

THE Blue Beret

February 1994



SECOND INTERCOMMUNAL DARTS COMPETITION

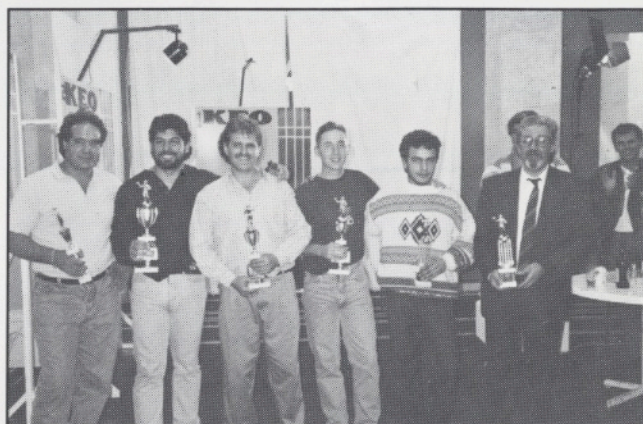
by Doug Child

On 25 September 1993, AUSTCIVPOL sponsored an intercommunal Darts Competition. The competition, which was reported in last November's edition of 'The Blue Beret', was held in the Buffer Zone at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The competition was entirely successful and resulted in a second competition, being held at the Ledra Palace Hotel on 26 November last year.

Once again, competition teams represented the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, and on this occasion, a team also represented the United Nations. A total of 60 Greek Cypriots and 59 Turkish Cypriots took part, with 18 members from the United Nations. After a welcoming speech by AUSTCIVPOL's Supt Mick Sheely and the presentation of memorial plaques, the games got underway.

The excellent quality of some players soon became evident and many a close game held the crowd's attention. The 'finals' revealed some superb darts. The top three positions were won by members of the Greek Cypriot community, Mr John Celigas, Mr Antonis Michael and Mr George Tripiniotis. In fourth position was Bdr Martin Murphy from 176 Bty, 39 Regt RA. All received trophies donated by KEO Breweries.

As on the previous occasion, both communities continually repeated their appreciation



The night's winners display their hard won trophies

of the United Nations in sponsoring and organising the competition. They also expressed their desire to continue to participate in what they described as a unique opportunity to mix freely with their fellow Cypriots.

During the evening, a Turkish Cypriot told the author a poignant story, which transpired after the first competition. One of the Turkish Cypriots showed his 11-year-old son a group photograph of the players taken during the evening. He was asked to point out the Greek Cypriots in the photo. Of the five persons he pointed to, three were Turkish. The story has apparently had wide circulation amongst the Turkish Cypriot community and may well tell a story in itself.

The next competition will be held this year, and it has been suggested that, with appropriate approvals, it may take the form of a 12 or 24 hour 'Dart-A-Thon', with the proceeds being split between the two communities and donated to thalassaemia research.

Once again, this sporting event resulted in the furtherance of goodwill between the two communities and is yet another advancement in the Confidence Building Measures for which the United Nations has been striving to achieve for so long.



A group photograph of some of the night's participants.

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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

Reflecting on the Austrian Medal Parade

by S/Sgt Karl Füsselberger

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

At his press conference in New York on 1 February, the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that there had been a "breakthrough" in regard to Cyprus. He mentioned that in late January, the leaders of the two communities had accepted in principle the package of Confidence Building Measures proposed by the Secretary-General during 1993. The package calls for the reopening of Nicosia International Airport and of the fenced area of Varosha, both under United Nations administration. When implemented, the package will represent the most significant development on Cyprus in two decades.

On 15 February, the two leaders further agreed to a specific agenda for Proximity Talks in Nicosia to work out the modalities for implementing the package. The talks began on 17 February, under the leadership of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr Joe Clark, and have continued since then with the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative, Mr Gustave Feissel.

It is very positive that the two leaders have now entered these clearly focused Proximity Talks, and all will hope that real progress will be made quickly. At the same time, the CBM package is not an end in itself, but rather will be a catalyst for the negotiation towards an overall settlement of the Cyprus problem.

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2ND ROYAL TANK REGIMENT UP AND RUNNING



by Capt Pete McIntyre

"Visit", "visit", "OPFOR lunch", "visit" reads the Regimental Forecast of Events. This apparently social calendar disguises a period that has witnessed progress and development throughout the Sector.

The operations staff have now met and lunched with OPFOR Regimental and Battalion Commanders in an effort to promote and improve amicable relationships. The lunches, held in the Ledra Palace Hotel, have proved both convivial and rewarding. Language barriers notwithstanding, they have provided an excellent opportunity to hasten the development of a close working relationship, while enjoying a meal and an exchange of professional banter on a mutually shared experience.



Lt Col White briefs the staff delegation at OP B-40

A number of prestigious visitors were received, briefed and given the now well-rehearsed Walled City Tour. A three-member staff delegation from the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which included Ms M Chambers, Mr F Record and Mr S Rademaker, clearly gave a thumbs-up on return to the US Embassy as they were followed swiftly by Mr



In the BZ with Mr Benesch, Mr Fujishima and Mr Suzuki

R Benesch, assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for operations.

He was accompanied by Mr M Fujishima and Mr A Suzuki from Japan, who were visiting the UN with a view to briefing their Prime Minister on ways to expand their national role in UN operations.

Attempting to assist the Humanitarian Cell, a group of 10 soldiers from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and Maj K Lacchini, one of Sector Two's Austrian UNMOs, responded to a touching article in the Cyprus Mail published on 10 Jan 94. The article highlighted the plight of thalassaemics in Cyprus and the urgent need for blood - without hesitation, the small band of volunteers gathered in the Nicosia General Hospital to give a unit of blood each. They would like to thank the nursing staff of the Nicosia General for being so gentle, and would highly recommend the after-care service!

On the sporting front, both rugby and football teams have been busy with varying degrees of success. A number of football games have been played at different levels; Normandy took on a good six-a-side team from Kyrenia and beat them 12-10 on the Astro



The Turkish Cypriot team still smiling after a hard game on the Astro Turf pitch.

Turf pitch in Northern Nicosia. They plan to play a National Guard team in Southern Nicosia in due course. Seven members of the Regimental team helped the UNFICYP team lose to Gunyali (7-2). At rugby, some 18 members of the Sector, including Royal Engineers and members of the UNFICYP Supply Detachment, have played for the Unicorns. They have played the Hornets, the Vultures and the Griffins! All matches were played in the true spirit of the game!

