

# THE Blue Beret

June 1994







## THE UNFICYP SUMMER FETE



Glass-blowing expert shows bemused youngster how to make a 'small wobbly glass thingy'.



Today the UNFICYP Summer Fete - tomorrow the Nicosia Race Course?



The permanent quest for a 'tree in the middle of nowhere' goes on!



Do fire eaters get heartburn?!



Greek and Turkish Cypriots dance hand in hand.

The UNFICYP Summer Fete took place on Saturday 21 May 1994, organised by the members of the Families Social and Welfare Committee, together with kind assistance from many ladies connected with UNFICYP.

The gates opened at 11.00 am, and immediately after the official opening by Maj Gen M Minehane, a large crowd enjoyed the Petway Dog Show. Following this, the Akrotiri Jitsu Club gave an impressive exhibition of their skills.

The occasion was made even jollier by the music and entertainment (juggling) provided by BFBS. Traditional Cypriot dancing was performed by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot dancers who, after their individual performances, delighted everyone by dancing together and inviting members of the audience to join in too. Many other activities took place, including donkey rides, helicopter inspection, glass blowing and many stalls with all sorts of tempting goodies, not forgetting, of course, the Austrian and Australian snacks which provided nourishment for those whose hunger was aroused by all going on!

The finale was, of course, the draw. With a selection of over 90 raffle prizes very kindly donated by various generous benefactors on the island, Maj Gen Minehane had



An expert gives lessons on how to massage your own thighs!



"Someone call a doctor, my finger's superglued to this handle..."



Doesn't he look just like his father??

much pleasure in announcing the first three winners, in addition to which he awarded the Cycling Proficiency Certificates (see below).

All in all, the day was a great success, and approximately C£3,000 was collected for charity.



The FC presents certificates to UNFICYP children and tells them to 'get on their bikes'!

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### Front Cover

AUSTCIVPOL on  
humanitarian duties

by Sgt Stephen Talbot

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

As the long, dry summer of Cyprus settles in, the island is transformed into an international meeting point, thanks to its central location, sandy beaches and the hospitality of its people. During this period, the concept of "international community" becomes applicable. Despite the different perspectives from which this concept is analyzed, one thing always emerges - the pressing need for peace and understanding.

One of the luxuries of being away from home on holiday is that we have an opportunity to muse on the worth and implications of some of the things we take for granted in our everyday life.

For UNFICYP members, their presence in Cyprus offers the opportunity to really do something to promote co-operation, understanding and friendship. However, one thing should be beyond doubt. None of these could be achieved if the conditions of peace are not ensured.

This issue of the "Blue Beret" contains a living account of events dedicated to the promotion of these ideals.

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## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE AUSTRALIAN POLICE WITH UNFICYP

by Commander Harry Dales



30 years ago, few Australians knew Cyprus as anything more than an island that offered visitors a taste of Mediterranean culture and holiday living. However, Christmas 1963 saw the island's population on the brink of war: a war over culture and territory.

In view of the crisis, the Cyprus Government appealed to the UN for assistance and, in March 1964, UNFICYP began military operations to dampen down the fighting between the two communities on the island. However, it was soon realised that a United Nations police presence was also considered essential, and as a result, a request was made to several countries, asking them to volunteer police officers for liaison and observer roles.

Australia was one such country, and agreed to provide 40 police to UNFICYP to help in what had become a very tense situation in Cyprus. The urgency of the operation was indicated by the fact that selections were made, passports issued and health formalities completed within four weeks.

Dressed in blue serge uniforms and carrying Commonwealth Police flashes, the group, led by Supt Jim Hamilton of the Commonwealth Police, flew out of Australia aboard a Qantas 707 on Sunday 24 May 1964. This first Australian Police Contingent arrived in Nicosia early on the morning of Monday 25 May amid an atmosphere of uncertainty and tension. They were closely followed by a Danish Police Contingent. The Austrian, Swedish and New Zealand Contingents had arrived some days earlier.

The Australians had been allocated the districts of Famagusta and Larnaca, almost one-third of the island in all. Finding somewhere to call home for the next 12 months was no mean feat. One compensation was that the area contained some of the island's most modern hotels, and these provided very agreeable accommodation for members. Perhaps today's Contingent members will reflect on how things have changed in 30 years.

It is, perhaps, ironic that the Australians, coming from one sunburnt country to another, arrived in the wrong type of uniform! The seasons were reversed for them and they arrived on a hot spring day, wearing heavy, serge winter uniforms! (The error was no doubt made in the heat of the moment...) However it took some four months before the first Contingent were kitted out in uniforms more in keeping with the climate. In the

meantime, Australian ingenuity came to the fore and long trousers quickly shrank to become much cooler shorts!

