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It is, therefore, a special day when we can visit the graves of our loved ones to light the candles that illuminate our cemeteries, and to remind ourselves that our homeland is with them in God.


Contents

We Will Remember Them/All Saints and All Souls .......................... 2
Footprints & Milestones/ How You Can Make a Difference ............. 4/5
Winter Safety/Dial Right ................................. 6
International Fireworks & Halloween Party .................................. 7
A Life Full of Tolerance/A Life Free of Violence ......................... 8
World AIDS Day: 1 December .............................................9
UNFICYP Comings and Goings ........................................10
Blackpool Belle’s “Col’s House/Gunner Wedding” .......................11
Sector One News ................................................12
8th November: The Best So Far/The Melbourne Cup/ ....................13
Sgt. Bill McGeachie Retires .............................................13
Sport/Captain Competition ..............................................14
Sport ..........................................................15
International Fireworks & Halloween Party ...............................16

Becoming a beacon for peace generally.

Editorial/Contents

We Will Remember Them/All Saints and All Souls

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We Will Remember Them

Nestling in the Buffer Zone on the outskirts of Nicosia is “a corner of a field that will be forever England”. Wayne’s Keep is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery that has been the resting place for servicemen, dependents and civilians of many different nationalities for more than half a century. In this tranquil spot, on Sunday 11 November, more than 300 people gathered for the British Contingent’s Remembrance Service.

The event is held every year to mark Armistice Day, and to commemorate all those who have fallen in battle since the First World War. During the service, 22 wreaths were laid by national and association representatives in memory of those who have given their lives.

Those laying wreaths included the Chief of Mission, on behalf of all UNFICYP personnel, and the Force Commander, on behalf of the Kingdom of Nepal.

The simple but moving service, which included a two-minute silence at 11 a.m., was led by British Contingent Padre, the Reverend Jim Atchison. Commander of the British Contingent, Colonel Hamish Fletcher, welcomed all the invited guests, including seven ambassadors and high commissioners, and he read the Act of Commitment. The Regimental Sergeant Major of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, WO1 J.E. Groves, read the Tryst:

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun And in the morning We will remember them"

The Feast of All Saints, and 2 November as the Feast of All Souls.

The Feast of All Saints has a long tradition, with its roots in the very early Christian Church that believed those who followed Christ “with all their heart, with all their soul and all their mind” would be able to bring their lives to perfection and high quality. Thus, the equivalent for saint has always been a person mature in both faith and humanity. Many saints during the long Christian history have proven this by their commitment to life, to serving the poor, and to fighting for a better world with more justice. Let us think about many great men and women, such as Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Maximilian Kolbe – and many others who were able to look beyond their own needs to be with their brothers and sisters in uneasy situations.

All Saints And All Souls

By Maj. Milot Archavuzi

Chaplain Sector 4

All Saints, and 2 November as the Feast of All Souls.

A t the beginning of November in Slovakia, our cemeteries change into cities of light - even though darkness covers our northern hemisphere for most of the day. This is thanks to our custom of visiting and beautifying the graves of our loved ones, whether they have passed away recently or many years ago. The custom is linked with the Christian liturgical calendar, in which we celebrate two distinctive yet mutually connected feasts: 1 November as the Feast of All Saints, and 2 November as the Feast of All Souls.

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Footprints and Milestones: The State of World Population 2001

Human activity is affecting every part of our planet, no matter how remote, and every eco-system, from the simplest to the most complex. As a result, says the State of World Population 2001 report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world is facing critical decisions about how to ensure the well-being of growing human populations while still protecting our natural world.

The State of World Population 2001 report shows how unbalanced consumption harms the environment, and how environmental destruction has a disproportionate impact on the poor, said Thoraya O’Habid, executive director of UNFPA, as she released the report at UN HQ in New York early in November. “The report also demonstrates how the scramble to escape from poverty could damage natural resources and local environments, and how rapid urban growth, new industries, and the fight to increase exports could damage long-term development prospects.”

The report shows how closely population and the environment are related, and addresses the various links between the issues of consumption, technology, population growth, gender relations, political structures and governance at all levels. Consider, for example, that world population has tripled in the last 70 years, while water use has increased sixfold. In the last century, world population has quadrupled, but carbon dioxide emissions have increased twelvefold. Clearly, the human population is placing deep footprints on the earth. Signs of environmental stress include destroyed natural habitats, threatened and extinct species of plants and animals, degraded soil, and polluted air and water. The stress of poverty is equally clear: one third of the 4.4 billion people in developing countries are without access to clean water; one quarter lack adequate housing, and one fifth do not have access to modern health services.

