veterans who were present."

During the Gunfire Breakfast, Senator Vanstone presented Police Overseas Service Medals to the nine members of the 62nd Australian Civilian Police Contingent to UNFICYP.

"This medal is issued to Australian Police Officers who serve on peace-

And with that cry begins another round of Two Up, an old Australian game that is now illegal outside licensed casinos except on 25 April - ANZAC Day.

Legend has it that during the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, a Turkish pilot flying over Australian lines saw a large group of "diggers" (Australian soldiers). Lining this group up for a machine gun strafe, the pilot noticed that all the diggers looked up to the sky and then down again in a fairly quick motion. Thinking that these soldiers were Muslims and offering their prayers, the pilot didn't attack. Little did the pilot know that the Australians were not praying, but were in fact playing Two Up! Irrespective of whether or not the story is myth or fact, Two Up has since become uniquely associated with ANZAC Day.

The word ANZAC is an abbreviation for the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, a unit formed in 1915 prior to an allied assault on the Dardanelles Peninsula in Turkey in April of that year. It was an ill-fated attack with allied forces withdrawing in November. 25 April (the date of the initial attack) has since become a day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, where the two countries stop to remember and honour the sacrifices made by millions in all wars.

ANZAC Day began early and on a sombre note, with around 150 people attending a moving Dawn Service conducted from 5am to 6am inside the buffer zone at Wayne's Keep Cemetery, Nicosia.

Wreaths were laid at the official cross of remembrance by Major-General Rana, the Australian and British High Commissioners, the New Zealand Honorary Consul, Commander Gartside (UNCIVPOL), World War II veteran Mr "Happy" Berlowitz and the Australian Federal Senator for Justice and Customs, the Hon Amanda Vanstone. Wreaths were also laid at the graves of Australian and New Zealand airmen who died during World War II and were buried in the cemetery.

"I have a daughter living here in Cyprus and last year, I was on the island and came to the Dawn Service. I was so moved by last year's ceremony that I felt I should come along again this year."

The second veteran, Sergeant Dennis Hend, who served in the Australian Army Task Force in the Vietnam War, is currently a member of the 62nd Australian Civilian Police Contingent to UNFICYP. Dennis played a major role in the organising committee for this year's commemorations.

The dawn service marks the time in the day that the original ANZACs stormed ashore at Gallipoli. This year in Cyprus, British Staffordshire Regiment buglers sounded the last post and reveille at daybreak, the exact time the attack began in 1915.

Sector 2's military element provided invaluable assistance for this year's service, including personnel for the catafalque party, the buglers, bus drivers



and traffic marshals. Sector 1 provided a drummer, and BRITCON Reverend Phillip McCormack officiated at the service. The Australian High Commissioner and the New Zealand Honorary Consul also provided assistance.



inner! ..."

ason Byrnes

keeping missions as a sign of appreciation by the Australian people for their efforts in often trying circumstances," said Senator Vanstone. "I was very pleased to present those medals in person."

After the breakfast, Senator Vanstone met Major-General Rana and went on a line tour of Sector 2. She later officially opened the Two Up school.



After the ANZAC Day dawn services and marches of veterans through the various towns and cities throughout Australia, commemorative events include playing Two Up, the game that was so popular on the beaches of Gallipoli. Indeed it is even known for whole Australian communities to congregate around their local pubs and clubs on ANZAC Day to indulge in a game or two. Although the game is normally illegal, gaming laws are relaxed for this one day. And to ensure probity, it is customary for the local constabulary to administer the game themselves.

And it was no different here in Nicosia on ANZAC Day this year.

During the afternoon, the Australian Civilian Police Contingent of UNFICYP held a BBQ and Two Up session at the International Police Club, UNPA. Well over 100 visitors watched, played or bet pound notes on the outcome of the games that went on until sunset.

The game requires two coins (normally two old Australian pennies) to be tossed into the air. Bets are laid on the outcome of each toss, whether it will be two heads or two tails. So-called mixed tosses (one head and one tail) are invalid, and the coins must be tossed again until a

result is achieved. The person who tosses the coin is known as the spinner - hence the call "come in spinner" to launch a toss.

Running the game is a "school", normally made up of three people. The school is like a bank which the spinner bets against. If a spinner can throw three consecutive results of heads, then he or she walks away with the entrance fee quadrupled from the school. If a spinner tosses two tails, then he or she is immediately expelled and forfeits the entrance fee to the school. While this is going on, anyone in the onlooking crowd can bet on the outcome of a toss, provided they find someone else in the crowd who is willing to bet the same amount of money on the opposite result.

