

# THE Blue Beret

December 1993







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## FORCE COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



1994 is to be the International Year of the Family, and it is appropriate that the occasion was launched by the Secretary-General

on 7 December 1993 in time for Christmas.

Christmas is very much a family affair, which we associate with family gatherings and have an opportunity to express appreciation and love of those who are nearest and dearest to us.

For most serving within UNFICYP, Christmas is spent far away from families and loved ones, and therefore it can be a particularly difficult time of the year. It is helpful, however, that the structure of military units within our Force contains many of the support elements of the family. The friendship and support of compatriots and colleagues are a

source of companionship and strength. The customs of other countries that we learn about during our time UNFICYP are experiences that add to our enjoyment of the season.

Despite being far away from your nearest and dearest, may this Christmas bring you closer to your UNFICYP family and the international family of peace-keeping. May the International Year of the Family extend beyond 1994 as an appreciation of our most valued structure. I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

*The staff  
of the Blue Beret  
wish everyone a very  
Merry Christmas  
and joy and happiness  
throughout 1994.*



## MR JOE CLARK, SRSG, PRESENTS UN MEDALS

On Tuesday 8 November 1993, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Joe Clark, presented the UN medal for service in Cyprus to members of the greatly reduced Canadian Contingent. Witnessed by the Force Commander, MGen MF Minehane, and Contingent Commander, Maj Randy Kemp, Maj Kevin McLeod and Capt Bob Martyn



From the left: Maj Kemp, Maj McLeod, Capt Martyn, Mr Clark and Maj Gen Minehane

were recognized for their continuing service in theatre.

From a previous strength which averaged 530 personnel, the Canadians now number six, with an additional four scheduled to arrive in January 1994. As presently established, the Canadian team roster includes:

**Maj Randy Kemp**  
SO2 Ops (Policy & Plans)/Contingent Commander

**Maj Kevin McLeod**  
Force Engineer

**Capt Bob Ford**  
Duty Officer - Joint Operations Centre

**Capt Bob Martyn**  
MA to Force Commander/SO3 Ops (Info)

**CPO Paul Kelly**  
Admin Clerk - Personnel & Logistics Branch

**Sgt George Houston**  
Collator - Ops (Info) Section

Having maintained a presence on the island since March 1964 (with the original mandate specifying three months), it only seems proper that some of us stick around to keep the Headquarters running!

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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs together with captions should accompany the articles. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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## Front Cover

Christmas  
in UNFICYP

by WO2 Phil Cadman

## EDITORIAL

On the occasion of this very first issue, following the amalgamation of the MPIO's and Spokesman's offices, I would like to say a few words of appreciation to all those who, with their conscientious work and contributions, helped to establish this in-house magazine to its present status. Special thanks go to my predecessor, Comdt Tommy Doyle.

However, the Blue Beret is a journal which relies mainly on the support and contributions of the members of UNFICYP, independently of who the Editor may be. It is this which makes the magazine vibrant and interesting. The success of the Blue Beret depends on the active participation of all of you!

On another tone, the holiday season is upon us once again and traditionally, this is the time we choose to spend with our loved ones. Regrettably for some of us serving here in UNFICYP, this will not be possible, however your sacrifice in the service of peace is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the editorial staff, I would like to wish all readers, contributors, critics and all our Cypriot friends a **safe and happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.**

## CONTENTS

Force Commander's Christmas Message/ Mr Joe Clark, SRSG, presents UN Medals .....	2
Editorial/Contents .....	3
Sector Four - An Australian Experience .....	4
The 1993 Melbourne Cup .....	5
ARGCON Signal Platoon/Argentinians meet Members of the British Royal Family/AUSCON wins UNFICYP Tennis Competition .....	6
Help! - Half Marathon/Argentinian MPs .....	7
AUSCON celebrates Austrian National Day/ Christmas in Austria .....	8
AUSCON Medal Parade/UNFICYP Force Engineer .....	9
Goodbye and Hello/176 (Abu Klea) Battery RA .....	10
56 (Olpherts) Headquarters Battery RA/ 132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop) RA .....	11
A Brief History of the 2nd Royal Rank Regiment/ Lt Col SJB White MBE RTR .....	12
The BRITCON Medical Centre/ Col Angela Curren CMO .....	13
One Hell of a Night! .....	14
Did You Know?/A Road Safety Message .....	15
Season's Greetings from the UNFICYP MP Element .....	16



## SECTOR FOUR- AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

by Supt Michael Sheely

In 1994, AUSTCIVPOL will have achieved 30 years' continuous involvement in UNFICYP. During that time, AUSTCIVPOL's endeavours have primarily been focused on Sectors One and Two (previously known as Sector West).

