

# THE Blue Beret

June 1992





## UNFICYP SPRING FAIR 1992

Photos by S/Sgt Kev Capon



Thousands of people enjoyed the sunshine at the annual UNFICYP Spring Fair, which was held in and around the Nicosia Airport Terminal on 9 May 1992. A record number of sideshows, stalls and entertainment made approximately £7,500 for charities. All elements of UNFICYP participated as well as civilian traders. The event was officially opened by UNFICYP's Force Commander, Major General M Minehane.



## INTERNATIONAL RESCUE

UNFICYP is famous the world over for its peace-keeping role, but it recently showed a somewhat different side to its humanitarian work.

At the beginning of May, it was discovered that a tiny kitten had fallen through a walled partition inside the Headquarters building. There she remained for at least five days over the Easter holiday period, trapped and unable to get out, until the situation came to the attention of the JOC duty officer.

Immediately, a rescue operation swung into action and before long, a hole was drilled in the soft wall and the kitten was retrieved. She is now in a good home, fully recovered and answers to the name of LUCKY!



VOLUME 29 NUMBER 6

JUNE  
1992

Published monthly by the Military Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, P.O. Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus  
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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 together with captions should accompany the articles. 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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Printed in Cyprus by  
Fri-El Press  
Nicosia  
Tel. 350186

### Front Cover

Observation  
at D-14

by S/Sgt Kev Capon

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

What's in a name?? Should a Spring Fair be a Summer Fair when it's run in May?? What are the months of spring?? Is May in spring or summer?? Who cares?? Is it important... that is, of course, beyond being a Mess discussion point at late hours when the problems of the world have already been "solved" by very lucid, loquacious and/or argumentative individuals, bent on prolonging the enjoyment of the atmosphere and available company for a few more minutes.

Of course it doesn't matter, and the important thing for this year's Support Regiment major social activity was, as always, that everybody should enjoy the special family-centred occasion while contributing to the charities of both communities. As the premier family event in UNFICYP's calendar, it was a great day enjoyed by all participants and a tribute to those who planned, organised and ran the event.

The tradition of this Fair has evolved through many years since its inception, and over the period has raised large amounts for charity. This year, £7,500 was collected.

Well done Support Regiment - a huge thank you from those who enjoyed the day for itself and special thanks from the voiceless beneficiaries of the projects financed by the proceeds.

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## NEWS FROM SECTOR TWO



### H SQUADRON - Photos by S/Sgt Kev Capon



Cpl Bradley on patrol in the Buffer Zone

Last month saw a focus on G Squadron and this time it is the turn of H Squadron to feature in Sector Two news.

H Squadron formed up as an amalgamation of A and B Squadrons back in Detmold at the end of September 1991, under the command of Maj Mayall and the guidance of WO2 Preece. The new Squadron consisted of 120 men, divided into three troops and a Headquarters element consisting of an Ops troop, an Admin troop and an MT troop.

The Squadron underwent an intensive training package, concentrating on SA 80 conversion and individual military skills. The training finished off with a series of Squadron and Regimental exercises based on the FIBUA training villages at Hohne and Sennelager.

The Squadron took over operational control from Arras Squadron, 4 RTR on 4 December 1991 and were immediately faced with a series of incidents which ran more like the main events list of the Regimental exercise! The Squadron soon settled down into the routine of UN soldiering, and by Sahagun, they were fully up to speed on the current issues and the locations of the respective cease fire lines.

Visits were to prove a major activity. The Squadron hosted many official visits including the incoming and outgoing UNFICYP Force Commanders, the Colonel of the Regiment, the US Ambassador to Cyprus, the Commander of the British Forces, both outgoing and incoming UNFICYP Chiefs of Staff, the British Minister of State for Defence and the Commander 20 Armd Bde. It also hosted countless informal visits from UNFICYP HQ staff and visitors to the British Military Cemetery.



Sgt Hunter and Tpr Lester carrying out basic field repairs in front of B-28

Operationally, the Squadron was heavily involved in the monitoring of the Women's Peace March. The Squadron also provided a large proportion of the Regimental teams for the UN Shooting Competition and the UN Military Skills Competition in which the Regiment were runners-up.

H Squadron found plenty of time to get involved with sports at all levels. At the troop level, a very successful 'Trivial Pursuits' ladder was run in the evenings and also several volleyball and 5-a-side football competitions. At the Regimental level, the Squadron fielded the majority of players in the football, hockey, downhill, langlaufing and athletics teams,



Tpr Archer at B-40

with representatives in the UN hockey and rugby squads.

The Squadron ran a series of troop projects to continue to improve the living accommodation at the OPs, and also undertook refurbishment at the front of the Roman Catholic and Maronite Cemetery beside B-18. Our support was also greatly appreciated at other bi-communal charity events.

