

# The Blue Beret

May 2001

Anzac Day





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

Tel: (02) 864550/864416/864408

Fax: (02) 864461

E-mail: blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com

Web site: www.unficy.org

#### Editorial Team

Brian Kelly

Maj. Dezső Kiss

Miriam Taylor

#### Photography

Contingent Photographers

#### Unit Press Officers

**Sector 1** Maj. Alejandro Alvarez

**Sector 2** Lt. Alex Martin

**Sector 4** Capt. Kristian Noll

Capt. Béla András

Capt. Tanja Pecnik

**UNCIVPOL** Garda Kevin Keys

Supt. Romeo Gyergyak

**UN Fit** Lt. Mariano Garbini

**MFR** Capt. Fernando Mendez

**FMPU** 1/Lt. Gerard Verhulst

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## editorial

May is one of the key months in the world of peacekeeping missions. For many peacekeepers, it is the turn-around month.

May, the penultimate month. The last but one month in the tour of duty. A time to prepare for handover and departure.

And, on a more personal note, a time to look forward to family reunions. Perhaps it is a time too to start wondering about the next assignment. Where? When?

So for those who are getting ready to leave, why not stop for a moment and take stock of where you have been and what you have done.

Whether you have been here for six months, a year or two years, you can look back with satisfaction on a job well done.

However low key and routine an assigned task or duty may have seemed, the recurring demands made on each and every peacekeeper during his or her tour required a level of skill and discipline above the ordinary.

Such professionalism and maturity is a credit to the force and a reminder that a peacekeeping mission, like so much else in this experiment we call the United Nations, is much more than its individual parts.

Whatever our quirks and cultural differences as we come together in our different uniforms, military and civilian, the tolerance and respect that emerges from working side by side ensures that we return home or move on to other missions richer for the experience we have shared and gained with UNFICYP.

## Contents

Editorial/Contents	2
Visit of Mr. Guéhenno/	
A Special Day for Special Kids/	3
Raising Money at the Airport	3
Rauno departs/Hungarians arrive	4
UNCIVPOL	5
Sector 1/Caption Competition	6
Sector 1	7
Sector 2	8/9
ANZAC Day/British CDS visits/	
Six-Minute Mile	10
Sector 2	11
MFR	12
Sector 4	13
Sport	14/15
The Dutch withdraw from UNFICYP	16

Front Cover: Anzac Day

# Visit of Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno to UNFICYP

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, paid a visit to UNFICYP from 18 to 20 May as part of a broader visit programme to UN operations in the Middle East. He was escorted throughout his visit by the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana.

Mr. Guéhenno paid courtesy calls on Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash. He also toured each sector and was briefed by the Sector Commanders on the situation in their area of command. In addition, he met with some of the troops serving on the line.

This was Mr. Guéhenno's first visit to UNFICYP.



## A Special Day for Special Kids



On 29 May from 09:00 to 14:00 hours, a festival for disabled children, organised by the Very Special Arts (VSA) Group, Nicosia, took place at the Ledra Palace. Approximately 250 children, their caretakers and their teachers from over 10 different schools in Cyprus took part in the event.

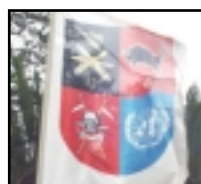
After a hearty breakfast, the children had the opportunity to participate in various workshops, i.e. painting, dancing etc. The band from Sector 1 played for the children during the morning break and again for the goodbye event in the ballroom. After lunch, the children departed from Ledra Palace. Sadly, 70 disabled children and their caretakers from three different schools for special needs in north Nicosia were unable to attend the event.

The Sector 2 Civil Affairs Team (SCAT 2) stated that the event was very successful and enjoyable, and no incident was reported.

## Raising Money at the Airport

Approximately 60 elementary school-children from the Grammar School in Nicosia recently visited UNFICYP to take part in a sponsored walk in aid of charities in Nicosia.

During the walk, the children were taken on a tour of the Nicosia International Airport and provided with basic information about what the UNFICYP peacekeepers do. Having climbed into Tactics and helicopters, the children enjoyed every minute of their visit.





## Rauno Departs...



**R**auno Halme, UNFICYP's Finnish Chief of Support Services, retired from United Nations service in Cyprus on 4 June, 30 years on and nine missions after he first entered the system. Fittingly, he marked his last day by attending a medal parade ceremony for the small Finnish contingent serving with UNFICYP, 4 June being Finnish Defence Forces Flag Day.

To mark the serendipitous occasion, Maj Timo Mäkelä, CO FINCON, presented Rauno with a state flag, an honour rarely extended to the non-uniformed peace-keeping branch known collectively as civilians. But

then, Rauno, in his three decades with the UN, has served with UNTSO, UNDOF, UNMOGIP, UNEF II, UNIFIL, UNPROFOR, UNAVEM III (MONUA) and lastly UNFICYP.

