

Blue Beret

January 1998



STAY MINES CONSCIOUS - STAY ALIVE!

On Monday 12 January 1998, two NCOs from Sector One were in a UN mechanical excavator, clearing brush from the side of the road within the Buffer Zone in the area north of San Martin Camp. The front right wheel of their vehicle suddenly detonated an anti-tank mine, and the blast destroyed the hydraulic system, as well as the lower part of the engine. The fuel tank also exploded, spreading diesel oil all over the surrounding area.

Due to their narrow escape, and in an attempt to raise their spirits, the personnel from Roca Camp prepared a "birthday party" for them - since they had been born again!



The message here, however, is loud and clear - whatever the reason, everyone travelling in the Buffer Zone should always remember the following:

- *Never assume that minefield marking is accurate. Mines do drift or get washed outside of marked minefields.*
- *Only minefields that we know about are marked.*
- *In known mined areas, assume the worst, that mines exist outside the minefield perimeter, and*

stay strictly on tarmac roads or high confidence tracks that UNFICYP has used over the years.

- *Drivers should proceed past minefields with extreme caution.*
 - *Marked minefields should be left well alone.*
- STAY MINES CONSCIOUS - STAY ALIVE!**



The UN mechanical excavator, just after the explosion

This incident took place in an area where there are no signs or minefield warnings. It is also in an area where an AUSTCIVPOL Policeman was killed in 1975. There is not much doubt that had these two NCOs been in a smaller vehicle, they would not be alive today.

Although suffering from shock, both NCOs fortunately showed little sign of harm. The driver remembers jumping from the vehicle as soon as he heard the explosion and felt the 7,000 kg vehicle moving backwards. The NCO in charge, who was standing in front of the vehicle, was blown forward.

News of the incident quickly reached San Martin Camp. Following a message from the Radio Operations Centre, the Medical Branch immediately detailed a MEDEVAC and an ambulance deployed to the scene. First aid was applied, whereupon the two men were taken to Roca Camp and placed under observation.



*How could a weapon so small
stop a whole nation...
and command
the world's attention...*

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1998

Published monthly by the Spokesman's
Office of the United Nations Force in
Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 1642,
Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: 2 - 359550
Fax: 2 - 359752

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Cpl Pat O'Meara
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Bill Pazos
Sector Two	Capt Simon Keymer
Sector Four	Capt Wilhelm Örtner
HUNCON	Maj Dénes Fülöp
SLOCON	Capt Haut Boško
AUSTCIVPOL	Sgt Ron Presswell
IRCIVPOL	Insp Joe Behan
UN Fit	Capt Marcelo Wortley
MFR Coy	Capt Luis Giunti
MP Elm	SSgt Dale Roberts
Camp Command	Coy Sgt Tony Clare
Civilian Admin	Ms Mary Dellar

The Blue Beret is the journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy. The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications, except where acknowledgements are made to another copyright. No article or illustration may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-El Press
13 King Paul Street
Parissinos, Nicosia
Tel: 350186

FRONT COVER:

UNFICYP FLAGS
JANUARY 1998

PHOTO BY
CPL PAT O'MEARA

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

Landmines are terrible weapons of murder. They kill. They mutilate. Their ability to remain active and deadly for decades makes them even uglier as they can affect your daily routine and change it into a nightmare; a matter of life or death, survival or tragedy. About 26,000 people are killed or injured by landmines each year throughout the world. All those living in a mine-affected area should keep this in mind. Cyprus belongs to this category.

It has been estimated that up to 17,000 mines have been laid or stockpiled in Cyprus. These are mainly a dark legacy of the fighting during the summer of 1974. Despite the fact that most of these minefields were laid over 20 years ago, they remain deadly. Within the Buffer Zone, all known minefields and booby trapped areas are marked with warning signs and parameter wire fences. Other signs have been placed along UN patrol tracks near known or suspected mined areas.

Despite all these efforts, the danger of tragic incidents still exists. This was proven again in this month by the miraculous escape of two of our Argentinian colleagues whose vehicle was blown up by a mine during, one would assume, a safe operation in the Buffer Zone in Sector One (please see inside cover, opposite).

This accident proves once again the urgency and validity of the Secretary-General's repeated call on both sides to co-operate with UNFICYP and eradicate all mines, at least from the Buffer Zone. Bearing in mind various proposals on the issue, the Force is well prepared to challenge such a task. However, the ultimate success of such an initiative requires the willingness and co-operation of the two parties involved.

CONTENTS

Stay Mines Conscious - Stay Alive!	2
Editorial/Contents	3
The City Troop Perspective	4
Humanitarian Team Christmas in Sector Two/ 1 RTR "At Your Level" Award	5
Canine Family/Sector One's Moufflon Patrol	6
"Friendlies" in the Buffer Zone/A Common Love of Music	7
A Brief Encounter with the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus - Part XVI - The Cyprus Museum	8/9
The Hive	10
The Independence of Finland	11
New Task Force in Sector One/New CO Sector One/ New CO Sector Four	12
The AUSCON Medical Centre, UNFICYP	13
Argentinian Marines Celebrate Their Day/ New OP opened in Sector One	14
Cyprus Crossword Challenge/Letter to the Editor	15
Mine Explosion Incident in Sector One	16

THE CITY TROOP PERSPECTIVE

by 2/Lt Blair Mayne

The City Troop in Sector Two has one of the most interesting areas of responsibility on the island, and also one of the most difficult. Located within the old Venetian city walls, it extends from Paphos Gate in the west to the Flatro Bastion in the east. At its widest it is little more than 50 metres, and it narrows to as little as just over 3 metres; this is the area in which the old Turkish Cypriot area butted up against the Greek Cypriot one prior to 1974.