But the report also highlights solutions. Key international conferences and agreements over the past decade have discussed many of them, and have recognized the inter-connectedness of slowing population growth, reducing poverty, achieving economic progress, protecting the environment, and reducing unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

“Successful population and development policy starts with simple interventions, such as universal education and primary health care, including high-quality reproductive health services,” emphasized Ms. O’Habid. “Such interventions also include greater visibility for the roles of women in respect to the environment, and specific actions to empower women and move towards gender equality.”

UNFPA also advocates action to improve clean and efficient technologies and make them available to developing countries, plus balanced and integrated population policies.

UNFPA will continue working towards global action on these issues, reviewing progress towards sustainable development and international equity at a major conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 – the 10th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, “Earth Summit”.

UNDP/UNOPS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Here in Cyprus, UNDP and UNOPS are actively involved in a number of projects that are helping to maintain or improve the quality of our environment. These projects emphasize environmental ideals such as conservation of nature, flora and fauna, animal awareness, water quality, recycling, environmental education, pollutant reduction, air quality, integrated pest management and waste management.

These are just a few current projects:

Hit the Beach

· Organising the cleanup of several beaches each year throughout Cyprus.

Inventory marine debris found on Cypriot beaches so that we can determine the sources of marine debris (illegal dumping at sea), and present the information to other NGOs, international organisations and governments.

A Little Learning Goes a Long Way

· Sharing environmental education that’s geared towards helping teachers to develop environmental coursework for the classroom.

· Developing environmental education for school children, the general public and hunters on various aspects of environmental protection and awareness.

Cans for Kids

· Recycling through funding the Greek Cypriot Community’s “Cans for Kids” and the soon-to-commence Turkish Cypriot Community complementary project.

· Assessing ambient air quality in Cyprus to aid our understanding of air quality and what directions should be taken to improve or maintain air quality.

Water, Water, Everywhere

· Developing a system to quickly identify and troubleshoot the effluents from wastewater treatment facilities. This study is being conducted at the Nicosia Sewerage Treatment Facility.

· Operating and maintaining the Nicosia Sewerage Treatment Facility for Nicosia (for both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities).

· Establishing a bird sanctuary at the Nicosia Sewerage Treatment Facility, which has included planting local trees and shrubs to provide refuge for local and migratory birds.

How YOU Can Make a Difference

Balancing the needs of the world’s population and our environment starts with each of us:

· Reduce; reuse; recycle! Reducing consumption of goods, especially highly packaged items is always the best answer. Where you can’t reduce, try to reuse items; if reusing isn’t possible, recycle.

· Buy groceries in bulk or in concentrated form, to reduce packaging. If you only buy a couple of items at the supermarket, say, “No bag, thanks.” Or better yet: bring your own bags!

· Conserve water: turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth. If it’s not possible, install a low flow faucet.

· Conserve energy: shut off electric lights when there’s no one in the room.

· Turn the thermostat down six degrees in the winter and wear warm clothing. This saves oil and decreases the amount of “greenhouse gases” that contaminate the atmosphere.

· When walking around the UNPA, pick up litter; recycle items such as aluminium cans.

· Donate – don’t discard – your used things. Give clothes to charity shops, books to libraries, and old toys to hospitals or youth centres.

Sources include:

· Columbia University (New York) and The Earthworks Group

Collection point at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics

· Did you know that recycling points are available in the Nicosia area, particularly in Agios Dometios? Generally located near schools (including one opposite the race track), they accept clear and coloured glass, plastic (e.g. water bottles), newspaper and fine papers, and aluminium (e.g. tins). There’s also a box at UNFICYP HQ for disposing of batteries which can leak hazardous chemicals into landfills if they’re thrown out with your regular rubbish.

· Use native plants in your gardens and balcony containers, rather than imported varieties that need lots of water. Native plants also tend to attract native wildlife, such as birds and butterflies whose habitats are under stress.

· Carpool whenever possible, and keep your vehicle’s maintenance up to date: both actions help to reduce harmful emissions.

