

# THE Blue Beret

February 1993





## VISIT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AUSTRALIA



Maj Gen Minehane (left) greeting HE Mr Evans on his arrival at HQ UNFICYP, with Cmdr Bryant in the centre.

Recently, HE Mr G Evans, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Australia paid a courtesy call on the Force Commander, UNFICYP, Maj Gen Michael Minehane, while on a visit to Nicosia. Mr Evans discussed Australia's commitment to UNFICYP and he was accompanied by HE Mr E Stevens, Australian High Commissioner, and Cmdr Harry Bryant, Contingent Commander, Australian Civilian Police Element, UNFICYP.

During the visit, Mr Evans availed himself of the opportunity to meet with HE Mr Camillon, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who briefed him on the recent Cypriot talks held in New York.

## THE BRITCON MEDICAL CENTRE

by Sgt SJ Noble

Within BRITCON, in common with the rest of UNFICYP, there have been many changes, namely a large turnover of staff and the movement of the Families Medical Centre from the 'Patch'. The arrival of the Families facility, has meant much re-organisation, with the dispensary being converted into a Families Room. Thanks must go to Major Chaytors and WO1 Walsh for the speedy and efficient manner in which this work was completed. Hopefully, any disruption of services caused by this move has now ended.

We have recently said goodbye to Capt Campbell, LBdr Stammers and Gnr Knight of 5 Regt RA, after six months' sterling service. With the departure of FSC Sqn we have said goodbye to LCpl Lyons who returns to the UK. Sgt Durkin has recently left us to work at RMA Sandhurst.

Early January saw the departure of Sgt Noble, Cpl Harrison and Cpl Malcolm, to be

replaced by Sgt Sweeny and three new medics who will bring us back up to normal strength.

We also wish a fond farewell to our drivers after six months' hard graft.

Congratulations to WO1 Newbon who has recently

left UNFICYP and is soon to be commissioned. We wish him good fortune in the future.

We hope that you all have an enjoyable and healthy tour in Cyprus, and that we don't see you too often!



Back Row: Gnr Knight, LCpl Cocks, Dvr Hankin Middle Row: Pte Myatt, Cpl Malcolm, LBdr Stammers, LCpl Lyons, Dvr Harries, Cpl Middleton, Cpl Harrison Front Row: Sgt Gillies, WO1 Newbon, Maj Trevillyan, Lt Col Skipworth, Capt Campbell, Sgt Noble, Sgt Durkin.

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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**  
Austrian soldiers  
prepare for night patrol  
by S/Sgt Karl Füsselberger

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

In this month's issue, we publish the final article from A Sqn 16/5 Queen's Royal Lancers who provided the personnel for the Force Scout Car Squadron in its last tour of duty with the Force. The ubiquitous "Ferrets" were the eyes and ears of UNFICYP right from the earliest days in 1964 and, in fact, at one time prior to the restructuring of UNFICYP in 1974, these trusty vehicles were also manned by the Danish and Canadian Contingents.

With the withdrawal of the Force Scout Car Squadron from UNFICYP's Order of Battle, these historic vehicles will no longer be seen throughout the Buffer Zone, much to the regret of a great many here in UNFICYP. The net result is, the Force loses a valuable rapid reaction capability, the British Cavalry Regiments who have provided the squadrons for this task lose an interesting posting and UNFICYP's erstwhile cavalry personnel lose a nostalgic local reminder of the vaunted "cavalry dash". Meantime, this period of UNFICYP's history closes with the Ferrets being returned to the care of the Ordnance Depot where, like faithful cavalry mounts, they await further orders.

By contrast, on another page in this issue, there is a feature on a unit which also has served the Force equally well since 1964, albeit from a very different perspective. This unit too serves all sectors and its quiet efficiency, dedicated service and valuable contribution to UNFICYP's operations is worth noting. We refer, of course, to the UNFICYP AAC Flight, operated by Support Regiment.

So, although UNFICYP may have lost its cavalry "eyes and ears", it can continue to rely on the UN Fit to retain an invaluable operational capability, namely that of overseeing the BZ and UNFICYP's area of interest in a way that cannot be matched by any other element of the Force - yet another case of how a positive attitude, an essential ingredient for peace-keepers, can assist UNFICYP as it overcomes another operational challenge in a period of shrinking resources.