The Australians quickly adapted to their new policing role and made friends with both communities. Turkish Cypriots have long had respect for Australians, stemming back to Gallipoli, whilst most Greek Cypriots have relatives or friends living in Australia, so the bonds were already there and just needed building on.

Since that rather hectic beginning 30 years ago, AUSTCIVPOL has served in all Sectors and we have seen great changes to the structure of UNFICYP. The Civilian Police component has, over the years, been reduced from five contributing countries providing 174 police officers, to the present two countries - Australia and Ireland, providing a total of 35.

During this period, close to 1,000 Australian Police Officers have served with UNFICYP. Ours is a unique story of police officers without traditional police powers, in an unfamiliar and often hostile environment, mediating between historical antagonists. Whether we have served well is not for us to say, but we should remember that the United Nations continues to ask us for more, and we do take comfort from that.



Trying to summarise 30 years of Australian contribution to UNFICYP is no easy matter. It is, perhaps, not appropriate to even attempt to summarise the contribution, as the UNFICYP mission is not complete yet, and, as we have found in recent times, even a week is a long time in international politics. Nobody knows just that the future holds for this troubled island, but Australia is proud of its small contribution towards peace.



## SWISS MEDIA SHOW A GREAT INTEREST IN UNFICYP



On 12 June 1994, a referendum on future Swiss participation in UN PKOs was held in Switzerland.

Austria is geographically close to Switzerland, and there are a number of things the two countries have in common, such as their neutrality and form of military service. Since Austria is well-known for its experience in UN peace-keeping, the Swiss media are currently very interested in the Austrian UN Contingent.

From 20 to 24 March and from 6 to 10 April 1994, two Swiss TV film teams visited AUSCON, followed by another visit from 30 April to 2 May by a team of press journalists. Their main interests were:

- A day in the life of a UN soldier and his duties;
- his reasons for volunteering for a UN tour;
- the differences between normal military service and service with the UN;
- the necessary preparation and training for a UN tour;
- life in the mission area; and
- regulations on the use of fire-arms.

The aim of these investigations was to acquaint the Swiss people with as much detail as possible, prior to the referendum on 12 June, on all aspects



The film team of Télévision Swiss Romande during their preparations for an interview with COMAUSCON, Lt Col Andreas Kloss.

of peace-keeping, using the Austrian example, to enable them to answer the question: "Would that be a job for us?"

\* We have recently learned that the referendum which took place in Switzerland resulted in refusal of Swiss participation in UN peace-keeping operations.

## WOULD YOU EVER HAVE IMAGINED.....?

by Capt M Bauer, 2i/c 2 Coy

The United Nations Austrian Battalion, Sector Four, monitors the Buffer Zone by observing and reporting information, thereby carrying out the tasks of the UN soldier. However, one never knows what is around the corner...

Soon after my arrival in Cyprus, 2 Coy was informed that a donkey - of no fixed address - had been found in the northern part of Cyprus. Since a donkey had been reported missing in Dherinia approximately 14 days previously, it was not difficult to make a guess at the origin of the lonely animal.

And, so, a "donkey repatriation team", consisting of Insp J O'Brien from IRCIVPOL and myself, was established. Our first action was to get into contact with the finder

of the beast and obtain its description. We then interviewed the Greek Cypriot who had reported the loss in order to obtain details of his missing animal.

As soon as the conversation started, it was apparent that the description (ie colour and shape) was not in accordance with the details submitted by either party. However, complete identification of the animal was eventually determined by the sex of the donkey. The Greek Cypriot had reported the loss of a female animal, whereas the one found was male. Even if the Greek Cypriot had recorded a missing male, it wouldn't have mattered much, since the animal in question had been castrated!

The Greek Cypriot farmer left,



Capt M Bauer with the corpus delicti.

somewhat disappointed, and we made our report to the finder of the donkey. I, however, had gained another new experience - namely that, in serving with the UN, one can also become a member of a "donkey identification commission"!



## TRAINING THE NEWCOMERS - MARCH 1994

Recently, Sector Four have been intensively training newly arrived personnel. After numerous briefings in the first few days, the main effort was put on practical training, which was partly conducted for certain specific appointments, and partly in general for every soldier.



HQ Coy training crowd control

In order to familiarize the newcomers with the Buffer Zone, the soldiers were taken out for two marches in the area of each infantry coy. During these marches, they were given terrain briefings and also had the chance to prove their physical fitness.

A very important part of the specialist training was the instruction given to all new drivers who had, first of all, to get used to using right-hand drive vehicles on the left side of the road - and driving under difficult conditions on patrol tracks didn't help!

Voice procedure in English and new types of radio sets were also introduced to the new arrivals.

Crowd control training should enable all soldiers to deal with demonstrators in the proper way.

