

THE Blue Beret

February 1995





BLOOD DONATIONS IN CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V



by MD Maj Gerhard Schiller



Maj Lacchini, initiator
of the blood donation
campaign.

long ago, Maj Lacchini, AUSCON's Adjutant, came up with the idea of organising a blood donation campaign involving Austrian soldiers, mainly in cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross. At first, the idea was considered too complicated.



From left to right: MD Maj G Schiller, MD Patek and MD M Kohlar.

However, where there's a will there's a way! Maj Lacchini, in cooperation with the Director of the Blood Donation Centre in Vienna, a personal



Lt Col Eder, CO Sector Four, with Dir Kallinger,
Head of the Blood Donation Centre in Vienna.

On 4 Jan 95, a unique kind of blood donation campaign took place. It was the first time that AUSCON soldiers in Cyprus donated blood for Austrian citizens.

In Austria, blood can be scarce, particularly during holiday periods when more accidents are likely to occur. Not

friend of his for years, made possible the idea that nobody originally thought was practicable.

And so, in the early hours of 4 Jan, a chartered jet took off with one doctor and eight nurses, together with Dir Kallinger, heading for Cyprus. When the team arrived in CDL V, everything was professionally prepared for the campaign: the dining room of the Sergeants' Mess was converted into a blood donation centre and the voluntary blood donors - totalling more than 200 - were ready.



LCpl Kokalj being checked by a nurse.

With excellent assistance by the Medical Centre personnel, approximately 100 litres of valuable blood was taken within six hours, and the whole procedure finished at 1800 hrs.



MSgt R Wagner donating blood.

Although time is precious (blood donations have to be checked and treated as soon as possible), the team from Austria managed to take some refreshments in the Officers' Mess.

A further campaign is planned in six months' time.



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Front Cover

THE UN MP ELEMENT ON DUTY

Front and back covers
by Sgt Joe Relihan

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

As depicted on the front cover of this issue, a Military Policeman is examining a very badly damaged vehicle, driven by a member of the Force who is, fortunately, still alive.

Thanks to advances in technology, cars are getting faster and more sophisticated. Year after year, thousands of new cars find their way onto the roads. However, does everyone attach the same importance to safety on the road? This cannot be stressed enough, and we must all ask ourselves "how conscious are we of our individual part?"

Within UNFICYP the Force Commander's Road Safety Certificate of Excellence is issued by Pers/Logs Branch to Contingents/Units which achieve 100,000 miles without being involved in any blameworthy accidents. In addition the Force Commander's Road Safety Certificate is presented to Contingents/Units which over 50,000 miles without being involved in any blameworthy accidents. Then there is the Safe Driving Certificate, awarded to individuals under Contingent/Unit arrangements. To qualify for this Certificate, an individual must have been employed on daily driving duties for at least 5½ months, and must have exceeded 2,000 miles during his/her entire tour without being involved in any blameworthy accidents, or being convicted of any traffic offence.

1995 being the 50th year since the establishment of the United Nations, let us make an even greater effort to make it an accident-free year.

Due to an oversight, the Editorial Staff regret that there has been an error in the Volume No from June to December 1994. Please amend these issues to read Volume 31.

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Under the southern cross I stand,
A sprig of wattle in my hand,
A native of this native land,
Two hearts, two hands, two steely bands,
Australia, you bloody beauty.

These words, adapted from Dorothea McKellar's immortal poem "I love a sunburnt country", epitomise the feeling that most "true blue" Australians (including those born and those who immigrated) have for this vast and ever changing continent.

A little over 207 years ago, and after numerous fleeting visits from our European ancestors, the first fleet from England, consisting of 11 ships, landed at Sydney Cove and claimed the eastern part of the continent as a colony for and on behalf of the King of England.

The 11 sailing ships, commanded by Captain Arthur Phillip, carried 736 men and women convicts. The voyage lasted eight months, and recent documentation suggests that even though he was a hard taskmaster, Captain Phillip treated the prisoners fairly and humanely.

Gradually, the colony established itself, and from these extremely harsh beginnings in a new and strange land, the "Aussie" spirit was born. This spirit has evolved and strengthened over the ensuing 207 years, and remains as one of independence and giving all people a "fair go".

So it comes to January 26, 1995, when it was decided to incorporate the AUSTCIVPOL 42nd Contingent's Medal Parade into the festivities of Australia Day. This ceremony became unique in itself with two of our valued Irish Police friends joining us on parade to be presented with their numerals.

