

BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

March/April 2014

UNFICYP

Five decades
t h r o u g h
binoculars ///



Inside: Anniversary
focus on FINCON,
S W E D C O N
& D A N C O N
+Australia's Civilian
Police in Cyprus ///



Plus: Our Blue Beret
Turns 50, Demining
Update + Tracing
the Story of Women
in UNFICYP //



BLUE BERET

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And check out the UNPOL Medal Parade on the back cover!

Front cover: We continue our thematic montages with a tribute to the humble binocular. Prior to 2004, UNFICYP manned static observation posts in conjunction with regular patrols to monitor the de facto ceasefire lines and buffer zone. Today the concept of operations is focused on mobile patrolling.

The **BLUE BERET** is UNFICYP's in-house journal. Views expressed are of the authors concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy. Articles of general interest (plus photos with captions) are invited from all members of the Force. Copyright of all material is vested in UN publications, but may be reproduced with the Executive Editor's permission.

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READER CONTRIBUTIONS

We continue in this issue with our new Reader Contribution section. Australians past and present have been most active in sending in material, and we feature photos and text from Patrick Medway, who served in Australia's first police contingent here in Cyprus, plus a few snaps from more recent times. We even had our first BB reader contribution from another mission!



AN AUSTRALIAN POLICE OFFICER IN CYPRUS, 1964-1965

Memories of a tour on the island

"I was a member of the 1st Australian Police Contingent to serve with the United Nations Force in Cyprus from 1964 to 1965. We were the very first Australian Police Officers to ever serve with the United Nations. We patrolled to every corner of Cyprus and flew the UN Flag everywhere during our first year. We learned a lot about how to run a peacekeeping operation and gain the local people's cooperation and understanding.

Can I tell you it was extremely hot in the black police uniforms parading under the hot Cypriot sun in March 1965. It took months before we were issued with a more serviceable uniform and the black police dress uniform was kept for formal parades and other special occasions. Despite the heat of summer and the cold of the winter mountains, we remained in good cheer and contributed to the success of the UN mission, to keep the peace and maintain law and order.

It was a great thrill to be presented with the UN Medal for Peace by the Force Commander Major General Thimayya at the end of the tour in 1965, having felt we had done a good job on behalf of both Australia, and the United Nations Organization. There will be an event to mark 50 years of Australian Police overseas in Canberra from 23 to 25 May 2014 with a special anniversary dinner in the Australian Parliament House Dining Room and a large list of invited members and guests. My sincere best wishes for the 50th anniversary of the Blue Beret magazine and to the Editor and staff for doing such a great job over the last 50 years."

-- Patrick Medway



"My pride as a member of the United Nations". WO2 Luis Angel Osvaldo Ramos of the Argentinean Air Force sent in this photo of himself during his tour in Cyprus in 2012 with Force Commander Major General Chao Liu.



"I am so happy to be part of the growing network of UN female peacekeepers all over the world". A reader contribution all the way from the Golan Heights! We received this photo from Danie, who was the MPIO of the Philippine Contingent in UNDOF in 2012.

THE BLUE BERET TURNS 50

Fifty years of UNFICYP means fifty years of the Blue Beret Magazine. The first issue was published on 20 April 1964. Here's an excerpt from its founder and first editor David Lees who was a young captain in Cyprus in 1964:

Following the formation of UNFICYP under UN mandate in March 1964, I was assigned to the Press Department and suggested that an UNFICYP newsletter would be an excellent means of communication in a multi-national organisation. I was duly appointed Editor and given an assistant, a Sergeant, who also acted as a driver. We were given a table and chairs, a typewriter and a small room in Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia. And that is how the Blue Beret began! English was the main language of the Blue Beret but there were also articles in French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Irish. On one occasion there were 9 different languages in an edition. Proof reading was quite a task – having to compare each character with the original! Our set-up was rather cumbersome compared with today's technology. After I had compiled the copy and made a rough layout I took the 'opus' to Zavallis Press, in the old town. The compositors had to set the type, taking one character at a time from a tray and laying them in reverse order for printing! Our layout was restricted by the size of the letters and any photo blocks burnt from the original photo. It was truly amazing how quickly the articles were put to bed for the draft print run. The assiduous proofreading and corrections were made before the final print run could begin. The whole process from copy to print could take a few days. The Blue Beret was published every week, initially on Mondays and then moved to Tuesdays. This long process did have an advantage I thoroughly enjoyed. On publication days, I was invited to lunch at the family home of our printer, Achilleas Zavallis. As the weeks went by, I tasted the delights of every Cypriot dish known, all superbly prepared by Mrs Zavallis!

CYPRUSCOPE

WHAT'S IN A NAME

How many of you have often wondered how the Blue Beret came into existence?

The name, for example, was the subject of much multilateral discussion. It was even rumoured that the Editor was going to Washington to have talks with President Johnson!

On the first day of publication the newspaper "Lay in Bed" (a printers' expression for saying it is set up in the press and ready for printing) and we still had no definite information about the title. We had favoured "Blue Beret" right from the start, but "Unficyp News" had the highest odds.

At the last minute – a result no doubt of a unanimous Security Council decision – we received a cable from New York which said:-

"On reconsideration here it has been agreed you may use the title "Blue Beret" with sub-heading "Unficyp Edition."

Our resolution was successful and our influence now spread far and wide, for the cable went on "The "Sand Dune" in Gaza will be asked to change its name to "Blue Beret – UNEF Edition" thus providing geographical separation and identification while also linking them and stressing their unity of ultimate purpose."

Blue Beret not to be commercial

We thank all those who have sent advertisements for inclusion in our weekly newspaper and although they would help us to increase our size and appeal the policy is that the "Blue Beret" will not become commercial.



