

THE Blue Beret

February 1990





ROAD TO RECOVERY

The little girl pictured left is Eser Aken aged seven from Nicosia. Eser suffers from leukaemia. Last year following an appeal to which UNFICYP members generously subscribed she was enabled to go to London's Free Hospital for a bone marrow transplant. Eser is now back at home and well on the road to recovery.

TREAT FOR LOCAL GIRL

Pictured right is a local girl, Eleni Christodoulou, from the village of Mammari at the controls of a Gazelle helicopter from the United Nations helicopter flight. Eleni has been blind since birth and has never seen a helicopter but with the help of Sector 2 and the OC UN FLT she has at least had the chance to sit in a cockpit.



SWEDCON DONATE TO LOCAL CHARITIES



In December each year SWEDCON donate to Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot charities for orphans.

In December 89 the Swedish Commander, Ch Supt Thelin presented a cheque to an orphanage in Famagusta for the



Turkish Cypriot children and to the Cyprus Red Cross in Larnaca for the Greek Cypriot children.

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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 should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. 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

Raising the flag on
Australia's 202nd
Birthday
By: SSgt K Webster

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

Among the many qualities that go to make up a successful peacekeeper is that of courtesy. In our everyday dealings with the people of Cyprus and with the other nationalities who make up UNFICYP the manner in which we approach them may be just as important as the business in hand. Of course politeness extends not just to personal contact but to the way we conduct ourselves in public and also to our driving manners. It is easy to give offence because of a thoughtless word or deed. To be courteous is not to show weakness but an act of civility more beneficial than we often realise. By treating others as we would wish them to treat us we are contributing to a personal peace effort.

Think about it.

DEATH OF UNFICYP MEMBER

The Force Commander regrets to announce the death of Sgt Friedrich Mayr, 2 Coy AUSCON in a road traffic accident on 27th January 1990.

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THE 9th/12th ROYAL LANCERS - FSC SQN

The 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) have returned for their third six month tour in Cyprus, the first of which was in 1978.

The Squadron is Commanded by Major A J Jones and the Squadron Sergeant Major is WO2 S A Corby. Many of the key posts are filled by personnel with previous experience with the UN in Cyprus, including Capt M E Carr and the SSM who were both here with 'A' Squadron in 1987.

The Squadron has been based at Wimbish, England for the last two and a half years. The Regiment is a Medium Reconnaissance Regiment with 3rd Armoured Division in BAOR, for administrative purposes the Regiment comes under command of 19 Infantry Brigade at Colchester, England.



WO2 SA Corby and Maj A J Jones

The Regiment will move back to Germany in January 1991 to take over from the 16th/5th Queens Royal Lancers at Herford, and become the Medium Reconnaissance Regiment for the 4th Armoured Division.

The Squadron is greatly looking forward to a prosperous and enjoyable six months with the United Nations.

A PIECE OF CAKE!



SSgt Slade (Officer's Mess Chef).



SSgt Slade's Christmas chimney.



WO2 Harding (Master Chef).



The Master Chef's masterpiece

THE SP REGT CO'S SHIELD - 1989

Lt Col Smedley is seen here presenting the CO's Shield to Capt Frendo of REME Wksp.

The CO's Shield is competed for twice a year by HQ Sqn, Sig



Sqn, REME Wksp, Ord and Flt, and A Troop and B Troop of Tpt Sqn. It is presented to the unit which has been awarded the most points after competing in the following Sp Regt competitions: shooting, military skills, orienteering and safe and skilled driving.

UN COORDINATION - A KITCHEN FAIRYTALE

For a long time C Coy DANCON in Limnitis have wished to have a serviceable, new kitchen. Some months ago a decision was made that the Coy could have a new kitchen, money was given and the work began. However building was so slow due to other commitments that eventually soldiers from the other sectors were drafted in to help and during the summer of 1989 the building began to grow.

In November 89 DANCON 52 arrived in Cyprus to be told about the work on the new kitchen and took over a camp inhabited by Canadians, British, Austrian and Danish personnel. The work proceeded in accordance with the plan coordinated by SSgt Mercer from Sp Regt. The soldiers learned the importance of living and working together as a team.