With the withdrawal of the Swedish Police last October, AUSTCIVPOL, in addition to their normal tasks, was required to cover Sector Four. A Superintendent and four Police Sergeants were deployed there on 6 October. The centre of operations was Pyla, with two Sergeants being deployed to Famagusta.



Handover from SWEDCIVPOL to AUSTCIVPOL:  
From left to right: Supt Michael Sheely, Stn Sgt Paul Speirs  
and Ch Insp Bengt Ramang.

Upon completion of a three-day handover from SWEDCIVPOL, AUSTCIVPOL assumed police responsibility for the Sector on Friday 8 October. As can be expected, the learning curve was steep, and establishing sound relationships with AUSCON and the community of Pyla was a priority.

Of course, being part of a community with which police are required to provide a service is nothing new to members of AUSTCIVPOL. It is the normal part of a policing function. Supt Mike Sheely, Stn Sgt Paul Speirs and Sgt Brett Poole would often be seen walking the streets and alleyways of Pyla, talking to both Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the community at all levels.

The police accommodation in Pyla overlooks the village square, which not only enabled AUSTCIVPOL members to observe activities within the square, but allowed ready access by members of the community.

In the office of AUSTCIVPOL Pyla, there is a direct field telephone line to the AUSCON Pyla Platoon which is located on the northern outskirts of the village. The sound of that device ringing was enough to stimulate any person into action! On many occasions, AUSTCIVPOL members were required to respond to the call on the military communications.

The reason for most of this activity came from the AUSCON member positioned in the UN observation post overlooking the village square. Unauthorised photography by tourists stimulated that member into immediate action. The community policing experience of AUSTCIVPOL members was invaluable in handling these and other matters which arose, ranging from demolition of an abandoned house to use of the local football pitch. AUSTCIVPOL Pyla were much appreciative of the friendly hand extended to it by the Oi/c of AUSCON Pyla Platoon, Gerhart Krenn, and his 2i/c Lt Michael Schwendenwein. Their willingness to share information and discuss relevant issues was an important factor in the positive working relationship between the two UN elements.

Our two members in Famagusta, Sgt Alan LeLeivre and Sgt Wayne Perry, were regularly required to use their initiative. Being the first AUSTCIVPOL members to live and work in this area was an experience that will leave an indelible mark on both members. Undertaking the money run along the panhandle was a unique experience which enabled contact with members of the Greek Cypriot community in the north. Again the support by AUSCON in Duke Leopold V Camp was appreciated. Special thanks is extended to Lt Col Andreas Kloss for facilitating this support. The Friday International Operations Briefings, conducted by Maj Peter Pocher and attended by Supt Sheely and his men, enabled some stimulating repartee between the police and military.



Handover from AUSTCIVPOL to IRCIVPOL. Standing left to right: Supt Jim Noonan, Lt Michael Schwendenwein, Stn Sgt Paul Speirs and Ch Supt Tom King.

Kneeling left to right: Stn Sgt Gerry Ford, Sgt John McDonald and Insp Mike Hoare.

With mixed feelings, AUSTCIVPOL handed over police responsibility of Sector Four to the Irish police (IRCIVPOL) on Monday 1 November, 1993. The five members of AUSTCIVPOL all hold special memories of their experiences in this area, particularly in Pyla. These experiences have given them a greater appreciation of the UN commitment across the whole Buffer Zone.

## THE 1993 MELBOURNE CUP (\$ 2,035,000)

This is the 29th year that AUSTCIVPOL has celebrated the running of the "Melbourne Cup" horse race, held in Australia on the first Tuesday in November every year.



Doug and Paul graced the two-up ring with their stylish dress.

The "AGE" newspaper in Melbourne stated that it is one of life's great mysteries that for little over three minutes on this day, millions of Australians, who for 364 days of the year have no interest in horse racing, sit glued to television sets watching the



Ch Supt Tom King and Insp Mike Hoare of the Irish Civilian Police celebrate their Irish win of the Melbourne Cup

Melbourne Cup. The race, a handicap over a distance that horses race only a few times a year, means that the best horse in the

field is often carrying so much weight that it cannot win. Often a no-hoper, given no chance, comes from nowhere to snatch racing's greatest prize, and there is something egalitarian and very Australian about that.

To properly celebrate the day, AUSTCIVPOL held an open day in their Mess where sweeps on the "Cup" were held, together with 'dice' horse racing and the ever popular game of two-up. A chicken and champagne lunch was provided plus 'door prizes' and other prizes for the most outrageous hats.

A video tape of the Melbourne Cup was recorded in the wee hours and when replayed, after the drawing of the various 'sweeps', provided for all guests the excitement that all Australians enjoy when they are home.