NEWS! THE BLUE BERET ARCHIVE GOES DIGITAL

Over 1,000 issues of the Blue Beret have been published – that's a lot of magazines! The UNFICYP Public Information Office (PIO) keeps an archive of all issues, as does the United Nations Library in New York. However, after so many years, our hard copies have become a little tattered, and can only be read if you have the luck to be in Cyprus or New York. To make this treasure trove of UNFICYP history accessible for all staff, military and civilians, past and present, as well as the general public, PIO embarked on an ambitious scanning and preservation project in September 2013 that took 6 months to complete. Led by PIO's Ersin Oztoycan, with the enthusiastic assistance of members of the Joint Operations Centre, Stella-Maria Demetriou from the office of the Chief of Mission Support, Aleksandra Kljajic from the office of the Chief of Staff, and Dima Abdoul Samad from PIO, the team painstakingly scanned each issue page by page and uploaded them all to UNFICYP's website. The digital archive was launched on 27 March 2014, fifty years after UNFICYP became operational and the first Blue Beret was placed on the first Cyprus peacekeepers head! The magazine named after the famous headwear is now available online for all to read! Happy discovering: www.unficyp.org



Clockwise from top left: Aleksandra Kljajic, Stella-Maria Demetriou, Ersin Oztoycan, Dima Abdoul Samad, Cpl Steven Cullen, Capt Laszlo Bojtos, LSgt Andy Masterson.

IN HONOUR OF OUR RETURNING PEACEKEEPERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY VISITS

CANADIAN VETERANS

On the occasion of UNFICYP's 50th anniversary, a group of Canadian veterans who served in Cyprus made a special visit to the island, accompanied by Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Julian Fantino. UNFICYP hosted the group on Tuesday 18 March, guiding these former peacekeepers through their old Camp Maple Leaf, and down the Green Line in Nicosia. It was a moving day for all involved, with a remembrance ceremony at Wayne's Keep cemetery, and a rededication of the Canadian memorial at Ledra Palace to commemorate the 28 Canadians who lost their lives serving the cause of peace in Cyprus.



FINCON RETURNS

More than 150 former UNFICYP peacekeepers from Finland visited the Mission on 15 April 2014. Some of the group were among the first UN troops to be deployed on the island in 1964. Also amongst the visitors was former UNFICYP Force Commander Major General A.T. Vartiainen who led the Force from 1994-1997. The group received a briefing from current Chief of Staff Colonel Angus Loudon and a tour of the Nicosia Airport before heading to a special ceremony to remember the 12 Finns who lost their lives serving in Cyprus. See our special profile on Finland later in this issue for more on its contribution to UNFICYP.



UNFICYP at Fifty

In Pictures



We left off last time at the end of the 1960s, with UNFICYP's mandate extended once again and general agreement that the situation in Cyprus was 'improving'. The 1970s as we all know brought new challenges and a fundamental change to UNFICYP's operating environment. Follow the timeline to delve into the decade that led to the establishment of the UN buffer zone.

A NEW DECADE The 1970s

14 February 1970

UNFICYP undergoes a major redeployment of its troop contingents. The Finnish contingent is redeployed to Kyrenia, Canada takes over the Nicosia area, Denmark heads to Lefka and Ireland to Larnaca and Kophinou.

1971

Talks are deadlocked.

7 June 1972

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim visits Cyprus to "discuss the situation with all concerned." Intercommunal talks are re-launched during his visit.

4 October 1972

There are 55 UNFICYP manned military Observations Posts spread across the island.

25 October 1973

The Security Council authorizes a UN emergency peacekeeping force (UNEF II) to monitor the ceasefire between Egyptian and Israeli forces. Members of UNFICYP's Austrian, Irish, Finnish and Swedish contingents are transferred temporarily to form the advance of the emergency force.

15 July 1974

The National Guard, under the direction of Greek officers, stages a coup d'état and deposes the President of Cyprus.

20 July 1974

Turkey launches an extensive military operation in Cyprus.





The 1970s Continued...

23 July 1974

Fighting is especially fierce near Nicosia International Airport; UNFICYP declares the area a United Nations Protected Area (UNPA).

13 August 1974

Several weeks of talks in Geneva end with no result.

14 August 1974

Turkey launches a second military intervention. Three Austrian peacekeepers are killed while negotiating a ceasefire near Goshi.

16 August 1974

Turkish Forces declare a ceasefire; UNFICYP marks the ceasefire lines and begins patrolling the buffer zone between them.

25 August 1974

During his visit to the island, the Secretary-General arranges for weekly humanitarian meetings to take place between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

September – December 1974

UNFICYP continues to support the transport of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and the distribution of humanitarian aid. The Blue Beret reports that between 18 August and 16 October 1974, UNFICYP delivered 470 tons of food and relief supplies to Greek Cypriots living in the northern parts of the island, and 1,360 tons to the Turkish Cypriot communities in the southern parts of the island; in total, an equivalent of 364 truckloads of aid.

1975

Intercommunal talks in Vienna lead to the Vienna III agreement, and partial implementation.

1976

Exchange of proposals; Glafcos Clerides resigns as President of the House of Representatives.

1977

The Framework agreement is established between both Cypriot communities, setting parameters for a bicomunal federation. Archbishop Makarios passes away and is replaced as Head of State by Spyros Kyprianou.

1979

The ten-point agreement between the Cypriot communities is forged.



FINLAND



FINCON FACTS Since 1964

TOTAL MILITARY: 10,000
DEPLOYMENT: 25 APRIL 1964
LOCATIONS: NICOSIA,
KYRENIA AND AYIA IRINI
CASUALTIES: 12

The main body of the Finnish Contingent began to arrive in Nicosia on 25 April 1964. By 1 May, approximately 990 Finnish soldiers with their vehicles had touched down in Cyprus. They stayed at the transit camp in Dhekelia before taking over positions in the Nicosia area, getting down to work on 2 May. Finland would keep its full contingent with UNFICYP for 13 years, before withdrawing in 1977 when Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim praised its high professionalism, its commitment to peace and its success in winning the trust and respect of both communities in Cyprus. A small number of senior officers remained with UNFICYP until 2005 when the last Finnish peacekeeper left Cyprus. The position of UNFICYP Force Commander was held by Finns twice in the past fifty years: from 1966-69 by Major General I.A.E. Martola and 1994-97 by Brigadier General A.T. Vartiainen.