The interior of the kitchen was completed on 19th December 89 and was used for the first time that evening - a red letter day for the company far away from everything and everybody.



The Kitchen in its final stages of completion in December 1989.

On behalf of all ranks in C Coy DANCON 52 I wish to thank everyone in UNFICYP who has contributed money, support and

labour in good spirit and humour to this most worthy project.

Maj P A Koch
OC C Coy

OFFICERS AND SNCOS SERVE CHRISTMAS DINNER

It is traditional for British soldiers to be served a magnificent dinner by their superiors

just before the Christmas celebrations. Crackers and beer supplement the sumptuous helpings

of turkey, Christmas Pudding and mince pies.



Maj Peck with clean hands.



Dvr Wills enjoying the festivities.



Col Smedley with a steady hand.

CANCON - BACK TO

As all good things must come to an end, so has Snowgoose 52's tour here in Cyprus. This issue will mark the end of another tour of the First Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment along with our members of the Canadian Militia, as we make our way back to North America's attic and the snows of home.

Certainly our departure will mean saying goodbye to our

blems others face so far away from our home.

Common to all are the times of standing long hours staring into the distance, waiting for something to happen in our area of responsibility. Common as well are the times that our imagination takes us back to our homes, the image is just about real, as we apply the brakes and pass off the reins to another infantry unit -

periphery of the Arctic to stand in the balmy temperature here in Cyprus.

The PPCLI, fresh after celebrating their 75th anniversary, will be arriving to take control of Sector 3. Their advance party will be arriving to move into the peacekeeping mode as of 20 Feb, with their remainder arriving in early and mid-March.

Of course, as with any exiting



many friends and acquaintances we have made over the past six months, as well as those that have been rekindled since previous tours. Our time serving here with our "brothers-in-arms" to preserve peace, has certainly been a learning exercise for all of us, and has also been an eye opening experience to the pro-

the Second Battalion, The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. A unit all too familiar with the cold temperatures this winter, they will leave the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, commonly referred to as "Winterpeg". For them, it will be with pleasure that they exit the temperature of a city on the cold

contingent, our times here have been hi-lighted by many of the hard working times on the line, sporting events and of course in our messes. Very few who participated in any of the UNFICYP competitions will forget the long hours of training, coupled with working shifts.

There were, many enjoyable



THE SNOWS OF HOME

get together with our comrades of the UN that will be remembered very fondly. It would seem that as all sectors get together, the similarity of task would bring



about a common respect as to the work of each member. This then, helps make friendships easy to grow, as they have with all of our friends in the UN.

From the standpoint of our unit individually, this tour has given us a chance to work long hard hours together, helping to bring up the overall readiness of our Battalion to react to different circumstances. Certainly the chance to work together has given all ranks the chance of really getting to know each other.

However, we now must make way for our comrades of the PPCLI to take over and continue to have as much luck and success as we have had. With them will come new ideas and personalities that can definitely aid the UN in this very active sector and to fulfill its mission.

As we prepare to leave this post, we would like to thank all of those who have helped our



contingent fulfill our objectives. From the supporting regiments, and all other contingents, we thank you for your teamwork, professionalism and friendship.

As veterans of all UN peacekeeping missions since their inception, we are prepared to return here, or go anywhere else to serve with the 'Blue Beret'. However, now we go back to our home in London, Ontario, and our brigade, to meet our other objective in defending our nation's peace and freedom. This tasking at home provides us with many adventures, many of which can be met and surpassed using the knowledge and experience we have gained here. To these tasks and new 'frontier', we carry on living and working for our Regimental motto - FOR COUNTRY. PRO PATRIA.

By: Lt Pood MacToon.

AUSTRALIA DAY 1990



The AUSTCIVPOL crew at the start of the boat race.



HMS Flapcon (SDC Sect 2), and The SS (SWEDCIVPOL).



FSC Sqn, winners of the boat race with "The Flying Ferret" seen here with Commander Mills.



