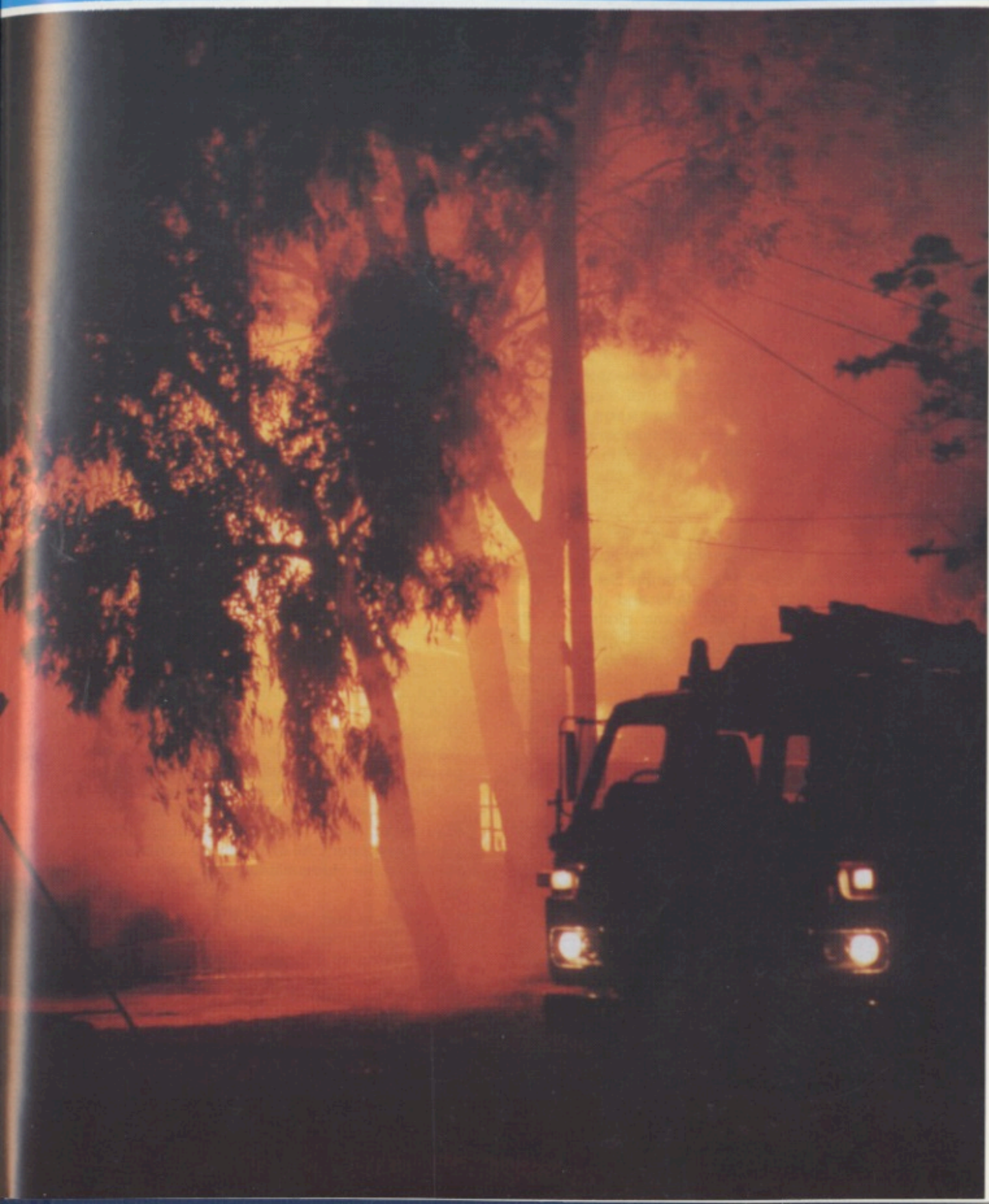


THE Blue Beret

May 1994



THE HUMANITARIAN CELL

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN UNFICYP

by Maj J R Charlesworth RTR

"So what exactly do you do?" I have lost count of the number of times that I have heard that question in the last few months. As yet, I don't believe that I have given a full and honest answer. Maybe now is the time to come clean and dispel the myth of the Humanitarian Cell. The qualities needed to become a successful 'Humanitarian' are many and varied. However, the main attributes looked for when selecting the team were tolerance, compassion and a sense of diplomacy and tact. The men chosen were WO2 Fisher, SSgt Thornton and Sgt Lomax. I leave it to those of you who know them to judge as to whether or not they fit the bill!

