PRESIDENT MENEM VISITS ARGCON

On 27 May 1997, the President of Argentina, Doctor Carlos Saul Menem, landed in Cyprus to visit Argentinean troops in UNFICYP and participate in the celebration of their national Army Day. He arrived with his Minister of Defence, Mr Jorge Dominguez, as well as a number of cabinet members and parliamentary officials.

In the afternoon, civilian and military VIPs gathered at San Martin Camp for a special ceremony. Apart from ARGCON’s flag, the Argentinian Task Force colours from Kuwait and Slavonia were on display. President Menem presided over the ceremony, where Argentinians remembered the 187th anniversary of the founding of their Army. The Army Chief of Staff, General Martin Antonio Balza, who had arrived in Cyprus one week earlier to visit the troops, accompanied the President on inspection of the parade.

A significant moment during the ceremony was when General Balza bestowed upon Mr Gustave Feissel, the Chief of Mission, and Mr Luis Landriscina, a renowned humorist from Argentina, the title of “Knight Commander of the Order for Distinguished Services”, an award presented by the Argentinean Army.

In addressing the parade, President Menem commented: “It is with great pride that today, as President of Argentina, as an Argentinean citizen and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, I see members of the Argentinean Army as representatives of the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces”. The ceremony ended with ARGCON marching proudly past the spectators.

Following the parade, President Menem met the troops and was besieged by Argentinian peacekeepers wishing to shake his hand and be photographed with their President (see back cover).

The day ended with a reception for over 100 guests from UNFICYP contingents and friends from all over the world.

President Menem with members of ARGCON and their families

HOME ENTERTAINMENT FOR ARGCON

Six months away from home and family is a long time, and can be the cause of stress for a peacekeeper. When your familiar environment is only your place of work, frequently surrounded by military positions, this demands a strong character to keep spirits high and enable you to carry out your duties to the best of your ability.

For this reason ARGCON occasionally arranges entertainment and activities for its peacekeepers. Last month, for the first time since 1993 when ARGCON troops arrived on the island, the contingent was visited by a celebrity from Argentina. Members of Sector One looked forward eagerly to the arrival of Mr Luis Landriscina (left), a narrator with a very special talent. He has the ability to relate short stories with such humour that ARGCON personnel can still be seen walking around the camp with a smile on their faces. The stories he tells are about country folk and his personal observations of their rural behaviour. Regrettably, only the Argentinians in UNFICYP can understand, since this type of humour can only be transmitted in Spanish. The show was a tremendous success, and was video recorded for the peacekeepers who were working at the time.

Luis Landriscina was honoured for his services by President Menem who, on 27 May 1997, decorated him with the title of “Knight Commander of the Order for Distinguished Services” (see article above).
THE TRAGEDY OF MINES

The Blue Beret

June 1997

L

Landmines have been described as weapons of mass destruction in their effects. As many as 850,000 people around the world, including entire families, are killed or injured by landmines each year. Millions of landmines remain unexploded in 65 countries, and up to 100 million more are available for use.

The UN has identified mines as a serious hazard. About 26,600 people and 36,000 animals have been killed or injured by landmines in each of the above-mentioned countries. Currently there are 10 million mines in each of the above-mentioned countries. They lie in the ground awaiting the footstep of a farmer, a woman gathering firewood or a child tending animals. In a time of high technical, modern, target-specific weapons, landmines is the most ubiquitous, least visible and most deadly weapon levelled against civilians, who continue to be threatened long after the fighting is over. The laws of war attempt to limit the effect of armed conflict on civilians. Its basic tenets dictate that there must be a balance between military needs and consequences to the civilian population, and the balance is to be proportional. Soldiers and their weapons must discriminate between combatants and civilians, who are not to be targets in war. These two fundamental principles of humanitarian law - proportionality and discrimination - are to be applied whenever landmines are used and, as part of customary law, apply to states regardless of other treaty obligations. In addition, in recognition of the particularly injurious and indiscriminate nature of certain conventional weapons, attempts have been made to further restrict and codify their use through the CCW. The primary purpose of Protocol II of the 1980 CCW protocol on prohibition, or restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices, or - more simply - Landmines Protocol is to protect the civilian population from indiscriminate suffering, both during and after conflicts.

The CCW Review Conference, which concluded in Geneva in May 1996, agreed on many steps which will make compliance a step in the right direction. Some recent United Nations meetings and conferences have taken stock of efforts towards the objective of solving this immense problem include the following.