The Cyprus weather was perfect for the occasion and the parade was attended by numerous guests, including Mr John Sullivan, making his first official appearance as High Commissioner for Australia. The proud recipients were presented with their United Nations medals and numerals by the Force Commander, Brigadier General Ahti Vartiainen.

A busy day was in store for all, as the party then moved on to the Australian High Commission. We were joined there by the President of the Republic, Mr Glafkos Clerides, and numerous diplomats residing in Cyprus, again making Australia Day a notable occasion.

With the formalities out of the way, it was time to return to the UNPA Aussie Mess and let the 'real party' begin. An afternoon of fun-filled activities and sporting events ensured that a good time was had by all.



Members of AUSTCIVPOL with President Glafkos Clerides

The highlight of the afternoon's festivities was the traditional running of the "Henley-on-Pedhios" Yacht Race. This spectacular event brought a number of crews together, including three boats from BRITCON, one from ARGCON, one from AUSTCIVPOL and one all female team.



The international women's crew of "Sinking Rita", the winning boat.

In Australia, the Henley-on-Todd dry river is an annual event, which was first introduced in 1976 and is run by the Alice Springs Yacht Club, normally on Anzac Day each April. Todd is a river in northern Australia, and since the introduction of this race, the event has been abandoned twice, due to unseasonably wet periods when the river filled up. Hundreds of competitors take part, not only from within Australia but from all over the world as well. It is a huge tourist attraction and thousands normally attend - dry weather permitting. The vessels are constructed of various materials and are of novel designs, usually manned by a crew of eight. One stipulation of this very original contest is that the crew



AUSTRALIA DAY 1995 - AUSTCIVPOL WAY - MEDALS AND ALL

by Sgt Bruce Robey and Sgt Mark Barbridge — photos by Sgt Joe Relihan



are required to consume copious quantities of beer prior to running. They then enter the vessels, pick them up and run for a distance of 1 km over a set course. AUSTCIVPOL adopted this race, affectionately known as the Henley-on-Pedhios race, in 1984 and it has been run on Australia Day ever since.

On this occasion, after a false start, much water bombing and flour throwing, most of the boats covered the 500 metre course with the "Sinking Rita" syndicate covering their version of the course in record time to take the line honours and run out eventual winners. The spectacular Aussie entry was unable to overcome the odds on the day, but put in a sturdy effort to run a close second. Well done girls, better luck next year boys!



The Force Commander with his new Aussie T-shirt, and the designer, Sgt Bruce Robey.

A special mention must be made here of the "boxing kangaroo", a design which was introduced in 1983 when Australia competed in and won the America's Cup Yacht Race. It was imprinted on a small flag and has since then become the symbol of Australia's fighting spirit. One member of AUSTCIVPOL, namely Sgt Bruce Robey, has a distinct talent in the designing field. He took the trouble of designing this 4' boxing kangaroo (shown below)



The Australian boat - the Southern Cross.

as the centrepiece of the sail on the AUSTCIVPOL vessel in the traditional green and gold colours of Australia.

A special mention and thank you must go to all participating crews for the time and effort put into the building of their craft, and it is hoped that now that this spectacular event has been revived, it will once again become an annual contest.



The Argentinians in their craft, appropriately named "Argie".

Also taking place on this occasion was the flip-flop (thong) competition, which was derived from the age-old sport of "cowpat" throwing! Owing to the distinct lack of ammunition, a more suitable and less fragile substitute was sought, thus the introduction of the flip-flop. This is the first year that the golden flip-flop award has been presented. It is a female only competition, and the idea behind it is to see how far the object in question can be thrown - not an easy task, if that's what you're thinking! This year, the prize was won by an overseas visiting Irish policewoman, Olive Brady (below).



The winner of the "thong" throwing competition, Olive Brady.

The party continued into the small hours, ensuring a good time was had by all. Australia Day - what a day!



AUSCON'S POST OFFICE

On 5 July 1994, Ing H Brunnhofer took over as the 21st field-postmaster in Camp Duke Leopold V, AUSCON.

Ing H Brunnhofer was born on 21 October 1966 in Kapfenberg, Styria. After finishing the Higher Technical College for Mechanical Engineering, and having completed his National Service with the Austrian Armed Forces, he joined the Austrian Mail in 1987. He acquired the skills he now has after working in several Post Offices.

