The prevention of road accidents has been a matter of concern ever since motor vehicles first appeared on our roads. Road traffic accidents can occur at any time and anywhere.

Be careful - this could happen to you

A common factor in accidents in which a vehicle is involved is the presence of a force of human error and the probability of human error. Human error is the element directly responsible for just about every accident, and it is upon this aspect that attention must be focused.

Traffic accidents involving UN personnel serving in Cyprus have increased by 20% compared with the same period last year. Although the majority of traffic accidents that occur are in the main of a minor nature, amounting to no more than a slight scrape or dent on the vehicle bodywork, some accidents have been potentially quite serious, involving vehicles colliding head on or rolling down embankments several times. It is purely luck that, during the last 18 months of my service with UNFICYP, I have not had to submit a report giving details of a fatality. Unfortunately, as we all know, good luck does not last forever and it is a sad fact that eventually, somebody's life will be cut short needlessly. The question is when? I am afraid the only way this question can be answered is with the aid of a crystal ball. Incidentally, you can submit as many UN 90s as you like, but I can assure you there is no budget for the issue of such an item of equipment. This is probably due to the fact that traffic accidents involving UNFICYP personnel have cost this mission nearly C245,000 during the past nine months - money that could not doubt have been spent on more constructive things.

So what can we do about this problem? The answer is simple. We must ensure that the odds against each one of us being involved in a traffic accident is increased. This is not a difficult thing to achieve. We must improve our driving skills, show restraint when out on the road and above all, be tolerant. I cannot give you a lesson on tolerance and restraint, but I can give you some advice on how to improve your driving skills, advice that, if taken, may help to increase your odds against being involved in a traffic accident. So, starting in next month's issue of the Blue Beret magazine, I will be giving tips on various aspects of driving which you will be able to apply to the conditions here in Cyprus. Please make time to read it.

Before I sign off, I would like to give you something to think about until my next article: "It is better to arrive a little late in this world than early in the next". Keep the speed down please!

UN MP Det Dherinia

As of 1 April, the seasonal UN MP Det at Ayia Napa opened its doors and became operational once again. The Det has moved location this year, and is now situated in Dherinia in smaller but no less humble surroundings. The role of the Det, however, has remained unchanged, and is there to provide 24-hour instant UN MP assistance to any Force member who encounters difficulty in the area, or should attempt (God forbid) to cause any! To accomplish this role, the Det is contactable 24 hours a day on 02-322210, and provides high visibility mobile/foot patrols in the Ayia Napa area.

If you travel to Ayia Napa this summer, you will find us open until 31 Sep, so look us up if you need our help. After all, we are there for your benefit.

The Blue Beret

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Telephone: 02 359550
Fax: 259733

Editorial Staff
Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokosnowski
Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor
Photography
Forced Photographer
Cpl Willie Quinn
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers
Sector One
Lt (Navy) Alberto Vocenson
Sector Two
Cpt Will Packard
Sector Four
Cpl Holm
Army
Cpl John Daly
Infantry
Lt (Navy) Andrew Baigrie
AIRCRAFT
Cpl Chris Leeceen

The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should accompany the articles. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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Front Cover

UNFICYP Military Skills Competition
By Cpl. Willie Quinn

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**UNIFICYP Military Skills Competition**

The UNIFICYP Military Skills Competition took place on Tuesday 9 May 1995 in the UNPA.

Marks were awarded for proficiency and deducted for mistakes. The competition was hard, as it has always been in the past, and all contingents put forth very elite teams.

**UNIFICYP Shooting Competition**

The UNIFICYP Shooting Competition was held on Wednesday 26 April 1995 at the UNPA Ranges. The competition was organised by Camp Command, with four teams taking part in the rifle match and seven in the pistol match. In the Falling Plate Competition, seven teams took part.

The result was something of a sensation this year, AUSCON did not win all four team trophies! The rifle match was won by Sector Two and the individual pistol match by Lt Iturrhart (ARGCON). The winner of the individual rifle match was Sgt Potho (an Austrian in the Perm FR) and three team trophies, namely the pistol, the falling plates and the overall team, were won by AUSCON.

**AUSCON'S ROTATION - MARCH 1995**

It is quite amazing how time flies. A tour with the UN is a little like the sea. The tide comes in and then goes straight back out again! This time, at high tide, Sector Four by his last address to those departing, was fully satisfied with the manner in which these men had performed their duty in UNIFICYP.

welcomed a bunch of good men into the contingent again, but we also lost quite a few good of, which, in many cases, can result in hard, concentrated and skilful work, as you can see in the photo (above right).

