

# Blue Beret

November 1993







## VVIPs VISIT UNFICYP

During the week when the Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Cyprus, UNFICYP hosted many visitors. On Tuesday 19 October, Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, visited Paphos Gate and Wayne's Keep Cemetery. On Wednesday 20 October, Mr Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, hosted a bi-communal lunch in the Ledra Palace attended by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot community leaders, Mr Glafkos Clerides and Mr Rauf Denkash. It was also attended by Mr Gustave Feissel, the Resident Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus. Following that, on Friday 22



Mr John Major (centre left) shaking hands with Mr Gustave Feissel next to Maj Gen MF Minehane (centre right) and Brig R Lambe.

October, Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

visited UNFICYP Headquarters where he inspected an UNFICYP Guard of Honour drawn from five contributing contingents (see back cover). He was introduced to senior staff members at HQ UNFICYP, followed by a brief given by the Force Commander. He also was given a tour of the Buffer Zone by 39 Regiment.

To conclude the week of VVIP visits to UNFICYP, we had last but not least the British Prime Minister, Mr John Major, on Saturday 23 October. He was met by the Force Commander on his arrival by helicopter at Wolseley Barracks, and given a brief on UNFICYP by the Chief of Staff. Later he toured the Buffer Zone as far as B-47 before departing by helicopter from the UNPA.



Mr Douglas Hurd (third from left) smiling at Mr R Denktash and Mr G Clerides

## DR HUGO GOBBI VISITS ARGCON

by Lt Cdr Carlos Kammerath

On 2 October 1993, Dr Hugo Gobbi visited HQ Sector One at Skouriotissa. Dr Gobbi is presently the Argentinian Ambassador for Israel and Cyprus. A reception was given in his honour by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Juan Durante, after which Dr Gobbi had lunch with the Officers and WOs assigned to HQ Coy.

Dr Gobbi is no stranger to this island. From May 1980 to December 1984, he was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus. Having spent so long on the island, he was well able to talk about the history of Cyprus to the newly arrived personnel of Sector One.



The Ambassador for Israel and Cyprus, Dr Hugo Gobbi (centre) with the CO, Lt Col Juan Durante, and the Officers and WOs of ARGCON.

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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

**Guard of Honour  
by 39 Regiment RA  
for HM The Queen  
by WO2 Phil Cadman**

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

In connection with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus during October, UNFICYP hosted many VVIPs. The Blue Beret is delighted to be able to cover these visits in this month's issue.

The November magazine also sees the departure of the Swedish Contingent after over 29 years of service with UNFICYP.

This issue also recognises the restructuring of the Headquarters and the break-up of the Military Public Information Office. For the first time since UNFICYP was formed, the Blue Beret magazine will move into civilian hands with Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski, the UNFICYP Spokesman, taking over the reins. After only five months in the chair, it is with regret that I depart from this office. However, the change in staff does not mean a change in the purpose of the Blue Beret, and I trust and hope that you will all support my successor as you have supported me.

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## THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TO UNFICYP

**H**er Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited UNFICYP on Tuesday 19 October 1993. The Queen, accompanied by Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, spent a day in Nicosia during her visit to Cyprus. As Head of the Commonwealth, she was presiding over the week-long Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), held this year in Limassol.

The Queen was welcomed at Paphos Gate OP C-73 by the Force Commander and the Chief of Staff, and then climbed the



The Queen, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, meets some of the officers and soldiers from the Argentinian Contingent.

stairs of the corner house to the roof-top OP. Here, Lt Col Richard Smith, Commanding Officer of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, briefed the Queen and the Royal Party on the deployment and tasks of Sector Two. Several members of the Regiment were presented to Her Majesty, including the Second in Command, Major Roger Dutton, the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) Richard Hamzat, and Gunner Andrew Emms who represented the soldiers who man OP C-73.



Major Nick Lipscombe accompanies Her Majesty on an inspection of the Guard.



His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, is briefed by Major Gareth Pugh at OP B-40.

In the late afternoon, the Queen visited Wayne's Keep Cemetery which is situated in the Buffer Zone. There she also met UNFICYP troops and their families. The Queen inspected the Royal Guard from 39 Regiment, commanded by Major Nick Lipscombe, and then laid a wreath.

Members of UNFICYP Headquarters, the Support Regiment and their families then had the opportunity to meet the Queen who spoke to many people individually. A posy was presented to her by Nicola Sutcliffe, a pupil



Miss Nicola Sutcliffe presents The Queen with a posy

of St Michael's School. Finally, both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh signed the visitors' books of the Cemetery and 39 Regiment Royal Artillery.

