

THE Blue Beret

May 1996





WORKING IN THE BUFFER ZONE

by Capt M Alessandri

There are many activities supervised by personnel from Sector One which take place in the Buffer Zone, for instance the maintenance by civilians of water pipes, water wells and power lines.

Earlier this spring, an escort was provided by Bravo Coy for a group of Turkish Cypriot workers who were to put into operation a channel which was to transport water within the Sector. This routine escort of civilian personnel was running smoothly when suddenly, a Greek Cypriot farmer approached the escort party and expressed a wish



Lt Varella with the Greek Cypriot farmer, Agamemnon Charalambous, and two Warrant Officers



Turkish Cypriots working on the irrigation channels

to greet the Turkish Cypriot workers, since he recognized one of the men.

It came as a surprise for 1/Lt Varella, UN Platoon Leader of area 40, and it was a wonderful moment when the Greek Cypriot greeted and embraced his Turkish Cypriot friend.

Lt Varella asked them how they knew each other, and it turned out that

between 1954 to 1966, they had both been employed in the Cyprus Mines Corporation (CMC) in Skouriotissa.

This situation demonstrates yet again that regardless of the current political situation in Cyprus, the feelings of friendship and affection between many of the Cypriots from both communities cannot be divided.

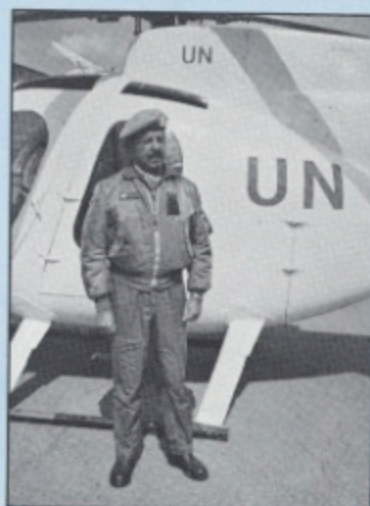
LIEUTENANT COLONEL OSCAR MARIO CRIPPA COMMANDER UN FLIGHT

Lt Col Crippa was born in 1951 and joined the Argentinian Air Force Academy in 1969.

In 1973, he passed the military pilot's examination and was awarded his wings. During the next two years, he undertook training for Aircraft Fighter Pilots and qualified in 1975.

In 1977, he was posted as a Junior Officer to the "Mountain Search and Rescue Squadron" where he was appointed Flank Wing Chief and Maintenance Chief. Between 1985-1986, he was posted to a large Maintenance Unit where he was a Test Pilot for Jet Combat Aircraft. Before his promotion to a Senior Officer, he attended the Command and Staff Course at the Air War School.

From 1989 to 1993, he was appointed Officer Commanding in the Mountain Search and Rescue Squadron, and was promoted to the rank of



Lieutenant Colonel in 1993. During 1994-1995, he took up the post of Air Force Liaison Officer in the Argentinian Army.

Lt Col Crippa has 6,000 flight hours' experience on several aircraft, of which 3,000 hours are on helicopters.

He is married to Alcira, and they

have two sons and one daughter between 19 and seven years of age.



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FRONT COVER:

RECIPIENTS OF THE
FORCE COMMANDER'S
COMMENDATION

BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

You have probably heard the facts before - that motor vehicle accidents are one of the leading causes of death and serious injury all over the world.

It is apparent from the articles on pages 8 and 9 of this issue of the Blue Beret that driving safely after drinking is simply not possible. **DRINKING AND DRIVING DO NOT MIX.** Consequently, a person who willingly and consciously has a "few" drinks and is subsequently involved in a car crash should not claim that it was an "accident". This type of incident is not accidental, because it results from a free choice between Drink and Driving Safely. He opted for the drink.

NEVER drink and drive, and **NEVER** allow a friend to drink and drive.

Responding to popular demand, the Force Photographer, Sgt Bobbie Lipsett, intends to run a photography course, commencing on 10 June 1996. These lessons will include basic instruction on photography, including a lecture on various pieces of camera equipment (lenses, films and their uses) and advancing to developing and printing processes in black and white. The office of the Spokesman will be the venue for this course, and the Force Photographer will in the near future issue a circular for all interested persons. This opportunity is open to all military and civilian members of UNFICYP and their families.

