

THE Blue Beret

December 1995





HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION

The joyous season is upon us once again, and it is time for family and friends to get together. For most of you, this may not be possible. However, being in Cyprus as a member of the United Nations multinational force, and working closely with others to promote a peaceful conflict resolution on this beautiful island, you can take pride in your accomplishment. UNFICYP personnel constitute an inspiration to all who are

committed to the cause of maintaining international peace and security.

I commend you for your tireless effort, hard work and dedication in completing your tasks. Your efforts have not been in vain, as is evident by the fact that we can celebrate these festive days in a calm environment.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL
IN UNFICYP

Ich wünsche allen Soldaten des Österreichischen Kontingents, und der gesamten Force, sowie auch all ihren Angehörigen ein gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und viel Erfolg im neuen Jahr.

CO AUSCON

Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket és sikerekben gazdag Boldog Új Évet kívánok az UNFICYP teljes személyi állományának!
A Magyar Kontingens nevében köszöntöm Önöket és megköszönjük a baráti fogadtatást. A további együttműködéshez és közös feladataink végrehajtásához erőt, egészséget, sok sikert és katonaszerencsét kívánok!

CO HUNGCON

I would like to wish all Contingent members and their families a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

OC Perm FR

Que a paz, a amor e a harmonia estejam presentes em todos os dias de 1996.

Feliz Natal a próspero Ano Novo!

En estas Fiestas de Navidad y Año Nuevo es deseo del Contingente Argentino, que Dios bendiga y proteja a la Gran Familia de UNFICYP. Que la Paz y la Concordia sigan siendo en estas fechas el Norte de nuestra misión.

CO ARGCON

CO Sector Two wishes all HQ UNFICYP staff and national contingents season's greetings, and hopes that all those committed to the UNFICYP task will take advantage of this festival of peace to further that mission.

CO SECTOR TWO

Fearrann COMIRCON beannachai na féile ar gach baill den aonad ar dualgais anseo le UNFICYP.

OC IRCON

Ba maith liom ar an ochaid seo gach dea guidhe a gabhail le gach comhalta den Garda Siochana ata ag freastal leis no Naisium Aonthaithe i Cyprus agus lena glann agus a n-gaolta go leir. Is cuis broin a beith scartha od chlann agus od gaolta in am na Nollag. Ta suil agam go mbeidh Nollaig sona agus bliain nua fe maise agaibh go leir. Guim beannacht De le bhuir n-gaolta so bhaile. Beidh me ag cuimhne oraibh ar an am seo.

Comd IRCIVPOL

FINCON toivottaa kaikille ystävilleen, tukijoilleen ja heidän perheilleensä hyvää joulua sekä menestyskäästä uutta vuotta.

OC FINCON

On behalf of the Australian Civilian Police Contingent, I would like to wish all our friends in UNFICYP a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that 1996 is kind to you and all your dreams come true.

Comd AUSTCIVPOL

The multinational Military Police Element would like to wish all members of UNFICYP and their families a very safe and Merry Christmas.

Force Provost Marshal

The Canadian Contingent wish all UNFICYP members and their families sincere best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

OC CANCON



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Christmas Card

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Telephone: (02) 359550
Fax: 359753

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Charles Gaulkin

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Cpl John Daly
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Eduardo Acosta
Sector Two	Lt Cathy Gould
Sector Four	Capt Siegfried Perr
AUSTCIVPOL	Stn Sgt Greg Lovell
IRCIVPOL	Sgt Jim Tutty
Perm FR	Capt Tim Mason
MP Elm	Sgt Sue Ashton
Camp Command	Flt Sgt John McCormick

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 Chief of Mission. 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 CPL JOHN DALY

The
Blue Beret

EDITORIAL

The saying "time and tide wait for no one" is eternally valid. The 50th Anniversary of the United Nations is almost history, however, as 1995 draws to a close, it is the right time to reflect upon the events of the past year, evaluate our achievements and setbacks and establish our priorities for the New Year's coming challenges.

Christmas is the time for reunion with our relatives and loved ones, and for most peace-keepers, this will not be possible. However, serving in Cyprus is, in fact, observing the very essence of Christmas, which is none other than the pursuit of peace.

Let us move forward into the New Year in confidence, and in the conviction that the United Nations will endure because it embodies the yearning of the human heart, the yearning for a world in which all may share peace and prosperity.