We continue to rise to any occasion.

Fear Naught



BURNS NIGHT

by Capt Pete McIntyre



The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment paid tribute to the great Scottish bard, Robert Burns, in the Officers' Mess at Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia on Saturday 29 January 1994. The event was a multi-national affair with at least 10 countries represented; Argentina, Australia, Austria, Denmark, England, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, the United States of America - and one rather dubious Welshman.

The evening followed the ethnic lines of a traditional Burns Supper and was musically supported by Pipe Major RE Hunter with a piper and drummer from our

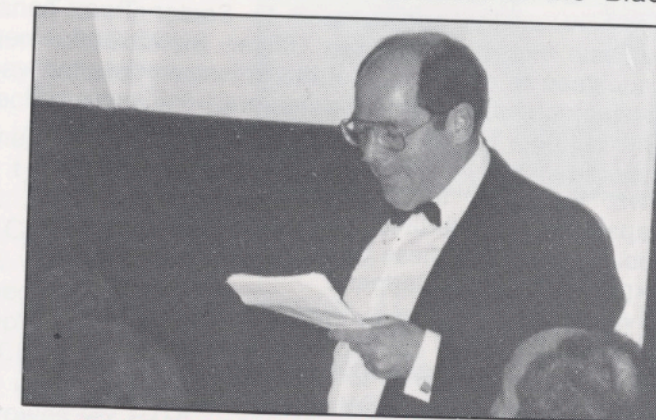


The Pipes and Drums of IRTR entertain an appreciative audience

sister Regiment, the First Royal Tank Regiment. Having welcomed the guests to the Mess, the Commanding Officer, Lt Col SJB White MBE, led by the Pipe Major, escorted the gathering to dinner where some 64 officers and guests celebrated the evening. The regulation supper consisted of Cockaleekie Soup, Haggis, Tatties and Neeps and a rather potent dessert

called Atholl Brose (based on oatmeal and whisky). Even members of the hastily formed Scottish Contingent found this a trifle (no pun intended) strong!

Following the meal, the assembly, which included the UNFICYP Force Commander, Maj Gen MF Minehane and his wife, were treated to a round of traditional after dinner-speeches. The principal guest speaker was Maj Jamie Erskine of the Black



Maj Jamie Erskine delivers the "Immortal Memory"

Watch, who delivered the "Immortal Memory" to a somewhat confused audience from "All Destinations South of the Border". The evening was concluded by a fine display of highland dancing by L/Cpl Campbell and Tpr Walker, who nimbly danced in and around their crossed broad swords.

By midnight, the true tradition of a Burns Supper had provided a unique evening enjoyed by a mixed cast of cultures which the great man himself would surely have endorsed.

Slainte

SECTOR FOUR EXPEDITION TO POLIS

by Maj H Reisinger

Nearly 20 years ago, the Austrian Battalion was situated at Polis and was commanded by Lt Col A Kloss, the father of AUSCON's present CO. A tragic accident occurred when an Austrian soldier, M/Cpl Oppolzer, drowned near a rock off the Baths of Aphrodite. In his memory, comrades built a wooden cross and erected it on top of the rock in 1974.

On 2 January 1994, a small expedition set off from Camp Duke Leopold V to refurbish the memorial. The OC HQ Coy, always one of the first if there is any work to be done, led the team, consisting of the AUSCON Eng Offr, who brought along the material, and the Sector's SOO.

It was no easy task, ferrying the material through rough seas and climbing a 20-metre high cliff with ropes and hooks. However, by the end of the day, a brand new metal cross had been erected, which will remind us of the tragic accident.



The AUSCON team in front of their newly erected cross.



SAPPER SWOP

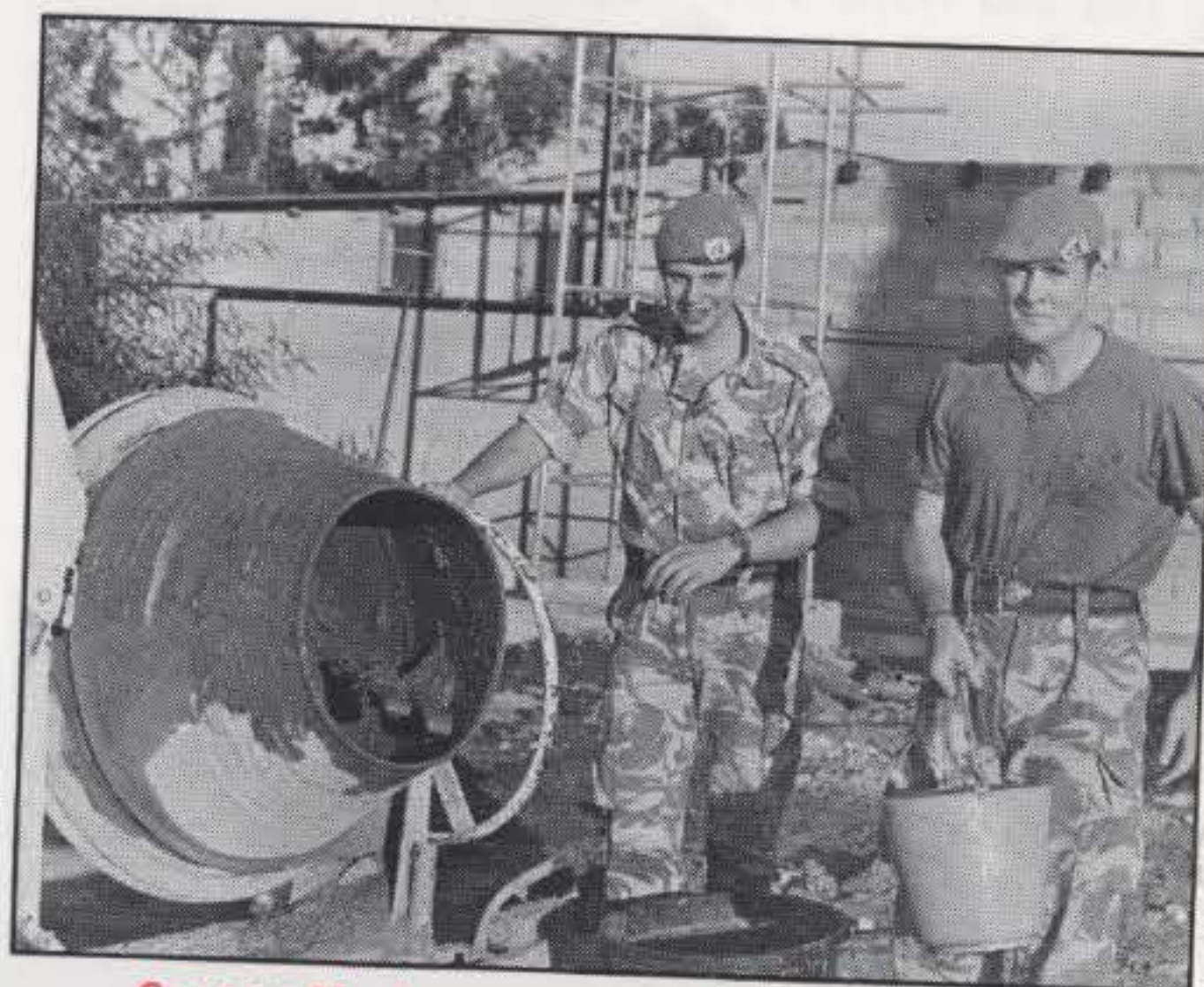
by Lt MP Turner RE
OC RE Det, 36 Engineer Regiment



