

THE Blue Beret

February 1996



UNFICYP ON LIFE SAVING MISSION

On Tuesday 13 February, the Argentinian pilots of UN Flight took to the air on an emergency flight against the clock to transport a doctor from Nicosia to Paphos to operate on a kidney donor.

Dr. George Kyriakides, Director of the Paraskevaïdion Surgery and Transplant Centre, and implementing partner of the UNHCR bicomunal projects in Cyprus, requested the assistance of the United Nations to provide a helicopter for the emergency transport of transplant organs from Paphos to Nicosia. The kidneys of a recently deceased 51-year-old woman were to be used to save two other patients in Nicosia.

Orders to carry out this operation were received by UN Flight from HQ UNFICYP at 1415 hours, and at approximately 1525 hours, Lt Oscar Luzardo flew Dr. Kyriakides and two of his assistants to Paphos. The helicopter arrived back in Nicosia at 1905 hours, whereupon an emergency operation took place to



Dr. Kyriakides (left) with Lt Luzardo

save the lives of those awaiting kidney transplants.

Thanks to the swiftness and efficiency of the Argentinian pilots, this exceptional humanitarian task was carried out successfully.

VISIT BY THE IRISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

The Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Dick Spring, was in Cyprus on 10 and 11 January on a fact-finding mission in preparation for Ireland's Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 1996. During his stay in Cyprus, Mr. Spring met with President Clerides and Foreign Minister Michaelides as well as with H.E. Mr. Denktash, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community. Mr. Spring also met with the Chief of Mission of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel. These discussions focussed on a review of the Cyprus problem, the efforts to achieve an overall settlement and the European Union's relations with Cyprus in perspective of the opening of EU accession negotiations with Cyprus six months after the Inter-Governmental Conference.

Mr. Spring took advantage of his presence in Cyprus to visit the Irish Army and Garda personnel serving at UNFICYP Headquarters and in Pyla where members of IRCIVPOL are based. He received an Irish "Cead Mile Failte" from his



From the left: Mr. Liam Rigney, Ambassador of Ireland to Cyprus, Mr. Dick Spring and Mr. Gustave Feissel

fellow countrymen. While in Pyla, Mr. Spring was able to familiarize himself with the situation in the only remaining mixed Greek Cypriot/Turkish Cypriot village in Cyprus and the role played by UNFICYP in facilitating normal and harmonious village life. To commemorate his visit, Mr. Spring received a silver plaque on behalf of IRCIVPOL by Deputy Commander Matthew Cosgrave.

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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 Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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FRONT COVER:

AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE
HUGHES 500

ARGAIR IN ACTION

BY CPL JOHN DALY

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The Blue Beret welcomes the arrival of the 47th Contingent of police from Australia (pages 12/13). Their arrival provides the opportunity to underline the crucial role played by civilian police in UNFICYP. Along with their Irish colleagues, our Aussie friends bring to UN peace-keeping in Cyprus the very special skills that police have in peacefully resolving difficulties, particularly those involving civilians. The police element of UNFICYP has a long and honourable record on the island, ranging from humanitarian duties to policing the Buffer Zone in support of the Sectors. Unarmed, and in their distinctive blue uniforms, the latest group of Australian Police are here in time for the beginning of spring and, coming from the southern hemisphere, will be lucky enough to experience two summers in 1996!

Also in this issue, our article on the history of copper mining on the island (pages 14/15) is a reminder that many of the places where UNFICYP peace-keepers live and work have a long and colourful history of their own.

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SITUATION REPORT BY THE FIRST HUNGARIAN PLATOON

by I/Lt Zoltán Takács



One year ago, when I joined the Hungarian Peace-keeping Training Centre, I never believed that I would have the opportunity to serve with the United Nations on this beautiful island. Then, after arduous preparatory work, our government gave its blessing for the first Hungarian participation in peace-keeping operations.



Paving our own way in Camp Berger

Our platoon of 38 arrived on 14 November for a ten-month tour. After a warm welcome by the Force Commander and our Austrian friends, our well-organised life started with a short visit to the Company headquarters. We then travelled 12 km to the village of Louroujina, where our platoon is based in Camp Berger.