City Troop carry out extensive round-the-clock patrolling and man a number of urban observation posts throughout the area of the old city which lie within the Buffer Zone. The proximity of the opposing forces has meant that this area has often been one of high tension, especially in the vicinity of the Flatro Bastion towards the centre of the city. However since 1989, when the UN-brokered un-manning agreements came into effect, the increased distance between the opposing forces has alleviated the risk of confrontation.



Patrolling in the Buffer Zone

The deserted streets and buildings in the Buffer Zone area controlled by Sector Two present the most graphic picture of the consequences of the Cyprus problem, and attract a great deal of attention, both national and international. As can be seen by the photographs, a picture speaks louder than 1,000 words. Dignitaries, of course, wish to see this area for themselves. Therefore, one of the tasks of Sector Two is to guide entitled personnel along parts of the Buffer Zone in order to provide them with a clearer idea of the situation within this area and the efforts made by professional UN soldiers.



Deserted streets along the Green Line

Maintaining amicable relationships with all the local commanders is of vital importance, as violations against the spirit and letter of the 1974 cease fire arrangement still occur. This often involves lengthy meetings with opposite numbers to satisfactorily resolve disputes.

Although City Troop's area of responsibility is only some 1,600 metres in length, due to the nature of our role and the proximity of the opposing forces, we must remain constantly alert, ready to defuse incidents.



Warning signs along the Green Line

HUMANITARIAN TEAM CHRISTMAS IN SECTOR TWO

A phone call from the Chief Humanitarian Officer's office led to the 1 RTR Hum cell tasking Staff Sergeant William Betts to fill the role of Father Christmas for a number of children in the village of Rizokarpasso. Sunday 21 December saw Santa, Major Kaltenberger (SHO 4), and 1 RTR's Regimental photographer setting off on the two-hour journey from Nicosia to the Karpass peninsula.

There are 324 Greek Cypriots living in Rizokarpasso. For the first time in 23 years, a school nativity play was being performed by the children of the village, incorporating not only the tale of the birth of Christ, but also the little known report made by a CNN TV Crew on the arrival of the Three Wise men in Bethlehem. The play was extremely well performed and considered a great success by performers and audience alike.

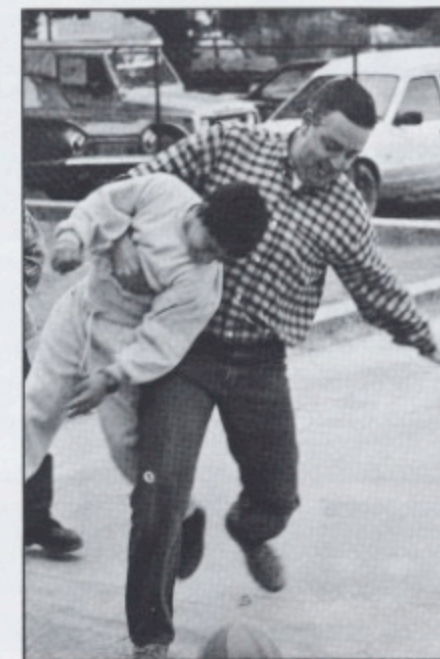
Staff Sergeant Betts' big moment came after the play when he had to slip away and change into his Father Christmas disguise. He admits to some nervousness - which changed to mild panic when he emerged to

find that there was another Santa Claus already at the party.

A crisis was averted when one of the children noticed that one of the Santas was, in fact, Stavros, a fellow villager. Stavros manfully admitted his subterfuge, leaving the 'real' Father Christmas to give out the children's presents. The gifts had been donated by various shops on the island, and were supplemented by several large bags of sweets which were gratefully received by the children.

The day finished with a game of football (with Santa playing centre forward), followed by delicious food and cake stalls, all of which was locally produced.

The children were still extremely vocal by the time Staff Sergeant Betts left to drag himself back to Nicosia. It is hoped that this will become an annual event, and all involved are looking forward to next year.



SSgt William Betts (Hum Cell Sector Two) playing football with the children of Rizokarpasso

1ST ROYAL TANK REGIMENT "AT YOUR LEVEL" AWARD

In place of the usual Commanding Officer's commendation for meritorious service, the 1st Royal Tank Regiment has instituted an award for initiative available to any member of the regiment for achievements at his or her level.

The award has been presented four times since its inception for achievements such as resolving disputes with the OPFORs at the lowest level, or for special efforts in the renovation and redecoration of accommodation or UN Observation Posts.

The picture shows Trooper Binns from Ortona Troop receiving the first 'At Your Level' award from the Commanding Officer Sector Two, Lt Col Eccles.

Trooper Binns, with his immediate action, prevented a potentially dangerous attempt of stone



throwing, which could easily have led to tension within the Buffer Zone. Well done, Trooper Binns!

CANINE FAMILY SEEKS PROTECTION OF THE UN

The UN is used to providing havens for refugees, a task that it has carried out many times since its foundation over 50 years ago. Many young mothers with nowhere else to go have brought their children to the UN for protection, but never, in living memory, has that mother been a dog!