On Friday 22 October, Prince Philip returned to Nicosia to visit 39 Regiment at Wolseley Barracks, where he met the Warrant Officers and Officers of the Regiment. This was followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess and a photograph for posterity. The Duke was then given a tour through the Buffer Zone from the Ledra Palace to OP B-40, where he was briefed by Major Gareth Pugh.



## BRITCON MEDAL PARADE



The drive past of Support Regiment's vehicles with the Gazelle helicopters flying past.



The Force Commander, Major General MF Minehane, Commander BRITCON, Brigadier RM Lambe MBE and the Parade Commander, Lieutenant Colonel RJS Smith QGM RA review the troops.



Mr Gustave Feissel presents Gunner Andrew Williams of 176 Battery with his medal.



Major General AGH Harley CB OBE, Commander British Forces Cyprus, presents the UN medal to Gunner Tina Barron of 56 (Headquarters) Battery.

On 13 October at 1620 hours, a warm and windy evening, the BRITCON Medal Parade marched on to the runway of Nicosia International Airport to the music of the Royal Artillery (Alanbrooke) Band. The Parade was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel RJS Smith QGM RA, the Commanding Officer of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery. Of the 139 troops on parade, Numbers One, Two and Three Guards were from 56 (Headquarters) Battery, 132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop) and 176 (Abu Klea) Battery respectively. Number Four Guard was from the UNFICYP Support Regiment. For the Support Regiment, it was their last Medal Parade and so was a commemoration of almost 17 years of support to UNFICYP.



Major General MF Minehane presenting a medal to LCpl Newberry, 66 Tpt Sqn, RLC



The Lancemen, Lance Bombardier 'Penny' Farthing and Bombardier Kev Holt. Both are Regimental Policemen for the tour in Cyprus



Major Steve Marshall RLC marches Number Four Guard (Support Regiment) off the parade.



WO1 (RSM) Richard Hamzat receives his UN medal from the Force Commander.



Gunner Patrick McCabe of 132 Battery is awarded his UN medal by the Force Commander.



The Force Commander presents medals to Captain Hilary Long and Lieutenant Wendy Morton who are both serving with 56 (Headquarters) Battery.



## INTERCOMMUNAL DARTS COMPETITION

by Sgt Doug Child

In what can only be described as an historic occasion, the very first intercommunal sports event since 1974 took place at the Ledra Palace Hotel on Thursday 23 September 1993. The event, sponsored by UNFICYP and organised by AUSTCIVPOL, consisted of a darts team from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.



The Instigators (from the right): Tom Thoupas, Sgt Doug Child (AUSTCIVPOL) and Cemal Aspana.

Approximately 40 players and guests took part in a very successful night of competition and friendship. Pre game drinks were held in the Press Club (to be) Bar, during which the two communities mingled freely. The degree of mixed conversation was such that the organisers found some difficulty in getting the players to actually play darts! However, this was a positive difficulty as many of the competitors, most of whom spoke English, were deep in conversation discussing various matters concerning the two communities.

Comd Harry Bryant (AUSTCIVPOL) gave a short welcoming address to those present and some presentations were made by representatives from both communities. The actual competition was organised by the players who drew competitors' names from a hat. The winner on the night was Mr Costas Constantinou, followed by Mr Petros Petrakkas, both from the Greek Cypriot community team. In third position was Mr Selim Yesilpinar (highest break also), and Mr Yasar Karatas had the highest finish. Both represented the Turkish Cypriot community team.



The Winners: First Place, Costas Constantinou (centre), Second Place, Petros Petrakkas (left) and the Third Place, Selim Yesilpinar (right)

At the end of the evening, both communities repeated their desire to continue the competition, hopefully on a monthly basis. They thanked AUSTCIVPOL for organising the event and the Officer In Charge, Ledra Palace Hotel, for allowing the Hotel to be used as the venue.

Both sides expressed their belief that the event, though only a small step, would be instrumental in bringing the two communities even closer together.



Greek and Turkish Cypriot players involved in the competition.

## DEPARTURE OF THE UNFICYP FORCE PHOTOGRAPHER

On 29 October 1993, WO2 Phil Cadman packed his camera bags and closed up shop as the UNFICYP Force Photographer, having held this post since December 1992. In that time, Phil has provided all the front and back covers and a great deal of pictorial coverage for the Blue Beret magazine, together with countless tasks for the Force in general. He

has always carried out his duties in a highly professional manner and with a great deal of enthusiasm and pride in his work.

Phil has been recently promoted to WO2, and will be leaving UNFICYP to take up a post in the UK. On behalf of the Force as a whole, we would like to thank him very much for a job well done, and wish him and his family all the very best in the future.