OC 1 Coy, surrounded by Hungarian officers - no chance of escape!

In military terms, the camp itself is very comfortable, and we soon realized that a lot of effort had been made by our Austrian friends to make our life as pleasant as possible. Even the snakes like our camp! When we refurbished the firing positions in the area, we found a reptile



Firing the world-famous Kalashnikovs (the rifle presently used by the Hungarian Platoon) at Troulli Mine

which instilled enormous fear in the soldier who discovered it. Trust this reptile to find the only Hungarian in the camp who is wary of snakes!

The first two weeks were very hard for everyone. We had to familiarize ourselves with the cease-fire lines and our area of responsibility. During this period, we had approximately 10 to 12 reports per day, so all OP commanders and officers had to work almost around the clock. In addition, we had to cope with hunters in our area, but even though we are new to the job, we now have the situation under control.



The Hungarian national flag flying at HQ UNFICYP

So far, the Hungarians who have been attached to the Austrian Contingent in UNFICYP have not had the chance to visit many parts of the island, but the little we have seen has been fascinating. We are very proud and happy to be here in Cyprus, and would like to thank our Austrian colleagues for their help and patience whilst we were adapting ourselves to our new tasks.

Last but not least, don't forget that you are always welcome to visit us at Camp Berger!



THE AUSTCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE



On 10 January 1996, 18 members of AUSTCIVPOL were paraded outside the International Mess by Acting Commander W Harrigan to be awarded the United Nations Medal for Peace by the Force Commander, Brigadier General ATP Vartiainen. The parade was attended by the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr John Sullivan.

The medal recipients were later joined by family and friends in the Officers' Club.

*Right: AUSTCIVPOL members awaiting the arrival of the FC
Below: The proud medal recipients*



AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day was held at the Kangaroo Club on 26 January 1996. This day commemorates the landing of the first fleet to the 'Great South Land' in 1788.

Many members of UNFICYP attended the celebration, which commenced at 3pm with some traditional sports like 'gum-boot throwing', 'footy through the hole', 'iron-man contest', 'tug-of-war' and the main event, 'the Dry



The team from IRCON jump for joy!



The Australian team straining at the bit to hold back one of the British teams

River Boat Race'. The boat race was won by IRCON's Camp Command team, and the tug-of-war by the 12 RA Regt guys from Ledra, coached by the 'Mother of all tug-of-war coaches', Dusty.

The evening progressed within the confines of the bar, except for the budding gamblers who tried their hand in the Two-Up ring outside, under the stars.



DÉJÀ VU



In December 1988, 9 (Plassey) Battery of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery came to Cyprus for a six-month peace-keeping tour. Now, exactly seven years later, 9 (Plassey) Battery are back, though some of the members have come a long way in that time.

Seven years ago, Sgt Michael Griffith was a Lance Bombardier, who remembers the section houses well and long duties. "There is more atmosphere now, more happens in Nicosia." Sgt Griffith used to be in the Box Factory, near Astromeritis, which is now in Sector One. He thinks the accommodation has improved considerably. He will be doing his best to avoid language problems on this tour. He remembers being on duty and a visitor arriving who didn't speak much English. Unfortunately, Sgt Griffith had tonsillitis and had "difficulty speaking in any language!"



Sgt Griffith (centre) introducing his troops to the COS on a recent visit

In 1989, SSgt "Sam" Duhaney was the Battery Commander's driver. He is now 9 Battery's BQMS. His memories from that tour were of orchards and parties in the spring. Now he meets more Cypriots and the soldier's life is more hectic. As the BC's driver, it was his job to ensure the Landrover was in working condition, clean and flying the UN flag. He drove the BC to a meeting at another Regiment's HQ. As they drove toward the first checkpoint on their return, Bdr Duhaney saw to his horror that someone had stolen the flag, and a pair of light blue pants flew from the radio antenna!

Bdr Tim Gray is now 27 and married with two children. Back then, he was a young Gunner. He remembers the intense training prior to deployment, and on Christmas Day having to go on foot patrol. All the locals saw them and kindly kept trying to invite them in for drinks.