Members of the Finnish contingent that will serve with UNFICYP are seen boarding an aircraft of the United States Air Force at Seutula Airport

THE STORY BEHIND THOSE BICYCLE PHOTOS . . .

Over the years, some of UNFICYP's photographic records have become well-known classics, none more so than the famous Finnish bicycling photos. In fact, the photographs date from 5 May 1964 when two companies of the Finnish Contingent travelled by bicycle from Dhekelia Camp to Nicosia to take over positions at Ayios Dhometios. The Press Corps, who welcomed the arriving cyclists at 0740 hrs, followed the move with great interest -- probably why we have inherited such memorable images of the event. Bicycles were a favoured form of transport for the Finns, according to the Blue Beret at the time: "not only because they are the standard mode of travel of sections of the Finnish Army, but because it is considered that these vehicles will afford special mobility on the island, particularly in the urban area of Nicosia".



THE FIRST CYPRUS MEDIATOR

Ambassador Sakari Tuomioja

Following the establishment of UNFICYP, Secretary-General U Thant appointed Ambassador Tuomioja of Finland as the Cyprus Mediator on 25 March 1964. He arrived in Cyprus on 2 April and after familiarizing himself with the situation on the island departed for Geneva where he held talks with the governments of the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey and representatives of both Cypriot communities. A deeply respected and experienced statesman, Ambassador Tuomioja had been Finland's Minister of Finance, Commerce, Foreign Affairs and its Prime Minister from 1953-54, before serving as Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Laos. During his hectic meeting schedule in Geneva, Ambassador Tuomioja suffered a stroke and died in hospital in Helsinki on 9 September 1964. Tributes flowed for the first Cyprus Mediator, with U Thant stating: "When I approached him to accept the difficult and delicate task of mediation, he accepted willingly and embarked on his mission with all the tact, diligence and patience of his command." The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus Galo Plaza said: "The world owes him a debt of recognition and gratitude for his valuable services to the cause of peace." With Ambassador Tuomioja's passing, the Secretary-General would appoint Galo Plaza to take his place.

UN MEDIATOR



Ambassador Tuomioja - UN Photo

Mr. Sakari S. Tuomioja of Finland is the United Nations Mediator in Cyprus and, since 1961, Finland's Ambassador to Sweden. From 1955 to 1957 he was Ambassador of Finland to the United Kingdom. Mr. Tuomioja served as special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Laos in 1959 and 1961. He was Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe from 1957 to 1960. He has also served as governor for Finland both in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Tuomioja is an avid reader and enjoys walking, fishing and gardening.

In 1939 he married Vappu Wuolijoki. Her father, Sulo Wuolijoki, was a Social Democratic legislator and her mother, Hella Wuolijoki, was a noted playwright.

The Tuomiojas have a daughter, Tuuli, 23 years old, who is married and is a physiotherapist; and a son, Erkki, 17, who has a monthly programme of commentary on a special afternoon television series for students.

In Memoriam

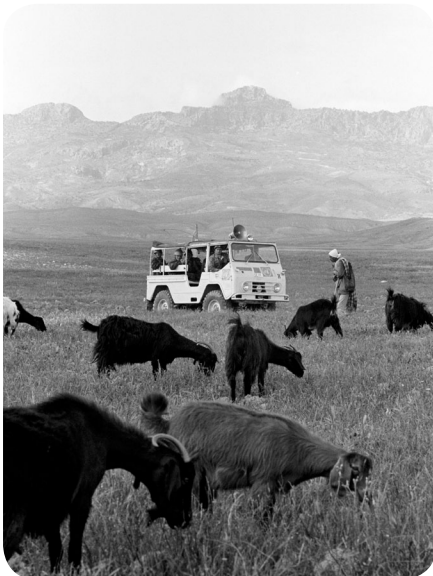
We regret to announce that Pte Juhani Matikainen of the Finnish Contingent of UNFICYP was killed whilst on duty near Yerolakkos, west of Nicosia on Wednesday 20th May.

He was born on the 27th Feb. 1942, at Tuusula in Finland. Pte Matikainen, who was not married, was a volunteer and served as a radio operator in the supply unit. His father is a Colonel in the Finnish Army.

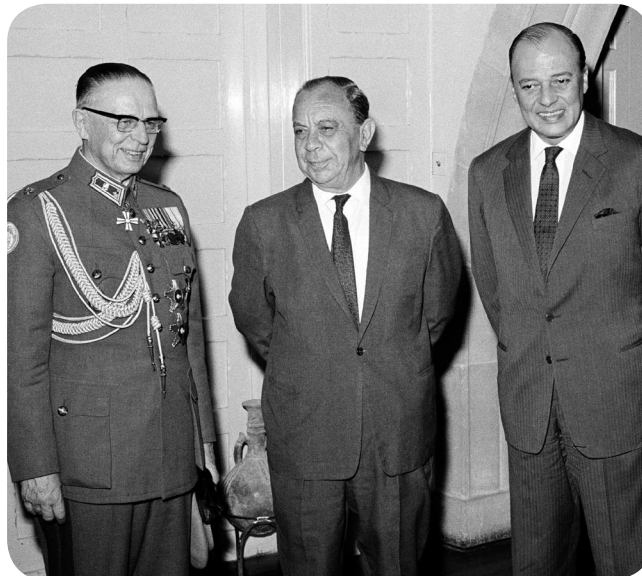
Pte Matikainen is the first United Nations soldier to be killed in Cyprus since the force became operational and he joins the already long list of United Nations military and civilian persons who have given their lives for the cause of peace; a list headed by Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden who was assassinated in Jerusalem in 1948 when he was the United Nations Mediator for Palestine.

