

# THE Blue Beret

January 1992





## FATHER CHRISTMAS REPORTED IN SECTOR TWO



Father Christmas with the children

Despite the rain and overcast conditions, the children's joy was not dampened and each one happily went forward to receive a present and a few (the girls) even gave Father Christmas a kiss in return. After about an hour, all the children had been given a present, and following a traditional drink, Father Christmas left by a more sedate means - in a white pick-up.

The children appeared very happy with their recently acquired toys, and are now convinced that the UNFICYP Gazelle, which they see flying over the village almost daily, is Father Christmas' personal sleigh. Perhaps there is a case for all the pilots to now fly in Father Christmas suits, so as not to disappoint the children!



Standing left to right: SSgt Garican, Mukhtar of Mammari, Father Christmas, Maj Polley, Maj Webb-Bowen  
Kneeling left to right: Sgt Mustard, Sgt Lee

Christmas, for many children, would not be complete without a visit from Father Christmas, so when the village Mukhtar of Mammari asked Sector Two's Humanitarian Team if they could help, they were only too keen to do so.

The parents of the village had arranged for each child to receive a Christmas present and on 29 December, Father Christmas found time during his busy schedule to fly in and give out the presents.

The children waited eagerly at the football pitch in Mammari for his arrival, and at 11 o'clock, a Gazelle from the UNFICYP Flight AAC arrived, bearing Father Christmas to hand out the gifts. Father Christmas was ably played by SSgt Smith, 15/19H.

## SANTA VISITS SUPPORT REGIMENT



Father Christmas recently handed over 130 Christmas boxes donated by the Royal British Legion to members of HM forces serving overseas unaccompanied over the festive season. The photograph shows (left to right) Dvr Wong Chan Lung, Dvr Santabhadur Ghale, Cpl Purnabhadur Shahi, Dvr Rajpati Gurung and Dvr Wu Chai On counting the Transport Squadron's boxes.



Santa also visited UNFICYP Support Regiment. From left to right: WO2 (SSM) Johnson, LCpl Meek, LCpl Impleton, Cpl "Santa" Miller, WO2 (RQMS) Hawker and SSgt Harrison.



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Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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**Front Cover**  
The Austrian  
emblem

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

As is traditional in this magazine over the last few years, the Christmas seasonal activities find their way into the January edition. An interesting feature of these articles is that while we shared the spirit of Christmas with each other, we also did so in a special way with a number of children from both communities. The snow tableau by SWEDCIVPOL, Santa by 15/19 Hussars, bicycles from the Royal Canadian Regiment, etc tell a tale of their own about us as people.

The message is that we want to give, we want to draw people together and we hope, despite intervening disappointments, that in time, our efforts will bear fruit.

For the moment, it is possible that the local media interest, as reflected in recent favourable articles and photographs, is a very tenuous indication that such efforts, if not bearing fruit, are at least allowing the seed to be sown.

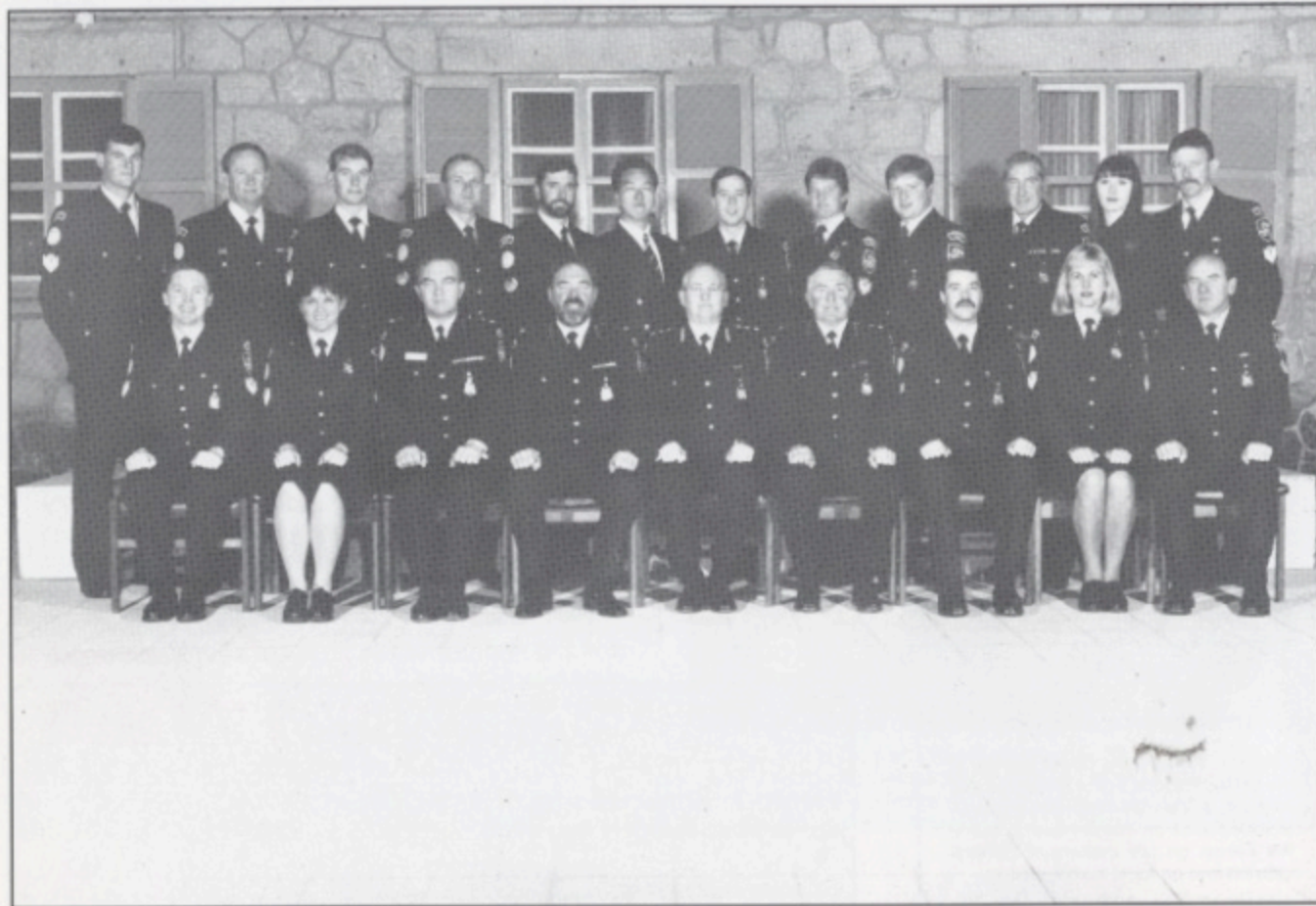
Post Script: Regular readers will have noted the delay in the distribution of the January magazine. This is regretted, but resulted from problems associated with a re-negotiated printing contract.

