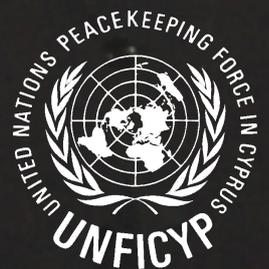


The Blue Beret

July/August 2001



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editorial

In this special double issue, the late-breaking news is the return of the Special Adviser to Cyprus. Mr. de Soto has been charged with finding ways to get the talks back on track. His visit for separate consultations with the leaders of the two sides follows on the 28 August meeting in Salzburg between the Secretary-General and H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash. When he arrived at Larnaca Airport next day, Mr. de Soto asked reporters to wish him luck in his endeavours. We all do.

None will extend him a warmer welcome than those Cypriots from both sides of the island working in the UNPA, some of whom we profile in our centre pages.

A key element in their working day and indeed for us all in this mission is the importance of language and communication. We all take for granted our own language skills but sometimes fail to make allowances for those among us who are less fluent in the mission's working language.

"A Slip of the Tongue" is a humorous but timely reminder that not everyone in the mission speaks English as his or her mother tongue -- indeed, many may not even speak it as their "mother-in-law" tongue! Just think how you would do your job if you had to conduct it through the medium of an unfamiliar language.

More than 50% of the staff of this mission come from non-English speaking countries. They do a remarkable job. They make the effort to communicate. In responding, English speakers should show the same courtesy by trying to **communicate**. Sometimes that means putting yourself in the other person's shoes, speaking a little more slowly and thinking a lot more clearly before speaking. And remember, please do so with courtesy, patience and sensitivity.

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Front Cover: The CM greets Special Adviser, Alvaro de Soto



Welcome Back Mr. de Soto

The Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Mr. Alvaro de Soto, arrived on the island on 29 August to begin a series of separate meetings with H.E. Mr. Glafkos Clerides and H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash aimed at getting the talks back on track. The Special Adviser's eight-day visit marks the climax of a month of speculation, announcements and pronouncements about moves to restart the talks process.

On 2 August, the Secretary-General's Spokesman had announced in New York that the Secretary-General and Mr. Denktash would meet in Salzburg on 28 August and that Mr. de Soto would then travel to Cyprus. Mr. Denktash flew to Austria via Zurich where he had an airport stopover meeting with EU Commissioner Verheugen before continuing on to Salzburg.



Mr de Soto (centre) meets with Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz (right) and Maj. Gen. Victory Rana

The Secretary-General, meanwhile, responding to reporters' questions at a general issue press conference in Vienna on the morning of 28 August, said he hoped that not too far into the future, he would be able to continue his proximity talks with the two parties. Later that day, the Secretary-General's Spokesman said that the Salzburg meeting with Mr. Denktash had been very good and very useful.

Slovak Minister visits

The Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic, Dr. Jozef Stank, recently arrived in Cyprus for his first visit to UNFICYP. On 31 August, he met with the UNFICYP Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana.

Later that day, Dr. Stank visited Sector 4 to join the Slovak troops in celebrating Slovakia's National Day and in the ceremonial renaming of Camp Duke Leopold V to Camp General Stefanik. [However the name "Camp Duke Leopold V" has not died within UNFICYP: it



Dr. Jozef Stank meets with Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz

has been transferred to Pyla, currently under the control of the UNFICYP Civilian Police.]

The evening ceremony and the subsequent festivities in Famagusta were hosted by Sector 4 Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Milan Kovacs.

The Force Commander inspected the troops and took the salute. Defence Minister Stank and the Chief of Mission addressed the troops and guests. Each paid tribute to the sterling contribution of UNFICYP's newest contingent.

Afterwards, an athletic troupe of young Slovak singers, dancers and musicians put on a stunning display of highleaping, fast stepping folk dance and songs from Slovakia's mountain areas. Guests and troops gave a rousing accompaniment of rhythmic clapping while whistling encouragement to the blurring whirl of dancers. Before being escorted off to the reception buffet, those guests closest to the corps de ballet were led onto the stage to join the lords and ladies of the dance. It did not go unnoticed that the CM is a wizard at whirling a waltz (www.com!).

Dakujem Slovensko!



She's Everywhere

By Charlotte Mortensen

You've seen her everywhere and in many guises, ranging from full combat gear to swimsuit: she's driven pick-up trucks around the UNPA, kept a lifeguard's eagle eye on swimmers by the pool and been in the frontline of various crowd control exercises.

Daynor Harris, had her dad had his way, should have been Gaynor, but her mother prevailed and her name was picked up from a bowl-full of paper on which girls' names had been written. Daynor is one of the youngest girls serving with the 12 Regiment Royal Artillery in Cyprus. Only 18 years old, she is an avid soldier and a well-travelled one too. This is one of the reasons why she picked the military -- "I knew it would give me an opportunity to travel and keep fit", she says. A little more than a year after she joined the Regiment in Lancashire, she was posted to Sennelager, Germany.

(subject to the few remaining restrictions in the army).

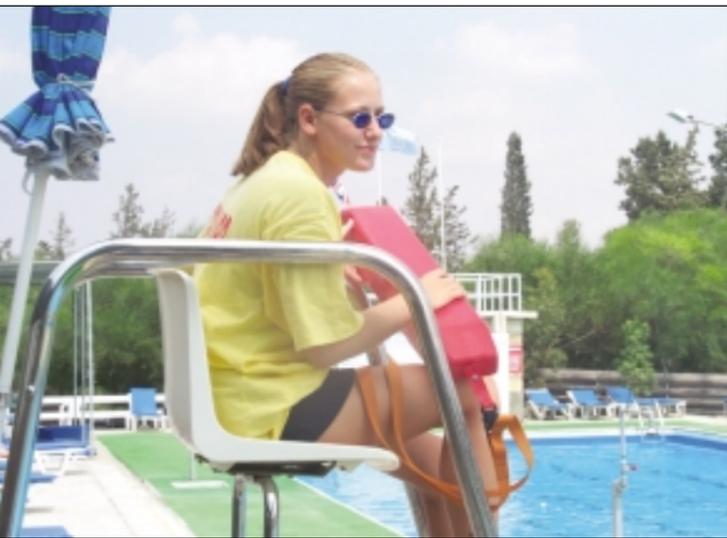
Daynor was elated when she finally started her military career in August 1999. And her family was happy too! With Daynor now in the military, the Harris's had become a two-soldier family, since one of Daynor's older brothers now serves with the RAF. Another brother has chosen an entirely less uniform career path -- that of a civilian!

While Daynor got her wish for travel fulfilled, it was at some cost -- for the first time, she had to leave her parents' house. She misses them every day, as she does her old schoolfriends. And, of course, she misses the shopping -- she is a girl after all! Still, she makes a point of going back home for almost all her holidays. However, the next one will be an exception. She has decided to spend her two weeks off in Protaras with some of the other girls from the Regiment stationed at the Ledra Palace. In Daynor's own words: "We girls will rock the town". They have already rocked UNFICYP.

During the Gulf War, her mother was one of a group organising "care packages" -- shopping, packing and sending off boxes to local Lancashire lads serving with the Desert Storm. Daynor quickly got involved in the charity work alongside her mother, and soon found herself writing cards and notes to the soldiers. "It was this 'work' that got me thinking about the military as a possible career."

