UNIFICYP PROFILES

Ms. Susan Matthew assumed duty as Chief Administrative Officer, UNIFICYP, on 7 May 1990. Ms. Matthew holds a degree in economics from London University and has worked for the United Nations for the past 19 years. Her most recent assignment was in the Office of the Director of Field Operations, New York, where she had responsibility for special and ad hoc projects and also participated in the planning and emplacement of new peacekeeping and observer missions. Her previous field assignments have included two tours of duty with UNIFIL, Southern Lebanon; UNTAG, Namibia; the UN Centre for Human Settlements, Nairobi and the UN Information Centre, London.

Ms. Matthew is the first woman Chief Administrative Officer at UNIFICYP and only the third woman ever to be appointed Chief Administrative Officer of a UN peace-keeping operation.

Lt Col Colin Heggie joined UNIFICYP as CPLO on 11 May 1990. Commissioned from Sandhurst in Dec 82 and reading for a degree in mechanical engineering he has enjoyed a long and varied career. Lt Col Heggie has commanded an Armoured LAD, a Field Workshop and served in several Headquarters. He completed two Weapons Staff appointments in the British Procurement Executive and joined UNIFICYP from the Vehicles and Weapons Branch, Chertsey, where he was the maintenance authority for all British armoured vehicles both in service and under development. Lt Col Heggie is accompanied by his wife Susie and has three daughters. Clare, will join her parents in July while Philippa and Frances remain in the UK to further their studies.

UNITED NATIONS GOLF CLUB EXPANDS

Wednesday 11 April 1990 was a significant day in the UNIFICYP golfers calendar. After four months of hard work three new holes were opened, increasing the number of holes to nine. Apart from relieving some of the pressure on a well used sporting and recreational facility, it means that the United Nations Golf Club (UNGC) is now able to feature more prominently in Island golf. The course is now a par 68 (488 yards), only one stroke behind the islands longest, in Dhekelia.

The UNGC’s Honourary President, Maj Gen Milner, Kindly officiated at the opening of the three holes. The afternoon began with a smiling group photograph. The smiles shortly turned to grimaces as the wind picked up considerably making the afternoons golf less than comfortable. However, at the end of the day, over a beer and some sandwiches in Club Hibernia, all agreed that the UNGC had benefited greatly from the expansion and members now have a more enjoyable and challenging golf course.

The Blue Beret

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The Blue Beret is the house 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 should be in black and white on glossy paper size 150mm 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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The Blue Beret

EDITORIAL

Congratulations. We wish to thank the contributors to the Blue Beret for a most welcome increase in articles, features and photographs submitted for publication. There has been a marked improvement in both the quality of content and the variety of articles and photographs for which we are most grateful. It requires a considerable degree of will-power and discipline to prepare interesting, informative items each month and its also demanding and time consuming. We appreciate your efforts, keep up the good work!

We also want to pay tribute to the considerable generosity displayed by UNIFICYP members to various charities and fund raising events organised within the Force and in particular to the many who attended the recently held Spring Fair. Not least deserving of our congratulations are the people who over the past months have given so unselfishly of their free time to organise and participate in these events. On behalf of the beneficiaries of your good works a sincere thank you.

DEATH OF UNIFICYP MEMBER

The Force Commander regrets to announce the death of Trooper Thomas Burkat, 9/12 Royal Lancers, G Squadron, in a road traffic accident on 29th May 1990.

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EN PASSANT
UN MP COY MEDAL PARADE

On 12 April 90, a Mini Medal Parade was held at the UN MP Coy. The Force Commander presented UN medals and numbers to 11 members of the UN MP Coy. Pictured are all members who received their medals (from left to right). Sgt Gold, LCpl Grasi, Sgt Hardacker, WO2 McNally, Sgt McLardy, Sgt Kelly, MCpl Parisien, Sgt Olsen, Sgt Larsen and Sgt Jensen. Maj G Nault, FPM, Parade Commander also received his number for his 4th tour. After the parade, a small reception was held at the MP Lounge. Later on during the evening, the FC and his wife, attended the MP Mess Dinner, held at the Leda Palace. WOs and Sgt's Mess.

