The Blue Beret

July 1997

BI-COMMUNAL DARTS TOURNAMENT

On Sunday 29 June, the North Cyprus Darts Association hosted the Nicosia Darts Association in a bi-communal tournament held at Bellapais Abbey. Known as the "All Cyprus Return Darts Tournament," the event was facilitated by AUSTICVIPOL's Superintendent Ridley, with close co-operation and enthusiasm from members of both associations. It was billed as a return match, following the success of the inaugural tournament held in Nicosia in 1994.

Approximately 70 players competed from either side, with 133 Greek Cypriot competitors, families and supporters allowed to cross to the north for the day. The response from the Turkish Cypriots was equally enthusiastic.

Opening speeches by the organizers with players lining up to demonstrate their skill and, hopefully, carry away a trophy. Their enthusiasm was evident in their reluctance to end the tournament, with matches continuing until late in the evening and finishing well behind schedule. Meanwhile, outside, entertainment continued with Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots joining together in a festive atmosphere. There was singing and dancing to the music of a live band, with others talking quietly in small groups. All expressed a desire to live side by side in peace.

Superintendent White was on hand to present the winners with their trophies before the event finally ended at 1:30 am. Prizes were shared by competitors from both sides.

The tournament was opened by the Acting Commander of AUSTICVIPOL, Superintendent Peter White MBE. Formalities were followed by refreshments, traditional music and dancing in the grounds of the Abbey before participants were taken by bus to Kyrenia Harbour for lunch.

A return to the Abbey saw the tournament under way inside the former refectory. Competition was intense, with players lining up to demonstrate their skill and, hopefully, carry away a trophy. Their enthusiasm was evident in their reluctance to end the tournament, with matches continuing until late in the evening and finishing well behind schedule. Meanwhile, outside, entertainment continued with Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots joining together in a festive atmosphere. There was singing and dancing to the music of a live band, with others talking quietly in small groups. All expressed a desire to live side by side in peace.

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The picturesque Abbey of Peace - Bellapais

Bellapais was an apt setting for this event. Its name derives from the French Abbaye de la Paix - Abbey of Peace. In the spirit of peace, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots joined together to share both a common interest and a desire to re-unite their country. Quoting American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, Superintendent White ended the event with an appropriate message: "The only reward of virtue is virtue, the only way to have a friend is to be one."

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July 1997

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Telephone: 2 - 359550
Fax: 2 - 359752

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokosowski
Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor
Photography
Force Photographer
Sgt Louise Lempriere
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One Lt (Navy) Nelson Sampson
Sector Two Capt Catherine Mavin
Sector Four Capt Helmut Kork
HUNGC Capt Horace Tann
AUSTIC VIPOL Sgt (Navy) McDonnell
EBRIVOL Lance Frank O' Bruce
UNFR Capt Marcelle Worley
AIF Capt Peter Van Neck
MP Ens Srg Dale Roberts
Camp Command Coy Srg Dave Galvin
Civilian Admin Ms Mary Deller

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 operations within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local matters.

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

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Editorial

Under the auspices of the Secretary-General Kofi Annan, on 9 July 1997, the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus met at Troubtech, some 90 miles north of New York, to revive direct negotiations aimed at finding a lasting solution to their island's problem. It was their first face-to-face encounter in nearly three years, which marked the beginning of a process of negotiations to establish a new partnership between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Obviously, this was preceded by months of careful preparations carried out by the Chief of Mission and many parties supporting the Secretary-General in his good offices mission in Cyprus. The Secretary-General inaugurated the talks personally with an address which is published in this edition of your magazine. It was agreed, subject to confirmation, that both leaders meet again for face-to-face talks in Switzerland from 11 to 16 August.

The leaders also agreed to meet in Nicosia prior to their Switzerland round of talks to discuss various humanitarian questions, thus strengthening the positive atmosphere created at Troubtech. Two such meetings have taken place in the Chief of Mission's residence in the UNPA, just before this edition of the Blue Beret was published.

The current UN sponsored effort cannot be over-estimated. The international community is sending the strongest possible signal to Cypriots on both sides: this time, through the negotiating process, the protracted Cyprus problem has to be resolved.