No sooner was school over than Daynor applied for military service with the 12 Regiment RA in Lancashire. By her own account, she would have tried earlier but she had been told she was too young. She was one of only 30 girls applying out of many hundred young men -- and she was lucky. She handled all the tests very well, both the mental and physical ones. Had she done any special training to meet the tough physical requirements? Daynor says: "I didn't even think of it -- a 16-year-old is always fit."

Daynor's success in the qualifying tests, where she competed with men on equal terms, is not something she considers unusual or outstanding. After all, more and more girls are joining the British forces today and it has become a common sight seeing girls/women in uniform, shoulder-to-shoulder with their male colleagues. There are no longer any limitations as to what women can do in the forces. They now serve in most of the front line units



A Slip of the Tongue

By Charlotte Mortensen

Today, there are some 3,000 acknowledged languages spoken throughout the world. Of these, about 12 are spoken by more than 70 million people -- one of them being English.

English has always been the lingua franca (such a versatile language!) in UNFICYP. It is one of the UN's six official working languages, and because of its colonial past, is widely understood in Cyprus. Consequently, many of the mission's contributing members have been either native English speaking or from English-familiar countries.

This may explain why some of us take it for granted that UNFICYP is entirely English-fluent, conveniently forgetting that for more than

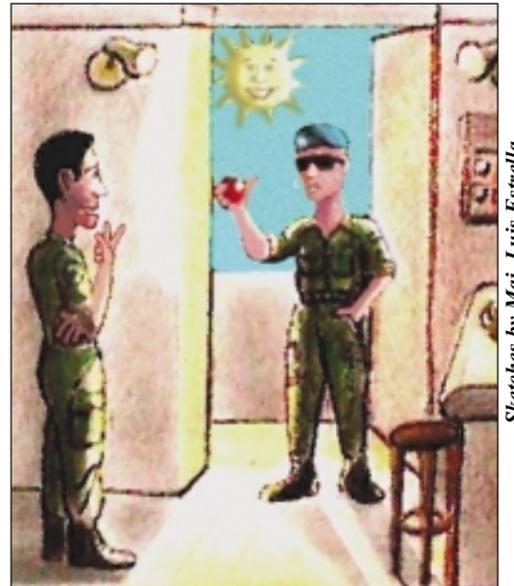
50% of the force English is not a mother tongue (and probably not even a mother-in-law!).

Think of this - it's true and it happened in the international mess just recently: Two soldiers pass each other (one whose mother tongue is English - let's call him No. 1; the other uses English as second language - let's call him No. 2):

No. 1: "Hello, mate."

No. 2: "Hello, how are you?"

No. 1: "I'm not so good, it's too warm." (While saying this, he holds up an apple he has in his hand, maybe to



Sketches by Maj. Luis Estrella

Hi mate, it's really warm out there today

dry off some sweat with the back of his hand.)

No. 2: "Two worms?", says the second soldier, surprised.

No. 1: "Yes", replies the first soldier with the apple, and walks on.

Following this conversation, the "No. 2" soldier walks over to his fellow countrymen, sitting at a table eating their lunch and warns them NOT to take any of the apples, because they have worms in them! That day, not more than a couple of apples were eaten at the Mess!

This is not an isolated case, and misunderstandings like this happen on a

daily basis. Some of us love this international community where we can all learn from each other, whereas others may find it rather trying -- but in any case, we all have to try, at the very least, to find common ground.

Much respect should go to all UNFICYP's civilian staff and peacekeepers, many of whom perform their daily functions in a language other than their native tongue. And also much respect to those whose native tongue is English, but who still realise that not everyone is in that same linguistic boat and actually try to make themselves easily understood.

Note: We hope to return to this subject in future issues of the Blue Beret. If you have any examples you would like to send us, please do.

Until next time.



I wouldn't eat apples in warm weather, if I were you....



Hungary's Day Celebrated

By Maj. Z. Jobbágy

Following the withdrawal of the Austrian Contingent from Sector 4, a decision was taken by the Hungarian Contingent to rename Camp Izay to Camp Szent István (St. Stephen's Camp). The reasons for this are many, but hereunder is a brief explanation of Hungary's devotion to King Stephen, who was canonized in recognition of his deeds in converting the country to Christianity.

King Stephen, who ruled from 1000 to 1038, was the first king in the House of Árpáds to officially recognise Christianity. By bringing Hungary's nomadic

tribes together, he also laid the foundation for the modern nation state. All in all, there was no person more suitable after whom the camp should be renamed.

With a small celebration on our national day, 20 August, soldiers of the 1st Hungarian Company unveiled the new sign of Camp Szent István, which also portrays the royal insignia. Speeches were given by Maj. Gen. László Svéd, Surgeon General of the Hungarian Defence Forces, H.E. Ambassador László Kutí and the Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Bela Berena.

12 Regiment Group Sector 2 Road Safety Campaign

By Bdr. C. Jackson

The second Road Safety Campaign, run in a competition format between various departments within Sector 2, was carried out by 12 Regiment RA Group on 21 July. The intention of the competition was for the Regimental Group Motor Transport Department to assess the driving ability, skills, and knowledge of each department.

The competition was broken down into two parts, the first being a manoeuvring task within a certain area. This assessed the abilities of the commander and driver working as a unit around a difficult manoeuvring course set up by the Motor Transport Department. All vehicles had their



Testing manoeuvres

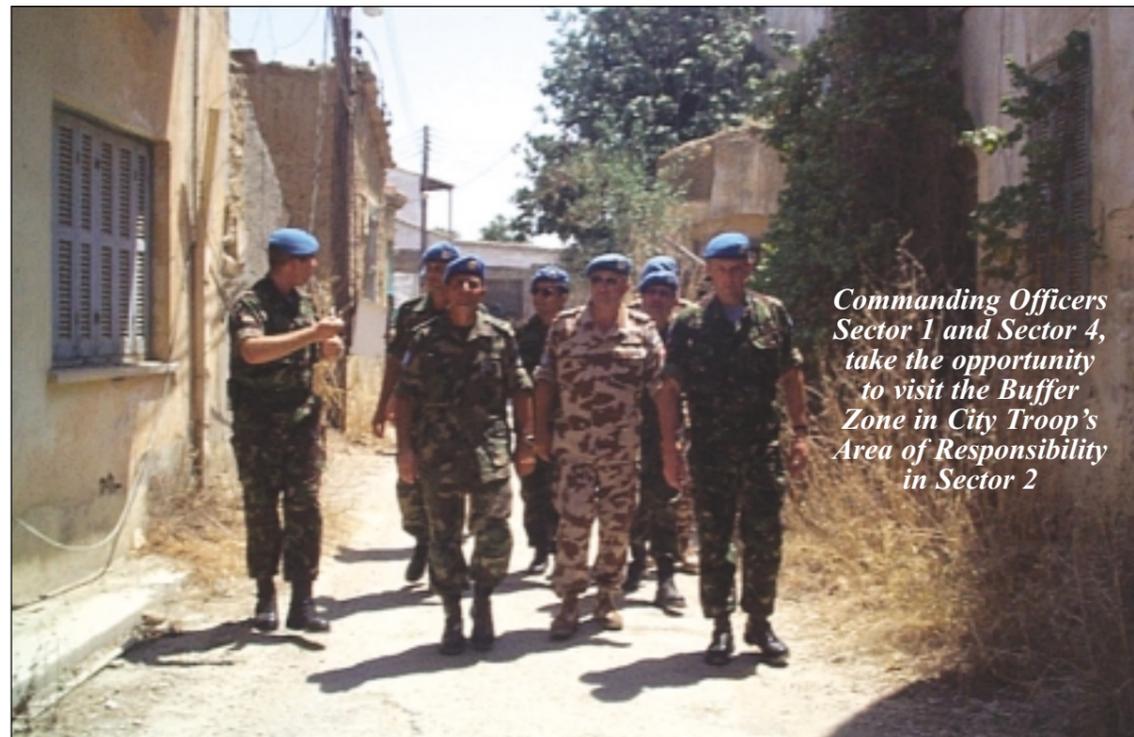
windows blacked out (with bin liners) in order for the driver to have no view other than through the windscreen. This meant the driver had to follow instructions from the commander of the vehicle and not rely on his/her own instinct. In order to score highly, the competitors had no option other than to work well together as a team.