This year's game was enjoyed by all, with many non-Australians learning the intricacies of a game that often lacks subtleties. Remarkably, three spinners succeeded in tossing three heads and won against the bank - an almost unheard of feat.

As the afternoon wears on, the pressure mounts, shouting is common, cheers and jeers from the crowd eager to make a bit of money. Spinners who tossed five no results in a row found themselves on the receiving end of a slap on the backside with the "Kip" - the small wooden board which is used to toss the coins into the air. Incidentally, the record for the highest number of invalid tosses went to an anonymous Major-General.

The entire game was played in good spirits with everyone having a great time. Bets were limited to one pound and dinner was in the form of an Aussie BBQ, washed down with plenty of cleansing ales.



Visit of Argentinian Army COS

VIP visits are demanding at the best of times, but they are particularly challenging when they occur on your first day, as the new arrivals in Sector 1 will testify.

On 12 May, the Argentine Army Chief of Staff, General Ricardo Guillermo Brinzoni, visited UNFICYP. His first calls were in the UNPA, where he was introduced to the Chief of Mission and then greeted by the Chief of Staff. He then visited Argentinian members of the MFR and the Military Police, before moving on to UN Flight.

Next he went to the HQ of Sector 1 in San Martín Camp, where a parade was held to receive him. During the parade he addressed the troops, asking the new personnel to accomplish the UNFICYP Mandate with responsibility, pride and honour, helping people who need it and working every day, as if it was the first day. After the parade, CO Sector 1, Lt Col Catuzzi, briefed him about the general situation on the island and Sector 1's tasks. Finally, a lunch was served with a special toast for the newly arrived personnel.



Argentinian News

VISITA DEL JEFE DE ESTADO MAYOR DEL EJERCITO ARGENTINO

El 12 de Mayo pasado, el Contingente Argentino recibió la visita del Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército Argentino, General Ricardo Guillermo Brinzoni. Primeramente fue recibido por el Jefe de Misión y luego saludado por el Jefe de Estado Mayor de UNFICYP.

Luego visitó al personal argentino integrante de la Reserva Móvil y de la Policía Militar y más tarde a los miembros de UN Flt.

Finalmente se desplazó hacia el Cuartel General del Sector 1 en Campo San Martín donde se realizó una formación militar para recibirlo. El General Brinzoni llegó en un momento muy especial ya que, justo el día anterior, una nueva Fuerza de Tareas se hizo cargo del Sector.

Durante la formación, arengó a las tropas formadas exhortándoles a cumplir el Mandato de UNFICYP con responsabilidad,

orgullo y honor, ayudando a la gente que lo necesite y trabajando cada día como si fuera el primero.

Luego de la formación, el Comandante de Sector Teniente Coronel Catuzzi, le expuso sobre la situación de la Isla y las tareas que efectúa el Sector en la Zona de Amortiguación.

Finalmente se sirvió un lunch donde se aprovechó para brindar por el éxito de los recientemente arribados.

FLYING ACE RETURNS

Lt Col Juan José Fernandez, who replaces Lt Col Hector Luduña as Commanding Officer of UN Flight, is no stranger to UNFICYP - he was last in Cyprus in 1997, serving as Air Liaison Officer of Sector 1.

Lt Col Juan José Fernandez is married to Maria Alejandra and they have five children, Juan Manuel, Alejandro Augustin, Maria Emilia, Maria Victoria and Guillermo Martin.



Ration store in Roca Camp

After many long hours of hard work, the Food Supply and Catering Team of Roca Camp, (WOIII Guillermo Diaz, Sgt Hernan Carabajal, Sgt Alberto Rodriguez, and Cpl Pablo Pogonza) has finally managed to get its new ration store finished. It wasn't an easy task, but they got there in the end.

The members of the Catering Team came from all over Argentina and only got to know each other here in Cyprus. Their job's a tough one, and they often spend Saturdays and even Sundays preparing or delivering supplies to the different camps and

OPs. Finalising the new ration store took the team more than two months, working day and night in harsh winter conditions to create a facility that will be appreciated by all their successors.



UN Flight: air traffic control

By WOIII Sergio Griatzky

A typical day at the UN Flight air traffic control centre begins with a local weather forecast from the main meteorological centre in Akrotiri. This gives us the requisite information about winds, clouds, visibility and the likelihood of thunderstorms along the island.

Once we've assembled this information, we brief the pilots and air crew.

Then, from the moment that a helicopter takes off, we check its position constantly, using UHF and VHF radio communication along the buffer zone. The helicopters might be used for observation missions, to transport personnel, or for medevacs.