Last but not least, rifle training must be mentioned. The use of fire-arms is the last means to protect oneself,



Familiarization in the Buffer Zone:  
the Karavous Pass is the border between 1 and 2 Inf Coys

especially when serving with the UN. Nevertheless, constant training is of the utmost importance, and be it just to win competitions, UNFICYP's recent Shooting Competition has proven that AUSCON's training in this field paid off - the winners of both the team and the single competitions were from Sector Four!



Cpl M Zumbo with his machine gun  
and instructor WO2 A Greber at the Kokkina Range.

## AUSTRIAN MILITARY BISHOP VISITS AUSCON



Bishop C Werner and Sector Four's Chaplain,  
O Krepper, at a service in the church at CDL V.

His Excellency, the Austrian Military Bishop, Christian Werner, paid a visit to the soldiers of AUSCON from 10 to 16 April 1994. He first met the soldiers based in Sector Four's HQ, Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta, and then made line tours to the two infantry companies. The Bishop was then received by the Force Commander, Maj Gen MF Minehane, for a briefing, after which he was invited to a lunch where Irish folk music was played. Bishop Werner was genuinely fascinated by the open and hearty atmosphere of this event.

To complete his view of UNFICYP, a visit to the Argentinian Contingent was also scheduled. Before travelling on to AUSBATT/UNDOF in the Golan Heights, Bishop Werner paid a visit to Stavrovouni, a monastery with 20 Greek Orthodox monks - a final ecumenical highlight.

## THE AUSCON MEDAL PARADE



Maj Gen Minehane and Lt Col Kloss  
inspect the parade.

On 6 May 1994, 106 members of the Austrian Contingent were presented with the UN medal. The ceremony took place on the playing ground in Athienou.

After the parade, AUSCON invited their guests to a reception at Camp Izay which had been changed into a wonderful tavern for this event. Everyone was most impressed with the celebration, which naturally included typical Austrian dishes and an excellent variety of musical accompaniment.



L/Cpl R Radler and M/Cpl G Wiedenig hoisting  
the Austrian flag to the sound of the national anthem.



Cpl M Ibrahim is presented the UN medal  
by Maj Gen Minehane.



The Guidon Squad with 1/Lt H Sperl, Sgt A Gräml,  
Sgt G Ziervogel and 1/Lt K Curin coming on parade.



The soloist of the Royal  
Tank Regiment's band  
received ovations for his  
excellent performance.



A classical performance  
by Mozart  
(FPM G Meisthuber)



L/Cpl H Kunze is decorated by Mr Gustave Feissel.



The COS, Brig Lambe, presenting the medal  
to L/Cpl G Schmatzberger.





## 7TH PARACHUTE REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY



VII

In 1940, Sir Winston Churchill directed the raising of the Air Landing anti tank Regiment and the Air Landing Regiment. Both units were involved principally in the Normandy Landings, the Battle of Arnhem and the Rhine Crossing. In 1948, the Air Landing Regiment became 33rd Airborne Light Regiment RA.

In 1961, the 33rd Airborne Light Regiment RA was redesignated 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. It took F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop) and I Parachute Battery (Bull's Troop) under its wing.

Since then, the Regiment has served operationally in Kuwait, Bahrain, Aden, the Radfan, Northern Ireland and finally Belize. The Regiment has also exercised in Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Singapore and Canada.

Whilst serving with 16 Parachute Brigade, the

Regiment was equipped with 105mm Pack Howitzers. In 1976, the Regiment was re-equipped with the 105mm Light Gun. In 1977, the Regiment moved to Osnabruck as part of 1(BR) Corps and was once again re-equipped with FH 70 in 1980. During the Regiment's time in Germany, it supported firstly 2nd and then 1st Armoured Division.

In 1984, the Regiment returned to Aldershot as part of the newly formed 5 Airborne Brigade. The Regiment was then redesignated 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. The Regiment took 266 (Gloucestershire Voluntary Artillery) Battery under its wing on 1 April 1993 and H Parachute Headquarters Battery (Ramsay's Troop) came back into the order of battle on 1 January 1994.

The Regiment has deployed to Cyprus until December 1994 on a six month UNFICYP tour.

## CLOSE MEDICAL SUPPORT FACILITY UNRR CYPRUS: NOV 93-JUN 94

by Sgt RG Kerr, RAMC

The motto of the Royal Army Medical Corps has always been "In Arduis Fidelis", which, loosely translated, means "Faithful in Adversity". In times past, many members of the RAMC gained the highest honours by living up to this motto. They, however, never worked for the UN.

The small but functional Medical Centre on the ground floor at the Ledra Palace Hotel was transformed within one month from a series of storerooms by the last Contingent as a temporary measure, pending the building of new facilities within Wolseley Barracks. Needless to say, we are

still wondering if the word "temporary" was used in geological terms!