'Fleabag' has brought her eight puppies to live in a hole directly under the watchful eyes of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, who are currently manning UN Observation Post 83 in Sector Two's area of responsibility within the UN controlled Buffer Zone.

'They just appeared from nowhere,' said Trooper Ross from G Squadron. 'Fleabag seemed to like the way that we kept the other wild dogs away from her puppies. Now they are older, Fleabag often comes on patrol with us and keeps the wild dogs away, so all in all, it's a great partnership.'

The puppies have already been promised to families on both sides of the Buffer Zone when they



From the left: Fleabag with Tpr J Ross and one of her puppies with Cpl J-C McGarr

are old enough to leave their mother. However, the Tankies are hoping that the independent-spirited Fleabag will stay with the UN.

SECTOR ONE'S MOUFFLON PATROL

On 13 September every year, the Argentinian Army commemorates Infantry Day. To celebrate this year, the first march called the "Moufflon



Shooting at the Blue Lagoon

Patrol" took place, with members of Sector One marching for 3½ hours carrying a knapsack with their rifle and equipment. Since that day, Sector One has been conducting what is known as the "Big Moufflon Order" every Tuesday morning.

This order is an internal tournament for patrols of 16 members, divided into two teams. This kind of patrol is similar in some ways to the activities carried out by the Danish Contingent (the DANCON March) during its deployment with UNFICYP.

This hard but enjoyable event takes approximately 2½ hours, following a path which falls mainly in the Buffer Zone. Not only is it a physical challenge, but it also enables participants to become familiar with ARGCON's area of responsibility, passing through B Coy over a very hilly distance of approximately 16 km. 20 teams with 300 participants from Sector

One have so far marched from San Martin Camp, including eight female members of our Contingent. A gradient of 35°, just before reaching the Blue Lagoon shooting range, marks the hardest spot of the patrol.

At the Blue Lagoon, the second phase starts with participants testing their marksmanship. Following a refreshing glass of water at a spot where everyone can appreciate the beautiful scenery, it's back to the final stretch of the march through the Marathassa Dam area.

Sector One have sent out invitations to all members of UNFICYP, and it is hoped that you will join us in the "Moufflon Challenge".

Just in case you were wondering, you won't find Brooke Shields at our Blue Lagoon yet. However, we have already sent her an invitation for the next celebration of Infantry Day!

"FRIENDLIES" IN THE BUFFER ZONE

Bengal Troop's efforts to improve relationships with the opposing Forces on both sides of the Buffer Zone have been conducted on many levels, but a chance discovery of a mutual love of football between Bengal Troop Leader and his opposite number in the north led to the issue and acceptance of a challenge. 'A' Squadron put together a scratch team, and the sides met in a "friendly" in the UNPA.

Little was known about the standard of the players, but the Bengal Troop leader got a shock when the opposing team captain appeared in what was described as a full soccer strip, including "Stan Collymore" soccer boots. The boys from the UN, in their blue T-shirts and training shoes, swallowed



The two teams

hard as a very professional-looking team arraigned itself before them. Undaunted, they began the game.

The game began well for 'A' Squadron and they even allowed themselves to feel a little smug - clearly the boots had been a bluff. 15 minutes of pressure bore no goals though, and this was telling. The tables turned when 'A' Squadron conceded a goal and the opposite team's attitude changed. A scything run by Private Curtis, the Squadron Clerk, resulted in a penalty to 'A' Squadron. Trooper Sinnet put the ball in the back of the net, and 'A' Squadron were back in the game.

Their hopes were dashed with two quick goals which opened the floodgates for a spell of bad luck. Not even the half-time chat could stop the rot and the goals trickled in. 'A' Squadron remained resolute throughout and always looked like scoring. They just didn't! They lost 6:1.



A Squadron Leader, Maj Iain Laver, presents the prizes

A COMMON LOVE OF MUSIC

Since taking over operational command of the Ortona area of responsibility in early December, Ortona Troop from G Squadron, 1st Royal Tank Regiment, have been extremely busy building up relationships with the opposing forces on both sides of the BZ. As a goodwill gesture, a small band from 9 Regiment National Guard were invited to come and play with Tpr Ross, Ortona Troop's piper, in a pre-Christmas *ceildh* (party).

The band consisted of 17 musicians and were led by an English-educated officer who was a qualified military bandmaster. The soldiers of Ortona Troop were treated to a selection of carols in both Greek and English - the UN soldiers were unanimous in their praise for a novel remix of Jingle Bells, even going far enough as to say it should be the Christmas number one in the hit parade!

Not wishing to be outdone, Trooper Ross, a native of St Andrews, Scotland, gave a virtuoso performance on his bagpipes. His repertoire included the Ortona Troop favourites "Highland Cathedral" and "Flower of Scotland". Few of the visitors had heard the Pipes



The National Guard play at Ortona Troop

before, and were very appreciative. Following some food, laid on by Ortona's chef, LCpl Jennings, the group exchanged seasonal greetings and departed.

The occasion was a highlight for the soldiers of 1st Royal Tank Regiment, many of them experiencing their first Christmas away from home.