Lady Anne looks delighted at her horse selection.

Before the big race began, the misty rain falling on a heavy track, caused by an overnight deluge, saw severe fluctuations in the previous days betting, with CASTLE TOWN being the punter's favourite and the renowned 'mudlark' and also winner of last year's cup, SUBZERO, also being well fancied. However, at the end of the 3200 metre gruelling event, "Irish Eyes were Laughing" as the

seven year old gelding VINTAGE CROP at 14/1 surged to the front and won the race by six lengths. It was a history-making win, as it was the first northern hemisphere trained winner in the 133-year



Revellers listen to the call of the Cup.

history of Australia's richest and most internationally famous horse race. And to add insult to injury, it had an Irish owner, trainer and jockey - one Michael Kinane. To add a further international flavour, the winner was trained at English stables which are owned by Americans!

In the early hours of the following day, the hundred or so guests of the Australian Contingent happily



Sheik Ararat congratulates Princess Christine on drawing a winning ticket in the sweep.

drifted home, well satisfied that even if they hadn't made a fortune, they had at least taken part in a unique Australian experience.... the running of the Melbourne Cup.





December 1993



The Blue Beret

## ARGCON SIGNAL PLATOON

by Lt Carlos Kammerath

The ARGCON Signal Platoon has been working very hard since its arrival in UNFICYP on 4 August 1993. Although this Platoon has only just been formed, the Platoon Leader, Lt Luis Rios, and his Platoon Sergeant, WO1 José Barbier, have managed to activate



SSgt Julio Gisberg installing a new antenna at Skouriotissa Camp



From the left: Sgt Rubén Molind, WO1 José Barbier, WO3 Edmondo Thomas, SSgt Ramón Flores, 1st Lt Luis Rios, Cpl Rodolfo Mandareco and SSgt Carlos Figueros.

a very motivated team to accomplish their mission.

Besides fixing antennae, installing equipment in the camps, OPs and patrol cars, and operating radio and telephone circuits, the Signal Platoon has the respon-

sibility to link soldiers of the Argentinian Contingent with their relatives at such distant points in Argentina as Jujuy (Northern Province) or Rospentek (Southern Patagonia).

## ARGENTINIANS MEET MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

by Lt Carlos Kammerath



HM Queen Elizabeth with members of ARGCON

On a recent visit to Cyprus, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh greeted Argentinian Officers, NCOs and soldiers alongside other members of UNFICYP at Wayne's Keep Cemetery at a ceremony which was held for those who died in the cause of peace.



HRH Prince Philip, talking with the Commanding Officer of the Argentinian Contingent, Lt Col Juan Durante.

## AUSCON WINS UNFICYP TENNIS COMPETITION



Lt Col Brünings-Hansen, presenting the certificate for the 3rd place to Mr Brünings-Hansen and Maj Dr Lehel.

On 18 October 1993, the 18 best tennis players in UNFICYP competed in the UNFICYP Tennis Tournament, which was hosted by Sector Four. WO 1 Ernst Frank, who heads the tennis section of the AUSCON Sports Club, organized the one-day event, which saw Maj Kraus, AUSCON, winning the singles competition, beating Lt Krenn, AUSCON, into second place. The

doubles was won by Lt Krenn/Lt Dolzer, AUSCON, narrowly putting Maj Kraus/Maj Pöcher, AUSCON, into second place.

The trophies and certificates were presented to the winners by the Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen, on behalf of the Force Commander in a ceremony held at Camp Duke Leopold V.



The Blue Beret



December 1993

## HELP! HALF MARATHON

by Lt Carlos Kammerath

40 members of ARGCON recently competed in a half marathon in aid of HELPI, a charity which supplements the welfare of children in the north of Cyprus. The event took place in Kyrenia on Sunday 31 October.



Cpl Gustavo Mendez (12th), the first Argentinian to cross the line.

The Argentinian runners had been training hard under the orders of our coach, Lt Victor Isgró. The best Contingent performance was obtained by Cpl Gustavo Mendez who crossed the line in 1 hr 15m.



Members of the Argentinian Contingent who took part in the event.

It is particularly important to mention S/Sgt Luis Sanchez, who is 43 years old and finished in 1 hr 33 m. Both these men did very well, and had only been attending the mandatory 4 miles daily PT.

This was a fine opportunity for the Argentinians taking part to tour the city and meet the people organizing and supporting such an outstanding commitment.

## ARGENTINIAN MPS

Thursday 09 December 1993 saw the arrival of six Argentinian MPs in our unit. They immediately started training on patrols and are also undertaking lessons with a professor in English.