We also monitor all aircraft from the Cyprus Air National Guard and British Army Air



Corps and ensure that they have the necessary information to fly safely within the air transit zone.

With the final approach at the Old Nicosia Airport (home for all UNFICYP air force

members), the final message from the tower operator to the pilots is: "Frequency, Have a Nice Day". This is the signal that another flight has come home safely.

Around and About

A TRIO OF BRITISH PROVOST MARSHALS

UNFICYP Force Provost Marshal, Major Richard Moore, poses here with visiting Provost Marshal (Army) Brigadier Maurice Nugent and the Provost Marshal from the SBAs, Major Peter House.

Brigadier Nugent was paying a visit to all British MPs on the island and spent a day and a half with UNFICYP, meeting personnel and going on a city line tour.



Keeping in touch

By Roger de Weever



A new telephone and data communications system is to link Sector 1 and UNFICYP HQ. There will be better-supported digital quality computer LAN services including internet access. Callers from HQ will also be able to dial numbers in Sector 1 direct without going through the sector operator.

The new system will also include a new Ericsson telephone exchange to provide rural telephone extensions to all manned Sector 1 positions from San Martin HQ, as well as LAN server and UPS equipment for Sector 1 HQ. Another advantage: the old analogue microwave system used unmanned repeater stations which presented security problems. These will be eradicated by the use of a satellite system.

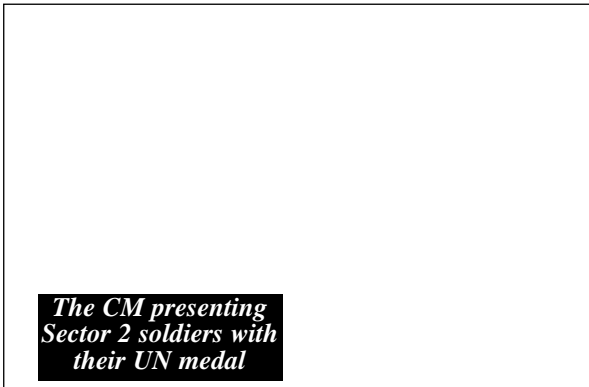
The aim is to have the Sector 1 link up and running by the end of June. This will mark the completion of the first phase of the HQ-to-sectors infrastructure upgrade. Another terminal will be installed in CDL Sector 4. Mission signals officers were briefed on the technical aspects of the new system at their monthly conference held at San Martin Camp on 18 May.

Sector Two celebrations

On Friday 5 May, Sector 2 held its medal parade at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Despite threats from dark thunderous clouds and ominous early afternoon rumblings, at 1700 hours, 120 Sector 2 soldiers in three guards marched on to form up and receive their United Nations medals in glorious sunshine.

The colours of both the 1st Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment and the Fanion of A Squadron, 103 Verkbatallion were flying. The VVIPs arrived and after a succession of general and royal salutes, the parade commander and CO Sector 2, Lt Col Chris Hughes, invited the Force Commander to conduct his inspection.

Maj Gen Rana then presented Lt Col Hughes, the Adjutant, Captain Giles Woodhouse, and the RSM, WO1 Mark Woodcroft, with their UN medals. The Chief of Mission, Mr James Holger, the British High Commissioner, HE Mr Edward Clay, and the Deputy Commander of the 1st (Netherlands) Division, Brig Gen M A van Ulden, presented medals to the three guards.



The CM presenting Sector 2 soldiers with their UN medal



Marching the colours on parade

With dark clouds and faint thunder passing to the north, the battalion then marched past and off the square. This left the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division to perform a splendidly varied programme of music to the assembled guests before they all moved through to the reception in the grounds of the Ledra Palace.

Dutch commemorate and celebrate

On the evening of 4 May, Dutch soldiers with UNFICYP attended a short flag ceremony at Wolseley Barracks, followed by a two-minute silence, to commemorate those who gave or lost their lives in WW2.

Peacekeeping duties and the Sector 2 medal parade prevented them from joining in the traditional celebration of the Netherlands' liberation from German occupation in 1945.



Dutch senior Maj Han Schraven and his guests eating raw herrings

But they had been able to celebrate one of the biggest holidays in the Dutch calendar - the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix on 30 April.

The Royal Netherlands Army sponsored a music, cabaret and dance show, preceded by a reception where Maj Schraven offered guests national delicacies such as 'Oranjabitter', an orange liqueur, and raw herrings.

North Wind Patrol

By WO2 Dave Glen

Sector 2's North Wind Patrol happens every fortnight. The purpose of the patrol is to distribute humanitarian aid to three Maronite communities living in the villages of Asomatos, Karpasha and Kormakiti in the north. To understand the reason why the aid is sent to the Maronite community, you may first need a short history lesson.