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part XVI

The Cyprus Museum is a neo-classical, lime-stone building constructed between 1908-1924 in memory of the British Queen Victoria. It houses Cypriot antiquities from the Neolithic period to the beginning of the Middle Ages.

When the Department of Antiquities was established in 1935 and the Government undertook the financing of archaeological research, the collections expanded to include findings from the

various excavations undertaken by the Department itself, as well as numerous foreign missions.

It has been said that although small and antiquated, the museum still retains the science-based planning. It also has an adequate library for the interested public.

The museum is situated just outside the walls of central Nicosia at 1 Museum Avenue. It is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Saturday, and from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday.



The Cyprus Museum

ROOM NO I contains items from the Neolithic (7,000-3,000 BC) and Chalcolithic civilizations (3,000 - 2,300 BC). There are stone and ceramic implements, votive offerings, home utensils, industrial and farming tools, jewellery, statuettes, etc. Of special interest are the stone utensils from Khirokitia, the Neolithic pottery from Sotira and Khirokitia, and a display case with *cruciform idols of picrolite* (steatite). Also in this room is the only Cypriot prehistoric wall painting depicting a person with upraised arms from Kalavassos "Tenta".

ROOM NO II contains red-slip pottery from the Early Bronze Age (2300-1850 BC) from the necropoleis of Vounous and Denia. Some examples of this pottery have incised or raised decorations, while others are in the shape of animals and birds. Of special interest are *complex vases with many spouts* and a clay model of a sanctuary from Vounous.

ROOM NO III covers a wide variety of pottery from the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Roman period (1850 BC to 395 AD). Here pottery is grouped by

period and style. There are beautiful Middle Bronze Age geometric jugs, *Cypro-Mycenaean masterpieces* with exquisite designs, vases from the Cypro-Geometric period (1050-750 BC), a series of jugs decorated with concentric circles, etc. Elsewhere we see bi-chrome (two-colours) vases from the Cypro-Achaic period (750-450 BC). Exhibited here is imported pottery from Greece (red figures on a black background or black figures on a red background), as well as Cypro-Roman "terra sigillata" (relief) jugs.

ROOM NO IV is mostly dedicated to *clay votive offerings from the Ayia Irini sanctuary* which was excavated by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition. They comprise human figures, centaurs, horsemen, chariots, horses and bulls. The Egyptian influence is obvious.

ROOM NO V shows the development of sculpture from the Cypro-Achaic down to the Roman period. There are statues of gods and goddesses, young men and girls, priests and priestesses, sphinxes, lions, etc. Of special interest are the *female stone head (No XLI) from the sanctuary of Aphrodite at Arsos village*, as well as the famous Aphrodite of Soli.

ROOM NO VI is dedicated to Roman sculptures in stone, marble and bronze. Some of the statues are of outstanding quality, such as the large, *bronze statue of the Roman Emperor, Septimus Severus* (119-211 AD) from Kythrea and the small, marble statue of the sleeping Eros (Cupid) from Paphos.



THE CYPRUS MUSEUM

ROOM VII has a variety of items: bronze arms, utensils, statuettes, elaborate stands, coins, cylinder seals, gold and silver jewellery, lamps, glassware, items in alabaster and ivory, *mosaics*, as well as a replica of the entrance of a royal tomb at Tamassos. They date from the Cypro-Mycenaean period to early Christian times. The very finely worked jewellery is outstanding, for instance the unique gold and agate necklace from Arsos. Here, also one can see the famous Horned God and Ingot God from Enkomi, as well as the two outstanding compositions of two lions devouring a cow and the bronze statue of a bull from Vouni.

ROOM VIII is in the basement and here there are six *reconstructions of tombs*. Number One dates from the Chalcolithic period, and shows a tomb outside the wall of a hut. Number Two is an Early Bronze Age rock-cut tomb with a passage. Near the skeleton are burial gifts. Number Three is a Middle Bronze Age rock-cut tomb with a side-chamber with offerings. Number Four is a Late Bronze Age tomb with two distinct burial layers of the 13th century BC. Number Five is an Early Iron Age rock-cut tomb with a long passage and a square, side-chamber with geometric vases. The skeleton in the passage belonged to an attendant. Number Six dates to the 5th century BC. It is a rock-cut tomb and consists of a passage with many steps and a square chamber. Facing these tombs is a replica of the entrance of the funeral chamber of a royal tomb at Pyla (5th century BC).

ROOM IX contains stone and terracotta sarcophagi, funerary urns and steles. The stele of the Greek soldier, armed with a javelin and a dagger, and another one of a *seated female (Aristila from Salamis)* found at Marion (middle 5th century BC), are quite outstanding.

ROOM X is dedicated to the development of Cypriot scripts, starting from the as yet undeciphered Cypro-Minoan syllabary dating from the 15th - 11th century BC, the Cypriot syllabary from the 11th to 3rd century BC, the Greek as well as the Phoenician alphabet which are inscribed on various ceramic, bronze or stone items. Of special importance is a copy of a *bronze tablet from Idalion* in the Cypriot syllabary, which is the first recorded medical contract in Cyprus. It was taken out between King Stassikypros (and the city of Idalion) and the medical doctor Onasilos (and his brothers) for the free treatment of the wounded during



the Persian siege of Idalion (5th century BC). The original is kept at the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris.