The culmination of this course will be a photographic competition, and the winning photographs will be featured in the Blue Beret magazine. The prize presentation will take place in the Spokesman's Office - but you'll have to wait and find out what it is...

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AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN MINISTERS OF DEFENCE VISIT THE AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT



Article by Capt S Perr: Photographs by Sgt G Kulmer

From 28 to 30 April 1996, the Austrian Minister of Defence, Dr Werner Fasslabend, and his Hungarian counterpart, Mr György Keleti, paid a visit to their peace-keeping soldiers of UNFICYP.



The Force Commander welcomes both Ministers to the HQ. From the left: Lt Col Horaczuk (Commander AUSCON), Dr Fasslabend, Mr Keleti and Brig Gen Vartiainen

As we all know, Austrians and Hungarians have been serving together since November last year, when a Hungarian infantry platoon became a part of the Austrian battalion. This platoon is fully supplied by the Austrians.



Dr Fasslabend (left) and Mr Keleti (right) presenting the new AUSCON badge (a combination of the Austrian and Hungarian flags) with Lt Col Wildberger (centre left) and Maj Ughy

The three-day visit was packed with events. It started with a working dinner on Sunday evening, and continued on Monday with a visit to the Headquarters and talks with Mr Gustave Feissel, the Chief of Mission, and Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, the Force Commander.



Both Ministers during the flag parade in Camp Duke Leopold inspecting their soldiers

The main part of the visit was the tour through the Buffer Zone of Sector Four, covering nearly every OP. It started in the AOR of the Hungarian Platoon and continued to Camp Duke Leopold, ending at OP 146 on the Dherinia Line. It is worth mentioning here that driving a distance of 70 km in heat and dust cannot be described as a pleasure tour, but it was a very good opportunity for the Ministers to see for themselves where their soldiers are stationed and exactly what they are doing in the service of peace.



From the left: Hungarian translator, Mr Keleti, Dr Fasslabend and Mr Feissel

It is a well-known fact that the integration process of the Hungarians has been very successful, and for this reason, a further participation of additional Hungarian soldiers might be possible in the future.

Both Ministers congratulated Lt Col Wildberger, Commander Sector Four, and Maj Ughy, his deputy, for the excellent organisation of this visit and the very positive impressions they received of AUSCON/HUNCON.



DO YOU KNOW SNAKE GEORGE?

by Capt S Perr

It is quite likely that a number of Austrian soldiers do know who Snake George is, but it is highly unlikely that most of UNFICYP's personnel are familiar with this most unusual character. Snake George is a former Austrian soldier whose full name is Hans-Joerg Wiedl. He served with the United Nations in Cyprus and on the Golan Heights, and decided after a mining accident to settle in Cyprus and make a profession out of his private interests, which are the life and protection of snakes.

George maintains that since his childhood, he has always been interested in reptiles and, during his time as a UN soldier in Cyprus, he spent most of his leisure time searching for snakes, observing them and reading books about them.

He now lives in Peyia (in the Paphos District) where he runs his snake farm. One of his main aims is to try and change the attitude of most Cypriots and tourists, who suspect that snakes are all very dangerous and insidious. This, says George, is a big misunderstanding. There are nine species of snakes on this island of which three can be described as poisonous and only one is life threatening. That is the Levante Otter. All other snakes are harmless and shy, but nevertheless, many of them are killed year after year because of the mistaken impression that all snakes are dangerous and only a dead snake is a good one! On the contrary says George, snakes are useful since they devour rats and mice.



Snake George and children holding a harmless snake, together with WOII Vierbach from the Austrian Welfare Cell

George is eager to teach as many people as possible about his speciality. Recently, he was invited to Camp Duke Leopold in Famagusta and to Camp Pyla to teach his Austrian comrades all about how to behave correctly in the presence of snakes, and what to do in the case of a snake bite.

We in UNFICYP should keep in mind that it is quite possible to come across snakes in the Buffer Zone, especially in the hot summer.

George would be glad to visit any Sector or Unit within UNFICYP to impart his knowledge of reptiles. Please contact him at home, telephone 06-238160. AUSCON have no hesitation in recommending him!