The six month tour has passed quickly and the majority of the Squadron have benefited from the facilities provided by the Adv Trg team at Dhekelia. Looking back, the Regiment's last operational tour has proved very successful, with H Squadron participating fully in achieving this success.



Tprs Archer and Bradley doing a security check



## NEWS FROM SECTOR TWO



### REGIMENTAL BAND PLAYS IN KYRENIA



On Tuesday 5 May, the band of 15/19H played at the Harbour Club in Kyrenia. The harbour at sunset, crowded with yachts provided the perfect setting for the event.

The band, in full dress uniform, went through their repertoire of old favourites including the theme from 'Thunderbirds', the 'Blaydon Races' and many more.

The two most popular numbers were the Post Horn Gallop played by L/Cpl Dave Bacon and the Lassus Trombones, where three of the musicians with trombones walked around the harbour front, deafening unsuspecting diners.

The whole evening struck just the right note with the crowd in Kyrenia harbour and was a resounding success.

### EX PINESTICK



Twice a year, an Engineer troop comes out to Cyprus for six weeks as part of an exercise to carry out improvements to British Army facilities around the island. This time, the island was visited by 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron stationed at Chatham in Kent. The troop, led by Lt Leo Bedford, is based at Dhekelia for its stay, but has detached one section up to the UNPA to carry out refurbishment work in Sector Two.

The section, commanded by Cpl Ridai Chandron Rai from Eastern Nepal, has just finished its assignment at St David's Camp. The 14 men in Cpl Ridai's section spent just under a month carrying out much need improvements to the accommodation in Sector Two.



### CAVALRY MEMORIAL



A small ceremony took place on Sunday 3 May in Wayne's Keep, the British Military Cemetery in Nicosia, to mark Cavalry Memorial day. Echoing the much larger parade taking place in Hyde Park, Padre Paddy Cable paid tribute to cavalry soldiers killed in past wars, and a trumpeter from the band of 15/19H and 16/5L played the last post. Officers and soldiers from both 15/19H and 16/5L were gathered in the cemetery for the short service.

Earlier that morning, Lt Col CH Braithwaite, CO of 15/19H, had laid a wreath at the grave of Tpr Wakefield in Dhekelia. Tpr Wakefield, 15/19H, was killed in a traffic accident during the Regiment's tour of Cyprus in 1977, aged 17.



Lt Col Braithwaite at the grave of Tpr Wakefield in Dhekelia



## NEW FACES AROUND DANCON



On Sunday 10 May, a new Chaplain arrived in Sector One. The change was made at a special service in the Solli Theatre. The retiring Chaplain, Jorgen Dolmer (left), has left Cyprus to take up a post as Vicar of Stevring in Denmark. The new Chaplain, Flemming Høgh (right), will remain in DANCON until November 1992.



On 10 May, Maj Per Knudsen (left) took over as Senior Personnel Officer from Maj K-E Tang. Maj Knudsen arrived from a posting in HQ Chief of Defence, Denmark (Personnel Branch), and will return there on completion of his tour. Maj Tang will go back to a posting in the Royal Danish Air Force, Tactical Command.



On 9 May, Capt L Reuther (right) from the Southern Jutland Artillery Regiment took over as Ops Info Offr in Sector One, leaving his job as Ops Offr in 14 Air Defence Battalion. Capt B Mejholm returned to Denmark on 19 May to serve as Ops Offr in 3 Artillery Battalion, Northern Jutland Artillery Regiment.

Commander DANCON/57, Lt Col N-E Jacobsen, was born in 1944 and drafted in 1962. He became a 1/Lt in 1969, and served with the Jutland Engineer Regiment from 1969 to 1974. On promotion to Capt in 1974, he spent his first tour with UNFICYP as AO in DANCON/22. He served in the Army Engineer and Chemical School from 1979-1983 and from 1985-1987.



He was promoted to Maj in 1980, and Lt Col in 1987. From 1987/1990 he was Chief of the Chemical Unit in the Army Engineer and Medical School, and from 1990-1992 he was Chief of 3rd Engineer Battalion and Division Engineer Officer.

Lt Col Jacobsen is married with two adult children.



The out-going 2i/c HQ Coy, DANCON, Capt F Dahl (left), returns to the Zealand Life Regiment, where on 1 August 1992, he will be posted as OC HQ Coy, 1 Zealand Brigade.

The new 2i/c HQ Coy, DANCON, Capt BMH Espensen comes from a job as 2i/c HQ Coy, 1 BTKN, Royal Danish Life Guard, and is looking forward very much to this new job in Cyprus.



Capt J Jaeger (right), the Sector One Engineer Officer, has been hearing a lot during the last six months from previous incumbents talking about the exciting job in UNFICYP, and will try hard to live up to the old Danish Engineer saying "at the right time, at the right place, using the necessary strength and serving with all our skills".