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## SWEDES IN CYPRUS

by Sgt Per Jystrand



Lennart Rapp (left) and Lennart Soederberg

Every year, on St Lucia's Day, SWEDCIVPOL invite Swedes who live on the island to visit them in their camp, and in 1992, we did this again. Among the guests we had two gentlemen with the same first name - Lennart.

**Number 1** is Lennart Soederberg, nicknamed Liston. He is a soccer trainer for the super league team Anorthosis FC in Larnaca. Originally, Lennart played soccer in the Swedish national team, and he played ice hockey in the First Division.

Lennart has also trained teams in Norway, Denmark, Portugal and Sweden. He specializes in taking teams from lower divisions and bringing them up to first division level!

In 1965, he played with the Swedish national team versus Cyprus in Famagusta (Sweden won, 5-0). After the match, the Swedish team was invited to the Swedish UN Camp Victoria. As they were sitting down to dinner, some shots were heard - in fact, rounds impacted on the roof and the walls, causing everybody to dive for cover. It was a local incident in the intercommunal problems of that time. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident.

"Now that I am back", Liston continues, "I shall try to take Anorthosis to the top. This has never happened before." For the record, his nickname is that of the world heavyweight champion of 1965!

**Number 2** is a real veteran - Lennart Rapp. Originally in Sweden, Lennart worked as an officer in an armoured regiment. His first UN mission was in Korea, 1963-1964. Lennart too remembered his first visit to Cyprus. This was as a consequence of his second UN mission in Gaza in 1967. During this tour, the Six Day War broke out. His battalion was under fire for a couple of days and the Swedes had to dig

themselves in. The War, and the withdrawal of Egyptian consent to UN presence, caused the UN force, UNEF, to be withdrawn. The Swedes were sent to Cyprus. "I liked the island so much that I returned in 1969". During this tour with UNFICYP, Lennart worked in the Logistics Branch.

"After three and a half years with UNFICYP, my wife and I bought some land in Mazotos, seven km west of Larnaca". He retired as a Lt Col, settled there and continues to hope for a solution of the Cyprus question. Lennart recommends Lawrence Durrell's book "Bitter Lemons" as good background reading for anybody on Cyprus.

When I visited Lennart and his wife Ulla in Mazotos, he showed me a large, beautiful garden and said: "I have been in several wars, but have never been fired on personally. Here in my garden, hunters have hit me three times with buck shot!"

## CAPT JG ROBSON RAOC, OFFICER COMMANDING, ORDNANCE DETACHMENT



Capt John Robson has been OC Ordnance Detachment since April 1991 and is also the UNPA Fire Officer.

John has seen service in BAOR, Aden, Bahrain, the Outer Hebrides, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. He is a keen golfer, and is the Secretary of the United Nations Golf Club.

John is married to Sylvia, who is employed in HQ UNFICYP. They have three grown up sons and are accompanied by their youngest, Lee, who is studying for his 'A' levels.



## THE FORCE SCOUT CAR SQUADRON'S FAREWELL

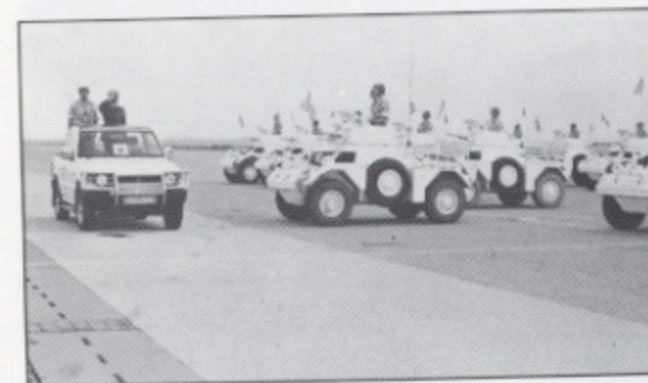
by Capt C Hedley



After a week of rehearsals and with more than a few nerves, the Squadron formed up in front of the Airport Terminal Building for our final parade on Friday 11 December. The Force Commander inspected the Squadron and in his speech, he thanked all previous Squadrons; he made it very clear too that the Scout Car will be missed, not only for its important operational role, but for the style and dash for which the Cavalry are noted. This was followed by the Scout Cars' driving through the ranks of the Squadron. Next the foot guards marched past and left the parade ground, leaving the runway clear for the Scout Cars' final drive past. This was carried out at high speed, in two directions (head to head), leaving a haze of scarlet and green smoke. A fitting end to the final parade of the final Scout Car Squadron.



