

The Blue Beret

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Interview with CM
Good Samaritans
Summer School



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Tel: (02) 864550/864416/864408

Fax: (02) 864461

E-mail: blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com

Editorial Team

Sarah Russell
Maj Paul Kolken
Miriam Taylor

Photography

Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1	Maj Roberto Dambrosi
Sector 2	Capt Fran Recchia
Sector 4	Capt Andreas Scherer
	Capt Zsolt Hatos
	Capt Bernarda Volcank
UNCIVPOL	Garda Cora Whelan
	Sgt Mick Murray
UN Flt	1/Lt Adrian Ferrari
MFR	Capt Francisco Uceda
FMPU	1/Lt Arno Jansen
Civil Adm	Mike Brown

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In the intense August heat, most Cypriots head for the mountains or the beach. For the peacekeepers of UNFICYP, however, there is little respite: observation posts have to be manned, patrols carried out, and reports filed. Even when temperatures soar over 40 degrees.

Getting dressed up in riot gear is uncomfortable enough at the best of times, but as the MFR found out in training sessions this summer, it is even worse in the Cyprus heat. The hot weather has also added to the strain for the many personnel in Sector 4 who are spending more time in their vehicles as a result of the Turkish Cypriots' closure of buffer zone crossing points at the end of June.

Early in the summer vacation period, a group of students from all over the world got together in the UN Protected Area for a three-week summer school. Among them were Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who had the chance not only to spend time together, but to visit people and places on both sides of the buffer zone.

As summer draws to a close, preparations continue for another phase of talks in New York. It is up to those of us working along the buffer zone to ensure that the situation remains calm and quiet - to create the best possible conditions for the negotiations to take place in.

editorial

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Front Cover: New CM



INTERVIEW WITH Zbigniew Wlosowicz

Zbigniew Wlosowicz started working life as an academic. Having studied in Cracow, The Hague, Cambridge, and Lausanne, he spent the 1980s lecturing in Public International Law in his home country, Poland.

Towards the end of the decade, as it became clear that political change was in the air, people began to make preparations for life under a new regime. Wlosowicz became involved in drafting new laws.

He was doing this, and teaching at the university, when change came. "It happened rather sooner than we had thought it would," he explained. "And those of us who had been working towards it found ourselves joining the new administration. I was taken on by the Foreign Ministry. It was all very sudden. I had to leave my students in February, in the middle of the academic year, and take up a totally new role. I'm actually technically still on leave from the university."

A major component of Wlosowicz's teaching programme had related to the United Nations - notably the peaceful solving of international disputes. And in June 1990, he was sent to New York, the first Polish diplomat from the new government to join the United Nations. Here he worked as Poland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, and then as Ambassador, representing post-communist Poland's interests and concerns.

Security Council Member States take it in turns to preside over the Council, and in March 1996, Wlosowicz served as Council President. He considers the most spectacular decision made that month to have been Operation Alba - a humanitarian mission to



Chief of Mission
Zbigniew Wlosowicz
receives Dutch Major
General Remco Seijn,
Commander 1st Division,
on a courtesy call

Albania, in the wake of a serious domestic socioeconomic crisis. "Working in the Security Council brought me very close to peacekeeping operations. We would debate the creation of new operations and discuss renewing the mandates of operations such as UNFICYP. Incidentally, throughout my time as Ambassador to the UN, I was constantly involved in decisions about deploying Polish peacekeepers. Poland has always been among the world's biggest contributors of peacekeeping troops - indeed at one point, we contributed more peacekeepers than any other country worldwide."

In 1996-97, Poland was a member of the Security Council, and Wlosowicz found himself representing his country in this, by far the most high profile, part of the UN.

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In 1998, when the time came to stand down as Poland's Ambassador to the UN, Wlosowicz stayed in New York, moving to the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) where he served as Special Adviser on External Relations, working to get governments involved more closely with development activities.

But in May 2000, the Secretary-General asked him to come to Nicosia as his Acting Special Representative in Cyprus and Chief of Mission of UNFICYP.

"It was a great honour to be asked and I didn't hesitate for a moment before accepting. I hope that I shall be able to put my ten years' experience on the UN scene in New York to good use in Cyprus. I must say that I have been truly impressed by what I have seen of UNFICYP, and am very proud to be working with such professional and competent people. I look forward to seeing more of them, and getting to know them better."

"I didn't hesitate for a moment before accepting"

A Life Saved

By Capt Andreas Scherer

It was late in the evening of 12 August when six Huncon soldiers, on their way to Camp Izay in Athienou, noticed a civilian car parked beside an emergency telephone on the Nicosia/Larnaca highway. Looking more closely, the officer in command of the crew, 1/Lt Zsolt Molnar, saw a fire raging in the vehicle - and somebody was trapped inside.