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**CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND**

by Flt Sgt John McCormick



Christmas in Ireland is a very special occasion, especially as the majority of the population is quite conscious of their religion. The country is 99% Christian, and Christmas is a time to reflect on personal religious beliefs and rejoice in the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Young and old sing Christmas carols outside churches and shopping centres to raise funds for distribution to the less well off and needy people. Houses are adorned for the festive season with Christmas decorations and a tree well placed in the corner of a room under which presents are placed. Some people make a pilgrimage to Israel and visit Biblical places of interest like Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth.



It is also a time for the young to look forward to Santa Claus arriving on the night of Christmas Eve. Children are tucked up in bed, anxiously

awaiting the morning. Christmas morning in most homes in Ireland is chaotic with children ripping open presents, praying that their wishes will come true. Parents can sometimes be confused when they see a young child taking more interest in the box the toy came in, rather than the toy itself! A universal problem with all children.

Whole families attend Mass or Service together on this morning and, prior to the Christmas lunch, the leader of the family will say "grace before meals". Then the traditional turkey and ham is served. Following lunch, most families will visit their relatives and give presents to one another.



The festivities continue until 6 January, known as "Little Christmas". Then it is time to check the bank balance, take down and store decorations and worry about next Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CAN BE BAD FOR YOU

Christmas may be the time to be jolly. But there are many seasonal accidents just waiting to happen. Excessive drinking and kids swallowing small objects are two hazards of the season.

Don't put Christmas decorations in small orifices. There is always an abundance of small objects around at Christmas that kids frequently swallow or push into their noses or ears. Watch out for uninflated balloons, tree decorations and toys in crackers.

Don't overdo post-Christmas exercise. Physiotherapists see more patients in January with pulled

and strained muscles than at any other time of the year. It is advisable to avoid over-zealous workouts after the festive season. Instead, start off gently.

Do take it easy, diabetics. Christmas is a particularly difficult time for diabetics, so minimise the sugar content of Christmas treats by using sweeteners as much as possible.

Alcohol alert. Every year, hospital casualty departments treat more than double the number of patients during the Christmas period - mostly for injuries caused by excessive drinking.

..... and for that hangover.

- White wine, gin and vodka are the safest drinks to consume in volume because they are less likely to irritate the lining of the stomach.
- Avoid the worst by drinking at least one pint of water before you start and another pint before you go to bed.
- Peppermint tea drunk at intervals the next day will help to settle the stomach.

**HAVE A
MERRY AND SAFE
CHRISTMAS**

**THE HILL CREST NURSERY**

The Hill Crest Nursery and creche is located next to the Medical Centre in the Married Quarters of the United Nations Protected Area at the old Nicosia International Airport. The nursery aims to provide a cosy and safe environment for children between two and four years of age. Currently there are between eight and ten children attending the nursery each day. Opening hours are from 8:30 to 12:00 every weekday.



Two trained staff are on duty at all times. The focus is on learning through play, with the children being encouraged to build up their social skills and exercise their imagination through creative activities. There is also a well equipped outdoor play area. The morning is divided up into a series of different activities in order to provide variety and hold the children's interest.

The nursery has vacancies for the spring term, which will run from 8 January to 5 April 1996. Anyone interested can contact the nursery on 02-359655.

**DOES SANTA COME TO CYPRUS?**

In Cyprus there are 36 Argentinian children with ages ranging from three months to 12 years. Since their parents were assigned to UNFICYP, they took the brave decision to accept the "invitation" to accompany them on their tour. The majority reside in Kakopetria, Linou and Nicosia. They miss their friends back home, but they like Cyprus very much. One of the main reasons they like being here is because they avoid going to school! The majority of the school age children study by correspondence courses.

They miss their grandparents too, but they all say that their parents are here to help avoid a war. However their main concern at the moment is: "Does Santa Claus come to Cyprus?"



HOLA!

FORECAST OF EVENTS - CAMP COMMAND**Sunday 31 December 1995:**

Live music and disco for a New Year's Eve Party! Champagne and light snacks available. Admission by ticket only - £3.00. For details, contact Capt Niall McDonnell, Ext 725, or Flt Sgt John McCormick, Ext 714.

Thursday 18 January 1996:

Table Quiz. Teams consisting of four personnel. £4.00 per team. Generous cash prizes! Questions on sport, general knowledge, music round, photo round. Everybody welcome.