Ferrets drive through the Squadron ranks



Final review of FSC Sqn

The Squadron finally finished its operational commitments on Tuesday 15 December and began the arduous task of handing over to the many different agencies. All the Ferrets were taken to Akrotiri to be handed back to the Ordnance Depot, then all stores were handed back and the accounts closed.

The main party departed for home on Tuesday 22 December. The rear parties remained to finish handing over, and the remaining few personnel left Cyprus on 12 January.

A Squadron, has now returned to Wimbish to rejoin the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers and prepare for the end of yet another era in June this year when they amalgamate with the 17th/21st.

It is very sad for the Royal Armoured Corps to lose one of its favourite postings. Service with

the UN is always rewarding and a good opportunity to meet and work alongside different nationalities. This is particularly true of the Scout Car Squadron as each line troop has worked with every contingent during the tour and patrolled every part of the line. Despite each section having a different flavour, different terrain and different problems to overcome, we have enjoyed working in each one; variety really is the spice of life out here. On the same note, we wish to thank all the sectors who have looked after us so well. We have also benefitted from the platoons which each contingent supplied for the Force Reserve exercises.

We would like to wish UNFICYP all the best in the future. On behalf of all the Squadrons that have served here, we thank everybody who made this a very rewarding and enjoyable job. Farewell.



Squadron foot guards march past



## SECTOR FOUR NEWS

## CULINARY ARTISTS

Everyone knows that one of the most important things to keep a soldier going is his food. It is also known that the Austrians love good food and they will not miss out, wherever they may be. So, one of the most important sections in our Camp is - the kitchen.

Everyone else is still sleeping when the team of cooks gets up to prepare breakfast. While we are eating our first meal of the day, potatoes are being peeled and meat is being prepared for lunch. Fortunately for us, we have an excellent baker who prepares many desserts and cakes for us. Not only is the food good enough to be served in a first class hotel, but the decoration cannot be beaten.

After a short break in the afternoon, our masters are back at work preparing dinner with as much trouble as they went to at lunchtime. In the evening, after a



One of the shifts: (from the left) MCpl H Knauder, MCpl D Kloihofer, WO P Hehl, MCpl K Zimmer, LCpl W Auzinger

long day, the cooks finish. As we renewed our kitchen recently, the cooks have a lot more facilities to help them to prepare the meals.

The soldiers of Sector Four would like to say "thank you" to all our cooks for a job well done.

## FAREWELL TO THE FSC SQN IN ATHIENOU

With the cut in the Force, not only have AUSCON reduced in size but we have also lost some very good friends. The Ferret Scout Car Troop, located in Camp Izay in Athienou, have said their goodbyes for good. For this reason, we held a parade at the Camp before they departed.

Many times the FSC Sqn carried out patrols from Athienou to OP A-28 in the east of the Buffer Zone. The Ferret vehicles were



From the left: Maj E Wallig (OC 1 Coy), Lt Col H Hossinger (CO UNAB) and Maj Snell (OC FSC Sqn) in front of the vehicles in Camp Izay.



Austrians bid farewell to FSC Tp

the strong arm of the Force Reserve and often supported Sector Four during demonstrations and other incidents. We would like

to say "thank you" to our British comrades for the support and good relationship we had, and wish them all the best in the future.

Articles by Capt F Wanka

## SECTOR FOUR NEWS

## THE MARCH THROUGH THE BUFFER ZONE OF SECTOR FOUR

The ability to march long distances with full kit is the mark of a soldier. For this reason, AUSCON carries out the Buffer Zone march after every rotation. Soldiers of every rank who have recently arrived on the island have to do this march through two parts of the Buffer Zone. To adjust to the conditions in Cyprus, we always start the march in the 2 Coy area, which is a distance of approx 10km. The starting line is near the SBA at Ayios Nicolaos and the finish is at OP A-28, where one can take a bath after a long day.