On 30 Aug 1996, the United Nations Security Council issued a statement through its President on the subject of demining. The statement emphasized that the primary responsibility for demining lies with the parties to conflicts who are responsible for laying the mines. Nevertheless, operational demining should be, wherever appropriate, an important element and an integral part of peace-keeping mandates in order to facilitate the implementation of these mandates. The statement appealed to all States to contribute towards the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Demining.

Towards the end of 1996, a Resolution was adopted at the 41st session of the General Assembly. The Resolution was on anti-personnel mines. An international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

In this framework, a number of countries have taken their own initiatives. For example, in Oct 1996, Canada organized an International Conference on which the Ottawa declaration on banning anti-personnel mines was adopted. In Dec 1996, Germany organized a conference of experts on landmines. The main outcomes of these conferences were:

- The Ottawa declaration on banning anti-personnel mines was adopted.
- The importance of national and international efforts to combat the problem of landmines.
- The need for international cooperation and assistance to countries affected by landmines.
- The importance of promoting the use of alternative technologies.
- The need for international monitoring mechanisms to verify the implementation of the Ottawa declaration.

These initiatives are significant steps towards a global ban on landmines. However, while progress has been made, much remains to be done to ensure the safe and effective removal of landmines worldwide.

MINEFIELDS AND UNIFCYP

The United Nations has supported many initiatives which seek to eliminate existing minefields and prevent the laying of new ones.

The United Nations Secretariat has already made the necessary arrangements to coordinate landmine-related activities. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) plans and coordinates the effective implementation of mine clearance activities as soon as circumstances permit. The number of mine-action activities has grown substantially since the Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action (VTF) was set up in Nov 96.

Landmine clearance has been intensified. In addition to field work, research and development are focused on more effective techniques for mine clearance. In 1997, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is overseeing the operations of several national and international organizations to reduce the threat posed by landmines.

While Cyprus has a relatively minor problem with landmines when compared to other countries, there is a significant number of minefields in or in close proximity to the Buffer Zone. It has been estimated that up to 17,000 mines have been laid or stockpiled in Cyprus. There is a world-wide recognition that the handling is dangerous.

Despite the fact that most of these minefields were laid 23 years ago, they remain deadly. This was sadly proven by a dog that detonated a mine on 19 Apr 97. The incident resulted in the death of a 19-year-old boy. The UN has repeatedly asked the opposing forces to clear the minefields in and near the BZ. Unfortunately, there has been a marked reduction in the number of minefields. Since 1974, three UNIFCYP soldiers have been killed and several wounded, in addition to a number of civilian casualties.

Within the BZ, all known minefields and booby trapped areas are marked with warning signs (red metal triangles with the words 'Danger Mines' in English, Greek and Turkish) and perimeter fences or walls which are not maintained. Personnel are advised to treat with caution any areas which are suspected or known minefields. Use of proper roads, tracks and trails is suggested to avoid possible minefields.

There are various types of mines and related hazards which are found in minefields. The minefields consist of anti-personnel, anti-tank or a mixture of both types. In addition, trip flares and booby traps have been laid in some locations. Minefields and booby trapped areas can be found in rural and urban areas. All pose a threat to the movement of people, animals and vehicles. Outside the BZ, there are minefields as well. These also vary in size and shape, most are marked, but there are some that lack proper signs or perimeter fences or ones which are not maintained. Personnel are advised to treat with caution any areas which are suspected or known minefields.

Remember the Sandi Rule

- Stop
- Assess area for more
- Note and mark
- Draw back the way you came
- Inform higher HQ

The Force Minefield Recording Officer can be contacted at Nicosia (02) 395919.
5th Regiment Royal Artillery, commanded by Lt Col DR Potts MBE RA, has taken over responsibility from 32 Regiment Royal Artillery in Sector Two. 5th Regiment is returning to Cyprus after a six-month tour in Sector Two from January to December 1992, and so many of the soldiers will be serving in Cyprus for a second time. In the intervening period, the Regiment has fitted in a six-month tour in Northern Ireland, and has moved its base location from Dortmund, Germany, to Catterick, Yorkshire.

There are four Batteries in 5th Regiment: P Battery (The Dragon Troop) and K (Hondeghem) Battery which are equipped with the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS); 473 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery provide long-range surveillance and target acquisition (STA) patrols for the Army’s deep fire systems; Q (Sanna’s Post) Headquarters Battery provides the tactical headquarters and administrative departments; and there is also a REME (Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers) workshop in the Regiment.