Rauno moved to Cyprus at the end of 1997. A year later, he was joined by his wife Ann, an Australian, a semi-professional pianist, whose virtuosity and talent highlighted many a staff party during their time in Nicosia.

Before becoming CSS in Cyprus, Rauno had previously worked in the transport field. In this respect, UNPROFOR, with a 50,000-strong force, was an outstanding challenge to him as Chief Transport Officer. Just think of all those trip tickets!

So why the switch to CSS on arrival in UNFICYP? Rauno says it was because it offered yet another challenge, this time one that not only involved heavy integration with the military, but the opportunity to be responsible for engineering, warehousing and the UNFICYP way of doing business generally.

"Most of our vehicle fleet, for example, is hired/maintained commercially because it is cost-effective for UN and operationally desirable, something which is totally different to any other peacekeeping operation, where such items are purchased by the UN."

In parting from the mission and the UN, Rauno extends thanks and sends greetings to all staff at UN HQ for their support during his 30 years of service, and "a fond farewell" to colleagues and friends from the various peacekeeping missions he has served with, "especially my friends in Cyprus whom I hope to visit as a tourist".

*All the best - Rauno*

## ...Hungarians Arrive



**T**he Hungarian Contingent had only just rotated in Sector 4 when a call was received for them to help entertain participants at a charity function, organised by the Falcon School in Nicosia. The proceeds went to buy computers for paraplegics.

Even though they had only been four weeks on the island, the Hungarian team in Dherinia quickly got their act together and organised a demonstration of martial arts, an area in which the Hungarians are now famed.

So on 5 May, the team arrived an hour early, bringing all their equipment with them and at 2:00 pm, the show began. They started slowly with movement exercises, followed by demonstrations in the handling of knives and guns. The pace quickened when the soldiers started breaking wood with their legs and arms, but the finale - which had all small boys sitting in the front row with eyes and mouths open - was when bricks were set alight and then demolished with one blow.

As one of the organisers said, "This is a demonstration by experts only. Please don't go home and practise!"

## AUSTCIVPOL Withers Awarded Bravery Citation for East Timor

**S**gt Brendon Withers of the 65<sup>th</sup> AUSTCIVPOL Contingent was awarded an Australian Government Bravery Citation by the Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Frank Ingruber, at the completion of the UNCIVPOL Medal Presentation. The award was conferred on all members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Civilian Police Contingent who served with the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor between June and September 1999.

Brendon served in the East Timor enclave of Oecussi which is situated on the north coast of West Timor. The mission of the 1<sup>st</sup> Contingent was to liaise and advise the Indonesian Police on security matters related to conduct of a referendum scheduled for 30 August that would determine the political future of East Timor.

In their assigned locations, the civilian police remained isolated, unarmed and vulnerable to ambush and hostile

action by local militias opposed to the ballot. The commencement of voter registration led to an increase in militia activity against the local population. Members of the contingent were also subject to intimidation, ranging from acts of violence often occasioning bodily harm, being fired upon, death threats and hostile propaganda.

Following the ballot there were many killings of civilians and East Timor was quickly engulfed in civil strife. Local police commanders informed the United Nations that the safety of the civilian police could not be guaranteed.

Despite the threat to their safety, members of the civilian police offered protection and refuge to sections of the local population targeted by the pro-integration militias. The actions



of the 1<sup>st</sup> Contingent helped reduce fear and tension throughout East Timor. In carrying out their policing functions, they often placed their own lives at significant risk.

## 30 Years On - AUSTCIVPOL Members Return to Cyprus

**O**n 29 April, a group of 17 former Australian Civilian Police officers visited Cyprus as part of a privately organised tour for a period of seven days. The tour group included family and friends, numbering 37 in total. The majority of the veterans had served with UNCIVPOL more than 30 years ago. Three of the group were members of the first AUSTCIVPOL Contingent in 1964.

On 1 May, the veterans and their families attended a social function at the UNCIVPOL Club where they enjoyed the company of current UNCIVPOL members. On 4 May, they were



guests of Australian High Commissioner Frank Ingruber at his residence for a cocktail party, before attending a function in Dhali in their honour, hosted by CYPOL.

The visit brought back fond memories of their tours of duty all those years ago.