PIO DONATION FOR AUSCON

by Capt S Perr



Every six months, a number of Austrian soldiers come to Cyprus with the AUSCON rotation flight and for many, it is their very first time on the island. They come, not as a tourist for one or two weeks, but for a one-year tour with UNFICYP, far away from home and familiar surroundings.

For this very reason, all Austrian soldiers undergo an intensive training course in the Training Centre for peace-keeping operations in Vienna,

which covers the military tasks they will encounter in UNFICYP. However, we cannot overlook the fact that Cyprus is a very beautiful island and it is highly useful and most interesting for us to find out all about the place - what to do in our leisure time, which places of interest to visit or simply to learn something about the geography and basic facts and figures of the island.

AUSCON is extremely grateful to the Cyprus Press and Information Office which has provided us with a considerable number of travel guides and other brochures, all of which have been distributed to the Austrian soldiers.

The picture (left) shows Capt Brandl from the Pyla Platoon gratefully accepting the donation. I strongly recommend getting in touch with the Press Centre on (02) 304244, or going there direct.



THE SECTOR TWO GREEN LINE TOUR



Some of you out there, who have not yet had the pleasure or the time to come along to Sector Two and see first hand some of the more interesting sights of the Buffer Zone within the old walled city of Nicosia, will be surprised to learn that a Green Line tour is run every Tuesday morning, starting at 1000 hours. The tour can be booked through Commandant Mick O'Donnell at the UNPA.



Visitors arriving for their Green Line Tour in Sector Two

It starts with a short 15-minute introductory brief at the All Island Briefing Room in Wolseley Barracks, which is at present the home of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery. It covers over 400 years of history here in Cyprus, right up to the troubles of 1964 and the conflict in 1974, along with the UN's continuing contribution to the efforts for peace here in Cyprus and how we, in Sector Two, carry out our own successful operations out on the ground to help achieve the UN's overall mission on the island.

Once the brief is over, there is a short trip to Flatro Bastion (transport is provided), which is

one of the 11 bastions that form part of the old walled city of Nicosia. This is where the detailed line tour on foot begins. It is an interesting stroll through the deserted streets with an opportunity to stop at Maple House and a chance for a quick refreshment at the City Troop bar. We finish back at Wolseley Barracks at around midday.



Strolling through the deserted streets in the Buffer Zone

To join the line tour, you do not need to be an Ambassador or a Head of State! It is true that quite often, we do see some very interesting personalities who have benefitted from the tour by taking away lasting impressions of the situation and the work that is carried out here by the UN in Sector Two. You are all welcome, provided you are at least 16 years of age. Dress should be casual but not over-smart civilian clothing, and please also remember to leave your cameras at home, since you will be entering a "No Photograph" zone. The number of people we can take in any one group at any one time is 12, due to transport restraints - so book your place early.

BOWLED OVER

Over the weekend of 9/10 March, four gallant warriors from Sector Two BRITCON took up the challenge in the British Army Cyprus Ten Pin Bowling Championship. The team members, WO2 Steve Rush (RLC), WO2 Paul Taylor (REME), Sgt Dean Salt (RLC) and Cpl Steve Campbell (RLC) had high hopes of a good showing in the championships, but were a little apprehensive, due to the unknown standards of the opposition, which included the recently crowned Army Singles Champion, Sgt Dave Chapman.

After a very close match, the team from the UN took all the honours! They would like to pass on grateful thanks to WO1 Paul Beard and all his back-up team for a very well organised and run competition, and for the hospitality and assistance provided during the event.



THE BRITISH MEDAL PARADE



St George's Day, 23 April 1996, was a particularly special day for members of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, for it was the day chosen for the British Medal Parade. On a pleasant and sunny evening, detachments representing all three batteries deployed on operations with UNFICYP were formed up for a proud and memorable parade.