His predecessor, Capt THS Renson, has had a very enjoyable tour as the Engineer Officer, and will return to Denmark as a teacher in the Sergeants' School.



Capt NEG Olsen (right) took over as Workshop Officer, DANCON from Capt FE Praegel, who returns to the Zealand Life Regiment as 2i/c Workshop Manager, 3rd Workshop Company.

Capt Olsen is on his second tour with UNFICYP, and comes from a posting as Staff Officer Weapons, HQ Danish Material Command.



DO3/Asst SHO, 1/Lt Jesper Momme (right) is leaving the island after nine months in HQ DANCON. He is returning to the Jutland Logistics Regiment.

His successor, 1/Lt Jens Brøgger, comes from the Northern Jutland Artillery Regiment, where he served as an artillery observer.



At the beginning of May, Capt Leon Dal (right) took over as Signals Officer, DANCON from Capt Geo Jensen. Capt Jensen will go back to further education in the Army for the next 1 1/2 years. Capt Dal comes from the Danish Signal Regiment in Jutland.



WO2 P Hein (left), who is known by many throughout UNFICYP for his keen interest in all types of sport, is now returning to Denmark to become the Sports Assistant of the Jutland Dragoons.

His successor, WO2 A Danekilde, was the Instructor/Tactical Trainer in the Eastern Land Command.

## SECTOR HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

### THE HUMANITARIAN SECTION - SECTOR THREE

The CANCON Humanitarian Section is headed by Capt Philippe Bérard and to assist him he has Warrant Officer Mario Roy, Master Corporal Michel Sartori and Soldier Stéphane Campeau. Together, this small team have one of the most varied jobs within Sector Three and within UNFICYP as a whole.

In general, the job is split into two areas - economic and humanitarian. Within the economic tasks, the Section has the responsibility of supervising the farming of land within the Buffer Zone, in addition to problems related to electricity and sewage lines. Finally, construction and renovation projects are monitored and examined to ensure that they conform to building regulations within the Buffer Zone.

The Humanitarian Section tasks involve co-operating with the Cyprus Red Cross in the transfer of medical supplies. This Section also aids the delivery of mail between the two communities.

One of the more interesting tasks undertaken is visiting the Nicosia Central Prison and the Mental Institute, when it is necessary, to monitor any inmates from minority communities.

Within the Nicosia area of Sector Three is the Catholic "Church of the Holy Cross". In the same area is St Joseph's elementary school, where the Humanitarian Section has recently placed a new volleyball court.



M/Cpl Sartori liaises with offices in the North of Cyprus in authorising passports and visas for Turkish Cypriots in the South

Finally, there is one unusual task - the destruction of wild dogs within the Buffer Zone is on-going, and it has earned the Humanitarian Section Commander the title of "Terminator 3".

In conclusion, the Humanitarian Section has an interesting, busy and rewarding job in its unique position as a peace-keeper.

### A FAREWELL FROM THE SECTOR TWO HUMANITARIAN CELL



Distribution of Government stores in Karpasha

**HUMANITARIAN - "WITH THE INTEREST OF MANKIND AT HEART":** definition from the Collins English Dictionary.

Bearing in mind the definition of the word "humanitarian", who better to be part of the team than S/Sgt Gavican and Sgt Mustard? After our takeover from 4 RTR, we (the farming team) started to orientate

ourselves to the 170,000 acres of real estate in Sector Two's area of the Buffer Zone.

The Regimental Raincloud never let us down, after giving this "Island of Venus" the wettest winter on record. The water was much needed after a severe drought period, however the rain washed away segments of the patrol track which caused Sgt Mustard to bog the landrover once or twice...

During the first couple of months of the tour, dog reports poured into the Humanitarian Office, and the farming team could be seen rushing to the armoury and speeding off into the Buffer Zone to try and intercept them.

The last six weeks of the tour saw the beekeepers bringing beehives into the Buffer Zone. Of the 6,000 hives allowed in our area, over 2,000 can be found in a 1.5 mile radius of OP B-32. Rather unfortunate for the men living there, or is it unfortunate for the bees?

The job of Farming NCO has been very challenging at times, however the feeling of achievement at the end of the day is very fulfilling. It is a job you would never do the like of again, but would like to do again. If we ever return to Cyprus, our names will be top of the list for this post.