However, while not ideally suited to the tasks of providing total medical support to all British serving soldiers attached to UNFICYP, with a treatment room, an office, a two bedded ward and a doctor's office, the Medical Centre thrives.

The medical team of one doctor, one SNCO Practice Manager, three JNCOs, all RAMC, and two 2 RTR RMAs have been responsible for the assessment, treatment and maintenance of health for all British soldiers under their care, together with the occasional emergency which has come their way from other contingents.

Of particular interest to the UNRR at the end of April was the start of the ATD 5 training. This is the mandatory annual medical assessment for all soldiers serving all over the world. Although time and commitments meant that the course was considerably shortened, all personnel in the sector managed to pass the compulsory components, some with a very high percentage.



I'm the boss, and I say you kiss him!

Although we have also been mystified by the vagaries of the UN procurement system and, at one point, came perilously close to being unable to provide adequate care for our soldiers, the medical personnel have discharged their responsibilities admirably and have done a great deal of work for the benefit of those who will inherit the magnificent edifice hereafter.

All in all, without too many mishaps and certainly no unhappy clients (touch wood!), the Medical Support Element UNRR have had a profitable and enjoyable tour, and for those who know them, "In Arduis Fidelis" is a thoroughly apt description!



If you don't hold still, it's eyeball kebabs for lunch.



## LT COL CC BROWN RHA



Lt Col Chris Brown, the new Sector Two Commander, was educated at Brentwood School Essex (as was his predecessor, Lt Col Stephen White), University College Cardiff where he read Law and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, from where he was commissioned in 1974. After a tour with a self-propelled artillery regiment in Germany, he volunteered for service with the parachute forces and qualified in 1975. In 1977, he began a five-year period of service with commando forces, which included exercises and operations throughout the world. It was during this time that Lt Col Brown first visited Cyprus.

He returned to airborne forces as Adjutant before a tour in Germany as a battery commander.

He was selected to attend the British Army Staff Course and graduated after two years at the end of 1987. Following a tour in the Ministry of Defence as a financial planner responsible for the Army's Equipment Programme, he returned to Germany as the Battery Commander of the Chestnut Troop, the Army's senior operational artillery battery. From September 1991 to February 1992, he had his first taste of United Nations soldiering as an UNMO in MINURSO, commanding an observation post in the Western Sahara. He was promoted to Lt Col in 1992 and spent two years as a member of the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College before taking command of 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in March 1994.



Lt Col Brown is married to Leigh, a nurse who was brought up in Zimbabwe, and has two boys aged eight and six. During rare moments of time off he enjoys fishing, orienteering, cricket, mountaineering, cross-country skiing and kite flying.

## THE UNFICYP 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

by SSgt MC Law

This event took place on the 18/19 April on the UNPA pitches, and was hosted by Sector Two. The following teams took part in the competition:

SECTOR ONE	SECTOR TWO
Skouriotissa	Alamein
Box Factory	Burma
Xeros	Normandy

### SECTOR FOUR AUSCON A AUSCON B

A team from HQ UNFICYP also entered comprising mainly of members from the Irish Contingent and the UN Flight.

The draw was made and the teams were put into two leagues. Fortunately the weather was kind, as it was slightly overcast and not too hot.

League 1 proved to be very competitive, Skouriotissa won this League, but the Box Factory, Xeros and HQ UNFICYP were equal on points. Once the goal difference was taken into account, Xeros and HQ UNFICYP were still equal, so a penalty

shoot-out was required, with Xeros going through to the semi-finals 2-1.

The semi-final line up was Alamein v Xeros and Skouriotissa v Normandy.



Normandy/Sector Two Captain, Cpl Dave Long, received the trophy from the Force Commander.

The final was a great advert for the whole competition, and was played in a friendly but competitive spirit. Normandy took the lead, but Xeros hit back straight away and the score remained 1-1 at half time with everything to play for in the second half. Both teams threw caution to the wind, probably trying to avoid a nail-biting penalty

shoot-out. It wasn't to be, as three minutes from time, Tpr Langmaid, who had just come on as a substitute, scored the all-important goal and then proceeded to carry out a South American-style victory dance, much to the delight of his Sqn Leader, who is himself a football fanatic! Xeros threw everything at Normandy, but in the end, Normandy Sqn finally became the UNFICYP 7-a-Side Football Champions.

The Force Commander presented the prizes and congratulated all the teams taking part for their competitive and friendly spirit. The competition placings were as follows:

- 1st: Normandy
- 2nd: Xeros
- 3rd: Skouriotissa
- 4th: Alamein

After the competition, all the teams retired to St David's Camp for a well-earned drink and barbecue. A good night was had by all, and rumour has it that Cpl Charles Franks and Cpl Charles Long are still celebrating their victory...