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**AUSTCIVPOL WISHES  
YOU ALL A VERY  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FOR 1992**



**SWEDISH CHRISTMAS  
IN LARNACA**



10 families from Sweden flew to Cyprus to join in the Swedish Christmas celebration held on Christmas Eve in Camp Flamingo, Larnaca.

In order to get that "Christmassy feeling", several SWEDCIVPOL Police Officers went up to the Troodos mountains, loaded snow onto a truck and brought it back to Camp Flamingo! They then placed it on the beach, under a Christmas tree. After dancing around the tree, Santa Claus appeared and gave the children their presents. When this was over, Santa Claus was thrown into the sea! It was quite a surprise for the smaller children to discover that their "Santa" was actually a member of SWEDCIVPOL.

Then it was time for the "Christmas Bathe", after



which a traditional Christmas dinner was served. The wives and children who visited Camp Flamingo on this special occasion will never forget this wonderful day.

**AUSTRALIA DAY**

Sunday 26 January is Australia's National Day. Although the date commemorates the establishment of the first white settlement in Australia in 1788, the day itself acknowledges the roles played by migrants and original Australians in the founding of what is now a wealthy and economically stable nation.

Australia has never been an easy country to settle. The first Aboriginal tribes arrived 40,000 years ago and pursued hunting and gathering as a way of life. There are no indications that they farmed, due in part to the hardships that would be experienced in this form of endeavour.

The first European settlers in 1788 were forced to turn to farming to feed the community. This meant that as the white farming population grew, the frontiers were advanced to allow

for development of land for farming. Within 100 years of European settlement, all the capital cities - with the exception of the national capital Canberra - had been established. In the 1880's, Australia was one of the most highly urbanised countries in the world with two thirds of the population living in cities and towns. This was despite the fact that at that time, most of Australia's wealth came from primary production.

The gold rushes of the 1850's saw a dramatic increase in Australia's population. Gold seekers came not only from the British Isles, but from Europe, the Americas and China. The increase in migration, a feat of an external military threat, coupled with a developing sense of nationalism led to a movement towards Federation. This was achieved on January 1, 1901.

Since World War II, the predominantly British influence in the community has been diluted by massive immigration from Europe. Following the end of the Vietnam War, Asian refugees settled in Australia ensuring the country is becoming increasingly multi-racial. These "new Australians" have provided Australia with a diversity of cultures, food and backgrounds.

The AUSTCIVPOL Contingent is representative of the multi-cultural society Australia has become. Members making up the Contingent have family ties to countries such as England, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland and Yugoslavia. On 26 January - Australia Day - the Australian Contingent celebrated not merely the founding of a nation, but also the unity, strength and courage of our forebears.

**ISLAND HOPPING**

About 3 months ago the new AUSTCIVPOL Commander, Commander Harry Bryant, was working in the Republic of Vanuatu. Formerly administered as the New Hebrides by the United Kingdom and France, Vanuatu is a group of some 70 islands in the South Pacific located between Fiji and northern Australia. On loan from the Australian Federal Police, Commander Bryant spent two years as Police Adviser to the Vanuatu Police Force. In January this year, he was transferred to Cyprus to take up the position as Commander of AUSTCIVPOL.