## NEWS FROM CANCON



### CANCON ENGINEER TROOP

by Capt Claude Many

Before I tell you how busy and productive the CANCON Engineer Troop is, let me first introduce you to its members. In the control office, there is my 2i/c, WO Whittaker and our computer wizard M/Cpl Parsons. The heart of the section is composed of five production shops. In charge of the carpenter shop is M/Cpl Paterson assisted by Cpl Williamson and two civilians, Costas and Evangelos. In the electrical shop we have Sgt Jonat and Cpl Irvine, our appliance men. M/Cpl Smith and Cpl L'heureux, both from Edmonton, handle all our plumbing problems. The guys who make sure that we have cool air and cold juice are M/Cpl Morahan and Cpl Bourguignon, our two refrigeration technicians. Last but not least, there is the heavy equipment section with Cpl Luck, the backhoe/digger operator and Cpl Girard, the M113 driver. They also both act as our resident translators, especially during morning PT parades!

Being a Canadian Engineer is a very busy job. In order to ensure the Contingent is provided with a high standard of accommodation, we have to work continuously to maintain and upgrade existing facilities. This includes such projects as Richardson House where we constructed four complete rooms, building and installing partitions at Frezenberg House and also a variety of repairs at the Ledra Palace Hotel. We also have to support the operational needs of



The CANCON Engineer Troop

the Battalion which leads to several projects such as the illumination system along the Pedious River, the demolition of old and dangerous houses in the city and a new by-pass road at Frezenberg House, just to name a few.

Considering the fact that there are only 13 of us, there is no day whatsoever that we find ourselves without work. Like the Beaver on our badge, we are constantly working to improve the element in which we live.

CHIMO

### MIL SKILLS! WHAT AN EVENT! By Lt JGM Larose



The CANCON team at the end of the day; weary but proud.

The UNFICYP Military Skills Competition, which took place in the middle of April, was quite an event for the members of the present Canadian Contingent, most of whom have never competed in the like before. However, we were determined to give it our best shot.

Preparation began at the beginning of April with the formation of our three teams. Each team represented a company, so from the very start, a sense of competition was already present.

The preparation was short but intense as we practised the different stands. Training was even tougher for the rural team, having to deal with two major injuries. As a result, five days before the big event, a new team had to be formed.

On "D" day, we were ready to face anything. The atmosphere was intense, with each member giving his best effort to show the other contingents what Canadians are made of. For the first part of the day we achieved good results, especially in the shooting and grenade throwing stands. Everyone was waiting for the main event; the obstacle course, which proved to be an enduring if not endearing event.

At the end of the day, we had to concede the best positions to the other contingents. Nevertheless, our teams are proud of their achievement and efforts as displayed during the day.



## NEWS FROM CANCON



### THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

The first Shooting Competition of 1992 involving the contingents of UNFICYP was held in April at the UNPA rifle range.

Seven teams representing Austria, Denmark, Great Britain and Canada participated at this meet where each contingent put to test their marksmen and the efficiency of their personal weapons. At the beginning, the weapons of certain contingents had a definite psychological effect on our teams, but the well known desire to win of the Royal 22e Regiment helped our guys to overcome their initial anxiety when it came time for our French Canadians to shoot.



The victorious 3e R22eR shooting team with their competition trophies (left to right from the bottom row): MWO Magnan, Pte Gascon, WO St-Pierre, Sgt Champoux, Lt Langlois, Pte Jenniss, (back row) Capt Morin, MCpl Caron, Pte Goyet, Pte Dubois, Pte Daignault and Cpl Larcher.

The meet consisted of three categories: the rifle, the pistol (each involving three separate shooting tests), and a falling plate competition. The Canadian Contingent was represented by eight members of 3e R22eR, who carried the honours with a first place finish in the combined, a first place in the rifle segment and a third place in the pistol competition. As for the falling plates, our two teams were placed second and third.



Soldier Gabriel Daignault is congratulated by Col Resch for having won the prize for best shot during the rifle event



The winning 3e R22eR rifle team posing with their first place trophy (from left to right): WO St-Pierre, Pte Daignault, Lt Langlois and Pte Gascon.



The 3e R22eR pistol team posing in front of the 25m range during the competition (from left to right): Cpl Larcher, Sgt Champoux, Capt Morin and MCpl Caron.

At the individual level, the Pte Gabriel Daignault finished in first place out of 28 competitors in the rifle shoot, and M/Cpl Gaetan Caron took fourth place with the pistol.

Individual effort combined with personal discipline and the well-known determination of our "Vingt-Deux" permitted us to once more highlight the Canadians in a competition.



The pistol competition; MCpl Caron, and Cpl Larcher engaging their respective targets at the UNPA pistol range.



## A ROYAL VISIT TO THE SCARLET LANCERS

Photos by S/Sgt Kev Capon



L/Cpl Myers, in full ceremonials, meets HRH.

The Force Scout Car Squadron has hosted a number of visitors over the past few months, but by far the most important of these was the visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Michael of Kent in May.