## 2 RTR DEPARTS THE PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE

by Capt DA Catmur RTR

By the time this article is published, the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment will be safely back in the town of Fallingbommel. Along with them will have gone the 29 of us who formed the British element of the multi-national Permanent Force Reserve during its first full rotation period. Whilst you are reading this, we shall be more concerned with gunnery training, track changes and all the other aspects of day-to-day life for a tank Regiment. Also high in our minds will be the three weeks' leave due to us! We hope it will allow us to overcome the rigours of a tour with UNFICYP. Before we depart these sunny climes, there is time for some reflection on the six months we've spent here.

There is no doubt that the tour has flown by. The first month was a blur of facts, faces and places. We then had the inevitable upheaval caused by all the really good ideas for improvements thought of by the hierarchy. The author may have come up with most of them, but, perhaps thankfully for everyone, he was talked out of the wildest ones.

We then settled down to a life of routine, some of it extremely dull, some of it quite interesting. For the men on Foxtrot and

Morphou Gates, or on fire picket, the hours could not go quicker. Time on these duties was well spent getting to know the Austrians and Argentinians. Any concerns about our international relationships were soon dispelled. And not just at Ayla Napa. The Argentinian soldiers, particularly, being mostly senior NCOs, led the way in creating a mature and friendly atmosphere. It could not be envisaged that it would be easy for an Argentinian Staff Sergeant and a British trooper, with some 20 years age gap, to do a 12 hour stag together. We were all proved wrong, and soon the British soldiers had been taught to swear in two extra languages...

The ice was also broken by the many sporting occasions in the Permanent Force Reserve. Most unpopular may have been the morning PI sessions, but the more sporting members were soon taking on all-comers at football. We were sorely disappointed not to win the 2RTR football competition. It did not help that the ARGCON rotation deprived us of some of the regular players in the team at a critical stage.

Members of the Permanent Force Reserve managed to travel

far and wide on their UN leave. Destinations included most of the countries bordering on the eastern Mediterranean as well as the more obvious Germany and UK. These breaks, together with adventure training for the British, and the longer holidays for the Argentinians and Austrians, proved invaluable. Without them the six months would have seemed a touch too long. As it was, we felt satisfied at a job well done. We enjoyed the experience, but it's always nice to have a change of scene, even if the new 'scene' is the old cobbled tank park of Fallingbommel.

At the time of writing we have not witnessed any violent demonstrations (fingers crossed for the remainder of the tour). 7 Para RHA may well be working in a different atmosphere. The sole period of professional drama came when we recreated a scene from British television's "London's Burning". Special thanks must go to the CPLO's office for the ever so life-like special effects.

To 7 Para RHA, who should be firmly settled in by now, we wish you well for the remainder of your tour in the Permanent Force Reserve.



The Permanent Force Reserve, including members of 2RTR, who recently formed an escape committee and left the island!



## BIKE PATROL - SPONSORED CYCLE OF THE BUFFER ZONE



by Maj SL Blake

On 15 and 16 May 94, the SO2 Co-ord Pers/Log Branch, Maj Simon Blake, and the Force Engineer, Maj Kevin McLeod, carried out an extensive recce of the patrol track - on bikes! The saving on petrol and transport to the UN budget should not go unnoticed.

The expedition started at 0530 hrs on the morning of Sun 15 May. With an escort from Sector One, we set off from OP D-11 with the intention of cycling the entire length of the Buffer Zone over the coming 48 hours. The reality of what we were up against soon hit us as we attempted to peddle our way up to OP B-12. We soon realised that our vain attempts to cycle up a hill with a 1:4 incline were fruitless, and that dismounting and pushing our "trustworthy steeds" proved far more productive...

It was a great relief and a psychological victory to get the first big hill behind us. However, the FE soon discovered, almost to his peril, that descents had to be fully controlled. First "wipe out" went to him, but after a quick brush down and a rapid recovery, he was up and cycling again.

After much sweating and toiling and several water stops later, the Troodos foothills gradually disappeared behind us. We soon entered the less demanding, rolling slopes of the Morphou area. By now, the morning heat was picking up and it was important to lie up during the midday period. We arrived, hot and a little weary, at the Box Factory at 1130, after some six hours cycling. It was time to take on board food and water. Argentinian hospitality ensured that we were very adequately looked after, well fed and soon ready to take on the next stretch of the BZ, up to and including Nicosia.

Throughout the entire trip we were ably supported by Sgt Fintan Lambe and Cpl John Kelly in our support vehicle. "Pit stops" en route were all the more worthwhile when a cold drink would suddenly appear, and Cpl Kelly would give us an update on our progress.