In 1994 he passed the "Chief of Department" exams with five commendations, which enabled him to commence his career as chief of a post office/field post office. In 1991, he worked in the 8020 Graz PO in the Rail-Mail Department, where he was responsible for technical matters regarding rail-mail wagons. There he worked in close cooperation with the engineering department of the "General Management of the Mail and Telecommunications Administration", and also with the well-known Austrian engineering company SGP. Then in 1992, he

took charge of the safety engineering department in the 8020 Graz PO, responsible for matters such as fire protection, employees, organisation of first aid and work-place layout (lighting, ergonomics, etc) for approximately 1,000 emp-loyees.

In the 1501 UNFICYP / AUSCON PO, he is supported by Sgt W Bendl as his field post assistant who was born in Graz on 25 February 1965. Sgt W Bendl arrived for his third tour with UNFICYP in Nov 94. Both of them look after all postal matters for the 347 Austrian UN soldiers in Cyprus. Three times a week, the post is taken to Austria via Austrian Airlines, and is sent to all five continents via the PO 1150 Vienna. Post coming from Austria is processed and distributed five times a week. In addition, they try to visit every OP crew once a month to cover their needs.

In 1994, approximately 60,000 letters and parcels - of which 10,000 were posted in Dec 94 - were sent to Austria and other countries. Post takes one to four days to arrive in



Fieldpostmaster H Brunnhofer and his assistant, Sgt W Bendl, in front of the Post Office at CDL V, Famagusta.

Austria. In 1994, 13,540 kg of mail, of which 2,200 kg were posted in Dec 94, were processed and delivered to Austrian soldiers.

ANYONE FOR POLO?

A five all draw indicated the high level of play at the best polo match played in recent memory. A fitting end to 1994 and what a way to see polo into the 1995 season! A team from the Argentinian United Nations Contingent played a team from the Cyprus Polo Association in a game which displayed outstanding horsemanship from both sides.

For the CPA, the start was fast and furious after an initial first run by the Argentinians. Despite an early success, the Argentinians got off to a slow start, riding horses that were unfamiliar to them. However, they delighted the crowd when they exploded into action in the final two chukkas to ensure a strong draw.

The match was watched with eagerness by a great many families and supporters from the Bases, including the Club President, Maj Gen Harley. The event was kindly sponsored by Samsung, and the Managing Director for Cyprus, Mrs Mary Mangonaki, not only presented the prizes, but also gave a generous raffle prize - a Samsung Hi Fi system. This was appropriately won by the Club Secretary and Club Commentator, Lt Col John Woolley.



Left to right, standing: Capt Estaban Sigon, Mr George Houry, Mrs Mary Mangonaki (sponsor), Maj Richard Pinney (umpire), Capt Jorge Guidice and Capt Alfredo Mesa.
Left to right, kneeling: Capt Roger Martin, Maj Robert Shaw, Maj Miles Stockdale and Mr Nicos Thrasyvoulou.

Samsung's generosity in sponsoring this match will assist the Club in purchasing new ponies, which are due to arrive this month.



PYLA - AN INTERESTING "HOTSPOT" IN UNFICYP

by 1/Lt Hintner

Pyla - who hasn't heard of it? It is the only village in Cyprus, located inside the Buffer Zone, where Greek and Turkish Cypriots live peacefully side by side. Pyla is mentioned in almost every tourist guide and is visited by many, who in several cases leave disappointed because their expectations were not met. It's simply an ordinary village, often described by outsiders in a manner which is misleading. Situated within this village is the platoon command of 1 PI/2 Coy, AUSCON, Camp Pyla.



The Camp Pyla crew. From the left: WO2 Allmann, Cpl Berghofer, MCpl Leeb and 1/Lt Hintner.

This camp has very much a family character. It is not isolated by barbed wire, fences or any other obstacles. In fact, quite the opposite. It is part of Pyla, and a cherished stop for a drink and a snack for visitors and inspections. It is also famous for its terrace in front of the dining hall, which allows a stunning view over the Mediterranean.

Within the camp, 17 soldiers of AUSCON with varying trades (carpenters, salesmen, drivers, etc) are stationed. Due to the structure of the camp, there is no distinction between an Officers', Senior NCOs' or Men's Mess. There is one room for everyone, and a very good climate within the platoon prevails.