It may not be well known that he was an Officer in the Royal Hussars when they were in role as the Scout Car Squadron in 1971. This time, His Royal Highness was in Cyprus in his capacity as President of SSAFA (Sailor's, Soldier's and Airman's Family Association) in the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area. Hence, he took the

opportunity to revisit the Squadron and his old camp. HRH arrived by helicopter at 1225hrs to be met by the Force Commander, the Squadron Leader (Major Mark Ridley) and the Liaison Officer (Captain Ricky Trant).

A half Lance Guard of 24, flanked by two Lancers in full dress uniform of the 16th Lancers and the 5th Royal Irish Lancers respectively with two gleaming Ferrets, awaited him on Aliwal Square at Prince William Camp.

After inspecting the Lance Guard, HRH presented the Squadron Sergeant Major, WOII Peter Jablonski, with the British Empire Medal for his services during the Gulf War.

One of our most frequent taskings (especially in Sector Two) is setting up vehicle checkpoints. This was demonstrated to HRH by 5th Troop, led by 2/Lt Watson and Sgt Mellor, executed in fine style near the BBC Mess. Although their task was to check passes, the car which pulled up at the checkpoint also held some contraband that was confiscated from the protesting driver! On orders from SHQ, this was delivered back to HRH in double quick time for his investigation. The contraband turned out to be the Squadron's presentation of an excellent framed photograph taken by S/Sgt Capon, the Force Photographer, earlier in our tour.

Pre lunch drinks with the Squadron SNCOs in their Mess



"And who are you?" L/Cpl Warren, giving his name rank and number!

quickly followed the demonstration. After lunch in the Officers' Mess, HRH visited his old camp, then called Gleneagles (now Maple Leaf) where he was able to reminisce with S/Sgt Bond and Sgt Pyke who had also served in the same camp in the seventies.

HRH visited the Scout Car Squadron for just two hours and then had to depart for Episkopi. The whole Squadron is extremely honoured that he wished to visit us. On his departure, His Royal Highness warmly thanked everyone for making it a most memorable occasion for him.



HRH presenting WOII Jablonski with his British Empire Medal.



"Of course, the place was a lot tidier when I was here!" HRH inspects the old Gleneagles Camp with S/Sgt Bond, Capt Harvey and Sgt Pyke - looking for a bass broom!

## AUSCON FLYERS take first place

Last Easter Monday was a fine day. Most people spent it lazing around or relaxing in the sun, but it was a day of action for the Mercury Kart Club in Ayios Nicolaos who organised a nerve-racking go-kart competition.

These go-karts have a top speed of 60 kph, however it is not only speed which is important. The course, the technique of the other drivers and their mental attitude to the competition as a whole are also factors to be taken seriously into consideration.

Of the 13 teams which took part in this competition, one was from Sector Four. The only non-British team, the "AUSCON Flyers" of HQ Coy, Camp Duke Leopold V consisted of L/Cpl Thomas Amann, L/Cpl Andreas Mittheiss, Pte Mario Stoisser and Cpl Werner Kruchr. After an unlucky start, the Austrians literally "gained ground" and finally, after the last 20 laps, they were declared the winners of the "Easter Grand Prix 1992".

The excellent organisation of the Club, the competent and encouraging words of the Club Manager and the first-class condition of the go-karts



The "AUSCON Flyers": Cpl Kruchr, L/Cpl Mittheiss, Pte Stoisser and L/Cpl Amann

all contributed to making this competition a great success.

For general interest, the Manager of the Mercury Kart Club and the members of the AUSCON Flyers are more than willing to advise anyone interested in this sport.

## MEDICAL STUDENT AT DANCON MEDICAL CENTRE

by Henrik Lajer

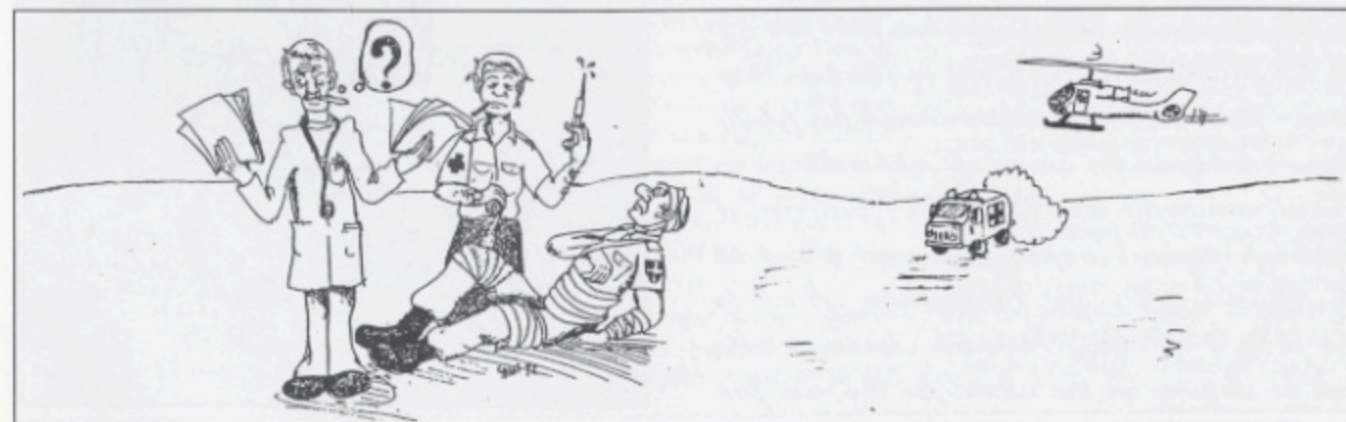
During the second part of Medical School, students in Denmark have to attend eight weeks of courses of their own choice. The university only demands that these courses be conducted under qualified medical guidance, thus giving students a wide selection. Being a Reserve Officer in the Royal Hussars Regiment, I convinced the Army Medical Corps that it would be mutually beneficial to grant me a one-month stay at the DANCON