CHANGE OF COMMAND IN SECTOR FOUR

by Capt S Perr

In a ceremony on Saturday 11 November 1995, the Commanding Officer of the Austrian Battalion, Lt Col Ernst Eder, came to the end of his assignment after a two-year tour with UNFICYP. He handed over command of Sector Four to Lt Col Wolfgang Wildberger.



Lt Col Eder (left) congratulating Maj Kraus on his victory during one of the UNFICYP tennis tournaments



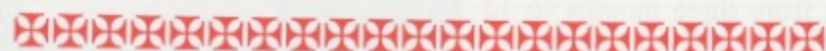
Lt Col Wildberger (left) accepting the Austrian national flag from Lt Col Eder with the Force Commander (centre)

Lt Col Eder said his tour in UNFICYP was a valuable experience. He was very sad to be

leaving the Austrian Battalion, but happy to return to his family. He thanked his soldiers for their support during his tour of duty.

At a party following the

official ceremony, Lt Col Eder congratulated all Austrian soldiers who had taken part and won prizes in various sporting events during his tour.



New Commanding Officer, Sector Four

Lt Col Wolfgang Wildberger was born on 18 May 1948 in Oberpullendorf (Burgenland). After finishing his secondary education in 1967, he joined the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt and was commissioned in 1971. He completed several training courses, such as Company Commander Courses, the Staff Officer's Course and the Regimental Commander Course in Austria.

Lt Col Wildberger has held a range of military appointments in the service of his country including Platoon Leader of a tank platoon, Company Commander of an anti-tank company and several functions in a regimental HQ. His last appointment was CO of the HQ Battalion in the 1st Corps in Graz. His various services in the United Nations include Platoon Leader in UNDOF/AUSBATT in 1974 and Observer in UNTSO in 1980 for two years. He served with AUSCON/UNFICYP as a Company Commander in 1976, as a Senior Operations Officer in 1986 and as the Deputy Commanding Officer in 1989/90 and 1992/93.

Lt Col Wildberger is married to Helga, and they have two children, Martin aged 20 and Nina 17.



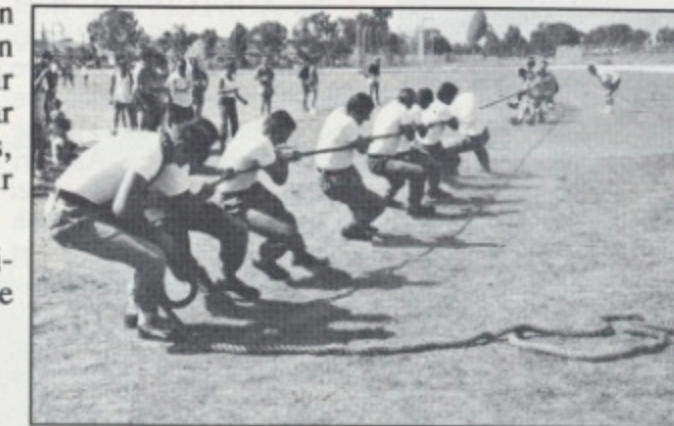
Lt Col Wolfgang Wildberger addressing the AUSCON soldiers



YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME!

On 23 September, a Sports Festival took place in Ayios Nikolaos, an occasion when the Austrian UN soldiers had the opportunity to prove their strength once again! They entered the tug-of-war competition (see right) and reached the finals, where, in a tough match, they managed to beat their British opponents.

Following that, AUSCON organised an exhibition of the weapons and equipment currently in use in AUSCON.



Then, on 1 October, a football match took place between AUSCON and a team from RAF Akrotiri (see left). This time it was the British who won 4-1.

It has become customary for the Officer in Charge to organise four matches a year against the Austrians, and records show that the Austrians have not yet beaten the SBA team. So the Austrians are now in serious practice for the next encounter....

PERSONNEL MEASURES
TAKEN IN AUSCON

Two leading officers from the Personnel Section of the Austrian MOD, Brig Gen Kühnel and Brig Mag Deutsch, visited the Austrian Contingent from 18-24 September.

The main themes were the consequences of the planned integration of one Hungarian Platoon in the area of Louroujina in November, and also the modification of the rotation system. This system has now changed, and as from March 1996, AUSCON personnel will serve for 12 months instead of eight.