Commander Bryant's career as a police officer spans 34 years - he has worked in the Metropolitan Police, London, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the Australian Federal Police. He has served in a number of areas including general duties, criminal investigations, administration and training.

Harry is accompanied to Cyprus by his wife Audrey. They have two children, Catherine, who is attending the School of Opera in Sydney and Marcus, who is nursing in Perth, Western Australia. Commander Bryant is a long handicap golfer and a recently qualified scuba diver, having learnt diving in the beautiful tropical waters of Vanuatu. Audrey follows the more gentle pursuit of swimming, is a crossword fanatic and loves playing mahjonn and scrabble. They both look forward to their two year term in Cyprus.





## THIS YEAR, SANTA BRINGS BICYCLES

By Capt S.D McLean



Boys at the Kyrenia hostel with their new bikes. Before this delivery, all 50 boys shared one bike!

Christmas has come and gone, however this year the spirit of giving has left its mark on the island of Cyprus.

It all started in mid November when the United Nations and Sector Three, after two years of negotiations, finally received the authority to salvage the bicycles stored in the basement of a warehouse, known to us as Maple House. The plan was to recondition approximately 100 bicycles for donation to the various orphanages located on both sides of the Buffer Zone.

The first step was to prepare 47 bicycles prior to Christmas. The arduous task of removing and

refurbishing the bicycles then began. Within three days of receiving the word, the soldiers from Maple House delivered 60 bicycles to Maintenance Platoon. An initial inspection was conducted and an estimated 300 hours of labour was required to complete the first task. The most time-consuming requirement was the cleaning of the bicycles. The call quickly went out for volunteers, to which all companies responded. Bicycles and spare rims were loaded on trucks and delivered to both Ledra Palace and the various section houses of City and Rural Companies. After each bicycle was given a thorough cleaning to

remove the 20 odd years of dirt and grime, they were returned to Maintenance Platoon for a serviceability check. All brakes, pedals, lights and tyres were checked; those requiring replacement parts were set aside for later work and the finished ones placed under shelter to await delivery day. By 20 December, the Battalion had succeeded in reconditioning 57 bicycles.

On 21 December, the first batch of 22 bicycles was loaded on a truck and delivered to an all-boys hostel in Kyrenia in Northern Cyprus. Padre Gary Marche officiated the handover with the accompaniment of Pte Steven Spence, WO Joseph Almon, MCpl Monique Gareau, Pte Darryl Burgess and Cpl Parent.

The second batch of 25 bicycles was delivered on 23 December to St. Joseph's School in Nicosia. Padre Marche once again officiated the handover, while accompanied by a large group of soldiers from Maple House and Administration Company.

By the time this gets published, the Battalion should have filled two other taskings for 30 more bicycles. As a result of the efforts of a lot of people, the Battalion completed one of its humanitarian tasks, but it also brought a little hope and happiness to a lot of children.

PRO PATRIA

## SECTOR THREE SPORTS



LCol Geburt, CO Sector 3, looks down field for an open receiver.

The last two weeks of November proved to be extremely busy in the area of sports. On 23 Nov, 2 RCR conducted an inter-company basketball tournament, where Rural Company proved to be the superior force to the Headquarters' team in a game that was marked by a bit of "unnecessary roughness" — a call usually found in ice hockey.

On 29 November, the Junior and Senior Officers kicked off in the Annual Grey Cup Game (the Grey Cup is the annual trophy for the top Canadian professional team in American style football). The rules of the game had to be explained to certain players on more than one occasion, due to the language barrier. The following day, few officers were capable of doing much more than walking. The final result was a victory for the Senior Officers with a score of 8 to 0.

## FSC SQUADRON NOTES



Lt Col ARE de C Stewart chatting to LCpl Bell in Camp Liri.

A recent visitor to the Sqn from Germany was the Commanding Officer of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO), Lt Col ARE de C Stewart. He brought

with him much awaited news concerning the forthcoming amalgamation with the 15th/19th King's Hussars, who have just arrived on the island to take over responsibility for Sector Two. We therefore hope that we will be able to further relations with them during the short time our tours in UNFICYP overlap, and look forward to working with them on the line.

The bi-annual inspection of the Makarios Arms Cache took place in the UNPA with the Scout Car Squadron providing the necessary security whilst the experts performed their tasks within. It was a short, sharp exercise, enabling the troops to stay alert and experience the varied tasking that can be delegated to the forces within UNFICYP.

Pandora's Box (the Force Reserve Exercise) was called at the end of November which involved the security of key installations within the UNPA and the evacuation of dependants, if the need arose. Unfortunately, the weather was quite appalling, which put a slight damper on the day, but nevertheless it was a very successful exercise.

## THIRD TROOP NOTES

Third Troop has had an outstanding tour all round. We have participated in all aspects of island life - operationally, on the sports fields and at all social events.