Bdr Gray (front left) leading his Section in the "intense training prior to deployment"

The silliest thing he remembers was presenting arms to a UN helicopter. The pilot came in close; Gnr Gray held the rifle at the present, slowly the helicopter circled and he had to shuffle round the OP still saluting!

RSM Dawson was the 'G' Troop TSM in 1989. He achieved a great deal of satisfaction from being a part of the Ovgos project, which got farming started in the area. Now he notes that there is more bicomunal activity. His present concern is that the number of troops in UNFICYP has gone down dramatically. "I want every man to do his job, the Regiment to keep the peace and still get the soldiers to enjoy the full range of opportunities available".



WO1 (RSM) Dawson

Maj Andrew Snowden in 1989 was the BC of 9 Battery. Now a Lt Col, he commands 12 Regiment Royal Artillery. At that time, Maj Snowden was "impressed by what a useful and successful task soldiers were doing in UNFICYP. It was a rewarding six months, at the end of which I felt I had done something only a soldier could do." The reason for the success of peace-keeping in Cyprus was "the involvement of soldiers with soldiers and professional negotiation; not getting involved in the politics of the problem but having an awareness of it; a sense of mutual respect." Now in Nicosia, the emphasis has changed slightly: "in Nicosia, I have far greater contact with the opposing forces than I had last time." Then the main focus of the tour was normalization of economic activity. "We spent a lot of time reintroducing farming near the areas of Peristerona and Avlona."

As part of that task, "I recall re-routing the patrol track. Each time we did so, we named the loops after British motor racing circuits. I noticed recently during a helicopter flight over Sector One, that our final loop, the Thruxton loop, is still there and obviously still patrolled. However, I wonder if it still bears the same name?"

One of his fondest memories of his time at the Box Factory was the Battery Cocktail Party. Unbeknownst to the assembled guests outside, the Royal Artillery Band, in full regalia, were lined up inside the factory. At the appropriate moment, the doors were flung open and from a rundown building in the middle of a dusty landscape marched the resplendent band for a most impressive performance. "The expression on the guests' faces was a sight to behold."

In five years time it will be a new millennium, and the soldiers of today may well be the RSMs of tomorrow. Hopefully, the future of Cyprus will have changed as much for the better as the lives of the soldiers of 12 Regiment RA.



NEWS AROUND SECTOR TWO



FUND RAISER FOR FAMILIES

The hard work of Sector Two soldiers over the past year has helped to raise £C106.50 for the UN Families Welfare and Social Committee. The fund raising was started by 29 Cdo Regt RA, and seen right is Capt Gordon Hayes of 12 Regt RA, handing over the cheque to the Committee's Secretary, Claire Griffith.



SERGEANT SAVES SKIER

When Sgt Phil Carr went skiing on Sunday 28 January, he never thought he would be involved in a full-blown emergency.

A Cypriot skier collided with rocks on the piste and such was his speed that he was thrown into a clump of trees. Sgt Carr saw the accident and responded immediately. The man had received head and chest injuries; he was bleeding badly, unconscious and face down in the snow, unable to breathe.

Sgt Carr calmly cleared the skier's airway which restarted his breathing. He then attempted to stem the flow of blood and asked fellow skiers to alert the



emergency services. As the man regained consciousness, he was reassured and monitored. "I just had to jump in, he looked awful", said Sgt Carr. "He said he owned a sports shop, so we talked about it whilst waiting for the over-snow ambulance to arrive".

The skier was taken to the Troodos British Army Station and then to Nicosia General, where he has since made a good recovery. The

Commanding Officer commented: "It is most rewarding and gratifying when a soldier's basic training can be used to help others. All our soldiers are trained in basic first aid".

FIVE NATIONS - ONE GAME

On Saturday 27 January 1996, a rare game of rugby was played on the UNPA pitch when the International Barbarians played Sector Two in a friendly match.

What made the game unique was its truly international flavour. The 'Barbars' had Australians, Hungarians, Argentinians, British and Irish players, who in a very short time formed an enthusiastic and fast playing team. Over

50 spectators enjoyed an excellent, well matched game, with Sector Two running out as the eventual winners 41-18.