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SECRETARY-GENERAL STATEMENT AT OPENING OF CYPRUS TALKS TROUTBECK, NEW YORK, 9 JULY 1997

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to these important talks. This is a setting of great beauty and serenity. It is a place where, I am sure, cool minds and clear heads will prevail.

The generosity of the Government of Norway has made this meeting possible. On behalf of the United Nations, I express our deep gratitude to the Norwegians for this characteristic gesture in support of international peace and stability.

I invited the leaders of the Cypriot communities to meet here for face-to-face talks because I believe that a lasting peace in Cyprus is now within our grasp. Great responsibilities, therefore, rest on the shoulders of the distinguished leaders of the two Cypriot communities. I am very glad they have come. I bid them a warm welcome here today.

In preparing for this meeting, I was reminded that the very first intercommunal talks were held 29 years ago at the home of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Cyprus. On the Greek Cypriot side, the talks were led by the President of the Cypriot House of Representatives. On the Turkish Cypriot side, the talks were led by the President of the Turkish Cypriot Communal Chamber. Those are the same leaders who have joined us today.

This is a remarkable record. It is, in both cases, a record of a lifetime’s work of service and leadership. Today, their knowledge of the situation is unrivalled. Their authority with their representative communities is undiminished. I believe that strong leaders make the best peacemakers. That thought strengthens my conviction that there are grounds for hope in the process that lies ahead.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The search for a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem has dragged on for too long. For 33 years and four months, the United Nations has toiled, so far in vain, to bring about an agreement. There have been dozens of Security Council resolutions. Four Secretaries-General have worked hard to implement the Council’s mandate.

One wrote that this issue took up more of his time and attention than any other during his ten years in office. He called Cyprus the “orphan child of the United Nations”.

The opening of the Cyprus talks with the meeting between the Cypriot leaders, under the auspices of the United Nations, began on 9 July 1997 at the Troutbeck Conference Centre in Amenia, New York. Shown above is a general view of the meeting. At the left table, Rauf Denktash (centre), leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. At the right table, Giaffaras Clerides (centre), leader of the Greek Cypriot community.

In the seemingly endless talks, some fruitful elements emerged. There were important advances that clarified the issues and that provided a starting-point for our work today.

A further factor is that, today, international backing for a solution to the Cyprus issue is firmer than ever. The support of the Security Council has been unequivocal. This meeting itself - and the presence of special envoys from so many countries - is proof of the high priority the international community attaches to the search for a viable and comprehensive solution.

Let us, therefore, press forward, in a positive spirit, in search of our common goal, a viable and comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

This afternoon, Mr Diego Cordovez will share with you on my behalf a number of suggestions. They are intended to facilitate your work during these direct talks. I hope they will assist you in organizing your future endeavours.

If you agree with these suggestions, you will be sending a strong and unmistakable signal to the international community. You will be signalling your commitment and determination to reach a comprehensive settlement - for which the people of Cyprus have been waiting for too long.

For many years, you have engaged in discussions about the issues that you have identified as the most crucial. Those discussions were based on concepts and approaches that successive Secretaries-General put forward in accordance with Security Council resolution 478 (1980).

Past efforts remain valuable and significant. That is because - as I said on assuming my present functions - the elements needed to work out a settlement are, as a result, at hand.

A total of 13 Special Representatives have striven to help the parties resolve their differences. But while the search for peace in Cyprus has not, so far, been successful, neither has it been entirely fruitless.

UNFICYP, originally set up for a period of three months, is still in existence. UNFICYP has held the line, worked to reduce tension, and has promoted intercommunal activities. The work of UNFICYP has been invaluable in reducing tension and containing the conflict that has now been cost-free. UNFICYP currently costs $55m a year. 168 United Nations peace-keepers have paid the supreme price for peace on Cyprus.

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Past efforts remain valuable and significant. That is because - as I said on assuming my present functions - the elements needed to work out a settlement are, as a result, at hand.
The Operations Branch in any Military Headquarters is traditionally the lead and senior Branch, due to its pivotal role in dealing with the daily tactical situation.