· Keep the UNPA tidy - UNFICYP personnel on Clean-Up Day

· Edit papers, reports, letters, etc., on the computer screen before printing, and use both sides of the paper whenever possible.

· Use mechanical pencils, refillable pens, and refillable tape dispensers.

· Ask to be removed from unwanted mailing lists; this saves paper and stops annoying junk mail.

· Stop those leaky taps, and you’ll save up to 20,000 gallons of water a year!

· Conserve energy: shut off electric lights when there’s no one in the room, and use natural light whenever possible.

· Cover your pot when boiling water – it heats up faster and saves energy.

· Close your windows and draw the curtains in the winter, especially on cloudy days: about 20% of the energy used to heat your room goes to heating incoming cold air.

Collection point at Kyriakos Mata Street, Agios Dometios

· Doughnuts in the sacrament of holy communion harm the environment.

· If you aren’t planning to use a particular therapy, don’t get one. If you are using a therapy that harm the environment, try to get one that is as much gentle as possible.
WINTER SAFETY

By Chief Civilian Fire Officer Nadeem P. Qadir

Summer is gone, so the threat of grass/forest/buffer fires is now replaced by the danger of domestic fires, due to risks resulting from greater electricity and heater use, and electrical faults caused by rain. Fire is present one of the most frightening alarm calls you could experience, especially if you are deep in the arms of Morpheus and dreaming of the winter nights. The best way to ensure that you are awake this winter is to drill is, of course, PREVENTION.

Remember that with a few commonsense precautions, ALL FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED:

- Gas heaters should not be used inside sleeping accommodation.
- Make sure the room is well ventilated, especially when you are using a gas heater.
- Never leave your heater/electric equipment unattended.
- Never use electric heaters with bars or rods.
- Never dry your clothes near or over the heater.
- Never move a heater when it is on.
- Keep your heater at least 1.25 metres away from any combustible materials.
- Empty or full gas cylinders should not be stored within the building. Put them in storage areas. The only gas cylinder that should be inside the building is the one in use in your gas heater.
- Be sure that your heater has been checked by support services workshop (ext 4650); see the checklist of instructions for your heater.
- Do not overload your electric wall socket. Extension leads should never be on the floor; secure them along the wall or on wood (e.g. a wooden table).
- Do not use a two-pin unearthed plug in a three-pin socket.
- Smoking should be allowed only in designated areas.
- Keep all electrical appliances and fixtures should be checked monthly and reported immediately for any fault.
- Simple work service, changes to lights and their covers, and repairs to cracked sockets can prevent fires and save lives and money.
- Fire/smoke alarms in all accommodation should be fitted to the ceiling with a cover to obtain 100% efficiency. The working power of the sensors/smoke alarms that are fitted (vertically) on walls, behind ceiling fans or without covers can be reduced by 35% (ext 5002).
- Fire and earthquake drills are carried out monthly. Check your emergency alarms weekly to be sure that they are set to work and are serviceable. Winter and earthquake safety instructions and OP instruction along with “OP Fire Survival” have been taken when electricity is involved: see 1 & 2 above.

Your Fire Crew is always here to help you (24 hours a day/365-6 days a year).

We wish you a safe and happy year 2002.

In the event of the fire:

1. Cut off the main electric/gas supply switch (if safe to do so).
2. Call the fire crew:
   - (UNPA 02-864777)
   - (Sector 1 02-864764/5)
   - (Sector 2 02-864760/1)
   - (Sector 3 02-864758/9)
3. If it is safe, fight the fire with carbon dioxide (CO2), or dry powder fire extinguisher (for electric fires).
4. Never use water or foam fire extinguishers on live electric fires (conductive/shock hazard).
5. If fuel is leaking, cover the area with foam/fire blanket/sand/soil (care should be taken when electricity is involved: see 1 above).

The United Nations Community Team was founded in April 2000, to contribute to maintaining and improving the UNPA Community’s quality of life. The Team’s funds consist of non-public funds raised from events profits and donations. When applications are made to the Community Team for funding to help better the UNPA Community, the Chairman consults with Team members and decides whether to make donations.

November 2001 - The Blue Beret

Halloween: Behind the Costumes

Of course, the traditions of Halloween extend beyond costumes and tricks: the holiday marked the release of a new version of one of the Western world’s oldest holidays. While its roots are in pre-Christian Ireland, the event is celebrated even today as the New Year’s festival, Samhain (the festivities also include elements of the ancient Roman traditions).