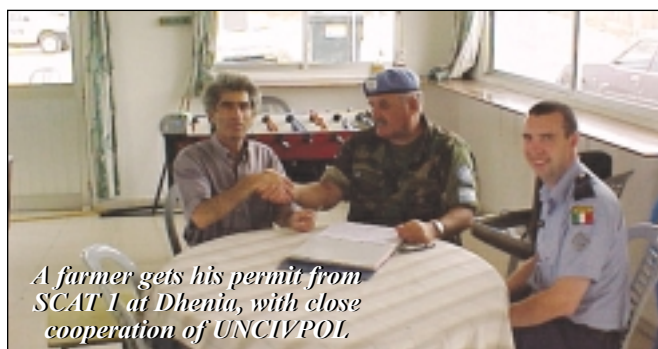
# A Great Professional Experience

By SSgt.  
Mario Bosco

It has been two months now since I left my Communication Battalion in the Marine Force in Argentina and started working with the Argentinian Task Force here. First I had a short period of training in our Argentinian Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations (CAECOPAZ), and now I am in Cyprus.

It was a change for me from being a communication team leader to being a member of the Sector 1 Civil Affairs Team (SCAT 1). I found that there were not many differences among the military personnel, although now I have to deal with people from other nationalities, which I really enjoy. However, much is different in terms of operational matters. Dealing with civilians is not an easy task for a soldier who is accustomed to many rules and proceedings, but it is interesting!

As regards our daily work, the main tasks are arranging meetings with people who want to put into practice



A farmer gets his permit from SCAT 1 at Dhenia, with close cooperation of UNCIVPOL.

activities in the buffer zone such as farming, beekeeping, and many others. Then we have to update the UN records.

I find working with SCAT 1 a challenging job, and I hope that everybody enjoys their posting as much as I do.

## New DCO Sector 1 - Lt. Col. Guillermo Alejandro Mas

Lt. Col. Guillermo Alejandro Mas was born in Buenos Aires on 7 February 1955. He joined the Army on 28 February 1974, and was promoted from the Military Academy as a 2/Lt in the Cavalry branch in 1977.

Commissioned to the 2nd Tank Regiment, he spent two years as a Squadron Leader. While serving there, he was sent to the "Steyr Daimler Puch Course" in Austria, becoming an armour specialist. He was subsequently appointed to the Army General Staff and two Tank Regiments.

In 1987, Lt. Col. Mas was posted to the war

College and graduated as a Staff Officer, following which he returned to the 2nd Tank Regiment and was subsequently posted as Operations Officer in the X Mechanised Brigade.

In 1992, he was appointed as Military Observer in MINURSO (West Sahara). On completion of this tour of duty, he was designated Deputy Commanding Officer to the 13th Light Cavalry Regiment.

Lt. Col. Mas is married to Maria Elena Arroyo, and they have four children.



## THE BLUE BERET CAPTION COMPETITION

Warrant Officer 2 Val Ramsay, Chief Clerk Ops Branch, is the winner of last month's caption competition. Val came up with a number of suggestions, but the one below is the pick of the month. Will Val please come to the Public Information Office for her prize.

**Hair raising flights  
with the UN**



Two bottles of Australian red wine will be awarded to the best caption to fit this photograph. All entries should be submitted to the Public Information Office by

**Friday 29 June 2001**



## Many Countries -- One Spirit

By Maj. Alejandro Alvarez

Integration is always an interesting subject for discussion. The Argentinian Contingent's 17th rotation has brought 380 new professional soldiers with their fears, dreams and hopes. It was evident since their arrival that they wanted to set foot in every corner of their area of responsibility.

However, a small group among them has a special motivation. They are the officers and NCOs sent by Argentina's neighbouring countries to join the personnel of Sector 1.

Argentina has been one of UNFICYP's contributing nations since 1993. In 1994, in the framework of ever-increasing good relations and economic integration, Argentina took the

decision to boost military cooperation with its neighbours. Since then, the contribution has increased in number, as well as enthusiasm.

In 1994, Uruguay detached two officers and one NCO to Sector 1, and Brazil did the same in 1995. Then two officers from Bolivia arrived in 1997, followed by an officer from Paraguay in 1998. We are currently getting acquainted for the first time with an officer from Chile.

Capt. Jomar Barros de Andrade and WO Genildo da Silva from Brazil stressed that: "The historic friendship that has always linked our countries gets stronger as we work together".

Paraguayan 2/Lt. Hugo Yamanishi is currently the sole representative of his nation, however he maintains that the spirit speaks louder than the number. He remarked on the importance of joint experience in peacekeeping operations.

Bolivian Captains Rivera and Arevalo concluded: "We enjoy the cultural exchange, as well as the peacekeeping experience on the ground we get from being a part of a national contingent."

Uruguayans Capt. Corujo, 1/Lt. Piriz and WO2 Sosa are among those who think that improving professional and cultural links between South American nations is of the utmost importance. "In this way, we follow the traditional Uruguayan worldwide contribution to peacekeeping missions."