## 17 YEARS IN SUPPORT OF OTHERS VALEDICTUM TO UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT



by Maj J Ingham RRF

Collins English dictionary defines **SUPPORT** variously as:

- "To carry the weight of..."
- "To bear pressure"
- "To provide the necessities of life"
- "To give aid or courage to..."
- "To endure with forbearance"

Who are we to argue otherwise?

Yet another chapter in the story of UNFICYP passed into the history books when UNFICYP Support Regiment ceased operational tasking on 29 Oct 93. The regiment has fallen victim to changing times and with the reduction in British Contingent force levels, many of the unit's rôles will be assumed henceforth by the civilian administration.

The regiment came into being in Jan 77. It has been a unique unit, manned largely by 6-month roulement personnel, with essential continuity provided by a core of officers and SNCOs on 2-years postings. Traditionally the regiment's manpower has been supplied by trickle postings from units throughout the British Army. However, there has been a truly international flavour through the years as Finnish and Canadian troops were incorporated into the ORBAT. The small Finnish element disappeared many years ago, along with the Finnish infantry battalion. The Canadians serving in the Signal Squadron maintained their contribution until Dec 92. The national flags of Finland and Canada are incorporated into the regimental crest to this day, in recognition of past service.

Support Regiment in many years has been the unsung hero behind the scenes. It has supplied and supported the units manning the "Green Line" for 17 years. Much of the tasking has been taken for granted, such as been the generally smooth running nature of its work. As the transition towards civilianisation begins to take effect, it is appropriate perhaps to



The sun goes down on Support Regiment

mention what the different sub-units have contributed.

Headquarters Squadron has brought together all the personnel who worked in the Unit Admin Office, dealing with the documents, movements, pay and postings for something in the region of 10,000 personnel over the 17 year lifespan of the unit. It also supplied staff for the UNFICYP Officers' Mess, the UNPA Garrison Sergeants' Mess, the Junior Ranks' Club and a large Quartermaster Department.

The Engineer Detachment has carried out a multitude of never-ending construction, maintenance and repair tasks along the full length of the Island from Kokkina to Famagusta.

No Force can continue to run its operations successfully without good communications. 254 Signal Squadron (and its 1965 predecessor 644 Sig Tp) has provided rear link communications to HQ UNFICYP from the operational Sectors, as well as telegram and telephone facilities.

"The mail must get through to the troops" has long been the trade cry of the BFPO system worldwide. BFPO 567, with its postal and counter service based in Jubilee Camp has performed sterling work, maintaining that invaluable link for official and civilian mail. The postal service will continue to provide the same facilities to all-comers from

its new premises in the Ledra Palace Hotel.

The wheels have finally stopped turning for UNFICYP Transport Squadron too. In 17 years the trucks, buses and general support vehicles of the Squadron have covered an estimated 20.4 million miles in support of UNFICYP.

Hand in hand with the departure of the Transport Squadron is the demise of the REME Workshops. With no vehicles to maintain, the Workshops brings down the veil on its operations at the same time.

The two sub-units of Support Regiment which are to remain untouched in support of the Force are UNFICYP Flight and Supply Detachment. Flight with its complement of Gazelle helicopters, pilots and aircraft technicians will continue to carry out its main rôles of observation, reconnaissance, control, liaison and casualty evacuation.

Supply Detachment RLC also remains in situ to provide its full range of services, acting as the collection and distribution point for all ordnance and defence stores.

And so, after all the talk, all the planning and all the chagrin of those departing, Support Regiment is no more. From the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ian Stevens and all ranks of the Regiment - **Vale UNFICYP - Vale Cypria.**



## WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?

by WO2 Peter Stickler

Sector Four was recently salvaging their waste paper baskets and discovered some photographs which would not normally be printed in the Blue Beret. Just send what you think are the correct captions to the **PIO Sector Four** before **15 December**. Winners of this competition will be lucky enough to take part in AUSCON's next march along Sector Four's part of the Buffer Zone!! Keep hoping because you might be lucky. So here we go with "What on Earth is that?".

PHOTO A



1. The pride of OC/HQ Coy - his Quick Reaction Mobile Fire Fighting Element while in action on the Dherinia line.
2. HQ Coy's vacuum cleaning troop on the way to Athenou to support local forces after the visit of the Tyroleans.
3. HQ Coy's weekly recreational run to Ayia Napa.



PHOTO D



1. Lunchtime in Camp Maple Leaf - first come, first served!
2. Sector Four's monthly routine of approaching the Blue Beret deadline.
3. Permanent Force Reserve Element call out exercise during FC's visit on 08 Sep 93.