Shown at the top table are Brig Gen Kühnel (left) and Brig Mag Deutsch

DOCTOR FROM IRAQ IN AUSCON

Dr Hayder Jawad, the new AUSCON Medical Officer, was born in Bagdad, Iraq. After finishing his medical studies, he joined the Austrian Army for eight months, and served for one further year in the hospital as a Medical Officer.

Dr Jawad's aim is to help people wherever he can, and he has integrated into the military structure of the Austrian Contingent very quickly.

On completion of his UN tour in Cyprus, Dr Jawad intends to continue his career as a Medical Officer in Austria.





OUT AND ABOUT IN AUSTCIVPOL



The AUSTCIVPOL fleet consists of four Pajero four-wheel drive vehicles. These vehicles are used 24 hours a day on the rough patrol tracks. As part of the October induction programme, this photograph (right) was taken at ARGCON UN OP 22.

Pictured left is Sgt Greg Corin showing a young boy how the police radio operates in one of these vehicles.





One of the most important out-of-hours functions of AUSTCIVPOL members is managing the affairs of the Kangaroo Club. Meetings of the Mess Members are conducted by the Mess President, Stn Sgt Greg Lovell, on a regular basis. The Club operates under a formal constitution.

All members are required to participate in running the Mess, in accordance with United Nations Force guidelines. The Kangaroo Club is a popular Mess with all UNFICYP personnel.

The 7 November 1995 was a public holiday for AUSTCIVPOL on the occasion of the Melbourne Cup. A chicken and champagne breakfast was held at the Kangaroo Club, and a festive day was had by all. The race information was relayed from Australia via telephone and replayed by loud-speaker to all present at the Club.

The horse "Doriemus" with rider Damien Oliver won the 1995 Melbourne Cup. Punters around Australia spent almost \$80 million on the race. Pictured right is the Melbourne Cup being celebrated in Cyprus!





At the United Nations 50th anniversary celebrations, members of the Australian Civilian Police 44th, 45th and 46th Contingents (left) set up a display beside the pool at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The display featured a brief history of Australia. It proved to be a very popular stand with great interest shown by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots.



AUSTCIVPOL members recently commemorated the 21st anniversary of the death of a former Australian Policeman, Sgt Ian Donald Ward. A wreath-laying ceremony was conducted by members of the 45th and 46th AUSTCIVPOL Contingents near the site of the accident on Troodos-Lefka Road.

The accident occurred on 12 November 1974, when the landrover he was driving struck an unmarked landmine. The wreckage is left beside the road in a mined area.

Just before midday on Tuesday 9 October 1979, an AUSTCIVPOL patrol escorting a farmer ploughing his field in the UN Buffer Zone near Omorphita saw another farmer drive his tractor unexpectedly into the Buffer Zone. An AUSTCIVPOL Officer, Chief Inspector Jack Thurgar, immediately jumped into his vehicle to intercept the farmer as he was driving towards a suspected minefield. When the AUSTCIVPOL Officer was about 150m from the farmer, there was a loud explosion and the farmer and bits of his tractor were blown into the air. The farmer survived the explosion and, with the assistance of Jack Thurgar, was rescued from the scene. Jack was awarded the Star of Courage for his bravery. The damaged tractor still remains at the scene today, isolated within the uncleared minefield, and remains a significant part of AUSTCIVPOL history in Cyprus.



While assisting Sector Two during the November demonstrations at Jeep Gate, AUSTCIVPOL Sgt Zavich suffered a head injury from a rock thrown by one of the demonstrators.

Seen right, sporting a bandage and several stitches after receiving medical attention, Sgt Zavich is briefing Sgt Peattie - although he still appears to be in a state of shock!





29 COMMANDO REGIMENT CHARITY RUN OF THE BUFFER ZONE



by Major Mike Kelly

After having cycled the Buffer Zone in September, the Regiment's next challenge was a Charity Run of the Buffer Zone aiming to achieve this in under 24 hours. On Wednesday 8 November, the Commanding Officer and 11 runners of the Regiment departed for Sector One and OP 08. After a hospitable

to experience. The teams were aiming to achieve 10 km per hour and arrived at 40 km point at 0835 hours, being 25 minutes ahead of schedule.