One of the three main branches within this Headquarters, Operations (Ops) Branch, is responsible for advising the senior political and military appointments on all matters concerning the operations and training policy for the Force. Its critical function is the preparation and dissemination of executive orders which commit UNFICYP to operations along the Buffer Zone, in addition to the Operational Instructions such as the Force Employment Book and Operational SOPs. The Joint Operations Centre (JOC) allows the HQ, through Ops Branch, to monitor the BZ and OPFOR (opposing forces) situation on a constant basis, through a robust communications system with the Sectors and other units.

The branch is broken down as shown in the line diagram below:

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COO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SO2 Ops Pol &amp; PI</th>
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POLOPS
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On various occasions, especially during crisis situations as has happened in the not so distant past, the branch was fully active, working around the clock in the Command Centre, giving valuable and timely advice as required. The Joint Operations Centre proved invaluable, ensuring that communications between the Headquarters and the Sectors remained fully operational.

Obviously, we must always be prepared to face the worst and be ready to react in such a manner as to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate. A certain degree of flexibility, coupled with alertness and readiness 24 hours a day, is a must.

Attached as part of Ops Branch is the Police Operations (POLOPs) Section, which consists of a senior officer from the UN Civilian Police (Australia). He must at all times be fully up-to-date with the military situation and remain abreast of the activities of both CYPOL and TCPE. One of his main functions is to liaise with UNCIVPOL, CYPOL, TCPE and the SBA Police on issues pertaining to the UN.

The branch is always available to offer help and advice so that the Sectors deploy soldiers and CIVPOL fully briefed and prepared. Our guiding principles are: economy of effort and concentration of force!
A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part XI

A century ago, the excavations that began at Enkomi were to reveal a most important port-city that developed into a rich regional centre of commerce and culture linking the East with the West during the Late Bronze Age. This period was marked by changes in the most important one in the history of Cyprus: dramatic outside influences changed the character of the island, shifting it from the oriental sphere of influences to the Aegean cultural world.

And yet there is still more to be learnt. For decades now, scholars have been trying in vain to decipher a script that has been found written on scores of small finds, but mainly incised on clay tablets dating as far back as 1500 BC. Only when the work is achieved will the world know what language was spoken in Cyprus before the arrival of the Mycenaeans and Achaean. Until then, the mystery of the script will remain a challenge to linguists.

The archaeological site of Enkomi (known previously as Enkomi-Alasia) is situated to the west of the modern homonymous village and 3 km north-west of Salamis. It was the first and largest prehistoric city to be examined. Excavations were first undertaken by the British Museum Expedition in 1896. Due to its importance, many foreign missions were involved (two from Britain, one from Sweden and the longest one from France, with partial collaboration from the Department of Antiquities).

Enkomi is impressive by its dimensions, measuring as it does 400 m from N to S and 350 m from the W wall to the rock cliff on the E side. Its eventual history spans from the last years of the Middle Bronze Age (around 1700 BC) to the final years of the Late Bronze Age, when it was gradually abandoned by its inhabitants for Salamis. This may be attributed to the earthquake in 1075 BC, or to the loss of its port, due to the silting up of the estuary that linked it to the sea.

The humble beginnings of the original farming community of Enkomi coincided with a troubled period in the Eastern Mediterranean, due to the incursions of the Hyksos (raiders from Syria and Palestine who invaded Egypt) which probably affected the eastern shores of Cyprus. This can be judged from the fortresses that were constructed and destroyed during the 16th century BC. Such fortification was excavated at North-West Gate of the walls at Enkomi. On its floor, traces were found of copper smithing, indicating that Enkomi was one of the Cyriot cities that became prosperous by copper trading. Copper ores were transported to Enkomi directly from the mines. They were refined and then exported in the form of ingots.

With the expulsion of the Hyksos from Egypt in around 1550 BC, a period of prosperity followed for Enkomi which preceded to a vigorous trade with its eastern and western neighbours.

The Mycenaeans, who succeeded the Cretans as masters of the Aegean around 1400 BC, began to establish themselves in the commercial centres of the southern and eastern coasts of Cyprus from where they conducted their trade with the East. In addition, they imported many goods into Cyprus. The tombs of Enkomi, as well as those of Kition, are rich with Mycenaean works of art, mainly pottery, as well as other gifts like gold, ivory and scarabs (beetle-shaped gems) imported from Egypt, the Levant and the Aegean.