In the eight century A.D., the Pope declared November 1st to be the feast of All Saints’. In English, this holiday was also called All Hallows’ Day. Since then, the celebration of this tradition, called Hallowe’en, has evolved to give us the western version of Samhain. With Halloween’s growth, the holiday has been linked to the Celtic pantheon, or Druids, who would build bonfires and offer sacrifices of crops and animals. The people dressed in costumes to disguise themselves from the ‘Fiat’, which were probably how the dress up for Halloween originated.

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October 31st saw UNFICYP’s “Halloween Party” in full swing, thanks to members entering into the spirit of a fancy dress party. All the costume characters and charmers appeared, including Dracula Kennedick, King O’Connor, Princess Peach, Patricia the Gypsy, Ali G., Callan, Booze the Clown Aladdin, Woody Shreddy, Admiral Morrissey, Braun the Clown, the Blue Beret, Belly Dancer, several young action figures and a busy bee, wild

The Cyprus Telecommunications Authority is changing the national telephone numbering system, to cater for the ever-increasing demand for both fixed and mobile telephone numbers. These changes will also bring Cyprus into line with international developments in the field of telephone numbering.

The changes begin officially on 1 December, with a transition period of parallel operation where both old and new numbering systems will co-exist. Following the transition period of parallel operation where both old and new numbering systems will co-exist, the old numbering system will be replaced by “9”, as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Old Number</th>
<th>New Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicosia</td>
<td>(02)XXXXXX</td>
<td>22XXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Famagusta</td>
<td>(03)XXXXXX</td>
<td>23XXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larnaca</td>
<td>(04)XXXXXX</td>
<td>24XXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limassol</td>
<td>(05)XXXXXX</td>
<td>25XXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paphos</td>
<td>(06)XXXXXX</td>
<td>26XXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>(099)XXXXX</td>
<td>99XXXXX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another interesting development is that in parallel with the numbering system, there will be a single charge for calls throughout the Republic of Cyprus.

In coming International Calls,

Callers to and from the above holidays or festivals is now widely celebrated with all sorts of bonfires, fireworks, treats and tricks. The American public buy pumpkins made even better jack-o-lanterns, cover the area with liquid refreshments. And so on 31 October each year, one of the oldest holidays or traditions popularized Halloween in the eight century A.D. (or All Saints) Day and the following day, All Souls Day.

Then it was on to the fireworks, which held everyone’s attention for 15 minutes with a wonderful display of power and creativity.

Funds Available to Help the UNPA Community
A Life Full of Tolerance -- A Life Free of Violence

16 November 2001: International Day of Tolerance

S

ince the horrific attacks of 11 September, the world has found itself united as never before. Millions of people across many societies and cultures have reaffirmed their understanding that we all belong to the same human family. They have expressed, in their grief and solidarity, the shared values that make up our common humanity.

These values are tolerance. This keystone of human rights, pluralism and democracy stands for openness, dialogue, understanding and respect for others. It is a value that makes peace possible. And without peace, there can be neither progress nor development.

Tolerance also means that all people should benefit from economic and social opportunities without discrimination and exclusions, and that no society and no community is immune.

No society and no community is immune.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we are more aware than ever that this concern remains a global phenomenon against which no country, no society and no community is immune.

Recent events have made the issue come alive even more acutely. The treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan in the past several years has been an affront to all standards of dignity, equality and humanity. As we face a momentous political, humanitarian and human rights challenge in Afghanistan, addressing the plight of women will be a major priority for any future United Nations role in that country.

Just over a year ago, the world’s leaders reaffirmed in their Millennium Declaration that “men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice”. Also last year, the Security Council addressed, for the first time, the situation of women in armed conflict and adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This groundbreaking document called on all parties to armed conflict to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and sexual abuse, and emphasized the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity for those responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes, including sexual and other violence against women and girls. In the same year, our Member States gathered for signature of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocols, one of which aims to eliminate trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

These commitments must be our lodestar in our mission to free women from violence, wherever they may live. Violence against women is not a “woman’s issue”, but one that concerns us all -- especially men. Indeed, men must work to confront what should be described as men’s violence against women, and recognize the responsibility to respect the equal role and rights of women. When it comes to violence against women, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses.