After an initial 10 km stretch, the runners were now onto their first 20 km section of the run, producing impressive timings averaging 1 hour, 35-40 minutes. By 1330 hours, the runners had arrived at Foxtrot Gate, there being a certain amount of concern at this point whether the run could continue through the city with a major demonstration underway at OP 75 Jeep. With clearance from Ops, the teams continued through the city and out on the Omorphita plain in the direction of the Austrian Sector. On approaching



Pre-race photo

night in the Argentinian OP and with the mandatory pre-run photographs complete, the first three team runners were ready for their first 10 km leg. The aim of the challenge was for a team of four to complete the charity run of 226 km in relay in under 24 hours. Each individual would run 10 km, followed by two 20 km runs with a final 6 km leg. Three teams had entered the challenge and were to run together throughout the race.



From the left: Cpl Howard, CO Sector Two and Sgt Thatcher in the Argentinian Sector

The contest began at 0500 hours with the Commanding Officer leading the runners off into the mountains of Sector One. The initial 6 km were a particularly enjoyable warm up prior to the harsh mountainous terrain the runners were soon



Still a long way to go

Sector Four, the team were now on their third leg, approaching the 50 km point for each individual runner. Fatigue was starting to play a part as well as the darkness, however the teams managed to carry on with 20 km timings now averaging 1 hour, 40-45 minutes.

The team approached OP 146 Famagusta at 1140 hours on Thursday 9 November 1995 with all the runners completing the last 500 metres of the run to cross the finish line at 1141 hours. After the mandatory photo call and presentation of T-shirts, the teams departed for the LPH and a well deserved rest. The total time for the 226 km run was 18 hours, 41 minutes. The charity money (just over £700 Cyprus) will go to four UK charities, the Help! Charity in the north and the School for the Blind in the south.

The gauntlet is down for the next Regiment to take up the challenge!



NEW BRITISH REGIMENT 12 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY



At midday on 5 December 1995, 12 Regiment Royal Artillery took over Sector Two from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery.

The Regiment consists of three batteries, an HQ battery and a large REME Workshop. Currently deployed in Cyprus for the tour are 12 (Minden) Battery, 9 (Plassey) Battery and T (Shah Sujah's) HQ Battery. Due to the Regiment converting to the new Self Propelled High Velocity Missile (SP HVM) close air defence system, 58 (Eyres) Battery and the majority of the Workshop remained behind in Paderborn.

12 Regiment recruits mainly from the north west of England, but its ORBAT currently includes a number of Territorial Army soldiers who have joined the



An example of SP HVM, the vehicle of 12 Regt RA

Regiment for the six-month tour. The Regiment has recently been successful in football, tug-of-war and march and shoots in Germany, and will be looking forward to the opportunity to compete against teams from other nations.

The Regiment has an interesting history with 12 (Minden) Battery being formed in 1747, 9 (Plassey) in 1749 and 58 (Eyres) in 1786. The Regiment itself was formed in 1924, and in 1946, it became 15 Anti Tank Regiment. In 1970, it became 12 Regiment again and was the first Royal Artillery Regiment to perform public duties in London. The Regiment converted to Rapier in 1972 and deployed twice to Northern Ireland. Then in 1984, the Regiment moved to Dortmund where they remained until the closure of Dortmund in 1995, when the Regiment moved to Paderborn. During that time, the batteries saw service in Northern Ireland, the South Atlantic Conflict, Cyprus and the Gulf War. The Regiment is now converting to the SP HVM, and a parade to mark the official handover took place on 31 October 1995.

1995 has been a busy year with the move to Paderborn, the conversion to new equipment, the training for peace-keeping and the acceptance parade for SP HVM. The officers, men and women are looking forward to the challenge of serving with the UN and the opportunity to work alongside the variety of other nations currently deployed with UNFICYP. It will be an interesting and fulfilling six months.

NEW CO IN SECTOR TWO LT COL A J SNOWDON

Lt Col Andrew Snowden was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1974, having read geography at Oxford University. He first served with 19th Field Regiment RA and completed that posting as a Forward Observer with the international ACE Mobile Force (Land).

He then served as a Captain in 5th Heavy Regiment in Hildesheim, Germany. During this tour, he served as Operations Officer in Northern Ireland and was posted as an instructor to the Northern Ireland Training and Advisory Team in 1980.



Lt Col Snowden joined 12th Air Defence Regiment in 1982 as Adjutant, where he remained until attending the British Army Staff College in 1985. Since then he has filled two staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence and attended the US Army Command and

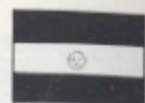
General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth. His second posting to 12th Regiment was as Battery Commander of 9 (Plassey) Bty. During this tour, he participated for the first time in UN operations, deploying with his Battery in 1989 for a six-month tour with UNFICYP, based in the Box Factory in Astromeritis, now in Sector One.