As part of our BRITCON tour, we acted as the Force Reserve Troop and our recce skills were put to the test by acting as the "eyes and ears" for the Force Reserve Commander at the demonstrations aiming at entering the Buffer Zone. Thankfully, we didn't have to employ our recently honed crowd control skills. While on patrol, we adopted a disciplined approach to our mission, and mastered all the Sector patrol tracks with comparative ease.

On the sports fields, we have provided players for every sport the UN participates in, and we formed the backbone of our Squadron Military Skills Team. This has often meant that the less sporty in the Troop have found themselves with a little time to roam the island.

On the social scene, members of the Troop have been found at all corners of the island at the merest hint of a party, from Ayia Napa to down town Nicosia.



Tpr Denby in full dress with the remainder of 3rd Troop.

All in all, the Troop have enjoyed working all the Sector, and after our Christmas leave, we

only have the Inner City patrol to contend with before returning to Germany.



SECTOR FOUR NEWS

AUSCON SOLDIER TO THE RESCUE



Recently, a traffic accident took place in which a six-year-old Turkish boy was seriously injured. The AUSCON Medical Centre was contacted to find a blood donor, which wasn't easy because the child was in the rare blood group of AB negative. Only one of AUSCON's soldiers, MCpl Pfister, was in the same group. Without hesitation, the 23-year-old Austrian, who has been serving with UNFICYP since last March, donated blood, thereby saving the boy's life. Well done, MCpl Pfister.

CHRISTMAS BET



During a hot summer day, the new Austrian Chaplain, Rev Lochner, looked ahead and regretted that Christmas 1991 would be a sad occasion for him without a "proper" Christmas tree. Some officers nearby did try to console him by offering to decorate the cactus, the palm tree or any other brushwood in the Officers' Mess. However these proposals did not satisfy the Chaplain — a Christmas tree had to be a spruce, a fir or else something very similar.

But, our Senior Humanitarian Officer had more faith! He made a bet with the Chaplain — if a proper Christmas tree did arrive on time, the Chaplain would have to arrange a buffet with everything a man could wish for. The Chaplain agreed — nobody could imagine Christmas at that time!

However Christmas came closer and the promised tree arrived. The Chaplain naturally kept his part of the bargain and provided a wonderful buffet. The day was a double occasion, as it coincided with a personal celebration — the first anniversary of his ordination (above).

AUSTRIAN KRAMPUS PARTY



1991 is not the first time the Austrian Contingent organised the Krampus Party at HQ UNFICYP. More than expected accepted the invitation to an evening where they did not know what would happen. On this particular day, the "good" receive gifts and the "bad" get punished! In the photo, Lt Col Rieszland kneels before St Nicholas — has he been good this year?



SECTOR FOUR NEWS

AUSCON ROTATION



Officers of Sector Four getting ready to go home

The latest AUSCON rotation took place in late November, when 176 new "Blue Berets" replaced a part of the Austrian Contingent. Some of the "old" crew found it hard to leave the place they have been living in for the last eight months.

However some of the "new" Contingent were actually "old" members of Sector Four. Due to the fact that this island of love had made its mark in their lives, they decided to return for yet another tour.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE VISITED AUSCON

A second national VIP to visit the current Austrian Contingent was the Austrian Minister of Defence, Dr Werner Fasslabend, who made an inspection of Sector Four.

After being taken on a line tour of the Sector, the Minister was briefed on the work and life of the Austrian peace-keepers on this island. Following this, Dr Fasslabend emphasized his Government's determination to continue Austria's contribution to UNFICYP.



The Minister of Defence, Dr Fasslabend, in Camp Duke Leopold V.

VISIT OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR



The Ambassador at Camp Izay

The American Ambassador, Mr Lamb, recently accepted an invitation to visit the Austrian Contingent. During this visit, he was taken on a line tour of Sector Four, where he learned about the various tasks of the Austrian peace-keepers. Later in the evening, he enjoyed a delicious Austrian dinner.

The American Ambassador was not only acquainted with the military and culinary aspects of the Sector, but also the Austrian Field Post Office. Since he was a youngster, he has been collecting stamps and now possesses a rather large collection. As the Deputy President of the American Philatelists, he had some questions for our FPM, who was the right person to carry on a technical conversation.

At the end of his visit, the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Rieszland, presented the Ambassador with a bottle of rum - with the significant name of LAMB!



The Ambassador at the Field Post Office.

NEAR TO NATURE



There is an old Red Indian saying which goes: "Listen to your inner voice, watch your dreams, obey your conscience, respect all life". Trying hard to live by this philosophy of life, LCpl Fröhlich, (above) a driver at HQ Coy, Sector Four, spends a lot of time developing his artistic studies by making many of his articles and garments by hand. He is supported by his wife, who sends many of the materials required from Austria.



### REVIEW ON MOZART



A portrait of Mozart

For one whole year, people in Austria could not imagine life without Mozart. There was no escape - Mozart was omnipresent. Even if a person had no

previous idea of his music, nearly everybody was seized by the passion for Mozart in 1991.