We arrived in Cyprus on 1 December 1993, all of us that is except WO2 Fisher, who arrived one week earlier with the pre advance party (he never fails to remind us that he is a 'veteran' of the island!). As with everyone, the learning curve was steep during the handover period. We learnt that there are two basic aspects to the job: Humanitarian and Economic. After the 1974 events, significant numbers of people moved from the north to the south and vice versa; nearly 200,000 Greek and Turkish Cypriots were involved in this movement. However, there are still groups in both parts of the island, with about 500 Greek Cypriots and 200 Maronites still living in the north and 300 Turkish Cypriots in the south.

It is a task of the Humanitarian Cell to go into the northern parts of the island and deliver food, medicine, butane gas and some clothing to the Maronites and some elderly Greek Cypriot citizens. These supplies are provided by the Government of Cyprus. As well as delivering this aid, we ensure that these groups are being fairly treated. We are escorted on these patrols by a Turkish Cypriot police inspector, Inspector Nafi, without whom the job would be proportionably more difficult.

Since the Buffer Zone, the area of land between the two 1974 Cease Fire Lines, makes up about 3% of the land mass of the island, it is important that as much normal life and business as possible is allowed to carry on. Sgt Lomax, from the west country, naturally enough looks after the farmers in the 2 RTR Sector, and SSgt Thornton the business in the city of Nicosia. Anyone wanting to farm or open a business in the Buffer Zone must be able to satisfy the Humanitarian Officer of land or property ownership, and we must be certain that there is no operational or security risk by allowing access. Once this is done, passes are issued. It is quite natural that 'business' is discussed of an evening, over a meal and a bottle or two of beer, and it seems to be local custom that decisions are not rushed into! The natural split of responsibilities between city and farming, Thornton and Lomax, is working well. SSgt

Thornton has an affinity for the 'deal' and bartering comes naturally. Sgt Lomax, on the other hand, is able to chew on a piece of straw and chat to local farmers until the goats come home!

WO2 Fisher delves into both aspects of the job and, once he remembers not to lock his keys in the Landrover, I am sure that he will be seen out and about much more!

One member of the team whom I have not yet mentioned is Capt Starlinger, an Austrian Officer posted to Cyprus for a year as a Military Observer. Not only has his local knowledge proved to be invaluable, but he has shown himself well up to the task of coping with Tankie SNCOs, the British sense of humour and, of course, the myriad of unusual tasks presented.



Maj Charlesworth with WO2 Fisher, Insp Nafi and Maroulla in Kyrenia.

Contrary to popular belief, the Humanitarian job is not all beer and kebabs. We have had the odd moments of crisis: rivers overflowing and threatening to wash away the Patrol Track, mysterious rubble dumping in the Buffer Zone, farmers illegally ploughing pieces of real estate, goats and sheep straying where they shouldn't, the office computer catching a virus and Capt Starlinger redesigning the front of his Pajero (although he claims that he was just a passenger!). All of the above combine to make the job in the Humanitarian Cell one of the best in the Sector.

There is very little on a day-to-day basis of a routine or mundane nature. We are able to see the direct results of our work, be it taking supplies to the Maronites in the north, arranging family meetings or allowing a farmer to farm a piece of previously uncultivated land. Now we are nearing the end of our tour, there is a very real sense of achievement amongst the 'H' Team. I hope that I have gone some way to answering the question at the beginning of the article... although it would be an unwise man who gives away all his secrets!

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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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Front Cover

The Fire in HQ UNFICYP

by Lt Col RM Manz

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

Last month's editorial welcomed spring and pondered what other great changes might be in the air. Little did we suspect what lay ahead.

At 0100 hours on 21 April 1994, fire broke out in the UNFICYP Headquarters building. Our front cover picture indicates the ferocity of the blaze. The office of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Personnel & Travel office and the office of the Chief General Services were totally gutted. All the records, files and reference material stored there were destroyed. The offices of the Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer and of the SO2 Labour/Quartermaster were also badly damaged, and the Force Commander's office, while not affected by the fire itself, suffered some water damage.

Thanks are due to the UNFICYP Fire Piquet and to members of the Nicosia Fire Brigade who fought the fire for almost two hours before it was brought under control and extinguished. One must also be thankful that no-one was hurt in the fire. Furthermore, no damage was done to operational or political files and records, as these are kept in a different location.

The final reports of the investigations into the fire are not yet complete; however, there is nothing at this time to suggest that it was anything other than purely accidental. With the imminent onset of the hot, dry season, may this unhappy incident serve as a timely reminder that fire can erupt unexpectedly at any time and can spread rapidly, especially in the parched environment of a Cypriot summer.

Let us reiterate our gratitude that no-one was injured - and hope that in the weeks and months to come, the fortunes of the Force will take a turn for the better.

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CAMP COMMAND UP AND RUNNING

by Commandant J Cummins



As reported by script and photograph, Camp Command has arrived and taken up duty in UNFICYP. We, for a unit so small, 16 all ranks plus two attached to the Force HQ, have a considerable task and challenge before us. To be honest, our first week in the UNPA was long, unsettling, slightly unnerving and very disorientating, despite the attempt by our pathfinder, Capt Liam O'Carroll, to get us orientated and briefed.