The fact that relations with both ethnic groups can be considered as very good is partly due to the achievements of Capt Absmann, the former PI Ldr, who constantly worked at building a relationship of trust and friendship. This effort has enabled both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot Muhktars (the two community leaders) to become real counterparts, which makes our task both easy and fulfilling. Extending invitations to and from both Muhktars has almost become a daily routine!

By organising a football team, the COMCEN Cdr, Sgt Fink, has done his bit in keeping up good relations. Going by the motto "sport recognizes no borders", a friendly game will take place in the near future.

In the centre of the village is the town square where OP AS-29 is located. During warm summer



AUSCON's Pyla football team

nights, it is sometimes necessary to man this OP until 0200 hrs, due to the cafes being open that long. During winter, the closing hours are clearly before midnight.

OP AS-18, which has been nicknamed "Edel-weißhütte", is the OP with the highest altitude in Sector Four. MCpl Weis, the 2IC, has taken it upon himself to introduce a physical fitness programme, and, together with his comrades, he initiated the construction of a keep fit room with very limited possibilities and equipment. This is, of course, a spare time activity, which more than a third of the platoon cherishes and takes part in.

Approximately one km west of the OP is the little church of Ayios Neophytos. In 1988, it was renovated by the Pyla Platoon and since then, services have been taking place.



A patrol in the area of Ayios Neophytos (left Sgt Malin, right MCpl Weis)

Four km east of OP AS-18 is the village of Troulli. It is an idyllic place, which strongly resembles an oasis. At the northern edge of the village, OP AS-03 is located. The six soldiers stationed there are probably the best integrated personnel with the local population. For the last 20 years, a former UN soldier named Charles Riedel has been resident there. He often acts as a translator and, as such, has been of tremendous service to AUSCON. We therefore wish to extend a warm thank you to our "Troulli Charlie".



THE STORY OF THE YMCA

compiled by Mrs Miriam Taylor

The YMCA was set up in 1844 by George Williams, the son of a humble Somerset farmer, for the spiritual and moral welfare of young men in the drapers' trade.

George Williams was born at Ashway Farm, near Dulverton, on 11 October 1821 and went to school in Tiverton. At 14, he was apprenticed to a draper in Bridgwater. Far from showing signs of being a great draper, he said of himself: "I entered Bridgwater a careless, thoughtless, godless, swearing young fellow". But his apprenticeship obliged him to attend the local Zion Congregational Church. Gradually, he was influenced by the services and quite suddenly, in 1837, he felt called by God.

Shortly after he moved to London to work for the drapers Hitchcock and Rogers of St Paul's Churchyard, he began holding prayer meetings in his room, and on Thursday 6 June 1844, 12 young men attended the first ever meeting of a new society. "To influence young men to spread the Redeemer's

Kingdom amongst those by whom they are surrounded." Five weeks later, it became the Young Men's Christian Association.

The YMCA was not the first society of its kind: but its growth was unmatched by anything that had gone before. Within days of its birth, members sent a letter to other drapers' houses throughout London, urging young men to join up and soon there were YMCAs in Leeds, Manchester, Taunton and Bath.

The early YMCAs taught young men about history, politics and French, as well as book-keeping and shorthand, and they provided sports facilities, hostel rooms, libraries and places to relax.

At every opportunity, members handed out leaflets to foreign visitors and soon, YMCAs began cropping up in other countries. Back at home, the YMCA expanded quickly and, by its 50th birthday in 1894, there were 405 local associations.

It was during the war years that the YMCA helped more people and gained more recog-

nition than ever before. Through both world wars it worked with prisoners of all nationalities all over the world, coordinated food and medical relief and established hostels for refugees.

During WWI, its huts were everywhere giving out tea, cake, soap, writing paper and a friendly word to troops. In peace, these were dismantled and turned into "Red Triangle Clubs" which provided a meeting place with billiards or pool and a bar serving tea.

When war broke out again in 1939, the YMCA stepped in with a new idea to bring comfort to the troops. Over 500 YMCA "tea cars" regularly braved the blitz. They followed troops through Germany, were amongst the casualties at Dunkirk and were even on hand with 5,000 gallons of tea for soldiers landing at Dover.

After WWII, the YMCA found jobs for thousands of ex-service-men and housed displaced people from all over Europe. Gradually, it developed a whole new programme of work to meet the needs of post-war society.