You did not have to love the music of Mozart to make money out of his name. Many people who knew nothing about his life or music wanted to profit from the man who died 200 years ago. Not only were the delicious chocolate-coated marzipan Mozart balls ("Mozartkugeln") on sale, but so were commemorative medals, books, T-shirts, posters, etc. etc. Exhibitions and movies were everywhere. Even Mozart toilet paper was sold!

Several towns competed eagerly for the best points of contact, including Salzburg, where he was born on 21 January 1756, and Vienna where he died on 5 December 1791. At Mozart's birth place, located in the well-known

Getreidegasse, many of his instruments, pictures, documents and other memories were on show. In these rooms he created his first composition. At the tender age of 6, he gave his first performance for the imperial family in Vienna. Guided by his father and his sister, "Nannerl", he soon made his name in Vienna, Paris, London and Prague.

29 years after his first performance, he died of rheumatic fever. His contemporary, Antonio Salieri, could not get over the fact that this half-witted person (for that is what Mozart appeared to be) could create some of the most beautiful music in the world.

The year 1991 is now over and the people of Austria can once again consider Mozart for what he really was - an inspired musician.

### MPs to the Rescue



The FPM, Maj Paul Cloutier, presents a certificate of appreciation to Sgt Koch, while WOII Scott listens intently

At about 2100 hrs on Nov 91, on routine patrol in Ayia Napa, Sgt Koch observed a fire at a BP Petrol Station. Aided by an unknown Cypriot, Sgt Koch managed to extinguish the fire, situated about 20-30cm from the petrol pumps and about 25-30 metres from the large storage vehicle. After the fire was put out, CYPOL and the Fire Brigade arrived.

By his quick reaction, determination and disregard for personal safety, Sgt Koch may have prevented a major disaster and possible loss of human life. From all personnel of the MP Coy, congratulations and well done Sgt Koch.

### MCpl Bakelaar decorated



The FPM, presenting MCpl Bakelaar with his Canadian Decoration Medal with CWO Blanchard (right)

The Canadian Forces Decoration is awarded to personnel who have served 12 years without any blemishes on their record. MCpl John Bakelaar joined the Canadian Forces on 25 Sept 79 in London, Ontario.

During his career, MCpl Bakelaar has worked in variety of MP duties. He is married with three children and his family reside in Goose Bay, Labrador. MCpl Bakelaar, while employed in the UN MP Coy, has worked in the Nicosia, Ayia Napa and presently the Larnaca Detachments. Congratulations to MCpl Bakelaar from all ranks within the UN MP Coy.

### VIP VISITS IN SECTOR THREE



The Canadian Minister of National Defence with the Force Commander and CO Sector Three, attending the Remembrance Day Service.

November proved to be a terribly busy month for the Royal Canadians in Sector Three. The month began with a short visit by the Canadian Minister of National Defence, the Honorable Marcel Masse. On arrival, he was received by a 50-man Guard of Honour, put on by the Headquarters Company at Wolseley Barracks. He was treated to line tours of both City and Rural Companies, during which he spent a great

deal of time visiting and speaking with the soldiers on the line.

The Minister also accompanied the Force Commander to the Canadian Remembrance Day service. The next day, Mr Masse departed for a visit with the Canadian troops deployed in Kuwait.

The Minister's visit was soon followed by another important occasion, a visit by 2 RCR's Brigade Commander, BGen Dallaire. The General and his wife arrived

for a stay that lasted just over one week, during which he took the opportunity to become familiar with the various aspects of 2 RCR's operational duty and the day-to-day workings of UNFICYP. He was given extensive line tours, and spoke with many soldiers.

While here, BGen Dallaire was able to preside over the 2 RCR Annual Pacestick Competition. The four teams, one from each Sector Company, threw up stiff competition for one another, but in the end, the Rural Company team, led by WO Besaw, provided the best performance.



BGen Dallaire, Brigade Commander 2 RCR, inspects his guard upon arrival at Sector Three.

### DASH - SURPRISE

The final inter-troop competition for 1991 for 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron was certainly a surprise for the competitors. The parade at 0600 hours on Wednesday 18 December did not lead into the customary log run but to the Wire Inn for a leisurely breakfast. Hesitant faces watched out for the 2ic awaiting the surprise!

With a 15-minute deadline to find their allotted vehicle, the 2ic handed out a list of 40 questions to be answered and 10 tasks to be achieved by 1300 hours for each troop.

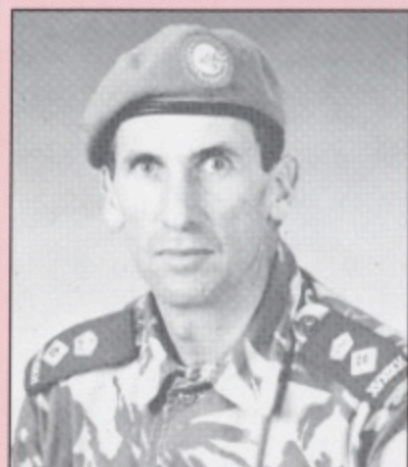
All enjoyed the challenge and the outing, seeing places never visited before. Congratulations to Radio Troop - the winners.