MP COY VISITS 227 PROVOST COY

On the 9th April 1990 twenty-two members of the UN MP Coy, visited 227 Provost Coy RPM, Episkopi. The visit started with a briefing from Major Farley, Provost Marshal, followed by a visit to the Veterinary Section where members were shown the effectiveness and use of the different dogs kept by the British Forces. Later on the RAF Ammunition Section in Dhekelia demonstrated the effects of different types of explosives used by terrorists. The FPM clearly refused to loan his car as a training aid. Lunch was served by our hosts followed by a game of volleyball and field hockey. A few Canadian MPs could not tell the difference between field hockey and ice hockey, consequently, elevens were flying. Our UN MP team won the game of field hockey and came second overall in the sports competition. A reception was held at the RPM Detachment where a plaque was presented to the UN MP Coy in memory of our visit. All members of the UN MP Coy would like to thank Sgt Maddren, Trg NCO, RPM, for the interesting and informative visit.

UNICORNS HOCKEY SUCCESS

The Unicorns Hockey Club completed another successful season and retained the ESBA Minor Units Cup, which they had won for the first time last year. The final was a very hard fought and enjoyable game against Det CER (2nd Fd Regt RA), Dhekelia. The Unicorns came out on top by four goals to two, with Tony Webster scoring three and Marcus Norman one. In league standing the Unicorns placed second behind 2 Sqn. 9 Sig Regt and trophies for both competitions were presented by Col C G Champion, Commander Dhekelia Garrison.

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE

The Austrian Medal Parade was held on May 25 at Camp Duke Leopold V with approximately two hundred guests attending. The Peacekeeping Medals were presented to the proud soldiers by the Force Commander. Major General Milner and Contingent Commander Col Fritsch. Music was supplied by a Turkish Military Brass Band; a reception followed and AUSCON Members and guests were invited by Maj Mueller (PMC) to enjoy a typical Austrian buffet of famous Austrian dishes.

AUSCON NEWS

The Inspector General of the Austrian Army, General Tauschitz, paid a visit to Austrian UN soldiers serving in Cyprus. After briefings, he had a line tour, visiting all OP's and later attended a dinner with UN and other officials. The General who also visited Iraq and Golon Heights was very pleased with AUSCON's contribution to the Peacekeeping Force.

AUSCON's march through the Buffer Zone, which is compulsory for all members, is well known to many, even in the home country. Newcomers had to march with temperatures over 30 C, however there were no casualties.

A group of singers from Carinthia in the southern part of Austria gave a concert at Camp Duke Leopold V. A reception was held afterward and gifts were exchanged.
SECTOR THREE NEWS

The past month has been a busy one here in CANCON, full of competitions, sports and visits in addition to our normal duty routine. The soldiers of 2 PPCLI and our CANCON augmentees have worked hard to ensure that the unit was well represented at the UNIFCYP Shooting Competition, the Athletic Championships and the Military Skills Competition. The results were well worth the effort with the contingent winning the falling plates event and placing fourth overall in Shooting, second overall in Athletics and third and fifth overall in Mt Skills. Special congratulations go out to MCpl Hicks who placed first in two athletic events and Cpl Dickie who came second in the consolation round of the UNIFCYP Badminton Championships. Well done everyone who participated!

The Battalion celebrated Kapyong Day on 25 April. This annual event, held in memory of 2 PPCLI’s heroic stand on Hill 877 in Korea 24-25 April 1951, was a full day of memorial parades, sports, parties and mess dinners. The junior ranks team managed to win the inter-softball tournament, with the officers coming second and the senior NCO team third. All in all Kapyong Day was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks of the battalion.

On 26-29 April the long awaited and much anticipated DANCON March took place with 62 members from CANCON completing the course. All who participated agreed that this well organized event was an excellent way to spend a weekend in Cyprus (blisters notwithstanding!). With the better part of three months gone, by the time this issue of THE BLUE BERET is published our tour will be half over and the contingent will be over the "hump". The recce party for our replacement unit (12 RBC) has been over from Canada to begin preparations for the end of our tour in September. Thoughts of home start to weigh heavily on most people’s minds about this time, but the successful completion of our mission in Cyprus is still priority one with all ranks in Sector Three! Until the next issue, when we tell you all about Canada, take care of yourselves out there!

CITY COY/ADM COY NEWS

With most of its personnel deployed within the inner walls of the Old City of Nicosia, City Coy, 2 PPCLI is presented with many unique challenges in its efforts to maintain the Status Quo of the Buffer Zone. In many areas, the distance between opposing forces is only a few metres. Soldiers must memorize every detail of their patrol route and know exactly where the Buffer Zone boundary extends. Constant communication and cooperation with both opposing forces is essential to successful peacekeeping.