The second assessment for the troops was a written paper. The purpose of this was to assess the general knowledge and awareness of both the commander and driver on driving procedures under United Nations regulations.

The Road Safety Campaign was also used as further training for the drivers within Sector 2. In general, it has proved to be a great success, and will aid the Regimental Group throughout its tour when driving within the Buffer Zone and on the roads in Cyprus.

By the way, the winner of the road safety competition on 21 July was Bengal Troop.

Sgt. Tim Cadwallader and Bdr. Carl Leason, winners of the driving skills competition



Commanding Officers Sector 1 and Sector 4, take the opportunity to visit the Buffer Zone in City Troop's Area of Responsibility in Sector 2

Lifeguard Training in Sector 2

By Sgt. L. Bunch

Air Resuscitation.

- Scenarios
- Spinal Board Management
- Theory Exam
- Practical Assessment

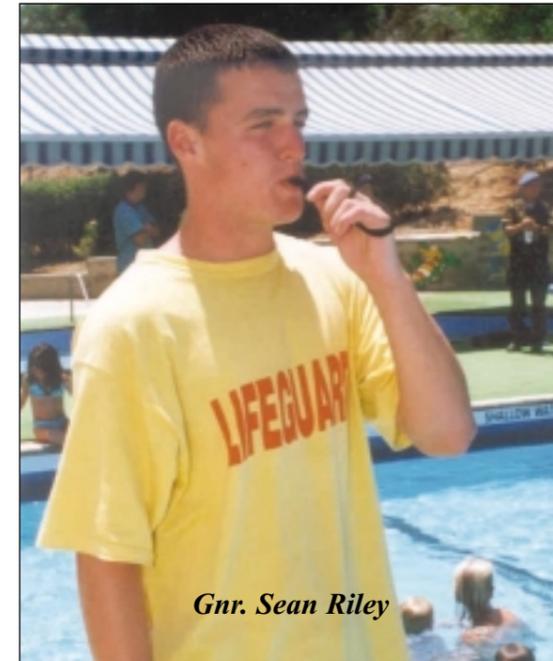
It's a six-day course with the theory paper and practical assessment taking place on the last day, supervised by an external examiner.

On an initial inspection, it was found that the Ledra Palace pool was in a bad condition which rendered it unfit for use. So at the beginning of the season, a two-week cleaning operation was put into effect, which brought the pool up to a required and suitable standard.

During the height of the summer, eight lifeguards were available for duty at LPH. Their tasks include opening the pool at 6:00 am and completing a number of checks including water clarity, chloride content, and water pumps and filters.

It is the responsibility of the lifeguard to ensure the safety of the swimmers and to ensure the pool is maintained. In this respect, a further eight personnel attended the NPLQ course during August.

The NPLQ is a civilian qualification, which can be used in any civilian establishment. The number of lifeguards who have been trained enabled both the Ledra Palace and UNPA pools to stay open for a longer period of time during the hot summer months. This ensured that all personnel deployed with UNFICYP could make maximum use of these excellent facilities for training, sport and recreation.



Gnr. Sean Riley

Prior to deployment to Cyprus, Maj. Nick Makin, Second in Command of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, was informed that it was within the responsibility of the six-month Roulement Regiment to act as lifeguards at the Ledra Palace and UNPA swimming pools.

With this in mind, six members of 12 Regiment attended the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) course at the Blue Pool in Rheindahlen, Germany.

Training includes:

- Recovering a conscious and/or unconscious casualty
- Recovery of a dummy from the deepest part of the pool
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and Expired

12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group receives Miss Blackpool



Natalie with the 12 Regiment Royal Artillery Recruiting Team at the Blackpool Pleasure Beach with the Lancashire and Cumbria Gunners during a shoot for the 12 Regiment Calendar

One year ago, Natalie James was waiting for her A-level results and looking forward to starting university. Today, she is the reigning Miss Blackpool and a full-time model.

Blackpool is a large recruiting area for 12 Regiment Royal Artillery (the Lancashire and Cumbria Gunners). A couple of hard-working members of 12 Regiment, who were selected because of their efforts in raising the most money for bicommunal cancer charities in Cyprus, flew back to Britain in August as panelists in the Miss Blackpool 2001 finals.

In October, Natalie, accompanied by the future Miss Blackpool, will be visiting 12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group who are currently serving on Operation Tosca in Sector 2.

12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group are eagerly awaiting this visit.

Sector Two West 3/29 (Corunna) Battery Royal Artillery 12 Regiment Group Royal Artillery

3/29 (Corunna) Battery arrived in Cyprus towards the end of May and took over operational control of Sector Two West from the Dutch Contingent on 6 June 2001. The occasion, which brought to an end the Netherlands' involvement with UNFICYP on "The Line", was marked by the lowering of the combined QRL/12 (NL) AD Battery emblem and the raising of the 3/29 (Corunna) Battery flag.

3/29 Battery, normally based in Osnabruck, Germany, is the senior Battery of 4th Regiment Royal Artillery. The Battery is currently reinforcing 12 Regiment Royal Artillery for the duration of this tour. 4th Regiment is part of 1st (UK) Armoured Division and 3/29 Battery supports the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment which is part of 4th Armoured Brigade, "the Desert Rats". (This is the reason all members of 3/29 Battery wear the coveted Black Rat on their right shoulder).

The Battery is equipped with eight 155mm AS-90 self-propelled guns, each capable of firing three rounds in under 10 seconds -- that is over 2,400lbs of high explosive landing in an area the size of a football field in less time than it has taken you to read this sentence.

The Battery is an amalgamation of 3 Battery and

29 Battery. 3 Battery was raised in 1745 and 29 Battery in 1755. The Batteries amalgamated in 1993. Both batteries have very distinguished histories and have taken part in numerous famous battles including Bunker Hill (U.S.A.), the Peninsula Wars where the Battle Honour "Corunna" was won, Balaclava and Sevastopol, plus Germany in the Second World War, and Palestine.

In the last 20 years, the Battery has been deployed on active service in the Falklands as part of 5 Airborne Brigade; has had numerous deployments to Northern Ireland; and, more recently, Bosnia and Kosovo. Now Cyprus can be added to the list.

An UNFICYP tour is a real treat for us since in recent years, field gunners have not had the opportunity to come here. Our tours have either been in Bosnia or Kosovo. So it can be appreciated how much we have been looking forward to this deployment.

The Dutch gave us a good handover, which was only bettered by the amount of DIY jobs they left us. Ypenburg, the Battery Headquarters, has taken on a new look. In true fashion, all troops settled in quickly, stamping their own image on their locations. The Battery has so far enjoyed the rewarding challenge of this tour "on the line".