In line with the take-over of 2 RTR as the Sector Two Regiment, the Royal Engineer Detachment saw a change-over of personnel. Unlike the United Nations Roulement Regiment, the Detachment is always provided by 36 Engineer Regiment, which is based in Maidstone, Kent, England.

The Detachment is responsible for providing Engineer advice and support to Sector Two. To facilitate this, they have an Officer, SNCO and 11 tradesmen to cover most of the artisan trades, such as electricians, plumbers, carpenters, bricklayers and one painter. The day-to-day work mainly involves maintenance of the UN OPs and houses within Sector Two. However, the Detachment does have the capability to undertake small projects such as OP rebuilds, and it is these tasks which provide the best experience for the Sappers.

Fortunately, most of the Detachment had either just completed a trade continuation training course or a construction tour prior to deployment. This enabled work to commence in earnest, even before the official handover date. In a very short time, the Detachment finished a number of tasks including rendering OP floors and stairs safe, installing new lighting and plumbing, as well as answering many emergency callouts.



Sappers Mayby and Brassington prepare mortar for rendering the new shower block in St David's Camp.

Tours of this type are rare, and it is a great opportunity for Sappers to get away from their Combat Engineer role and undertake work which provides a better and safer environment for those on peace-keeping operations.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LINE SQMS

by S/Sgt Mick Ribton

Our recent Christmas served to remind me that the job of a Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant (SQMS) during our tour here in Cyprus is not unlike that of Father Christmas, dispensing gifts from a Bedford sleigh, being tempted by the offer of a glass of port at each location, doing most of one's business at night, handling the socks that people have kindly laid out (this time taking them to be washed) and



Q Ribton and L/Cpl McLean check their "grotto".

living in a big grotto (Kingston House is more grotty than grotto)! That, though, is where the similarities end. Santa has never had to fix cookers, build a Squadron bar, negotiate with the local merchants and get rid of tonnes of human waste. Furthermore, he doesn't work 365 days a year, average over a hundred kilometres a day and still "smile".

In the theatre of operations where the emphasis rests heavily on the moderate, the peaceful and the friendly, my role out here in Cyprus has taken on a new meaning for an SQMS. No longer do I find myself following a complete squadron of tanks around the countryside in a landrover or truck, constantly having to keep up with the relentless pace of armoured operations. Instead, I have a much more unusual existence. While I am still busy, the day is a varied one which sees me travelling the line, dealing with the communities from both sides, in regular contact with members of the other contingents, yet still with time to enjoy a bacon butty from the YMCA! How different it is to be able to give service with a "smile".



AGC FIELD DETACHMENT

2nd Royal Tank Regiment - Sector Two

by Captain I M Jaggard-Hawkins AGC (SPS)



The AGC Field Detachment is the title given to members of the Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support) Branch serving with British Army units. As in the Corps itself, it is a recent development, which was introduced in 1992 as part of the re-organisation of the Army to bring together administrative functions under one cap badge. The first hurdle was to merge the RAPC, WRAC, ALS, RAEC, RMP and Staff Clerks of the RAOC. This took place in April 1992, followed a year later with the clerks from the REME and RCT transferring and the All Arms Clerks completing the process in July 1993.

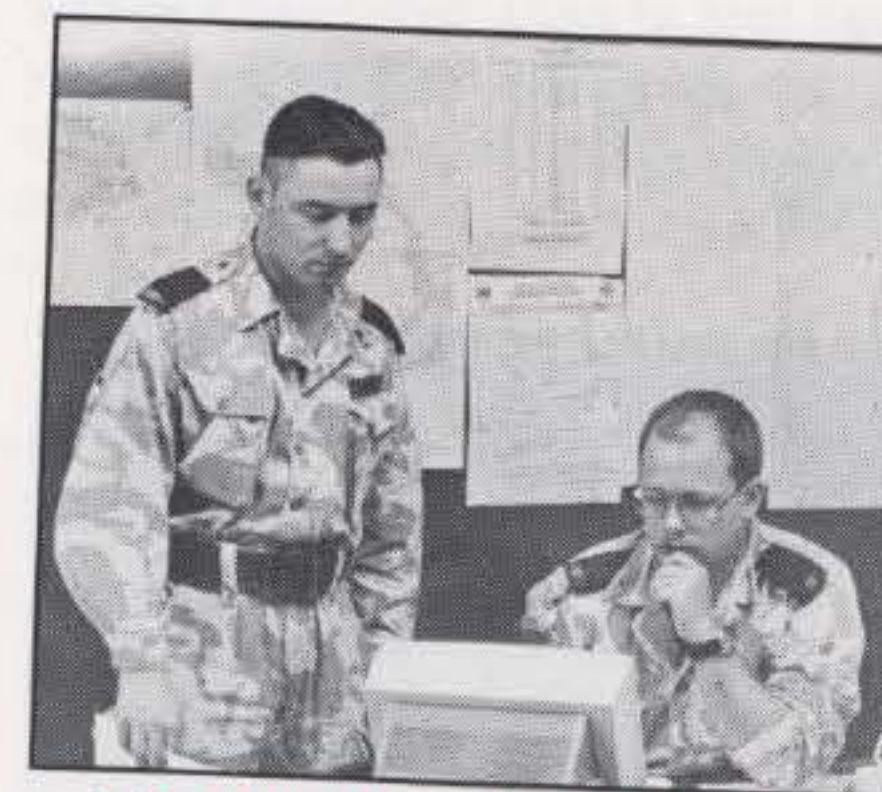
The AGC Field Detachment provides administrative support to the Regiment in the pay, personal documentation and general clerical areas such as Regimental Headquarters, the Quartermaster's Department and the two Squadrons, Burma and Normandy.