On this International Day of Tolerance Against Women, let us recall the words of a member of an Afghan women’s group, one of the many thousands of women living with the virus, our task is more urgent than before.
UNIFICYP Comings and Goings

As is often the case at UNIFICYP, the months of October and November saw several distinguished visitors learning more about the mission, as well as UNIFICYP personnel returning home after a tour well done.

We were honoured, for example, on 25 October when Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and former President of Austria, visited and met with the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander.

November visits also included Dr. János Martonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Hungary, on 22 November. The Minister paid office calls to the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander, and received a HQ UNIFICYP briefing from Acting Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Brandtner. Dr. Martonyi then took an airport tour to the Chief of Mission, and concluded his visit by meeting Hungarian personnel serving with UNIFICYP.

On his 12 November visit, Maj. Gen. R.V. Brims met with the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and the Chief of Staff, before touring the MFR and Sector 2.

On arrival at Larnaca Airport
Maj. Gen. R.V. Brims inspect honour guard
Mr. Kurt Waldheim with the Chief of Mission
Mr. de Soto meets the press on arrival at Larnaca Airport
FICYP Comings and Goings

November 2001 -
Clerides and Mr. Rauf Denktash.
November, during which he met with Mr. Glafcos.

Mr. Alvaro de Soto, paid a flying visit to Cyprus on 2-3
November, in which he met with the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander.

In this issue of The Blue Beret, we bid farewell to
Maj. Luis Estrella, who
hanging with UN-FICYP was Air Traffic Safety Officer at HQ. His training as a helicopter pilot and combat pilot meant that his extensive experience was well suited to his task in HQ.

In his career, Luis has investigated some 45 civilian aircraft accidents, among them the British South-American Airways Avro Lancastrian, lost in the Andes in 1947 and found in January 2000.

Luis will be best remembered for his charm, and for his ability to communicate with all ranks and civilian personnel in HQ. He will be especially remembered by The Blue Beret magazine, to which he offered his talents as an artist on many occasions. We wish him well, as he is reunited with his wife Liliana, and their children Hijos Constanza, Luis Francisco and Fatima.

In his place, UNIFICYP welcomes the new Air Traffic Safety Officer, Maj. Francisco Meglia.

Heading Home

Col’s House

A new Observation Post, on the roof of Frezenberg House in City Coy’s area of responsibility, has been named Col’s House to honour Spr. Ian Collins. The OP was designed and built by the Royal Engineer Detachment from 9 Para Squadron RE, who were serving in Cyprus on 27 August 2001, when Spr. Collins, a member of the Squadron, was killed on operations in Macedonia. The Detachment named the OP in Spr. Collins’ memory.

Col’s House was officially opened on 12 November 2001 by the General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division, Maj. Gen. R. V. Brims CBE.

Blackpool Belles

12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group have recently had the pleasure of hosting Miss Blackpool on a visit to the troops in Cyprus. The visit lasted a week, during which three beautiful young ladies visited each Battery serving within Sector 2. The ladies included Natalie James (Miss Blackpool 2000), Heidi Cliff (Face of the Blackpool Gazette) and Karen Cookson (Miss Blackpool 1995 and presently running a modelling agency).

The Regimental Group worked hard to make their trip a busy one. The three ladies went gliding with the Regiment’s adventure training team based in Dhekelia, cooked with the chefs, laid bricks with the engineers, and saw first aid demonstrations by the doctors. They also participated in cycle tours with Liri Troop, a Halloween BBQ, and judged a Mr.

“Col’s House”

On the afternoon of Tuesday 6 November, 12 Regiment celebrated the wedding of SSgt. Philip Stephen Scrannage and Gnr. Amanda Claire Hodgkin. The wedding took place at St Columbus’ Church in the United Nations Protected Area. Padre Jim Aitchison led the ceremony, and informed the congregation that the bride and groom had met whilst on duty….

Amanda was undergoing a period of restrictions of privileges whilst Philip was on extra duties. The Padre was quick to inform the congregation how apt their meeting had been, in that by committing themselves to each other, they would be undoubtedly be restricted of certain privileges and acquire numerous extra duties!