A few days later, the soldiers continue the march in the 1 Coy area, which is a distance of approx 20km.



The march through the "Desert"

This part of the march is from Pyla to Troulli, where a shooting exercise is held.

After the shooting exercise, they carry on towards Karavous. They then walk down the plain of Athienou and finish up at Camp Izay.

During this march, there is plenty of fruit and water supplied by HQ Coy, for all companies. Thousands of soldiers have marched through the Buffer Zone.

This practical orientation and training exercise is likely to continue for future members of UNAB.



Lt Col H Hossinger (second from right) accompanied by soldiers on his way through the Buffer Zone

## GOODBYE 1992

## Welcome 1993

On New Year's Eve, what else could the Austrians in Sector Four do but hold a big party in CDL V.? As usual, we started with an excellent dinner. The only tedious part of such an evening is waiting for the various courses to be served. To shorten the time, a local belly dancer entertained the audience.

After chatting for a while, suddenly the lights went out and it turned very quiet in the room. What now?? As the lights were turned back on, our Field Post Master was on the "stage", playing the violin, together with Cpl Bruckner who played the guitar. This turned out to be a very good concert of country and western music. So time passed by and the New Year arrived. The party was still going on in the early morning - it is said that the last left at dawn...



Lt Col W Wildberger welcomes the guests

Articles by Capt F Wanka



## SECTOR TWO NEWS

## AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING FOR THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS

## BALAKLAVA SQUADRON

by Lt PG Sandford QRIH



St David's Camp

The weather proved to be more unpredictable than we had anticipated. Temperatures dropped considerably and it rained continuously. Our humour was not improved by the occasional remark from the previous UN Roulement Regiment like "That river bed never had water in until you arrived" (indicating an inland sea which had recently formed), and "it was so hot that we were able to swim up until November". Our hardships at the hands of the elements, however, were entirely eclipsed by the ordeal suffered by those at St Patrick's Camp in Skouriotissa.

The OPs had their own problems with which to deal, including the reorganisation along the Buffer Zone and increased patrolling to cover their areas. These tasks were completed successfully and the only major problem encountered was in replacing the Irish Bridge (water runs over it, rather than under) which had been swept away by the torrent that flowed as a result of the rains. Each OP is learning to become reliant on "home grown" chefs who have surpassed most expectations in culinary expertise.

Christmas lunch was deemed a success by all, although the Christmas present list left a little to be desired. SQMS Sparks did not receive any new front teeth, despite the fact that he had fallen victim to the rugby pre-match build-up, and Lt Sugrue did not receive the new rugby team which he so obviously needed after Balaklava Sqn trounced his team in the Christmas match.

was to be. A great deal of work awaited both him and Capt Preston's 39 Regt RE. New offices and briefing rooms had to be constructed in order to squeeze an RHQ operations centre into what was formerly a coy location. A communications system had to be set up and the whole camp needed rewiring and modernising. Furthermore, all the equipment and furniture had to be moved into messes and accommodation.

Nature struck again in the midst of this disarray and cockroaches infested the cookhouse, which had to be closed, leaving everyone to cook outside on portable stoves.

The next in a catalogue of disasters was generated when drainage systems failed, propelling sewage into the streets. The Engineers coped admirably with this and many other problems, but the worst was yet to come...

The local villagers described it as a "wall of water, one metre high", which swept through Skouriotissa and into St Patrick's Camp Officers' Mess.

## SECTOR TWO NEWS

## DETTINGEN SQUADRON

by Lt SJ Boreham QRIH



14 Rec 92: DANCON at Viking Camp hand over to Sector Two

The Advance Party of QRIH arrived on 1 December, and Dettingen Sqn had until 1200 hrs on 15 December to prepare for our takeover.

Our HQ was based in Viking Camp with the Danes and we learned our respective jobs from our Danish opposite numbers. This proved to be an interesting experience - most of us have never worked with the Danish Army, but even fewer have had experience with a Danish UN unit. We were, of course, made very welcome, and the Danes did all they could to pass on as much of their experience as possible.