THE NICOSIA YMCA

The YMCA in Nicosia was opened on 15 August 1966 at No 1 Hillcrest Road, Nicosia UN. This married quarter was actually converted into part shop and part living accommodation for the manageress. The more popular the YMCA became, the more demand came for a larger shop. So, in September 1967, the YMCA asked for another quarter for the manageress, thereby leaving room to expand at No 1 Hillcrest. After the conversion at Hillcrest, the YMCA remained in these premises until the end of 1979.

refurbishing, the YMCA opened its doors to the new Bookshop and Canteen.

Then, with the drastic reduction in troops and the deterioration of Building 1117, the YMCA found itself on the move again. In April 1994, it opened its new Bookshop and Canteen on Blue Beret Camp, and this is the current location.

The YMCA's head office is located in Episkopi Garrison. At the moment, the Nicosia YMCA is just about breaking even, but it is felt that the service should be provided to bring a little "home from home" for the few serving members who remain and continue to provide a service as long as there is a presence.



Some of the girls who work in the Nicosia YMCA: Mrs Claire Griffith, Mrs Sue Trafford and Mrs Tania Kyriakou.

On 1 January 1980, the YMCA moved to building 1117, situated next to the NAAFI, and, after some



Service with a smile from Mrs Ber Brennan.



ARGCON'S Signal Platoon

by 1/Lt Manuel Luaces, Argentine Army



The Argentine Task Force Signal Platoon. Standing, left to right: SSgt Patoco, SSgt Bernal, SSgt Diaz, WO3 Figueroa, WO3 De La Vega, SSgt Velazquez, LCpl Garcia (Navy), Sgt Castillo (Navy), SSgt Marquez and SSgt Camero. Seated, left to right: WO Rosales, 1/Lt Lt Luaces and WO2 Delicia.



WO2 Rosales, SSgt Patoco and SSgt Carrara setting up the telephone wire to Kokkina.

Since their arrival on the island, the Signal Platoon of the Argentinian Contingent has performed a wide variety of works, both on its own and together with the Companies' Signal Squads, showing they were well prepared to accomplish their mission.

The works carried out to date have not only concerned the maintenance of the antennae and radio equipment at the OPs, but also the wire communications material deployed within the Sector. In this respect, thanks to the help of UN Radio, the Signal Platoon was able to accomplish the installation of a public phone at Kokkina

Camp, and a request has been made to the Army General Staff for a computer to be provided to deal with official communication with Argentina by means of electronic mail via telephone modems.

Besides this, the Signal Platoon contributes to the welfare and maintenance of morale, sustaining radio communications between ARGCON personnel and their families at home by using the Army, Navy and Air Force official nets, and also contacting the wide Argentinian radio HAM network.





THE ANNUAL IRCON V BRITCON RUGBY MATCH

Once again, it is that time of year when the five-nation rugby championship commences, the nations, of course, being England, France, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is also a time of great inter-contingent rivalry, especially within the UNPA, when Ireland meets England in either Landsdowne Road or Twickenham: generally, to mark the occasion, both contingents field a team to compete for the coveted Coca Cola Cup.



The British and Irish team captains with the COS

This year, the game took place in the UNPA on Saturday 21 January. Although the rugby played may not have been of international standard, it must be said that every ball was fought for tooth and nail, and one could easily get the impression that all were competing on the international field.

The eagerly awaited referee's whistle, when blown at full time, left both sides level at four points each, so it was decided by the ruling body of the UNFICYP rugby union that the cup will rotate after a lapse of six months from its resting place in the Hibernia Club to the Victoria Club.

A special word of thanks must go to AUSTCIVPOL and IRCIVPOL who provided defence in depth to the IRCON team. To Jack the referee, congratulations on a job well done, and to the players who made your



The British team

task relatively easy by the excellent sportsmanship on the field.

All weary, washed and showered, the participants and spectators alike retired to the warmth of the Hib Club to view the Ireland v England game, when England, with their rugby world cup preparations well in hand, ran out comfortable winners.

Finally, thanks go to Col Powell, UNFICYP Chief of Staff, who presented the cup to the two teams, for an enjoyable evening and hopefully next year, when the game is viewed in the Victoria Club, we can turn the cards...