The welcome addition of these six Argentinian MPs now gives the UN MP Elm more flexibility and the facility to effectively police Sector One. While three of them are on six month tours, the other three have twelve month continuity postings, which is a



Sgt Christian Hartl (right) and new arrivals, checking the accident kit



Sgt Gottfried Rosert (right), explaining the radar gun

further benefit as this provides additional stability and smooth handover on rotations.

This is the first occasion where Argentinian MPs have served with the UNFICYP MP Elm. The Unit wishes them a successful and productive tour and looks forward to their input, both operationally and socially, and also hopes that they will have the chance to introduce us to their colourful and exciting culture.



## AUSCON CELEBRATES AUSTRIAN NATIONAL DAY

On 26 October 1955, the Austrian Parliament voted for Austria's neutrality. 26 October is also celebrated because in the aftermath of World War II, the last allied soldier left Austrian territory on the evening of 25 October.



Vorarlberg, the smallest province, had to have the smallest table, but then again, Lt Kiene, AUSCON's Sig O (second from the right), is not one of the largest himself.

Therefore, on 26 October 1993, AUSCON held a parade in Camp Duke Leopold V. Following the parade, each of the nine Austrian provinces were given the opportunity to present themselves, mostly in the form of typical food and drinks from the respective regions, ranging from speck from the Tyrol to kasnockns from Vorarlberg. Schnaps was served from the Burgenland, the coffee came from Vienna, and "Most" (which is a cider) from Upper Austria.

The local highlight of the evening was a namesgiving ceremony, in which each province had the opportunity to put up an original Austrian street sign in one of the nine streets of Camp Duke Leopold V.

The morning of 27 October saw a reception for the



Lower Austria were serving paté and wine.

HQ members at the Officers' Mess in Nicosia, where information on Austria was freely distributed, as was Apfelstrudel and coffee.



Lt Col Kloss, addressing the guests at the reception in HQ UNFICYP.

## CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRIA

No stocking on the mantelpiece, no Santa Claus, no reindeer. What a boring Christmas you might think? Not so.

It is the "Christkind" (the Christ child) who brings the goodies on Christmas Eve, including the Christmas tree! So what do we Austrians do in the period before Christmas? We have the "Adventskranz", a wreath of fir sprigs with four candles. On the first of the last four Sundays preceding Christmas, the first candle is lit, and every subsequent Sunday one more candle is illuminated in a small family ceremony. Also already present in most households is a "Krippe" depicting the nativity scene.

But on Christmas Eve, after the Christmas carols have been sung in front of the candle lit and colourfully decorated Christmas tree, the presents are opened. Then follows the festive dinner, the traditional "Weihnachtskarpfen", after which the families walk through the snow covered woods to the nearest church to attend the "Christmette", a midnight mass.



The "Krippe" of AUSCON's Camp chapel.

## AUSCON MEDAL PARADE IN SALAMIS



Daylight rehearsal for the sunset event.



Guard of honour, the colours, and a small but important part of the Alanbrook band.

On 15 October 1993, AUSCON paraded in the ancient ruins of Salamis to provide the picturesque setting for the FC, the COS, and the Senior Adviser to present UN medals and silver numbers to 148 members of the Austrian Contingent. The Alanbrook band contributed greatly to this event, surprising us all with their well rehearsed repertoire of Austrian military tunes.

A reception in the Othello tower within the medieval walls of Famagusta concluded the evening.



Pte Kirsch receives his well deserved UN medal from the FC.



Mr Paul Kavanagh presenting medals to members of AUSCON.

## UNFICYP FORCE ENGINEER

Maj Kevin McLeod joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1976 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1980. After graduation, Maj McLeod was posted to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in British Columbia. During his four years with the Regiment, Maj McLeod was involved in all aspects of engineering in the army from construction projects in the high arctic, diving exercises with the US Navy Seals in San Diego - to combat engineering in Wainwright and Gagetown. In 1984, Maj McLeod was posted to Montreal, Quebec to the Land Force Command HQ where he was involved in the production of training standards for individual training within the army. After two years in Montreal, Maj McLeod was posted to Lahr, Germany as the G3

Training of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. In 1989 Maj McLeod was posted to the National Capital, Ottawa, to attend the year long French course. Upon graduation of the Language School, Maj McLeod was again posted to Montreal, Quebec to Land Forces Command HQ as the G3 International Plans and the Senior Army Diver. This posting saw Maj McLeod come in close contact with the UN, as the International Plans Desk was responsible for all UN, NATO and off shore deployments. During the period 1990-1993, Maj McLeod was involved with deploying Canadian Troops to Bosnia, Croatia, Cambodia and Somalia. As the Senior Army Diver, Maj McLeod conducted combat diving exercises with both US Army and US Special Forces, the Royal Engineers, German Army Divers, French Army Divers and



French Foreign Legion divers.