Our Cyprus ORBAT sees P and K Batteries deployed as Line Batteries West and East respectively, with Q Battery providing headquarters and logistic functions. Some members of 473 Battery have deployed to the PFR, but most of the Battery has remained in the UK, where it has a range of operational and training commitments as part of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JARDF), including the deployment of an STA patrol in Bosnia. In addition, the Regiment has been joined by a platoon from 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment (1DWR) and individuals from 1 RHA, 3 RHA and the Territorial Army as well as an engineer detachment from 9 (Parachute) Squadron RE.

5th Regiment was originally formed as 5th Regiment RHA in 1939, when it consisted of K Battery and Q Battery (Mercer’s Troop). K Battery was the Riding Troop at St John’s Wood, a task now carried out by King’s Troop RHA. During the Second World War, the Regiment fought in the retreat to Dunkirk and throughout the Western Desert as part of 7 Armoured Division, before taking part in the Italian Campaign. After returning to the UK in early 1944, it was involved in the Normandy landings and fought in North West Europe to VE Day. In 1958, the Regiment became 5th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, at which time P and Q Batteries joined K Battery to form the Regiment. Since then, the Regiment has spent most of its time stationed in the UK and Germany, with the exception of a three-year tour in Hong Kong from 1963-66. The Regiment deployed to Northern Ireland in 1995 and the gun batteries went individually in the 1970s and 1980s. Many soldiers from the Regiment have been deployed to the Gulf War. STA patrols have been in Bosnia since 1995, and many individual reinforcements have also been sent there. Although 5th Regiment was formed in 1939, the Batteries which currently make up the Regiment are much older and date back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

473 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery RA is an amalgamation of 4 and 73 Batteries. 4 Battery was originally formed as Capt G Michelson’s Company RA on 1 July 1742, and 73 Battery as Capt F M Sproatles’ Company on 1 October 1794. Capt Michelson’s Company fought at Dettingen in 1743, which was the last battle in which an English king personally commanded his Army on the battlefield. The Sphinx honour title was granted to those artillery units which took part in the expedition to Egypt against the French in 1801.

K (Hondeghem) Battery RA originally formed as the 2nd Troop Bengal Horse Artillery on 4 August 1809 at Agra, India, by the East India Company. The Battery fought at the battles of Sobroan and Gujerat. In May 1940, the Battery took its honour title at Hondeghem, France, by holding off vastly superior forces in an anti-tank battle during the retreat to Dunkirk.

P Battery (The Dragon Troop) was formed on the request of the Madras Government as a troop of horse artillery in 1816. It was formed at St Thomas Mount, where it remained until 1823 and became known as the Rocket Troop. During this period, the Rocket Troop Madras Horse Artillery fought in the Pindori and Maharatta wars. In 1840-42, the Troop took part in the expedition to China (the Opium Wars) and fought many battles during this period. The battle honour “The Dragon Troop” was subsumed into 4 Battery in 1926. The Battery also celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Chil Kaing, which they fought on 21 July 1842.

Q (Sanna’s Post) Headquarters Battery RA was formed on 1 March 1824 at Poona, India, as the 3rd Troop, Bombay Horse Artillery. The troop served in the First Afghan War, the Second Afghan Wars and also saw service during the Indian Mutiny. During the Boer War 1899-1901, the Battery won its honour title at the Battle of Koom Spruit “Sanna’s Post” on 31 March 1900. The Battery fought with such collective gallantry and skill, that Field Marshal VC directed that they should receive four Victoria Crosses under Rule 13 of the Royal Warrant. The recipients were Maj Phipps-Hornby, Sgt Parker, Gnr Lodge and Dvr Glasscoo.
A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part IX

Nea Pafos (New Pafos) is situated about 3.2 km south of Ktima, near the sea. Commonly called Pafos, or Kato (Greek for "lower") Pafos, it has a reputation for its unspoilt nature, rich architecture, unique cultural treasures and abundance of civilisations. Its monuments constitute a reminder of its importance during Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Crusader times.

The importance of the archaeological treasures of Pafos was recognized by UNESCO and since 1980, Pafos has been included in its World Cultural Heritage list. Under the ruins of Nea Pafos is buried the past of - temples, palaces, villas, theatres and markets.

