SECOND INTERCOMMUNAL DARTS COMPETITION

by Doug Child

On 26 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 Sheehy 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 Celligas, Mr Antonis Michael and Mr George Tripiniots. In fourth position was Bdr Martin Murphy from 176 Bty, 38 Regt RA. All received trophies donated by KEO Breweries.

As on the previous occasion, both communities continually repeated their appreciation 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 approval, it may take the form of a 12 or 24 hour 'Darts-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.
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.

R Benesch, assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for operations. He was accompanied by Mr M Fujihama 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 UNMIDs, 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 Nicola General Hospital to give a unit of blood each. They would like to thank the nursing staff of the Nicola 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; Northern Cyprus took on a good six-a-side team from Kyrenia and beat them 12-10 on the Astro.

A number of prestigious visitors were received, briefed and given the new 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 followed swiftly by Mr Lt Col White briefs the staff delegation at OP 8-40.

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

The Pipes and Drums of BTR entertain an appreciative audience.

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment paid tribute to the great Scottish bard, Robert Burns, in the Officers' Mess at Walsley Barracks, Nicola on Saturday 29 January 1994. The event was a multi-national affair, in which at least 10 countries were 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 sister Regiment, the First Royal Tank Regiment.

Having welcomed the guests to the Mess, the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Sousa 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 Aithol 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 Minihane and his wife, were treated to a round of traditional after dinner speeches. The principal guest speaker was Maj Jamie Erskine of the Black 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, nimbly danced into 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 Oppitz, 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 CO HQ Coy, always one of the first if there is any work to be done, led the team, consisting of the AUSCON Eng Off, who brought along the material, and the Sector's SOO.

It was no easy task, ferrying the materials 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.
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 Routemile 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, gas fitters, 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.

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.

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 peacekeeping operations.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LINE SQMS

by S/Sgt Mick Ribbon

Our recent Christmas served to remind me that the job of a Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant (SOM) 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 living in a big grotty (Kingston House is more grotty than grotty)! That thought 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 a year, average over a hundred kilometres a day and still "smile".

In the theatre of operations where the emphasis is on the personal, the peaceful and the friendship, my role here out in Cyprus has taken on a new meaning for an SQMS. No longer do I find myself following a complete squad of tanks around the countryside in a landrover or truck, constantly having to keep up with the relentlessly 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 complaints from both sides, in regular contact with members of the other contingents, yet still with time to enjoy a bacon butty and a cup of tea in the YMCA! How different it is to be able to give service with a "smile".

In Regimental Headquarters is Cpl Double (ex RTR), who provides clerical support to the Second-in-Command. This area covers the ongoing requirements to ensure that all administrative work is performed in a timely manner.

Cpl Double and Cpl Burrowes book out prior to a run

On the pay side of the office is SSgt Mercer (ex RAC), 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 bank accounts. 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 Falirobase 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 Burrowes (ex RTR), who also manages the unit's computer systems "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, dispatch and postfacial records are maintained. Cpl Double also maintains the IT equipment used by RHO 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 JCOC is ready accessible to the Ops Team and also to maintain a high standard of clerical support to this very busy organisation.

The two line Squadrans, Bursa, which are responsible for the City area and Normandy, which maintain the western area, are supported by LCpl Marshalls (ex RTR) and LCpl Kilgallon (ex REME) respectively. Both are kept very busy maintaining the administrative support required in their respective squadrans.

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. Alone, again, this single post requires determination and tact, as well as to the two clerks in the line Squadrans.

The AGC Fd Det, serving as an integral part of 2 RTR, can be seen 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.
AUSTRALIA DAY

February 1994

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Derek Gough

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994

AUSTRALIA DAY IN CYPRUS

by Pol Spiteri

The Blue Beret

February 1994
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 UNFYCP, 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.

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 dominating 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 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 Paralimni 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! UNFYCP’s HQ BRITCON entered two teams, the A team being SSgt Colin Wiltey, UN Fit 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 Kinnaird, UN Fit.

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 Wiltey, the expert map reader in the air and on the ground; this time was only 11 seconds behind the day’s winners from the RGI 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 Wiltey in UN Fit.
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 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.

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 populated 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, IRC/ICPOL, 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. Cyprus is not a serious problem. In fact, in many ways, it is typical of any small village back home in Ireland.

Commander FINCON - Major Reijo Summanen

Major Reijo Summanen was born on 2 October 1945 in Ylistoimi, Finland. He graduated from the Military Academy in Helsinki in 1969, after which he was posted to the Infantry Brigade in Vaalkea. 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 1968-81 as a FINBATT Signal Officer. In 1988-92, 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 of the Humanitarian Officer, Sector One, and two employees from the Nicosia Water Board were sent 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 Devincenzi, monitoring the water supply for the village of Ambelikou

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 arbi". 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 rams, hares and partridge have cottoned on to the fact that hunting is not, of course, allowed in the Buffer Zone! As the 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 that, 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 Lt, Headward Kenn and Lt Michael Schwendenwein and their merry men, we say "thanks" (and see you in "the local" later)...

The Force Provost Marshal

WO2 TR Trafford, BEM ACG 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 Bargen 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 Zeebruge 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.

ADVISERS

Adm Sgt Gerry Farde and Supjt Jim Noonan - computerizing the Pyla problem.
UNIFICYP FIRE EQUIPMENT FAMILIARIZATION COURSE

by Capt Domingo Martin

In line with UNFICYP’s Training Programme, personnel from ARGCON recently attended the UNFICYP Fire Equipment Familiarization 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.

D-17 “PETRA” PATROL BASE

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 TADR. The area is quite extensive, and some years ago, when DANCONE 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.

Standing, from the left: S/Sgt Segura, Sgt Peralta, S/Sgt Roldan and 1/Lt Larroza.

Kneeling: L/Bj Jones and Sgt Guillia

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.

B a c k r o w . f o r m t h e l e f t: S/Sgt H Balmececa, S/Sgt A Diaz, 2/Lt H Rojas, WO2 R Mattos, Cpl Burgues, LT R Delo Ruso and LT M Canapa.

F r o n t r o w . f r o m t h e l e f t: L/Cpl Semmartin, Capt MD 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.

THE ARGCON ENGINEER PLATOON

by Capt Mario Deviencenti

Since their arrival in Cyprus, the Argentinian 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 Pl Leader is Lt Gabriel Semmartin. Among their main jobs are:
- The marking of minefields in the 82 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.

S i t t i n g : l e f t t o r i g h t: S/Sgt Jacinto Tarcaya, Cpl Angel Agudo, WOII Pedro Lozano, Lt Gabriel Semmartin, WOII Hugo Torres, WOII Juan Marin and WOII Juan Vilatrances.


W O I I I I R o m e r o a n d S / S g t S e g u r a o n a r e e a c e i n A y m o s G e o r g i a s

Installing a water pump at D-35.

Left to right: WOII Pedro Lozano, WOII Hugo Torres and Sgt Angel Agudo.

A I R T A S K S I N S E C T O R O N E

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

M aj H e n r i d e z a n d W O 2 R u z a

UNIFICYP: they therefore have the chance to gain new professional and cultural knowledge.
THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

Sgt Paynter sprints to the firing point