Lt Col Snowden returned to command 12th Regiment Royal Artillery in April 1995, having been the Staff Officer responsible for the trials of the British Army's new High Velocity Missile system with which 12th Regiment is now equipped in its barracks in Paderborn, Germany.



The Church of Panagia Skouriotissa

by Lt (Navy) Eduardo Acosta



The majority of the Argentinian people are Roman Catholic, and so for them, Christmas is a very important time of year. It is a time when we remember the birth of Christ, a time when we give thanks for what we have received during the year and a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming year.

For the Argentinians in Cyprus, the feeling of Christmas is perhaps even more intense, firstly because this island is very rich in Christian history. The preaching of the Gospel first began in Cyprus in the year 45 AD, when Saint Barnabas, Saint Paul and Saint Mark converted the Commander of Paphos, a Roman named Sergio Paulo, to Christianity.



The second reason is because in there is a very old monastery situated in Gen San Martin Camp, within which is a small church. Its simplicity and tranquility transmits a feeling of peace and security, making us feel very near our families in moments of prayer. Permission has been granted for Roman Catholic masses to take place here on a regular basis. It is to this church that we go in our moments of happiness and anguish, and we would like to pay homage this Christmas by depicting a little of its interesting history.

A Greek Cypriot friend lent me a book entitled "The Church of Panagia Skouriotissa" by A & J Stylianou. The authors state that the earliest reference recorded is by a Russian traveller called Basil Barsky who visited this monastery in 1735. "I came across a small monastery called

Σκουριώτισσα. The name derives from the slag heaps which are to be found on the hills nearby. It is said that at the time of Christian rule, iron (in fact it was copper) was quarried there."



Inside the Church

The authors, however, were mainly interested in the date the monastery was founded. Fortunately, an inscribed plaque placed just above the entrance of the church throws some light in this direction. Although the monastic buildings were destroyed in part, enough survived to allow the inscription to be read, a part of which translates as follows: "Jesus Christ conquers. 1716, August 16. The holy monastery of Panagia Skouriotissa was reconstructed at the expense of the most Reverend Bishop of Kyrenia and President of Solea, Monseignor Makarios, and his parents from Galata. Glory to God everlasting." In addition, the small portion of monastic buildings to the south west of the church also dates from this time.

Although the inscription is placed above the entrance to the church, there is no mention of the church itself, and there is little indication in its construction as to its age. Fragments of wall paintings which have been uncovered give only a visible clue as to the probable original date of the building, suggesting the late 15th century. This is probably the approximate date of the church, as it was customary in those times to decorate a church shortly after its construction.

The authors concluded that the church of Panagia Skouriotissa dates from the late 15th century, and was founded or refounded by Bishop Makarios of Kyrenia in 1716 with the help of his parents. Since the arrival of the British on the island, extensive modern buildings were erected around the church for use by the American Cyprus Mining Corporation. After 1974, the mines were closed and the buildings were deserted, but now, all this land is under the jurisdiction of the Bishopric of Morphou and is rented to the United Nations.



A DOUBLE COMMITMENT

by Lt (Navy) E Acosta



It is not very often that when a couple marry, both husband and wife serve with the Army. It is less often that both spouses are sent on peace-keeping missions, and even less often that it is the same peace-keeping mission! However in Sector One, we not only have two peace-keepers married to one another, but on this occasion, they are accompanied by their three children.

We would like to introduce you to the "family of blue helmets". WOIII Noemí Aurora Jimenez was born in Nogoyá, Entre Rios, Argentina, on 12 December 1959. She joined the Army in 1982, and is a nurse. WOIII Luis Alfredo Jimenez was born on 28 January 1960 in San Miguel, Tucumán, Argentina. He joined the Army in 1984 and serves as a communications technician.

They met in 1984, when Noemí was in her third year as a Corporal and Luis was a new recruit. They met for a coffee during Luis' period of recruitment, so we could say that theirs was a military meeting! Technicians normally require a four-month training period, and during this time, Noemí and Luis got to know each other better. By the end of 1984, they got married and were assigned to the V Army Corps, Commodore Rivadavia City, approximately 2,000 km south of Buenos Aires, and stayed there until their posting to UNFICYP. There was the possibility that they could have been posted to an Antarctic Base for one year, or even UNPROFOR (Yugoslavia).