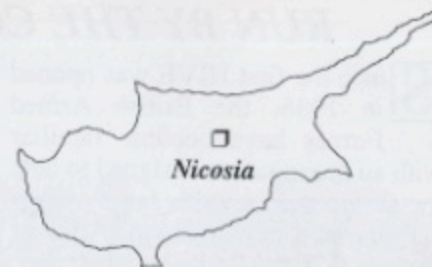
ROOM XI is dedicated to the royal tombs of the necropolis of Salamis and includes a wooden bed and throne encrusted with ivory, a metal throne and unbaked clay portraits of the family of King Nicosion of Salamis. These portraits are in the style of the famous sculptor, Lysippos. Also in this room is a large, bronze cauldron with heads of sphinxes and griffins. In addition, there are bronze trimmings from a chariot, and *ivory plaquettes* from the wooden bed.

ROOM XII is used to exhibit finds from on-going excavations or for special exhibitions. The current exhibition is entitled "*Pictorial Representations on the Vases of Ancient Cyprus (1050-475 BC)*", and runs until 30 March 1998.

ROOM XIII contains marble statues discovered in the Roman Gymnasium of Salamis. They all date to the 2nd century AD, and are copies of earlier periods. Most of them are headless as a result of Christians fighting paganism or Arab raids. One can easily distinguish *Apollo (the lyre player)*, Artemis, a Hermaphrodite, Dionysos, two headless Aphrodites (one with a dolphin), a reclining river god, a seated Zeus, his wife Hera, Asklepios (the god of medicine), a statue of Hygieia (goddess of health), Nemesis, the upper part of Heracles, Isis and Meleager.

ROOM XIV is dedicated to terracottas. There is a series of plank-shaped idols of schematized women of the Early Bronze Age, the goddess of fertility with a child in her arms of the Cypro-Mycenaean period, *horsemen*, warriors with round shields of the Cypro-Geometric and Archaic periods, and Tanagra-type young women of the Cypro-Classical period. Also in this room are terracottas representing people at work, for instance bakers, fishermen, women in labour as well as theatrical masks.

In the 14 rooms of the Cyprus Museum, one can get a clear insight into the making of the Cypriot civilisation until the end of antiquity.



THE UN HIVE, HQ UNFICYP

RUN BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

Since the first HIVE was opened in 1986, the British Armed Forces have become familiar with an organisation designed to help the serviceman and his family when arriving in a new location. All over the world, from Belize to Aldershot, there are now 153 offices providing an element of continuity in a constantly changing population.

The United Nations HIVE provides information and advice to UN soldiers and their families from **ALL contingents**. Staffed by a coordinator, Mrs Carolyn Rees, and a group of willing volunteers, the HIVE is the focus for voluntary activities for the community it supports and is the source of welcome for all new arrivals. Situated in the Married Quarters within the United Nations Protected Area, next to the UN library, it is an ideal meeting place for the coffee mornings which are held every two weeks. It also provides a wealth of information on tourism, hotels, flights, leisure and shopping as well as practical advice on finding your way around Cyprus.

A new Mother and Toddler group has recently been organised where wives with pre-school age children can meet to exchange ideas and children can play in a safe environment.

The UN HIVE also supports a nearly-new clothes shop called 'JUST A SECOND', where it is possible to buy men's, women's and children's clothes at bargain prices. New stock is always needed, and everyone is welcome to visit the shop during normal HIVE opening times.

The HIVE operates a loan store where essential items such as child car seats, travel cots, sun loungers or golf clubs for example can be hired for a small charge when visitors arrive.

Whether your stay with the United Nations in Cyprus is a long or a short one, and whether your family is with you or not, the HIVE is here to help you. It is situated at:

21 Sycamore Road,
Married Quarters, UNPA
Telephone: Nicosia 359316



That's my mince pie - not yours!

Opening Hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday:
0930-1230 hrs and 1500-1700 hrs
Please call in.

UNFICYP FAMILIES AND WELFARE FUND

The UNFICYP Families and Welfare Fund is administered by a Committee of representatives from all Contingents and branches within UNFICYP. At each monthly meeting, requests for financial assistance are tabled and, where possible, a grant is given. The Fund also helps various charities, both in the north and south of the island.

The money is raised at various events throughout the year. Many of you will remember the very successful Easter Fun Day in April, the Band Concert in July and Bonfire Night just a month ago. All the stalls there were in aid of the UNFICYP Families and Welfare Fund, and our thanks go to those who supported us at these events. Thanks to you, we have been able to give financial assistance to a wide variety of causes, and with a new fund raising scheme planned for 1998, we hope to be able to help even more.

Various grants and donations for 1997 were made as follows:

Aerobics Fees	£35.00
UNPA Orienteering Expenses	£150.00
National Trust of North Cyprus	£25.00
Children's Cancer Ward, North Nicosia Hospital	£15.00
ARGCON	£294.64
AUSCON Gym	£250.00
Go Kart Club: Grant	£400.00
: Loan	£250.00
UNFICYP Cricket Club	£250.00
Troodos Triathlon:	
Cyprus Anti Cancer Society (South Cyprus)	£125.00
HELP! Cancer Charity (North Cyprus)	£125.00
Palm Tree Park	£150.00
UN HIVE	£100.00
Bonfire Night	£100.00
UN Childrens' Christmas Party	£25.00
Bi Communal Childrens' Christmas Party - Pyla	£250.00
TOTAL:	£2,544.64

THE INDEPENDENCE OF FINLAND

by Major Jouko Seitakari, CO FINCON

Independence was gained in Finland on 6 December 1917. That very date was preceded by a history which gave the Finns their rich cultural heritage and national identity.