The Irish team



Almost six months ago, personnel from the Argentinian Task Force 3 were about to arrive on the island of Cyprus. I can clearly remember our first night

when we landed after an exhausting 20-hour journey. We were pushed into a bus and then driven over almost 200 km until we arrived. Where to? Skouriotissa Camp, Sector One.

A myriad of names were then thrown at us - Kokkino Trimithia, the UNPA, Kyrenia, B-32, Limnitis, all places that had been shown to us in a short handover. In fact, we had been briefed in detail back in Argentina before our departure, but it was a totally different situation when we were actually expected to remember and recognise such places!

I shall never forget my first Friday briefing at HQ UNFICYP, with everyone speaking a language that, although I had studied it for almost seven years, was quite difficult to understand. I found it hard to believe that the Australians, the Irish, the Canadians and the British were actually speaking the same language! Even after six months, I still find it difficult to understand the Force Photographer, Sgt Joe Relihan!

But, through necessity, I became

GOING HOME!

by Lt AJ Di Tella, Argentine Navy

accustomed to the places, the names, the language and especially with those men and women from UNFICYP who received me with such warmth and friendship and helped me when I needed help. From a professional point of view, I very much enjoyed the experience of working with people from different countries and different armies, learning how they work and showing them how an Argentinian would approach certain problems. Despite the fact that we have no enemies, this

tour was not an exercise; there were real problems to be solved in a real environment, and that's what I found most instructive. I can honestly say that I had a very good time here, working very hard, but with many happy moments - and happy hours too! I had the opportunity of meeting many people and making new friends, sharing with them my way of life and my personal views. I received a lot, and I hope I gave a lot too. This was my first long tour away from home, and it made me realize how important my family is and how

necessary it is to receive support from my wife and son - this kept me going and helped me do my job properly. And that is invaluable.

So now, while I count the days until the end of my tour, I can honestly say that I am very grateful I had the opportunity of serving with UNFICYP. I thank the friends I have made during my tour for the good time they gave me, and I thank my family for supporting me during this period. Thanks a lot for everything.



THE UNFICYP FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Organised by Sector One, the UNFICYP Football Competition took place in the UNPA between 15-23 January 1995. There were six teams altogether, ie one each from Sector One, Sector Two, Sector Four, UNCIVPOL, IRCON/MP and the Perm FR.



Sector One's team

The opening match was held between UNCIVPOL and Sector Four, the latter team having a tough job beating the police officers by a narrow 10-1. The Aussie players left the Argentinians breathless with their abundantly colourful shirts. Jokes aside, we must congratulate the Australian players, because although football is not a very popular game in their country, they took the matter seriously and managed to participate very well. The IRCON/MP team also stood out, not so much for their attire as for the fact that they had one very unusual member of their fighting force, ie Cpl Ann O Sullivan, who bravely took part in what is normally an all-male competition! How about that for progress??

The Argentinians were disappointed when, after winning the first match against the Brits by 2-1, they were defeated by the Austrians 3-1 and were finally pushed out of the competition when Sector Two took revenge, winning the second match by 4-3 breaking



The winning team from Sector Two.

the initial tie with penalties. We hope we'll have more luck next time.

The final match was held between Sectors Two and Four, with Sector Two becoming overall winners. Sector Four came second, followed by IRCON/MP in third place, and all are to be congratulated on a very successful competition. Last but not least, the umpires deserve a mention for their very professional but, most of all, fair approach - which helped in the success of the tournament, even though the participants did not always appreciate their efforts...



The runners up from Sector Four.



THE SECTOR TWO HUMANITARIAN CELL

One component of Sector Two which is little mentioned is the Humanitarian Cell. Headed by Major Richard Bennison with a staff of four, the Cell is a vital part of Sector Two's operations and has responsibility inside and outside the Buffer Zone. Essentially, the task of the team is to try to normalize activities between the two communities in the economic and humanitarian spheres.

One of the principle tasks of the team is the delivery of food, medical supplies and fuel to isolated Maronite villages in the North. These are run by WO2 Brad Nicholls, and are known as Long Northwind Patrols. This is a very gratifying task, as the villagers are extremely grateful for the supplies taken to them, and the patrol members return laden with fruit and cake!

The Buffer Zone is largely deserted and, as such, has to be

managed to control pests and disease; this thankless task also falls to the Humanitarian Cell and includes the controlling of wild dogs and anti-malarial measures. The parts of the Buffer Zone that are farmed also fall under the team's supervision.