Here in Sector Two, the AGC Fd Det provides manpower similar to any operational tour. We are fortunate to have personnel from a varying background and ability. The Regimental Admin Office, another recent development, is based in Wolseley Barracks. This office is run by the RAO, Captain Jaggard-Hawkins, who is responsible for the management of the office. Under his command are one WO, two SNCOs, three JNCOs and one Pte, all with their own particular area of responsibility.

WO1 Noble (ex REME) is responsible for maintaining the Regimental funds, which in Cyprus are complicated to run, due to the majority of the funding being transferred through our home base in Fallingbommel to the local Nicosia branch of Barclays. Conversion in exchange terms can prove difficult, especially at the end of each month.

On the pay side of the office is SSgt Mercer (ex RAPC), who is also the Imprest Holder, and LCpl Farrow (ex RTR), who manages the front desk element, dealing with personal pay problems from separation allowance to changes in banking arrangements. Both are involved in the pay parades held throughout the Sector.

The major element of the office is dedicated to personal documentation. This area is managed by our Chief Clerk, Sgt Taylor (ex 16/5L), who arrived in Fallingbommel immediately prior to the tour and promptly volunteered his services. The Chief is assisted in his day-to-day running of the office by Cpl Burrows (ex RTR), who also manages the unit's computer system "PAMPAS"; this in itself can be quite demanding, as the system is old and prone to errors, but we survive. Maintaining our movements is LCpl Massey (ex RTR), who, it is understood, has taken to mountain biking during his spare time. Last but not least is Pte Roche (ex RTR), who is responsible for filing, despatch and postal facilities.



S/Sgt Mercer works with PAMPAS while Pte Roche watches bemused...

In Regimental Headquarters is Cpl Double (ex RTR), who provides clerical support to the Second-in-Command. This area covers the on-going requirement to ensure that courses are bid for, forecasts of events are produced and



Cpl Double and Cpl Burrows book out prior to a run

records are maintained. Cpl Double also maintains the IT equipment used by RHQ officers.

LCpl Williams (ex 16/5L) is the NCO responsible for the clerical input to the Joint Operations Centre. His role is to ensure that information processed through the JOC is readily accessible to the Ops Team and also to maintain a high standard of clerical support to this very busy organisation.

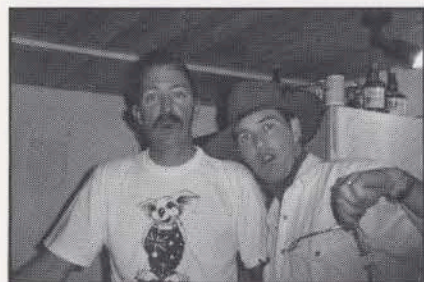
The two line Squadrons, Burma, who are responsible for the City area and Normandy, who maintain the western area, are supported by LCpl Marshall (ex RTR) and LCpl Kilgallon (ex REME), respectively. Both are kept very busy maintaining the administrative support required in their respective squadrons.

The final member of our team is Pte Baker (ex RTR), who is situated in St David's Camp where our Quartermaster's Department is located. This is also the location for the Headquarters' Squadron, Alamein. Again, this singleton post requires determination and tact, as with the other two clerks in the line Squadrons.

The AGC Fd Det, serving as an integral part of 2 RTR, can be proud in providing an efficient and effective service here in Cyprus to all members of Sector Two, and in promoting their newly formed Corps in the highest tradition.



The 26th day of January is "**Australia Day**", and it is celebrated by all Australians as the date in 1788 when Captain Arthur Phillip of the British Royal Navy sailed into Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) with his fleet of eleven ships to take possession of the eastern part of Australia and to establish the British Penal Colony of New South Wales. On Saturday 22 January 1994, AUSTCIVPOL gave an open invitation to all UN personnel and their families to join them in the celebration, and about 200 fellow members of UNFICYP did just that.



Allen Le Lievre and Simon Hicks enjoy the occasion

The celebrations began with Mick Sheely and Barry Young running "Egg & Spoon" races for the children (and some of the young at heart adults!), followed by a 'Gumboot Throwing' contest which put all spectators in considerable danger. Raffles and 'Two-Up' came next, run by Derek Gough and Doug Child, which apart from sending some punters home smiling and others bemused, also raised 220 quid for the Aussie Bushfire Appeal. In the



"Zac" attempts to resist Sharon's charms

evening Paul Speirs and George Argenti cooked 'bush damper' around the huge bonfire to supplement the gourmet meal prepared by Mal Holst and Val Dales. The singing of convict songs led by the Irish concluded a great day. Now, some facts about Australia.

On 13 May 1787, Captain Phillip set sail from England with his ships and reached Botany Bay some eight months later with his complement of 794 administrators and soldiers plus 736 convicts. The convicts had been sentenced to 'transportation' for five, ten or more years, mainly for the crimes of theft, assault and suspected support of movements likely to be an affront to the Crown! Namely, those men and women who supported Irish Independence. (More serious crimes were dealt with in England by transportation to another place per medium of a hemp rope!) Of the prisoners, about a third were female. The small settlement, despite early setbacks and periods of near starvation (the second fleet carrying more seeds and animals was lost at sea), eventually grew to be Australia's largest city - Sydney, the site of "**Olympics 2000**".



Melita Zielonko charmed the Argentinian Officers.

As the country was slowly developed, 'free settlers' were encouraged to migrate to the colonies. Eventually convicts too, on receiving their freedom, also

stayed and settled on the land or started businesses. Many were later joined by their families when they could afford to send for them.