This, of course, is normal with any individual or unit being introduced to a new task and area. However, after week two, we were well focussed and "champing at the bit", so to speak, to be started.



RSM S McKenna, the Sgt Major for Blue Beret Camp

At this point, I would like to thank everyone who briefed us for their patience and professionalism. Some, needless to say, saw us return and intrude on their line more than others, and these we would especially like to thank for their advice, open door policy and friendliness.

"What is Camp Command's task?" one may well ask. The answer is, "everything". While we sincerely thank everyone for their briefing, etc, as mentioned above, all of them were also only too willing to hand us tasks for our attention before



CQMS Charlie Loughman, the BBC Quartermaster.



L/S Nugent checking Force Reserve weapons.

they completed their briefings... There was one exception, however. It was Flight. No, they were not prepared to let us fly their helicopters, but they have since looked to "lift" our typist!

Now for our tasks. They are accommodation of all ranks in BBC; responsibility for all accommodation in the UNPA (less BRS property); fuel (gas) repairs; renovations; laundry; furnishings;



Sgt Ronnie Howe and Cpl Christy Feeney, preparing for the hot weather.

bar management in the International Mess; pest control (human and insect!); garrison cleanliness; garrison discipline, weapons and ammo storage; concessionaires accommodation; all recreation and welfare activities in the UNPA and the organisation of UNFICYP's sporting and military competitions. I have omitted a few other tasks that have not definitely been handed on to us as yet.

By the way, as you read this magazine today, did you know that one of our members has a major input to the Blue Beret? He is, of course, the Force Photographer, Sgt Stephen Talbot. You see, we are everywhere!



UNFICYP FLIGHT AAC MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

by Capt S J Pidgeon



To most members of UNFICYP, the Army Air Corps contingent is probably seen as just another asset that the Force has at its disposal to monitor and maintain the status quo along the Buffer Zone. However, behind the routine of daily flight tasking which contingent members see, our small Flight of only 19 men is as busy as any other unit in UNFICYP.



The Force Commander being given a demonstration of the Gazelle helicopter underslung load capability.

As well as helping the contingents on the line with their VIP visits by flying liaison and Buffer Zone familiarization trips, we also host our own VIPs and senior officers. In the past few weeks, we have been visited by the Director Army Air Corps, Maj Gen SW St J Lytle, and we have also presented an Aviation Awareness Day to the Force Commander and other UNFICYP officials. 19 April saw us hosting the Ops Officers' Conference. This may not sound much, but with only 19 men and up to five flying tasks a day to carry out, it keeps us on our toes. In addition, we provide one aircraft and duty crew on 45 minutes' notice to move every day of the year.



SSgt Colin Withey and members of the Flight celebrate his reaching 2,000 flying hours.



The Force Commander prepares to go flying with the flight instructor, WOII McPhee.

However, it isn't all work and no play. The Flight has an amazingly good 6-a-side football team, a fairly good 11-man team, a fair rugby team, and we are happy to take on any contingent teams at most sports. Does anyone fancy a challenge?



The Flight OC, Maj Tim Sharp, being prepared for a good soaking on his birthday. Despite rumours to the contrary, he is not yet 50!

I shall finish with a few facts and figures you might find interesting.

- For every one hour's flight, it takes 3.7 hours' work on the aircraft.
- The three aircraft use a total of 12,000 litres of fuel a month.
- The Force flies 1,080 hours a year.
- The Gazelle helicopter is cleared to operate up to 14,000 feet above sea level.

So remember, next time you see a Gazelle flying by, there is more to flying than meets the eye!

Happy landings!

EASTER AT AUSCON - A RELIGIOUS REVIEW

This year, Passion Week was celebrated by AUSCON with a number of events in order to enable as many soldiers and their relatives as possible to participate.



Evening atmosphere at Ayia Marina

The busy week began for our Chaplain, Otto Krepper, with a service on Palm Sunday in Camp Duke Leopold V. The previous afternoon had been spent preparing palm branches.



A long felt wish of Chaplain Krepper comes true: Resurrection service at sunrise in Salamis

On Holy Thursday the cleansing of the feet ceremony took place at the Austrian Club in the Headquarters in Nicosia. Following that, the traditional Holy Thursday meal (spinach with roast potatoes) was served.



Veneration of the Cross, made and decorated in Camp Izay

On Good Friday, the "Veneration of the Cross" took place in Camp Berger, followed by two Easter vigils on Easter Saturday in Camp Izay, Athienou and in Ayia Marina near Dherinia.

As the highlight of the Holy Week, a service took place at sunrise on Easter Sunday in the ancient basilica of Campanopetra in the ruins of Salamis. The series of Christian holidays ended with another service in Ayios Neophytos near Troulli on Easter Monday.