As DANCON began to wind down, the more practical problems of the handover began to be addressed. Common to all these was the fact that Viking Camp in Xeros was to become Dettingen Sqn

HQ, whereas in the past it had been the HQ of the Danish Bn. The Irish Hussars RHQ on the other hand was to be based in Skouriotissa, previously a Danish Coy HQ. Moreover, the Coy HQ at Limnitis was to close and become an OP. All of these changes made for a mismatch of resources at Sqn and Regt level, therefore a carefully thought out plan was put into practice which covered the necessary movement of paperwork, maps and communications equipment.

Once the remainder of our troops had arrived, we had only a week to make final preparations for our takeover. The parade at Viking Camp befitted the end of an era. For 27 years the Danes had been in this area and it was an historic moment for them to hand over to a British Contingent and thereby begin a new chapter in the UN history of the island.

At once, having taken the reins, the Irish Hussars of Dettingen Sqn set to work making the camp as homely as possible. Regimental signs were erected and painting was going on everywhere. The former Officers Mess was turned overnight into an Officers' and SNCOs' Mess, whilst the former Sgts' Mess became the Junior Ranks' Mess. The Quartermaster moved in, along with his department and staff, and the Doctor set about redecorating his Medical Centre. Having said all this, there is still much work to be done, but Viking Camp is beginning to feel like home.

Our first few weeks have been relatively quiet, although we have seen some activity, chiefly in the form of hunting. Thankfully the season has now ended and with luck, we can look forward to a peaceful tour, now that we have settled in to our new role.

## ALAMEIN SQUADRON

by 2Lt VS Beale AGC

The QRIH Pre-Advance Party comprising of 15 men flew out of RAF Lyneham on 23 November 1992, incognizant of what lay in store for them.

When the aeroplane was diverted from its scheduled landing in Akrotiri to Paphos, owing to one of the worst electrical storms in the history of the island, the Pre-Advance Party were not at all disturbed. It was only when the 2 i/c complimented the pilot on his smooth landing and he replied, "not bad, considering I should have been 12 metres further to the right", that the passengers felt rather shaken.

This inauspicious start did not discourage the 2 i/c, however, who had been looking forward to his tour of duty in Cyprus, and he proceeded along to St Patrick's Camp in Skouriotissa, where RHQ



Tpr J Cynrik and Tpr C Lloyd sweeping away flood water

The Engineers leapt into action once more, sand-bagging the doors of the building and raising furniture off the floor. Members of the Irish Hussars Advance Party, who had only just arrived, built a

makeshift dam to divert some of the several thousand gallons of water away from the Officers' Mess. The flood had originated in a section of the open mine above the village of Skouriotissa, which over the years had filled up with water and finally burst its sides.

This latest of nature's artifices left approximately 10cm of mud on the floors of the Officers' Mess. Once everyone (bar the officers) had stopped chortling, the cleaning up process commenced. Chaos reigned for a whole week, but the debris was cleared away in time for the arrival of Alamein Sqn members who had flown out with the Main Party.

Now, greatly indebted to the Royal Engineers, and with roofs that don't leak, adequate communications, kitchens which have been purged of cockroaches, and an assurance from the Greek Cypriots that the flood was a "one-off", Alamein Sqn are starting to settle down to a peaceful life!



## CANCON NEWS

## CANADIAN CONTINGENT MEDAL PARADE

At the beginning of December, the 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery celebrated a significant event during its tour here in Cyprus, that event being the presentation of the UN Cyprus Medal to members of the Regiment.

The parade was held at night



Maj-Gen MF Minehane, accompanied by LCol MD Capstick, inspect some of the members of Operations Battery 1 RCHA

behind the Ledra Palace Hotel which maximized the effects of both lighting and the stirring music provided by the combined bands of the 1 RCHA Pipes and Drums and the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. All four Batteries were represented.



Pipe Major J Huggins (Ret'd) of the 1 RCHA Pipes and Drums gives his all to ensure the success of the Canadian Contingent Medal Parade.



The Col Comdt, Col RA Jacobson, presents Gnr JP Langford of Rural Battery with his UN Cyprus Medal.

Maj Gen MF Minehane, FC UNFICYP, presented the UN peace-keeping medal, assisted by Colonel His Honour Judge RA Jacobson, the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Afterwards, all took part in a reception. Needless to say, that night proved to be unforgettable.