Lt Molnar

The group, MSgt Peter Dudas, Cpl Zoltan Barad, LCpl Robert Szekeres and LCpl Laszlo Darida, immediately stopped and ran to help. 1/Lt Molnar said that: "Noises could be heard inside the vehicle. The windows were already burning hot and it was impossible to open the doors. So, we smashed the windows and started to extinguish the fire. It was then that we noticed a further source of danger - a gas cylinder, which had to be removed."

Once the fire was under control, two of the soldiers gently helped the injured Cypriot out of the car and administered first aid whilst others redirected traffic. 10 minutes later, the fire brigade and ambulance arrived on the spot.

Special thanks were received from the fire brigade commander and doctor. Sector 4 is very proud of these Hungarians, who are a shining example of providing help under very dangerous conditions.



Victims Aided

By Maj Roberto Dambrosi



Safely back in San Martín Camp after the rescue operation

Whilst on their return to San Martín Camp from a cruise to Egypt and Israel, a group of Argentinian peacekeepers suddenly found themselves at the scene of a terrible accident. As they neared the Limassol/Troodos intersection, they found themselves witness to a head-on collision between a bus and a car.

During the next vital 30 minutes, some of the group carefully helped the injured out of the vehicles, whilst others stood in the road and controlled the traffic. Everyone assisted on this occasion, but special mention should be

made of Lt Cesar Ripa, WOII Miguel Medina, Pte Roman Benigno, and group leader Maj Germán Clerico, who played an active role in the rescue operation.

Soon after, local police authorities, firemen and ambulances arrived on the scene but sadly, nothing could be done to save the life of the young woman who was driving the car.

A few words of thanks were exchanged and then, as quietly as they arrived, the peacekeepers left the location, content that they were able to lend a helping hand.

UNFICYP SOLDIERS ASSIST FAMAGUSTA ORPHANS

UNFICYP soldiers located at Camp Duke Leopold V, near Famagusta, recently treated the residents of the Famagusta Orphanage to a 200-million-lira shopping spree at a local supermarket.

The soldiers raised the money at a social event held at the camp. Instead of simply handing over cash, they decided to take orphanage director, Mrs Oztenay, and the orphans shopping for groceries and household supplies.

"The smiling faces as we went round the shop were just fantastic," said MCpl Trojna, who led the expedition.

There are 12 girls and three boys, aged between nine and 23, living at the orphanage. Three of them are disabled.

The orphanage has received assistance from UNFICYP in the past: two years ago UN soldiers donated some cupboards made in the Camp Duke Leopold V workshop.

Summer School

I'm Peter from Cyprus. I'm a Greek Cypriot and I recently went on the United World Colleges Short Course at the United Nations Protected Area.

Going on the course was an unforgettable experience for me because I think these three weeks will stay in my mind for as long as I live. It was really not what I expected!

We, the Greek Cypriots, have always accused the Turkish people and Turkish Cypriots of being entirely wrong about the 'Cyprus problem'. Through going on this course, and hearing the Turkish Cypriots and international students talking, I have now a clearer picture of the problem of Cyprus. I don't know what the solution could be,



The enactment of a Greek Cypriot wedding at the summer school finale



Turkish Cypriot traditional songs

could manage to do so many things in one day, and travel so many kilometres! It was amazing though because we travelled throughout almost the whole of the island. I saw places in the north which I had never imagined and it made me realise how much more beautiful Cyprus really is.

Well, I would like to thank all the people who contributed to the successful accomplishment of this course, and I would like to say that if the UN were not there to help us, this course would never have happened!

Petros Mouyiasis

because it's a very serious problem, but I know that in the buffer zone, none of the students distinguished between races and religions. We all lived together, depending on each other and having fun like a big family.

Before going there I hesitated a bit because I was anxious of what the Turkish Cypriots would be like and how they would behave towards the Greek Cypriots. Now I know that they share our love for the island, and indeed our cares and concern for the future.

As far the course is concerned, I have to say that we lived really fast! I did not think I



A Nepalese dance performed by two Turkish Cypriot girls, a German boy and a Nepalese boy



Driver's Code

Traffic rules and regulations are created to protect you and your fellow road-users. Obey them.

- Do not exceed the speed limits in or outside the UNPA.
- On the patrol tracks, the speed limit is 25 kph - regardless of other speed limit signs that may be on display.
- On approaching a checkpoint in the buffer zone, reduce speed to 10 kph approximately 100 metres before and after the checkpoint.
- At night, switch off vehicle headlights as you approach, and switch on the interior light.
- For maximum vehicle speed limits, see the "UNFICYP Driver's Handbook".

Voyage of Discovery

Buen dias. I am SSgt Claudio Acosta and since 4 May, I have been working with the Force Military Police Unit.

I trained in Argentina as an Aircraft Technician and normally work in the Argentinian 601 Aircraft Battalion. So my job here in Cyprus is a world apart from dealing with high-tech aircraft and their electrical problems.

Still, I am enjoying working with such a wide selection of

nationalities, seeing how a military police unit functions from the inside - instead of just passing them by on the road.