Then the usual cargo processing had to be taken care of. Such occasions are part of this procedure, as was the warm farewell of the CO, who, judging from the left: Maj Nikiti, Maj Aoueg, Maj Laukmin and Maj Andelanser.

We will miss many of those who left, but we are glad that the new crew is as good as the previous one.

HQ UNIFICYP - OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

An inaugural men's singles Tennis Tournament was held at the newly refurbished courts in the UNPA on 22 April 1995.

There were 16 entries in total and a knockout system was played. The first place was taken by Jagjeet Singh (centre), HQ UNIFICYP, second place went to Capt Johannes Kashofer (left), AUSCON, and Lt Col Roberto Ferrer (right), CPLO, came in third. There will be more tournaments coming up in the near future.
With every new rotation, AUSCON organizes a walk through the Buffer Zone. This gives our soldiers a very good opportunity to familiarize themselves with the AOR of AUSCON, and also gives them the chance to improve their personal fitness.

The march is split into two laps. The first one is to allow the soldiers to “warm up” and acclimatize themselves. It consists of a walk along the Buffer Zone of 2 Coy in Dherinia, covering a distance of approximately 12 km.

The second lap stretches along the patrol track in 1 Coy from Pyla to Athienou, via the Karavous Pass. Each of these marches includes a shooting exercise, which is always a welcome break and also one of the highlights of the event.

The Buffer Zone march in 1 Coy, conducted in March 1995, was one of the highlights of Sector Four’s agenda for the month. The FC, Brig Gen Vartianou, the COO, Lt Col Leigeb, the CO Sector Four, Lt Col Eder, and the MA to the FC, Maj Scouller, participated in this rotation march. In the event, the FC proved what real leadership is all about - he arrived first in Camp Izaq, Athienou, thereby proving that he was one step ahead, as the FC is supposed to be.

AUSCON is already looking forward to the next march, which will undoubtedly be an experience of comradeship and learning - as the last one was.

**THE FAMAGUSTA OLD CITY RUN**

29 April 1995, 10.00 am - 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go!

It was a warm morning, and everybody was excited about the event about to take place - the Famagusta Old City Run. Preparations had been going on for days, and the set-up was perfect. Fruit and drinks were available along the track, and even the road had been watered so that the dust from the trainers of the fastest runners would not kick up too high! In the start/finish area, a fair-sized crowd had gathered to cheer the athletes who, in turn, put forward their best efforts to beat the sun and clock - and they did just that! The winners had every reason to be happy and proud of their achievements. The overall winner (pictured on the right in the centre) was WO1 Hector Heinitz (ARGCON).

Last but not least, plenty of refreshments had been prepared for the celebration after the race. All in all, it was a great event and a good example of how sport can unite people from different countries and cultures.

**IRISHBATT, UNIFIL VISIT UNFICYP**

During the period 31 March to 2 April 1995, a rugby team from IRISHBATT in UNIFIL visited UNFICYP for a short tour. A rugby match was arranged and Sector Two, the Queen’s Royal Lancers, kindly provided the opposition - or was it collusion? The match proved to be a thoroughly competitive affair, with IRISHBATT’s emerging victors 33-20. Afterwards, both teams and supporters retired to the Hibernia Club for an enjoyable social evening, where the “man of the match”, Capt Tony Casey, was encouraged to purchase a drink for the house...

Sunday dawned and the broken and weary bodies of IRISHBATT contemplated the next task in hand - a soccer match versus IRCON, UNFICYP. Having refuelled on copious quantities of local and international fuel the previous night, it was felt that victory could easily be achieved. This, however, was not the outcome, as IRCON emerged victors at 10:2. A heated discussion later brought forward the opinion that the wrong fuel had been used - and a valuable lesson had been learned!

The IRCON soccer team

**FUND RAISING FOR TANZANIAN FOOD APPEAL - IRCIVPOL, PYLA**

On Sunday 9 April, 1995, a brave group of IRCIVPOL at Pyla, including a couple of former IRCON veterans, Supt Matt O'Dowd and Sgt Jim Tuttty, set out on an epic 16 km charity cycle. They were accompanied by a number of local men from the village. The purpose was to raise funds for Intercare, Tanzania. Many miles of training were covered in the weeks leading up to the big day, preparation which was very necessary as the riders left Pyla and hit the upward climb, a severe test of strength and fitness.