Currently, a large area of the Pafos necropolis is being transformed into an archaeological park, which will provide the visitor with a fitting environment to take a walk, undisturbed, through history and enjoy the ancient sites.

HISTORY

The city of Nea Pafos, or New Pafos, lies on the western coast of Cyprus. Nea Pafos was given its present-day name to avoid confusion with Old Pafos (Palaipafos), some 16 km to the south-east, where the small village of Kouklia now stands.

Throughout the centuries, New Pafos has been known by various names such as Nea (Greek for new), Pafos, Erythrai, Klaudia (Latin for Claudia), Sevasta (Latin for Augusta), Flavia, and in modern times, but still before the Ottoman occupation, Ktima.

New Pafos was founded towards the end of the 4th century BC by Nikokles, the last king of the Paphian kingdom, in order to serve as its political and commercial capital. The city gradually grew in importance under the Ptolemies and, by the beginning of the 2nd century BC, it had taken the place of Salamis as the capital of Cyprus. It was a natural choice for the seat of the government and for a ship-building centre, with lumber supplied by nearby forests. The town was prosperous and most peaceful during Roman times (58 BC to 395 AD).

The status of New Pafos as the capital of Cyprus was confirmed by its ruins, which it retained until the 4th century AD, is confirmed in the Acts of the Apostles, where a description is given of the visit of St Paul and St Barnabas to the seat of the Roman pro-consul Sergius Paulus, whom they converted to Christianity.

Under the Ptolemies, Cyprus was organized as a military command, though Pafos, like the other cities, enjoyed certain forms of liberties, as for instance a boule (council), a demos (popular assembly) and a grammatas (magistrate).

The importance of Pafos is shown by the fact that this city, along with Salamis and Kition, protected the right to issue coins throughout the Ptolemaic period. In fact, the Ptolemaic mint was the most important and it was the only one still issuing coins in Roman times. A joint organization termed the Koinon Kypros (the Union of the Cypriots), already functioning under the Ptolemies, continued during the Roman period. Its chief functions seem to have been the maintenance of the imperial cult and control of the coinage.

On the evidence of inscriptions, it appears that Emperor Nerva, Trajan, Antoninus, Artemis and Leto were worshipped in Nea Pafos, though of these, only the sanctuary sites of Apollo and probably of Artemis are known.

At some time in the 4th century AD, Pafos ceased to be the metropolis of Cyprus, yielding its place to Salamis. This may have been the result of the earthquakes of 332 and 342, when both Pafos and Salamis were badly hit. For some reason, Salamis was soon rebuilt under the name of Constantia, whereas Pafos remained in ruins for some time. When it was eventually rebuilt, it never regained its old glory, though it became the seat of a bishop.

Pafos survived throughout Byzantine and Medieval times, but only as a provincial town. During the Crusades, many pilgrims rested here before proceeding to the Holy Land. It was on one of these visits that King Erik the Good of Denmark died at Pafos in 1103. He was buried at the Cathedral near the present church of Ayia Kyriaki (or Chrysopeolitissa).

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

In Pafos, the traveller is offered a wide choice of archaeological sites, but the following are considered essential to visit: the Tombs of the Kings, the Mausolea, the Odeon, the Castle of the Forty Columns, the Medieval Castle, St Paul's Pillar and the Catacombs.

The Tombs of the Kings

The area of the tombs lies to the northmost end of the northern necropolis of Pafos. There is not "royal" about them, but apparently they owe their name to the imposing quality of their external form. The type of tomb in question consists of an open peristyle court in the centre, with burial chambers all round. They are entirely cut in the rock below ground level, and are entered by a flight of steps, also rock-cut. The peristyle is of the Doric order, each side of the open court is decorated as a temple façade with Doric columns, and an entablature of triglyphs and metopes, also cut in the rock. Three of the tombs are preserved in good condition and probably belong to the 3rd century BC.

The Tombs of the Kings

The multi-coloured mosaics which originated during the Hellenistic period became very popular during the Roman period in Pafos. A number of houses built near the harbour were excavated during the last few decades and these houses were named based on the theme depicted in their mosaics, consequently one may speak about the Houses of Aion, Orpheus, Dionysos and Theseus. The house of Theseus is of palatial dimensions, and contains elements which are characteristic of official residences of the late Roman Empire. These houses contain some of the finest mosaics of the eastern Mediterranean, mainly of mythological subjects.