The parade took place on the Ledra Palace Hotel car park with The Lucknow Band of The Prince of Wales Division providing musical accompaniment. In the presence of the



Awaiting the arrival of the guests



The march past by the Lucknow Band of the Prince of Wales Division

Following the presentation of the medals, the FC went on to present commendations to Sgt Carr, Bdr Finlayson, Bdr Mooney and Cpl Magowan: all four of these soldiers (and Bdr Dickenson who was not on parade) gave more than most during their tour. By their quick thinking, selfless behaviour and professional application of their first aid skills, they helped to save the lives of Greek Cypriots in three separate serious incidents. These five soldiers acted in the finest traditions of the Royal Artillery, and it was a very proud moment for all when the commendations were awarded.

Following a march past, several salutes and a well coordinated volley of fire, it was the turn of the Lucknow Band and the Colour Party to impress with a splendid

Beating the Retreat and Sunset Ceremony. As the sun dipped once again, 12 Regiment reflected on a very successful tour, and guests made their way to receptions in the Offrs' and Sgts' Messes.

Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, the medals were presented by the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen, the British High Commissioner, Mr David Madden, the Commander British Forces Cyprus, AVM P Millar and Brig APN Currie, Director Personnel Services.



The Force Commander presents a commendation

Photographs by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett



The recipients of the Force Commander's commendation



UN MP ELEMENT



ALCOHOL AND DRIVING DON'T MIX

Most people like to have a drink. Research on drinking and driving indicates that increased availability of alcohol tends to result in a large number of alcohol-related car accidents. The first point requiring clarification is, therefore, how alcohol affects us and consequently our driving abilities.

Alcohol is a depressant which affects the central nervous system. It passes very quickly from the mouth into the stomach and ultimately into the small intestine, where the majority of alcohol is absorbed. Alcohol requires no breaking down, as it is a soluble molecule and passes directly into the blood stream. This explains why we feel the effects very quickly.

Some of us *foolishly attempt to drive* our private or UN vehicles either immediately after or hours later. Driving whilst under the influence slows down our normal reactions. So **WHY** do it?

We do it once and get away with it, so the next time we go out, we have a little bit more and this happens again and again. Then one day, whilst driving home from a BBQ or the beach, we are involved in a traffic accident. It could be minor, or it could be serious. You may be lucky and come out of it uninjured, **BUT**, what injuries have your passengers sustained? Children are very easily injured, especially those who have not been secured.

The policeman arrives on the scene, requests that you provide a breath sample and **SURPRISE!** It is positive. You are arrested and reported for drinking and driving. Look now at some of the things you have lost.

Your licence;
Your career;
Your self respect;
Your finances;
Your car; and possibly

Your LIFE, and/or that of loved ones

And all this, just for a drink or two. Is it really worth it? **WISE UP AND GROW UP!**

You must never forget that, as a member of UNFICYP, you are an ambassador of your country. You are a representative of the United Nations and its noble goals, and as such, your behaviour is conspicuous and prominent. You must never forget that you represent UNFICYP 24 hours a day, regardless of whether you are on or off duty, and, therefore, your behaviour *must be exemplary at all times*.

This year so far in Cyprus, there have been **41 fatal traffic accidents**. Be assured that the majority of these are drink-related. It is obvious that **DRINK DRIVING WRECKS LIVES**. **Don't be selfish.**

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

MESSAGE FROM THE FORCE PROVOST MARSHAL

You will all have seen the recent media coverage regarding the fatal traffic accident that happened during the early hours of Monday 13 May 1996 on the road between Phrenaros and Vrysoulles in which a Bulgarian national was killed.

Following the accident, a UN soldier was arrested and breathalized. He was found to be over the legal limit.

The Force Commander's policy on drinking and driving is quite clear. If you are breathalized and found positive, whether on duty or off duty, **YOU WILL BE UNCONDITIONALLY**

REPATRIATED! A refusal to provide a sample of breath is treated the same as a positive breath test and, therefore,

YOU WILL BE REPATRIATED.

Consider the impact it would have on your career. Think of the financial penalties. Most of all, think of the pain caused when a member of the family is lost as a result of a drunken driver. You wouldn't like it if it were your brother, sister, wife or child.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE - IT IS JUST NOT WORTH IT!

THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - AND HOW TO CONFRONT THEM

by Mrs Miriam Taylor

Alcoholic beverages have been used to enhance the enjoyment of meals by many societies throughout the history of mankind.