A short funeral service on the edge of the RAF Nicosia airfield was held on Friday 22nd May at which all contingents of UNFICYP were represented and wreaths were laid. After the ceremony the body was flown to Finland.

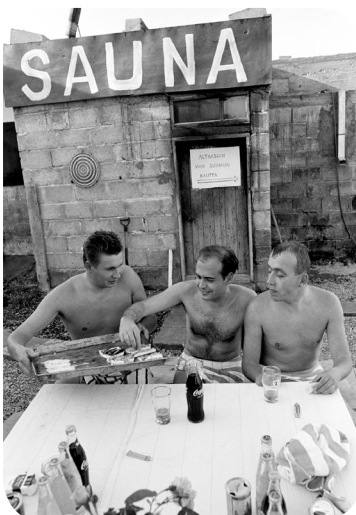
We extend our deepest sympathy to his colleagues in UNFICYP and his relatives in Finland.



YKSP-3, Patrol Car, 2 Company, FINCON Nicosia Zone at the Green Line in Hamid Mandres, with a Turkish Cypriot shepherd and his flock, April 1965.



Major General Martola (left) is seen here calling on Dr. F. Küçük (centre), Vice President of Cyprus, shortly after his arrival in Cyprus. Mr. Carlos A. Bernardes, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus is at right, 1 May 1966.



A CYPRUS SAUNA

Welfare and recreation activities were vital to the wellbeing of UNFICYP's first troops; back in the day there was no email or Facebook to keep in regular touch back home, and peacekeepers turned to the improvement of their barracks to keep homesickness at bay. To ensure they were not deprived of their favourite past time, the Finns embarked on an ambitious sauna-building mission during their first years in Cyprus. They constructed solid sauna houses at Kykko School Camp in Nicosia and in other FINCON camps on the island. Visits to the sauna became a way for FINCON to interact with local counterparts. In this photograph, Capt Eino Pietikainen, Commander of 2 Company and Capt Veiko Kaukkonen, MPIO, Finnish Contingent host Capt Georgas Christos, Omorphita Company Commander from the Greek Cypriot National Guard (pictured in the centre), April 1965.

DENMARK

DANCON: A Brief History

As with the deployments of other contingents, an advance party of 87 Danish officers and men was the first to arrive in Nicosia, airlifted from Copenhagen by transport planes of the United States Air Force on 14 May 1964. The deployment of all 995 Danish soldiers was completed by 10 June 1964, together with the first contingent of 41 Danish Civilian Police. This first military contribution from Denmark was not a battalion, but rather consisted of companies from various regiments, including one platoon of scout cars, one platoon of engineers, and one platoon from the Danish military police. A large number of Danish peacekeepers in these early years had already served under the UN flag in Congo or Gaza.

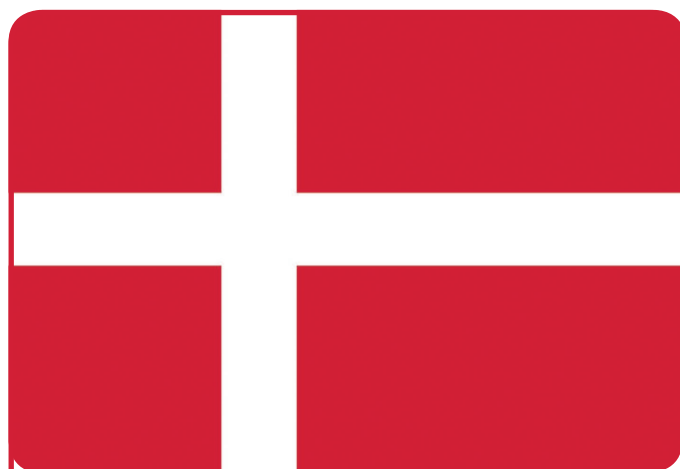
Initially, the Danes were deployed in the Nicosia zone, taking over positions from 26 Medium Reg RA of the British Contingent on 27 May 1964 and establishing their HQ in the Ledra Place Hotel. DANCON base camp was in Elizabeth Camp, west of Nicosia, with smaller parts of the Contingent spread from Louroudjina to Ayia Irini in the far west.



British artist Ken Howard captured some typical UNFICYP moments during his trip to the island in 1983.



Mine-blowing in DANCON, photo featured on the front cover of the Blue Beret, February 1987.



DANCON FACTS

SINCE 1964

TOTAL MILITARY: 22,623

TOTAL POLICE: 424

DEPLOYMENT: 14 May 1964

LOCATIONS: Nicosia, Ayia Irini, Louroudjina

CASUALTIES: 25



A member of DANCON in a Ferret Scout approaches an observation post near Skouriotissa, 17 November 1990.



A Danish pilot flies a UNFICYP Gazelle helicopter, 17 November 1990.



**Badge of the
Danish Contingent
in UNFICYP**

This extract from the Blue Beret, 11 August 1964, provides an insight into life for the Danish Contingent in Cyprus in that period.

MACHINGUNFIRE INSTEAD OF WEDDING BELLS.

On Sunday afternoon at six o'clock a wedding took place at the Danish ambassador's office in the Ledra Palace Hotel.

The groom, a Sergeant of E-coy, had come in from hot Louroujina the previous day to meet his bride, a lovely girl, who arrived from Denmark last Friday. The couple had decided on marriage just before Sergeant Lars Finn Kristensen suddenly had to leave for his Cyprus-mission. As they did not want to postpone their marriage and seeing the opportunity of having the honeymoon in Beirut they decided to get married in Cyprus.

The Danish ambassador Steensen-Leth handled the situation with great ability and courtesy as if he had done it a thousand times.

The Danish minister of justice, who occasionally is here, the contingent commander, Colonel Boysen, a few Danish officers, and the Danish Field priest attended the ceremony, which took place during the Sunday's most lively shooting just around the Ledra Palace. The ambassador made a short speech saying that this occasion reminds us that amidst the fighting and cruelties taking place in this island life will ever go on and claim its rights.