'Transportation' continued almost to the 20th Century and sometimes as many as 50% of the convicts died en route, crammed in the dank holds of slow sailing ships, seldom seeing the light of day. Their treatment on arrival was seldom better, floggings and slave labour conditions, often in leg irons being deemed the norm in those days in the interests of 'internal security'.

Today, with a population of almost 18 million, about 50% can trace their roots back to Great Britain, a third to Ireland and the remainder from practically every other country in the world. Where once it was a source of shame to be descended from convict stock, such is now a hallmark of pride and instantly gains qualification as "a true blue Aussie mate!" For it was the suffering and determination of the convicts that initially got the country going.

In Australia there are no class structures or social barriers, and no one really cares what religion you are. The only real sign of intolerance is what we call the 'Tall Poppy Syndrome': we can't stand those who dare to assume 'airs and graces' or those who show even the slightest signs of pomposity. We respect what a person is and what that person



Supt Barry Young helped out with the washing up. A real S.N.A.G.!

AUSTRALIA DAY

by Pol Sgt Derek Gough

IN CYPRUS

does, not what they claim to be by position, background or wealth. Our most revered fellow Australians are those who are hard working and unassuming, who care for those less fortunate than themselves. Two great Aussie heroes who fell into that category were Professor Fred Hollows and Doctor 'Weary' Dunlop, who dedicated their lives to others, both of whom sadly died last year. Of course, we have our sporting heroes too, but God help the Greg Normans and Alan Borders of our country if they ever believe they are a cut above the rest of us!

The three Australian faunal, bird and floral emblems are the Kangaroo, the Emu and the Golden Wattle. Our national colours are the Green and the Gold.

Australia's land mass is 7.7 million square kilometres, ranging from tropical rainforests and vast



Sharon McTavish, Derek Gough, Simon Hicks and George Argenti celebrate receiving their Police Overseas Service Medals.

It is not often that we receive an article from our friends in the local communities but on this occasion, we have been sent a poem by a Greek Cypriot girl which we believe is dedicated to all soldiers serving in UN missions around the world. We hope you like it.

plains in the north, snowfields in the south-east, desert in the centre and fertile croplands in the east, south and south-west. To get some idea of the size of Australia, the whole of Great Britain could fit into the smallest mainland state of Victoria and still leave room for Holland... there are more skiable snowfields in our Alps than there are in the whole of Switzerland... the whole of continental USA fits neatly into mainland Australia.. and the recent bushfires that raged around Sydney were equal in size to the whole of England!

Clear skies and low rainfall are characteristics of the weather. In mid-summer (January), average temperatures range from 29°C in the north to 17°C in the south. In mid-winter (July), they range from 25°C in the north to 8°C in the south. However, extremes of +42°C and -9°C also occur.

Australians have the largest home ownership in the world (75%): 99% of homes have a colour TV, a fridge and a washing machine and 82% of families own a car with 32% owning at least two. Women comprise 45% of the workforce, on average live to 80 years (men to 74 years!) and they eventually snare the most tolerant and easy-going husbands in the world.

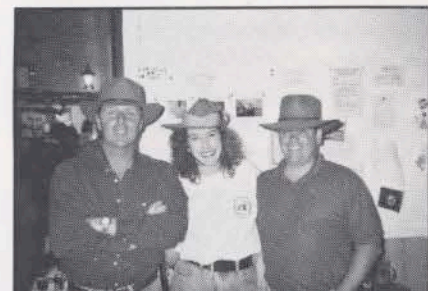
Tourism is one of our largest



Wayne Perry, George and Helen Argenti and Andrew Clarke enjoying the camp fire.

industries and we are the world's largest exporter of wool, meat, wheat, steel, iron ore and bauxite. Our system of government is based on the English 'Westminster System', but there is presently a campaign to turn Australia into a 'Republic' by the year 2000. That move is presently supported by about 38% of the population.

So, Australia in a nutshell. The best bloody country in the world, mate!



Bud Slaney, Sharon McTavish and "Mick" wore their Aussie hats for the day.

THE BLUE BERETS by Maria Kleidona

Blood and death and tears
Starvation and pain and fear.
War and hate and violence.
This is not the world we dream of, is it?
But it is our one.

Somebody should heal it.
Somebody who lives for life.
And the world commissioned you.

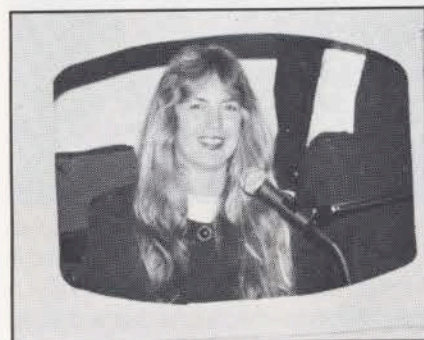
This is why we honour you.
This is why we admire you.
These thoughts are dedicated to your heroism.

To you, Blue Berets.

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN SECTOR FOUR

by WO2 Peter Stickler

You will not be surprised to hear that Austrians usually celebrate New Year's Eve on 31 December. So what's new about that?

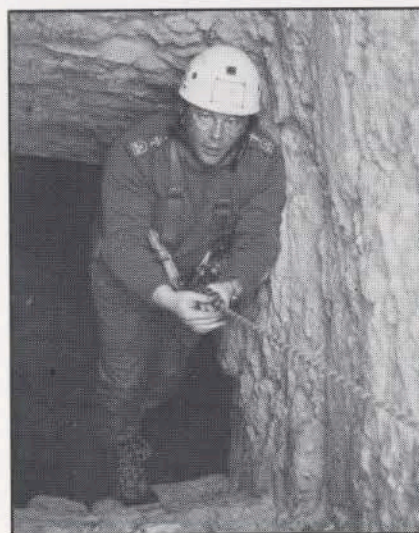


One of the highlights of the New Year's Eve show, Mrs Hohenbühel, introducing the programme as TV presenter.

Last year, a year which saw many changes within UNFICYP, was full of surprises, up until the very last moment - a moment which came a little early in Sector Four. AUSCON gathered together on the evening of 30 December to bid farewell to 1993. This was not our idea, but since a demonstration was planned for the evening of 31 December, we didn't have much choice!

So, the evening of the 30th it was, and all things considered, it turned out to be a very successful event.