Medical Centre in Cyprus.

During my stay, I experienced a diversity of problems facing the Danish doctors in UNFICYP. Solutions to many problems are certainly different to the normal standard procedure taught to medical students in Denmark. Requirements for para-clinical tests that, though accessible, are difficult to obtain due to both distance and bureaucracy; the problem of what to do without proper back-up from trained nursing staff; how to justify the

expense of a MEDEVAC; and how to explain my clinical findings to a bewildered Chief Medical Officer who finds difficulty in understanding my literal translations - these are all problems I have had to face during my stay on this island.

The conclusion, however, that I have arrived at is that medical skills are fine on home ground, but without the usual back-up, you soon find out the limitations of a modern, high-technology doctor!




**NEWS FROM AUSCON**

**MEDAL PARADE on 30 APRIL 1992**


The FC presenting the UN medal to M/Cpl Niedergesess

There are presently 108 members of the Austrian Contingent who are on their first tour with UNFICYP, and approximately 30 on their second tour. At this year's Austrian Medal Parade, they all received their UN medal or numeral at an impressive ceremony. The music for the event was provided by the British Military Band which played many well known Austrian marches, much to the delight of the large attendance which included HE Mr Lamb, the USA Ambassador and many other dignitaries.

In his address, the Force Commander, Maj Gen Minehane, said that after spending two years in Vienna, he felt most at home with the Austrian people and expressed his appreciation at the dedication to duty shown by all Austrian peace-keepers.

The Austrians have been a part of UNFICYP since 1964, when they provided a field hospital in St David's Camp with 54 soldiers. In 1972, the Austrian Contingent increased and the Battalion was stationed initially in the Paphos/Polis area, moving one year later to Larnaca. In 1977, when the Finns withdrew, the AUSCON HQ moved to Famagusta, and when the




The FC and CO Sector Four receiving the military honours

Swedish soldiers departed from UNFICYP, the Austrians took over part of the former SWEDCON's area of responsibility as well.

The celebrations of the Austrian Medal Parade ended with a magnificent buffet at the Officers' Mess in Famagusta.



One of the delicious specialities prepared by AUSCON


**MARRIAGE IN SECTOR FOUR**


*Maj Oscar Tomasch, who has been serving as the Humanitarian Officer in Sector Four since June 1991, recently married his pretty fiancée Edith on the island of Aphrodite. The "most wonderful day of his life" included a boat trip around Cape Greco and ended at the Officers' Mess in Famagusta. Much to the delight of Maj Tomasch, his new wife will be staying on the island for the next few months.*



The bride and groom


**THE ROLE OF AUSTCIVPOL IN CYPRUS**



Dressed in winter uniform, the 1st AUSTCIVPOL Contingent arrived to a hot Cyprus summer

26 May 1992 marked the 28th anniversary of the first Australian Civilian Police Contingent to arrive in Cyprus. Dressed in winter uniform, they arrived in the middle of a hot northern hemisphere summer aboard the first QANTAS 707 to land on the island.

Early Australian Contingents contained 50 police personnel. These days, there are only 20, made up of four officers and 16 police sergeants, all on

secondment from Australia's federal law enforcement agency, the Australian Federal Police. These 20 civilians are career police officers with broad ranging training and experience in all manner of police duties. In Cyprus, they are required to use their liaison, negotiation and other peace-keeping skills to perform their duties without the benefit of any traditional police or law enforcement powers.

AUSTCIVPOL provides support and advice to the Force Commander concerning civilian policing and law enforcement. The major areas of duty are in the Buffer Zone of Sectors One, Two and Three. However, outside the Buffer Zone, AUSTCIVPOL also investigates criminal matters that have inter-communal connotations and participates in UN welfare operations. They are also tasked to establish and maintain liaison with the Cyprus Police and the Turkish Cypriot Police Element.