During his spare time, Maj McLeod is interested in biking, skiing, trekking, golf, basketball, ice hockey and squash.

For this tour of duty as the UNFICYP Force Engineer, Maj McLeod is accompanied by his wife Karen and their daughters Bridget, Laura and Hailey.



## GOODBYE AND HELLO

39th Regiment Royal Artillery returned from Cyprus to Germany in early December having served six months with UNFICYP. Sector Two is now the responsibility of the Second Royal Tank Regiment. The articles and photographs are therefore a "Goodbye" from 39 Regt and "Hello" to 2RTR.

### 176 (ABU KLEA) BATTERY RA BID CYPRUS A FOND FAREWELL

by Capt Hilary Long

Amazingly, six months have been and gone and it is with a little regret that I find myself penning this last article for the Blue Beret magazine. It has been a particularly difficult yet interesting time for the Battery, as soldiers were initially deployed from Kokkina to the UNPA before being shifted to fill in on the west side of Nicosia as the Argentinians arrived. The range of incidents dealt with by the Battery indicated the continuing volatile nature of the Cyprus peace commitment. However, it is our earnest hope that we contributed a little to the cause of peace in our time here.

In any tour of duty, there are the high spots and low spots. Low spots can be too mundane and sometimes too personal to mention; they are soon forgotten. It is the exciting, sometimes dangerous times in our lives that are remembered, dissected and improved upon, especially in company. We have had

of a potentially explosive situation, remains an abiding memory.

Another high spot was the successful handover of the Battery area to the Argentinian Contingent. Even though there were language difficulties, the professionalism exhibited by both sides, helped by the use of paper and pencil to draw diagrams, ensured that the Sector was handed over in a good order. Of particular pleasure was the provision of the Guard for Queen Elizabeth at Wayne's Keep as well as entertaining the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prime Minister at B-40 during a particularly busy week in October.



LBdr Shaun Thompson of 176 Battery briefs HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at OP B40.

It is fair to record that there were some regrets amongst the members of the Battery when the move was made to Nicosia. The unique character of the unspoilt west of the island and the friendly nature of the people made many sad to leave. Definitely not to be missed is the heat and dust of a Cyprus summer but, on reflection, it is probably better than the wet and cold of a Cyprus winter, especially on Track 100! However, the thought of not having to spend weekends in July, smiling and wiring up the Cyprus countryside in preparation for yet another march, will please many. Definitely a fond memory will be AUSTCIVPOL, our colleagues at the Ledra Palace Hotel.

So adieu to all who remember the "Kicking Mule" Battery!



Lt Wendy Morton Ops Info Officer and 176 Battery soldiers who were later deployed with the Permanent Force Reserve. From L-R, Gnr Andrew Abson, LBdr Adrian Smith, Lt Wendy Morton and Gnr Mark Plant.

a few of those amongst which must rate the July's forceful intrusion into the Buffer Zone by some Greek Cypriot motorcyclists. The steadfast and patient nature shown by the soldiers on that day, whether around Mammari or at the Ledra Palace in the face

## 56 (OLPHERTS) HEADQUARTERS BATTERY RA

by Major Mark Wentworth

97 members of the Battery deployed to Cyprus in June 1993. 37 of these had only joined the Battery immediately prior to the tour. However, by the end of our time in Cyprus, everyone felt part of a successful team.

Changes in UNFICYP resulted in changes within the Battery. As a result, our team has been joined by a Line Detachment, UNMOs and Recovery



Capt Charlie Williams, the Regimental Medical Officer.

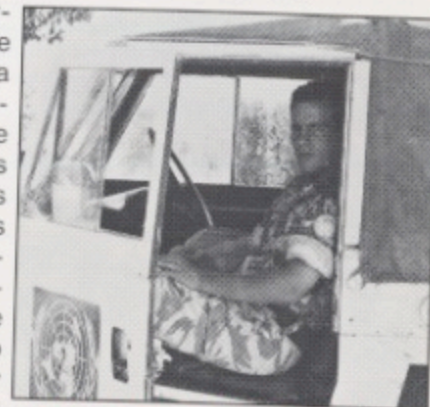
Mechanics. These have added to the diversity of gunners, chefs, engineers, medics and logisticians whom we already had. Between us all we have worked as signallers, storemen, humanitarian staff, hotel managers, drivers, photographers, clerks and in many other employments. In addition, we have provided a major part of the Sector's Force Reserve.