In the year 1155, Finland was incorporated into the kingdom of Sweden. The border between Finland and Russia was changed five times in constant wars. Finally, Sweden lost her eastern province as a consequence of the Russo-Swedish war in 1809. In spite of the exhausting wars, firm foundations for an independent judiciary, public services and political system were laid.

In October/November 1917, the turmoil in Russia led to a revolution. Finland took the opportunity and unilaterally declared independence, managing to consolidate it in favour of the government after a short but fierce civil war against the "Reds", the Russian communist backed troops.

On 30 November 1939, Soviet troops crossed the border lines and Soviet aircraft bombed several cities in Finland. During that "Winter War", which lasted 105 days from 30 November 1939 to 13 March 1940, Finland prevented Soviet troops from entering her territory, although Finland was forced to cede large areas in the eastern parts of the country.

Finland entered a new war, called "The Continuation War", with the Soviet Union in 1941 as a result of Germany's attack on the Soviet Union. Peace was made in 1944 when Finland had to cede more land in north-eastern Lapland. Finland then forcibly expelled the German troops from Lapland, and thus found themselves at war with Germany during 1944-45.

After the war the country was ravaged, with 100,000 men dead and 400,000 refugees from the ceded areas to be settled. There were heavy reparations to be paid to the Soviet Union. Finland paid them off in less than ten years, which actually triggered off modern Finnish industry.



Those attending the wreath-laying ceremony at Kykko Camp

Finland became a member of the United Nations in 1955. The following year, the first Finnish Peace-Keeping Force - a company of over 200 men - was posted to Sinai. Since that time, Finland has been involved in almost all UN peace-keeping operations, either by contributing forces or military observers. Today, some 1,050 Finns are serving under the blue flag, and the total number of Finnish soldiers who have been in the service of peace reaches 32,000. From those, about 10,000 have served in Cyprus since 1964.

On Saturday 6 December 1997, the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Independence of Finland took place in UNFICYP.

During the morning, a small but distinguished group gathered for a wreath-laying ceremony at Kykko Camp, UNPA. From 1964 to 1977, Kykko Camp was the base for FINCON, UNFICYP. A monument now lies there in honour of the Finnish peace-keepers who have served in Cyprus.

Following the wreath-laying ceremony, a medal presentation took place at the Officers' Mess in the UNPA, where a silver numeral was presented to the CO FINCON, Maj J Seitakari, by Mr Demosthenis Severis, Consul General of Finland.

In the evening, a reception was held at the Officers' Mess, where more than 100 guests were invited to enjoy a number of traditional Finnish refreshments.

NEW TASK FORCE IN SECTOR ONE

On Thursday 18 December, the new Argentinian Contingent arrived at Larnaca Airport, following a 20-hour trip from Buenos Aires. 385 Officers, NCOs from Argentina and its neighbouring countries, Brazil and Uruguay, were posted along Sector One's area of responsibility, thereby allowing the previous Contingent the opportunity of spending Christmas at home with their families.

The new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Jorge Hector Lopez Parravicini, took over the 10th Task Force on 10 December 1997 in Argentina, and assumed command of Sector One on 25 December.

Task Force 10 will remain with UNFICYP until June 1998.



The handover ceremony at San Martin Camp

NEW CO ARGCON: LT COL JORGE HECTOR LOPEZ PARRAVICINI

Lt Col Jorge Parravicini was born in 1952 and joined the Military Academy in March 1969. He was promoted to the rank of 2/Lt (cavalry) and was commissioned into the 8th Tank Regiment, where he held a post in 181 Exploration Detachment, located in the Patagonia, Argentina. Following this, he was posted to different tank regiments as a staff officer in a number of Brigade and Corps HQs.

After attending the Army War School, he took over as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Tank Regiment for two years.

Lt Col Parravicini is a riding instructor and also a specialist in mountain and army troops. He has been awarded the Golden Condor for participating in certain mountain activities, including MEDEVACs/emergency rescues, climbing over five peaks at heights of over

5,000 m, and being stationed at mountain units for more than five years.

He gained a master's degree in Education, Human Relations and Social Studies from the Argentinian Catholic University, and is also an accomplished horse rider, specializing in polo and show jumping.

Lt Col Parravicini is married to María Beatriz, and they have five children, three girls and two boys, aged between 14 and 5 years.



NEW CO SECTOR FOUR: LT COL HEINZ HUFLER

Lt Col Heinz Hufler was born on 28 Sep 1955 in Mittersill (Salzburg). After finishing secondary school in 1975, he joined the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt and was commissioned into a light infantry regiment in 1978. At the beginning of his military career, he served as a Coy Commander of an infantry coy. Soon he was appointed SOO of his Regiment in Salzburg, and later he took over command of an Infantry Battalion. Since 1996, he has been promoted to the rank of staff Officer in the regional command of Salzburg, responsible for the western part of Austria.

In 1981 and 1985, Lt Col Hufler joined UNDOF (Syria) as a Coy Commander on Mount Hermon (2,814m asl). In 1991, he was appointed Staff Officer

in an Austrian Field Hospital in Iran, and from 1994 to 1995, he joined UNFICYP as SOO and DCO Sector Four. He also attended exercises in the PFP (Partnership for Peace) in several countries.