However fortunately for them, their final destination was UNFICYP. They are both very happy with the tasks they are required to carry out as peace-keepers, and are grateful for the opportunity of sharing these experiences with their family. Their children, Maria Fernanda (9), Maria Romina (8) and Maria Daniela (5) were born in Commodore Rivadavia city, and they are all very happy in Cyprus. The two elder daughters carry out their studies by correspondence courses from Argentina, and during their free time, the three girls play with their Cypriot friends in Kakopetria. Their mother is most surprised how quickly the children are learning the Greek language, and how they communicate so easily with their friends.



When the head of the family is in the army, there is bound to be some hardship, but with both parents in the army, I asked Noemí if this accentuated the problem. She replied that any working mother faces a number of difficulties, since this means she has two roles to play. Obviously, since she is in military service, life is even more demanding since she can be called any time on duty. However, she maintains that with the help and support of her husband and friend Luis, and the comradeship and understanding of their friends, she manages to meet the demands placed upon her. She says: "In my house we live in permanent combat, but the morale is always high!"

This is the first Argentinian military family to serve in Cyprus and, through them, Sector One would like to wish all UNFICYP families a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful 1996.



NEW FACES AROUND HQ UNFICYP

COLONEL R I TALBOT
CHIEF OF STAFF OF UNFICYP

Colonel Ian Talbot was commissioned in 1969 into the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. Before staff training, he held a number of regimental and staff appointments in Germany, Gibraltar, Northern Ireland, the UK and with the UN in Cyprus.

He attended the Staff College Camberley in 1981, after which he was appointed the COS of 11 Armd Bde in Germany. His return to regimental duty followed with an appointment as a Squadron Leader in both Germany and Northern Ireland. Following this, he became a Company Commander at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst until his promotion and selection to be a DS at the Staff College Camberley.

Col Talbot commanded the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards from 1988 until 1990 in Germany and in the UN in Cyprus. Due to the Gulf War, his command tour was shortened, and he spent the whole of the Gulf Conflict on the staff of Gen de la

Billiere in both Riyadh and Kuwait.

His next appointment was as the Chief of Staff of the 1st Armoured Division in Germany, a post he held from 1991 until 1993. Following that, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Headquarters of the Royal Armoured Corps in Bovington. He then took up the post of UNFICYP Chief of Staff.



Col Talbot is married to Vicki, and they have two children, Charlie (10) and Henrietta (8), both of whom are at boarding school. He enjoys skiing, sailing, most outside activities, ballet and music.

NEW ARRIVALS IN THE UN MP ELEMENT

Four new Irish Military Policemen arrived in November to take up duty with the UN MP Element, replacing four Austrian Military Policemen.

There are now six Irish MPs in the UN MP Elm. The four latest arrivals are:

Sgt Peter O'Rourke. Peter is from the Curragh Command. He is 34 years of age and is married with two daughters. He has served four tours of duty with UNIFIL.

Sgt Paul Patton. Paul is from the Western Command. He is 32 years old and is married with three children. He has served two tours of duty with UNIFIL.

Sgt Derek Brauders. Derek is from the Eastern Command. He is 33 years old and is single. He has served two tours of duty with UNIFIL.



Derek, Mark, Paul and Peter

Sgt Mark Hegarty. Mark is from the Southern Command. He is 27 years old and is single. He has served three tours of duty with UNIFIL.

All four are looking forward to their first tour of duty with UNFICYP.



AUSTCIVPOL WEDDING



On 14 October 1995, a blessing of the marriage between Station Sergeant Allan Perry and his bride, Pamela Leechue, was conducted at the St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Nicosia. The ceremony was followed by a reception held at the Kangaroo Club, where some 100 guests attended.

Station Sergeant Perry is an Australian Federal Police Detective who works in an operational area in Brisbane, Queensland. He was attached to the 44th AUSTCIVPOL Cyprus Contingent from March to October 1995. His bride Pamela is a nursing sister, currently employed at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in Queensland.



For their honeymoon, the bride and groom went on a cruise of the Mediterranean islands, and then travelled to the UK for a mini coach tour of Europe before returning to Australia.

Cartoon by [signature]



THAT'S OK...
EVERYONE FEELS
THAT WAY WHEN
THEY TURN 50...



AUSTCIVPOL WEDDING