HMS Jiffcon (Ord Det) in action.



The onlooker sees all (Sqn Ldr Bickers).



The three legged race (with trainer) (Winners were William and Tanya Whiteford).



Steve Rollings, Umpire of the boat race takes it easy.



The Canadians provided the BBQ.



Phillipino Queen (254 Sig Sqn).

AUSTRALIA DAY 1990



Steve Rollings and Bill Rawlinson



The Boomerang throwing contest. (The winner was Ade Broadbank).



Janine Slade winning the thong (flip-flop) throwing contest.



Garry MacDonnell and his Dad winning the wheel barrow race.



Tug-of-War winners O' Bty, Sect 2.



The AUSTCIVPOL Tug-of-War team.



The SWEDCIVPOL team



The CANCON team.

AUSTCIVPOL UPDATE

NEW YEAR

1990 was welcomed first of all at 1500 hours on 31 December Cyprus time because in the eastern states of Australia it was already 1 January 1990. The contingent gathered in the mess to celebrate the arrival of the New Year together. There are



Supt Bob Bradley 31.12.89 (You'll see by the clock it's already 1990 in Australia).

members in this contingent from both eastern and western seaboard of Australia so we were able to see the New Year in each time the sun rose across Australia. Naturally we then celebrated the coming of 1990 to Cyprus.



Supt Cooper with visiting A.F.P. Welfare Officer Sgt Angela Brown.

The New Year started well for us with a visit by one of the Australian federal Police Welfare Officers, Sergeant Angela Brown. Angela was on her way home after visiting the UK and decided to see Cyprus for herself.

A helping hand

One of the most pleasant aspects of being in Cyprus is to find oneself in a position to give a helping hand to the less fortunate. The proceeds of the 1989 Melbourne Cup race day held on the UNPA were shared by two



Sgt Gunther Moebus and Sister Victoria at Kormakiti.

needy organisations. Commander Alan Mills handed a cheque to Ms A Leontiou the Principal of the Evangelismos Special School in Nicosia and Sergeant Gunther Moebus handed a cheque to Sister Victoria of the Franciscan Order at Kormakiti.

Comings and goings

Since our last issue we have said goodbye to our resident little green monster, Driver Phil Rogers RCT who was attached

to AUSTCIVPOL for six months. Phil left us on 9 January and



Dvr Phil Rogers in one of his 'action' poses.

returned to the UK to become a member of the Reading Fire Brigade. He told me he was sick of uniform? I don't know that he thinks firemen wear. All the best to you Phil and good luck in your new uniform. Driver Mick Crossely has taken Phil's place as MTO and is settling in well, welcome aboard Mick.

Two Sergeants have arrived from Australia recently to take up duty with the contingent. Sergeants John Myers and Melita Zielonko have now recovered from jet-lag and have commenced rostered duty. It is good to see you both and I hope you enjoy your stay on the island.

AUSTRALIA DAY - 26th JANUARY

In 1787, the twenty eighth year of the reign of King George the third, the British Government sent a fleet to colonize Australia.

Never had a colony been founded so far from its parent state, or in such ignorance of the land it occupied. There had been no reconnaissance. In 1770 Captain James Cook had made landfall on the unexplored east coast of this utterly enigmatic continent, stopped for a short while at a place named Botany Bay and gone north again. Since then, no ship had called: not a word, not an observation, for seventeen years, each one of which was exactly like the thousands that had preceded it, locked in historical immensity of

blue heat, bush, sandstone and the measured booming of glassy Pacific rollers.

Now the coast was to witness a new colonial experiment never tried before, not repeated since. An unexplored continent would become a jail. The space around it, the very air and sea, the whole transparent labyrinth of the South Pacific would become a wall fourteen thousand miles thick.

The first fleet arrived in Australia 26 January 1788 and so became Australia Day.

From that beginning Australia has become a nation with a multi-cultural society which is the pride of all Australians.