The reception was a superb affair held at Ledra Palace Hotel, where the Regiment tucked into a delicious barbecue and the traditional Cypriot brandy sours and champers. It was a memorable day, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Gunner Wedding on the Island of Love

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The New Argentinian Task Force

By Capt. M. Del Castillo and Tte. Gutierrez.

On 2 November, ATF-18 finally took over from ATF-17: what a great thing!! ATF-17 is now on its way back home, with ATF-18 taking full control of Sector 1. During a ceremony held at Camp San Martin, the new Sector Commander, Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti, received command from Lt. Col. Osvaldo Daniel Garcia, who thus ended his one-year tour of duty.

The first team of ATF-18 had landed in Larnaca on 27 October, and the entire rotation was finished by 5 November. As is usual, the newcomers were deployed as soon as possible to their posts.

ATF-18 consists of Argentinian military personnel from the different services of the Armed Forces (Army, Air Force and Navy). Along with them are officers and NCOs from neighbouring countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, making ATF-18 a great South American integrated force.

Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti, who took command of Sector 1 in November, joined the Argentinian Army as a cadet in the “Colegio Militar de la Nación” Military Academy on 9 December 1976. He graduated from Basic, Intermediate and Advanced NCO training courses. WO1 Alberto Martin Rodriguez has experience in key positions including Platoon First Sergeant and Instruc-

WO1 Alberto Martin Rodriguez

Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti

New Commanding Officer, Sector 1

His first posting as a senior officer was with 601 Engineer Battalion as Ops Officer. He then served in the Army General Staff, in the Branches of Personnel and Operations, and took command of 3 Engineer Battalion Academy. Lt. Col. Cimmarusti is a staff officer and paratrooper, and has extensive experience with the United Nations. This includes 1992 and 1995 tours with UNPROFOR (Bosnia), 1993 and 1998 tours with UNIKOM (Kuwait - Iraq). In 1994, he was Military Adviser to the Argentinian delegation, attending the Inspection Conference of the Convention on antipersonnel mines, held in Geneva. Lt. Col. Cimmarusti is married to Ms. Maria Fernandez Mendez, and they have three children.

Since our arrival, we have worked hard, with everybody involved in duties such as briefings, ground and aerial recce, and OP mapping. Of course, this has kept us busy, and has made our time in the mission area pass very quickly. ATF-18 wishes ATF-17 a safe trip back home, and thanks them all for their cooperation.

The Melbourne Cup

By Sgt. M Hennigan

On 6 November 2001, the Australian Civilian Police Contingent hosted a champagne breakfast to celebrate the 140th running of Australia’s greatest horse race, the Melbourne Cup. Ninety-five people attended the Officers’ Club at 0600 hours and participated in the festivities, which included sweepstakes, lucky door prizes, and prizes for the best-dressed lady and gentleman.

Following the televised running of the race at 0715 hours, guests attended the International Mess for breakfast. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion, and a great time was had by all. Tennie Brownlee won the prize for the best-dressed lady, while Col. John Gagnon was judged the best-dressed male. Fred Donovan was the most successful sweeps taker, walking away with two first prizes.

Sgt. Bill McGeachie Retires

By Sgt. M Hennigan

Out in the bush between Sydney and Melbourne, somewhere in a little town named Galong, a rare individual joined the Australian Police Force. A man of several talents and qualifications, Bill McGeachie quickly grew in stature to become one of the greatest characters ever to wear a policeman’s uniform and then to represent his country.

A qualified wood judge who rears kangaroos (45 at last count), Bill put in 34 years and 71 days in the police force. Besides his ever-popular laugh and good humour, Bill made it to President of the UN Tennis Club in the UNPA, and featured in the UNFICYP Golf Championships, scoring a fantastic round of 28. Bill often found it to be his only handicap.

Sgt. Bill McGeachie’s mug-out was held at the CIVPOL house on 19 October. There, in front of many guests, he was made an “Honorary Irishman”, a title given to a very select few, like say Bill Clinton (well, Bill was presented with a lucky Leprechaun, anyway).