All arrived safely on the plateau and headed for Kingfield, crossing over the Famagusta Road. It was downhill from here through Dhekela and a chance to pick up that second wind. As the riders turned left for Laramca, they found themselves facing into a strong head wind which sapped reserves of energy. The final leg of the journey involved a 4 km climb to Pyla, and fortunately, all riders arrived back safe and well, and raised a tidy sum of £540.

The event was organised by Police Officer Willie Ward, assisted by Mr Kikis Minides. A special word of thanks is necessary to some sponsors, viz, Carlsberg for the supply of T-shirts and liquid refreshment; Coca Cola Company for the supply of soft drinks; AUSCON at Pyla for the supply of finger food, and last but not least, all the kind people who donated money so generously for such a worthy cause.
A.N.Z.A.C. - Australian, New Zealand Army Corps, the brave men who fought for Australia and New Zealand against overwhelming Turkish forces at Gallipoli in 1915.

It was more than a defeat; it was the ultimate sacrifice that a young nation could make by sending its young men off to war in a foreign land so shortly after Federation. 8,587 were killed and 19,367 were wounded; a solemn start to a war that lasted another three years.

ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance and then celebration to all the men and women who have paid the highest penalty for this country. All around Australia on 25 April each year, Diggers (veterans) dig out their medals and best suits and make their way to the RSL (Returned Service-men's League) and then on to the local war memorial for the dawn service, which is similar to the one held by AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus - and they remember.

Gallipoli has become special, a symbol if you like, to all those who have served our great country and also to those who appreciate the supreme sacrifice that was made for them by others.

Following is the extract that was read at Wayne's Keep War Cemetery in the Buffer Zone on 25 April 1995:

"At 0400 hours on 25 April 1915, the ANZACs came ashore at what was later to be named ANZAC Cove in Turkey. It was a rugged area rising steeply from a narrow beach.

Landing by ships' lifeboats, they were under constant machine gun and shell fire from the moment they first sighted the shore. Casualties were extremely heavy. It was a Sunday.

They had been told that this task would be to establish a bridgehead and that the landing would be unopposed and take place on a wide-open beach surrounded by gentle, grassy slopes - it was the wrong beach.

When daylight dawned, they found themselves confronted by almost sheer cliffs, rocky ground and thick scrub while above them, large numbers of entrenched Turkish troops poured fire down into their massed ranks.

Amid this general confusion, the self-reliance and extreme bravery of these amateur soldiers were a constant source of wonder, both to the allies and the Turkish forces. They advanced, were halted and dug in, having gained but a mere kilometre by the end of the first day. This was as far as they would ever go.

The landing was a bold plan conceived by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, to seize the Dardanelles and open a second front. However, it failed from the outset and fast became a battle of attrition, culminating eight months later in a total withdrawal of allied forces.

The cost to Australia was extremely heavy. She lost 8,587 soldiers and 19,367 were wounded. However, for Australia, it was neither a victory nor a defeat, but the baptism of a young nation by the horrors of war."

The British High Commissioner, HE Mr John O'Sullivan, on the right with guests.

The Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr John O'Sullivan, on the right with guests.

The Queen's Royal Lancers Band at the dawn service.

Members of the 43rd and 44th AUSTCIVPOL Contingents.

The Very, Very Rev. Patrick Blair (l), Monsignor di Monterrezimolo (c) and the Rt Rev Father Umberto (r).

The game of 2-up in action.

In all, the members of AUSTCIVPOL would like to thank all the people who helped us make the day special, and who, like us, remember.
The Blue Beret

May 1995

SECTOR TWO SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

It was decided that having committed yourselves to the 15 hours at the very least "on the saddle", they might as well try and raise some money for a worthwhile cause. The International Committee of the Red Cross was chosen as a suitable charity, and the equally difficult task of seeking sponsorship began in earnest. It would be fair to say that there are a great number of charity events taking place in Cyprus, although in their favour, those who had volunteered to sponsor the cyclists had more than just an inking that the task ahead was not an easy one and that they would be getting very few miles for it.

The day arrived and fortunately, the weather was on the side of the riders. Arriving at UN-08 at 0530 hours, they were greeted by the whole section, who had got up to give them a stirring send off. The first four hours were particularly hard and slow work through Sector One's area of responsibility. For anyone whose mind wasn't focused on a hard saddle or the perils of falling off the edge of a mountain, they were quite a sight. At every OP there was a welcoming party with drinks and food, something both riders appreciated enormously.