Close to the end of the 13th century and after a short abandonment, due to natural causes, Enkomi, along with other areas in Cyprus, received new settlers from the Peloponnese - the Achaean. They brought with them their religion and language, contributed to the development of metallurgy and seal-engraving and fortified the towns with cyclopean walls, ramparts and gates. They soon took political control and shifted Cyprus from the oriental sphere of influences to their own Aegean one.

Although the raids of the "Sea Peoples" (plunderers who came from the west, including the Aegean, to the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean) in the 12th century BC set in motion the decline of Enkomi, they did not prevent it from still enjoying an important role in the affairs of Cyprus, nor from continuing in its religious and commercial activities until its destruction by the earthquake.

The "Ingot God". A two-metre high statue of a young man (god) with horned headgear which was found there. This statue, which now stands on a plinth 1.5 m high, constitutes a fine example of Mycenaean art. It is now in the Cyprus Museum.

The Shrine of the "Ingot God". A two-metre high statue of a young man (god) with horned headgear which was found there. This statue, which now stands on a plinth 1.5 m high, constitutes a fine example of Mycenaean art. It is now in the Cyprus Museum.

The Northern seven streets are regularly arranged at 32 m apart while those in the southern section of the town follow another pattern. There is a paved public square almost at the city centre where the fifth E-W road cuts the perpendicular at right angles.

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The 'House of the Dead'. The building of the "Ingot God" is surrounded by two large rectangular pillars and buildings. It is a fine example of Mycenaean art. It is now in the Cyprus Museum.

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**UNITED NATIONS' ROULEMENT REGIMENT ADVENTUROUS TRAINING TEAM (UNRRA)**

The 5th Regiment Royal Artillery Adventurous Training Team are based in Dhekela. They took over the task on 6 Jun '97, and consider the programme they have produced as an integral part of the UN tour. The aim of the adventurous training package is to give every soldier from the Regiment the opportunity to participate in a variety of challenging yet enjoyable adventurous training pursuits during their tour. Time permitting, the soldiers will also be able to gain qualifications. Adventurous training is recognised as military training, as participants are deemed to be on duty.

The team consists of the following personnel and activities:
- Capt Bannister MBE - OC
- WO2 Bragg - 2IC, Chief Instructor
- Sgt Barnes - Windsurfing Instructor
- Sgt Heyes - Climbing Instructor
- Sgt Netsfield - Safety Boat
- Bdr Woods - Kayak Instructor
- Ldr Pearn - Sub-Aqua Diver Instructor
- Ldr Robson - Kayak-Rock Climbing Instructor

Members of the Adventurous Training Team in Dhekela

We aim to provide all British troops visiting us with demanding and rewarding training in a relaxed atmosphere and to add to their quality of life and fitness during the tour.

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**A GUNNER'S VIEW** by Gunner Ian Harlen

When the news broke about the Regiment going to Cyprus, everyone was enthusiastic - we had all heard about the last tour. Training took place from 11 Apr to 9 May '97 with a difficult but effective programme. We carried out Basic Fitness Tests, Combat Fitness Tests and a lot of running every day. There was so much to learn during the training: the OPs' brief, the two cease fire lines, points of interest, the political situation and exactly what would be expected of us.

The Regiment flew with Romanian Airways, firstly to Romania and then on to Cyprus. It only took eight hours, but it seemed like an eternity. It was 0300 hours when we landed, so we did not see much of the island on the way to the Ledra Palace Hotel.

That same day we arrived, we went on duty in the towers - this is where our tour really began. As with all newly arrived Regiments, there have been plenty of jobs to do in taking over Sector Two, and we have all worked hard to repaint and tidy up the 'Troop locations'. The training helped with the day-to-day duties, but it certainly didn't prepare us for the heat - that will take some getting used to.

UN 51 is now my place of work for the next six months. The opposing forces often over-man their positions and throw stones at each other. They have tried to pull the wool over our eyes because we are new - this is sometimes a little difficult to deal with, but we are getting used to it.