Easter Candle: Chaplain Krepper explaining the meaning of "Alpha" and "Omega".

All these events, celebrated as field masses, gave an opportunity to all participants to ponder on nature and the origins of mankind. It was a chance to celebrate Easter in an unusual fashion, thus gaining a different impression of one of the most important Christian holidays.



The cleansing of the feet (from left to right): Chaplain Krepper, M/Cpl Dietrichsteiner, WO1 Müller and Lt Col Kloss.

MUCH WORK FOR SECTOR FOUR'S LINE SECTION

Due to the desolate state of the telephone lines in Camp Duke Leopold V, the line section of Sector Four's Signal Platoon has been very busy renewing them, thus preparing and facilitating the installation of a completely new exchange system.

A large number of lines had to be changed and, in addition, all subscribers to the system were to be provided with new electronic telephones.



Cpl M Unterweger at his sometimes dangerous work.

"HIS MAJESTY, THE EMPEROR OF ATHIENOU", HAS GONE

From 8 to 15 March, AUSCON had their first rotation this year. Among those leaving were two officers, well known even beyond the sector boundaries: Maj HL



Maj H Reisinger in full dress. The "Emperor of Athienou" at his last official reception.

Reisinger, Ops Info and the Unit PIO, and Maj JMZPC????? Hohenbühel, the SHO. Both had the name of being reliable officers, with a well developed sense of humour.

Maj Hohenbühel, who has served with UNFICYP for no less than 20 months, was presented with a gigantic box containing a small but very useful gift. Unfortunately, it is impossible to give further details, as a total news ban has been imposed on this issue.

Maj Reisinger, who was crowned "Emperor of Athienou" in August 1993, held his last official reception - and then abdicated! To facilitate the continuation of his numerous night-long campaigns, he was presented with "CIVILI-

ZATION", a computer game he used to play - for training purposes, of course!



Maj J Hohenbühel, looking for his present.

The gaps in Sector Four have already been filled. The newly arrived officers are confidently looking forward to their interesting tasks in the next eight to twelve months.



Maj Alois Aschauer
Ops Info Offr
and Unit PIO



Maj Gerhard
Schweiger
Sector Humanitarian
Officer



Capt Johann Zach
2i/c 1 Coy



Capt Martin Bauer
2i/c 2 Coy



Capt Klaus Wallas
D/PI Ldr 2 Coy

THE FORCE COMMANDER VISITS SECTOR FOUR

On Thursday 24 March, the Force Commander visited Sector Four. After his arrival at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta, the Sector's Headquarters, Maj Gen Minehane was given a briefing by the SOO, Maj P Pöcher, and the SHO, Maj G Schweiger, on on-going incidents and the humanitarian situation in Sector Four. He was then offered the compulsory "Apfelstrudel" (apple pie) and coffee in the CDL Medical Centre.

The next station was IRCIVPOL's Famagusta Detachment. Following that, the Force Commander was, for

the first time, given a briefing on the fenced city of Varosha on top of OPT A-16 in the city centre between OPs A-15 and A-30, where the few people who have the chance to visit this area are usually taken.

Finally, Maj Gen Minehane paid a visit to the world- (or at least UNFICYP-) famous OP A-28, Sector Four's "beach resort", where in the process of tasting Austrian culinary highlights such as Kaiserschmarr'n and Goldfassl Beer, the secrets of the Maritime Security Line were disclosed to him.

At 1400 hrs, the FC left Sector



The Force Commander joins in a joke with the Guard of Honour

Four by helicopter, after what we hope was a successful and satisfactory tour.



The Force Commander reviews the troops.



The Royal Salute



Cpl Scottie Bell, 1 RTR



The Force Commander presents the CO with his UN medal.



The Band leads the Regiment on parade

THE BRITCON (2 RTR) MEDAL PARADE

On Wednesday 4 May 1994, the soldiers of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment were presented with their United Nations medals by the UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General Michael F Minehane, the Resident Representative of the Secretary General, Mr Gustave Feissel, the acting British High Commissioner, Mr Colin Jennings, and Air Commodore Tony McKeon, CBE, AFC, RAF, Chief of Staff, HQ BFC.

The Medal Parade was conducted in the car park of the once popular five star Ledra Palace Hotel. This is the first time a British Unit has used this venue for such an event in 20 years of service to the UN in Cyprus.

The Ledra Palace Hotel was built after World War II, and was opened for use in 1949. It was named after the ancient town of Ledra, near which it was built. An extension of the north side of the Hotel was completed just before the events in 1974, and ironically, these rooms were first used by the UN. During the fighting, the hotel was occupied by some 380 civilians and a platoon of National Guardsmen.



by Capt Pete McIntyre

After some fierce fighting, the Canadian UN troops managed to secure a cease-fire, and retained the hotel in what is now the Buffer Zone between the National Guard and Turkish Forces.