Overseeing bi-communal contact is a large part of the Cell's work, organizing family meetings and other contacts for those split by the Buffer Zone, and also trying to foster relations north and south. An example of this is a planned run round the City walls by the Nicosia Running Club.

The Humanitarian Cell has the greatest diversity of tasks of any of Sector Two's components, and it has one of the most vital roles when viewed in the longer term. The Cell has now settled in and looks forward to helping the communities for the remainder of their tour.



Unloading supplies with the help of the recipients

TRAINING - ARGCON MPs

The Military Police Element's policy of ongoing training continued last month with a training seminar organised for the Argentinian members of the unit. A two-day series of lectures and exercises was conducted, and we were grateful to be able to call on the services of Lt Vilarullo and WO Torres to act as translators: this is an ideal opportunity to thank both for all their help.

The seminar covered a wide variety of topics which reflected the diversity of situations dealt with by the Military Police in the normal course of their duties. Emphasis was also placed on the differing practices, rules and procedures of each contingent, and the need for all MPs to be



SSgt Calvo "arresting" Sgt Arevalo

just as familiar with everybody else's procedure as they are with their own.



But it wasn't all classroom work. Everyone concerned got a chance to get to grips (literally) with arrest procedure using an 'unwilling' instructor as a would-be arrestee. The seminar finished off with a route signing exercise, which was designed to be far more of a headache than (hopefully) any real situation is likely to be. Full credit to the Argentinian MPs, as they managed to foil the instructor's best efforts to make life difficult and sailed through the exercise, making it all seem indecently easy!



VISITS TO SECTOR ONE



THE NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS SECTOR ONE



by Lt AJ Di Tella, Argentine Navy

On 30 and 31 December 1994, ARGCON was visited by the Argentinian Navy's Chief of Staff, Admiral Enrique Emilio Molina Pico. The Admiral came to Cyprus for the first time to visit the Argentinian forces deployed with UNFICYP and share with them the festivities carried out on New Year's Eve.

During his two-day stay, he went to the three camps held by Sector One's troops, and was also conducted on a line tour to the most relevant OPs. On the morning of 31 December, he presided over a parade at the Box Factory camp, where the new insignias were presented to the Marine Officers and NCOs who were promoted that day. In the afternoon, following lunch at the Box Factory, Admiral Molina Pico went on a line tour through Charlie Coy's area of responsibility. He ended his visit at Skouriotissa Camp, where he attended a New Year's Eve party

with the rest of the officers of ARGCON and their families.

Among other appointments held by Admiral Molina Pico, he was Naval Attaché to the United States and Canada during 1990, and whilst holding this post, he was appointed Chief of the Naval Forces deployed in the Fonseca Gulf in Central America under UN command. He was also engaged in the political planning of the Argentine participation in the



Admiral Molina Pico visiting OP B-22, led by Charlie Coy Cdr, Lt (Navy) Eduardo Nieto, and WO3 Lujan.



Admiral Molina Pico and 1/Lt Garcia at Kokkina Camp

Persian Gulf. In addition, he was responsible for the operational and logistic coordination efforts which rendered the operation possible. Admiral Molina Pico took over as Navy Chief of Staff on 13 July 1993.

THE ARGENTINIAN ARMED SERVICES BISHOP IN CYPRUS

by Lt AJ Di Tella, Argentine Navy

Between 28 December 1994 and 5 January 1995, the Argentinian Armed Services Bishop, Norberto Martina, and the Navy Major Chaplain, Pablo Sosa, visited Cyprus to spend some time, including New Year's Eve, with the Argentinian soldiers.

They made various line tours, visiting the OPs along Sector One where they talked with the soldiers and celebrated Mass. This was the second visit of Bishop Martina to UNFICYP troops. He arrived from Bosnia, where he had spent Christmas with the Argentinian Battalion deployed with UNPROFOR.

Lt Cdr Panichini, Maj Corsiglia, RSM Varela, Lt Col Bianchi, Lt Col Isturiz, Bishop Martina and Fathers Candia and Sosa.





UNFICYP FLIGHT

by Mrs Miriam Taylor



On 30 September 1994, history was made when the first members of the Argentinian Air Force arrived in Cyprus to start their six-month tour of duty as the new UNFICYP Flight. They took over from the British UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps, who left UNFICYP after just over 30 years on the island. We welcomed the new arrivals and bade farewell to the outgoing unit on the inside cover of our September 1994 edition.