So far, my tour has been something of a voyage of discovery. Working for the UN gives me an extra incentive to improve my English, which will

be beneficial for my work back home. And in October, my

lovely wife Marcela will give birth to our first child here in Cyprus.



Speeders Beware!

The Force Military Police stations in Nicosia and Dherinia have acquired state of the art Ultralyte laser speed guns. The new speed guns enable the police to carry out speed checks at irregular intervals throughout Cyprus. They can be used for vehicles and motorbikes from up to 600 metres away. And they are extremely accurate.

Hungarians Celebrate

On 26 July, members of the Huncon Headquarters element got together at the FMPU Bar to celebrate the presentation of the Silver Number 2 to members of the contingent who have recently performed their second six-month tour within UNFICYP.

The Chief of Mission gave an opening address to the assembled company, which included guests from the MFR and FMPU. After the initial formalities, everyone was invited to partake in a traditional Hungarian meal of stuffed cabbage, expertly prepared by the Master Chef, MSgt Zoltan Zubor.



Huncon with the Chief of Mission

Independent Argentina

On 9 July, Argentina celebrates its independence from Spanish colonial rule and pays tribute to two men (José de San Martín and Simón Bolívar) who, along with the Argentinian Army, are credited with liberating the Spanish colonies in South America.

Spain had formally established control over a huge swathe of South America in 1776 by creating the viceroyalty of Río de la Plata. This vast area included modern Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and part of Bolivia, with Buenos Aires as its capital.

But Madrid neglected the new colony, preferring to develop Lima and the riches of Peru. Buenos Aires was forbidden to trade with foreign countries, so, forced to resort to illegal commerce, the city became a smugglers' haunt.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Spain itself came under French rule, which opened up the South American colonies to attack from the British. Buenos Aires suffered two British onslaughts in 1806 and 1807.

The Río de la Plata fought off the invaders without any help from Spain in an act of strength that undoubtedly helped to foster the region's growing sense of independence.

By the time the French captured the Spanish king, Fernando VII, the local viceroyalty had become very unpopular. In 1810, the people of Buenos Aires overthrew the viceroy and installed a provisional governing council, launching an energetic campaign against the royalist armies.

During 1814 and 1815, the desire for complete independence from Spain grew. In March 1816, representatives of the different provinces convened at San Miguel de Tucumán. On 9 July, the delegates proclaimed independence from Spanish rule and declared the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata.

The following year, the Argentinian Army, guided by José de San Martín, crossed the Andes, defeated the Spanish at Chacabuco and occupied the Chilean capital, Santiago. A

year later, a decisive victory at Maipú liberated Chile. In 1820, the Royal Spanish Army was defeated at Pisco, opening the way for the liberators to occupy Lima. On 28 July 1821, San Martín proclaimed the independence of Peru and was appointed protector of the country.

The Argentinian Army has never been a conquering army – it has always been a liberator – something we feel accords well with our role here as peacekeepers.



On parade

Force Commander Visits Sector 1

En la mañana del 28 de junio el Comandante de Fuerza de UNFICYP, Mayor General Victory Rana con algunos Oficiales Jefes del Estado Mayor, arribaron al helipuerto de Kokkina para cumplir con una visita de dos días en el Sector 1. Después de la bienvenida dada por parte del Jefe del Sector 1, Teniente Coronel Abel Raul Catuzzi, los visitantes fueron informados acerca de diferentes temas relacionados con la Fuerza de Tareas Argentina.

Después de un almuerzo compartido en el OP 02 A, comenzó un "Line Tour", a través de las posiciones de la Compañía Alfa, donde en el OP 18 el Comandante de Fuerza fue asesorado con respecto a los últimos incendios en esa área. Finalizada la exposición una demostración de tiro fue realizada en el Polígono de la Compañía Bravo y cuando esta actividad finalizó, la comitiva pudo ir al Campo San Martín a tomar un descanso, demostrar las habilidades técnicas del Comandante de Fuerza en un partido de dobles y tener una cena con los oficiales del Contingente Argentino donde el Bandín del Sector 1 ejecutó una variedad de diferentes melodías.

El día siguiente el Mayor General Rana y sus acompañantes visitaron el Campo Roca ubicado en la villa de Xeros en el sector norte; allí fueron recibidos por el Jefe de la Compañía Servicios y posteriormente recorrieron las instalaciones del campo.

La visita de dos días finalizó con un "Line Tour" en el área de responsabilidad de la Compañía Charlie desde la PB 42 hasta el Campo Brown, donde el Comandante de Fuerza impartió una crítica en la Cámara de Oficiales de dicho Campo.



Mobile Force Reserve: live in the dustbowl

By Capt JE Mardlin



Interested audience

It's official. The in-place to be seen this summer is the UNPA and the in-people to be seen with are the MFR soldiers.