## SECTOR THREE HOSTS THE CANCON SHOW



Rod Stewart (oops), Dave Battah, belts out another one for the appreciative crowd.



Juno Award winner, Cassandra Vassik, sings her latest hit "Wild Flowers" —

Sector Three recently hosted 21 entertainers from the CANCON Show. The show was titled Entre Amis (between friends) and featured dancers, various musical acts and a comedian. The show was held in the Junior Ranks Club which was full during every performance. Many VIPs and guests were present from other contingents, but the last night was for the Sector only.

The entertainers put on a fabulous show which began with the Sophy Nolet Dancers strutting their stuff for the soldiers. Following that were musical performances by Juno Award Winner (Canadian Grammy) Cassandra Vassik, Katee and Dave Battah who is actually Rod Stewart. For electric guitar fans, Toyo burned up the stage with his versions of many classic rock tunes. The laughs were provided by Tom Whelan.

Following each performance were receptions in the various messes and special events for the performers such as line tours, Grizzly rides and SCUBA diving at Ayia Napa. During the tour, a Canadian Television Network crew filmed many of the members of the Regiment at work and interestingly, a rock video of Cassandra Vassik singing her song "Wild Flowers" at OP CS-60.

Articles by Capt J Fortoloczky

## COLONEL COMMANDANT OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADIAN ARTILLERY VISITS SECTOR THREE

Sector Three, currently being manned by the 1st Regiment Canadian Horse Artillery, had the pleasure of hosting Colonel, His Honour Judge RA Jacobson, CD. He is the "head" of the Canadian Gunner Family and visited Cyprus in late 1992.

The appointment of Colonel Commandant is very important to the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Colonel Commandants are former members of the Regiment who are nominated to ensure that the interests of the Regiment are served at the highest levels. Their appointment is usually for a term of three years.

Colonel Jacobson was born in Calgary, Alberta, and graduated from the University of Alberta with a law degree in 1959. Since then he has lived in Lethbridge, Alberta where he has practised law and was appointed judge to the Alberta Provincial Court in 1979. He began his military career by joining the Royal Canadian Engineers (Militia) in 1959. In 1960, he transferred to the 18th Field Regiment, Royal



Col Comdt RA Jacobson (right), Bdr RD Tholberg (centre) and Lt JG Pospolita discuss the finer points of patrolling the Buffer Zone.



Colonel Commandant RA Jacobson receives an OP briefing from Gnr DJ Ricard at CS-52 Normandie, as LCol MD Capstick (right) and Lt JB Hansen look on.

Canadian Artillery (Militia). There he served as a Battery Commander 93 Field Battery and later commanded the Regiment from 1967 to 1970. From 1977 to 1980 he commanded the Southern Alberta Militia District. His appointment exemplifies the on going commitment of the Canadian Armed Forces to the "Total Force" concept of the integration of both regular and reserve forces.

While here, Colonel Jacobson awarded UN Cyprus Medals to the soldiers of Sector Three. He toured every part of the Sector and met just about everyone. Two events are of particular note; his attendance at the Mess Dinner in celebration of the patron saint of Gunners (St Barbara), and his participation as one of the reviewing officers of the Sector Three Medal Parade.

The 1st Regiment was pleased to enjoy Colonel Jacobson's company in Cyprus and looks forward to his next visit.

UN TPT SQN  
IN EX SAFE DRIVE 92

From the left: S/Sgt Haughton, Cpl McDaid and Dvr Miller-Cooke

S/Sgt Steve Haughton led a team from the UN Tpt Sqn - Cpl Jim McDaid, Dvr 'Cookie' Miller-Cooke and himself in EX SAFE DRIVE 92 in Dhekelia. Sgt 'Budgie' Bird went along in support as team coach.

The team underwent a series of rigorous tests as part of the Competition and finished overall with a very creditable fourth placing. During the course of the Competition, they managed to win the trophies of the Cross Country phase, and also the Safe and Skilled Quiz "Drive Alive". Well done!!





## LARGER SECTOR FOR CANCON

The announcement by the Danish Government that it would be leaving Sector One affected not only its immediate neighbour, but Sector Three as well. Both Sectors Two and Three were directed to shift westwards by the Force Commander, Maj-Gen Minehane. In addition, this shift was to be completed by 15 December 92.