Current evidence suggests that moderate drinking is associated with a lower risk for coronary heart disease in some individuals. However, higher levels of alcohol intake raise the risk for high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, certain cancers, accidents, violence, suicides, birth defects and overall mortality (deaths). Too much alcohol may cause cirrhosis of the liver, inflammation of the pancreas and damage to the brain and heart.

The question is, **HOW MUCH DRINKING IS SAFE?** Researchers say **there is no accepted safe level of drinking.**

The amount of alcohol in your bloodstream is referred to as Blood Alcohol Level (BAL). It is measured in milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood or milligrams percent. For example, a level of 0.1% means 1/1,000 of your total blood content is alcohol. The legal limit (in the UK) for driving is 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

BAL depends on the amount of blood and the amount of alcohol you consume over time. Other factors, such as age, sex, weight, metabolism and type of drink are also important. Cocktails are especially potent, because they often have a very high alcoholic content whose taste is disguised by fruit juices.

The following effects on human behaviour are commonly related to the level (BAL) of alcohol consumed:

BAL	BEHAVIOUR
20 mg	Mellow feeling, slight body warmth, less inhibited
50 mg	Noticeable relaxation, less alert, coordination impairment begins
100 mg	Noisy, possible embarrassing behaviour, reduction in reaction time
150 mg	Impaired balance and movement, clearly drunk
300 mg	Many pass out
500 mg	Breathing stops, many die

SOME OF THE FACTS THAT SHOULD ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED ARE:

- Alcohol is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream, affecting the brain and impairing driving ability. Getting rid of alcohol is a much slower process requiring hours, rather than minutes.

- Any amount of alcohol will affect your judgement. Statistics indicate that nearly one in five of all deaths on the road are caused by drivers who have been drinking. The risk of being involved in an accident increases in direct proportion to the amount consumed. However, the facts and statistics don't tell the whole story. Behind the numbers are thousands of lives cut short, permanent, disabling injuries, and families devastated because someone drove while under the influence of alcohol.
- Living with your social conscience. Can you live with the knowledge that your irresponsibility has caused death, injury or severe distress to innocent people, shame to your family, your organisation or your country, particularly when driving abroad.
- If some of your friends have been drinking and shouldn't be driving - **DON'T** give them back their car keys and let them drive. They could hurt themselves or others, and maybe, just a little persuasion from you could mean the difference between life and death.
- Suggest that you or a sober friend drive your alcohol-impaired friend home. Their car can always be picked up at another time.
- Suggest that your impaired friend stays overnight in your home. This sounds very inconvenient, but you could be saving somebody's life.
- Have your friend taken home in a taxi. Pay for the ride yourself - it's hard to object to a free ride, and taxis are cheap in Cyprus!
- Whatever you do, don't give in. Friends don't let friends drink and then drive. In the morning, you'll be responsible for having a safer and maybe even a closer friend.

Based on the results of numerous studies on the effects of alcohol on human behaviour, most countries consider it an offence to drive or attempt to drive a car with a blood/alcohol concentration above a prescribed limit.

When involved in an accident after drinking, apart from the legal consequences, the possible imprisonment, the loss of reputation, the effects on your family life, criminal record and loss of personal transport, worst of all you may be living for the rest of your days with the knowledge that your irresponsibility has caused death, injury or severe distress to innocent people.



RECENT EVENTS IN AUSTCIVPOL



The Aussie Team compete against BRITCON medics and win a shooting competition



Rolly and Marty at the fancy dress party



The "Linou Sisters" have one final photograph together before leaving the island. Wearing board shorts and uniforms together, they couldn't decide if they were working or playing!



Grant demonstrates "come-along-holds" to the Argies during recent crowd control training at Camp Admiral Brown



Marc Tawton in action



Tracy and Dave, blood brothers



Grant the flasher shocks Princess Debbie!