According to the Danish ritual the ambassador asked first the groom if he wanted to marry the woman at his side, and in the very moment sergeant Kristensen answered a clear "yes" a machinegun started its angry rat-tat-tat outside the hotel. The ceremony went on undisturbed by this noisy evidence of the background to our presence here in Cyprus, and in an interruption of the firing the silence gave way for the bride's decently low confirmation - a trembling "Yes".

The wedding was celebrated in champagne and Mrs. Steensen-Leth presented the bride with a lovely red scarf. At least the groom expressed the gratitude of his wife and himself to the ambassador, the colonel and the priest who all had their part in making the wedding possible in this time and place.

A few minutes later they hurried for the airport to catch the plane to Beirut.



Danish peacekeepers restock. A daily supply of water and food for OP Loutros is loaded on a donkey at Loutros village, Lefka District, 1973.



Members of the Danish Civilian Police patrolling a street in Ayios Theodoros, Larnaca District. They are l. to r. : Jorgen Axelsen, Bent Reinhold Olsen, and Christian Jensen, 1 May 1973.

SWEDEN

SWEDCON: A Brief History

The first Swedish Contingent to Cyprus consisted of the 24th Battalion formed from the Royal Grenadier Guards of Sweden. Its first members - 9 officers led by Col Jonas Wearn who was the Contingent CO - arrived as an advance party on 27 March 1964. Total numbers for the initial Swedish deployment reached approximately 900 officers and soldiers. On 15 April, SWEDCON took responsibility for the Morphou-Polis area and at Xeros on the North Western coast Colonel Wearn established his HQ.

Cyprus represents the largest international operation ever carried out by Sweden, in terms of the number of troops; over 28,000 Swedes served with UNFICYP between 1964 and 1993.

SWEDCIVPOL

On 6th May 1964, 40 members of the Swedish police arrived in Nicosia. They joined the Austrian Police who were the original members of the UNFICYP civilian police component. The Swedish police unit was headed by Superintendent Hans Lager Horn. Their main task was to cooperate with the Cyprus Police in investigating crimes, and to control vehicles at checkpoints.

First Women Peacekeeping Troops

See our special on women in UNFICYP later on in this issue for a look at Sweden's important role in bringing women in uniform to UNFICYP.



A SWEDCON Camp, 1970s.



On patrol in Famagusta.



Sentry dogs training at UNFICYP Famagusta Zone Headquarters, Swedish Battalion. Seen here are Pte. Jorgen Svensson (foreground) of Sweden with "Tell", and Pte. Brynolf Andersson of Sweden with "Kant". 1 April, 1965.



Swedish peacekeepers volunteering to serve in Cyprus, 1964.



SWEDCON on patrol, 1970s.



A Swedish police officer near Famagusta, 2 September 1974.



Two members of SWEDCON on patrol.

THE BLUE BERET (UNFICYP EDITION)

Monday 11 May 1964

Issued by the Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus — No 4

Swedes Fully Deployed in Paphos Area

The Swedish Contingent, which consists of the 24th Battalion formed from the Royal Grenadier Guards of Sweden, are now fully deployed in the Paphos area with their Headquarters at Xeros.

ARRIVAL

In response to the request of the Secretary-General, U Thant, Sweden agreed on 6 March 1964 to send troops to Cyprus to form part of the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Cyprus — providing she was not the only neutral nation to do so — and the first party arrived on Friday 27 March. They consisted of 9 officers, led by Colonel Jonas Wearn, who is the Contingent Commander.

The main advance party, consisting of 7 officers, 16 NCOs and 7 Other Ranks, led by Captain Jan Toll, followed on 4 April in transport planes of the United States Air Force.

With the subsequent arrival of the main body of about 700 men the Swedish Contingent was complete and it now numbers about 900.

DEPLOYMENT

They first moved into the western part of the island and by 15 April had taken over responsibility for the

Morphou-Polis district.

At Xeros on the north western coast Colonel Wearn has established his Headquarters and also located there is the Contingent's Staff Company.

LIKE HOME

There are three companies in Lefka, Polis and Kitima and high up in the Troodos Mountains there is a signals patrol. Here the signallers find similarities to their homes in Sweden where there is an abundance of pine trees covering the hills.

The Swedish Contingent has been getting to know the local people of the Paphos area by playing football matches with them, meeting them in the villages and helping to escort them during the harvesting time.

BLUE BERET ON RADIO

On Tuesday the 12th May the United Nations Half-Hour programme will include a feature on the "Blue Beret." The programme begins at 20-30 hrs and is broadcast by the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation on 606 Kc/s (455 metres).

UNFICYP POLICE FORCE INCREASES

On Wednesday 6th May 40 members of the Swedish Police arrived in Nicosia. They join the UNFICYP Civilian Police which already has a party of Austrian Police.

The Swedish Police Unit, headed by Assistant Superintendent HANS LAGERHORN, was reviewed at a parade by General P.S. GYANI at Walseley Barracks at 1015 hrs on Saturday 9th May. The parade lasted for half an hour and the Swedish Police were wearing the blue berets and arm flashes of the United Nations.

After reviewing the parade General Gyani spoke to the men about their duties in Cyprus. He recalled seeing some who had served with him in the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza and explained that the task of the UNFICYP Civilian Police was complementary to that of the soldiers in the Force and that they were both working to the same end. The aim was to reduce tension, remove fear and prevent a recurrence of fighting. So that the problems of this country can be solved in a logical and constructive manner.

Meanwhile, a Hasting aircraft of the New Zealand Air Force is scheduled to land in Nicosia on 21 May, bringing 25 New Zealand civilian police who will join the UNFICYP Civilian Police.

In addition, Australia has agreed to furnish 40 police to UNFICYP.

The number of the UNFICYP Civilian Police after the arrival of the Australians should be 113.