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**Who are these men who leap from planes?**

If you have ever been involved with Sector Two Engineers, you may have wondered why the man who has come round to fix your plumbing has a pair of wings on his arm. The Sector Two Engineer Detachment has been drawn from 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers. '9 Squadron' provide combat engineer support to 5 Airborne Brigade. The primary role of the plumber who is repairing your ballcock is actually leaping out of Hercules in support of the Parachute Regiment.

A question we are often asked (normally by an officer who has just lost all power to his wine cooler), is what do the Engineers do all day? As we explain, if it's too hot at the beach, we will be by the pool, and if you can't find us there, then we will be in the bar.

Unfortunately this is not actually the case, and the Engineer Detachment is one of the busiest jobs on the Line. The Engineer Detachment provides support to the whole of Sector Two, and with seven Troop houses, 40 OPs and hundreds of BZ lights to maintain, it is a large task. In addition, we provide 24-hour emergency engineer cover for the Line, and find ourselves involved with numerous small projects. The Detachment itself has just 11 tradesmen, with two plumbers, two electricians, three bricklayers, three carpenters and one heating, ventilating and air conditioning fitter. With this variety of skills, we like to feel that very few tasks are beyond us.

Of course, there are some advantages to being in the Engineer Detachment. We are always the most popular men on camp, particularly when someone finds they have no water, power or barbecue. With so many accomplished tradesmen, we also have by far the best bar and barbecue in Cyprus!

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**The Dukes are coming**

There is an old King's Division song, normally associated with copious amounts of ale, called "The Dukes Are Coming" (up the Hill). The Dukes have certainly arrived in Cyprus with a vengeance. The last time the Battalion served in Cyprus for the UN was in 1975, and a photo in our Regimental magazine of a Dukes' soldier patrolling with a Sten sub-machine gun gave us an idea of how it used to be. 22 years later, members of a composite Platoon attached to K (Honegham) Battery are back in Cyprus, carrying out a very similar task.

5 Rgt RA have been superb in their handling of the Dukes' Platoon - the opening words from BC K Battery being "Why couldn't you get here last week, we needed you for the rugby!". This became the benchmark of their treatment for us, fully integrating us into everything, even down to the stretcher race in the first couple of weeks during pre-deployment training. The approach of 5 Rgt RA has been very thorough and, more than that, very professional. Due to this, the Platoon is looking forward to a very successful tour, with hopefully some adventurous training as a break from the norm.

The peace-keeping role is very different for over 80% of the Platoon who have only recently returned from three years as the Northern Ireland reserve battalion, Blackpool in Lancashire. For many of the Platoon, it is just another six months tagging on, only this time the views are different, the temperature warmer and the time off slightly more relaxed. At the end of the day, I am sure that Aiy Napa is the Blackpool of Cyprus.

Having been told they were coming to Cyprus, the Platoon were expecting something out of the holiday brochures, so Ortona House was not quite what they thought their home would be for the next six months. Basic, run down, and failing to pieces sprang to mind. Here was also something that had obviously not changed in the past 22 years - the accommodation.
The Blue Beret

July 1997

SKYBOUND

Maj Werner Krooss is currently serving as QC HQ Company in Sector Four. Amongst the many responsibilities assigned to him, he makes sure that the Battalion HQ in Camp Duke Leopold V is well maintained. One of his many tasks is to ensure that all proper UN markings are in place.

Occasionally, the need arises to replace the wind-torn UN flag from the top of the communications aerial mast, which flies at a height of approximately 150 ft. Maj Krooss, who is an experienced and certified mountaineer, always undertakes this risky task himself, defying height, high speed winds and, due to its construction and height, quite a shaky aerial mast.

About Maj Krooss

Maj Krooss was drafted into the army in 1982, following which he attended the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt from 1983 to 1986 where he trained as an Infantry Officer.

Commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1986, he was posted to an Infantry Regiment in Vorarlberg in the west of Austria. There he served in various posts from Platoon Leader, Training Officer, Coy 2IC and then QC of an Infantry Coy. In 1996, Maj Krooss underwent extensive NBC (Nuclear, Biological & Chemical) warfare training. In Austria, he is currently the QC of the HQ Coy of the Military Regional Command Vorarlberg.