When in Australia, AUSTCIVPOL members perform a diversity of police functions which can include working under cover in surveillance operations, investigating organised crime syndicates, conducting community education programmes or responding to domestic violence calls. Police training is extensive and on-going with increasing emphasis on tertiary qualification. This combination of experience and training makes civilian police uniquely suited to perform peace-keeping and humanitarian roles.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTER VISITS AUSTCIVPOL**

On Tuesday 12 May, the Australian Federal Minister for Local Government and Family Support, the Honorable David Simmons MP, visited the Australian Contingent at the UNPA. The Minister was on the island to sign a reciprocal rights agreement between Australia and the Republic of Cyprus. He was shown around AUSTCIVPOL Headquarters and was given a briefing on the Australian police role in UNFICYP.



Australian Federal Minister, David Simmons MP, with members of AUSTCIVPOL

**UN MP COY CRIME READER - COY SGT A RYAN**


Coy Sgt (WOII) Tony Ryan, IRCON, took over the position of Crime Reader, UN MP Coy, in July 1991. He joined the Irish Defence Force in 1974 and, after a brief spell in the Infantry Corps, he joined the Police Corps in 1975. C/S Ryan has served at all levels and departments in the MP Corps, and has a wide range of UN experience. This is his fourth UN tour.

As Crime Reader, he has complete responsibility for the proof reading, correcting and distribution of all MP

Investigation Reports (apart from the SIS). Principally, he is the main liaison between all MP Det Commanders in relation to their current investigations, in addition to which he briefs the FMP on all on-going incidents. He is also responsible for liaison with outside agencies.

With seven UN MP contingents having their own idea on how the job should be done, the Crime Reader has the ominous task of "deciphering" the various MP Reports to ensure they are understood by everybody.



W/Dvr Ali McCormick



W/Dvr Emma Thatcher



W/Sgt Debbie Stevenson



W/Dvr Jenny Perry



W/Dvr Jackie Rankin

## WOMEN DRIVERS OF THE RCT

The Women's Royal Army Corps came into being on 1 February 1949, its predecessor being the Auxiliary Territorial Service which formed in 1938. The Women's Royal Army Corps was a Corps of the Regular Army, and from the beginning enjoyed wide and varied roles from Kennel Maids to service with the Royal Military Police. Today, slightly over 1500 of the Corps is serving overseas, currently in Cyprus, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and BAOR. WRAC are also serving in Belize, Brunei, the Falkland Islands, Washington and Zimbabwe.

WRAC Drivers have been working alongside the Royal Corps of Transport since it came into being on 15 July 1965. However, it was only last year that WRAC drivers were introduced into Field Force Regiments. This came after the successful deployment of WRAC drivers on Operation GRANBY/

DESERT STORM during the Gulf Crisis.

One such unit which received WRAC drivers was 27 Regiment RCT, located at Aldershot, Hampshire. On 16 May 1991, 26 WRAC recruits were posted from the training centre at Guildford in addition to a Sergeant and a Corporal. One of the Squadrons which received WRAC Drivers was 7 Squadron RCT, currently here in UNFICYP as the UN Transport Squadron.

Currently in Jubilee Camp are Sgt Stevenson and nine Ptes, whose typical tasks vary from mail runs, ration runs to DANCON in heavy 4 tonners, driving bus routes and UNHCR runs.

When not operationally driving, the girls have also participated with the men as part of the Reserve Platoon tasked to provide reinforcement within the UNPA. They have also displayed the equal ability to complete in the DANCON Marches in times under four hours and have taken part in the Support Regiment Skill-At-Arms

Competition. On the sports field, W/Dvrs McCormick and Thatcher have played hockey for Nicosia Tramps Hockey Club, currently training with the Interservices Team. W/Dvrs Perry and McCormick have taken part in netball for the UN ladies, whilst W/Dvrs Horry, Morrison and McCormick have been helping out the Untouchables Ladies Bowling Team.

Due to the reformation of the Army, the female members of 7 Sqn RCT hung up their WRAC Belts and Berets for the last time on 1 April 1992, and are now fully integrated into the Royal Corps of Transport. Of course, due to the Logistic Support Review, they will change Cap Badges again in April 1993, when all will become members of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The girls are finding integrating with the men in the RCT a challenge, but are taking it in their stride. They are nonetheless proving themselves capable of helping the UN to carry out its peace-keeping mandate in Cyprus.

## CAPTAIN LORENZO CARIGLIA

In September 1976, Capt Cariglia joined the army as a cadet at the Italian Military Academy based in Modena, where he completed the regular two year course to become Second Lieutenant. Then he went to Rome to attend the "Application School of Transportation" for a further two years to attain the rank of Lieutenant.