The Battery has been split between two main locations. Operational support for the Sector has been provided at Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia. Logistic support has been based at St David's Camp. The Battery has been fortunate that during the handover to ARGCON, the

majority of us were not required to change locations. This enabled the Battery to provide continuity for the Regiment during a busy and challenging period.

For almost everybody though, the tour has been a challenge. Flexibility has been the watchword, as everybody has found themselves double or triple-hatted. Many individuals have been required to do jobs that they never imagined prior to deployment. The result has been a busy, yet fulfilling tour of which everyone can be justly proud.

There is no doubt that we shall all recall our time as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus with satisfaction for a great team effort.



Lt Jay Turner, the Royal Engineers Detachment Commander.

## 132 BATTERY (THE BENGAL ROCKET TROOP) RA

by Capt Peter Friskney

The final weeks of the Battery tour proved to be just as challenging as the initial weeks of the deployment. Having completed a simultaneous handover/takeover with 176 Battery and AUSCON, all ranks settled quickly into the new routine.

Over the last few weeks, the Battery has enjoyed the prestige and kudos of hosting some of the most important visitors ever to visit British troops in Cyprus. HM The Queen (our Captain General), HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Rt Hon John Major PC MP, and the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd PC MP all visited 39 Regiment in the same week.

There were a few highlights during our time in Cyprus, the principal of which must be the Queen's visit. Battery Commander, Major Nick Lipscombe, had the great honour of commanding the Guard of Honour at Wayne's Keep. The BRITCON Medal Parade at the Old Nicosia International Airport will always be regarded with fond memories. A special mention is required for LBdr "Geordie" Walsh, who completed 22 years of service with the Battery whilst serving in Cyprus. The Battery wishes him all the best for the future.



2Lt Matt Asman and the Regimental Force Reserve. From L-R, Sgt Kev Pound, Gnr Mick Sanders, Malc Frew, Rimmer Arnold, 2Lt Matt Asman, Gnr Dave Sadler and Oli Alman.

The Battery has enjoyed its time in Cyprus and has benefitted greatly from the experience of peace-keeping on the island. The Bengal Rocket Troop now looks to the future for new challenges and, who knows, further United Nations missions.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2ND ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (2 RTR) was formed on 5 August 1992, on the amalgamation of the former 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments. It is an armoured regiment stationed in Fallingb., Germany and equipped with Challenger Mark One Main Battle Tanks. The majority of the Regiment come from the south of England, principally from the Home Counties and the West Country.

Both the 2nd and the 3rd owe their existence to the Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps (HBMGC), whose Heavy Sections first took the tank into action at the Battle of Fleurs in September 1916. The First Tank Brigade was formed in January 1917 and the direct antecedents of 2 RTR fought in the first great tank battle, "Cambrai". Four Victoria Crosses were won by members of the Regiment during the Great War. Cambrai Day, 20 November 1917, is still celebrated every year by the Regiment.

In 1923, the Royal Tank Corps was formed by Royal appointment, becoming the Royal Tank Regiment in 1939. During WWII, the 2nd fought the Axis powers on three continents and in all theatres of war. This included a period under command of 7 Armoured Brigade (the "Desert Rats", our current parent brigade) in the Western Desert, Burma and Italy, a varied war for any regiment. Meanwhile, the 3rd had fought almost to the last man during the battle to hold Calais in May 1940. After reforming, the 3rd fought in Greece and in all the major engagements of the desert war, Sidi Rezegh, Gazala, Alam el Halfa, Alamein and Mareth amongst them.

The Regiment landed in France after D Day, took part in the great Normandy battles, including EPSOM and GOODWOOD, and then fought through North-West Europe until the end of the war. Two VCs were won by the RTR in WWII.

In post war years, both Regiments served in the UK, Germany, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and more recently were represented in the Gulf. Both Regiments have served in the armoured reconnaissance and the armoured role, equipped with various armoured cars and tanks including Centurion, Chieftain and now Challenger.

In keeping with the traditional flexibility of the Royal Armoured Corps, the Regiment deploys to Cyprus in the peace-keeping rôle and its soldiers are no strangers to operating on their feet. The Regiment has re-organised into three Squadrons, the names reflecting Regimental Battle honours.

**Burma Squadron** is based in Wolseley Barracks and is deployed in Nicosia and to the east of Sector Two.

**Normandy Squadron** is based in CB-18 Kingston and is responsible for the west of the Sector.

**Alamein Squadron** is the Headquarters Squadron and is based in St David's Camp with Regimental Headquarters in Wolseley Barracks.