By midday they were pretty much on target and nearing the UNPA. Sector Two's area, SSGT Hill joined the cyclists, and his initial intention was to accompany them to the Austrian Sector and then return to the LPH. Unfortunately for him, his pedals didn't stop turning as planned, and his 25 mile ride ended up closer to 70! However, his company was much appreciated.

Sector Four's hospitality was equally impressive, and thankfully the countryside, though not without the odd hill, was rather easier to negotiate. At each new area they were met by an escort and led ever closer to the sea and their final destination. As darkness fell, the accompanying vehicles were invaluable to the cyclists who, without their own lights, were finding some of the tracks fairly challenging. Thankfully, no one came to grief and at 2100 hours, they arrived at UN-146 and the eastern coast of the island. 221 km (133 miles) had been covered in 15 hrs and 20 mins, comfortably within the target or maybe "comfortable" is the wrong word!

A well deserved break in Sector One

Thanks must go to the support team from both the Regiment and the Force Reserve, who not only provided excellent support, but who also collected monies for the charity.

Deserve rights included the 25-mile ride by the Sectors who enabled the whole venture to go ahead and made the riders feel so welcome at all the rest stops. The total sum raised for this charity run was £400.

There is little doubt that, for the Argentinians and Australians, these riders have merely reinforced their belief that only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun!

PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE
48- HOUR SQUASHION

On 16 Feb 95, eight members of the Perm FR played squash non-stop for 48 hours. The players completed a total of 401 games, and collected approximately £280.

Grateful thanks go to those who supported the squash run and to those who helped collect the sponsorship. All proceeds have been put towards the UNPA swimming pool.

DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL ARMoured CORPS VISITS SECTOR TWO

On 10 Mar 95, Maj Gen Johnnie Hall, the Director of the Royal Armoured Corps, visited the Queen's Royal Lancers at the end of March. He came as the guest of the Regiment in Cyprus with the UN. Maj Gen Hall spent his last few days as Director, enjoying the family spirit of the Regiment.

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May 1995

The British Military Cemetery at Wayne's Keep

The British Military Cemetery at Wayne's Keep is a small hollow, overlooked on three sides by high ground, and was at one time a Second World War tented Military Police camp and stockade. The Cemetery took its name from this prison, or "keep".

By the year 1960, the bodies of 409 servicemen and 167 dependants, who lost their lives in Cyprus from 1939-1960, had been laid around the "Cross of Sacrifice" in Wayne's Keep Cemetery. Many were British, but they lie alongside dead from across the Empire in the Commonwealth. Memorials to 73 cremated Indian Hindus and 58 members of the Cyprus Regiment stand among the gravestones, which include those of seven Germans.

Today, the high ground is occupied by the opposing forces on the island, and Wayne's Keep lies under its continual gaze in the United Nations Buffer Zone. Though it continues to be maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the British High Commissioner, access to Wayne's Keep is controlled by the United Nations. Currently, this responsibility rests with WO2 (SMM) MA Davies of A Squadron, the Queen's Royal Lancers, who escort the steady stream of visitors who come to pay their respects to the dead.

Recent visitors were Mr and Mrs Freeman from Plymouth. In 1956, as an RAF Cpl, Mr Vic Freeman had been a witness to the death of his friend, Cpl TJ Hale. Now, almost 40 years later, a holiday in Cyprus had given him the chance to visit his friend once again. For him, the visit created a wealth of memories of his service on the island and the events following Cpl Hale's death.

For all visitors, whether visiting the grave of an old comrade or that of a close relative, the experience is intensely personal, and, notwithstanding the need for an escort, this is never forgotten.

SSM Davies has found that visitors are pleased to see the cemetery still so closely connected to the British Armed Forces and to find the cemetery so well cared for, despite the continuing upheaval caused by an extensive refurbishment. In addition to his escort duties, WO2 Davies also lays wreaths, sent via the British High Commissioner, from people unable to pay their tributes in person. A photograph of the wreath laying is sent as a memento courtesy of A Squadron (see left).

Despite its position, Wayne's Keep remains a focus of remembrance on both a private and an official basis. The Australian Civilian Police Contingent started their ANZAC Day celebrations there with a dawn service on Tuesday 25 April, and the Queen's Royal Lancers plan a ceremony of remembrance at the "Cross of Sacrifice" on Cavalry Memorial Sunday, 21 May.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS FONDOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Queen's Royal Lancers, the Sector Two Regiment, celebrated their principal battle honour on Sunday 9 April in Wolsey Barracks. The Battle of Fondok took place in Tunisia during the campaign to force Rommel out of North Africa. A variety of events were laid on including football, volleyball and tug-of-war competitions, before the action progressed to the Ledra Palace swimming pool and the gents pole competition.