Finally, Chilean Capt. Hawa Arellano thinks of increasing joint efforts in the area of defence through peacekeeping operations, much as they have been improved in the economic and cultural spheres.

There you have a variety of opinions that encourages us to work harder. Visitors to Sector 1 may be surprised to see the number of different flags that fly, or hear the different Spanish accents spoken within the Sector. However what is not different is the spirit. It remains one and shows the remarkable presence of South American troops in the mission.



Sector 1



# Restoration of the Canadian Memorial

By Sgt. Crouan

The memorial, situated next to RHQ in Wolseley Barracks Nicosia, commemorates the 28 lives lost by the 58 UN Canadian contingents who served in Cyprus as part of UNFICYP from March 1964 to June 1993 under OP SNOWGOOSE.

It comprises of a triangular patch inside which is located a white and blue concrete memorial with brass inscription listing those who lost their lives during the course of their duties. Two Canadian helmets complete the ensemble with the UN flag flying at the back of the memorial. Unfortunately, over the years the area has fallen into a state of disrepair, and despite some valiant efforts by previous units to restore it, Mother Nature has always seemed to reclaim the memorial for herself.

After a couple of attempts with strimmers and a lawnmower, it was plain to see that it was time to go back to the drawing board and find a way to make the memorial a little more 'durable' to the elements. During the winter months the alternating rainy and sunny weather turn the patch into a savana - we lost Pte. Davies in there for three weeks at one stage, now he wants to be a Commando - while the summer months tend to burn everything away. The end result is not pretty, and makes for a less than memorable memorial.

Our Post NCO, LCpl. Dennis Taylor, went to work on the brass inscription straight away with some brasso and elbow grease and brought it back to its former glory. If only the rest of it could be that simple. Our first port of call was to the British Broadcasting Corporation in the UK to see if Groundforce (the team that give delapidated gardens around Britain a facelift) could be brought/bribed out to Cyprus. After a couple of e-mails, we got a polite: 'No chance, do it yourselves'.

Enquiries were then made to the Canadian Department of National Defence to see if funds could be made available. Soldiers' ingenuity and goodwill can get you so far in life, but this memorial required a facelift, and plastic surgeons - or in this case landscape gardening materials - don't come cheap. Some funds would ensure we could buy the suitable materials and possibly some technical expertise to assist us in completing the task. A number of ideas were banded around, some good, some bad. LCpl. Taylor's maple leaf shaped flower patch was interesting, but required high maintenance. Not every AGC Detachment has a Percy Thrower on their establishment. Sgt. Spike Walker's concrete pay and display car park scenario, although a self-funding and durable concept, was a non-starter.

Eventually, after much debate, we decided to encircle the patch with concrete curbing, and instead of grass, we decided that a base of white aggregate, and a lot of weedkiller, would look a whole lot smarter. Twenty-eight trees, one for each soldier who lost his life, would surround the memorial. The old flagpole, now half hidden behind a tree that grew over the years, would be replaced by two separate flagpoles, flying the Canadian and the UN flags. We made our proposals to Capt JJ Simon of the Canadian Army, and put forward an estimated price for the materials required. The Canadian MOD agreed to foot the bill and the Detachment would provide the manpower necessary. A deadline was also set, 21 May, Victoria Day in the Canadian calendar. However this was delayed due to the Canadian representative being unable to attend until 24 May.

As the weeks went by, the days got warmer and heat was turned up on the detachment to make the deadline. The Cypriot contractor's philosophy of 'never do something you can postpone until tomorrow' gave Capt. Cox a few fits here and there, especially as only a few days remained until the unveiling, and Col. Brooks, the Chief of Staff, was attending. Some carefully chosen words of Mediterranean diplomacy, and a late surge days prior to the deadline, ensured the memorial was ready. Some high tech gadgets of mass destruction courtesy of the Royal Engineer Detachment also ensured that blisters on our hands were averted.

The new and improved memorial was officially reopened on 24 May with the raising of the flags by Miss Marina Laker of the Canadian Embassy, Damascus. She was flanked by a Queen's Royal Lancer Guard in full ceremonial dress. Also in attendance were Capt. JJ Simon and Sgt. William Bill of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Although it has meant a tremendous amount of hard work for the Detachment, the end result has been worthwhile. We leave Cyprus knowing that we have left an everlasting mark.



*Canadian Embassy's Marina Laker unveils the Canadian Army Memorial*



## The British Contingent Medal Parade



On 3 May, BRITCON held its Medal Parade, the last one with Dutch participation. Present were the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, the Deputy British High Commissioner, Mr. Philip Barton, Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice-Marshal T.W. Rimmer OBE, and the Chief of Staff 43 (NL) Mechanised Brigade, Col. H. Heesakkers.