There was plenty of food, drink and dance, and also excellent entertainment, provided by AUSCON's Ops Branch. On this occasion, they demonstrated their multiple talents by acting: not only could they be seen on stage, but they also produced a number of video clips along the lines of "crime watch". This was in a last attempt to discover new leads to the unsolved crimes of 1993! They did not succeed, but this did not hamper the success of the evening,



Chaplain Capt Siegfried Lochner "roping down"

which climaxed right in time with the declaration of the "Oth" of January 1994, complete with Viennese waltz, the bells of St Stephen's and a flood of champagne!

Consequently, 31 December 1993 was rather a non-event. This had the advantage of seeing AUSCON personnel fresh and eager on 1 January, a rare sight on New Year's Day! With all this excess energy, physical activities were arranged for members of Sector Four and one of them was rappelling into a number of wells near Famagusta - that's one way of starting off the New Year!



Part of the Sector Reserve, HQ Coy's ready reaction group, celebrating the arrival of the New Year after the demonstration.

AUSCON ENCOUNTERS ANORTHOSIS

by Maj H Reisinger

On 5 January 1994, the AUSCON soccer team met 'Anorthosis' in the Antonis Papadopoulos Stadium for a charity match.

It was an exciting game, and the reason AUSCON lost 0-15 must have been partly because they played on Anorthosis' home turf! The fact that the glimmering star of the Austrian team, LCpl Flach, accidentally locked himself in the changing rooms for the main part of the game may also have had something to do with the score...

It should, of course, be mentioned that Anorthosis is currently the best team in the Cyprus first league, so nobody really expected a better result. It was a very enjoyable match.



The two opposing teams

UN MP ELM NEWS

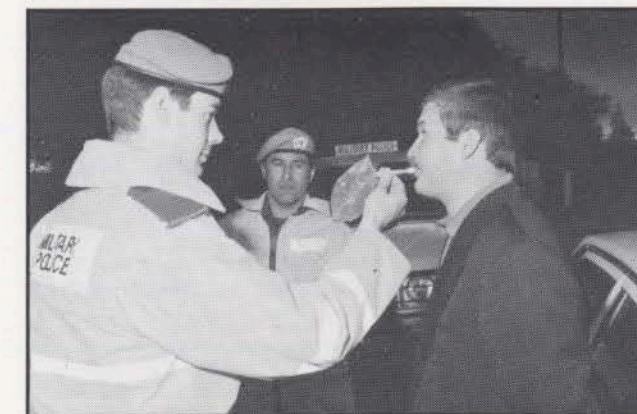
PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

by Sgt P Conway

The United Nations Military Police Element is now in possession of alcotest machines (roadside breath test machines), which will allow proper pursuit of drink/driving offences in the UNPA, a practice which to date has been difficult, due to the lack of technical equipment. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a very serious and dangerous offence and those caught, if convicted, can be sure they will feel the full might of disciplinary action, including immediate repatriation.

A scheme, which is currently being put into operation by the MP Element, will allow UN personnel to take a breath test before driving their vehicle in an effort to prove that even a small amount of alcohol will affect the body and thereby impair driving. In this vein, if you are leaving a mess or a club on the UNPA and you see an MP patrol outside, ask to take a breath test before you drive - you may be surprised by the result.

However, do not feel that by passing a breath test you have immunity from prosecution, as the alcohol in your body will take some time to fully enter your system. Should you be stopped by local police later during your journey, you may well exceed



Prevention is better than cure.

the prescribed limit. The excuse that you earlier passed a UN MP breath test will carry no weight whatsoever, as the decision to drive is yours and yours alone!

There is, of course, one way to ensure that you will not be caught drinking and driving, i.e. if you intend to drive, then don't drink any alcohol at all.

Remember - prevention is better than cure. **Don't drink and drive!**

LONG ORIENTEERING EVENT 1994 UN TEAM - RUNNERS UP

by Sgt Chris Leeson

Friday 21 January 1994 saw the Island's long orienteering event being held on the WSBA around the area of Paramali village near Episkopi Garrison. The event was billed as being about 17 km and technically difficult - which means that you had to know what you were doing or you would get lost! UNFICYP's HQ BRITCON entered two teams, the A team being SSgt Colin Withey, UN Flt and Sgt Chris Leeson, the fastest long distance runner in the UN Military Police; the B team comprised SSgt Paul Brooks, Property Services and Cpl Paul Kinnaid, UN Flt.

The day was overcast but very hot. The two BRITCON teams competed with about 50 other teams from around the Island on a course that turned out to be about the distance of a half marathon over typical Cyprus scrub land which was very hilly and extremely thorny. The A team finished 2nd overall in a time of 2 hrs 45 min, thanks mainly to the helicopter pilot, SSgt Withey, the expert map reader in the air and on the ground: this time was only 11 seconds behind the day's



Runners-up: SSgt Colin Withey (left) and Sgt Chris Leeson.

winners from the RGJ in Dhekelia. The B team finished 6th in a very respectable time of 3 hrs 15 mins.

The orienteering season is still on, and anyone who is interested should contact SSgt Withey in UN Flt.



On a cold and wet October day last year, the word came through official channels in Dublin - you are going to Cyprus. There followed three frantic weeks of preparation and research. Finally, the day of departure dawned. Dublin Airport was cold, wet and windy. Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, was not much better as we passed through. Finally, however, we touched down at Larnaca to be met with, what was to us, a heat wave! And that was at 7.30 p.m. "Rather chilly" said the waiting and welcoming Australians. In the infamous words of a certain English lady, "they would say that, wouldn't they?" "It will do nicely" came the collective Irish reply, and here we are in Pyla.

Before I go any further, I had better explain the heading to this article.



Insp Mike Hoare and Supt Jim Noonan
"surveying their kingdom"

In the Greek language, the word "Pyla" means gate. In olden times, Pyla was, in fact, a small kingdom. It was situated on the coast, south of its present location, and was peopled by successful and wealthy traders. It also controlled access to the hinterland. However, over a long period of time, the kingdom was subjected to raids by various parties and eventually, the town was moved further inland to its present-day site. What, I wonder, would the reaction of those ancient inhabitants of the kingdom be if they were to return to present-day Pyla? Why, you may well wonder, do I ask such a question? Let me explain.