The Odeon and the Lighthouse

The Odeon in the ancient Greek world was a roofed, semi-circular theatre housing the usual orchestra, orchestra and stage building. The Pafos Odeon is built entirely of stone. Originally it had 25 rows with an estimated accommodation for 3,000 spectators. The Odeon faces outwards towards the Agora (market place) and dates from the 2nd century AD.

The Castle of the 40 Columns (Salamis)

This Byzantine Castle overlooks the harbour, and derives its name from the numerous broken granite columns which were formerly the feature of the site. It was probably built in the third quarter of the 4th century AD to protect the port against Arab raiders. The Castle must have stood unoccupied during the long period when Cyprus was demilitarized by agreement between the Arabs and the Byzantines. It was one of the castles surrendered to Richard the Lion Heart in 1191, and survived in Frankish times until the earthquakes of 1222 AD, when it was finally destroyed.

The Medieval Castle

This is a small Medieval building located at the base of the western ancient breakwater. It is one of the two "Kastella" (castles) that protected the port from the sea, built in the 13th century by the Lusignans in order to replace the Byzantine Castle at Saranda Kolones. The Crusader castle Fort is a Frankish tower with a walled yard around it. It was dismantled in 1570 by the Venetians, and was subsequently restored and strengthened by the Ottomans in 1580, after they captured the island.

St Paul's Pillar

The traditional pillar of St Paul can be seen at a short distance to the west of the church of Ayia Kyriaki. St Paul's Pillar

Mosaics in the House of Theseus

This was a small Mediaeval building located at the base of the western ancient breakwater. It is one of the two "Kastella" (castles) that protected the port from the sea, built in the 13th century by the Lusignans in order to replace the Byzantine Castle at Saranda Kolones. The Crusader Fort is a Frankish tower with a walled yard around it. It was dismantled in 1570 by the Venetians, and was subsequently restored and strengthened by the Ottomans in 1580, after they captured the island.

St Paul's Pillar

The traditional pillar of St Paul can be seen at a short distance to the west of the church of Ayia Kyriaki. Visit Pafos in 46 AD to preach Christianity, and, according to legend, he was bound to this pillar and given thirty-nine lashes as punishment for preaching the new faith.

The Catacombs

The catacombs of Ayia Solomoni on the east side of the main Pafos road and Agios Lamprianos on the west side consist of a complex of underground chambers opening round an open court in imitation of the "Tombs of the Kings". The catacomb of Ayia Solomoni underwent further alterations in Byzantine times when one of its chambers was transformed into a chapel. This chapel was decorated at the beginning of the 12th century AD with most interesting frescoes paintings. Unfortunately, there were badly damaged by the infiltration of rain water and by the scratching on them of the names of visitors, some as early as the 13th century. Indeed, the visitor may see the names of many Crusaders scratched on top of the paintings.
'SWEDCON' VISITS SECTOR FOUR

Part of Sector Four's current area of responsibility was once controlled by the Swedish Contingent, and their Headquarters was based in Famagusta. Recently a party of former SWEDCON officers and NCOs visited their "old" mission area.

They were invited to the Famagusta Officers' Club, and were greeted by the Commanding Officer of Sector Four, together with a number of officers. The visitors were taken on a tour of the camp and noted the numerous changes which have taken place during the past 21 years. A briefing also took place, which updated the Swedish visitors with UNIFICYP's history since their departure.

Sector Four were very pleased to welcome personnel who had once served on the island, and who are so vividly bound to this place. It was nice to learn that they are so keenly interested in the developments of UNIFICYP, and how much they wish for a solution to the conflict on the island so that the two communities, with different cultures, can live together and create a common history.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN
BUFFER ZONE MARCH IN SECTOR FOUR

When new personnel from Sector Four arrive on the island, they are immediately "briefed on the ground" to ensure that every soldier has a clear picture of UNIFICYP's mission, especially with regard to the Austrian Contingent's section, and also to ensure that they are familiarized with the Sector's entire Area Of Responsibility (AOR). In this way, they gain an in-depth understanding of the terrain, and are given a basic orientation on the island, apart from learning about the climate which is so different to that of Austria.

In addition, the soldiers march along the main patrol track, not only of their company's AOR, but also that of the other companies, and are briefed at every OP and OHT on the Cease Fire Lines, manning, patrolling, etc. In this fashion, they get to know their own area of patrolling and also gain a good concept of that of their comrades.