The music was provided by the Lucknow Band of the Prince of Wales's Division and featured 'Stable Jacket', the Regimental March of The Queen's Royal Lancers.

Following the parade, a cocktail party was held outside the Ledra Palace.



## Force Commander's Citations

Force Commander citations were awarded on 28 May to six members of the outgoing Sector 2. British and Dutch soldiers were awarded this honour in recognition of their outstanding peacekeeping activities including exemplary behaviour, quick thinking in the face of danger, communication abilities with the opposing forces on the island and generally their behaviour which was over and above what was expected of them.

With the withdrawal of the Netherlands from UNFICYP, the Force Commander also awarded all Dutch soldiers who had served with the Force his citation in recognition of their endeavours during their tours of duty.



# ANZAC DAY



A dawn service at Wayne's Keep Cemetery was held on 25 April, when AUSTCIVPOL celebrated ANZAC day. A 'gunfire' breakfast was served to a gathering in excess of 200 colleagues

and friends, and in the afternoon, a barbecue, refreshments and two-up competitions were held at the UNCIVPOL club.

Distinguished guests included the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana, the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Frank Ingruber, Mrs. Ingruber, Mrs. Micky Christodoulou, wife of the New Zealand Honorary Consul, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Phillip Barton, Mrs. Barton, and the Speaker of the NSW parliament, the Hon. John Murray MP.

A very pleasant day was had by all, and thanks must go to the Australian High Commissioner and the New Zealand Honorary Consul

for their financial and administrative support, and to all the Dutch and British military from Sector 2, and the management and staff of the International Cafeteria for the breakfast.

## British Chief of the Defence Staff visits UNFICYP

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Chief of the Defence Staff, visited UNFICYP on 22 May. The aim of this visit was to give him an understanding of Op Tosca (the BRITCON deployment) and the most important current issues.

During his visit, the CDS inspected an honour guard provided by the MFR and held

meetings with the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and the British High Commissioner. Following these visits, the CDS moved to Sector 2 and toured City Troop.

The Chief of the Defence Staff is the senior serving military officer in the United Kingdom responsible for policy and planning for all three services.



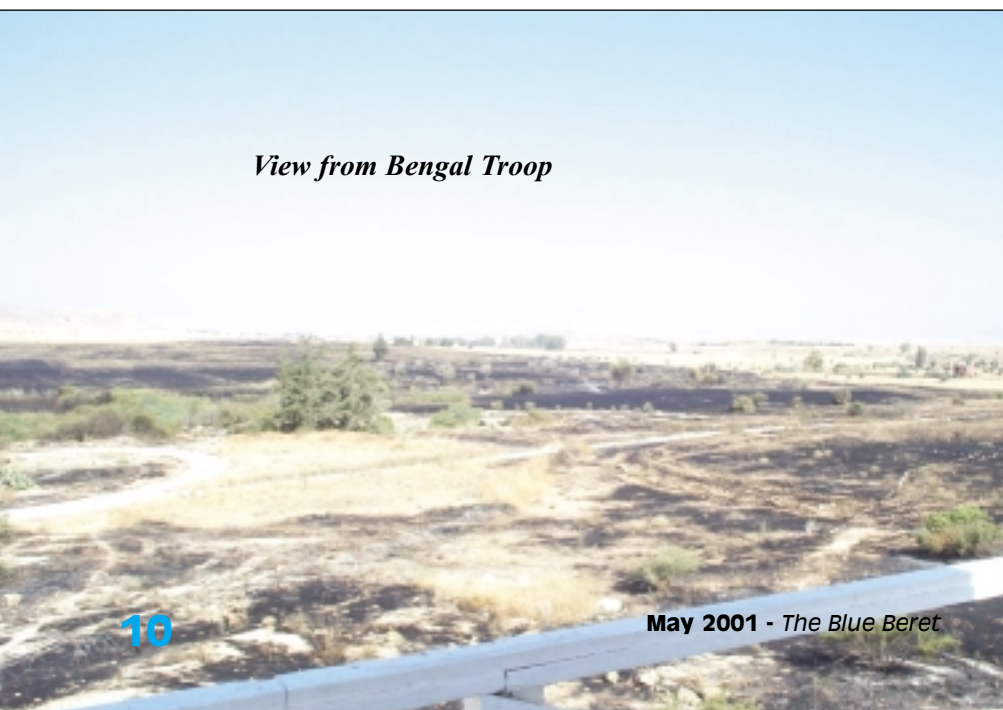
CO Sector 2 with Sir Michael Boyce

## Six-Minute Mile

On 20 May at 1500 hrs, a fire was spotted in Bengal Troop's area of responsibility. The blaze was moving exceptionally fast towards Bengal Troop House and covered over a mile in six minutes. As the men and women of Bengal Troop retreated before the blaze, concern grew that their troop house was in danger and plans were laid for its immediate evacuation.