City Coy soldiers have enjoyed the hospitality of several other sectors throughout the past few weeks and would like to thank those who organised the Military Skills Competition, the DANCON March and the UNIFCYP Track and Field Competition. In addition, City Coy soldiers have participated in exchanges with the other sectors within UNIFCYP.

With Administration Company well established at Camp Blue Beret, all our normal activities are underway, including sports! In addition to the battalion inter-company sports schedule, the administration company messes have formed teams for a Thursday afternoon slow-pitch league.

The league has seen plenty of great action, from the towering home runs of MWG Larry Dawson (ROMS) and Capt Bernie Derible (ADC to FC), to the defensive acrobatics of MCpl Al Defner. Rumour has it that the OC, Maj Tom Cottingham, has tried to convince the Coy HQ that he doesn’t need to go on morning runs anymore because of the amount of foul ball chasing he’s doing in left field!

It goes without saying that the five teams in the league are fighting hard for the play off positions which will lead to capturing the title of “BBC World Series Champions: Snowgoose Rotation 53”. What are the predictions? Those on the inside say that the Sr NCOs are a good bet for the title, but the officers and JRC team, 1st place, look ready to give them a good fight. Alright everyone, play ball!
BRITCON MEDAL PARADE 27 APRIL 1990

(L) Capt Chris Leng, Adjutant
(R) Lt Col David Redcliffe, CO
Sect 2

BRITCON Medal Party

O Battery, The Rocket Troop

Fennel Scout Car Squadron

Wind section, Royal Artillery Alan brooke Staff Band

Flag Party

Dvr Gibb, Transport Sgn, receiving his Peacekeeping Medal from Maj Gen Clive Milner

The Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Staff Band

LCpl Lumley, FSC, receiving his Peacekeeping Medal from Maj Gen Clive Milner

Helicopter Fly Past

Fennel Scout Car Sgn

Gnr Gough, Sect 2, receiving his Peacekeeping Medal from Maj Gen Milner

Transport Sgn on parade

2Lt Hoptham Sp Regt, Ord Det, receiving his medal from Maj Gen Clive Milner

Sgt Harvey, LOZ
SWEDCIVPOL NEWS

On 12 May, the Swedish Contingent held a party to welcome their newly arrived members. About seventy guests attended and all enjoyed the Swedish food and lovely weather. The Swedish Contingent is small, with twenty-six members. This includes seventeen police officers and one administrative officer stationed at Camp Flamingo; one officer with Polops, HQ, Nicosia; three officers as part of MP Coy and finally two officers and two Sgt attached to HQ, Nicosia. This small Contingent have a very good sense of community and get together at least once a month for dinner and conversation.

SWEDCIVPOL has for many years served colleagues returning home a champagne breakfast on the morning of their departure. This tradition is very popular, giving a pleasant last memory of Cyprus and friends left behind. Most police officers that have served with UNFICYP enjoy their duties here and try to return at some time during their career. Upon returning to Sweden members must wait at least three years before applying for another Cyprus posting. Usually there are about one hundred applicants from which ten to twelve are chosen, therefore SWEDCIVPOL members serving in the interest of peace on the island feel very fortunate. Pictured at left are the waiters: Ake "Slim" Holmberg, UIF Cahiing, Johan Backlund, Hans "Pyta" Jakobsson and Orjan Green.

SWEDCIVPOL’s newest members arrived on April 2 and together with Unit 56, the Swedish member returning home, they decided to do a joint project in remembrance of their Cyprus tour. The 18 police officers decided that a permanent brick barbecue for Camp Flamingo would be well appreciated. The problem was that they were police officers and not bricklayers, but in a cheerful mood they began the work and two weeks later presumably the biggest barbecue in UNFICYP was ready. Hopefully, the barbecue will stand for a long time and remind future SWEDCIVPOL members of Unit 56. Pictured at right is COMH Hakan Thenlin inspecting the new barbecue.

CANCON PROMOTIONS

MCpl Campbell, Pte Med teh (CANCON MFR), receiving his promotion from Lt Col W G S Sutherland, Comd CANCON.

Sgt Fischer, Sigs P, receiving his promotion from Capt O Sullivan, OC, CANCON, HQ.