L BATTERY - NEW YEAR'S DAY MARCH

The 1st of January 1990, the dawning of a new decade, saw preparations already afoot for the Military Skills Competition and the DANCON march. L (Nery) Battery, the western sub unit in Sector 2, celebrated the New Year with a 21km patrol race along their section of the patrol track. This novel way of entering the new decade was the brainchild of Major John Buchanan, the Battery Commander, so it was only fitting that he lead from the front and

captain the 12 man team from Battery Headquarters.

Thus it was that 12 men each from 4, 5 and 6 Troop joined the team from Battery Headquarters on the starting line at OP B32. The teams set off running at 0900 hrs in bright sunshine and the atmosphere was one of high spirits and keen competition. The route led from OP to OP, where water and encouragement were dished out in equal measure and despite the very warm weather all teams stayed

in contention throughout the course.

Eventually 5 Troop proved the winners in a very good time of 2 hours 3 minutes. Battery Headquarters and 4 Troop crossed the line together shortly afterwards, followed scant seconds later by 6 Troop. All teams are to be congratulated for their great efforts and competitive spirit, and all team members agreed that it was a very unusual way of beginning the New Year!



Before



... and after!

TRANSPORT
SHORTAGE?
NOT SECTOR 2!

Pictured on his white UN bicycle is Gnr Escritt just having been relieved from duty in OP B14. The new addition to the UN vehicle fleet is one of 2 bicycles used to changeover sentries in L Battery's area.

ROCKET TROOP
VISITS SWEDCIVPOL

On 14th December, SWEDCIVPOL were visited by members of the 'Rocket Troop' the 2nd Regiment, Royal Artil-

lery who are currently serving as Sector 2, UNFICYP. The Swedish King was well toasted by both the Rocket Troop and SWEDCIVPOL!

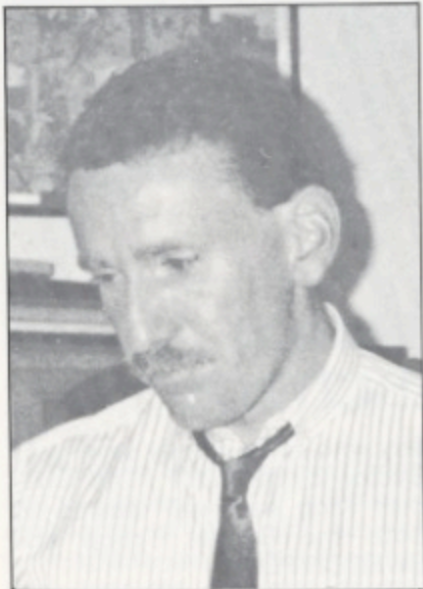


The Swedish Commander Ch Supt Thelin receiving the Rocket Troop shield from the Sector Two Commander, Maj Gillespie.

CYPRUS WALKABOUT - 1989

By: Sgt Pat Kehoe,
Trg NCO, UN MP Coy.

The Cyprus Walkabout, a two day event held at the end of 1989, followed the general pattern of a senior cross country orienteering competition for teams of three. On the first day the teams had to walk the 40kms from Episkopi to Troodos passing five checkpoints along the way. After a well earned overnight stay in Troodos the teams walked back to Episkopi on a different route. The total distance of the event being 80kms.



Sgt Mitchell.



MCpl Granberg

Representing UN MP Coy were Sgt Gordan Mitchell (team captain), Sgt Robert Andersson and MCpl 'Dino' Granberg. Gordan himself was no stranger to the event it being his second, and the knowledge he had gained from the first competition paid off in the end.

The team did well on day one arriving in Troodos with a time of 8 hrs and 03 mins. On the second day problems set in when 'Dino' injured his ankle,

nevertheless he kept going and the team arrived in Episkopi with a time of 12 hrs and 41 mins. At the finish line Robert was heard to say "It was pure pain, we did it but never again". But knowing Robert he will take part again the next time he is back in Cyprus.

The UN MP Coy did extremely well by coming 44th out of a total of 83 teams, beating the other teams that entered from the UN.

We salute them.



Sgt Andersson.