Some 200 multi-national guests sat down to watch the parade, which saw 150 soldiers from the Regiment together with the Band of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and a Piper from our sister Regiment, 1 RTR, perform. As was expected, the parade, although simple by Guards' standards, proved to be a well rehearsed success, much to the credit of the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) D J Larcombe, and his host of helpers.

It was a truly auspicious occasion, enjoyed by spectators and participants alike, which marked the final month of our commitment to UNFICYP. On that happy note, and on behalf of the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Stephen White MBE, we, the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, would like to thank all our UNFICYP friends and neighbours for their camaraderie and kindness.

We wish you well and bid you a fond farewell.

Fear Naught



Mr Colin Jennings presents Cpl Wells with his medal.



Lt Col Adrian Ris (CPLO) chats to Air Commodore Tony McKeon



Mr Gustave Feissel presents medals to the front rank.



Burma Squadron marches from parade.



Capt George Roger, the Director of Music, RTR.



It is hoped that few of us have had the misfortune of being a patient transported in an ambulance. In a vast majority of cases, patients are suffering from illness or have suffered significant trauma. Particularly in serious cases (motor vehicle accident or heart attack, for example), the smooth and efficient transfer of the patient can be crucial.

In Cyprus, the UN in the past has provided an ambulance service for Cypriot patients in the north requiring treatment in the south. That service is no longer provided, due to the down-sizing of UNFICYP. Alternatively, patients were transported by Turkish Cypriot ambulances in the north to the Ledra Checkpoint and then transferred to a Greek Cypriot ambulance. These transfers often involved additional stress to the patient, and were invariably difficult to co-ordinate, particularly where short notice was given. Adverse weather conditions and congestion at the Checkpoint also created difficulties.

On a number of occasions, the transfer of patients in this manner, and the discomfort of patients subjected to public gaze, was clearly evident. It became obvious, for humanitarian reasons, that a more efficient process had to be developed.

Lt Col Rainer Manz, the Chief Humanitarian Officer (CHO), was acutely aware of this unsatisfactory situation, and was intent on rectifying it. A plan was developed to enable Turkish Cypriot ambulances to travel directly to the medical services in the Nicosia General Hospital and, where necessary, for Greek Cypriot ambulances to travel to the north.

The Colonel made it very clear to the respective authorities that the present situation was unsatisfactory and that it would change. A strategy was developed with input from others within the Humanitarian Branch, and the Colonel persuaded the respective authorities of the wisdom of adopting this new process.

THE MOWAG APC

The MOWAG Armoured Personnel Carrier, which has been used by the Argentine Army since the 1970s, has proven its reliability in such missions as reconnaissance, scouting and fire support. It also has excellent results on different kinds of terrain in our country, such as the Andes Mountains, the Patagonia South Desert and the Pampa Plain.

Amongst its features are flexibility and speed (max 100 kph). This version has a three-man crew (driver, radio operator and gunner) and can provide transportation for a four-man team. Missiles or 20mm/35mm guns can be fitted.

The MOWAG is amphibious and can pass over vertical obstacles of 0.60m high, through trenches of 2.31m and up a 60% gradient. The autonomy is 503 km.



The MOWAG APC

The MOWAG is an efficient APC for the deployment of UNFICYP's Reserve Platoon, wherever and whenever they may be required to improve the capabilities of peace-keeping troops in Cyprus.

MEDEVACS

by Supt MK Sheely

After a month or so, agreement was finally reached. Naturally, there were details to sort out - like insurance coverage, how to attach UN MEDEVAC signs to the ambulances, the process for AUSTCIVPOL to escort the ambulances and similar matters.

Finally, in late January of this year, the first MEDEVAC exercise was conducted. An exercise scenario was developed and participants briefed prior to it taking place. At the commencement, the Turkish Cypriot ambulance arrived at the Checkpoint with a patient suffering from a heart attack (actually, it was the very lively Sgt Christine Radley from AUSTCIVPOL). The AUSTCIVPOL escort arrived in the form of Sgt George Argenti. Appropriate details were gained by Sgt Argenti, the 'UN MEDEVAC' signs were attached and the original number plates covered up. All this, of course, was monitored by the CHO, whose camera was very active.

As the escort approached the South Ledra Checkpoint, a sense of apprehension was felt.



The Turkish Cypriot ambulance behind the UN escort approaching the Nicosia General Hospital.

Would the ambulance be allowed to proceed? Clearly for the Cypriot Police staff at this Checkpoint, this was an event quite outside their previous experiences. After a short delay, the UN escort and Turkish Cypriot ambulance were able to proceed, and a short time later, it arrived at the Nicosia General Hospital.