So with this new mission, the Commander of Sector Three, Lt Col MD Capstick, the Battery Commanders and the Operations Officer set about formulating the plan in cooperation with Sector Two. This shift primarily affected A (City) Bty 1 RCHA and Q Bty 5 RA. In fact, this meant that the total length of A (City)



Bdr DE Milligan looks out from CB-22 into the Buffer Zone



The newly renamed "CB-21" Mohave

Bty's area of responsibility grew from 3.2 to 10.5 kms.

After the planning and coordination, the sectors began to hand over the new area on 16 November. Troops from Sector Three began to man and patrol with members of Sector Two. The Battery Commanders of A (City) Bty and Q Bty 5 RA, along with the Troop Commanders of both Batteries, began the detailed briefings and introductions necessary to effect this transfer. Of course, there were logistic and administration problems to be overcome, but in the end, it all happened as per the original plan, leaving City Bty with responsibility for 14 OPs, two gates and two extra troop houses.

## THE KARPAS HUMANITARIAN PATROL

Every Wednesday morning is an early start for LCpl Ingham and the lads of his Section. At 0700 hrs, the three vehicles of the UNHCR Section and their six drivers depart for two locations. One Bedford truck goes to Larnaca to pick up gas bottles, and two UNHCR 8 tonne Bedford vehicles go to the Government Supply Institute in Nicosia to pick up foodstuffs for the refugees in the north of Cyprus.

From these two locations, the vehicles proceed to Camp Duke Leopold V in the Austrian Sector and form a convoy with escorts from the Police, UNHCR and AUSCON. The crew then proceed North, calling at various villages including Rizokarpaso, Trikomo and Ayia Trias. At these locations, foodstuffs and gas bottles are handed over. Sometimes the lads are required to help with house moves with some of the villagers - this involves extra vehicles and men and obviously it then becomes a longer detail! At about 1800



Dvrs Cooksey and McKee handing out gas bottles to grateful villagers

hrs, the vehicles are finally returned to their respective vehicle bays in the Transport Squadron lines; the end of another long day in the service of the United Nations in Cyprus.

## VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM

In January this year, a team of twenty Australian archaeologists from Melbourne, Australia completed a two month excavation at the Early and Middle Bronze Age site beside Marki village (Nicosia District) which was occupied between about 2500 and 1700 BC.

Funds for the expedition were provided by the Australian Government, but the students contributed their own fares to come to the island. Cypriot communities in Melbourne also supported this research, while in Cyprus, additional support was provided by the Rotary Club of Nicosia.

Over this period, a number of Australian Federal Police from the 37th Contingent visited the site to gain a better understanding of



From the left: Stn Sgt Robinson, Dr David Frankel and Dr Jenny Webb

archaeological investigation and to learn more about the history of Cyprus and, indeed, the Mediterranean area as a whole.

## OPERATIONAL CHANGES - AUSTCIVPOL

by Supt K Hunt



Stn Sgt Brian Whinnen out on the ground in Sector Two

As a more efficient means of meeting the changed position in UNFICYP, a reorganisation of AUSTCIVPOL into two operational squads was implemented in December 1992, each with two Station Sergeants and five Sergeants. Each squad will have prime responsibility of providing police support to Sectors Two and Three. One Station Sergeant and one Sergeant will remain attached to the Headquarters to provide



direct support to the Commander and the administrative support to the contingent.

There will still be the necessity for all members to be able to react to incidents in any part of the Buffer Zone, including the SWEDCIVPOL area.

## ACCOUNTS CLERK, ORD DET



Pte Keith Adams has been with UNFICYP since Nov 92. He is a supply controller and works at the Ordnance Detachment as the Accounts Clerk.

He is a single soldier who comes from Glasgow, Scotland.

Keith's normal duty station is with 6 Armd Wksp, Munster in Germany.



Royal Army Ordnance Corps



## UN MP NEWS



Nicosia Detachment, UN MP Coy was asked this Christmas if it would assist Santa Claus as he took a very unusual route to the UNFICYP Play Group to deliver his presents.

Santa couldn't use his usual mode of transport, so he decided to enlist the assistance of a helicopter from the UN Flight.