BUSY AUSCON ENGINEERS

During a night of storms and heavy rainfall several trees were uprooted in Camp Duke Leopold V and the command building was badly damaged. However things were soon put right with the help of the AUSCON engineers.

The AUSCON engineers, probably one of the busiest platoons in the sector are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are comprised of 19 men who are electricians, bricklayers, locksmiths, plumbers and carpenters under the command of 3 NCOs and 1 officer. Beside the installation and repair work their main task at the moment is building living quarters in the camp and along the Buffer Zone.



Storm damage at Camp Duke Leopold V.

AUSCON SPORTS CLUB ESTABLISHED

With the prompting of Maj Wildberger, DCO AUSCON, the Austrians founded sports club at the end of Dec 89. The fundamental idea was to coordinate and support the wide range of sports activities within AUSCON, as in the past it was up to individuals to organize their off-duty sporting activities.

Even though Austrians are known to be rather good on skis nine other forms of sport are now available to them including: water-skiing, squash, table tennis, windsurfing and tennis.

The chess section will organise a tournament within AUSCON during the rainy season. Darts, the typical British pub sport, is still uncommon



throughout Austria (although in Vienna there are 33 known teams), here in UNFICYP however, the sport is becoming quite popular especially with the soldiers at the OP's.

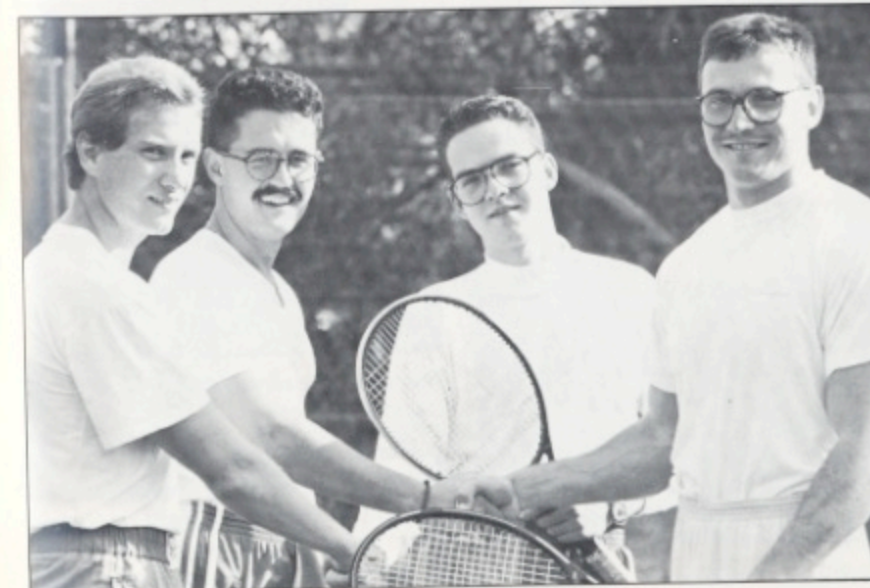
Mountain climbing is a well known sport in Austria and since

the Pentedaktylos ridge was first crossed by members of AUSCON last November a great interest in this sport was noticed. Capt Kraus, a qualified mountain guide in the Austrian Army will be teaching those interested using the correct safety

measures and techniques. Since the beginning of the year a group have been training on the rocks of Cape Greco and the hikers hope to use their sport to visit places of great beauty and surroundings all over the island.

Sector Four are still the UNFICYP volleyball champions and are prepared to defend their title using the facilities now provided by the new club.

Maj Moritz, Senior Humanitarian Officer was elected President of the club and the Vice President is Wol Holsmueller. The club is open to all members of UNFICYP and their families.



SP REGT ORIENTEERING COMPETITION



Above: UNFICYP Sig Sqn were the team winners of the competition seen here with Mrs Smedley.

NEW MEMBERS TO THE POLAR BEAR CLUB



The gathering before the swim.



The crowd running into the sea



Capt Giles (right) was the individual winner of the competition.

On Christmas Eve the traditional SWEDCON 'Christmas swim' took place at Camp Flamingo in Larnaca.