By Bdr. Bell and
LBdr. Barrow

A Few Good Men

They asked for a "few good men" all those months ago in June 2000, and five brave souls took up the challenge of joining the Queen's Royal Lancers in Cyprus. The thought of six months in the sun on the island of love was an opportunity too good to miss. Two months later, I was summoned to the BC's office and asked if the five of us would like to stay and support the air defenders of 12 Regiment with the rest of the battery in June 2001. After about one second, I agreed.

The six months with the QRL flew by and by May, we were all looking forward to being amongst fellow gunners again. I found out that I was to move from Liri Troop across to Falcon Troop in Sector 2 West, which had been run by the Dutch for the past two years.

Once the advance party had arrived on the island, we assessed the extent of the work needed, and yes, a lot of work was necessary. The Dutch handed over to Lt. Neylan and Sgt. Reed, and showed us how most of the things in the troop house didn't work; nothing worked. Problems stemmed from not enough power for a fan in the bar, but hey -- we knew it wouldn't be easy, and we knew that we had plenty of time. The troop went to work, ripping things down, painting, weeding, and basically rebuilding the troop house. In typical 4th style, we buckled down and got on with the job.

After four weeks of sweat (lots of it) and tears, the troop location was up to an "inspectable" standard and as most, if not all, of us agreed, it was the BEST troop house by far. (As we were about to find out a few inspections later, the BEST troop house award was given to a lesser house (Liri).)

As the weeks flew by and the "two cans" flowed like wine (ahem), it was the time the hierarchy had been dreading -- time to give us our freedom. We knew all about curfews down on the coast in Dhekelia at the Adventure Training Centre. The

feeling of getting off the line for a week was welcomed with hums and ahs.

Once we had arrived at the United Nations Roulement Regiment Adventure Training Team (UNRRATT) centre, the lads and lassies knew it was going to be a good week. The air temperature was cooler than on the line, so sleeping at night was a pleasure instead of torture, and, of course, there was the warm Mediterranean waters and all those other coastal attractions. The nightlife in Larnaca was rather enjoyable, and we had some excellent nights as the "four cans" (double our normal allowance) flowed. However the 23:59 hrs curfew was always at the back of our minds. UNRRATT is an excellent facility and I recommend it to anyone, so long as you make the curfew and listen to Bdr. Stu "Big Boy" Flanagan, the Battery's own contribution to UNRRATT.

All in all, the tour is going fine, the mail is getting through (just), and the boots are a sweaty fit.



Guard duties at Sector 2 West

Coming in out of the Cold

By Maj. A. Alvarez

The Argentinian Contingent comprises people from all parts of Argentina -- a gathering which enables people to meet new friends and colleagues.

Take, for instance, the two doctors, posted to San Martín and Roca Camps, both of whom are Antarctic veterans.

The continent is completely surrounded by the Antarctic Ocean and totally isolated, especially in wintertime. The scientific aim of the Antarctic bases is preserving the environment and the local ecological system, so that the basic value of the "white continent" is preserved for the understanding of the global ecological system.



Orcadas Base

So, from 30°C below to 40°C above, here is a sampling of what our two colleagues did in Antarctica.

Capt. Martín Diaz (Navy) is a cardiologist who served as doctor and second in command of the "Orcadas" Base in 1999. Orcadas is the oldest of the Argentinian settlements in Antarctica, marking our presence in the "white continent" since 1904. Biological research, meteorological observation and seismologic monitoring are among the important tasks we have been undertaking since its establishment.

Recalling his days at the base, Dr. Diaz says: "I remember the last time the 'Almirante Irizar' (ice-breaker ship) was able to reach the shore of our base. It was by the end of April 1999. After that, the sea froze and we began to feel the loneliness.

"Unforgettable images come to my mind; the blizzards that made temperatures descend down to minus 30°C, but also the friendship, parties and everything that kept us going and happy -- and they were needed to endure the harsh conditions of life."



Esperanza Base

Capt. Javier Ortiz (Army) is a neurologist currently appointed to the military hospital of the Andean city of Mendoza. He served in the "Esperanza" Antarctic Base in 1999.

"Unlike in Orcadas, officers can bring their families to live in the Esperanza Base. It is equipped with all modern communications means, such as telephone, fax, Internet access and satellite TV.

"The medical team comprises one doctor and two nurses who take care of the 50-something members of the base. Medical attention is provided by the first aid room for everyday cases, whereas a surgical room, furnished with medical and dental equipment is ready for emergencies."

Argentinian National Day

By Maj. A. Alvarez

National Day, 9 July, was celebrated by the Argentinians with a parade in San Martín Camp. With the prospect of (slightly) cooler weather and the hope of ensuring that our guests were comfortable, we decided to set the start of the ceremony at 19:00 hrs. But despite our good intentions, the sun still shone and everyone in the camp had to endure a pretty hot event.

The ceremony was opened by both the Chief of Mission, Zbigniew Wlozowicz, and the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Victory Rana. Troops were presented to the Argentinian Ambassador to Israel and Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Gregorio Dupont, who then inspected and saluted the military. Next, the national anthem was sung.

The Argentinian Ambassador's speech invoked the spirit of the commemoration, and was followed by a religious invocation from ARGCON's Chaplain, Father Daniel Dominguez. Then the San Lorenzo march, which evokes the first battle of the War of Independence, was proudly sung by the troops. To close the ceremony, the Argentinian flag was honoured.

This was followed by a folkloric group performing two of Argentina's most traditional

dances, "El Gato" and "La Chacarera".

Guests then moved to the Officers' Mess where a wonderful banquet was served, including such traditional Argentinian delicacies as roast beef and "empanadas".

The celebrations continued until late in the evening. It was a day we shall all remember.



The folkloric group in action

"Road" on the Air

By WOIII C. Kapfer

To move away, even temporarily, from one's natural habitat/environment/surroundings is always a difficult task for any person.

Arriving on the island of Cyprus, seeing new traffic signs, watching TV or just listening to the radio, all in a foreign language, made us feel far from home. And it was because of this that we came up with a new idea.

It was the birth of "Making Road", the radio programme of the 17th Argentinian Task Force that every Thursday, between 05:00 and 06:00 hrs, transmits via FM 106.3 "Blue Star". The objective of the exercise is simple; for one hour, all Argentinian personnel of the 17th Argentinian Task Force will feel just a little closer to home.

The content is varied, including both cultural matters and news coverage from the member countries of the contingent. News is taken off the Internet by WO I "Cacho" Kapfer. Father Dominguez offers spiritual support, and, of course, sports updates are provided by WOII "Toto" Lorenzo.

The voice of the programme is WO II Pablo Carrizo, supported by 1/Cpl. Cabral, who decides on the great music we listen to.

And of course, this radio programme doesn't



lack humour and jokes. This is expertly provided by the "Maestro", WOIII Roberto Calvo from Charlie Coy, who invites us to stay happy and smile with amusing tales and short stories.

The programme would not be possible without the generosity of Mr. Krinos Tsialis, the General Manager of FM, Blue Star, who provides us with technical support, etc.

In future programmes, there will be interviews with special guests, live reports, and, of course, the wish that "Making Road" reaches everyone on the job, being the national companion of the Argentinian peacekeepers in UNFICYP.

Chile Signs on as UNFICYP Newcomer

By Maj. A. Alvarez and Capt. S. Hawa-Arellano

With the arrival of Capt. Samy Hawa-Arellano to the island as the first representative of the Republic of Chile within the Argentinian Contingent, ARGCON, a new nation adds its effort to our common mission.