After a successful handover/takeover from the Staffordshire Regiment at the beginning of June, the new Brits in the Mobile Force Reserve have been hard at work with their colleagues transforming the MFR buildings as part of a massive spring (or should that be summer?) cleaning operation and doing things the gunner's way. When not painting, building, cleaning or moving, the boys (and girl – apologies to Angela Sloane) have been slaving away



in temperatures of up to 44 degrees Celsius preparing for the Force Commander's Inspection.

Designed to prove that the MFR is ready to "deploy anywhere into the buffer zone in order to maintain its integrity", the inspection involves the whole company of 104 men and woman donning protective riot equipment and heading off to the aptly named "dustbowl". This is not dissimilar to something out of the film *Gladiator* although this time the role of Maximus is played by men such as Paul "Chuck" Berry (a few more inches in height and a few more inches off the waist required first, I'm afraid Chuck) whilst the BSM, Stevie Henderson, directs the Carthaginian hordes from Sectors 1 and 4.

Having given the Force Commander a good demonstration of our capabilities, we can now concentrate on training the Sector Reserve troops from the remainder of the UNFICYP force and also carry out our other continuation training. Vehicle training, first-aid, signals training, weapons drill, fire training, recognition and UN training all needs to be continuously practised, revised and tested and will no doubt keep us busy for the rest of the tour.

Just in case that doesn't sound enough, we also provide the security for the UNPA and carry out regular patrols to reinforce the sector line troops.



Hands on!



On fire



Switched on

Gunners' Impressions

By Gnrs Graham Gould and Wim de Wit

What have the new Brits and Dutch in the MFR been up to so far?

It's got to be crowd control. As soon as we first deployed, the emphasis was on preparations for the crowd control confirmation exercise. And some exercise it was. Two hours of holding back 50 or more tall, determined Austrians, Hungarians and Argentinians, all done in 40-degree heat. The toughest factor probably wasn't the tall, determined opponents, but the body armour and the helmets. There was a constant need for water on the line. Still, despite the heat it was good fun, particularly being part of the snatch teams. That is where you get the hands-on, restraint and removal practice.

As well as this, we have been settling into our nine-day routine, starting with three days of patrolling when we can find ourselves anywhere in the buffer zone. After that it's time for three days of security. This consists of guard duties on Morphou and Foxtrot gate, within the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), or as duty driver or battery runner.

Finally the three days that everyone looks forward to comes around: training, administration and stand-down (TAS). This is when we get to really take advantage of the sports training facilities available in Cyprus. It's also when, if duty permits, we can go to the city centre in the evening, or get a pass to go to one of the other major towns in Cyprus.



OC MFR: decisions, decisions

Caught in the Web



It's sometimes easy to forget that officers and soldiers are people as well. But most of us do have a life outside the armed forces and pursue a variety of hobbies or sports in our spare time. Some of these are pretty predictable (knitting, stamp collecting, folk dancing...), but once in a while, a new or unusual pastime crops up.

Cpl Scott Harrison of Sector 2 East, for example, is into the Internet.

New? Unusual?

Yes. Because Scott does rather more than surf the web. He designs web pages for clubs and organisations in his home area of Whitstable in Kent, in the south of England.

Scott, currently employed as a Finance Clerk, is normally seen behind the counter in Wolseley Barracks, handing out money to soldiers as they come in from patrolling the Green Line. Every Thursday, without fail, he goes on his merry round to all the locations around Sector Two East with his big black bag.

In the evenings, however, his other life takes over, and he can be seen hanging around the internet room waiting for his 20-minute slot on the PC.

Scott has set up a website to promote Whitstable (www.whitstable.org).

"I came up with the idea of Whitstable.org when I tried to

access information on Whitstable from the Internet. There was a site which had been set up by Canterbury Council, but it didn't have much information on the town at all. Whitstable has a thriving community and is quite famous for a number of things, and I didn't think this was really good enough. So I started to put together a simple site."

That simple site was soon to become a more complex one.

"I asked a few people in the town what they thought should be on the site. I also felt that I could help the various clubs and organisations in Whitstable by promoting their activities. I advertised recently in the local press, that I would either provide links on my site to any local club or organisation in the town, or construct a quality website for them free of charge."

The response has been amazing. And Scott has now decided to totally redesign the site to give it an even more professional look. "I've enlisted the help of the former web-master for the Brazilian ISP, Matrix.com, a man called Alex Cavallhero."

Whitstable.org has covered many local events in the town and has developed quite a high profile. Scott notes with some pride that it has established a brand image and says he's been approached by local businesses, many of whom would like to "come on board" when the site acquires commercial status.



Scott and his site

He has lots of plans for the future of Whitstable.org. The local tabloids have now acknowledged it and he's been interviewed on local radio.

"I'll be expanding the new site over the next few months, providing local chat rooms, kids' zones and job information amongst other things. The new site is smaller than the old one at the moment."

As soon as Scott's first month in Cyprus was up and he was able to leave Ledra, he was off to log in to the web cafés of Nicosia. "20 minutes a day isn't long enough to do anything!"

Dutch Courage?