If any players wish to order copies of the team photos, please contact the Sector Two UPO on Nicosia 359760, Ext 113.

The players and coaches from both teams



It's the ball I want, mate, not your head!



The Hunter and His Victim

by Capt S Perr

This is a story about WO1 Joe Möseneder, whose assignment to UNFICYP was as Chief Clerk in Sector Four's Operations Branch. His function back home in Lower Austria is as Photographer of the Military Command, where he runs his own photography unit in the public relations and press branch.

He is one of those lucky people who has managed to turn his hobby into his profession. It isn't really surprising, therefore, that his

passion for taking photographs has not diminished with his posting to UNFICYP in March last year. In fact, it has increased, since this island offers many beautiful landscapes worth capturing on film. There are so many interesting scenes in the crowded city of Famagusta, the wonderful Mediterranean morning and the evening sunlight which gives every scene a unique colour.

However this time, it was my turn to capture "the hunter and his victim" on paper



☞ This is Joe. At first, he appears quite relaxed and confident.....



☞ But like an eagle, his eyes catch sight of something.



☞ And then the hunt starts.



☞ He approaches his "catch" carefully and nothing - but nothing - can hold him back!



☞ He attacks his "victim" and, as can be seen on his face,



He does his very, very best! ☞

A SYLVESTER TRIP TO THE CALEDONIAN FALLS

by MSgt Gugelweith

Austrians are, for obvious reasons, at home in mountainous areas. Many of us feel strange when we are in different surroundings, especially in Famagusta where the landscape is quite flat and not so exciting for us - except, of course, for the beautiful beaches and all the swimming we do in the summer months...!

For this reason, a small group of four Austrian soldiers decided to devote some of their time off on a trip to the Caledonian Falls, located in the Troodos mountain range. WOII Karrer from Styria, WOII Fischer from the Tyrol, LCpl Mag Brückler from Carinthia and MSgt Gugelweith from Upper Austria planned the trip on the last day of the year, known in Austria as Saint Sylvester's Day.

The walk started from the Minerva Hotel in Platres, a small village 7 km below Mount Olympus. A few hundred metres east of the hotel, we arrived at the path which led to the Caledonian Falls. The way was sometimes very rocky, and we had to cross the creek several times, but when we reached our destination, we



At the Caledonian Waterfalls. From the left: WOII Fischer, WOII Karrer, MSgt Gugelweith and LCpl Mag Brückler

were amazed to see such a waterfall in Cyprus. After taking many photographs, we continued our trip to the top of the mountain where we stopped for a rest and some refreshments. We then returned to our very pleasant hotel, and we all agreed that this was one of the most relaxing days since our arrival on the island.

We definitely recommend this tour to all members of UNFICYP.

HASTA LA VISTA AMIGOS !!!

This greeting in Spanish has two meanings. First is the desire to meet again, as the experience gained in UNFICYP is so pleasant to each and every one of us that we would like to repeat it one day. The second meaning of this phrase is the bond of friendship made during the last six months, which is an irreplaceable wealth that we take back with us to our country.



We in Task Force 5 would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity of serving under the flag of the United Nations, and for the cooperation and friendliness showed to us by all civilian and military members of UNFICYP.

THE PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE VERSUS ARGCON SECTOR ONE

by Gnr Noyes, Section One, PFR Troop

It was a sunny Friday afternoon on 29 December 1995. The pitch was as hard as stone, but with spirits high, we huddled around the TSM "Andy Simpson" for our final brief before undertaking what turned out to be a very hard game.

The whole team knew roughly what to expect, as we had observed the Argentinian team training, but nobody was prepared for the final result. The starting whistle went and the game quite literally took off! The opposition was faster on the ball than we expected, and it seemed that the sound of the whistle was just fading in the air as the back of our net was shaking after a well placed Argentinian shot! Bewildered at the speed of the goal, our keeper Gnr "Will" Wilmore picked the ball up from the back of the net. The astonished look on his face was a picture worthy of framing in the Battery history, not to mention the look

on everyone else's faces... We then realised that the word "friendly match" was serious as the onslaught continued. Roughly five minutes passed and, with lightning speed, the Argentinian forwards delivered the goods again, leaving us trailing by two goals to nil.