Capt. Hawa was born in the coastal city of Viña del Mar, a famous beach resort. He is a marine who joined the Naval Academy in 1988 and adds to his military background the degrees of "Polytechnic Naval Engineer" and "Maritime Law Master".

Capt. Hawa was asked: "What is your assignment back in Chile?"

"My post is Battery Commander of the Marine Detachment 'Lynch' in the Department of Iquique, a salty and deserted landscape up north of Chile."

Recalling his appointment to Cyprus, he told us: "It was a surprise, considering that the navy had not participated in peacekeeping missions since Cambodia. I felt immediately the heavy responsibility of being the sole representative of my country in a national contingent".

What are your expectations for the mission?

"This mission has a double purpose, first, to contribute to improving the bonds between Argentina and Chile, two brother countries with a background history of, let's admit it, disagreements.

"And by doing so, to contribute as well to a concept of peace which certainly

begins at home."

What do you do in ARGCON? "I am serving with the Operations Branch as a training officer. My task is both dynamic and challenging so that each day is different. So far, I feel at ease and I enjoy particularly the interactive work of different nations within our branch."

Pondering the Chilean participation in peacekeeping missions, he said: "This mission opens the door for further contributions. I would be very proud of being a member of a Chilean Contingent. Moreover, UNFICYP has some features that makes it particularly suitable for a country not much experienced in peacekeeping such as mine.

"For instance, I regard the daily incident reporting in UNFICYP as a school for novice peacekeepers."



Women at Ease in ARGCON

By Maj. A. Alvarez

There are six women among the 409 total strength of the Argentinian Contingent. Four are soldiers serving with troops, one is an NCO and one an officer. There are no restrictions under current regulations for female officers and NCOs in the Argentinian military.

2/Lt. Elizabeth Barvoza was born in Guleguaychu, Entre Rios Province. "I chose to come to the mission to do something different from what I do in Argentina. What I like most here is to work with Argentinians from other forces than the army as well as with people from other countries." Lt Barvoza is a professional nurse and works in the medical centre at Camp San Martín. Asked if, as a woman, she noticed any difference in behaviour, she replied: "I don't feel different to anyone. I'm an officer with a profession, like everyone else in the Sector."

1/Cpl. Vanesa Moreyra was born in the north-eastern province of Corrientes. She works in the Logistics Branch, and UNFICYP represents her first peacekeeping experience. "I like to see how every branch performs its tasks in Sector 1, but I would also like to see how other sectors work too." She agrees with her fellow female soldiers that they are treated as equals by their male comrades. As for her point of view of the island, she says she is amazed at how local people work to overcome the difficulties of the hard Cypriot land, particularly in this dry season.

Pte. Astrid Rotten is a representative of the Patagonian province of Neuquen. She is the Assis-



Left to right: 1/Cpl. Moreyra, 2/Lt. Barvoza, Pte. Gomez, Pte. Rotten and Pte. Carrizo

tant to the CO at San Martin Camp. "I volunteered for the mission because I thought it was a unique opportunity to visit another country, mix with people from different walks of life and share cultural experiences." Her job involves hours in front of a PC as well as answering the phone. "This helps me to learn the UN procedures and improve my English, two things I regard as most important." She also thinks women are not the odd ones out in ARGCON. "Personally, I would recommend the mission to everyone, male or female."

Pte. Vanina Gomez, the Information Office Assistant, stresses the special companionship the small group of female soldiers share in every activity. "In this regard, ARGCON do nothing but follow in the steps of the army in our own country, which is to increase the presence of women in every branch of activity."

And if it were possible to see any difference, that would be the special motivation they display in every task they do.

Assess the Situation

By Maj. J. Dos Santos

"What's the first thing to be done in any critical situation?", a former Squadron Commander once asked me when I was a young Lieutenant. He continued, saying: "Nothing. Always take at least a couple of seconds to calm down, keep cool -- and assess the situation".

That wise piece of advice saved my life 12 years ago, after experiencing a complete loss of control during a maintenance flight. It could also save other people's lives -- including yours, dear reader, while executing actual MEDEVAC/CASEVAC and air crash procedures. Training is the key word. It lets you take split second decisions almost instinctively while leading or executing multiple tasks. No matter how shocking the sight of a burning helicopter or a severely wounded colleague may be, good training will leave troops in the best condition to handle such situations.

Since 8 May 2001 -- when ARGCON Task Force 17 took charge -- six M/C & A/C exercises have been carried out. Three took place at Sector 1 main camps -- San Martín, Roca and Brown -- and three at OPs. The following phases were included:

- Safety and signalling in the vicinity of a helicopter with engines running.
- First aid prior to air evacuation.

- Handling of injured people into/out of a helicopter.
- Emergency access and engine shutoff in an air crash scenario.
- Practice with a 10-minute flight.
- Lessons learned.

The final piece of advice regarding this last point: don't be afraid of asking anything. The answer to that silly question your fellow trainees laugh at today, may save a life tomorrow.





Savvas

Tailor-made in Cyprus

Tailoring to all of our needs, Mr. Savvas Georgiou is an essential part of UNPA life. Born in Famagusta and working in the British Camp there until 1965, Savvas moved to Nicosia that year and has been on the UN Base ever since!

In his shop, which is located next to the CESSAC Gift and Coffee Shop, Savvas supplies soldiers and families with gifts, flags and any tailoring speciality. He enjoys meeting all of his customers and always welcomes them with a smile and excellent service.

VR

Always Together



Noni

Maria

You could call them the "twin ladies", as you never see one without the other. And not only that, but get this; they both started out as hairdressers many years ago, and both stopped when they got married and had children... Both have a son and a daughter, and both have worked in UNFICYP for about two years -- but that's where the similarities stop.

Noni Aletriri (left) lives in the Kakopetria area with her husband. It takes dedication to drive for almost 1" hours every day each way, just to get to work by 7:30 hrs, but she does it happily as she loves her job here.

Maria Psillakou lives in Tseri with her family and comes to UNFICYP every day, looking forward to being with her dear colleagues and friends. Maria always showcases a huge smile, and jumps at any opportunity to improve her English.

CM



Maronis

Cessac to Saville Row

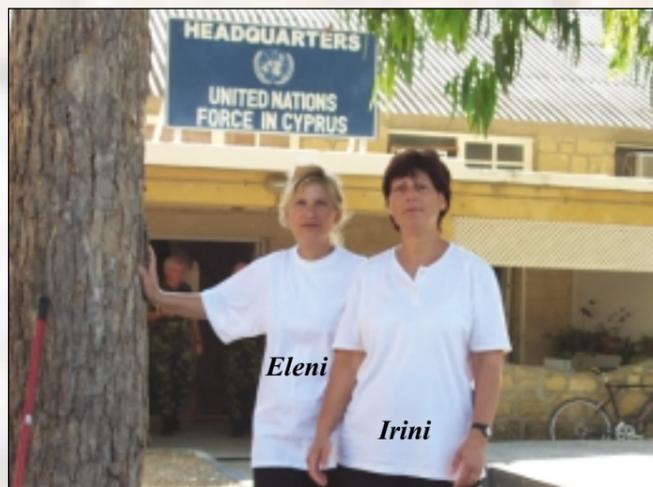
Life would be unbearable in the CESSAC Gift and Coffee Shop without the cheerful face of Mr Maronis Hanna.