The Maronites first came to Cyprus sometime before 900 AD, after the Saracens had persecuted them in the area that we now know as Lebanon. During the 13th century, the Maronite community living in Cyprus numbered over 50,000 and inhabited over 60 villages. The population decreased over the years as a result of persecution by successive regimes.

In 1960, when Cyprus achieved independence and was declared an independent state, the Maronites had to decide which community they wished to belong to. They opted for the Greek Cypriot community as this was the majority owing to religious, linguistic and cultural bonds.

By 1974, some 5,000 Maronites lived in four villages in northern Cyprus - Asomatos, Karpasha, Kormakiti and Ayia Marina. The last of these villages was so severely bombed that the Maronites left and moved south - along with many of the inhabitants of the other three villages. There are currently 169 Maronites still living in the northwest of the island, many of them well past the first flush of youth.

To help them, the Cyprus Government sends up regular supplies of food and other items ranging from tubes of toothpaste to gas bottles. But the supplies are a relatively minor element of the patrol. The most important part is the contact



Members of the Dutch Contingent in Sector 2 watch as the Maronite community in Kormakiti unload their aid from UN vehicles

these rather isolated villagers have with the UN. Most of the Maronites speak very little Turkish and even less English. We always take a Greek speaker so the patrol commander can find out if the villagers have any problems.

The North Wind Patrol is one of the most enjoyable parts of the SCAT team's work. We involve personnel working in other areas of Sector 2, giving them the chance to see more of Cyprus and to feel that they are doing something rather special to help a section of the Cypriot population - and to find out a bit more about a different culture. Volunteers are always welcome!

Sector 2 and MFR run buffer zone for children

Twenty-five soldiers from the Staffordshire Regiment and members of the Dutch and Austrian contingents working with them in the MFR recently completed a gruelling 197km run across Cyprus, in order to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales' Children's Hospital Birmingham.

The event, organised by Maj Andy Layton, started at UN Observation Post 08 near Kato Pyrgos, on the west coast of the island, and finished at UN OP 146 on the east coast near Famagusta. The run took the form of a relay with each runner completing a 5km leg, some running twice, with the aim to complete all 197km in daylight hours.

Starting at 5:20 am, the runners set out on the first part of the course in Sector 1 with the better runners battling through the hills. This was without a doubt the make-or-break section of the run, with the patrol tracks running up very steep slopes over the foothills of the Troodos mountains. The support vehicles following behind had to use four-wheel drive and first gear in order to negotiate many of these slopes.





Staffords reach Carter Cup semi-final

After a tough quarter-final game against 1 King's Own Scottish Borderers, a UN team made up of British and Dutch players reached the semi-finals of the Carter Cup Knockout football competition at RAF Akrotiri.

The KOSB dominated the early minutes and scored from a well-worked free kick, but the Staffords and their Dutch team-mates stepped up a gear and equalised by half-time, thanks to SSgt Pete Van der Endt. Hard work by all after the break led to Cpl Steve Hack taking the UN 2-1 up. Cpl Raymond Bryson made it 3-1 soon afterwards, finding the net after two agonisingly close attempts coming of the woodwork. Van der Endt then put the UN well beyond the KOSB with his second goal to make it 4-1 in the final quarter of an hour. An overzealous tackle by Cpl Stuart Savage at the edge of the box enabled the KOSB to creep a goal back from the penalty spot and the game finished 4-2.

On to the semi-finals. Even though Raymond Bryson (man of the match in the quarter-final) was out of the team, and Sgt Mark Hannington was missing from the back four due to an injury, the

Sector 2/MFR guys were confident of getting through to the final.

The Episkopi Garrison team worked the ball well, pinning the UN to its own half for the first 20 minutes. Rising to the challenge, LCpl Frank Maycock narrowly headed one over the bar from a corner. Sgt Nick Verhart made a host of important saves to keep a clean sheet and the break came with the score 0-0.

The opening phase of the second half saw Episkopi Garrison putting tremendous pressure on the back four and the keeper. The onslaught finally paid off, taking them 1-0 after 20 minutes. In response, Cpl Dave Travis was afforded a chance and made an excellent 25-metre drive to see the opposition keeper get fingers to it for a corner. Hack also had a chance, only to have the Episkopi keeper make another fine save.

With only four minutes remaining on the clock, Episkopi sealed their place in the final with a second goal from a corner. Despite a valiant effort, the Staffords and their Dutch imports went out to the eventual Carter Cup winners, 2-1.