Polky in the Kangaroo Club Bar - in the service of "refreshment"



ROYAL ENGINEER DETACHMENT DECEMBER 1995 TO JUNE 1996



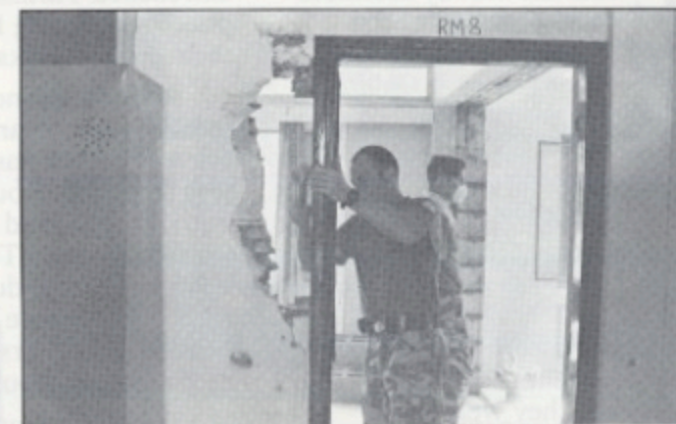
The engineers of Sector Two are Royal Engineers from 36 Engineer Regiment. The Sapper Detachment is a regimental deployment: 50 HQ Sqn are currently in position and will be handing over to members of 9 Parachute Sqn. 36 Engr Regt are currently preparing to deploy to Bosnia, and members of the current Detachment may well be deploying into theatre after a suitable period of leave.



Left to right: LCpl Skelton and LCpl Castle at Ortona House

The Detachment's mission is to provide engineer support to the line and to try and improve the living conditions of UN personnel. As such, we have a mix of artisans who are experts in their respective trades, each with a basis in combat engineering. This mix of trades allows the Detachment to cope with most emergencies and tackle quite major construction tasks.

The biggest task taken on during the tour so far has been the construction of Maple House kitchen and the associated work in improving the location. On arrival in December, the incumbent members of 9 Plasse Battery were somewhat shocked by the state of the building they were destined to inhabit



Sgt Lake doing some light demolition at Maple House

for the next six months, and the smell issuing from the sewer. OC Engineers was detailed to investigate the problem (armed with respirator and Wellington boots) and discovered the reason for the smell emanating from the basement was a problem with the sewer system. A plan of action was agreed, and the Sapper Detachment went to work in conjunction with the Public Works Department. Thankfully, the plan was that the PWD tackled the smell in the basement and the Engineers the kitchen! Everything went smoothly and on 24 February, the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, opened the new dining room.

The Maple House project took up most of February and since then, the Detachment has been busy in the backlog of maintenance tasks for the remainder of the Sector. Spr Wilson is leading the electrician's electrocution stakes with 25 shocks, Spr Boughay is leading the shelf-building race by two shelves, Spr Mabey leads the water-heater replacement by four boilers and, according to Spr Knight, 9 Parachute Sqn are leading 12 Battery in the hard-fought Buffer Zone painting competition by three tins of magnolia paint!

AUSCON SURF COURSES RE-OPENED

In the summer and autumn of 1995, two surfing courses were organised by Maj Robert Kraus, Sports Officer and DCO Sector Four, as part of the range of activities offered by the AUSCON Sports Club.

A lot of fun was had, both by UNFICYP soldiers and their relatives, with the beginners course taking place in

Famagusta and the more advanced surfers going to Ladies Mile in Akrotiri.

The first course this year took place recently in Akrotiri, and it is intended to schedule others in the near future.

Anyone interested should contact Maj Kraus in Camp Duke Leopold, Famagusta, on Ext 150.



Some soon learn how to surf, while others are simply impressed by what they see!

THE ANZAC STORY

From the bloody sacrifices shared by men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli came the abbreviation A.N.Z.A.C.

At 0400 hours on 25 April 1915, the ANZACs came ashore at Suvla Bay, Turkey, in a rugged area, rising steeply from a narrow beach. They were 30,000 volunteers from Australia and New Zealand. 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.

They had been told that their task would be to establish a bridgehead and that the landing would be unopposed and take place on wide open beaches surrounded by gentle grassy slopes, but they were landed on 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 withering fire down into their massed ranks.

Amid this general confusion, the self-reliance and extreme bravery of these amateur soldiers was a constant source of wonder, both by the Allied and Turkish/German forces. They advanced, were halted and dug in, having gained but a mere kilometre by the end of that first day. That 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 during the First World War. However, it failed from the outset and became a battle of attrition, culminating eight months later in a total withdrawal of the allied forces from the peninsular.