So, having been fully refuelled and replenished, we pointed our bikes east and headed off in the general direction of Nicosia and the UNPA. This leg proved, in terms of distance and speed, to be a lot easier than the morning's ride. However, to our discomfort, we discovered that the most pot-holed and stony stretch of the BZ exists 2 km west of OP B-18. This painful experience will not be wasted, and I'm sure the next patrol track maintenance exercise will involve the regrading of this particular area (Operation FE's REVENGE).

We passed the UNPA quickly and finished off the first day's cycling at the Ledra Palace Hotel. On the night of Sun 15 May, the "team" took refuge in the UNPA, and we were then up and ready for the "off" on Day 2 at 0500 hrs. The plan for the second morning was to cycle as far as Camp Izay, Athienou. Our progress



The bikes and T-shirts, courtesy of Micromania

was so good however, that we arrived there at 8.30 am, after just three hours' cycling.

Having pounded our way over some rough terrain, the last thing we expected to see lying in our tracks was a 1 1/2 metre snake obstructing our path... As we passed either side of the beast at speed, we were not too sure who was the more shocked - us or the snake! The excitement almost caused the author to "wipe out", but he decided it was distinctly better to hang on and stay upright in the saddle.

After some minor geographical embarrassment (ie getting lost) and the incentive to avoid the midday heat, we pushed on all the way to Camp Pyla. Despite dropping in unannounced, our Austrian comrades were quick to come forward with much needed food and drink. We were soon able to make a hasty exit to finish off the last and final leg.

At 1600 hrs on Mon 16 May, after some 17 1/2 hours total in the saddle and nearly 220 km from the start, we arrived safely at OP AS-28. A small reception party, including Maj Herman Tischler and the Sector Four photographer, greeted us and, after a few official photographs, Maj Tischler presented us with Sector Four's generous financial contribution towards our charity. The cycle ride aimed at raising money for the International Red Cross, and I can proudly announce that we collected £300 for the cause. We would like to thank all those members of UNFICYP who generously donated money and helped us to make our sweat and toil worthwhile. Thanks also goes to ISOSTAR Sports Drinks company for providing, free of charge, much needed refreshment. Finally, our biggest thanks must go to MICROMANIA for the loan of two superb bikes, without which it would have been an extremely long walk! The proof that MICROMANIA produces bikes that are up to the job was self evident - not a single puncture on the entire route!!!

Who knows, next year I may join John Kelly on his sponsored "walk" of the Buffer Zone - or maybe not...



## ARGENTINIAN TASK FORCE'S PANHARD APCs

by Lt Sergio Ortiz and SSgt Hector Acha

The Argentinian Task Force now has the Panhard 4X4 in service with Sector One's Charlie Coy (Marines).

These French-made APCs are particularly suitable for the type of terrain we have in the Buffer Zone. They can, if necessary, reach a speed of 100 kph on a highway. Furthermore, they have an amphibious capability, being propelled in the water by two hydro-jets which provide a speed of 2.5 m/sg.

The vehicle's crew comprises the commander, the driver, the gunner and six soldiers in the troop compartment at the rear.

Optional equipment includes a machine gun mounted on the turret, two smoke dischargers on each side for camouflage purposes, night



The Panhard APC

vision devices and a recovery system to increase its flexibility in support of peace-keeping operations in Cyprus.

## THE ENGINEER CHART

by Capt Alfredo Mesa

The Engineer Platoon in Sector One have set up a new Engineer Chart on a 1:10,000 scale in their new Operations Room at Xeros Camp. This map indicates the possibilities of movement on the terrain, the influence of the weather, minefields, the condition of the patrol track in general, the state of the rivers, etc. In addition, all the main and secondary avenues of approach to enter the Buffer Zone are drawn, along with the OP allocations and tracks.

Periodically, the drivers are briefed about the most dangerous spots on the patrol tracks. Recently, the map was also used to brief British Engineers who were due to carry out maintenance of the patrol track in Sector One. During this meeting, they established the different tasks with their priorities, setting out the water resupply points, the stock pile areas and the minefields close to the roads.

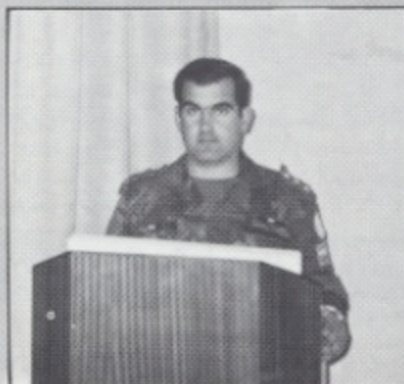


Maj M Landaburu at a meeting with British Engineers

These aspects, when pointed out, provided the opportunity to understand, in advance, the real magnitude of the job.