However, with the assistance of emergency services of both opposing forces, the fire was eventually brought under control.

View from Bengal Troop



# Dutch Flag Lowering Ceremony

A small, flag-lowering ceremony (see back cover) was held on 6 June 2001 in Wolseley Barracks (Ledra Palace) on the occasion of the withdrawal of the Netherlands contingent.

The lowering of the Dutch flag marks the end of a three-year contribution of Dutch peacekeepers serving with UNFICYP.

The participation of the NL Contingent was a result of an agreement between UK and NL. Six contingents (in total 600 Dutch soldiers - men and women) have served on the island, fully integrated with their British "peacekeepers in arms" within Sector 2. The cooperation between the UK and NL has been a great success. The Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana, rewarded the NL contingent



The Dutch salute as their national flag is lowered for the last time in UNFICYP

with a Force Commander's Commendation for their work in the service of peace.

The withdrawal has to do with the fact that the Netherlands is focussing on its peacekeeping role in Bosnia.

## Nearly Four Decades -- Just the Blink of an Eye!

By Lt. Alex Martin



So as the six-month tour of the Queen's Royal Lancers/12 Battery AD Group comes to an end it seems the right time to sum up our time in Cyprus. Obviously, this tour is very different to many of the others in which the British and Royal Netherlands Armies are currently engaged. Given that it is at the lowest end of the peacekeeping spectrum, on an island that is now more famous as a holiday destination than a world trouble spot, it would be easy to be complacent.

Futhermore, the military role in the Cyprus problem is very much secondary. We are here merely to provide the correct conditions for a peaceful political settlement. That said, the military task in Cyprus is far from easy and is, in its own way, exceptionally rewarding.

This will have been the first

operational tour for many soldiers in the Sector. The nature of the operation places a high degree of responsibility on private soldiers and junior NCOs, requiring that they operate on their own initiative far more than is usual in their normal positions. In addition, commanders at all levels have had to overcome their frustrations and think laterally in order to resolve incidents which, in some cases, have been ongoing for over 20 years. As a result, everyone within the Sector has learnt a great deal during their short time in Cyprus and most have greatly enjoyed the experience.

As we leave, we would like to wish all those who remain and our replacements the very best of luck, and hope that they too will reach a satisfying and safe end to their tour. Goodbye, or perhaps, 'Au Revoir'.

The flag which flew at the Ledra Palace during the six-month tour of the Queen's Royal Lancers:

Top left is the emblem of the Dutch 12 Air Defence Regiment; top right is the bison, the brigade emblem of the Dutch 43 Mechanised Brigade; bottom left is the British regimental crest of The Queen's Royal Lancers, with the UN crest bottom right.





## LIFE IN THE MOBILE FORCE RESERVE

By Sgt. S.J. Gilkinson

There is no better example of a true multinational peacekeeping force than within the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR). In common with all UN peacekeeping operations, UNFICYP is a colorful mixture of customs and cultures and the MFR is a prime example of this.

The MFR was formed in 1997 from the previously known Permanent Force Reserve (PFR). It was created to provide the Force Commander with a flexible and well-equipped response to any situation that may arise in the buffer zone.

The staff of the MFR (105 in total) is made up from the soldiers of five nations, Argentina, Austria, Holland, Hungary and the United Kingdom. Every aspect of the MFR is multinational, with a British Officer Commanding, Argentinian Second in Command and Platoon Commanders from Argentina, Austria, Holland and the UK.

The company consists of four platoons: three of these are multinational rifle platoons with the fourth being an all Argentinian Armoured Personnel Carrier Platoon with their TACTICA APCs, adding a welcome touch of Latin spice and culture for the European contingents.

The MFR is based within the UNPA in Nicosia where one of the three platoons look after the camp security, carry out internal

and perimeter patrols as well as providing a quick reaction force on a 24/7 basis.

The second rifle platoon carries out mobile patrol/recce duties, assisting all three sectors. It is not uncommon to see an Argentinian soldier patrolling in British Sector 2, a Dutch soldier patrolling in Pyla platoons AOR (Austrian), or soldiers from Austria and Hungary in the hills of Argentinian Sector 1. These patrols give the MFR soldiers valuable opportunity to experience all parts of the BZ and to see exactly how other nationalities go about the business of peacekeeping. This platoon also provides lifeguards on a daily basis for the Dolphin Swimming Pool and any approved military/labour tasks in support of HQ UNFICYP.