Lt Col Hufler enjoys skiing, is well experienced in Alpinism, plays tennis and is very keen on golf. He is married to Gaby, and they have two children, Daniel (17) and Tobias (11).

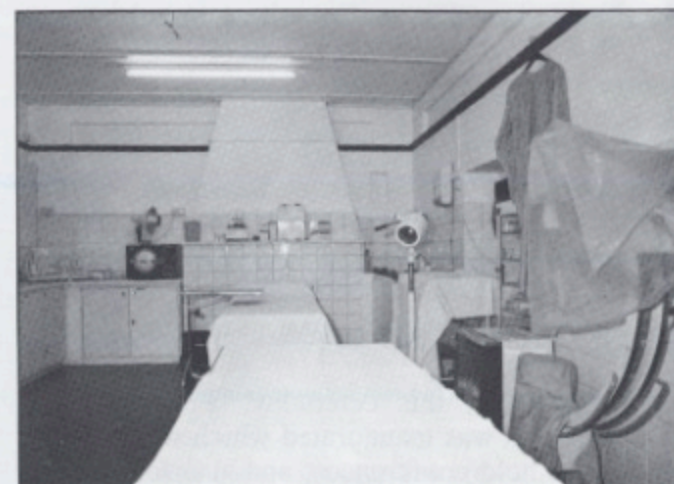


THE AUSCON MEDICAL CENTRE, UNFICYP

The Austrian/Hungarian Medical Centre is a two-storey building located at the western end of Camp Duke Leopold V, providing in-patient and out-patient facilities. Two physicians, two medical assistants and three medics cover a 24-hour-a-day duty roster.

For in-patient care, there are two rooms with a total of six hospital beds and space for more in an emergency situation, with a constant turnover of basic pharmaceuticals for almost every complaint.

A large examination room, serving as the ER, is the heart of the Medical Centre. It contains medical equipment such as an image converter, an x-ray machine (commonly known as a C-bow), a Böhlinger Reflotron (for checking a great number of blood chemistry parameters), two ECG machines, and equipment to provide emergency medical life support.



Front view of the AUSCON Medical Centre



The out-patients ward

The out-patient department consists of a waiting area, a typical Cypriot patio with a lovely view over a large garden. The Medical Centre is generally confronted by minor to medium traumas, so it retains a good basic stock of surgical instruments for dressing wounds, and is also in a position to reset and treat fractures. For more sophisticated examinations, such as a CT or MRI, almost any specialist diagnostic facility or clinic on the island can be used. In addition, there are two ambulances (a Pinzgauer and a VW van) available for the transportation of patients or items such as lab samples or similar.

As well as patient care, there are several additional tasks to be carried out by the AUSCON medical

team on a regular basis, the responsibility for all of the battalion's hygienic matters being one of the most important functions. This includes the control and check of all water sources within the Sector on a regular basis. Line tours, contact with other physicians and clinics, regular contact with the soldiers out on the line, the provision of medical support for events such as military skills competitions, bi-communal concerts, etc are just a few of the numerous tasks which we are responsible for. For statistical purposes, we examine and treat approximately 150 out-patients per month, and lately, we have had an average of 11 in-patients per month with an approximate stay in the medical centre of 3.5 days each.



Personnel from Sector Four's Medical Centre: From the left: Capt T Karasz, Maj H Jawad, WOII T Göhre and SSgt L Heck

The AUSCON Medical Centre is at your disposal, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

ARGENTINIAN MARINES CELEBRATE THEIR DAY

On 19 November 1997, a parade was held in Charlie Coy at Admiral Brown Camp to commemorate the anniversary of the Marine Corps of the Argentinian Navy. CO Sector One presided over the ceremony, which was attended by all the Marines on the island, together with their guests from the different contingents of UNFICYP. Following the parade, the Marines, who are very proud of their past, sang the Marine's song.

As part of this ceremony, a new briefing room was inaugurated which will be used to hold conferences, and also for military instruction classes. The room was named after *Sergeant Adolfo Martinez*, a Marine who served in Charlie Coy in 1995, and who died last year in Argentina.

It is traditional in Argentina to offer a cup of hot chocolate after every important event. Thus, hot chocolate was served, together with a piece of



Lt Col RJ Barni, the outgoing CO of Sector One, and the Marines of Task Force 9 celebrate the 118th anniversary of the Marines Corps

anniversary cake, ending a simple but emotional ceremony which commemorated the 118th anniversary of the creation of the Corps.

NEW OBSERVATION POST OPENED IN SECTOR ONE

On 14 November 1997, the Marine's Company in Sector One celebrated the opening of OP 35. All the peace-keepers, who had worked so hard to renovate this old and previously unmanned installation, were present.