## LIEUTENANT COLONEL SJB WHITE, MBE RTR

Commanding Officer, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment

Lt Col Stephen White was born in Alcombe, Somerset in February 1953. He was educated at Brentwood School and the University of Durham, and was commissioned in February 1971.

As a junior officer, he served as a troop leader and operations/intelligence officer with 4th Royal Tank Regiment in Germany, Northern Ireland and Canada. He spent four months with the Australian Army in Australia and Malaya. In 1982, he joined BRIXMIS, the Commander in Chief (BAOR)'s Military Mission to the Soviet Forces in (East) Germany where he spent two years on operational touring duties and was made a

Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Following a year at Staff College, he commanded D Squadron 4th Royal Tank Regiment (equipped with Chieftain tanks) including a dismounted tour as OC Prison Guard Force in Northern Ireland. He was then Military Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff from 1988-90 before a brief period as Second-in-Command of 4th Royal Tank Regiment. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1990 and became a member of the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College. His last 12 months at Camberley were spent as co-author of the British Army

Operations and Command doctrine for the 1990s. He assumed command of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment on 7 August 1993.

His hobbies include flying (he owns and flies a vintage military Auster aeroplane as part of an air display team), sailing and tennis, and he writes for aviation magazines.

He is married to Kate and has a daughter Stephanie, 12 years old and a son Lawrence who is 10.



## THE BRITCON MEDICAL CENTRE, UNPA



The closure of the BRITCON Medical Centre in December 1993 marks the end of a long era of care of UN personnel in the UNPA by British Medical Services. Since 1974, the Medical Centre has provided routine and emergency medical services to all UN personnel and their dependants living within the UNPA.

The Medical Centre was staffed by two Medical Officers, the CMO and RMO of the British Regiment with nursing and medical assistants. There was considerable liaison and out-of-hours cover shared with the adjacent Canadian Medical Centre.

The Regimental Medical Centre was re-located to Viking Camp at Xeros in December 1992 when the Regiment duties extended to Sector West, and a Medical Officer was posted onto the strength of Support Regiment to fill the deficit on the UNPA.

By July 1993, radical changes had occurred. With the departure of the Canadian Contingent, closure of the Canadian Medical Centre, and the deletion of the UNFICYP Support Regiment RMO, there was a restriction on all medical services. The CMO then had total responsibility for all UNPA personnel on a 24-hour-a-day basis, with a reduced staff in the Medical Centre.

Initially, treatment of UN military personnel and, to some extent, care of dependants continued. However, from October 1993,



Standing from left: LCpl Mather, LCpl Whelan, Sgt Gillies, Cpl Malloch, Andreas Odysseos.  
Sitting from left: Jane Apostolou, Col Curran, Claire Hewstone

sadly, the Medical Centre was restricted to providing medical care to only British UN military and their dependants.

From 15 October 1993, the two ambulances and drivers were removed from the Medical Centre, so services were further reduced before the final demise of the Centre last month.

Since August 1993, Colonel Angela Curran has been the Chief Medical Officer in charge of the team - Sgt Marion Gillies (the Practice Manager), Mrs Clare Hewstone (the Practice Nurse), and three medical assistants, Cpl Paul Malloch and LCpls "Geordie" Whelan and Steve Mather. Andreas Odysseos has worked in

the Medical Centre for eight years and Jane Apostolou for five years. Their hard work in looking after the maintenance of the building and assisting the staff has been much appreciated.

A Medical Centre is to be constructed at Wolseley Barracks to provide medical services for the Regiment and all British UN military personnel. The Families Clinic at Hillcrest is to re-open, staffed by nurses, to provide care for British dependants. Sgt Gillies will be organising the move to the Hillcrest Clinic. Not only furnishings and medical equipment will require to be transported, but also the resident cats, Gert and Daisie, and a growing number of budgerigars in the aviary!

## COLONEL ANGELA CURRAN CMO MB ChB MRCP DCH Dobs RCOG

Col Angela Curran is currently the Chief Medical Officer in HQ UNFICYP. As she states, "her soul was born in Ireland, and her body in England - a few years ago..."

After qualifying in medicine, Angela took posts in obstetrics and paediatrics, obtaining diplomas in these specialities. She also worked in child psychiatry at Guy's Hospital and is a qualified Trainer in General Practice.

She then spent the best two years of her life as the ship's surgeon aboard "SS Uganda", a children's educational cruise ship, travelling to all areas of geographical, historical and archaeological interest.

As regards army postings, Angela has been posted to Episkopi, Berlin, SHAPE (NATO), Belize and Kenya with recurrent postings in the UK at the Guards' Depot. Before coming to Cyprus, she spent six months "sabbatical"

in a busy geriatric post at the Hammersmith Hospital.