The cost to Australia and New Zealand was extremely heavy. Australia lost 8,587 soldiers and 19,367 were wounded. New Zealand had an 87% casualty rate. Of the 8,556 New Zealanders who served in Gallipoli, 2,721 died

and 4,752 were wounded. However, for both young nations, it was neither a victory nor a defeat, but rather a baptism of the horrors of war.

The commemoration of ANZAC Day each year is in memory of those gallant soldiers who landed on that foreign shore so many years ago and in continuing memory of those thousands of other Australians and New Zealanders since who have laid down their lives in the service of their country. The day is also a celebration by Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women and ex-servicemen and women of that special bond that exists between mates who have served their country together on foreign fields.

"BINYON'S LINES"

*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.*

AUSSIE/IRISH UNION

Love blossomed on Aphrodite's Island for Sgt Deborah Hogan, AUSTCIVPOL, and Cpl Ollie McInerney, Camp Command, during their posting together to UNFICYP.

Debbie hails from Wogga Wogga in New South Wales and has been stationed in Canberra for ten years. Ollie is a native of County Down, and was stationed for 13 years in the Curragh as an army engineer prior to his posting here as Force Cartographer.

They met in the Kangaroo Club, and their romance proceeded apace until Ollie popped the question on St Patrick's Day. AUSTCIVPOL were first to host a celebratory party. Debbie was summoned by her Commander for what she thought was a medal parade, only to be presented with a surprise "wedding" cake and an impromptu Australian party. More parties followed in both the Kangaroo and Hibernia Clubs.

The Hogan family are believed to be quite happy with Debbie's chosen partner; Ollie's army base plays host to several thousand head of Irish sheep!

The couple will get married in Ireland this summer but have not, as yet, decided where to settle. They wish to express their gratitude to all their friends and colleagues in UNFICYP for the rousing receptions they have been given. We join with all in wishing them health and every happiness in their future together.



ANZAC DAY 1996 - CYPRUS

by Sgt Martin Hess

In the grey dawn of 25 April 1996, a group of about 150 people gathered at Wayne's Keep Cemetery to pay silent homage to those fallen in the service of their nation. The service was conducted by The Right Reverend JDG Kirkham MA, Bishop to HM Forces (UK), and the BRITCON Padre, the Rev Ray Hayter, who paid special tribute to the ANZAC Forces from the Dardanelles campaign in 1915.



12 Regt Honour Guard with ANZAC Flag Bearers

The Lucknow Band of the Prince of Wales's Division provided a solemn musical background. All UNFICYP contingents were represented. Friends and allies of Australia, old and new, bore witness to a ceremony which brought many to tears.



In front of the cenotaph

As the bugler played the Last Post, wreaths were laid by dignitaries including the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, the High Commissioners from Australia and Britain, the New Zealand Consular Representative and the Commander of the Australian Civilian Police Contingent, Commander Barry Carpenter APM. Other wreaths were laid by Australian Police and a special guest from New Zealand on the graves of the three Australian and one New Zealand servicemen whose final resting place is in Wayne's Keep Cemetery.



Members of AUSTCIVPOL in front of St Paul's Cathedral with the Director of Music, Capt JAC Huggins, ARCM, psm

Later in the day, flowers were placed on the Cenotaph at the request of the Turkish Forces on the northern fence of the cemetery - a moving tribute to former foes.



Flowers donated by the Turkish Forces

Following the dawn service, guests were invited to the International Mess at the UNPA for a "traditional" ANZAC "gunfire breakfast" of bully beef, ANZAC biscuits, coffee and rum.

Shortly after, a church service was conducted at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Nicosia, conducted by The Very Rev Patrick Blair and The Right Revd Father Umberto Barato. This service was attended by the President of the Republic, Mr Glafkos Clerides, and by all dignitaries mentioned above.

Following the church service, guests were invited to the Australian High Commission for refreshments, after which the Australian Police Club was opened for further refreshments and the traditional ANZAC Day game of "two up".

From tears of remembrance at dawn to shouts of elation in the evening, there is no doubt that ANZAC Day 1996 in Cyprus was a moving tribute to the sacrifice of the ANZACs and a celebration of solidarity between friendly nations.