The third rifle platoon is on the training and standby phase; during this phase, the majority of the crowd control training is perfected at our very own training camp. We have also recently completed air manoeuvre training in preparation for any quick response to rapid deployment orders. In addition, we are kept busy doing plenty of in-theatre training days at platoon level. Subjects covered include mine recognition, first aid, driver training and weapon handling. The platoons rotate through the three tasks in a nine-day rotation.

The opportunity for all ranks of the company to work closely with soldiers from other nations has brought a new understanding and respect for each other's militaries and cultures. The location of the MFR in the UNPA has also allowed some opportunities for cultural exchanges on a social level; Burn's Night, ANZAC Day, Bandidos and countless barbecues held within the International Bar and also at the Austrian Club. Sporting competitions also play a large part of team building within the force, and the impressive array of silverware and medals located in the company office speaks volumes for the achievements of both individuals and teams alike during the last six months.

When the soldiers of the MFR leave at the end of their tour, they will not only have experienced the island of Cyprus with its diverse population, but they will have made friends from places as far apart as Patagonia to Budapest and from Canberra to Dublin.

In summary, being a platoon sergeant with the MFR has been a demanding and exciting job. It is certainly very different to working in the line. There is no doubt that all MFR soldiers, regardless of nationality, have risen to the challenge and have been a credit to both their contingents and UNFICYP.

## Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta

It is traditional within UNFICYP for the camps in the Sectors to be named after certain celebrities, and Sector Four is no exception. The camp named after Lt Izay, killed during the 1974 troubles, is very wellknown, but very few know much about Duke Leopold V, who gave his name to the Austrian headquarters in Famagusta.

The feudal house of the Babenbergers originated from the hills close to the shores of the Danube and gradually expanded eastwards along the natural course of the river. Vienna was first mentioned in the year 881 as the scene of battle between the "Franks" and the "Magyars".

However, the city became a key political and economic centre after the Babenberg Henry Jasomirgott established his ducal residence at Vienna's "Am Hof". By 1137, Vienna was already chronicled as a fortified city. The reign of Henry Jasomirgott is a milestone in Austrian history.

It was under him that in 1156, Austria was raised to a duchy, granted juridical autonomy and endowed with rights of succession through both male and female lines. It gave Austria a specially privileged position within the Holy Roman Empire, which led to her establishment as an independent state.

On 13 January 1177, Duke Henry Jasomirgott died. He was succeeded by his 20-year-old son, who was invested as Leopold V of the Dukedom of Austria by the German King and Roman Emperor, Frederik Barbarossa, in a military camp at Candelore near Persono.

The Babenbergers were clever rulers and, though actively involved in crusades to the Holy Lands, managed to consolidate their authority in their own domain. Relations between Leopold and the Emperor were very good from the beginning, and friendly relationships were also developed with Bohemia, following the appointment of one of Leopold's relatives as the Duke of Bohemia. Furthermore, following the declaration of peace at Eger, a new frontier was established in the region, roughly identical to the border between Austria and the Czech Republic.

Similarly, peaceful relations with neighbouring Hungary were consolidated - how could it be otherwise - with marriage of Leopold V to Ilona, the sister of King Stephen III of Hungary.

The involvement of Leopold in the crusades coincided with the rise of Sultan Saladin, who crushed the Christian army and conquered Jerusalem on 3 October 1187. Saladin's victories stirred the Christians to launch the third Crusade. This is perhaps the best known of all the crusades,

because its leaders were so famous and included the Emperor Frederik Barbarossa of Germany, Phillip II of France and Richard the Lionheart of England.

The Emperor, who had considerable experience in war expeditions and crusades, called up and selected all those who were trained in combat, and in addition, those who were wealthy enough to finance themselves for a two-year period were allowed to accompany the crusade.

Duke Leopold joined the forces of Emperor Frederik who took his army overland through Europe and Byzantium, entering Asia Minor in 1190. Here, disaster struck when Frederik was drowned. The alliance of the Christian kings was shaken and eventually, the third crusade failed to accomplish its mission.

However, thanks to the courage of Duke Leopold V from Austria, the Crusaders did manage to conquer the town of Acre (Ptolemais). Leopold, heading a group of 500 archers, scaled the walls of Acre and, being the first Duke to enter the city, planted his banner on the walls. In the course of making his way to the top of the castle, he fought his way ferociously and, in doing so, his white cloak was covered with blood from fighting. The only part left white was around the waist because of his belt.

According to the legend, the colours of the Austrian flag, red-white-red, are attributed to this event. Following his return to Austria, the Duke fulfilled the vow he had taken during the attack of Acre and donated his blood-stained service coat, his sword and his lance to the Virgin Mary at Maria Lanzendorf in Lower Austria.