Angela's great love is animals and conservation, and she is seriously considering converting the empty Medical Centre into a home for geriatric cats in the UNPA.







## ONE HELL OF A NIGHT!

Article and photos by WOII Günther Sakoparnik



Original Austrian Krampusse!



The first offender - the Krampus comes to get Lt Col Andreas Kloss, CO AUSCON.



Even the British padre, Maj Loveday, is not exempt!



The Krampus gets the CPLO, Lt Col Adrian Ris.



The CAO, Susan Matthew's turn.



What is Victoria being punished for??

Back home in Austria, we celebrate annually the feast of St Nicolas on 06 December. St Nicolas, who was a Bishop, represents the good in the world, and Lucifer, known in Austria as the Krampus, represents evil.

On 11 December, the very successful "Krampus Night" was celebrated in the International Mess at HQ UNFICYP. This was the first function to be held at this new Mess, and was hosted by the Austrian Contingent. The main aim of this event, besides having a great time, is to reveal people's good deeds and their sins, and subsequently to reward or punish them!

Whenever WOII Werner Müller is serving in UNFICYP, he takes the part of St Nicolas, and this year as always, he gave an excellent performance, together with Herbie Simon and Tony Pichler who played the Krampusse.

The highlight of the evening was the disclosure of the good and evil committed by top ranking UNFICYP personnel! Let's hope that all of us learnt something out of this....



The Krampusse, ready for action!



St Nicolas and the Krampusse begin the ceremony.



Smiling faces - before the truth is revealed....



Nobody - but nobody - was safe!



Waldemar's sins are now revealed....



The famous (or infamous!) two. Susan Matthew kneels next to the COO, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen.



The departure of St Nicolas



## DID YOU KNOW?

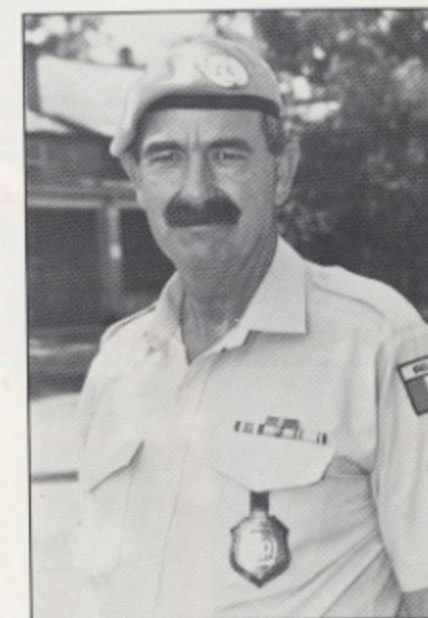
Coy Sgt Colm Shine assumed the appointment of the MP Elm Crime Reader (CR) on 3 Jul 93. He is responsible for maintaining the timely submission and quality control of MP police reports/case files and maintaining liaison with his civilian counterparts on both sides of the 'Green Line'. He is also responsible for overseeing the smooth running of the MP Orderly Room and the UNPA Pass Control Office.

Colm has had plenty of police experience. He served as a civilian police officer (Garda) back in Ireland between 1964-1972,

and several years later he joined the Military Police. Wearing the blue beret is no novelty for this seasoned veteran, who has completed three UN tours in Lebanon and one in Iraq.

To those of you who have already met this talented accordion player, you will know that Colm is not at all bashful... He is also the holder of an all-Ireland Gaelic football medal with his native county Roscommon, and plays a mean game of golf.

We wish him and his family an enjoyable tour with UNFICYP.



## A ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE



As Christmas fast approaches, the road conditions in Cyprus have become more hazardous, the hours of darkness longer and the roads slippery with more frequent rain showers and occasional frost and fog patches. So it is more important than ever that extreme care be taken whilst driving. This year there have been 31 UN personnel injured in traffic accidents. Please do not become another statistic. Allow more time for your journeys, keep the speed down and don't drink and drive.

The Force Provost Marshal and all members of the MP Element wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

## ROAD SAFETY

When struck by a car at 30 mph, an adult will be catapulted forward a minimum of 25 metres! THINK. "KILL your speed - NOT a child".

Too many children are killed or seriously injured simply because someone is in a hurry. Research shows that when children are hit by a car:



— at 20 mph, one child in 20 is killed

— at 30 mph, half are killed

— at 40 mph, most are killed



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE  
UNFICYP MP ELEMENT

*Hyma Joulua*

*Glaedlig Jul*

*Nollaig Fe Mhaise Dhiubh*

*Ünneçi Jakiwânâs*

*Frøhe Weihnachten*

*Joyeux Noël*

*Season's Greetings*

*Felices Fiestas*