The ceremony was presided over by CO Sector One, who congratulated the personnel of Charlie Coy. Although re-opening this OP was



The inauguration of the new OP 35

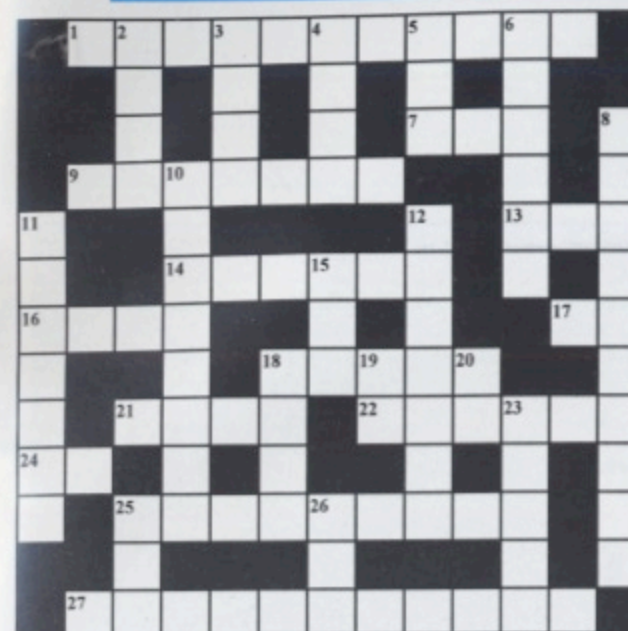


A sketch of the new OP

a simple task, it showed the dedication of the Sector One personnel who had spent their free time rebuilding and refurbishing the post in the true spirit of peace.

Following the blessing of the installation by Father Carmona, refreshments were offered in the mess.

CYPRUS CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



CLUES

Across

1. Crossing point (5/6)
7. Vehicle (3)
9. His tower can be found at 25 across (7)
13. United Nations Association (3)
14. UNFICYP protects this Zone (6)
16. This item is produced in Lefkara (4)
17. A card you produce to distinguish yourself (2)
18. An ingredient of 8 down (5)
21. The Headquarters is located in this area (4)
22. Lover of Aphrodite (6)
24. Not out (2)
25. Old Walled City (9)
27. The Knights Templar enjoyed this (11)

Down

2. What the Editor does to the Blue Beret (4)
3. Aphrodite's blood turned this flower from white to red (4)
4. Relax here when off duty (4)
5. Non-military personnel (3)
6. Roman city now in ruins (6)
8. Refreshing drink invented at 1 across (6/4)
10. Popular club in 21 across (7)
11. An ancient capital of Cyprus (7)
12. Mountain range (7)
15. Enemy (3)
18. Beach area in the west (4)
19. Irish assistance to the Force Commander (2)
20. A negative response (2)
23. Forces duty free shop (5)
25. Force Employment Order (3)
26. You might take a gnu on patrol! (3)

Test your knowledge of Cyprus and UNFICYP and pit your wits against our crossword compiler. Photocopies of this page are acceptable, so don't spoil your copy of the *Blue Beret* magazine.

The first correct entry drawn out of the bag will win a "very special prize".

Send your answer to the Editor of the Blue Beret.
Final date for receipt is: 25 FEBRUARY 1998

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Cor, some place this is! I never thought that life on Afrodite's island would be as busy as this, non stop ever since we arrived, even through Chrissy. Still, it can't be all that bad, I ain't lived in a hotel for free since I left the Glasgow Rialto without paying, and that was the owner's fault, trying to charge me sixty quid for seven phone calls. Mind you, Sharon was in Ibithier at the time.

She's can't wait to get here for Easter and she's got a flight to Nicosia cos it's cheaper, stopping off in Izmeer on roof. Funny that - why can't they make it all the way without refuelling? She wants a week in some place called Higher Napper, but they say it's a bit tricky getting a sunbed down there, being close to Sector 4 and all that. I didn't know the Germans were allowed to serve abroad. She wants me to get a motor - no problem there, what with me Pajero; she's really keen to run around in that, it doesn't half shift too - 135 kays no problem.

Mind you, there's all sorts of crumpet round town anyway but pity it's too cold for mini skirts just now. Still, there's always the YM for a quick lech; it must be warmer up the UNPA cos the place is full of legs, except that the owners ain't really my type. I do like the grub up there, in the UNFISEP Internal Mess. Noshing with the officers ain't bad, but some of the boys are a bit shy about it. Dunno why. I guess the General and Mr Felsal are happy enough to eat with the boys, but we ain't been there at the same

time as them yet. I'll keep an eye out though.

It's been great meeting the other nationals round the place. I've been able to practise me German but I gotta work on me Munick accent and get the old 'zwywe beers bitter' of to pat. Me Spanish ain't up to much, but the boys from Sector I are pretty cool. I met some the other day in the DZ and before I knew it, it was 'bwenuss diaz Pedro', 'moochos grassy arse amigo' and I was back in Benidorm with a gut full of McEwans, singing 'My Way' and everybody's pal. The Spanish are the same the world over, and they do like us gringos. And I've made a few new Irish pals in the Hib Club. I sometimes drop in for a quick pint to wash me breakfast down and sometimes at night. It's always packed. I've promised to learn the words to the London Derriere so I can sing it for them. And these Aussies make pretty good muckers too, I ain't never seen so many at once and I feel for them a bit; it can't be easy when it's hot, carrying all that weight around.

Can't wait to meet some more Turks and Greeks, they're all cool too but a bit noisy when you're on your pit trying to catch up on the sleep. I wish the locals would get to church on time and then that muller wouldn't need to keep shouting at them from his bastion and waking half the Ledra up. He's probably more popular in Famaguster. Still, mustn't complain. Not bad for the first month.

MINE EXPLOSION INCIDENT IN SECTOR ONE