June 1990

AUSTCIVPOL RECEIVES VISITORS

The last few weeks have been relatively quiet for Austcivpol apart from visits, some social and at least one official.

The first visit was by Ernie and Penny White, who were returning to the scene of the crime. Ernie recently retired from the Victoria Police as a Detective Chief Inspector. The couple met during Ernie’s tour with the first Australian Police Contingent in 1964 when Penny, who is English born, was teaching at a school in Famagusta. I am not aware of the fine details but they were married soon after and all accounts have lived happily ever after. We were blessed with their visit which coincided with ANZAC Day and their presence at the ceremony greatly added to the occasion.

Our second visitor suddenly appeared and said he had nowhere to camp. That was Lt Colonel Ian Johnsonson of the Royal Australian Artillery currently serving with the UN in Damascus.

He was only with us for two days and went through the place like a cool breeze. He told me he was delighted to meet the contingent together with a number of members of the 2nd Field Regiment RA.

The official visit was by three members of an Industrial Relations Team headed by Mr Justice L Williams of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Commander A Bunt representing the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police and Mr Chris Eaton, Secretary of the Australian Federal Police Association. They were in Cyprus as part of a visit to nearly all Australian Federal Police members serving overseas, looking at living and working conditions. All three were taken on visits to Sectors 2 and 3 and then to SWEDCIVPOL. They were also given the opportunity to meet Australian Federal Police members at a BBQ lunch, not to mention a couple of sightseeing trips. The three told us that they were taken aback somewhat by the relatively small geographical area in which the Cyprus situation is taking place and were impressed with the UN soldiers, officers and staff that they met.

Just a word about the Australian Federal Police Association. Like most Police Associations or Federations, all members of the Force are members of the Association from the newest recruit to the Commissioner. A number of military personnel gasped when they were told this and said “How do you do that?” - it’s really quite simple. The Police Department is made up of a group of people who almost without exception have all experienced the same problems. Most have plodded the best in some form, all started as Constables and experienced shift work and some form of duty which brought them close together.
**THE SECTOR 2 TRANS CYPRUS CHALLENGE**

N battery (The Eagle Troop), 2nd Field Regiment, currently manning the eastern area of Sector 2, mounted a massive trans Cyprus challenge over the weekend 12/13 May 93. It involved a run across the width of the island, a trek on horseback, a dinghy sail and a windsurf from Dhekelia to Episkopi.

Before dawn on the 12th May, Dhekelia Saddle Club awoke to the bustle of early feeds, grooming and preparation for the start of the long race from Dhekelia to Episkopi. Four horses were involved, three from the club and one privately owned. The race was divided into stages, each of about 25km with two riders changing horses at each RV while the horse trailer moved on ahead to prepare for the next changeover.

The start was to be at 0630 hrs on the beach outside Alexander Barracks which was a hive of activity by 0600 hrs. The sailing boat, which was to race the horses and the windsurfer, was prepared for take-off. At last the teams set off, Maj Young riding with Mike Zacharias; Capt Harper sailing with Sgt Wyatt and Capt Butt windsurfing. Over two grueling days the teams covered a distance of 136km, seventeen hours in the saddle or at the helm.

The idea of the run was to cross the width of the island from sea level at Kato Pyrgos to the top of Mount Olympus, (6404 ft) and back to sea level at Happy Valley in Episkopi. On May 13 four runners completed the event in one day. Captain Farnsdale led the team, with Bdr Harris, Gnr Cork and Gnr Corris. Having got up at 02.00 hrs, the team drove across the Troodos Mountains to the starting point where Bdr Harris was the first runner away at 0715 hrs. The route followed dust tracks and roads through breathtaking scenery, past the Kykkos Monastery, up to Olympus at 1320 hrs and back down through Troodos, Platres and Kato Platres to Happy Valley. The runners arrived at 1750 hrs. In order to make up time, some runners set off before the previous runner arrived at the handover point. This overlap time was added to the total time. The time taken was thus 12 hrs and one minute. The average for the run was 13 1/3 kph over 160km.

The race was a challenge for everyone who took part. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all because of the marvellous countryside and the physical demands of the contest. The object of the race was to raise money for various causes and we would like to thank our sponsors for their support.