VISITS TO SECTOR ONE

by Capt M Alessandri



At the beginning of April, the Argentinian Ambassador in Israel who is also accredited to Cyprus, HE José Maria Otegui, paid a visit to UNFICYP, where he met



with the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel. He visited all Camps of Sector One, the Argentinian Sector, including Gen San Martin, Gen Roca, Admiral Brown and Kokkina, where the respective Officers in Command briefed him on their deployment and the tasks carried out within their area of responsibility. He also visited a number of OPs where he talked to the soldiers on duty and enquired about their work and lifestyle.

On 2 April, the Ambassador held a cocktail party at the Cyprus Hilton to which Cypriot authorities and Sector One personnel were invited. In attendance was Mr Glafkos Clerides, the President of the Republic, who thanked the Ambassador for Argentina's peace-keeping contributions to Cyprus and for the good relations which exist between the two countries.

ITALIAN JOURNALISTS VISIT SECTOR ONE

On 26 March, Sector One received a visit from Mr Augusto Dalla Bita and two cameramen from RAI, Italian Television and Radio. The visitors received a briefing on the responsibilities of Sector One from the Press Officer, following which they visited OPs 18, 22 and 25. At each location, the respective Platoon Leader briefed the visitors on his tasks and area of responsibility.

On their return to San Martin Camp, the CO Sector One, Lt Col Calvi, greeted the Italian crew, who expressed their appreciation for the attention and hospitality shown to them during their very satisfactory visit.



UN NEW YORK JOURNALIST VISITS SECTOR ONE

On 21 March, Sector One had the pleasure of hosting Ms Lynne O'Donoghue, a journalist from New York.

The visit started with a briefing by the Press Officer (see right), who explained the activities and operations of ARGCON. At the end of the briefing, the journalist had the opportunity to interview the female element of Sector One. Following this, Ms O'Donoghue travelled to Xeros where she attended a lunch with the officers in that camp and visited their installations.

Ms O'Donoghue also visited personnel and OPs within Alpha Coy and Charlie Coy, and was



Capt Alessandri, PO Sector One, briefing Ms O'Donoghue

then transported by helicopter from Kokkina to UN Flight, thereby providing her with the opportunity of observing from the air the whole of Sector One's area of responsibility.



VISIT TO UNFICYP OF ARGENTINA'S CHIEF OF STAFF LT GEN MARTÍN BALZA



Between 15 to 17 April, Argentina's Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Martín Balza, visited the troops that form the Argentinian Contingent of UNFICYP. This was not Lt Gen Balza's first visit to the island. He has been here on two previous occasions, when he also visited Argentinian troops in Kuwait and Bosnia.

The purpose of the visit was to keep in touch with the Argentinian personnel serving outside the country, and with the military command upon which they depend. Lt Gen Balza paid a visit to



Lt Gen Balza in Gen San Martin Camp

Gen San Martín, Gen Roca and Adm Brown Camps, to also to several OPs and the Kokkina Base, where he enquired on the well-being of Sector One personnel and informed them about a number of activities taking place at home.



Lt Gen Balza being greeted by Col Talbot, the UNFICYP Chief of Staff outside HQ UNFICYP

The Camps were all extremely happy to receive the General, and on 16 April, a dinner was held in his honour at Gen San Martin Camp, together with the Force Commander and other high ranking officials from the Headquarters. Lt Gen Balza expressed his gratitude for the reception afforded to him, and for the excellent relationships which currently exist within all Contingents of the UNFICYP mission.

A VERY FRIENDLY MATCH

by Capt M Alessandri

During spring, a game of rugby took place on the UNPA sports field between members of 12 Regt RA and a mixed team consisting of players from Argentina, Austria and Ireland. This very friendly match was played in four rounds of 20 minutes each, with all team members doing their very best, not only to win, but also to enjoy the event.

The final result was in favour of 12 Regt RA, whose hard work and team spirit earned them the title of winners!

Winners, runners-up and spectators all enjoyed the match - and the following refreshments in the WOs' Mess.



Tired but happy, after the match



UNFICYP REMEMBERS



Photograph by Sgt B Lipsett



Padre Ray Hayter, reading the service on ANZAC Day - 25 April 1996