## ARGENTINIAN PERSONALITIES AROUND HQ UNFICYP

### Maj Hernan Vazquez



Maj Vazquez joined the Military College in 1976 and graduated as a 2nd Lt in the Infantry Branch. He is qualified as a paratrooper, commando, mountain leader and ski instructor.

In 1991, he graduated as a Staff Officer and was then assigned as an Ops Officer to an Infantry Battalion in Patagonia (southern Argentina).

Before taking up his position in HQ UNFICYP as a DO in the JOC, he was an Ops Officer in a Mountain Detachment in Bariloche City.

Maj Vazquez is married to Violet, and they have four children: Violet, Josephine, Ignace and Delfine.



## THE SILENT DANGERS

by Lt (Navy) Eduardo Herrera

Summer for the tourists represents a number of possibilities for recreation and entertainment: for the farmer and the soldier, it indicates the presence of new dangers, which are never heard and rarely seen. The most dangerous are, without doubt, hot weather and snakes, and Cyprus is no exception. This island currently has a reduced number of species, however this does include a variety of deadly and poisonous snakes.

The most common snake in Cyprus is the non poisonous Coluber Jugularis. Its shiny black colour makes it easy to recognize, and it has a quiet and elusive behaviour, often seen crawling across the patrol tracks, looking for bushes to hide in. No specimen longer than one metre has yet been seen in Sector One.

The Coluber Cypriensis is the only native species of Cyprus, however this is not commonly seen due to its small population.

Malpolon Monsressulanos, also called the Montpellier, is

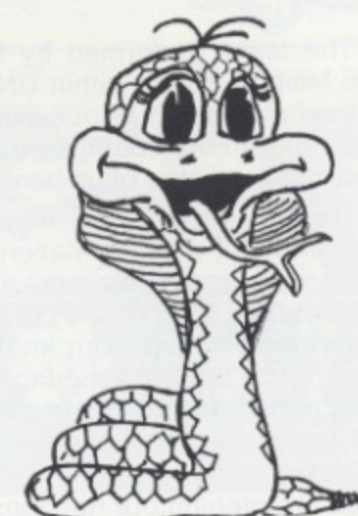
one of the poisonous species in Cyprus. However, its poison fang is at the rear of its mouth but with an incomplete channel, so its bite is not dangerous in most cases.

The most dangerous snake in Cyprus is the Vipera Lebetina. It is very energetic and grows to longer than one metre, with a complete channel fang in the front. Its bite requires immediate professional attention and inoculation by vaccine.

To complete the list of poisonous ophidians is the Telescopus Fallax, or cat snake, which is rarely found and does not represent a potential danger like the Montpellier and the Vipera Lebetina.

Although the Nicosia General and Kato Pyrgos hospitals are in possession of the necessary vaccine, we must not forget that the best antidote is personal preventative measures, ie:

1. Walking carefully in bushes, close to rivers, creeks and marshy fields;



The harmless snake

2. Avoiding putting one's hands into tree holes or under rocks without checking beforehand with a long stick;
3. Moving in groups;
4. Following a snake bite, the patient must be settled comfortably and quietly until the Rescue Team from Viking Camp arrives.

## GENERATOR MAINTENANCE GROUP

by WO2 Anibal Marin

The mission of this Group is to maintain the generators provided to ARGCON by the UN, and to carry out first and second echelon repairs to those provided by Argentina.

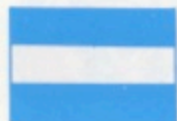
In order to accomplish this, the Group drives along the Buffer Zone on a daily basis, since part of the equipment is quite old and undergoes constant fair wear and tear, increasing the possibility of failure.

This job is very important, since the OPs depend on generators for power and water supply to perform their tasks in relative ease, especially in summer.



In charge of generator maintenance are: WO2 Anibal Marin, WO2 Marcos Montiel, WO3 Armando Vargas and WO3 Hector Ocampo





## LIFE IN THE MILITARY POLICE AN ARGENTINIAN VIEW

by WO2 Jorge Mezzatesta

The tasks performed by the Argentinians in the Military Police within UNFICYP have added a new dimension to our military careers, since the duties in our country are completely different to those expected of us here.

On our arrival, we immediately met with personnel of different nationalities. Due to their generous support, we were able to integrate well and, as time goes by, we complement each other better and increase our knowledge of the work and of the English language. Working together with other nationalities is a valuable experience for us all, because it gives us the opportunity to learn about different cultures and customs, thus broadening our horizons.