Present day Pyla is the only mixed community village in the Buffer Zone. That's where we, IRCIVPOL, come in. Due to its unique position, policing the village presented a problem. The solution arrived at by the UN was to have a United Nations Civilian Police presence. At the same time, access was granted to CYPOL, provided they came in civilian attire in unmarked vehicles and dealt only with matters affecting the Greek Cypriot population. Similar facilities have been granted to the Turkish Cypriot Police Element. Any matter of an intercommunal nature had to be dealt with by the UN Civilian Police. Sounds simple? Read on.

Pyla has an estimated population of 1,250. Of that figure, 800 are from the Greek Cypriot community and 450 from the Turkish Cypriot community. With a few minor exceptions, both communities live in peace and harmony. Crime is not a serious problem. In fact, in many ways, it is typical of any small village back home in Ireland.

GUARDING THE GATE

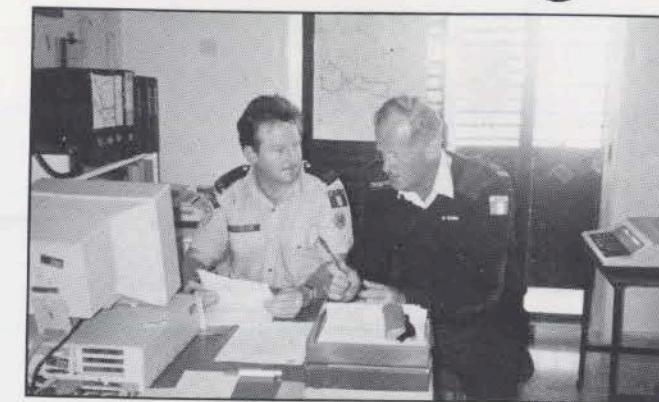
by Insp

Mike Hoare

In Ireland, the role of the policeman in such a small community is more that of a social worker, than a crime buster. We mix with community; we lend an ear; we get to know the people and they get to know us. A mutual trust is slowly built up - so it is in Pyla. In UN terminology, our role is humanitarian assistance, rather than law enforcement. This is best illustrated by the fact that, unlike Ireland, we do not have any conventional police powers. We must fulfil our role here through consent, by gentle persuasion and the use of common sense. This can, on occasion, lead to some very interesting situations...

For instance, a few weeks ago, we had occasion to deny entry by members of CYPOL to the Buffer Zone during a demonstration. A few days later, we were seeking the assistance of those very police officers to ensure that demonstrators would not enter the Buffer Zone. Who said that life was simple?

On intercommunal matters, our role could be regarded as that of "honest arbiter". We must be particularly careful in such situations to remember the old axiom: justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done. Problems under this heading relate mostly to arranging the issue of building permits, water, electricity and telephones and, of course, farming. During the months of November and December, there is the added problem of hunting. It is during the hunting season that the unauthorised encroachment of the Buffer Zone presents the greatest problem. Apparently, even the rabbits, hares and partridge have cottoned on to the fact that hunting is not, of course, allowed in the Buffer Zone! As the



Adm Sgt Gerry Forde and Supt Jim Noonan
computerizing the Pyla problem.

reader can imagine, this causes a lot of frustration among the sporting fraternity.

Policing Pyla, as you may have gathered at this stage, is not a simple matter. It calls for tact and common sense. We like to think, thanks to our training and experience at home, that we are adequately equipped to deal with any matter or problem which might arise. However, no article on policing in Pyla would be complete if we did not acknowledge the help and friendship of our military friends in Camp Pyla. To Capt Gherhard Krenn and Lt Michael Schwendenwein and their merry men, we say "thanks" (and see you in "the local" later)...



Commander FINCON - Major Reijo Summanen

Major Reijo Summanen was born on 2 October 1945 in Ylätorio, Finland.

He graduated from the Military Academy in Helsinki in 1969, after which he was posted to the Infantry Brigade in Valkeala. He has also served as a Signal Section Head of a Military District, and in 1983, he was

appointed Signal Instructor to the National Defence Institute.

His first UN posting was in UNDOF between 1980-81 as a FINBATT Signal Officer. In 1988-89, he served as a Company Commander in UNIFIL, South Lebanon. Between 1992-93, he also served in UNTSO with the Observer Group in Lebanon as a Team Commander.

Major Summanen is married to Katri and has two sons, Mikko (22) and Juho (18) and a daughter, Iris (10).

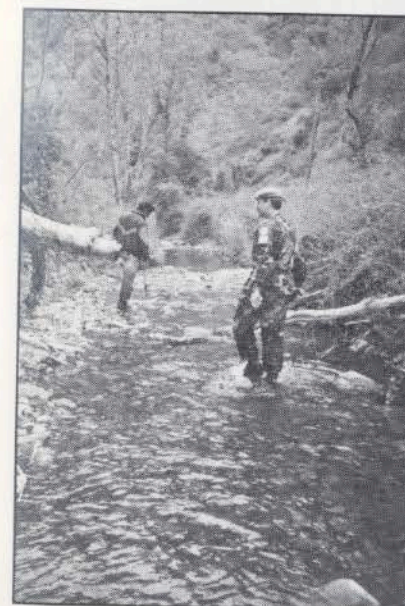
He took over command of FINCON and the tasks of Liaison Officer and Force Signal Officer on 12 November 1993.

HUMANITARIAN

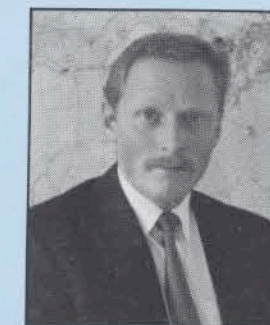
Last November, a problem was discovered with the water supply to the village of Ambelikou. In order to check the pipelines and repair them if necessary, a foot patrol composed of the Humanitarian Officer, Sector One, and two employees from the Nicosia Water Board were tasked to investigate. After a difficult crossing over mountains, through forests and across the Xeros river bed, many leaks were discovered and repaired. Since then, Ambelikou has water again.

Capt Mario Devinenti, monitoring the water supply for the village of Ambelikou

ACTIVITIES



The Force Provost Marshal



WO2 TR Trafford, BEM AGC RMP (SIB) joined the Military Police in 1980 and, following his six months' basic training at the Military Police Training Centre, Chichester, he was posted to Bergen in West Germany. This was followed by tours to Northern Ireland and Germany again, with only one tour to date being spent in the UK. During these postings he transferred to the Special Investigations Branch in 1985 and then spent time working on the Drugs Intelligence Team. High points of WO2 Trafford's career were leading a team of investigators to the Middle East to assess Iraqi war crimes, for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal, investigating the death of Rudolf Hess in Berlin and assisting in the infamous Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster.