"Going Dutch" took on a new meaning when Lt Gen Ad Van Baal visited his troops here on 28 July. When Mobile Force Reserve Troop Commander Lt Mark Klapdoor explained the skills and drills the soldiers use when they have to control crowds, Gen Van Baal decided to see just how effective these were.

District Attorney-General Steenhuis was only too happy to join him and off they went. Both men made good use of the Tactics, which were blocking the soldiers' view. The troublemakers jumped out and dived onto the MFR's fibreglass shields. Gen Van Baal managed to pull some men apart, while Mr Steenhuis



District Attorney-General Steenhuis takes on the MFR

forced himself through the gap this created and get beyond the first line of defence. Time to use the second line of defence, the snatch teams.

Here, the visitors met their come-uppance. The high ranking guests, twice as old as most of the soldiers, were easy prey for the fast men of the MFR. Fortunately for Lt Klapdoor, the skills and drills proved effective.

Later that afternoon, the Vice Chief of Defence Staff asked a female corporal who's been with the army for three years if she had any advice on the recruiting of females. Cpl Laura Potma thought a few seconds before telling him: "No, sir. The army is fine as it is. Even if it means that the number of women in the army will remain at eight per cent, the standards required of women certainly should not be changed. One thing is certain, the female eight per cent are really making a go of it."



Checking out the Bengal area

When the advance party arrived at the Ortona troop house, we realised we were going to need to undertake certain renovation tasks. Not wanting to upset the outgoing Staffords by suggesting that their home was less than perfect in our eyes, we waited a week before getting down to work.

The first task was the briefing room, as this is the main room in the house. We moved this, and turned the old briefing room into a dining room.

First we painted the new briefing room to give it a fresh look, and made a new briefing model as we felt the old one could do with some improvement. We put the large map board over an old doorway and decorated the room with brief information and recognition pictures. And very

Revamped the Camp

By Sgt CA Dennis

attractive it looks too. Task one complete.

Now for the dining room. Following a pretty savage onslaught with the paintbrush and a veritable feast of DIY magic, the room is a cleaner, larger and whiter place. In all, a much more pleasant place to dine.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. So we turned our attention to our "leisure facilities". We moved the volleyball court to the front of the house, where there is far more space. The football pitch was a slightly harder task, as a

mass of weeds and dead grass had to be moved and a new set of posts erected, but after all the hard work we now boast a large five-a-side all-standing stadium. Relocating the multi-gym was a weight-lifting exercise in itself, but we did it.

Finally, we made the Quick Reaction Force room into a multi-functional area which can also be used as a lecture room.

So now everything is in the right place – at least we think so. Our successors may, of course, want to change it all over again. It's all a matter of taste.



The new volleyball court

It's a Hard Life

A soldier's life is never a very easy one – not even in Cyprus. UNFICYP soldiers have to put up with extreme heat and cold, with living a long way away from friends and family, and with observing a situation that hardly seems to change at all from day to day, but where the slightest alteration has to be reported and recorded.

Since 30 June, however, a new difficulty has appeared.

New measures imposed on UNFICYP include closing all the buffer zone crossing points except for Ledra Palace. UNFICYP can still carry out its mandate – but it is harder to do so.

Maj Thomas Pillmeier, Commander 2nd Company in Dherinia, says he and his personnel spend a lot more time and money getting things done. "Going to the weekly company commanders' meeting in Famagusta now involves a 350-kilometre drive instead of a short trip of 25 kilometres."

But time and money are not the only problem. Pillmeier's biggest concern is the heat: "It's



David Zagar: "The most important thing is to get the job done."

impossible to keep the vehicles cool. This makes it very difficult for drivers to remain alert and observant. There's a real risk that someone may fall asleep behind the steering wheel. I really do hope none of my drivers will get involved in an accident."

Austrian engineers working in Pyla normally commute between the village and their home base at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta. But to go from Famagusta to Pyla via Nicosia and back again every day doesn't make sense, so they only go back to base at weekends now.

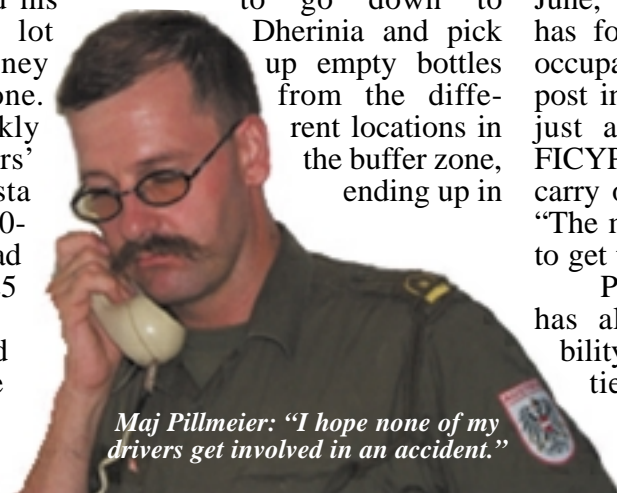
Austrian Andreas Fleischhacker is responsible for making sure the gas bottles are full. The normal routine is to go down to Dherinia and pick up empty bottles from the different locations in the buffer zone, ending up in

Nicosia where he would exchange them for full bottles. He would then drive back, dropping off full bottles on the way, ending up at Dherinia and Camp Duke Leopold.