In 1989, he moved to Treviso as Transport Troop Commander of the "5th Autogruppo Postumia". Following this, he took charge of a troop in a Workshop Company belonging to the "Folgore" Logistic Battalion for another two years. In 1984, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and posted to a Transport Company. After three years he went to the 5th Logistic Battalion and assumed command of the Workshop Company, a post which he held for another three years.

On 25 Mar 91 he was posted to 7 Sqn RCT as Italian Exchange Officer. Initially he became Transport Control Officer and then, when the Squadron moved to UNFICYP in January 1992, he assumed the role of Officer Commanding 7 Sqn Rear Party. Capt Cariglia joined us in Cyprus on 19 Mar 92 to take over from Capt Andrew Firth RCT as 2i/c of Tpt Sqn.



L/Cpl McLean, who came top of the recent JMOC course, organised by 7 Sqn RCT, receiving his stripe from Capt Cariglia.

## SUPPORT REGIMENT PROFILES

### SUPPORT REGIMENT TEA LADY

No task would be easy without the "backroom boys" - or even girls. Mrs Pilakuta, known to everyone in the RHQ/UAO as "Poppy", completed 10 years' loyal service as cleaner/tea lady for our personnel in April 1992. Her colourful language and baritone voice will remain indelibly stamped in the mind of all who encounter her.

We wish her continued satisfaction and another 10 years of smiles!



### HELI PILOT



Recently arrived at UNFICYP Flight is Lt Peter Duke. Peter was educated at the King's Grammar School, Grantham and at Reading University. After a brief spell in civilian life, he enrolled on the Standard Military Course at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and was commissioned into the Army Air Corps in 1988.

After completing a Young Officers' Course at Middle Wallop, he was posted to the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry in Berlin as a Rifle Platoon Commander, returning seven months later to Middle Wallop for the Army Pilot's Course. On completion, he was posted to 4 Regiment Army Air Corps in Detmold. Whilst there, he served on operational duty in Operation Granby from December 1990 to April 1991.

On return to Germany, he became the Gazelle Flight Commander in 669 Squadron, which he continued to be until his posting to UNFICYP in March last.

### WO1 (RSM) WL Major, 17/21L



WO1 Bill Major joined the 17/21 Lancers in 1970 after completing two years' training at the JLR RAC. Since then, he has served in Northern Ireland, the UK, BAOR, Norway, Canada and Cyprus. He became RSM of Sp Regt in March 1992 after completing 21 years' service with his Regiment. He has been joined in Cyprus by his wife Veronica. His main interests are rock climbing, hockey and golf.

### THE AUSTRIAN IN SUPPORT REGIMENT

UNFICYP Support Regiment is a British Unit, but 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron, which is part of this Unit, has personnel on its establishment from other contingents.

Capt Peter Petutschnig is the only Austrian in the UNFICYP Signal Squadron, and as SO Comms (Tels), his responsibilities are the UNFICYP telephone budget and acting as Liaison Officer to the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority and also to KTTD in the north of the island. Capt Petutschnig has already served with UNFICYP between November 1988 and July 1989, when he held the appointment of Adjutant of the Austrian Battalion in Famagusta.

Capt Petutschnig is on a one year tour with UNFICYP, taking a break from his normal job in Austria as a fighter controller of interceptor aircraft in their air defence system.

He is unfortunately unaccompanied on this tour, but we look forward to seeing Elizabeth and their two children, Beate (8 years) and Matthias (6 years) in the summer.





## FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES FLAG DAY



*The Finnish Contingent, from left to right: Capt (DO3) Risto Suvikas, WO2 (CSM) Juha Järvenpää, WO3 (MP) Petri Palviala, WO3 (MP) Kari Onikki, SSgt (C/Ops) Vesa Humalamäki and SSgt (MP) Jukka Valling.*

The Finnish Defence Forces Flag Day is celebrated annually on 4 June by military parades. Small parades are held in all garrisons as well as in the Finnish UN Battalions. The main parade takes place in different locations every year. This year, it was held in Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

The parade was first held in 1942 to celebrate the 75th birthday of Field Marshal CGE Mannerheim, the late President of Finland (1944-1946), who was the Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish Defence Forces during World War II.

In Cyprus, FINCON celebrated the occasion by placing a wreath at the Kykko monument. This monument was erected by the 27th Finnish Battalion in honour of those 10,000 Finns who served on the island as part of the UNFICYP peace-keeping operations from 26 April 1964 until 31 October 1977. On withdrawal of the Finnish Battalion in 1977, a small number were left at HQ UNFICYP. FINCON now numbers seven personnel, representing the smallest contingent in UNFICYP, and is commanded by Lt Cdr T Seppälä.