For HQ company, which is mainly tasked with supply/support, it is of great importance to see and get a feel for the operational side of AUSCON's daily work. It also familiarizes them with Sector Four's "hot spots" - Dherinia, Pyla, Troulli, Dhall and Athinou, preparing them to be deployed for operational tasks (demonstrations, additional Force Reserve, etc) as well as humanitarian tasks, whenever the need may arise.

FINNISH CONTINGENT'S MEDAL PARADE AND DEFENCE FORCES FLAG DAY

On 4 June 1997 at 1000 hrs, a wreath-laying ceremony took place at Kykkos Camp, UNPA. This event was followed by a Finnish Medal Parade which was held at the Lion's Den, where the UN medal was presented to the CO FINCON, Maj J Seita Karo.

Left to right: Mrs RL Seita Karo, Maj J Seita Karo, Mr Kestas Severis (Consul General for Finland, Mr Risto Lammi (Vice Consul for Finland)

THE BRAZILIANS IN ARGCN

Since the Mercosur Agreement was signed by the governments of Brazil and Argentina, a wide range of bi-national activities have commenced. The integration of both countries is part of the well-known process of globalization.

The above-mentioned integration also reaches the military field, where agreements in that specific area were consolidated, whilst others are still forthcoming.

One of these agreements involves the exchange of experiences among professional soldiers and exercises on peace missions.

In line with the above, two soldiers from Brazil have joined ARGCN as part of UNIFICYP, and two soldiers from Argentina have been posted to Angola as part of CORRATEM, the Brazilian Contingent in Angola (UNAVEM II) which comprises approximately 1,200 personnel.

In Task Force 8, we currently have Capt. Fabio Benevenato Castro, a helicopter combat pilot from the Brazilian Army Aviation based in Taubaté, 100 km from São Paulo, and WOI Izabelino Rino Echeverria, based in Brasilia. Both are cavalrymen.

For the Brazilian military to serve with their Argentinian counterparts is no problem. It is a smooth transition as both countries have similar traditions, and it is not that difficult for Brazilians to understand Spanish, even though Portuguese is their native tongue.

Like the Argentinians, their favourite food is the argentine barbecue, known in Brazil as churrasco and in Argentina as asado. The only point of interest where discussion is strictly forbidden is soccer!

TEN WANTS THAT GAVE ME TEN FRIENDS IN TEN COUNTRIES

A great experience started for me on a bitterly cold evening in the island of Cyprus, which was once only a dot on the map across the ocean. As we arrived at Rocca Camp in Sector One, situated near the ancient port of Xeros, high priority was given to making contact by radio to my family and other families in the province of Mendoza (the western part of Argentina). We had been assigned to this UN mission, and wanted to inform them that we had arrived safely, in good health and with a high morale to fulfill this next stage in our lives as peacekeepers.

It was such a surprise to me when I stuck my head into the radio hut “shack” and found it in a shambles. However, we never lost heart, since we had been in worse situations, for instance in the UN mission in Croatia in 1992. I simply looked at this as a challenge.

Together with WOI Pedro Franco, and using many hours of our spare time, we took to the workshop and, using parts from three faulty back-pack type HF radios, we managed to put together a working unit that, in spite of its lack of strength, soon put us "in business".

On 25 January at 16:12 hours, we made contact with a radio enthusiast from Tandil (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

During the next ten days, many radio contacts were made and, using this electronic back-pack, which is actually a Thompson HF set built under licence in Argentina, and by means of voice and Morse code, we managed to contact most of our families through a well-established network of radio amateurs in Argentina. We also spoke with radio enthusiasts from at least ten other nations which identified themselves with this small "UN" station, including Spain, Russia, Finland, Switzerland, Italy, Chad, Poland, Morocco, Croatia and Yugoslavia.

The close-knit work of specialists on communications and logistics made it possible, with a little help from a "Wallmar" Yagi directional antenna (made in Argentina), for our initial objective to become a reality.

This mission was accomplished.
**HOW DO YOU SAY IT?**

English is the working language used in the mission area. However, we should not forget that for many of the contingents serving with UNFICYP, English may be their second or even third language. The only opportunity they have of conversing in their native tongue is when they congregate together.

Both communities in Cyprus also have their own individual languages. People of all nationalities appreciate the effort you make when you address them in their native tongue, even if you mispronounce or make a grammatical error.