He can't do this now. Instead, he has to work out how many full bottles he needs, pick them up in Nicosia, deliver the right amount to each location and take back the empty bottles. "Luckily the contractor co-operated, otherwise I would have to do the CDL-Nicosia-Dherinia loop twice in one day. This way, I only have to do it once."

But the most publicized change has occurred at Strovilia. Since the construction of a new checkpoint on 30 June, more media attention has focused on the rotating occupants of the UN liaison post in this tiny village than just about any other UNFICYP personnel. But they carry on working regardless. "The most important thing is to get the job done."

Peacekeeping in Cyprus has always required flexibility and patience – qualities that the new measures are putting well and truly to the test.



Maj Pillmeier: "I hope none of my drivers get involved in an accident."



By
Capt
Bernarda
Volcanjk

Towards the end of the 1980s, tension rose between Slovenia and the Serb-controlled federal government of Yugoslavia. It became obvious that Slovenia had to shake free of what were seen as less progressive and culturally quite different republics, and acquire the right to make independent decisions as to how it could and should develop economically, politically and culturally.

But the central government was not prepared to talk with Slovenia and Croatia (at that time, the only Yugoslav republics in which pluralist political democracy had been established) about the transforming Yugoslavia.

In the summer of 1990, when the Great Serbia nationalists realised that the prospects for centralised and unchanged Yugoslavia were declining, they decided on a violent course: to prevent, with the help of the federal Yugoslav army, the eventual establishment of a Yugoslav confederation.

Croatia moved closer to outright war. Slovenia was also threatened. The federal Yugoslav

army attempted to disarm Slovenia's Territorial Defence Forces, but did not succeed entirely. Slovenia began considering international political and legal norms for declaring independence. On 23 December, the Slovenes voted clearly and unequivocally: more than 88% of those who went to the polls voted for a free and independent Slovenia.

Six months later, on 25 June 1991, the country proclaimed its independence. The following night, the Yugoslav Army went into action to try and quash the existence of the new independent state by force. The Slovenes responded as one, and after several days of military action, which cost 45 lives and considerable material damage, army units began disintegrating and surrendering to the Slovenian Territorial Defence forces.

To avoid a complete and shameful military debacle, the army headquarters in Belgrade threatened Slovenia with dire retaliatory measures, aerial bombardment and total war. The Slovenian government turned to the international public, pleading with them to prevent a great human tragedy and a blow to European civilisation. Responding to the shocking pictures and reports of military devastations by



Brig Bojan Suligoj, the CM and the FC stand for the Slovenian national anthem during the flag raising ceremony

the Yugoslav Army, world public opinion quickly mobilised and demanded an end to the military intervention of the Yugoslav Army. A top-level political mission from the European Community mediated in negotiations between the delegation of the Yugoslav federal government and army and the delegation of the Republic of Slovenia, and succeeded in bringing about the end of military hostilities.

And so it was that Slovenia gained its independence, and became a sovereign and internationally recognised state and a member of the UN and the OSCE.

(Based on Prunk's:

A Brief History of Slovenia)

On Sunday 25 June, all the 29 Slovenes serving with UNFICYP marked the ninth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with an official celebration and a torch-lit reception at Camp Triglav.

After the Slovenian flag had been raised to the strains of the national anthem, Capt Lipovac, the Slovenian Contingent Commander, addressed the audience in his mother tongue and expressed a special welcome to the Chief of Mission, Mr Wlosowicz, Force Commander Maj-Gen Rana and Brig Suligoj, Chief of SG-1 in the Slovenian General Staff. Brig Suligoj stressed that although the Republic of Slovenia has only been independent for nine years, it is in the process of developing its defence system with a transparent, well-armed and well trained army, capable of taking on its share of the responsibility in the collective security system of Europe and the world. Lt Col Gunther Kienberger, Commanding Officer Sector 4, complimented the Slovenian soldiers on their professionalism and peacekeeping performance.

Photographs by SSgt Gorup



Brig Bojan Suligoj decorated Sgt Igof Slana with the Medal of Bravery. Just before his departure for UNFICYP, Sgt Slana – at the risk of his own life – dragged a man from a burning vehicle, thus saving his life.

Three for Dee



By Sgt Mic Murray

cations operator. Here in Cyprus, she works as the Hums Officer at the Ledra Palace Hotel, dealing with medevacs, prescription runs and other humanitarian issues.

Dee is a keen and natural sports-woman with an extensive background in team and individual sports. At a young age she was a keen swimmer, surfer and cross country runner.