Supplier of sandwiches and coffee to hungry customers is what he does best and after 44 years previously working for NAAFI he follows on the tradition of

providing high class service.

Born in Kormakiti and moving to Nicosia when he was 16, Maronis is enjoying the CESSAC takeover and will even sport a new uniform shortly. The only problem is that at 4'9", a few alterations will be necessary in order for it to fit him!

VR



Eleni

Irini

Cleaning up our Act

Several offices in Headquarters UNFICYP are happier and cleaner places, thanks to our two cleaning ladies. Eleni Sotiriou and Irini Charalambous are always helpful, smiling and ready to assist anyone who needs their expertise.

Eleni has worked within the UNFICYP complex for 25 years and

has enjoyed meeting people from all over the world. Irini is a relative newcomer with only two years' working experience within the UN, but really enjoys the international atmosphere.

Both ladies are highly regarded by all staff members, who wish to let them know how much they mean to us!

VR

Very Accommodating



Mustafa and Ali

Mustafa M. Ahmet (Topukcu) was born in Nicosia and started working for the United Nations in 1978 as an electrician with the Royal Engineers. In 1984, he changed and took up a clerical position in the Housing Office, PROM (Property Management).

Apart from three years with the RQMS section, Mustafa has been with the Housing Office ever since. He looks after the maintenance of the accommodation, and is also in charge of renting out holiday homes to UNFICYP personnel, both military and civilian.

Mustafa and Ali work next door to each other in close cooperation. They also work with two Greek Cypriots, Christakis Yerolomides and Michael Constantinou, the labourers who help keep the Married Quarters in a good state. As part of the PROM, these four Cypriots, together with other personnel within that section, organise get-togethers (usually in the form of a barbecue) approximately once a month.

Mustafa has seen many families come and go, and says: "I like helping people, and this job has given me the chance to work with and assist members of the multinational force of UNFICYP."

Mustafa, who was started out in life as a physics teacher, has two sons, 17 and 15 years old -- and the whole family is interested in computers. They all read the Blue Beret, and, as Mustafa says, "It has only taken me 23 years to get in it!"

You will always find a pleasant smile and helpful manner if you visit the British Retained Site Housing Office and meet Mr. Ali Yusuf. Ali, as he is known to the many families whom he caters for, is a Turkish Cypriot living in Nicosia and has been employed by the Accommodation Services Unit for two years now, responsible for the furniture, crockery and cutlery for the houses on the site.

Born in Mari Village near Larnaca, Ali started his working life at the Sovereign Base Area Workshops in Dhekelia in 1970. After various promotions and 29 years, the UNPA were lucky to gain from all of his vast experience. When asked how he feels about his current position, he replied: "I should have come here 10 years ago!"

Clearly a happy man who loves his country for the sunshine, peace and quiet. We hope you'll be with us for the next ten years, Ali!

VR

Christakis and Michael, two Greek Cypriots, who work closely with their Turkish Cypriot colleagues, Mustafa and Ali, maintaining the Married Quarters on the British Retained Site within the UNPA



George

Pieris

A Close Shave

This photograph looks like a scene from an old western movie, but the only weapons these two shooters are likely to have are scissors.

Pieris Hadjipierou and George Georgiou are the UNFICYP barbers, and if scissors were the order of the day back in the times of Billy the Kid, then this pair of hombres would be a force to be reckoned with, especially as they cut an average of 400 heads per month. The ruthless pair have no mercy, as Pieris has been seen cutting the heads of women and children. Pieris has completed eight years as a UN barber, and his sidekick George two years.

Off the record, these are two nice characters, so you won't find any "wanted" posters lying around. They are fluent in Spanish, and always try and speak in the customer's mother tongue.

NOF



Michael

Christakis

Around the UNPA...

Around the UNPA...

A Woman's Perspective

By Charlotte Mortensen

Being absolutely new to the world of soldiers, (I don't think there ever was a soldier in my family), I must admit that I'm loving it. I have never been in an environment where I could observe the lives and work of so many soldiers from so many different countries before. Every single day I watch them and learn -- and it has been very entertaining and educational so far.

How would I ever have known how important it is to wear summer boots in summer (WHO designed the Irish ones?), or to have your hair cut in exactly the same style every three weeks? Of course, every single soldier I have met thinks that their hairstyle is unique - but between you and I, it's the same; short, short and short. An old Danish saying goes: "big hair, small brain", so I consider myself to be very lucky being surrounded by so many well-trimmed men! And I would never ever have realised the importance of meal times (nothing comes between a soldier and his 12 o'clock lunch) if it weren't for this great opportunity I have been given with my assignment to UNFICYP.

Coming from New York, which also has a whole lot of rules, there are still huge differences. Here a meeting starts exactly on time; when the military says 09:00 hrs, they MEAN it. Here, everyone dresses up for parades and observances - some in smarter



These boots were made for walking

uniforms than others, but it's a welcome change from all the dress-down-look-casual-black in New York.

And let's not forget about physical fitness. In civilian life it's "in" to be fit; in UNFICYP, people are fit because they want to be, and because it's in their line of duty. I have never been surrounded by so many well-trained people before -- it puts a certain pressure on a woman, so it's with undeniable relief that I meet some of the same people again in their dress-uniforms, which probably fit them fine several "moons" ago, but are now somewhat tighter, putting an unreasonable pressure on buttons and belts ah, it puts it all in the right perspective.

I must say I'm very impressed with the life of a soldier. It's not a bad life at all, whether you are only "in" for a few years or have chosen to make it your career path. Now I just have to find a way to accommodate my five-year-old son's wish to become a peacekeeper as soon as possible.

Caption Competition

This month's winner is RSM Noel O'Flynn. Noel, the UNFICYP Visits' Coordinator, will soon be leaving the mission. He is requested NOT to forget to collect his prize before leaving.



MINI FOR SAIL



The best caption for the above photograph will receive a prize -- to be decided.... All entries should be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

30 September 2001

Slovak Pioneers -- New Members of the UNFICYP Family

By 1/Lt. L. Klíma

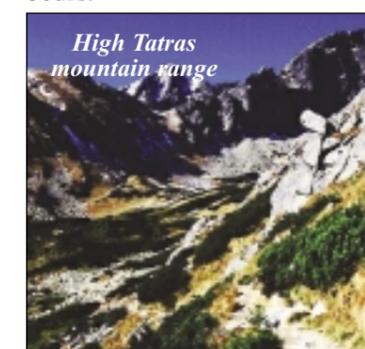
The first group of Slovak soldiers landed at Larnaca Airport on 27 May 2001 to become the pioneers of the Slovak Contingent in Cyprus, starting to write the history of a new contingent in this peace-keeping mission.

Although Slovakia lies in central Europe, for many people, including Europeans, it is still quite an unknown country, rich in valuable cultural and historical sites. So, for the benefit of those who don't know, here is a very short portrait of this small but beautiful nation.

The mountain range of High Tatras in the north and the huge river Danube in the south are boundaries of a small country in the heart of Europe. The area, less than 50,000 square kilometres, has a population of 5.3 million people, well-known for their industry, hospitality and kind-heartedness.

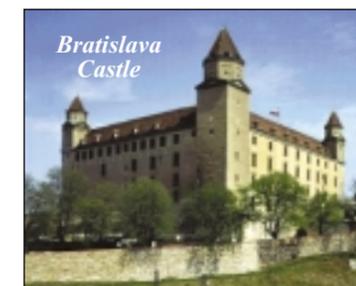
The old Slavs, ancestors of today's Slovaks, poured into the

lowlands and highlands of the Great Carpathian Bow range centuries ago to find their new homeland right here. Nature gave them fertile plains, towering mountains, rivers with an abundance of fish, immense forests, rare and unique species of animals and plants. The nation which emerged in this land has never attacked, or even threatened, any of its neighbours.