So, hereunder is a table outlining a few phrases in some of the major languages currently in use in the mission area. The table is formulated so that you may learn one phrase in each language, or alternatively all the phrases in one language, at your own pace. So have a go - the response will surprise you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>IRISH (GAELIC)</th>
<th>SPANISH</th>
<th>GERMAN</th>
<th>GREEK (PHONETIC)</th>
<th>TURKISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Dia dhuit</td>
<td>Hola</td>
<td>Hallo</td>
<td>Yiassas</td>
<td>Merhaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good morning</td>
<td>Maidin mbair</td>
<td>Buenos Dias</td>
<td>Guten Morgen</td>
<td>Kalimera</td>
<td>Günaydn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good night</td>
<td>Oiche mbair</td>
<td>Buenas Noches</td>
<td>Gute Nacht</td>
<td>Kalinhta</td>
<td>İyi geceler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am well</td>
<td>Tá mé go maith</td>
<td>Estoy bien</td>
<td>Mir geht es gut</td>
<td>Ime kala</td>
<td>İyişim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Máis é do thoil é</td>
<td>Por Favor</td>
<td>Bitte</td>
<td>Parakalo</td>
<td>Rica ederim, Lüfen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Go raibh maith agat</td>
<td>Gracias</td>
<td>Danke</td>
<td>Efharisto</td>
<td>Teşekkür ederim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Ta fáilte romhat</td>
<td>Bienvenido</td>
<td>Willkommen</td>
<td>Kalosoritate</td>
<td>Hoş geldiniz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good luck</td>
<td>Go n-eiri an t-adh leat</td>
<td>Buena Suerta</td>
<td>Viel Glück</td>
<td>Kali epidihia</td>
<td>Bol sanslar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>Slán</td>
<td>Adiós</td>
<td>Auf Wiedersehen</td>
<td>Adio</td>
<td>Hoşça kalınz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name is...</td>
<td>... is aím dom</td>
<td>Mi nombre es...</td>
<td>Ich heisse...</td>
<td>To onoma mou ine...</td>
<td>İsimin...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a nice day</td>
<td>Go n-eiri an bothar leat</td>
<td>Que tengas un buen día</td>
<td>Einen schönen tag noch...</td>
<td>Na perasate mia efharisti mera</td>
<td>İyi günler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheers</td>
<td>Sláinte</td>
<td>Salud</td>
<td>Prost</td>
<td>Igiya</td>
<td>Şerefinizę</td>
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**NO 7 CAMP COMMAND**

*In the BBC dwell Camp Command; We’re here to deliver what you demand. Ably led by Comdt Hayes, Who for all his hard work earns lots of praise. Aided and abetted by Capt McHugh, For whom nothing is ever too much trouble to do.*

JDL and Mick work at the pool, The place to be seen while keeping cool. Henry makes maps up in Ops. At his job, we’re told, he’s the tops. Bobby takes photos for the Blue Beret magazine; They’re all a bit special - the guy’s so keen.

Dave and Bomber work in the HQ; They arrange pay, post and passes for you. You’ll find Speedy and Seamus in the Officers’ Club, Serving up an atmosphere to match any pub.

The BQ has goodies stashed away; Heissues them out so you’ll enjoy your stay. Joe checks your laundry - the wash and spin, While Ante arranges the room you’re in. If it’s wheels you want, then go and see Greg; He’ll make sure you don’t have to use a leg.

RSM Josh and his sidekick Jim supervise all the LECs and keep the camp in trim. Maurice manages our Club “The Hib”; It’s the best in the UNPA - I tell no fib. Drop in for a jar before you go to bed; It’s a piece of old Ireland right here in the Med.

Our MPs, best by a mile, Laughing and joking all the while. Day and night they patrol the AO. Never exceeding 60 in their Pajero. Jimmy, Tomás, Chris and Mick, Keep an eye on the troops and control traffic.

Now you know who we are, don’t hesitate to ask. We’ll be happy to help with almost any task. Pay us a visit before too long, You’ll always get a welcome, And quite often a song.
THE ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE

On 23 May 1997, ARGCON celebrated its Medal Parade. The square in San Martin Camp was adorned with flowers and colourful flags, and many civilian and military VIPs from different countries attended the ceremony. The presentation of the UN medals by the Force Commander is one of the most significant moments for any peace-keeper serving with a UN mission, and ARGCON members were not less eager and enthusiastic to receive their awards.