She has tried and succeeded at most sports, and has recently benefitted from the guidance of fellow Aussie, current athlete of the year, Lisa-Marie Vizianari. Lisa-Marie is a Common-

wealth Gold Medallist and Olympic team member.

As world attention focuses on the Sydney Olympics, UNFICYP sends its best wishes to all contingent contributing countries' teams - especially the host nation, Australia. Here's hoping that gold medals will rain on our competitors as they did in Milwaukee.

lifting program. As it was she missed it, which was probably fortunate for the other competitors.

Dee has been a police officer for some 17 years now, working in national operations, intelligence, general duties policing and ports watch. Before joining the Australian Federal Police, she was a member of the Australian Armed services (Air Force) as a communi-

Three gold medals is a pretty spectacular achievement, but one that UNCIVPOL's Delia Quigley is impressively modest about. Dee won the shot put, discus, and javelin events at the Canadian-American Police and Fire games held in Milwaukee, Canada, in July. If her plane hadn't been delayed she'd have been in time for the weigh in for the weight

Football in Sector 2

The soldiers of the 16 UNFICYP Roulement Regiment have acclimatised, and have started a football competition within Sector 2. The fixture list has been published: each team will play each other twice, once home and once away. The four participating teams are Ledra Palace Hotel, Sector 2 East, Sector 2 West and the Mobile Force Reserve.

The opening game was played between the team of Ledra Palace Hotel and the flying Dutchmen from Sector 2 West. It was a hard fought match, with LPH taking an early lead through some strong running, ending with a good finish by LBdr Mannion. LPH extended their lead about 15 minutes later when WO2 Shenton split S2W's defence with an inch-perfect pass to set SSgt Vernon clear to score the first of his two goals. S2W were by no means out of the game, and came on the attack straight from the restart, with a good move down the left resulting in them gaining a corner. The corner was driven low into the middle of the LPH goal, 2:1. The score stayed the same until half time.

At the start of the second half, the Dutch changed

tactics and put LPH under a lot of pressure. But it was all soaked up by Sgt Joseph who had another strong game at the heart of the LPH defence. There seemed to be no breakthrough until the ball was played into the feet of WO2 Shenton, who turned and slipped in another killer pass for LBdr Ramshaw to run onto and cross from the right so SSgt Vernon could put the ball in the net for a second time. Shortly afterwards, in another set piece, Bdr Povey headed in a ball that was swung in from the right to bring the score to 3:2.

The game ebbed and flowed into the final stages and with the last attack, LPH broke down the left wing. SSgt Vernon collected the ball and crossed it in for LBdr Mannion to flick on to WO2 Shenton who volleyed home from about eight metres to seal victory for LPH with the last kick of the game.

Plans are also under way to organise fixtures with Sector 1, Sector 4, HQ UNFICYP and maybe with units from the Sovereign Bases. Other soccer news from Sector 2: the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have entered a team in the BFBS All Island 5-a-Side football challenge to help raise money for Wireless for the Blind.

Heat Stops Play

The FMPU monthly volleyball match ended in a diplomatic draw, with the 'A' team under WOII Werner Lechner just failing to hold off the HQ Section. The Alpha Section, which featured with Austrian, Argentinian, Hungarian and Slovenian players, won the prize for most international team. Rather than carry on to establish who were all-out winners, however, players opted to retreat from the searing, over-40-degree heat for a cool coke.



Haggis, Cones and Cabers at AGC-Day

By Pte Tom Howat

Four weeks after we arrived in Cyprus, seven of us went down to Happy Valley to take part in the King's Own Scottish Border Regiment's Corps day. This was open to all Adjutant General's Corps on the island, and of course UNFICYP sent a team too. The UNFICYP Sector 2 AGC team consisted of Lt Breckenbridge, Sgt Wason, Cpl Roberts, Cpl Punter, LBdr Bevilaqua, Pte Hardwick and Pte Tom Howat.

To our deep gratification, our hastily-scrambled team together made it to the final of the volleyball tournament. We didn't win, but it wasn't bad to come second out of 14.

The highlight of the day, however, was the Highland Games. We don't get to play these in Woolwich. Nevertheless, we did our best at the quaint Scottish pastimes of haggis throwing, caber tossing, wheelbarrow racing and finally haggis eating. All team members but one breathed a sigh of relief when Bevilaqua reluctantly entered the last of these games.

Cpl Punter was injured and unable to compete, so I had to take his place. Meanwhile, Roberts and Bevilaqua were clearly in their element dressed up in sumo suits and knocking each other over. Wason was kicked off our team and handed over to Britcon - his age and

speed was evidently a matter of some concern to them. Hardwick and Breckenbridge were also useful team members and, to what must have been the Scots' dismay, the Londoners came runners-up in the Highland Games too.

The day ended with the prize giving and the Sector 2 team was the only one to win a trophy for both events. If you had asked me if we were in trophy reach at the start of the day, I would have laughed. All that early morning PT must be paying off.