High Tatras mountain range

Bratislava, with nearly half a million inhabitants, the seat of the president, parliament, government and many of its central institutions, is the capital of Slovakia. It is renowned for its mediaeval cultural sites, impressive palaces, old alleys and picturesque scenery. It is also the ancient stronghold of Devin, a silent witness of the rise and fall of the Great Moravian Empire, situated at the conflu-



Bratislava Castle

ence of the rivers Moravia and Danube.

Western Slovakia is a country of grain, wine and developed industry. The central part of Slovakia is notable for its mountain ridges, healing waters and spas, and its attractive tourist trails. The east of the country consists of lowlands as well as hills.

Three places in this small but wonderful country are registered world cultural heritage sites: the city of Banska Stiavnica, the village of Vlkolinec and Spisky Castle and its surrounds.

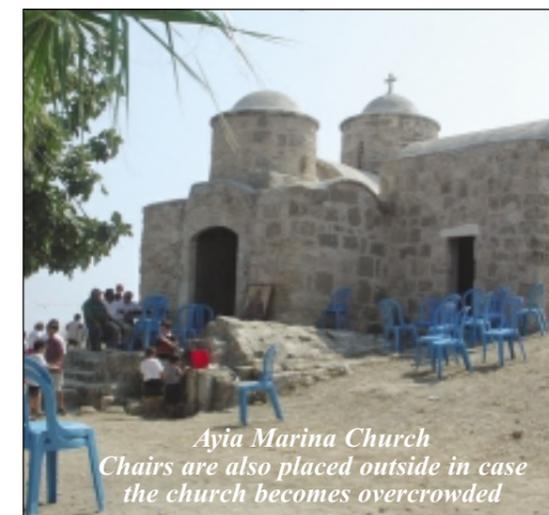
Slovakia borders on Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland and the Czech Republic, and is a traditional crossroads linking north to south and east to west.

An independent state since 1 January 1993, Slovakia has been trying to become a member of the pan-European organisations while adding to the stability of Central Europe.

Ayia Marina Church Service 2001

One of the most important mandates of the UN is to return the Buffer Zone to normal conditions. Not long after the Slovak Contingent arrived in Cyprus, they had to show their organisational abilities during the annual Ayia Marina church service on 19 July. This mediaeval Orthodox church is situated in the Buffer Zone west of Dherynia.

Between 06:00 and 12:30 hrs, 962 Greek Cypriots were escorted into the Buffer Zone and transported to the church by SLOVCON. A service was held in the morning. Members of UNCIVPOL assisted in the arrival and departure of the pilgrims. The worshippers were grateful for the opportunity and for the assistance given to them. The emotion was obvious on the faces of all those who returned from the pilgrimage. Dherynia Mayor Flora Ioannides, who was among the pilgrims, thanked the UN for their cooperation.



Ayia Marina Church
Chairs are also placed outside in case the church becomes overcrowded



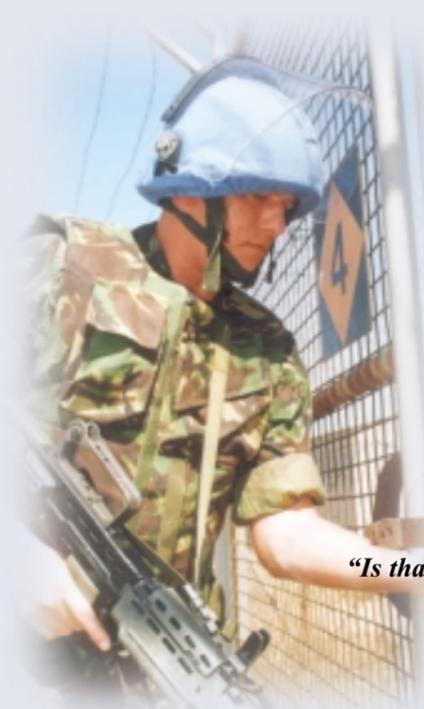
Coming up for air

The multinational element of the MFR challenges soldiers of all nations in many areas. Days on the ranges are an example of how all soldiers benefit from this environment. Platoons conduct training in all four nations' weapons, the SA 80 (Britain), F.A.L. (Argentina), AK 47 (Hungary) and the SA V2 59 (Slovakia), providing valuable experience and knowledge to all those involved. In the current climate of international responses to crisis, familiarization training of this type is essential to operational effectiveness in future conflicts.

Lt. Ray Taylor



One kill, one smoke, one drink.



"Is that the safety catch?"



"Anyone seen the OC?"



BZ Hunters



"No, it's this way."

New UNFICYP COS Colonel H. M. Fletcher C.B.E.

Hamish Fletcher was commissioned in 1970 as a university cadet, having read law at University College, London. After attending the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, he served in various junior officer appointments in 2 Parachute Regiment

Between 1980-1982 he was adjutant of 1 PARA. Post Staff College, he was appointed Chief of Staff of 6 Airmobile Brigade in the British Army of the Rhine (Germany) and then commanded A Company, 2 PARA from 1986-1988; this included a six-month tour of Belize.

He commanded 3 PARA between 1988-1991, of which two years was in Northern Ireland. He then served as a Grade 1 Officer at the Army Staff College, Camberley. After a short spell in a doctrine job, he escaped to BMATT (the British Military Advisory and Training Team) South Africa, just after the African National Congress had won the elections there.

Promoted Colonel in 1994, he became the Regimental Colonel of the Parachute Regiment for a



year before serving as Chief of Staff of the multinational brigade in Bosnia in 1995 - this was part of the UN's Rapid Reaction Force. A tour as a Divisional Director at the Joint Services Staff College, Bracknell followed before he assumed his last appointment as Deputy Military Delegate in Brussels, initially to the Western European Union, but for the last year to the EU.

Col. Fletcher was appointed OBE in 1991 and CBE in 1996. He is married to Christina (Chris) and they have three children. He enjoys sports and outdoor pursuits and is a keen ornithologist.

New Commander UNCIVPOL Commander Fred Donovan

Comd. Fred Donovan has been a member of the Australian Capital Territory and Australian Federal Police Services for 32 years. He has extensive experience in community policing and federal operations, and has held senior management positions in both areas.

In November 1999, he commanded the 40-strong 2nd AUST-CIVPOL Contingent to East Timor with the United Nations Transitional Administration to East Timor (UNTAET), and was allocated the role of UNCIVPOL Chief of Personnel. At that time, 600 civilian police from 35 countries served with the mission.

Prior to his deployment with UNFICYP, Comd. Donovan was the Officer in Charge of External Policing, responsible for coordinating and monitoring the Australian Police commitment in Cyprus, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Comd. Donovan is accompanied by his wife Anne. They have two daughters living in Australia.