Much traffic control, both in the air and on the ground, was required to ensure Santa's safe delivery as he landed directly outside the Play Group on the main road, much to the delight of the children who looked on in amazement.

Traffic control for the Military Police is usually a mundane but necessary service provided to the UNFICYP Community, but not in this case, where public relations, smiling faces and an unusual means of transport

## SPECIAL VISITOR



Sgt D Newman, UN MP Coy bids farewell to Santa after his visit to the UN Play Group.

provided for an extremely gratifying duty.

The UN MPs will continue to

foster good relations and provide the best service possible to the Community it exists to support.

MP NCOs  
SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

by Sgt F Rickard

The Military Police Training NCO appointment moved from the Military Police Headquarters to the Nicosia Detachment as a result of personnel cutbacks.

Sgt Frank Rickard (IRCON), who has been employed as a Shift Commander since he joined UNFICYP at the end of June 92, took on the extra duties of MP Coy Training NCO.

MS(w) M Marin, who joined UNFICYP in December 92, has taken on the extra duties of MP Coy Sports Officer along with her shift duties in the Nicosia Detachment. She will be responsible for organizing sporting events, both within the MP Coy and UNFICYP.



Sgt Frank Rickard



MS (w) M Marin

THE ARMY AIR CORPS  
WITH UNFICYP

Members of UN Flight AAC carrying out MEDEVAC training

**A**rmey Aviation in the form of 2 Austers (Mk9) and 2 Sioux AH1 helicopters first arrived in Cyprus to support UNFICYP in 1964. They were originally known as the Force Aviation Flight. In 1965, 21 Flight Army Air Corps assumed the task and early in 1966, 4th Air Observation Troop RA took over. In August 1966 the deployment was regularised and UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps was formed. The Flight's original location was in what is now the RCT "Garage" in Jubilee Camp. However, it moved to its current location in April 1974 at the south easterly end of the Nicosia International Airport.



A Gazelle of UN Flight overflies the foothills of Troodos

Pre 1974, the Flight's main tasks were to resupply the Kyrenia Range OPs and liaison flying between the dispersed contingent locations. Since then, operations have been concentrated mainly on flights within the Buffer Zone. However, tasks today may include observation, reconnaissance, liaison, the limited movement of men and material, CASEVACs, MEDEVACs, in addition to such diverse tasks as humanitarian, ecological, search, rescue and assistance with fire fighting. Consequently, the AAC pilots have the broadest knowledge of the BZ and are usually the first to pick up any subtle changes to the cease-fire lines.

The aircraft in use today is the Gazelle AH1 which arrived on the island on 10 August 1988. There are three of these aircraft in the Flight. They collectively have flown a total of 4,404.5 hours. The overall "availability" of the three aircraft over the last two years has been in excess of 90%. In the last twelve months, the Flight has flown 1,060 hours in a total of 971 individual sorties. We have completed 12 CASEVACs and seven MEDEVACs. We have been involved in tasks to reconnoitre minefields, move a bomb disposal team to the site of UXB and a lengthy Search and Rescue Operation off the North coast.

The Flight is only 18 strong of which four are pilots, eight are technicians and the rest are ground crew. Out of the three aircraft, we provide two each day for tasking and one is always available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on one hour's notice to move, for any task, anywhere. We believe it is possible to be anywhere inside the BZ within 60 mins of being tasked, thereby enhancing the Force Commander's now depleted Force Reserve assets.

MAJOR TA SHARP AAC  
OFFICER COMMANDING UNFICYP FLIGHT AAC

Maj Tim Sharp was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1977. Following an initial posting to 16 AD Regt and a NI tour, he undertook a pilot's course. Subsequently he was posted to 3 Regt AAC and after three tours at BATUS, he returned for a second tour to NI.

In 1989, he was posted to the AAC centre as a tactical instructor

for student pilots. His third NI tour was in 1989 as SO3 G3 at HQ 3 Inf Bde and he returned to HQ 15 (NE) Bde after that; an appointment he held prior to his UNFICYP posting in Oct 92.

Major Sharp is married with two children and enjoys sailing, offshore racing, tennis, squash, golf, canoeing, skiing and riding.



## HELI FLIGHT IN ACTION