One Mile Swim



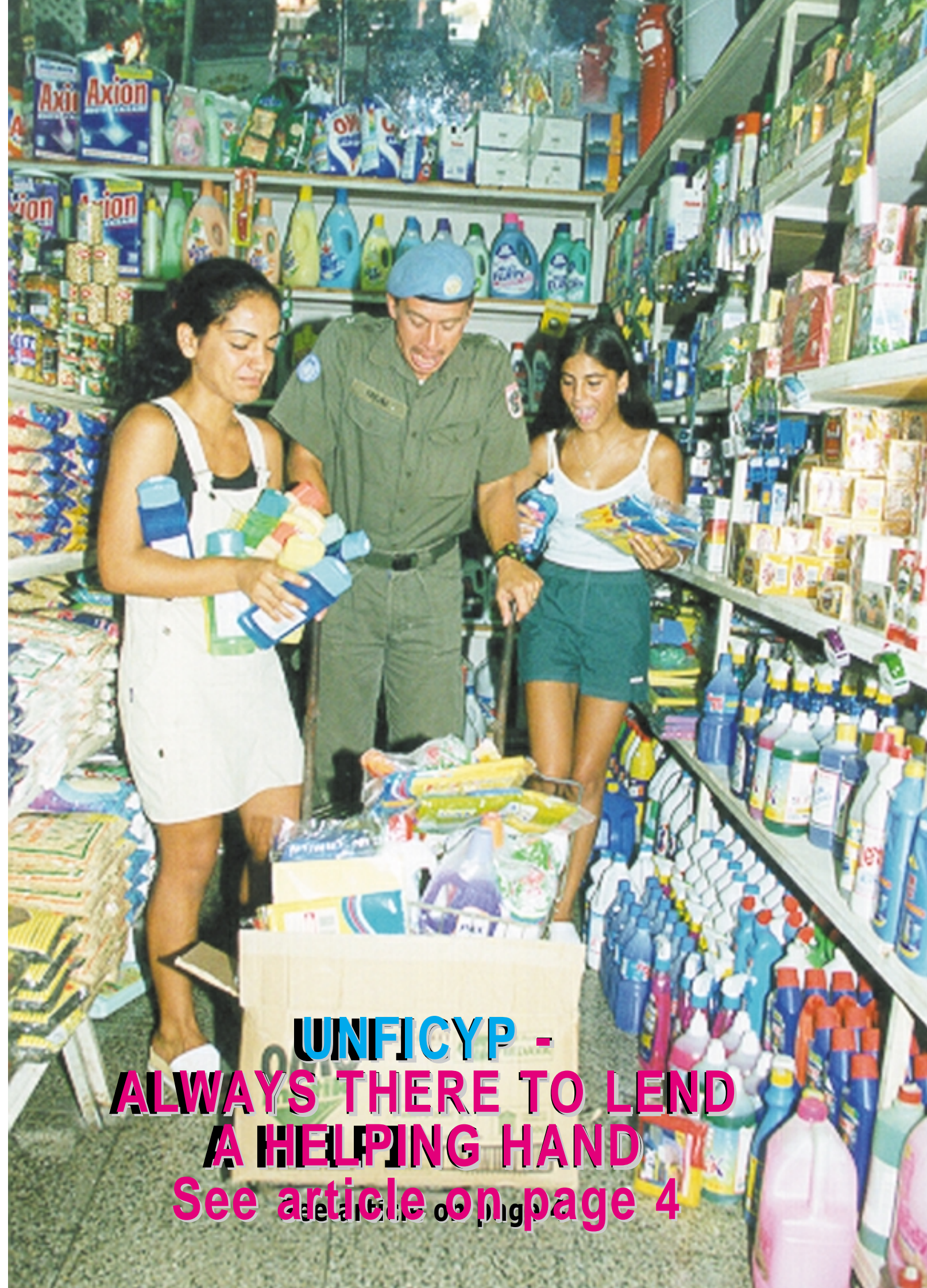
the whole field of 40 competitors behind you, you're doing something really special.

Austrian WOII Othmar Wohlkönig managed this at the British Bases' organised one-mile swim on 8 July at Dhekelia.

"I like to be outside and do sports," he says. "In the Austrian army, I was given the opportunity to become a sports instructor, which meant I could turn my hobby into my profession. I'm not working as a sports instructor in Cyprus, though. I work in company headquarters in Dherinia, but I still make sure I keep up the level of training. Luckily, our sector considers sport to be very important - not only to keep fit, but also to spend your off duty periods in a useful way."

Othmar was not the only soldier who represented the Austrian contingent on 8 July. Some were not even put off by having to drive from Famagusta via Nicosia to get to Dhekelia.

The start was on the beach, from where the competitors had to swim around a marked course. Right from the outset, Othmar was in the lead, but he was challenged by two female British swimmers. Only after the last marker did he manage to leave his opponents behind him and go on to win not only his own age-group, but also the overall competition.



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