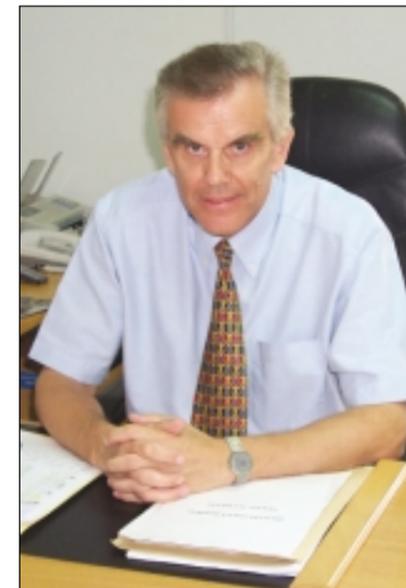
New UNFICYP CAO Mr. Jan Johansson

Jan Johansson, a native of Sweden, joined the organisation in 1974 and was assigned to the Finance Dept at HQ United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Jerusalem, followed by a tour with UNFICYP. He then served for five years as Deputy Chief of Mission for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Special Mission in Cyprus (UNHCR).

In 1985, Mr. Johansson joined the United Nations University (UNU) as Head of Administration and Finance to establish the administrative and accounting system at the World Institute for Development Economic Research (UNU/WIDER), the University's first research and training centre in Helsinki, Finland.

In 1991, he was transferred to Maastricht, the Netherlands, where he was instrumental in establishing a second research and training centre, the Institute for New Technologies (UNU/INTECH). Mr. Johansson returned to the field of peacekeeping in March 1995 on secondment as CAO at the UN Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

Mr. Johansson is accompanied on this tour by his wife, Jean.



A Sector 1 Walkover

By Bdr. M. Brookfield

1600 hrs, 22 officers and a football -- it's time to get on with it!

At a fast pace, the ARGCON strikers were first to find the net with a great solo run. This set the pace for rest of the game, and it didn't take them long to find the net again. BRITCON never looked liked they would score, even with the pace of the 2ic down the right side. The Quartermaster, showing he had played a bit in the past, tried to hold and lay off the ball -- but with no luck. The ARGCON midfield, looking fast and sharp and ripping apart the BRITCON team, were soon 4-0 up. The ARGCON goalkeeper was not called into action all day, so sunbathing was his main aim.



The game really starts to warm up

The second half came and went with the ARGCON officers bagging another three goals. The day ended with a final score of 7-0 to Sector 1 -- and training for BRITCON.

Synchronized Swimming

A coachload of members from 12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group were bullied into volunteering to swim a mile for charity, even if the most enticing factor was a free t-shirt!!

The swim was held in Dhekelia on 7 July with approximately 50 participants from all

over the island. Everyone from 12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group who took part completed the mile, with particular success in the female category. Capt. Nicola Swindell received second place and Sgt. Lou Bunch third. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, worthwhile and rewarding occasion.

As if that wasn't enough punishment, many of the swimmers chose to compete in the Bay to Bay Swim 2001. This race is a mile-long course from Leming's Beach to Tunnel Beach at Happy Valley, Episkopi. It took place on 20 July with a soul-

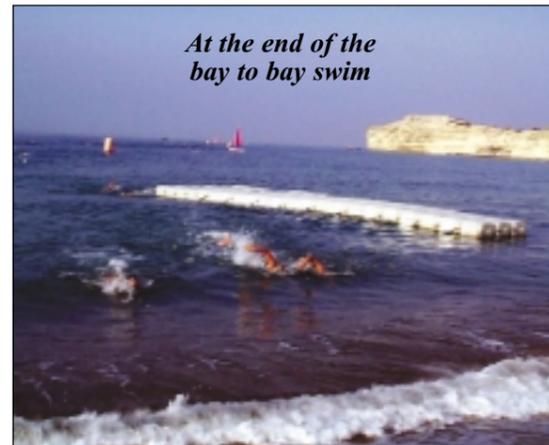


Sgt. Bunch and Capt. Swindell with their prizes

destroying start from Nicosia at 04:00 hrs. But at 07:15 hrs, the competitors were in the sea, enjoying the feeling of being cold!

Sector 2 swimmers did well with the UN female team coming in second overall. Capt. Swindell picked up third female overall, and Cfn. Barnes received his 18-and-under medal -- despite being 18 and 3 days!

It's amazing the lengths we are prepared to go to for a day out!!



At the end of the bay to bay swim



Spot the ball!

Reach for the Skies

By Sgt. S. Allan

The helicopter hangar at UN Flight was used for a different purpose recently, when ARGAIR challenged UNCIVPOL to a game of volleyball. ARGAIR had the home advantage -- but UNCIVPOL had the benefit of most of the new Irish Contingent being over 1.80 m tall!

Spectator numbers were estimated to be about 1,500 -- unfortunately some disappointed people had to be turned away due to the capacity attendance. Those fortunate enough to watch

the match witnessed a number of highly tuned athletes from both contingents play volleyball with the precision and grace of ballet dancers. Swan Lake springs to mind. It would appear that the ARGAIR motto was "Reach for the Skies", whereas the UNCIVPOL one was "Win at all Costs", in keeping with their respective professions.

Players of the match were Sergio Castro, ARGAIR, and Sandy Allan, UNCIVPOL. Oh... did I forget to mention? ARGAIR won.



Tug-of-War Team flies to Scotland

By Gnr. J.G. Winter

in period, and soon after a number of demonstrations took place. Nevertheless, we got down to the training area and practised with what we had available. After the first two weeks of intense rope work to get the team's hands into shape, we began to train as one. With a little looking around and asking nicely, we managed to put together a makeshift derrick, used as a training device which simulates the weight of an opposing team. By this time, the lads were training five nights a week, with only weekends to rest.

Trying to get the full team together was a difficult task due to shift patterns. But Sgt. Weaver took the team members available to the edge. As a whole, when we are together, we are pulling as one.

We have come on leaps and bounds and hope to do well at the games, but we face hard opposition with teams that have been training since February. However, many of our members are well experienced, and one even went to Blackpool last year to pull for the Army and Combined Services team at the World Tug-Of-War championships. So, we are sure we will put up a good fight, hopefully returning with some silverware.

Since arriving on the island in June, the 12 Regt RA tug-of-war team have been in serious training for the Royal Braemar Games which are being held in the Highlands of Scotland on 1 September. Members of the Royal Family will be present at this event.

The Regiment got off to a rocky start to the tour with UNFICYP. First there was the settling-

UNFICYP Golf Championships at Secret Valley

The Secret Valley Golf Club was the venue for the UNFICYP Golf Championships which took place on 23 August. Even though it was an early start, with departure from Nicosia at 05:00 hrs to tee off at 08:00 hrs, the competition was well attended with participants from Australia, Austria, Canada, Ireland and the UK.

The competition was split into two categories, stapleford and stroke, offering a prize for best gross and best nett.

In order to ensure an even distribution of prizes, the stapleford competition was graded by handicaps, i.e.



Group 1: Handicap 1-18,
Group 2: Handicap 19-28
Group 3: Beginners

Due to popular demand, there will most likely be a similar event organised in the very near future.

Best Results:

1. Best Gross:	Capt. Ransom, Sector 2:	87 gross
2. Best Nett:	Sgt. Lamb, Sector 2	70 nett
3. Category 1:	Lt. Col. Farragher, HQ UNFICYP	31 points
4. Category 2:	Ch. Supt. Quinn, UNCIVPOL	35 points
5. Category 3:	Supt. McGechnie, UNCIVPOL	17 points
6. Longest drive on the 18 th :	Sgt Sheedy, UNCIVPOL	

ARGAIR Medal Parade

During the ARGAIR medal parade which took place on 2 August, medals and numerals were presented to the pilots and technicians currently serving with UNFICYP.