The winning team: (left to right) Cpl Pete Gibbs, Sig Russ Wibberley, Cpl Andy Cummings, Sig Lee Goddard, Sig Bob Williams and Sig Duncan Smith.



## INTRODUCING SECTOR TWO



CO Sector Two, Lt Col  
Christopher Braithwaite

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars has recently taken over from 4th Royal Tank Regiment in Sector Two. The Regiment is delighted to be back in Cyprus. It had a Squadron in Episkopi for two years up to 1986, and another Squadron served in Sector Two in 1988 under command of 4th/7th Dragoon Guards.

In this article we would like to introduce ourselves with a brief history of our Regiment.

15th/18th The King's Royal Hussars was formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of the 15th The King's Hussars and the 19th (Queen Alexandra's Own) Royal Hussars. The 15th Hussars were raised in 1759 by Major General Augustus Eliott. At the time, there happened to be a strike of journeyman tailors, many of whom enlisted in the newly formed Regiment, thus giving us

our nickname, "The Tabs". The 19th Hussars were raised in 1781 when the Directors of the East India Company applied to the Queen for the loan of a cavalry regiment to serve in India. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel John Floyd who was transferred from the 15th Hussars.

The 15th Hussars saw service in the Seven Years War. At the battle of Emsdorf in 1760, the Regiment successfully charged home and secured the surrender of five French Battalions. This became the Regiment's and the Army's first battle honour. By 1794, the French Revolutionary War had broken out and the Regiment was involved in an engagement at Villers-en-Couché. Charging home, the 15th scattered six French infantry Battalions and saved the Austrians from defeat. They in turn granted the Regiment the Austrian Royal Pattern gold lace, which is still worn by Officers on their uniform today.

In 1808, the Regiment set off for the Peninsula War. On 21 December 1808 at the town of Sahagun, the 15th Hussars charged two Regiments of French cavalry, soundly defeating them at a cost of only two lives and twenty three wounded. This engagement has become the Regiment's main battle honour and is celebrated every year.

After taking part in Waterloo in 1815, the 15th Hussars served in England and India and took part in the second Afghan War before finally settling in Aldershot in 1913.

The story of the 19th (Queen Alexandra's Own) Royal Hussars is very different. Until 1914 they never served in Europe, all their honours being won in Asia, Africa and America. In 1782 the 19th landed in India, earning their name "Terrors of the East" in the Maharatha War that followed. At the Battle of Assaye in 1803, the Regiment were granted a battle honour and in 1807, Royal Assent was given to wear a badge encribed with an elephant and the word "Assaye". This is still worn on the Regimental Belt today. The 19th then served in Egypt and the Sudan and in the Boer War.

During the First World War, both Regiments served on the Western Front. After amalgamation in 1922, the Regiment was in England and then took part in the invasion of 1944 and advanced from Normandy to the Baltic, reaching the Elbe by the end of the war. Since 1946, the Regiment has served in Germany, Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus, Transjordan, the Sudan, the Arabian Peninsula, Canada and Northern Ireland. Recent tours have included Fallingbostal, Omagh, Paderborn and Bovington. The Regiment is presently stationed in Detmold, Germany as an armoured Regiment equipped with Chieftain tanks. The Regiment is due to amalgamate with the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) in December 1992 and become an Armoured Recce Regiment with the Rapid Reaction Corps.

## SECTOR TWO CHRISTMAS CAKE COMPETITION



Lt Col Braithwaite presents Sgt Thomson  
with the trophy for the Christmas Cake Competition

To encourage the Christmas spirit, and test the expertise of our newly trained hobby cooks, it was decided to hold a Christmas Cake Competition.

The basic rules of the competition were that the ACC chefs would make a whole cake and the hobby cooks would decorate an already baked cake. 18 cakes were distributed in all, and the deadline was set for one week hence.

All the cakes were delivered to St. David's Camp and Lieutenant Colonel Braithwaite, the Commanding Officer, and WO1 Mire, the FCWO, judged the competition. The standard was extremely high, considering 70% of the entries were from inexperienced chefs.

The results were as follows:

1st	Sgt Thomson 15/19H	B24
2nd	Cpl Caruana ACC	B18
3rd	Cpl Thompson ACC	SDC

The winners all received a trophy, with an additional prize for the 1st place being a day off from cooking on Christmas Day while the Master Chef, WO2 Maycroft, cooked Christmas Dinner for the winner's OP.

## THREE MEN BEARING GIFTS SIGHTED ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Cpl Rowell from OP B-22 receiving goods from  
the villagers of Avlona with Maj Polley and  
Maj Rutherford-Jones standing by

Christmas Eve saw the arrival down the bumpy road that leads to OP B-22 of three men bearing gifts. The group was led by Mr Argyrou, the spokesman of the Greek Cypriot Avlona farmers, who was

accompanied by the former Mukhtar of Avlona, Mr Nicos Loizou, and Mr Hadjicharalambous, a local farmer who owns fields around B-22. The delighted soldiers welcomed the three men in and provided a traditional British tea, whilst Mr Argyrou presented a huge fresh turkey, bottles of brandy and wine and a Christmas pudding which he had brought over personally from London the week before!