DANISH CONTINGENT OF UNFICYP STARTS ARRIVING IN CYPRUS THIS WEEK:

The Danish Contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus is expected to arrive by air in Nicosia from 14 May to 10 June.

The first advance party of 87 officers and men will be airlifted from Copenhagen by transport planes of the United States Air Force on 14 May. The main body of the Contingent consisting of 391 officers and men will be blown over on 20 May, and the last party of 298 officers and men will arrive on 10 June. Each airlift will also bring equipment and vehicles for the Contingent.

Pledge by Liberia

With the promise by Liberia to donate 3,000 US dollars the contributions pledged by countries throughout the world towards the maintenance and cost of the United Nations Force in Cyprus totalled 3,434,800 US dollars on 1 May 1964.

REMINDER

DON'T FORGET THE BLUE BERET. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION. Entries to be in by Monday 8 June.

For members of UNFICYP only, photos should be on themes of UNFICYP or CYPRUS.

Please include with your photo details of No, Rank, Name, Contingent, Address, Home town, and a brief description of your career so far.

SWEDCON FACTS

TOTAL MILITARY: 28,000
 TOTAL POLICE: 700
 DEPLOYMENT: 27 March 1964
 LOCATIONS: Paphos, Xeros, Famagusta, Larnaca-Nicosia
 CASUALTIES: 17



AUSTRALIA

AUSTCIVPOL: A Brief History

The Australian Police Contingent is the only UNFICYP police force to maintain a continuous, unbroken presence in Cyprus since 1964. The Blue Beret tells us that 38 Australian police officers arrived on the island on 25 May 1964. AUSTCIVPOL was initially stationed in Xeros in the Troodos Mountains. By 1965, the Blue Beret reported that 40 Australian police were headquartered in Kakopetria and had responsibility for almost one third of the island. To cover this large area, they had detachments at Ktima, Polis and at Police HQ in Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia. From Lefka District to the whole of the Limassol Zone, the Australian Police Landrovers were reputed to cover something in the region of 20,000 miles per month, as they criss-crossed the island to assist local police and authorities in matters affecting their function. Today, Australia's contingent stands at 15 serving officers. Together with Ireland, Australia has alternately held the position of UNFICYP's Senior Police Adviser for many years.



Humanitarian assistance and community policing have been important elements of Australia's involvement in Cyprus through the years.



THE FIRST POLICEWOMEN IN CYPRUS

Cyprus was the destination for the first overseas deployment of an Australian policewoman, Sergeant Kathy Burdett, who was also the first woman police officer to serve with UNFICYP. Since Kathy's deployment in 1988, more than 100 policewomen from Australia have served under the UN flag in Cyprus, right up to current Contingent Commander Superintendent Gerry Morris (pictured above with a local farmer). See more on women in peacekeeping in our special further on in this issue.



AUSTCIVPOL IN NEW HQ



It will soon be rotation time for the Australian Police, who are now well organised in their new Headquarters in Sector Two. In the picture above Chief Superintendent Max Everett is seen talking to Inspector Bessell, while below Inspector Wayne is seen getting ready to go out on a patrol.



Extract from the Blue Beret 21 April, 1976

AUSTCIVPOL FACTS

SINCE 1964

TOTAL POLICE: 1,650

DEPLOYMENT: 25 May 1964

LOCATIONS: Lefka to Limassol, Nicosia and the Troodos. Today, Australians are deployed all across the buffer zone.

CASUALTIES: 3

FAREWELL TO THE SENIOR POLICE ADVISER

In May 2014, Senior Police Adviser and head of UNFICYP's police component Colin Speedie will return to Australia, having served out two years in the post and having completed his third tour with UNFICYP. At the UNPOL Medal Parade on 22 April 2014, SRSG Lisa Bittenheim thanked the SPA for his dedicated service with the mission, his vision and his commitment to the job here in Cyprus.



IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE Medal Parades, Sectors 2 & 4



ROTATION TIME IN ALL SECTORS

Through March and into early April it was time to farewell familiar faces and welcome new ones. Rotation season saw outgoing troops head back home or on to new deployments, but not before they received their medals in the traditional parades that took place in Sectors 2 and 4. Fresh peacekeeping forces across all sectors are now learning the ropes and getting into the rhythm that will keep them busy for the next six months.





ANZAC DAY 2014

A national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, the commemoration of ANZAC Day on 25 April has become an annual tradition at UNFICYP, held to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp who fought at Gallipoli in World War I. Australia and New Zealand have historically been present on the island for decades; Australia's Police Contingent has served in Cyprus continuously since 1964 and New Zealand contributed police officers to UNFICYP from 1964 to 1968. This year's dawn service gathered current members of the Australian Police Contingent together with Australian High Commissioner in Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Trevor Peacock, Commander Robert Gilliland of the Australian Federal Police, New Zealand Honorary Consul H.E. Mr. Tony Christodoulou, UNFICYP Chief of Mission Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Force Commander Major General Chao Liu, and colleagues and friends from UNFICYP and the diplomatic community for a solemn and moving ceremony at Wayne's Keep Cemetery in Nicosia.



FIRST POLICEWOMAN



"NOW THEY THE EVOLVING ROLE OF UNFICYP"

It has been 50 years since the first boots touched down on Cyprus soil and the United Nations commitment to peace on the island began. These five decades have also spanned a revolutionary period of time for the world's women in which they have increasingly claimed a place for themselves beyond more traditional roles. Within the UN, women have seized the opportunity to join the military and police, to take up leadership roles and to follow careers abroad. The UN now counts the role of women in peacekeeping as one of its top priorities. In this special we trace the history of women in UNFICYP through the prism of the Blue Beret, a revealing journey that introduces us to some of the trailblazers, shows how much women's roles have changed, and just how far we have come.