The staff at the Hospital responded well to this event, and the patient was safely transferred into the Casualty Section. It was a most unusual sight to see the different ambulances parked outside this area. Naturally, it aroused quite a lot of interest by other hospital staff and members of the public. The local media made an appearance and recorded the event.



Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and United Nations personnel outside the Nicosia General Hospital

There was a positive exchange of experiences and ideas between the medical staff accompanying the Turkish Cypriot ambulance and the casualty staff. The common aim of providing the best medical services for patients, whether Greek Cypriot or Turkish Cypriot, was evident.

In due course, the Turkish Cypriot ambulance was escorted back to the Checkpoint. A debriefing

FORCE COMMANDER'S TACTICAL CONFERENCE IN SECTOR ONE

by Lt (Navy) Carlos Kammerath

The Force Commander's Tactical Conference was hosted by Sector One on 11 March 1994. It started at Skouriotissa Camp with a brief concerning some of the most important issues in UNFICYP.

The Sector activity involved the APCs which the unit brought from Argentina. ARGCON provides UNFICYP with the Swiss made MOWAG 4X4 and the French made Panhard. Instructors, Lt (Army) Roberdo Dello Russo and Lt (Navy) Leonardo Maurizio, were responsible for providing detailed and thorough technical briefings.

Unfortunately, due to heavy rain, a driving course for the senior officers attending the Conference was cancelled. However, they were all able to take the Advanced Armour Crash Course, and passed with outstanding marks.



The patient, Sgt Christine Radley, in very good hands!

session took place shortly after that. The first live MEDEVAC adopting the new procedures occurred the following day. It was an elderly male from Rizokarpaso, who was suffering from a broken and badly infected leg. The MEDEVAC proceeded without difficulty, and a sense of relief could be felt at the successful conclusion of the first genuine case.

Since the first such exercise, there have been eight MEDEVACs with patients ranging from a premature baby, a teenage female to elderly folk. The process has become almost routine for AUSTCIVPOL members.

Plans are now under way to extend the MEDEVAC service, which hopefully will enable the free flow of ambulances from both north and south through the Ledra Checkpoint.

The success of this process is largely due to innovative thought, a determination to succeed, good co-operation from the various elements within UNFICYP, and, of course, the co-operation of both sides.



Attendees of the FC's Tactical Conference.

Fortunately, it was possible to organize a patrolling ride to the Lefka Road. The COS showed a great deal of excitement when he successfully drove a MOWAG - at a prudent speed, of course!

Finally, the Tactical Conference finished with a gourmet lunch at Viking Camp.





AYIA NAPA DETACHMENT UN MP ELEMENT (BAYWATCH II)

by Sgt M Beasley

Fri 1 Apr 94 (symbolic?) saw the opening of the Ayia Napa Detachment of the United Nations Military Police Element. The Detachment is located at 99 Tefkrou Anthia Street, which runs parallel to the main promenade of Nissi Ave and is about half a kilometre from Nissi Beach. The duty room is contactable by telephone on (03) 721240, and, if not manned, a message can be left on the answerphone. If the Station is unmanned and your query is urgent or you require immediate Military Police assistance, the UN MP duty room at Nicosia (tel: (02) 359666) should be contacted and they, in turn, will task the Ayia Napa patrol by radio.

The incumbents of this much sought-after post for 1994 are Det Commander WO2 Günther Sakoparnik from Austria and Sgt Mark Beasley from BRITCON. They are assisted by a two-man team from Nicosia, who carry out high profile patrols of the town area during night-time. At weekends, there is also a joint patrol over Ayia

Napa by the RMP Dhekelia and UN MPs. As is common with all Military Police units, the role of this Detachment is not only the maintenance of discipline and the prevention of crime by UNFICYP personnel in the Ayia Napa area, in conjunction with the Cyprus Police and the RMP, but also to assist and offer aid to any member of the Force. To this end, no serviceman (or woman, of course) should hesitate to contact us if they encounter any problems.



The Det Commander, WO2 Sakoparnik, with the latest in design pinatores.

On the other side of the coin, personnel should be aware that



Sgt Mark Beasley

when in a place such as Ayia Napa, they are very much in the public eye, and, as such, they should act in such a manner so as not to reflect the Force in a bad light. Drivers of all Force vehicles should ensure that they are properly parked and secured at all times whilst in the Ayia Napa area. One of the roles of the UN MP in Ayia Napa is to carry out routine checks on all Force vehicles.

And on that serious note, we will take our leave: the staff of the Ayia Napa Detachment look forward to meeting you - under pleasant circumstances, of course!

NEW INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

There has recently been a reduction in the number of BRITCON MPs within the UN MP Element. So much so that there are now no British MPs working on the daily shift patrols. Due to this reduction, a re-organisation has taken place within the unit and a Unit Investigation Element (UIE) has been formed. The UIE is situated next to the Police Station, and is manned during office hours by Sgt Chris Leeson RMP.