**FERRET SCOUT CAR NEARING END OF TOUR**

The Scout Car Squadron is now nearing the end of their sixth tour with the United Nations in Cyprus. The Squadron has been participating in many military and sporting activities. Capt Carr and Lt Smith represented the Squadron in the UN polo match against the Sovereign Base Areas. The UN won in the final minute. A Squadron polo team played a team from the 17/21 Lancers and unfortunately lost after a particularly close game. The team consisted of Capt Carr, Lt Smith, Capt Woodhead with Lt Wilkinson and Tpr Brown playing half a match each.

LCpl Pender and Tpr Durber took part in the Dhakalla marathon, with LCpl Pender achieving a highly respectable 7 place. The Squadron also competed in the UN Athletics competition, a mention should go to Tpr Burkat who was selected for the United Nations Team. On top of all this a team also took part in the Dhakalla triathlon with Lt Broadbent achieving 11 place.

The physical climax of the tour came during the Medal Parade where the Battery stood proudly on parade as the sun set and the Royal Artillery Alnbrooke Band played. 46 Battery has made many bonds here in Cyprus, both within UNFICYP and within the local community. We are very proud to have contributed a small piece of our history and tradition to this beautiful island in the service of peace.
SP REGT MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

After a hard fought and tough competition, B Tp, Transport Squadron emerged the victors of the Support Regiment Military Skills Competition. Standards improved over previous years, making the achievement even more significant.

UNIFICYP SPRING FAIR

The 1960 Spring Fair took place on 7 April and was opened by the magician Paul Daniels and his wife Miss Debbie McGhie. Displays included an air sea rescue by an RAF helicopter, a security dog display, the band of the 9/12 Lancers, national dancers, a Ferret Scout Car pull and a race between a Gazelle and a Cobra. The day, organised by Lt Col J B Smedley, RTR CO Sp Regt, raised £9,000 for charity.

UNIFICYP SKLL AT ARMS MEETING

Rifle Match 1st Sp Regt, 2nd Sect 4, 3rd Sect 3
Rifle Individual Cpl Norrie (Sp Regt)
Pistol Match 1st Sect 1, 2nd Sect 4, 3rd Sp Regt
Pistol Indiv MCpl Petryklewicz (Sect 4)
Falling Plate Sect 3 B
Overall Results 1st Sp Regt, 2nd Sect 4, 3rd MP Coy
VIP VISITORS TO UNFICYP IN MAY
Sir David Parry-Evans (BRITCON) AMP
Sir Ewen Broadbent and Brig Green (BRITCON), Council of Voluntary Welfare Staff
Brigadier Couthard (BRITCON)
Col Comdt RAOC
Brig Gen Clarke (CANCON), Chaplain Gen, Canadian Armed Forces
Brigadier Dean (BRITCON)
Comd Arty 3 Armd Div (Des)
Brig Gen Fredenslund (DANCON) COS (Des) UNFICYP
Deputy Director Gen Waldau (SWEDCON) National Police Board Ambassador Mortensen (DANCON) Permanent Representative to UN
WELCOME
Lt Col Bruno Madsen, CO (DANCON)
UN SECRETARIAT WELCOME
FSO Lars Skold, Inventory Control Officer returned from UNTAG, Namibia
UN SECRETARIAT FAREWELL
FSO Kenneth Eriksson on reassignment to UNTSO

UNFICYP WATERSPORTS CLUB
Support Regiment CO, Col John Smedley, (right) and 2 I/C, Major Peter Townsend swiftly go to the rescue during a sailing weekend at the club. Courses in dinghy sailing and wind sailing are held regularly between April and October.

UNFICYP CLAY PIGEON CLUB
Clay pigeon shoots take place regularly at the club, situated next to the 30m range, UNPA. The Senior Dental Officer, BRITCON, Maj Young gives expert tuition to both experienced and novice shots. Pictured is Maj and Mrs Young receiving a prize at a recent CANCON/BRITCON shoot from Maj Robertson.

DANCON WEDDING
On Saturday 17 March, Helle and Corporal IB Solhoj Hansen were wed on the beach at Kokkinia by the Rev Kjeld Burgby. The reception was held in the courtyard, where the happy couple began the festivities with the traditional waltz. Everyone wished the bride and groom well and enjoyed the celebration well into the night. Pictured is the bride and groom, Rev Kjeld Burgby and the best men; Lt B.M. Nielsen and Sgt L.M. Jensen.