In 1993, Maj Krooss served for one year with the Austrian Battalion on the Golan Heights as the QC of 1st Coy (Mountain Coy). He was posted there not only because of his military qualifications, but because the post holder has to be a trained and certified mountaineer. Maj Krooss currently holds the second highest alpine qualification attainable in the Austrian Armed Forces.

Maj Werner Krooss is married to Margit, and they have four children, his youngest son being only one month old.

THE AUSTRIAN WAR MUSEUM LOOKS AT CYPRUS

In Vienna, the Austrian MOD operates a War Museum which attempts to provide a realistic insight into the historical development on the battlefields around the world over the last few centuries.

The latest project is on Austria’s UN involvement. With this in mind, an exhibition is planned to take place in the museum during the spring of 1998, and will be dedicated to the thousands of Austrian soldiers who have served in UN missions around the globe. The exhibition will include the rebuilding of a UN OP in the vicinity of the museum and a display of the day-to-day life of UNIFCYP personnel.

To assist in this assignment, a board of famous artists and art teachers selected a group of artists to participate in the project. Their task was to gather their impressions of Austrian participation within UNIFCYP, the results of which will be exhibited in the form of paintings, sculptures, etc. and will put on view the artists’ perceptions of the existing situation.

The team were all very impressed with the island, and were equally distressed by the current circumstances regarding the military and political situation in Cyprus. They were taken on a Green Line tour and also took the opportunity to visit Austrian soldiers deployed on the line. They departed, confident that they had seen clearly what the tasks of UN personnel are. The professionalism displayed by soldiers standing between two armed forces showed them how important the role of the UN is as an organisation, especially in those days of ever-increasing conflicts around the world.

The artists left the island with the sincere wish that a solution will soon be found for the two communities living on this “jewel in the Mediterranean”.

AUSCON SPRING MEDAL PARADE

On 14 May, the Austrian/Hungarian Battalion held a medal parade for the soldiers who are currently serving with UNIFCYP.

The venue this time was the Larnaca seafront. The Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, and the CO AUSCON, Lt Col V Horatczuk, welcomed a group of highly distinguished guests to witness this special occasion, as well as to render their appreciation for the dedicated service of these soldiers. Due to the setting for this occasion, a large number of Cypriots and tourists also attended the ceremony, which was

of ambitious, non-professional musicians. Conductor Harald Lederer brought out the best in the 51 dedicated young men and women who have won many national and international competitions, due to their talent and professionalism.

Following the medal presentation, a reception took place at the Larnaca Town Hall. Music from the superb band delighted the audience with a widespread arrangement linking the classical period to modern times, and guests were able to enjoy beers and beer as well as the famous "Sacher Torte"
NEW CO UN FLIGHT, LT COL MARIO GOMEZ

Lt Col Gomez was born in 1951 in the province of Mendoza, central west Argentina.

He joined the Air Force in 1969 and attended the military aviation school (EAM), graduating four years later as a 2/Lt. In 1974, he completed the military pilot's course. The following year, he completed the combat pilot course at IV Air Brigade, and in 1976 he held the position of a Flight Instructor in airplanes.

In 1977, he completed his last course on helicopter flights. He was then posted to VII Air Brigade as an instructor of both airplanes and helicopters.

In 1987 he was promoted to the rank of major and completed the Staff Officer's training course. During the same year, he worked as Chief of Personnel.

Lt Col Gomez has flown more than 400 hours with helicopters in nine summer manoeuvres and over 8,000 hours in different kinds of aircraft. He is married to Clara, and they have two daughters.

Mr Gordon McDougall, Chief of Support Services (CSS), left UNIFCYP on 15 May 1997 after completing a four-year tour of duty in Cyprus. Mr McDougall was the first staff member to hold the position of Chief Support Services in UNIFCYP.