We were ten minutes into the game and spectators started to appear, the Commanding Officer and the RSM of Sector Two to name but two. God knows we needed some support to lift our by now flagging morale.

The support came our way and so did our chances of scoring, one being a build-up from our own defence. The ball came from the keeper to the defender Bdr "Daz" Davies, who played a delightful shot to the midfielder Gnr "T" Turner, who with expertise slipped the ball to Gnr "Taff" Noyes who proceeded up the right hand side of the pitch. On hearing the

call from the centre of the Argentinian penalty box, the cross was delivered and met with a superb header from the TSM. Our stomachs lurched and a glimmer of hope sparked in everyone's eyes. This soon faded as the ball whizzed inches past the top right hand corner of the Argentinian goal. Lady luck was definitely not shining down on us, but our morale was lifted as we realised that the opposition's defence was not impenetrable.

However, our defence, fronted by Capt "Tim" Mason, definitely had their work cut out for them, and we started playing a more defensive role rather than attacking. We fought it out until the final whistle, and it was obvious to Section One's A Team, and to everyone else, that the better team had won with a score of three goals to one. However, we all walked off the pitch as friends which, at the end of the day, is what a friendly game is all about.

SECTION ONE: A-TEAM



PERSONALITIES OF UNFICYP BSM PATRICK GUERIN

BSM Patrick Guerin enlisted into the Irish Permanent Defence Forces in 1958. He underwent his recruit training in Griffith Barracks, Dublin, for 16 weeks and qualified as a two-star private. Following that, he underwent additional training where his potential to be a leader was recognised. As an NCO, he served in the Eastern Command Training Depot and rose up the ranks to be the Company Sergeant of that Unit. He was promoted to BSM in 1988 and was subsequently posted to 2 Infantry Battalion.

Pat's overseas service is vast and he possesses an array of medals to the envy of many a young soldier. When Pat was a young boy, Irish schools encouraged their youngsters to donate money to the children of Africa. Little did he know at that time that he would serve in the 32nd Infantry Battalion, the very first Irish Unit to go on United Nations service in the Congo in July 1960.

Later he completed a second tour there with the 36th Battalion in December 1961. The Unit was involved in the Battle of the Tunnel in Elizabethville. This was the first time that the United Nations went on the offensive. During that period, there was a severe water shortage, and his Unit had to shave in lemonade!

He returned to UNFICYP in 1967 and 1969 with the 7th and 12th Infantry Groups. During his first tour, Pat was escorting a pregnant Turkish Cypriot girl from the village of Kokkina to the hospital in Morphou. Unfortunately for the girl, the baby decided to arrive early, so Pat and his crew had the happy task of delivering a healthy baby boy. Experiences like this one never forgets! He has completed four tours with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), serving with the 55th,



39th, 63rd and 67th Infantry Battalions and is currently on his third tour with UNFICYP.

Pat is most definitely a lover of good food, and it was in a restaurant that he met his wife Ann. They have five grown-up children, and his eldest son is following in his father's footsteps, as he is currently on his second tour of duty with UNIFIL.

He is a keen sportsman and a former all-army boxing champion. He also has a diploma for physical education from Newman House, University College in Dublin.

Pat is probably on his final tour of duty overseas, though he feels he may get the call again, having served 37 years in the Irish Permanent Defence Forces to date. He is now among the ranks of the "very senior".

At present, retirement age in the Irish Army is 60, but Pat sees himself leaving much earlier in order to improve his greatest pastime, the game of golf. Pat is in Cyprus until next October, so if anyone can help him polish his game even further, please contact him at Camp Command on Extension 645!

A MAJOR IS PROMOTED

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Boyle, Property Manager of the British Retained Sites in the UNPA, joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1962 as a Signaller and served with the Corps in the UK, Germany, Malaya, Hong Kong, Borneo, Cyprus, Nepal and Italy, occupying various appointments as he gained promotion. He was commissioned in 1982 and selected for a Quartermaster's

Commission in 1986, where his first appointment was in the Falklands Islands.