The former Mukhtar of Avlona thanked the United Nations soldiers for all the good work on their behalf, and Major Polley, the Sector Two Humanitarian Officer, replied saying how much the soldiers of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars enjoyed working with such kind and generous people in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill and friendship. This, he said, was no better shown than by the thoughtful and kind-hearted presents brought to the OP on that day.

After Christmas greetings, Mr Argyrou, Mr Loizou and Mr Hadjicharalambous departed back up the bumpy road to the village of Avlona.

## CHARITY HALF MARATHON



Cpl Turnbull and Tpr Pollocks

Sunday 29 December saw over 60 officers and soldiers of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, the British UN Sector Two Regiment, taking part in a sponsored half marathon in Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus. The run, over a course of 11.3 miles, was in aid of HELP, a charity which supplements the welfare of children-in-care in Northern Cyprus.

There were a number of start times between 0830 and 1000 hours. Cpl Turnbull and Tpr Pollock from H

Squadron decided to run the route in uniform carrying bergens with 40lbs of stones in them; the photograph shows them close to the end of the run. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Braithwaite, also took part and can be seen in the photograph on the front row (the young gentleman in the shorts).

When the final counting of the sponsorship monies took place, over £C3000 had been collected for the charity.



The 10 o'clock start



SUPPORT REGIMENT NEWS

COMMENDATION



The Force Commander presents Lt Col Ian Stevens, CO Support Regiment with the Joint Commander's Commendation for his role in Operation Granby.

FLIGHT RECEIVES COMMANDER'S COMMENDATION

Brigadier EC Tait (Commander Aviation UKLF) visited the Flight during late November for his annual inspection. After briefings and a tour of the Flight, he flew himself out to D-34 to see life in Sector One, and was greeted with the usual excellent brief by the Danes, accompanied by coffee and the inevitable home-made cakes.

The Brigadier then sprung a surprise on Captain Richard Green and WO2 Paddy Connelly (seen below) by presenting them with the Commander Aviation UKLF's Commendation for their part in the rescue off Kokkina in January 1991, when one Turkish soldier was saved from the sea and another was sadly lost.

The Commander also visited the Canadians for a city tour. He was given a comprehensive brief by Capt RJ Martin before Lt John Fife showed him the sights of the Green Line. The Brigadier flew home having seen a good cross section of UNFICYP's activities.



UNFICYP SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION

The UNFICYP Safe and Skilled Driving Competition took place in December 1991. The competition had been dramatically changed from the normal format on this occasion, and began with vehicle scrutineering and team briefings at 2200 hrs on the Monday evening.

Later that night, at 2359 hrs, the first vehicle left on what was to prove a very difficult map reading exercise around the island. The exercise included two "surprise" stands, the first a mock traffic accident in the Troodos foothills, and the second a roadside HGV wheel change against the clock. Those who manned the First Aid stand deserve particular mention at this point, enduring freezing temperatures whilst lying on open ground as casualties. This stage of the competition ended at the Troodos Training and Leave Centre with soup and coffee. The teams then left the mountain en route back to the UNPA where, after breakfast, a number of MT and associated skills were tested throughout the morning.

As the organisers, the Tpt Sqn would like to congratulate all who took part and achieved such excellent results in what proved to be a very gruelling competition, and in particular to Sector One, who were the overall winners with the Ferret Scout Car Squadron laudable runners up.



The winners - Sector One

SUPPORT REGIMENT NEWS

A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE - AND FOR A GOOD CAUSE



The experts show how it is done

The RE Yard kept to tradition again with its Christmas party, always aiming to be the first and best party of the season. 91's party was held on 29 November and began with a slightly different "approach"... To actually get into the party, those attending began with a descent from the top of a Foden truck, down a 50 foot skate board ramp, followed by a death slide from a 20 foot tower right into the Sapper's Bar. Apologies to the ladies who were misled and turned up dressed to thrill... Thanks go to Capt Vooght for his entertaining back flip from the top of the skate board ramp!

The afternoon's entertainment consisted of the Gurkha kukri dance during a scrumptious buffet, followed by a staged kangaroo court which placed Sgt Michelle Clydesdale in the witness box for being too provocatively dressed for the RE Yard party. A few out-of-the-ordinary bar games kept spirits high, all of which were played in true engineer fashion.

During the party, several abandoned belongings were auctioned

off with the proceeds going to charity. Overall, the party was a great success, with no casualties this year. A total of £C300.00 was raised and was donated to the Evangelismos School for handicapped children in Nicosia. A new engine powered lawn mower was purchased, and the remainder of the money went towards a new cooker for the domestic science class.

A big "thank you" goes to everyone who contributed.