The main role of the UIE is to provide a reactive BRITCON MP coverage for the island (excluding the Ayia Napa area, which is covered by Sgt Beasley RMP at Ayia Napa Detachment) to deal with British UN personnel who

(God forbid) get into any trouble. The reason for this is that due to the legalities of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1986 (which the British are governed by!), no other Force MPs can formally interview British soldiers under caution. However, they can still deal with them in every other aspect of their work, from taking statements to arrests.

As well as dealing with the daily occurrences within Cyprus (those which don't quite warrant SIS investigation), the UIE handles the myriad of enquiries that are forwarded from RMP units in the UK and BAOR which need statements from or interviews with British soldiers serving with UNFICYP. This is a good example



Sgt Chris Leeson

of how difficult it is to escape "the long arm of the law".

Although the office is manned during working hours, and can be contacted on 359-695, Sgt Leeson is on 24-hour call, seven days a week (it's certainly a good thing he does not drink), and can be reached via the Police Station (ext 666) outside normal hours.

25 APRIL 1994 - ANZAC DAY

by Pol Sgt Dave Ayers



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."

(Binyan's Lines)



ANZAC day was both a sad and joyous occasion, experienced every year in Australia and New Zealand. Sad, as the deaths of so many brave young soldiers from many nations are remembered, yet joyous, since the "Battle of Gallipoli" was the baptism of a young nation and the confirmation that "we can do it alone".

At 5.30 am at Wayne's Keep Commonwealth War Graves' Cemetery, the AUSTCIVPOL Contingent was joined by 60 guests for the usual ANZAC day dawn service. The service was conducted by the British Forces Chaplain, Father Loveday, with wreaths being laid at the Cenotaph by Maj-Gen Michael Minehane, Cmdr Harry Dales, HE Mr Edward Stevens, the Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, and Mr Tony Christodoulou, the New Zealand Honorary Consul. Wreaths were also laid by Capt Matthew Opie, Sgt Lynne Drake, Sgt Tony Asomie and children Vanessa Spiers, John Spiers and Michael Edwards on the graves of three Australian and one New Zealand Air Force crew who were killed in World War II. Our thanks go to all who participated, including the British soldiers who formed the guard of honour, Adam, the Bugler, and Brian, the Piper, whose performance of the Last Post, the Lament and Reveille added to the emotion felt by all who attended.

and Anne Dellaca and Sgts Bruce Harris, Alan Leivire, Brett Poole and Christine Radley.



From the left: HE Mr Edward Stevens, Mr Tony Christodoulou, Maj-Gen Michael Minehane and Cmdr Harry Dales.

A special ANZAC day Commemoration Service was organized by the Australian High Commission at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Nicosia. The officiating Chaplain was the Right Reverend John Brown, the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf. The service was well attended and a moving address by HE Mr Edward Stevens was given. The flag party, consisting of Stn Sgt Paul Spiers and Sgts Bruce Harris and Tony Pethebridge, provided a fitting dignity to the occasion. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Bugle-Major Macloud. Of course, the informal celebrations in the afternoon were a big success and very enjoyable, thanks to the efforts of many members of the Contingent, especially Grant Schultz, Annie Brooks, Dean Manning and Lynne Drake, now famous for her original recipe "ANZAC biscuits". An "emotional" game of "two-up" was presided over by an equally "tired and emotional" Mess President, Paul Spiers.

In Australia, ANZAC day means many things to different people. Having experienced only 200 years of non-aboriginal settlement, Australia is now the homeland for people whose ancestry comes from many nations around the world, including countries that fought against Australians in various wars. Yet, blame and accusation is not part of the feel of this day: a true bonding and acknowledgement of the mateship and acceptance of all runs deeply throughout the celebration.

Once again, the correct balance of commemoration and celebration was maintained, providing a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives for freedom.



Wayne's Keep Cenotaph at dawn:
Stn Sgt Brad Johnston reading Binyan's lines.

Following the service, the Contingent welcomed guests to a "Gunfire Breakfast" at the International Mess, where the traditional shots of Bundaberg Rum were served in the breakfast coffee, as was served to the Aussies and the Kiwis prior to the landing at Gallipoli.

At 7.30 am, the Australian and New Zealand flags were raised at Australia House, and Police Overseas Service Medals were presented by HE Mr Edward Stevens to Cmdr Harry Dales, Stn Sgts Dale Brown

IRCIVPOL NEWS

THE FIRST 2I/C DEPARTS

Wednesday 20th April saw the departure of Superintendent James Noonan, 2i/c of IRCIVPOL, on completion of his six months tour of duty with UNFICYP.

Jim departed with mixed feelings - happy to be going home, but sad at leaving behind so many new friends. As with all the other

members of the IRCIVPOL Contingent, this was his first tour of duty with the UN. As it was also the first IRCIVPOL Contingent to be deployed with UNFICYP, Jim can be very proud of his pioneering role and the rapid and efficient manner in which the unit deployed and became operational.