Lt Col Boyle was selected for promotion to his present rank in June 1995. Alas, he and his wife Rachel have to leave Cyprus this month. Lt Col Boyle will take up his new appointment as Quartermaster, 11th Signal Regiment in the south of England.





PROFILES OF THE AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN POLICE



Pictured on Pages 12 and 13 is the current Australian Police Contingent consisting of the new Commander, the 46th and 47th Contingents.

The 46th Contingent will departing in April and the 47th will remain until July.

Commander Carpenter has been posted for an initial term of two years.

46TH CONTINGENT

Superintendent M K Sheely joined the AFP in 1977, where he gained broad experience in community policing. He has worked in coastal protection, training, administration and policy units. He also has experience in project management delivering aid to law enforcement agencies in the South Pacific, and has a degree in adult education.



has worked as a detective in Melbourne specialising in drug investigations.

Sergeant Grant Astill joined the AFP in 1988. He is aged 28 and has worked as a detective in Sydney, specialising in fraud investigations and criminal asset recovery.



specialities include traffic accident investigation and he is a qualified police SCUBA diver.

Sergeant Paul Rowland joined the AFP in 1988. He is aged 28 and has worked in criminal investigation in Sydney and more recently in Brisbane. He is a qualified detective who has specialised in drug investigations, and is also surveillance trained.



Stn Sergeant Leigh Dixon joined the AFP in 1983. He is aged 40 and has worked in community policing and plain clothes investigation in Canberra. He is a qualified detective and was previously the Chief Instructor of an Intelligence Training Unit.



Sergeant Gregory Corin joined the AFP in 1987. He is 28 years old and has worked in plain clothes investigations and VIP protection in Sydney, New South Wales and uniform policing in Canberra.



Sergeant Zoran Savich joined the AFP in 1977 after serving two years in the Queensland State Police. He is 39 years of age and has worked in uniform policing and plain clothes investigations within Canberra. He is trained in counter terrorism and is fluent in the Slavic languages.



Stn Sergeant Neil Williamson joined the AFP in 1970. He is aged 49 and is a detective specialising in narcotic and money laundering offences. He has now returned to Australia.



Sergeant Deborah Hogan joined the AFP in 1987. She is aged 28 and has worked in uniform policing in Canberra.



Sergeant Peter Polkinghorne joined the AFP in 1974. He is aged 41 and has worked in uniform policing and national intelligence within Canberra. His



Sergeant Tracy Wilson joined the AFP in 1986. He is aged 34 and has worked in community policing in Canberra and plain clothes investigation in Brisbane specialising in drug investigations. He is a qualified instructor in police firearms and abseiling, and is trained in surveillance and counter terrorism.



Sergeant Kim Brunt joined the AFP in 1988. He is aged 42 and



Commander Barry Carpenter APM has served in Australian State and Federal

Police for over 36 years, basically in community policing and as a detective in the State Police.

He joined the Federal Police in 1974 and has served for ten years in VIP protection and later on the staff at the Officer Training School, Canberra. In 1985, he served with UNFICYP until mid 1987. He returned to Cyprus in February 1988 until November 1988. Commander Carpenter has also served with UNBRO on the Cambodian Border for four and a half years. In May

1993 he served as Senior Police Adviser to UNISOM in Somalia until February 1995. He arrived in Cyprus after a period with the UN Support Branch in Canberra, Australia.

The Commander was awarded the Australian Police Medal for distinguished service in the Queen's Honours List on Australia Day 1991.

47TH CONTINGENT

Detective Superintendent George Burton joined the Australian Police in 1975 after emigrating from Leeds, England, where he had served more than 12 years with the Leeds Police. He has extensive experience as a detective and has worked in almost all investigative areas. This is his second UN tour in Cyprus, having served between December 1994 and July 1995. He is 54 years of age and is married with two adult sons. He enjoys most sports, classical music and opera.