The OC of UNFICYP Flight has four pilots and 11 technicians under his command, all of whom are on their first mission outside their home country. This is the first time Argentina has sent such a unit to serve abroad.



At first, the unit found the work extremely difficult. They had never left Argentina before, and even though they had an excellent handover from their predecessors, it was tough for them to familiarise themselves with the language, the weather and the way of life. They quickly overcame the shock of having to speak English all the time! However, there were bigger headaches. For instance, the weather in Argentina is far more

stable and predictable than it is in Cyprus. Whilst it may be fine in Nicosia, only 15 minutes' flying time away in Pyla, a terrible storm can easily blow up within minutes, especially at this time of the year. On more than one occasion, an "escape" from bad weather has had to be made within a matter of minutes. However, all this is easily within the capabilities of these young but experienced Argentinians.

The pilots are on duty in rotation, and there is always one on standby 24 hours a day at 30 minutes' notice to move. Their hours are 7.30 am - 1.45 pm daily, and their routine duties are mainly helicopter flights on observation taskings for each of the three Sectors. These flights are basically for observation purposes over the area of the Buffer Zone, checking that there are no violations of the existing status quo. Apart from observation, training is constantly carried out. Thorough checks are continually made, externally and internally, before each and every flight, regardless of who is going to travel. It takes four years to qualify as an officer and one year more to obtain a pilot's licence in Argentina.

During their spare time, the members of UNFICYP Flight fill their

hours as best they can, since they are all unaccompanied. There is a volleyball court inside the hangar, and they also play tennis and football, joining up with other members of UNFICYP to make a team. They can also watch TV, read and some have even taken up extra studies to further their future within the Argentinian Air Force.

Although it was hard at first, the members of UNFICYP Flight are now gaining valuable experience and enjoying every minute of their tour in Cyprus. Now that there are only days left before this first Argentinian unit leaves Cyprus, every single one of them feels extremely comfortable. They have established a very good relationship with everyone in the UNPA, and have now become familiar with the different customs and traditions of the various nationalities serving within the Force.

Even though it was hard to leave their home country for six months, there isn't much doubt that the members of the first Argentinian UNFICYP Flight will look back on their tour in Cyprus with nostalgia.



Back row, from the left: Sgt Brocos, Sgt Rodriguez, Cpl Palacios, WO3 Thiry, Cpl Aghem, WO3 Coronel, SSgt Beliz, SSgt Chiodi, SSgt Herrera and Sgt Rosa.
Front row, from the left: Lt Valentich, 1/Lt Ortiz, Capt Guzzanti, Maj Brea, 1/Lt Russo and Lt Martinez.



THE BLUE BERET FUN AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PAGE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BB No 07

Hello readers. We are already into February, and we hope you all remembered your special Valentine this month.... We are happy to announce that the lucky winner of BB No 06 was **Ms Cécile Blanchet**, who is invited to collect her prize from the Spokesman's Office.

For the next puzzle, a bottle of delicious white wine will be won by the lucky person whose name will be drawn from the Editor's blue helmet on **20 March 1995**.



Clues:

Across:

1. Luther King
3. Capital of England
8. To move off the ground
9. State of Australia
10. Not part of the regular - but available for use
11. Passage often used for navigation
12. Evergreen tree, native to W. Australia and found in Cyprus
15. Book of knowledge
19. Mountain range in Argentina
20. Cease to occupy a place
22. Beats a king
23. Fit for royalty
24. Serious effort or tension

Down

1. High ranking military title (5, 7)
2. Irish town, known for its dairy and lace products
4. Pertaining to the eyes or sight
5. Adventurous
6. Almost
7. English port, famous for its music and football talents
13. One who entices, a charmer
14. Large expanse of salt water
16. Officers and men forming the permanent nucleus of a regiment or battalion
17. First part of the name of a Central American republic
18. Inert gaseous element
20. Duct
21. Perform



BLUE BERET TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. How many locally recruited civilian staff work for UNFICYP?
Approximately
a. 200
b. 300
c. 400
2. How much of the island of Cyprus does the Buffer Zone cover? About
a. 1%
b. 3%
c. 5%

ANSWERS TO BB 06





AN AUSTRALIAN MEDAL PARADE - WITH AN IRISH FLAVOUR