Lions overtake Pumas

By Capt John James

The atmosphere was positively carnival-like as supporters of Sector 1 and Sector 2 tuned up for the first UNPA international rugby event of the millennium - Pumas vs Lions.

The hot dry conditions promised some good, open running rugby and Sector 1 set out their stall early on putting Sector 2 under immediate pressure. Only some big tackles and staunch defence prevented the Argentinians from going over. Some powerful British forward play and clever kicking eased the pressure and slowly turned the tide in their favour. At the half time whistle, the Lions led the Pumas by five points, a result of a try scored in great style by LCpl Adam Hunter.

The second half began in the same vein as the first, with Sector 1 moving the ball around well and trying to create an opening. Some dogged defending and powerful tackling stopped them in their tracks.



Sectors 1 and 2 rugby teams

Then it was the turn of the Lions forwards to dominate. They consistently went over the gain line, and their continual pressure was finally rewarded when Cpl Neil Parker at outside centre muscled his way through to get the try that was to seal the game. Cpl Dave Travis provided

the extra two points with his trusty right boot.

In the closing 10 minutes, some good tactical substitutions injected new life into the Argentinians, but they left it a little late. At the final whistle, the game ended with the Brits the clear victors. Final result: Lions 12: Pumas 0.

AQUANTICS

Monday 8 May, another hot sunny day in Cyprus, saw Sector 2 and the MFR battling it out in the swimming pool.

The original plan had been to hold the competition at Ledra, but we realised this might involve the doctor working overtime updating contestants' jabs. So, the venue shifted to the purer waters of the UNPA. Four teams of 10 entered the event: LPH, S2W, S2E and the MFR. To avoid a complete whitewash, competitors were only allowed to enter two team events and one individual event.

The competition opened with a display by the legendary Duncan Goodhue on how not to swim. After this, Sgt Tim Best and his team of highly trained officials got the show on the road. The first seven individual events saw some fast times and good sportsmanship when one nameless competitor gave his rivals a head start by opting to do butterfly in the 50m freestyle.



S2E wound up overall winners with 46 points, having finished either first or second in all events. The MFR came second with 36 points, S2W third with 26, while LPH mustered 22.

Many thanks to all the officials, from the wheels of steel, DJ sixties music mixer Sgt "Jack" Daw and to number crunchers Sgt Catherine Munro MBE et al.

UNFICYP win 12 SU walkabout

A female dominated UNFICYP team stunned competitors when it walked away with this year's 12 Signal Unit Walkabout prize. The annual 30-mile race takes three-person teams through rough and rugged terrain, demanding a high degree of physical fitness and stamina combined with sound map reading.

52 teams entered this year's competition - five of them from UNFICYP. It was a hot day and a number of teams had expired before they even reached the first of the five checkpoints. By Checkpoint Two, the four leading teams were the joint UNFICYP/JSSU team (Dutch orienteer WO2 Gerrit Van de Riet, with Squadron Leader Mike Edwards and Corporal Jameson from Ayios Nikolaos), closely followed by a male team from the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the UNFICYP Mixed Team (Diana Bridger, Mary Dellar and Major Ray Lorimer) and a male team from the Cheshire Regiment.

More and more teams fell by the wayside as gradients and temperatures rose on the way to Checkpoint Three. The route then zig-zagged through more vineyards and past the little Chapel of Ayios Stephanos, and its monolith, to Checkpoint Four. By Checkpoint Five, the two UNFICYP teams



were an hour ahead of the rest of the field, with UNFICYP/JSSU still leading.

The last stretch was over demanding hilly ground and choice of route proved key. It was here that the UNFICYP mixed team edged ahead, completing the course in seven hours and nine minutes. UNFICYP/JSSU came in second 10 minutes behind, and the MFR team (Lt Hoy, CSgt Lester and Pte Tomkinson) sixth overall and fifth in the male category. 33 finished the course, some in over 12 hours.

sports

The Famagusta Open - an annual event?

By Maj János Hatos



Tennis has always been popular in Sector 4 and ad hoc tournaments have been held in the past. Now, however, we hope that the Famagusta competition will be a regular feature of the local sporting calendar.

The Second Famagusta Open took place on 13 May on the Eastern Mediterranean University tennis courts. The date was far from ideal - not only was it the hottest day so far this year, but it clashed with the UNFICYP football competition which meant that there were only seven entrants - *a deliberate ploy by the defending champion?* - ed.

Winner: Maj Hatos, runner-up: LCpl Düringer, bronze medallists: Pte Krenn and Cpl Spehar.



SECTOR TWO MEDAL PARADE