Sydney and Darwin before being transferred to Canberra in 1979. Whilst in Canberra, he performed the duties of investigating major crime, and spent two years in the Internal Investigations Division before being transferred to Sydney in 1994 where he investigated organised crime and major drug importations.

Sergeant Mark Tawton hails from Canberra, is aged 29 and is married with no children. Since joining the Australian Federal Police in 1987, he has performed uniformed duties in Canberra. His hobbies include cycling, boxing and Rugby Union.



Station Sergeant Shane Austin is 32 years (young), a single man from Canberra, and has been a member of the Australian Federal Police for 14 years. He has performed duty as a general duties officer, detective and detective trainer. He has also acted as a special operations team member, hostage negotiator, tactical response group member and close protection officer. His last position in Australia was in the ACT Regional Training Unit. He enjoys all types of sports, particularly Rugby League and motor cycling. This is his second tour of Cyprus, following a posting here in 1993.



Sergeant Martin Hess is on his first posting to Cyprus after joining the Australian Federal Police in 1988. He is a designated detective and also holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a post graduate Diploma in Criminology. He has been an active member of the Australian Army Reserve since 1979 and is on leave from the 51st Battalion The Far North Queensland Regiment whilst serving with UNFICYP. He is 37 years of age and single.



Station Sergeant Charles Gaughan was born in Ireland and emigrated to Australia in 1974. He joined the AFP in 1975 and has been a uniformed Police Officer in Canberra ever since. This is his sixth tour of duty in Cyprus, the first being in 1986. His hobbies include Rugby League football, reading and history.



Station Sergeant Steve Whittle is aged 33 and is married with four children. He joined the AFP in February 1981 and performed general duties (uniform patrol) until March 1988. He then carried out criminal investigation work until June 1995. Sergeant Whittle holds an Associate Diploma in Police Studies and a Degree in Social Science. He became a qualified detective in August 1991.



Sergeant Veronica Elton is from Sydney. She is aged 35 and is a detective. Sgt Elton joined the AFP in July 1980, and has carried out duties in the protective service and general policing in the ACT. She has worked in the intelligence, fraud and narcotics areas in Sydney. Her hobbies include sport and painting.



Station Sergeant Stephen John Turnbull joined the Australian Federal Police in 1976 and performed uniformed duties at



LIVING IN A RICH PLACE

by Lt (Navy) Eduardo Acosta

My first contact with Skouriotissa was when, back home in Argentina, I received a postcard from a friend of mine assigned to UNFICYP's Sector One. Immediately, both the picture on the card and the unusual sound of the word aroused my curiosity.

Eventually, I too received a posting to Skouriotissa and saw for myself the strangeness and beauty of the location, which once had been a prosperous mining area known as the Cyprus Mines Corporation. In comparison with its total area, Cyprus is relatively rich in mining resources. Most of the pits used today have been known since antiquity.

One day, in the middle of my tour, a group of visitors arrived at the Camp. They told me that they were from this area, and that in years gone by, they had been employed in the Skouriotissa mines.

Our visitors requested an opportunity to look over their old place of work. Happily, but also with a certain amount of nostalgia, they told me as best they could the history of the area, describing each building, what it was used for, what they personally did and in general, the way of life. One of them told me that the room I now sleep in was probably once the room where he first learned to read, and then I understood the why the building had the word "school" nailed to it!

Knowing the history of a place, it is easy to feel more affection and attachment to it. This short account of Skouriotissa (opposite on page 15) is based on the stories I was told, old newspapers lent to me by a local worker, and a document I acquired from the Hellenic Mines Corporation, the company which presently exploits these mines.

VISITS TO THE EX MINE

The group of people who paid us a nostalgic visit are Mr Ian Ross Cooper (ex Office Administrator), his son Mr Gary Cooper (who also studied in the "school" referred to above), Mr Arthur William Heuck (Assistant Manager from 1949 to 1955), who was accompanied by his wife, and Mr Graeme Armstrong, who is currently the



Technical Manager of the Hellenic Mines Corporation. Besides enjoying their visit and sharing a coffee with us, they expressed their sincere gratitude at the state of conservation of the buildings they once worked in, and also for the improvements made by the Argentinian Contingent, which certainly add to the delight of this beautiful area.