We wish Jim well on his return to "normality" back home. Thanks for the memories.

Inspector Mike Hoare.



NEW ARRIVALS AT IRCIVPOL



February saw the arrival of two new members of the IRCIVPOL Contingent, Sergeant Terry McGinn and Officer Michael Kelly. Terry is based in Famagusta, while Michael is based in Athienou.

Terry (left) joined the police force in 1982 and has served as a patrol officer and in the anti-terrorist section as a member of a surveillance team. She successfully underwent a surveillance course with the FBI.

Prior to her arrival in Cyprus, Terry was a member of a working party within the Irish Police Force investigating equal opportunities, a subject she feels very strongly about. It is expected that she will be promoted to the rank of Inspector in May.

Terry's hobbies include athletics and cooking, and she is endeavouring to learn the game of golf.

Michael (right) joined the force in 1982, and has spent all his service to date in the border division of Louth. He has undergone specialist training in firearms, narcotics and communications.

Michael is single (so far!) and is a keen all-round sportsman, having played for the force team in the European Police Championships in Malmö, Sweden in 1988. Cycling is another of his interests, and he has taken part in numerous long-distance cycling events, usually in an effort to collect funds for charity.



FFR and SSS

by WO2 A Fisher

Two more abbreviations for you to inwardly digest and file away in that well known 'file 13' - read on. A few weeks ago, the Humanitarian Team from Sector Two volunteered for the task of moving a 72-year-old English lady from Kyrenia to Nicosia. Mrs Kathleen Pike had lived in Kyrenia for the past 20 years, and, due to ill health, had decided to up sticks and move down to Nicosia so that she could be near her daughter, who is married to a Greek Cypriot.

At 0900 hrs on 17 February, Capt Starlinger, WO2 Fisher and two 'press ganged' volunteer drivers from MT - Cpl Norquay and Tpr Smith - set off for Mrs Pike's home in Kyrenia. We arrived intact, on time and ready to undertake the operation with military precision (Pickfords take note). There were also three Turkish Cypriots and a friend of Mrs Pike's who helped, including one who insisted on calling everyone "darling": "Well done, Andy darling", "just move that darling chair, will you darling?". The loading was



Left to right: Tpr Smith, Cpl Norquay, WO2 Fisher and Mrs Pike with family and friends.

complete by 1030 hrs, and Mrs Pike bade farewell to her home of 20 years, now empty.

UNITED NATIONS V CYPRUS POLO ASSOCIATION

Sponsored by Amazon Enterprises Ltd

The latest in a series of highly successful polo matches was played on Easter Sunday 3 April 1994. The teams were drawn up from the best players in the UN and CPA and the match was very kindly sponsored by Amazon Enterprises Ltd. As is now normal, the polo club asks the sponsor to start the game with a throw in. This was done in a most expert fashion by Mr Andys Solonos, Sales Director of Amazon Enterprises. He declined the opportunity of starting the game from a horse!

Certainly the hottest match of the season so far, the CPA just managed to beat the UN team at the last chukka with a final score of 5/4 to the CPA. The UN team had the benefit of three outstanding Argentinian players, led by Lt Col Juan Durante and Maj Paul Scott-Masson, also UN. The CPA side were able to clinch victory through the excellent play of Capt Mike Barlow and some very robust play by his colleagues, Maj Robert Shaw, John Gamp and George Houry.



Lt Col Carlos Simonini (UN) fighting for the ball with Mr John Gamp, CPA.



The UN team, from left to right: Lt Cmdr Augustine Luna, Lt Col Juan Durante, Lt Col Carlos Simonini and Maj Paul Scott-Masson

The game was attended by Maj Gen Alex Harley, Commander British Forces Cyprus, and Maj Gen Michael Minehane, UNFICYP Force Commander. The game was well attended by at least 200 spectators, who also enjoyed the usual complimentary teas and the cocktail bar.

Col Lt Durante played a hard game and put his very powerful and long shots to good use. The ball was lifted on many occasions by the UN team, in particular Lt Col Carlos Simonini and Lt Cmdr Augustine Luna. However, the CPA learned the art of marking their man. This was a hard learned lesson from previous matches. Overall, the general standard of polo has been raised considerably. The Argentinian players have put a touch of class into the game, and the CPA look forward to their continuing presence on the ground.

At the end of the match, Mr Andys Solonos presented the prizes.



Capt Starlinger, juggling chairs!

"Fisher's Furniture Removals" and "Starlinger's Sofa Shifters" (a division of the well-known Austrian firm 'Schnellschiffen Hausmoven'). Best prices quoted, honest guy.

THE BRITCON (2 RTR) MEDAL PARADE



The Standard Party marches on parade