The UN MP duties which we were instructed on include mobile and foot patrols, area reconnaissance, traffic and disciplinary offence prevention, support in case of fire incidents and natural disasters, as well as accident reports, thefts, burglaries, arrests, losses and lost property, etc. After this instruction, and with the experience gained by performing our daily duties, we are now in a position to make a



From the left: SSgt Hector Perrota, SSgt Luis Barreiro, WO2 Jorge Mezzatesta, WO3 Ruben Silva and SSgt Walter Rojas

contribution and offer more support to the UN MP and the tasks to be performed in Cyprus.

This could not have been achieved without the support of our multi-national colleagues, their confidence in us and their dedication to duty. We will continue to make every effort to carry out our duties as efficiently as possible, and will also do our best to assist future MP personnel.



## THE PYLA REPORT

by Insp Mike Hoare



Greetings and felicitations from Pyla. Sorry we missed out on the last issue. I know all you avid fans of everything that happens in this neck of the woods are suffering from withdrawal symptoms, not having got your monthly dose of Pyla happenings!

Where to start? Well, the electricity problem has been solved since we last met. Yes folks, the good Lord may have decreed on the second day that there should be light, but unfortunately, part of Pyla got left out. But never fear, IRCIVPOL appeared (a bit late, admittedly) and sorted out the problem, with due acknowledgement to all in the Cyprus Electricity Authority, AUSCON, plus various other agencies and technicians..

Next on the list is the visit of our esteemed Chief of Staff. Yes, my friends, Brigadier Lambe came to Pyla again. No doubt this tiny bicomunal village has become his favoured focal point. What's more, he has promised to call again.



The IRCIVPOL Soccer Team

Volleyball was also on the agenda, and AUSTCIVPOL were our first (and only) victims. I don't think we've actually played since then... Our thanks to Sgt Maj McKenna for organising the various matches - keep up the good work, Shay. We'll get around to the next series of matches as soon as the pressure of work here in Pyla eases off!!!

Cycling has become quite popular here. Gerry "Eddie Mercx" Forde is to be seen daily performing cycling patrols of the BZ. Some distance behind him can be seen John "the snail" McDonald. Brendan "Flipper" O'Sullivan does it clockwise - when he's not diving or running in 10K road races. Kieran "40K" Kelleher tries to keep up with him. Fitness is the name of the game. Any fitter and we'll be dangerous! Gerry maintains that the reason he took up cycling was because of his concern for the environment - and to help make the CAO's job easier by reducing fuel consumption... That's his story, and he's sticking to it.

But it's not all work. We do have a social life. Just ask Papa, our local inn-keeper. His profits have gone through the ceiling since we arrived, what with all that orange juice he sells. He's also been known to sell the odd bottle of beer or two, but that's another story. Ayia Napa is not too far away, and some of our members have been known to pay it a visit occasionally. Just remember to come back, lads!!!



Brendan O'Sullivan, alias "Flipper", without his diving suit

Darts played a prominent role in our peace-keeping activities of late. Tom "deadeye" Cleary kept the flag flying (symbolically, I mean) and lasted until the fourth round in a local tournament. We also had a match against Camp Command, but I'd rather not comment on the result of that. However we got our revenge in the table quiz. The meal in the VIP restaurant was superb. Thanks lads, and be sure to let us know when the next quiz is on. We could do with more good grub like that!



## SPORT WITHIN THE UN MP ELEMENT

by Sgt Chris Leeson

Although the UN MP Element is only a small unit of 24 men with a large work commitment, the NCOs still find plenty of time for various sporting activities after work, ranging from the normal football - to the eccentric idea of underwater hockey.

The unit has a rather good football team, thanks in the main to the Latin American skills of our Argentinian members, and we have recently played and beaten the RMPs from Dhekelia and Camp Command. We also have the island's AGC golf champion, Sgt 'Club' Conway, with a handicap of 15, who can be seen most weekends, playing a round (?) on the golf course.

Darts is another game played in our lounge, and we have a good player with C/S Colm Shine (who is our all-round bar sports specialist) from Ireland. Macho sports are eagerly participated in, and Sgt Robert 'He-man' Gottfried, who is a legend in his own mind, can frequently be seen lifting weights in the gymnasium - when he isn't posing in the International Mess!

Adventure sports are popular, with the FPM and



Chris Leeson shows us that being an MP doesn't just mean speed traps, drunks and traffic accidents...

Sgt Chris Leeson SCUBA diving at least once a week. We've a good squash player in Sgt O'Shaughnessy and quite a tasty volleyball team! At present, we are waiting to get two sets of Octopush kit (a form of underwater hockey played with fins and snorkels), and when we do, give us a ring if you fancy a game!







## ARGENTINIAN GUARD WELCOMES IRISH MINISTER



Sgt Maj S McKenna inspecting the honour guard for the Irish Minister for Justice.