Coming back to AUSCON stationed in Cyprus, in the spring of 1973, the newly built camp at Paphos was named Camp Duke Leopold V in honour of the Duke. With the change of the operational area of the Austrian Battalion to Larnaca and later to Famagusta, the name of the camp was retained so that everyone remembers the Duke who was the first established Austrian soldier in the Middle East - an example of military courage.





## A Day at the Races

On 22 April, UNCIVPOL organised an afternoon at the Nicosia Race Course.

Over 50 UNCIVPOL members and friends enjoyed an excellent lunch in the VIP hospitality marquee and followed the ten-race card. Much entertainment ensued from gambling on the exciting horse races. Most punters ended the day showing profit.



*Guess who didn't back the winner!!*

## ARGENTINA 5: THE NETHERLANDS 2

*By Maj. A. Alvarez and 1/Lt. R. Lucarino*

The hot dry conditions given at 4 pm promised a good opening of the game, though it prevented many "fans" from being present on the day.

Some Argentinian players dreamed of the 1978 Football World Championship in which Argentina defeated the orange team in the final match - though some Dutch could also have remembered when Holland left the Argentinians behind in the quarter finals of the 1998 games. All of that made the atmosphere positive.

The Netherlands team set the pace early on, putting Argentina under immediate pressure and got a goal within the first five minutes of play. Only the immediate reorganisation of Sector 1's personnel prevented the Netherlands from going over.

Some powerful Argentinian defenders' play and clever footwork eased the pressure and slowly turned the game in their favour.

At half time, Argentina led the Netherlands 2 to 1. Goals were scored by 1/Lt. Lucarino and Pte. Correa.

The second half began in the same vein as the first with the Netherlands moving the ball around well, trying to create an opening. Then it was the turn of Argentina to dominate. The continual pressure of the team was finally rewarded with three goals from 1/Lt. Lucarino, 1/Cpl. Pio and Pte. Silingardi.

The game ended with a clear victor. Final result Argentina: 5, Netherlands: 2.



## Protection Racquet

32 competitors met at the UNPA tennis courts for the UNFICYP Tennis Competition which took place on 17 May.

Initially, games were of one set, but both the semi-finals and final were played over three sets in the blistering midday sun. The final was particularly hard fought between the international pairing of the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana, and the Senior Adviser, Mr. Wlodek Cibor, and the less experienced duo of SQMS MFR, Sgt. Maj. Gibb and Tpr. Haystead.

The eventual winners of the competition were the Force Commander and the Senior Adviser. The prizes were presented by Commander Sector Two, Lt. Col. James Everard.

Special mention should go to the semi-final match between SQMS MFR's pair and the team of OC MFR, Maj. Ian Gibb, and Capt. Pavlic, which was particularly hard fought.



## Sector 2 play NG and TCSF



*Playing against the National Guard*



*1 Wolf Regiment and Sector 2*

In the final month before their departure from UNFICYP, Sector 2 finally achieved one of their objectives - which was to play a decent game of soccer against both the National Guard and 1 Wolf Regiment.

4 May was the date set for the match at the UNPA against 9 NG. Although the result was a 4 - 0 whitewash for the NG, the game was enjoyed by spectators and players alike with a high standard of football from both sides. More importantly, the game was played in a spirit of friendship which, it is hoped, will be maintained in the years to come.

Then it was the turn of 1 Wolf Regiment in an equally hard fought match at the UNPA. There had been heavy rainfall just before 15 May, but the day of the match dawned clear and the groundsmen pronounced the pitch fit for play. Unfortunately it was another near whitewash for the UN team (3 - 1), with a goal being scored in the first 30 seconds. Again though, it was the spirit of the game, rather than the result, that was most important.

Hopefully, both these matches will become permanent fixtures.

## Opening of New UNPA Gym



With the slice of a knife, the Force Commander opened the new UNPA gym on 21 May. Instead of the traditional scissor-cutting ceremony, Maj. Gen. Rana used a khukri, the Ghurkha war knife in its ceremonial role on this occasion.

In the presence of the Chief of Mission, he thanked the Government of Cyprus Representative, the PWD, the UNFICYP Chief Engineer, the FOWO and the BRITCON Signals Sergeant for



their support in getting the project off the ground.

The old gym, originally located near the International Cafeteria, gradually fell into a very bad state of repair. So at the beginning of the year, work began on the renovation of a new gym, situated just beside CESSAC. Old equipment was stripped down and refurbished and new equipment was acquired. The expenses, totalling about \$8,000, were covered by the UNPA Military Welfare Fund.

The gym is now open to all those who work within the UNPA for training between the hours of 06:30 and 22:00. Basic rules governing the running of the training centre are displayed outside for all to see. It will be run by the MFR, but any queries or faults should be directed to the FOWO.



# **The Dutch withdraw from UNFICYP**