In November 1993, WO2 Trafford was posted to UNFICYP as the Force Provost Marshal. His hobbies include SCUBA diving, weight training and photography.



UNFICYP FIRE EQUIPMENT FAMILIARIZATION COURSE

by Capt Domingo Martin

In line with UNFICYP's Training Programme, personnel from ARGCON recently attended the UNFICYP Fire Equipment Familiarisation Course. The course director, Maj FT Bowes, together with his instructors Mr Theo, Mr Michael and Cpl Burgues, provided the "know-how". Argentinian officers and NCOs from Sector One were briefed on the following subjects with particular professionalism and in a very friendly atmosphere:

- Chemistry of fire.
- Fire fighting appliances.
- Fire prevention/fire organisation/fire order.
- Servicing, maintenance and records.
- Helicopter drills.
- Hydrant hose drills.
- POL Storage.

Films, drills and discussions enabled those attending to be in a position to deal with emergency situations within the camps and OPs, in addition, of course, to providing any assistance possible to civilian personnel and properties.



Back row, from the left: SSgt H Balmaceda, Sgt A Diaz, 2/Lt H Rojas, WO2 R Mattos, Cpl Burgues, Lt R Dello Ruso and Lt M Canepa.

Front row, from the left: Lt E Senmartin, Capt M Gardoqui, Mr Michael, Mr Theo, Capt DA Martin and 1/Lt A Martinez.

The Security Cell in Sector One now feels far more effective and assured of accomplishing its mission within UNFICYP.

D-17 "PETRA" PATROL BASE

by 1/Lt Mario Larrosa

Since the handover of the D-17 Patrol Base Sector by 39 Regiment RA to the Argentinian Contingent in October 1993, the men of Bravo Coy have encountered new challenges in their TAOR. The area is quite extensive, and some years ago, when DANCON was deployed in Sector One, seven OPs and a PB monitored the area.

The men from OP D-17 accomplish their mission by patrolling on foot and by vehicle, in addition to observation from the tower with powerful binoculars and night vision devices. They are also reinforced by patrols from the UNFICYP Permanent Force Reserve and overflights by UN helicopters, which provide adequate coverage for the area.



WOIII Romero and S/Sgt Segura on a recce in Ayios Georgios



Standing, from the left: S/Sgt Segura, Sgt Peralta, Sgt Roldan and 1/Lt Larrosa.
Kneeling: L/Bdr Jones and Sgt Gullis

Some of the officers and NCOs based at OP D-17 have already served with the United Nations in Croatia (UNPROFOR). They consider their tasks with UNFICYP to be exciting, and never forget that they are representing Argentina, the Argentinian Army and the United Nations.

THE ARGCON ENGINEER PLATOON

by Capt Mario Devincenti

Since their arrival in Cyprus, the Argentine Engineers have been very busy. This 24-member Platoon belongs to Support Coy with its HQ in Xeros and is made up of Army and Marine NCOs. The Platoon Leader is Lt Gabriel Senmartin. Among their main jobs are:

- the marking of minefields in the BZ from B-32 to B-22;
- the drawing up of a transit chart;
- the installation of a water pump and pipes at D-35;
- plumbing, carpentry, painting, masonry, etc in Camps and OPs;
- at present, they are working on a project to install new water tanks and solar heaters in several OPs.

The Engineers are very proud to be serving with UNFICYP, and consider this tour a very important experience in their professional life. Some tasks are a real challenge to the platoon, because most of them are combat or amphibious engineers.



Sitting: left to right: S/Sgt Jacinto Tarcaya, Cpl Angel Agudo, WOII Pedro Lozano, Lt Gabriel Senmartin, WOII Hugo Torres, WOII Juan Marin and WOII Juan Villafranca.

Middle Row: Cpl Jorge Pereyra, S/Sgt Mario Gomez, Cpl Jorge Sanchez, WOIII Anibal Marin, S/Sgt Hugo Balmaceda, Cpl Daniel Vallejos, S/Sgt Bernardo Escobar and Sgt Ricardo Godoy.

Top Row: S/Sgt Mario Maciel, S/Sgt Daniel Gutierrez, S/Sgt Jose Luis Barreiro, Cpl Marcelo Lara, Cpl Carlos Pacheco, S/Sgt Roque Aguado, Sgt Washington Chavez, S/Sgt Roque Luna and Sgt Nelson Argañaz.



Installing a water pump at D-35.
Left to right: WOII Pedro Lozano, WOII Hugo Torres and Sgt Angel Agudo



AIR TASKS IN SECTOR ONE

by Lt Carlos Kammerath

Since their arrival in Cyprus, Major Rafael Jorge Hernandez and WOII Jorge Hector Ruza, both from the Argentine Air Force, have been serving as ALO and Assistant ALO within Sector One. Their tasks include:

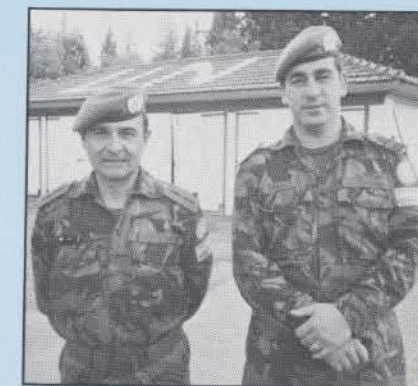
- Logistic support for heli tasks in Sector One,
- Security survey in each local HLS,
- Coordination with HQ AAC for Patrol and Support heli flights.

Major Hernandez is 39 years old, married and has three children. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1976. He is a fighter pilot with 4,500 flight

hours on record, and his last assignment was in an A-4 B/C Squadron.

WOII Jorge Ruza is 45 years old, married and the father of one son. He joined the Air Force in 1964. Amongst other appointments, he has served in the Marambio Antarctic Station for one year in 1977, and as an Air Cargo Chief Operator in an F-27 Squadron.

They find their job relatively easy, thanks to the excellent support of AAC personnel who have so accurately passed on their experience. They also agree that their work is very interesting, since they are the first to arrive in



Maj Hernandez and WO2 Ruza

UNFICYP: they therefore have the chance to gain new professional and cultural knowledge.

THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION



Sgt Paynter sprints to the firing point