Mr McDougall was instrumental in the formation of the Support Services Section, which was created in 1993 in response to the withdrawal of the UK Support Regiment. The Section took over responsibility for the provision of transport, generator, and buildings maintenance services for the mission. Under his direction, the Support Services Section has become a well-established and important element of the civilian administration. Mr McDougall has now taken up a new assignment at New York Headquarters in the Logistics and Communications Service of UNFICYP.

His friends and colleagues in UNIFCYP joined together to say farewell, and to wish him and his family success and happiness in their new assignment.

9TH INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ROAD RACE

The 9th International Olympic Road Race was held on 28 June 1997 at the Makarios Stadium, Nicosia, organised by the Cyprus Olympic Committee. The event is sponsored annually by the International Olympic Committee and consists of a 10 km and a 4 km road race, both starting and finishing inside the Stadium. In the true spirit of the Olympic movement, the event is open to all ages and standards of runner: male, female and those with special needs.

W02 (SMS) Rees organised the team for 5th Regt RA. The response was very good, and a team of over 30 runners of varying standards took part. The ages ran from teenagers to veterans - those over 40 years.

At 1830 hrs on the evening of the race, the temperature was still in the mid 30s. However, this proved little of a deterrent, with some participants achieving excellent times. First UN runner past the finishing post was a very young Sapper Dilkes, closely followed by a fairly old Major Thorpe.

Despite the heat and humidity, the Regiment put up an impressive performance with most runners well within the hour mark. Commemorative certificates and T-shirts were presented to all those who completed the 10 km race.

Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, making new friends and a positive impression on the local sporting community.

THE WALL" THAT UNITES

Following a lot of hard work and the dedication of a small group, bi-communal ideas and dreams came true again at the Ledra Palace Hotel during the hot and busy week of 7 - 12 July. Starting off on 7 and 8 July, and the brainchild of Nicos Anastasiou from Larnaca, a stalwart member of bi-communal groups, a group of teenagers met in the very first "Youth Encounters for Peace", a two-day seminar.

The idea was to get them together to explore their sameness as well as their differences, and to introduce them to the idea of conflict resolution. It was a great success - they had fun together, learned a lot about each other and faced up to the realities of the "Cyprus problem" - and in the end, asked for more!

The evening of the 8th was something of a triumph for more than the co-creators of the Cypriot film "Our Wall" when it was shown on the terrace of the Ledra Palace Hotel Panicos Chrysanthou, a Greek Cypriot and Niyazi Kazluyrek, a Turkish Cypriot, had produced the film in 1990 and shown it worldwide, including United Nations Headquarters in New York. They received the Ipekci Award in Istanbul in June - but the film had never been shown to a bi-communal audience here in Cyprus.

At last, their dream was realized when some 150 people came together on a balmy Mediterranean night to watch, discuss and enjoy. Congratulations!

DANCING TO THE SAME TUNE

The week ended on a somewhat lighter and upbeat note with a gathering of regular bi-communal-meeting-goers at a disco party on the terrace. Despite the hot and sumptuous problems of some Turkish Cypriots unable to pass through the checkpoint, others enjoyed soft drinks arranged by 5 Regiment Royal Artillery, sandwiches by Panayiotis from the Junior Ranks Club and danced the night away to great music supplied by disc-jockeys Eva Hadjinicoia and Louisa Anastasiou.

It was a relaxed gathering and a true reward for the hard and unappreciated work which goes on behind the scenes. To those who were disappointed we say - watch out, look forward - more are planned!

UNIFCYP has always promoted, sponsored and assisted in bringing people together bicomurally, and this is very much in line with the recommendations of the Security-General and the Security Council. To assist and coordinate these events, a special office was established with UNIFCYP last year.

We are not short of ideas, far from it - but, if YOU have an idea or a dream and we can help - give us a call on either 359552 or 2285816 and let's work on it together!

The youth of Cyprus - from both communities
Since April 1997, the logistics support of each UNFICYP OP has been secured in the event that a vehicle cannot reach its destined OP. UN Flight capabilities have now been increased to include underslung load operations. This means that in a maximum of 40 minutes, a load of 1,000 kg/2,000 lbs can be carried from Nicosia to the furthest OPs on the island (Kokkina in Sector One and UN 146 in Sector Four).