The day was rounded off with an all runs barbecue by the pool. All who took part enjoyed the day, especially the officers who, to a man, ended up being thrown in the pool!
Austrian Medal Parade

At AUSCON's Medal Parade on Friday 19 May 1995, held at the village of Dherinia, 66 members of the Contingent on their first tour with UNFICYP received the UN medal. The ceremony turned out to be very impressive with the Force Commander, the Chief of Staff and the Chief Operations Officer presenting the medals, in the presence of the Chief of Mission, Mr G Feissel. Many other high ranking officials were in attendance, including the American Ambassador, HE Mr Richard Boucher. In his speech, the Force Commander not only complimented the Austrian Contingent on its good work, but he also remembered the 40th anniversary of the Austrian State Treaty, when Austria gained full independence.

The Clive Band of the Prince of Wales Division

The Clive Band of the Prince of Wales Division, stationed in Episkopi, provided excellent musical accompaniment throughout the presentation, including the Austrian national anthem and the well-known Radetzky March. Fine weather contributed to the success of the event and, as usual, the chefs in the Austrian kitchen presented an excellent buffet for the guests in the Dherinia Community Hall.

The evening lasted somewhat longer than originally planned, which shows the amicable spirit which prevailed.

Austrian Medal Parade

Monday 24 April saw the majority of The Queen's Royal Lancers presented with the United Nations Medal. The Regiment paraded on the Ledra Palace Hotel car park, marching on to the parade to the tunes of the Regimental March being played by the Lancer Band.

Not only were members of the Queen's Royal Lancers being presented with their UN Medal, but also men from the many units who are serving with the Regiment in Nicosia. These included the Guardsmen from 1st Battalion the Coldstream Guards, sailors from the HMS Ark Royal, Sappers from 9 (Para) Squadron Royal Engineers, Signallers from 259 Signals Squadron as well as the Territorial Army soldiers from the Queen's Own Yeomanry.

The medals were presented by the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahit Vartiainen, the British High Commissioner, HE Mr David Madden, the Colonel of the Queen's Royal Lancers, Maj Gen Alistair Dennis CB OBE, and Brig Richard Dannatt, MC, Commander of 4 Armoured Brigade, the Queen's Royal Lancers' parent brigade.

British Medal Parade

Sgt Craig Ford, part of the HQ UNFICYP Medical Centre staff, was presented with a commendation by the Commander of the British Forces in Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal P Millar, for saving a young girl's life after a skiing accident in the Troodos Mountains. Sgt Ford acted in the highest traditions of the British Army whilst giving First Aid, and in the following casualty evacuation.

The Band Beat the Retreat after the Regiment had marched of the parade, playing as the sun dipped below the horizon while guests made their way to receptions in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.
Over 650,000 military and police personnel and thousands of civilians have served in peace-keeping operations under the UN Secretary-General's command since 1948. And more than 1,100 have died while monitoring cease-fires, patrolling demilitarized zones, creating buffers between opposing forces and defusing local conflicts. This effort has succeeded in many cases, but has been marred by the events of 1994 when more than 100 were killed in the Hutu massacre in Rwanda.

Most UN peacekeepers have been soldiers, volunteered by their Governments in national contingents to apply military discipline and training to the task of restoring and maintaining the peace. They received the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in 1988.

UN peace-keeping operations have grown rapidly in number over recent years. While 13 operations were established in the first 40 years of UN peace-keeping, 21 new operations, or more than half again as many, have been launched since 1988.

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June 1995

FUNCTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

They have also grown in complexity, as new types of UN peace-keeping has evolved. Police officers, electoral observers, human rights monitors and other civilians have joined military personnel under the UN flag to help implement negotiated settlements of conflicts between previously hostile parties, encouraging former opponents to build a peaceful future together.

Since cold war tensions have subsided, peace has been threatened by many conflicts. Increasingly, the world is turning to the United Nations to deal with many of these. The annual cost of all operations was estimated in April 1994 at about $3.8 billion. However, global defense expenditures at the beginning of the 1990s amounted to about $1 trillion a year - $2 million per minute. The real cost of peace-keeping continues to fuel the cost of the global economy.

CURRENT PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

- UN Peace-keeping Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Current Strength</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>Rough Cost to UN ($)</th>
<th>Period of Operation</th>
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<td>UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td></td>
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ANZAC DAY - WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

Photograph by Cpl W Quain