Bill, if you’re reading this article, Dave Sheedy is still winning golf prizes, and your partner in crime, Frank Kennefick, still says that you can never take an Aussie for a drink!
UNFICYP Shines At Dhekelia Dash 2001

Over 40 teams from across the island, including three from UNFICYP, recently participated in the 2001 Dhekelia Dash. This 30 km charity relay race, now in its 35th year, features teams of 15 runners, each of whom run two kilometres round a course in Dhekelia Garrison. UNFICYP teams included a Sector 4 Slovakian/Hungarian team; a Sector 2 HQ Bty 12 Regt team (boosted by UNFICYP teams included a Sector 4 Slovakian/Hungarian team; a Sector 2 HQ Bty 12 Regt team (boosted by

The race provides exciting spectator value, with stiff competition. The UNFICYP Ladies played a tactical card, waiting to pull away from their closest rivals until halfway through the race. As their last runner stormed down the hill to the finish line, the UNFICYP Ladies were a comfortable eight minutes ahead of the next ladies’ team. The Sector 2 Men’s team also clinched the Military category trophy in a closely fought race, with a time of 1 hour 52 minutes.

UN Grabs Trophy

Sunday 25 November saw the first of this year’s Island Hockey tournaments, with mixed 8-a-side teams each fielding a minimum of three female players. Appropriately, the UN team represented many contingents, including English, Irish, Canadian, Australian and Argentinian. The teams were split into two groups, with the top two teams going through to the major finals, and the others contesting in the Plate finals.

The UN team played through in style to the Plate finals, winning the semi-final convincingly 2-0, and giving a spectacular performance to win the final 1-0. The UN’s overall performance was only one goal conceded in six matches, and the Plate Trophy is now shining brightly at HQ UNFICYP.

A new edition of the International Annual Running Competition “The Round of Larnaca”, which is dedicated to Saint Lazaros Foundation and the Larnaca Leper’s Hospital Saint Charalambos, took place on Saturday 10 November, 2001. As usual, the turnout was highly satisfactory, with 32 runners from ARGCN (including representatives of the Uruguayan and Bolivian Armies) going in for the challenge. The race started at 4 p.m., and the athletes ran 6 km through the streets of Larnaca.

At the end, event organisers congratulated the Argentinian Contingent on the sporting conduct shown by its runners, and presented them with a plaque as a reminder of the event. Good showings in the overall standings included:

- 1st Pte. La Ferrara (overall category)
- 2nd Bdr. Glazier (35-40 category)
- 3rd Pte. La Ferrara (30-35 category)
- 4th WO3 Ceruzze (35-40 category)
- 5th WO2 Moyano (30-35 category)
- 6th WO2 Caraballos (45-50 category)

Congratulations to all participants, and keep in mind the motto: “Run and give yourself a longer life!”

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A Brave Fight

Sunday 4 November was the UN Hockey Team’s toughest game yet against ESQBOA (the English School’s Old Boys’ and Girls’ Association): the longest established team in the League. However, the UN Hockey Club was not to be overshadowed or outdone.

It was during the first half that ESQBOA received a shock. With a deft flick into the top of the net, we scored: the first and only team to score a goal this season against ESQBOA. Although ESQBOA won 7-1 over the UN, all that seems to be missing from the UN side is an established striker in front of the goal. Hopefully this will soon be put right as the squad increases in size, and more and more players see the enjoyment, fitness, commitment and benefits from playing field hockey with the UN Hockey Club.

Caption Competition

Some good entries this month. Now what will we think of with this star-studded photo below?

- Look at that: it’s a male. It’s got nine legs!
- Jeez, I just hope the rest of my moustache stays put.
- The UNCIVPOL bugging device.
- Opposites attract!
- The UNFICYP style.
- You see, the trick is to outwit them (Olga - come and collect your prize!)
- Office politics...
- And then there was one....

Football Match against 9 Regiment, National Guard

On 14 November, Sector 2 challenged 9NG to a football match. The game was exciting and hard fought, with the UN leading at one stage 3-1, but the Argentinian Contingent on the sporting conduct shown by its runners, and presented them with a plaque as a reminder of the event. Good showings in the overall standings included:

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Some very good Para Engineers); and a Ladies team of both civilian and military personnel.

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Congratulations to both teams for a sporting game of football.

Soccer Match Challenge

The UNPA WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess played host to visitors HMS Roebeck on 12 November, in a soccer match challenge. The visitors took the lead after 10 minutes, and continued to put the home team under pressure, as could be seen by their 4-2 advantage within 20 minutes. The home team put up a brave response, but overall the visitors were the stronger team, winning 7-5.

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