FORMER MINE WORKER

Mr Christos Gregoriou was born in Pendaria in 1933 and was one of the older mine workers. According to Christos, in the year 1912, the mine operated with only 100 workers (both Greek and Turkish Cypriots), and that in a matter of six months, the number had increased to 1,000.

1940 was a boom period when gold was discovered and 3,000 people were employed. In 1955, the gold reserves diminished and then only copper was mined.



Christos started work in Skouriotissa as a plumber in 1950 and was appointed General Service Chief. In general, the pay was very good and he earned £0.35 a day (one kilo of meat cost £0.10 at the time). Then in 1974, he began to work with the United Nations as a cook, and progressed to his present position as General Repairs Chief with 21 years of service.

Christos is married to Praxoulla, and at present, they live in one of the houses that used to belong to the Corporation in Skouriotissa.



THE SKOURIOTISSA MINING REGION

by Lt (Navy) Eduardo Acosta

The Skouriotissa mining region, which encompassed the villages of Skouriotissa, Mavrovouni, Phoenix and Apliki, was once an important centre of mining activity. In times gone by, the rate of production was limited, and it was not until mining deposits were "rediscovered" early this century that their exploitation was carried out on a contemporary industrial scale. Skouriotissa has the largest slag heap in Cyprus, and the original production is estimated to have been about three million tons.

Archeological evidence suggests that this was one of the most active mining centres, operating intermittently from the Cypro-Geometric and early Cypro-Archaic times (1,000 years BC) to the 17th century AD, and then from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. In antiquity, the mines were first worked mainly by the Phoenicians and later by the Romans.

During the Ottoman period beginning 1572 AD, operation of these mines stopped. The interesting factor in this historical report is how the mines were rediscovered and reopened.

In 1912, Mr Godfrey Gunter, an American Mining Engineer who was browsing in a New York public library, came across an obscure reference to the fact that Galen, the personal physician of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, had visited the Cyprus copper mines in 166 AD and had expressed admiration of their richness and productivity. Gunter's curiosity was then aroused, and he managed to obtain a translation of Galen's works. In them, he found an account of the Roman doctor's visit to the copper mines at Soli, which were then the property of the Roman Government. The Romans operated the mines economically with an abundance of slave labour.

Immediately, Gunter, acting on behalf of a syndicate, travelled to Cyprus and rediscovered a Roman mine at Skouriotissa (Phoukasa, on its 9th borehole) which was evidently the one Galen had referred to. He found great slag heaps left by Phoenician and Roman miners, and also a huge pile of broken earthenware jugs, used by the slaves to carry water from underground wells.



An aerial view of Gen San Martin Camp and the Skouriotissa mining area

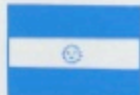
As a result of Gunter's discoveries, the Cyprus Mines Corporation was formed. Despite the effects of two world wars, which obviously affected its operations, records showed a substantial output from 1962 to 1973, the total ore mined being 3.91 million tons.

This Corporation covered three areas: the first was in Skouriotissa, where the HQ and general mines offices were located; the second was Mavrovouni, where the main mines were situated; and the third area was at Xeros on the coast of the Morphou Bay. The only railroad ever built in Cyprus served to transport the ore. At Xeros, huge installations crushed, processed and prepared the ore for shipment.

There were 2,500 Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers on the payroll of the Corporation, who were divided into two main departments: the surface division and the underground division, the latter, of course, being the true miners. The mining experts and technicians came from either America or Britain.

In 1974, when the cease-fire lines divided its installations, the Corporation closed the mine and handed over the HQ and central offices to the Bishopric of Morphou, which in turn rented them to the United Nations.

At present, the Argentinian Contingent's Gen San Martin Camp operates from this location, and Roca Camp is located beside the Xeros installations.



FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING IN CAMP COMMAND

Photograph by Cpl John Daly



Mr Michael Hadjigeorgiou (centre), the chief civilian Fire Officer, instructing Capt Niall McDonnell (left) and Cpl Paddy McGlynn on fire fighting practices while Mr Nadeem Qadir operates the water pump