The early years

There is very little reference to women working with UNFICYP in the first few years of the Blue Beret, although women were certainly critical members of the civilian administrative and clerical teams from the outset. By 1967, however, the many stalwart women secretaries of UNFICYP were regularly featured in the magazine. 'Les Girls', as they were titled in one article, were in fact international career women. Frequently multilingual and extremely experienced in the UN Secretariat, many had come to Cyprus from New York or Geneva, Cairo or Vienna, to act as personal assistants and secretaries to senior officials. The Blue Beret often featured these well-travelled and invaluable staff members alongside their male bosses, wishing them well as they went on to new and exciting postings elsewhere with the UN. Four departing secretaries are feted in the 1967 photo seen here, posing alongside the Force Commander Lt Gen Martola and Special Representative Osorio-Tafall.

Miss UNFICYP

At around the same time as women were keeping the front offices of the senior officials running smoothly, the Blue Beret editorial team began a regular piece that we certainly would not see in today's Blue Beret. Each week between 1968 and 1970, a young woman working with the mission or associated through marriage or family connections was selected as the featured "Miss UNFICYP". There were 27 Miss UNFICYPs in total before this somewhat less empowering practice ended. It would still take some time for the language and description of women in the mission to change, and still more time for women to be quoted in the magazine speaking in their own voices.

Why always compare between the sexes? We are doing the same job.

-- Personnel Assistant Pt Monica Holmberg, SWEDCON, 1985

S FIRST GIRLS



N IN UNCIVPOL



LES GIRLS OF

Spotlight



'ARE HERE" YP'S WOMEN PEACEKEEPERS

The first woman in uniform

In 1974, UNFICYP welcomed its first woman in uniform. The 'Lady Doctor', Christina Norberg, was deployed for three months with the Swedish Battalion in the summer of 1974 to replace her husband Capt Erik Norberg who had been recalled to Stockholm on urgent family matters. The Blue Beret notes that "there was a definite increase in the number of patients" as Dr. Norberg, a paediatrician in civilian life, set about her tasks as Senior Medical Officer in Carl Gustav Camp. "It was the first time the Force Commander had seen a beautiful girl in the Officers' Mess," ran the article in the Blue Beret. "A UN-girlsoldier correct in every detail except possibly for her shoes, which were a little bit more female." Indeed!

SWEDCON leads the way

Five years after the brief deployment of Dr. Norberg, Sweden began to send women regularly in its military deployment to Cyprus. "SWEDCON's first girls", announced the Blue Beret in May 1978. The moment was captured with a photograph of a woman's legs on parade amid a line-up of trousers. The Swedish Post Office was responsible for the arrival of Louise Ekblom and Anne-Marie Johansson, who were on duty in SWEDCON's post office in Camp Victoria. "Now they are here" is the headline from the November 1979 Blue Beret. Twelve women in total were deployed that year as postal clerks, ID card officers, nurses and signal centre officers, the beginning of a continuous contribution by women in uniform to the peacekeeping force in Cyprus. Sweden would be the only contingent to have female members for quite a number of years.

Women in UNPOL

In 1988, Australia sent its first policewoman to Cyprus, Sergeant Kathy Burdett, who opened the way for Swedish policewomen to join UNFICYP for the first time in 1991. Interestingly, delays in implementing the decision to send women police to UNFICYP were initially due to inadequate accommodation facilities for female police members.

I think it was a good thing when we decided to have girls in the battalion. We are very satisfied in the way the girls perform their tasks... They like their jobs and they want to do the same jobs as the boys. All the girls are obliged to fulfil OP-duty for at least one day and night – all do it without complaining.

-- Major Hans Akke, Senior Personnel Officer of SWEDCON, 1985

Spotlight



Females in the Force

From 1990 onwards, women cemented their place in UNFICYP. New troop and police contributing countries joined the Mission, bringing with them women peacekeepers from as far afield as Argentina, Slovakia, India and Ukraine.

I do believe that women bring special skills to the workplace. They tend to be good listeners and excellent consensus-builders.

-- UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim

And now?

Today, UNFICYP leads the way amongst UN peacekeeping missions for the proportion of women in its police component; 22% of UNPOL are women. In the military, the proportion of women sits at around 7%, depending on the rotation. One third of the civilian component are women, and of course UNFICYP is one of five peacekeeping missions headed by a women, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus Lisa Buttenheim. Although there is still work to do to reach the 50/50 gender parity goal of the UN, we have passed many milestones already. With the way opened up over the preceding decades by our trailblazing peacekeeping women, UNFICYP's women personnel these days just prefer to get on with the job.

Including women in the UN's peacekeeping forces inspires other women and girls to be empowered, to push for their own rights and to participate in the peace process.

-- Force Commander Maj Gen Chao Liu at the opening of the first Women's Film Week on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 2014

BIKEABILITY!

The FMPU hosts International and Community Road Awareness Training Day

By SSgt Alba AD, RMP (SIB), FMPU
Photograph by Sgt Morris R, AGC (RMP), FMPU



On Friday 7th March 2014, the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) hosted an International Bikeability and Community Road Awareness Training Day for children and adult dependents of HQ UNFICYP Staff and BRITCON personnel. The event was organized by SSgt Adie Alba and Sgt Rob Morris, who were able to obtain full support and participation from a number of military and policing agencies. The

Community Policing Teams from both the Sovereign Base Area (SBA) Police and the Cyprus Joint Police Unit were in attendance, together with an FMPU police display team and an MFR public order display team.

The event was focused primarily on teaching bicycle road safety and awareness to children under the Bikeability Scheme. However, adults had the opportunity to take part in a number of presentations, which included road traffic awareness and crime prevention topics. The children were later presented with certificates by Sgt Costas Constantinou, SBA Police and WO2 (CSM) Ben Feasby, FMPU, in recognition of their achievement.

ABBQ followed at the International Police Club, giving the training staff, participating personnel, friends and family the opportunity to socialize and strengthen international community bonds. The event was a great success. The FMPU - operational commitments allowing - plans to engage in future community policing events in partnership with other policing agencies in Cyprus.