Members of the contingent and their relatives took part in this event, whereupon all were served hot 'Glögg' and later received the 'Polar Bear Swim' diploma.



The 'Glögg' is served on the beach. Comd Thelin at right.

This Christmas Eve, with its calm and sunny weather, it wasn't really something heroic to gain this diploma — in fact it was just like a Swedish summer day.

NICOSIA KART RACING CLUB



The club is open to all members of UNFICYP and their families and meet for practice every Wednesday afternoon. Anyone interested should



contact Sgt Terry James on extension 2442 or 2575. The track is located beside the runway near AUSTCIVPOL.



NEW UNPA PASS SYSTEM UNDERWAY

Tasked with the rationalization of the UNPA pass system, our OC Maj Nault is rumoured to have said quote piece of cake unquote. As it turns out his evaluation was somewhat in error as the project turned out to be closer to a whole cake as opposed to just a piece!

To underscore the many hours of overtime—some benevolently, (CAO to note) and the patience as well as the understanding shown throughout the completion of this project, the involved Coy personnel got together on 8 Dec 89 for a little cake and bubbly.



The CANCON kitchen does an excellent job in creating a false UNPA pass (cake).



Under the amused gaze of our Coy CWO, WO Thomas Portaankorva and Mrs Helen Ioannou of the Pass Control Office cut the cake.

en passant...

If you have any information you would like to see published in this section please telephone extension 2235 by Thurs 15th March.

DEPARTURES

4th Royal Tank Regiment (Sect 2)
13th/18th Royal Hussars (FSC Sqn)
66 Sqn RCT (Tpt Sqn)

ARRIVALS

2nd Field Regt RA (Sect 2)
C Sqn 9th/12th Royal Lancers (POW)
(FSC Sqn)
8 Sqn RCT (Tpt Sqn)



OC Sect 2 Lt Col Radcliffe



OC FSC Sqn Maj Jones



OC Tpt Sqn Maj Wright

VIP VISITORS TO UNFICYP IN JANUARY

Brig Gen Goran de Geer, (Swedish Ministry of Defence), to SWEDCON.

Brig Gen Adams, Comdr of Canada's Special Service Force, to CANCON.

The Earl of Arran, Under Secretary of State (Armed Forces), to BRITCON.

Rear Admiral Porter, Chief of Personnel Services of Canada's Armed Forces, to CANCON.

PROMOTIONS

Flt Lt Bickers RAF, ALO to Sqn Ldr.
Maj Zlamala, S02 Maint/Qtg to Lt Col.

PROMOTIONS IN SECTOR 2



W02 (RQMS) Evans, pictured running, has been selected for promotion to W01 and will take up his appointment as RSM of 104 Air Defence Regiment on our return to Germany.



SSgt Corker, Chief Clerk of 2nd Fd Regt, will be promoted in April to W02. SSgt Corker was recently joint winner of the UN Golf Medley competition.



Congratulations to LBdr Bradwell, recently promoted, pictured on the left with Gnr Dawes, both are Regimental Policemen.

WELCOME BACK

to Mr Clem Millgate - Accommodation Officer

SAFE DRIVING CERTIFICATES

were awarded by the FC to the following in January:

AUSTCIVPOL
SWEDCIVPOL
MP Coy

UNPA LIBRARY

The library is located behind St Michael's School in the UNPA at Nicosia and is open to all members of UNFICYP and their families.

Opening hours are:

MON to FRI
0900 - 1130 hrs
1600 - 1800 hrs

SAT
0900 - 1030 hrs

COMING OF AGE?



Congratulations to Rhonda Martin, wife of PMC Keith Martin. Rhonda wants everyone to know that she had a very special birthday recently.

DOUBLE WEDDING AT SWEDCON



Congratulations to Insp Mats Paulsson, SWEDCIVPOL who married Eva and W01 Stig Edqvist, UN MP Coy SIS who married Kristina on 30th December 1989.

The ceremony was officiated by the DANCON Chaplain Kjeld Burgby and was followed by dinner at the SWEDCIVPOL HQ in Larnaca.