The ceremony commenced with the Deputy Commanding Officer of Sector One, Lt Col Ernesto Canaves, lining up the parade and handing over to the Commanding Officer of the Argentinian Contingent, Lt Col Rafael Barni, who called all troops to attention to pay a general salute to both the Argentinian Army Chief of Staff, General Martin Balza, and the Force Commander, Maj Gen Evergisto de Vergara. Following this, the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feisal, who presided over the ceremony, addressed the troops.

The Force Commander then presented UN medals to ARGCON personnel, and commended them all for their commitment to the mission and to their hard work and devotion to duty. After wishing everyone a safe return to Argentina and a happy reunion with their families, Maj Gen de Vergara thanked all guests for sharing this emotional ceremony, which ended with a fly-past of a helicopter from UN Flight, much to the delight of all spectators.

A reception followed with more than 200 guests from UNFICYP’s contingents and friends from all over the world.

IRCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE IN PYLA

IRCIVPOL held its medal parade in the village of Pyla on Tuesday 27 May 1997. The formal side of the parade got underway at 18.00 hours, and in the presence of the Chief of Mission, Mr. G. Feisal, medals were presented to the Contingent by the Force Commander, Major General E.A. de Vergara.

The Irish Police Commissioner was represented by A/Commissioner Joseph Long, who had travelled from Ireland specifically for the event. The Pyla community was represented by the local maihkiars, Mr. Christakis Antoniou, the Greek Cypriot Makhkar and Mr. Ahamd Kuleli, the Turkish Cypriot Makhkar. They were accompanied by their respective local councils and school committees.

IRCIVPOL was also honoured by the presence of the American Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Kenneth Brill. All top UNFICYP officials and dignitaries attended, along with the families of contingent members.

Irish music, pipe, song and dance. "Tony and Vincent" from O’Rourke’s, Aya Napa, kept the party going with their lovely music.

Delicious food was presented by Pyla Platoon ‘Cookie’ Andy Schwerlauer, who, together with his team, suffered long hours over hot coals to ensure culinary delights. Refreshments were provided in the local coffee shops and a general air of festivity prevailed in the village.

At 22.00 hours, personnel from Sector One loaded equipment, tables and chairs required for the Argentinian Presidential visit. They had been waiting patiently after dropping off the equipment in the early morning, and were returning to arrange another UNFICYP event in Sector One. Their co-operation, logistical support and good humour were essential to the success of the IRCIVPOL parade.

Without the assistance of all Sectors and Units of UNFICYP, this event could not have taken place. IRCIVPOL is very grateful for the patience and helpfulness of all those involved in the preparations which made this bi-communal, multi-national event such a success. You are welcome in Pyla any time.

UNIFIED IN FOOTBALL

On 1 June, another multi-national, bi-communal football match sponsored by UNFICYP took place in the UNPA Nicosia. It was organised by Ahamd Niyazi, who also refereed the game, and John Fantis, both from Support Services. The UNFICYP team was made up of Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot and a number of international staff who played together against the football team from the north of Cyprus.

This is the second time that the UNFICYP team has played together. The first game took place on 6 April, at which only the players were in attendance; however at this match, both sides brought their families. In addition, there were some international and military staff on hand to cheer the players on.

The second match was played with the same enthusiasm as the first. Immediately afterwards, UNFICYP hosted lunch for the players and their families, and dessert and ice cream were brought by the visiting team. They all spent a most enjoyable afternoon together.

After the meal, the Turkish Cypriot team presented the two teams, happy but tired after the match copper plates engraved with the map of Cyprus to each member of Support Services team.

Several matches are planned for the future, and it is hoped that the next one will take place in the north. Both teams would welcome more members of UNFICYP to support these events, together with families and friends.

The result of the first game was 12:4 to UNFICYP. This time, however, the Turkish Cypriot team took the lead and won by 11:5. Come along and see for yourselves what the score will be next time.

On presentation of the cherished medal “In the service of peace”, Major General de Vergara praised the work of IRCIVPOL as “Guaridians of the Peace” in Pyla, Athienou and Famagusta. To honour the work of Commander Liam Quinn, IRCIVPOL, the Force Commander presented him with a special commendation for “his excellent leadership, unsurpassing dedication, professionalism and his strong bonds of trust with the community of Pyla”.

During the formal ceremony, and also as part of the entertainment, the Argentinian Band presented a delightful musical interlude. They were followed by IRCIVPOL Contingent members, who entertained the audience with Ch Supt Quinn after receiving his commendation from Major General de Vergara
PRESIDENT MENEM OF ARGENTINA WITH TROOPS FROM ARGCON