Historically, the first Cycling Proficiency Test was held for seven children in the United Kingdom on 7 October 1947. The Government introduced the Cycling Proficiency Scheme in 1958 with statutory responsibility for road safety being given to local authorities in 1974, including the provision of child cyclist training. The scheme has now been superseded by the National Standards for Cycle Training, branded 'Bikeability'. The scheme helps develop skills and confidence in young children and teaches them the importance of observing correct road discipline and hazard awareness.



DEMINING UPDATE

On 23 April 2014, UNFICYP invited media along to a technical briefing and demonstration of mine clearance techniques as part of its latest demining project in the buffer zone at Mammari. Force Commander Major General Chao Liu and Chief of Staff Colonel Angus Loudon were on hand to provide background information before project coordinating officer Major Jo Ramsumair and Site Supervisor Lieutenant Suon Rith of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces gave technical briefings on the

progress made so far. In just 10 days, the 21-member Cambodian demining team based with UNIFIL in Lebanon had cleared over 25% of the 7000 sq metre area, and they are on track to complete work in the area by mid-May. To date, their efforts have uncovered one anti-tank mine which was carefully extracted from the ground and destroyed by explosives in compliance with UN safety standards for mine disposal. One more step towards a mine-free buffer zone and ultimately a mine-free Cyprus!





Lieutenant Colonel Edward Thomas Boanas
Commanding Officer, Sector 2

Ed Boanas studied Economics and History at Durham University. Brigade Squad 58 in 1990 confirmed his desire to join the Irish Guards. He commissioned from Sandhurst in December 1993, serving as Number 1 Platoon Commander on State Ceremonial Duties and in Northern Ireland before attending the Junior Division of Staff College in 2006. He was then posted as the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion Infantry Training Centre Catterick between 2007 and 2009. There followed two years as an Exchange Officer with the 5th / 7th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment serving with them as a Company Second in Command and Battlegroup Intelligence Officer in Darwin and on the INTERFET tour of East Timor. On returning to the 1st Battalion Irish Guards in 2001 in Muenster, Germany, he was the Battlegroup Warfare Officer and Support Company Commander. He deployed to Kabul in 2002 as part of ISAF and then was detached as the 7th Armoured Brigade liaison officer to Commander 3 Commando Brigade for the Invasion of Iraq. Between 2003 and 2005, he was posted to Shrivenham, passing the Masters in Defence Administration, Masters in Defence Studies and Joint Services Command and Staff Courses. He returned to Regimental Duty as Number 1 Company Commander in Aldershot and Windsor between 2007 and 2009, deploying straight to Baghdad and finishing by commanding the Escort for the Colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade 2009. He then moved to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards to command the Inkerman Company in Helmand and as Number 3 Guard on the Queen's Birthday Parade 2010. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June 2009, his initial SO1 appointment was as SO1 Media Operations in Army Headquarters, he was detached as the SO1 STRATCOM and Deputy AD of the Joint Effects Management Cell for OP ELLAMY in Combined Joint Task Force Unified Protector in Naples in 2011. He assumed command of 1st Battalion Irish Guards on 2nd May 2012. Ed is married to Jo with two sons, Arthur aged 12 and Freddie aged 9. They live just outside Oxford. Most of his spare time is taken up with taking his children to sports clubs and parties, helping his wife with her horses and seeing friends. He enjoys running, skiing, riding, tennis, reading and writing.

LtCol Andrej Čučvara
UN Liaison Officer, Turkish Forces

LtCol Andrej ČUČVARA graduated from the Military Academy in Czech Republic, and following the division of former Czechoslovakia joined the Slovak Army in 1993. Over the last decade he worked in the field of logistics at the operational and strategic levels of the Slovak Armed Forces. He has experience with the UN, having served as a Military Observer in Lebanon and Israel in 2001-2002. In 2005 he was posted as a logistic planner to HQ MNC-NE Szczecin, Poland and in 2007 assigned to HQ ISAF as a Chief of MNLC within CJ-4. After posting at the General Staff he worked as the senior advisor for logistics at the Ministry of Defense. He attended NATO courses focusing on operational planning and logistics. From 2004 he also represented the Slovak Republic in the main NATO Logistics Committees and Working groups. He is married to Maria with one son, Andrej. He enjoys sport activities such as running, football, skiing, cycling, and collecting Slovak stamps throughout history.



Maj Nikolaus Barthl
Civil Affairs Military Liaison Officer (CAMLO)

Maj Nikolaus Barthl is from Graz in Austria, his country's second largest city and home of the Austrian Joint Forces Command (AJFC). In his hometown, Maj Barthl served as Head of Protocol directly under the command of Lt General Reissner. He is a former Infantry Officer, graduating from the Austrian Military Academy in 2002 and serving as Platoon Leader and Company Commander at the guard of honour in Vienna. In 2004 he was promoted to Captain and changed to the Armoured Recce Battalion 1 in Gratkorn as S1 and Press Information officer. Since 2007 he has served in the AJFC. He has a Masters Degree in Applied Science from the University Wr. Neustadt. The 'New CAMLO' is serving for the first time with the UN but brings with him his experience from the NATO mission in Kosovo. He looks forward to tackling a very interesting new range of duties over the next two years and to getting to know the island of Cyprus.



Next Issue: It's time for UN Peacekeeper's Day. What does being a UN peacekeeper mean to you?

Plus: 50th Anniversary Focus on 4 more contributing countries: India, New Zealand, Argentina & Hungary /////

In the Service of Peace: UNPOL Medal Parade

On 22 April 1964, the first UN Civilian Police arrived on the island as part of the newly formed United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Fifty years later, on 22 April 2014, the UN and International community gathered to pay tribute to past and current serving police officers in the UNPOL Medal Parade. Twenty-five police officers from 9 different countries received their UN medals from UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buitenhuis as part of the ceremony. Eleven countries currently contribute police to UNFICYP: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, India, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

BLUE BERET



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