SSgt (now WO2) Mercer, Sgt McLoughlin, Cpl Kingsbury, LCpl Holdsworth, Spr Elliot, Spr Jackson, LCpl Athey plus staff and pupils of Evangelismos School, Nicosia



34 (UNFICYP) TRANSPORT SQUADRON, THE GURKHA TRANSPORT REGIMENT

By the time January's edition of the blue Beret is produced and distributed, 34 (UNFICYP) Tpt Sqn will be back in Hong Kong enjoying two week's UN leave with their families and friends.

The Squadron arrived in July last year on what, for us, was undoubtedly a unique tour, both for the Gurkha, Hong Kong Military Service Corps and for the Regiment.

Since our arrival and now departure, time has simply flown by. The reason why time went so quickly is, we believe, due to the comradeship, friendliness and helpfulness shown by everyone in UNFICYP. We have made new friends and acquaintances, and all three nationalities in the Squadron have been overwhelmed by the tremendous support shown to us. It would be impossible to name individuals: there are so many of

them who have helped us in so many ways. We can only say a big thank you to you all. We departed to Hong Kong with so many happy memories of Cyprus, and in particular UNFICYP. It is these memories that will last with every one of us for ever. To every one of you, whether military or civilian,

**Kung Hei Fat Choi/Naya Barsa Ko Subhakamana!**

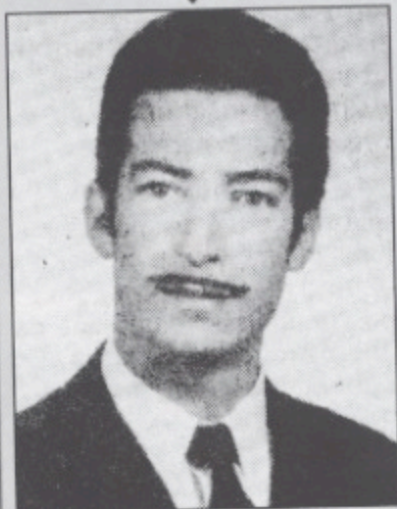


**en passant...** If you have any information you would like to see published in this section, please telephone extension 2235.

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



On 18 December, UNFICYP held their Christmas Carol Service at the Holy Cross Church in Nicosia. Our host, Father Marco Parada, is seen above with the chaplains who attended the Service. It was a beautiful occasion with a multi-national flavour, entirely in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations. Mrs Irene Bushell is due special thanks for agreeing to play the organ at such short notice. She was ably accompanied on the flute by Sgt Staffan Svensson of SWEDCON. Father Parada was a most genial host and gave the chaplains an excellent lunch afterwards.



On 21 January 1992, the death took place of Mr Emilio Socratous at the age of 61.

Mr Socratous was employed by the United Nations for 27 years, having spent the last 15 years as the driver of the Special Representative of the Secretary General.

Deepest sympathy is extended by all UNFICYP personnel to his wife and family.

### QM SUPPORT REGIMENT

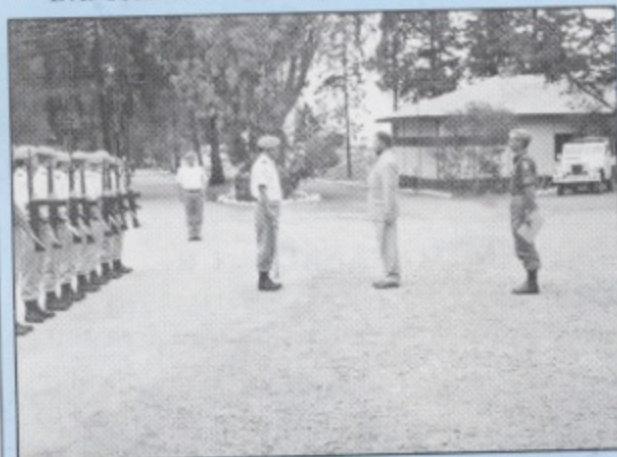


A tour in Cyprus is bringing to a climax a very varied career with the British Army for Major 'Tony' Chaytors. Over a period of 32 years' service with the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the last 13 years have been as a Quartermaster.

Major Chaytors has served in Hong Kong, Malaya, Borneo and most European countries whilst with the AMF(L). His service also includes several tours in Northern Ireland and Germany. In 1985, he was fortunate to be on loan service with the Zimbabwe Army, where he helped instruct logistic techniques to local and Mozambique soldiers. It is not, therefore, surprising that he has fitted in so well with this multi-national force.

Major Chaytors is supported by his wife Lynda. His daughter Amie (16) is currently at boarding school, and his son Tarquin (21) is working in the UK.

### DANISH AMBASSADOR VISITS DANCON



The Danish Ambassador in Damascus, Syria visited HQ DANCON. Above, Ambassador C Oldenburg receives the Guard of Honour with Lt Col Bache, Commander DANCON, standing behind him.

### UNFICYP ORIENTEERING COMPETITION



UNFICYP Orienteering Team Winners - Support Regiment (left to right) Sgt Paul Jennings, Maj Andy Wellesley, SSgt Dave Forbes, LCpl Dave Rooney.