PHOTO B



1. HQ AUSCON at the Nicosia Race Course.
2. Maj Pöcher looking for Lt Wesiak.
3. Just normal Sunday routine during demonstrations.

PHOTO C



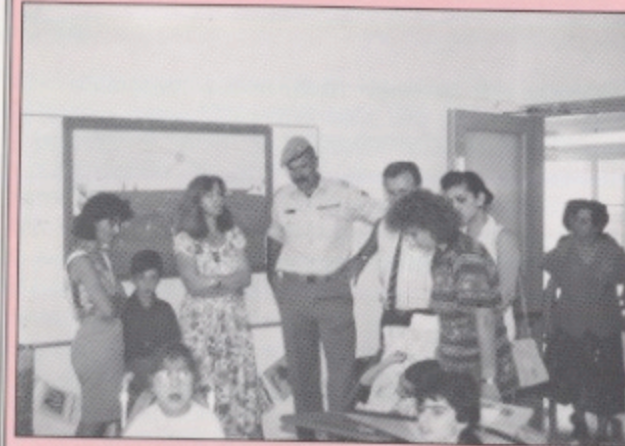
1. The Grand Jury in Sector Four's annual Coffee Tasting Competition.
2. Capt P Carrey (Ireland), Maj Gen A Furuhoide (Norway), Lt Col A Wildberger (Austria), and Col A Tuatok (Fiji) receiving a briefing in Camp Izay during FC UNIFIL's visit to Cyprus.
3. Court Marshal scene after discovery of more skeletons in the basement of CS-49.

PHOTO E

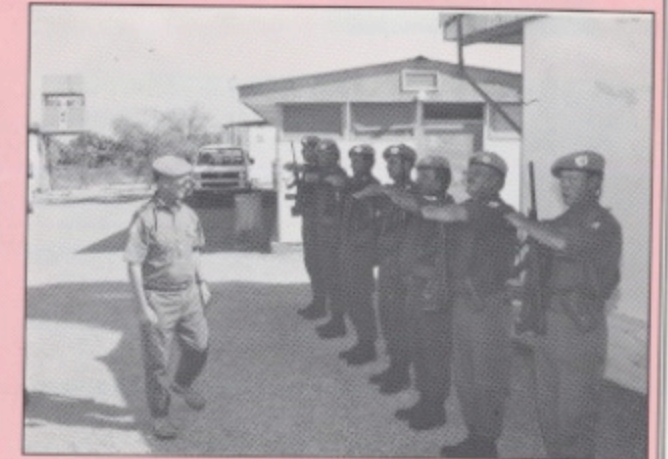


1. The rats, trying to leave the sinking ship.
2. Lt Kiene, L/Cpl Planer and WO I Posch, refusing to leave the sinking ship.
3. Lt Kiene, quite unsuccessfully trying to unbend the flag at OP A-14

## RECENT EVENTS IN SECTOR FOUR



Lt Col Wildberger, the previous DCO in AUSCON, visiting the Red Cross School for Sick Children in Polemidhia, near Limassol, after AUSCON's soccer team allowed Omonia Nicosia to beat them 0:2 (in the name of charity!). £800.00 was collected!



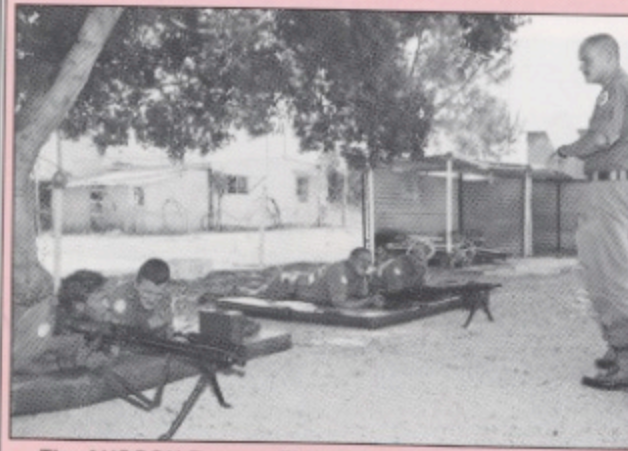
The Force Commander, Maj Gen MF Minehane, inspecting the guard of honour during his visit to Camp Izay in Athenou.



The Austrian Contingent were approached to display Austrian trucks and vehicles with a cross country capability for a British Fair which took place in Ayios Nicolaos.



Col Dr Alfred Lugert, editor of the Austrian Officers' magazine "Der Offizier" ("The Officer"), recently visited AUSCON to gather information for an article he is writing. He is pictured standing of OPT AS-18 "Edelweiss"



The AUSCON Reserve Platoon is seen here improving their weapon skills on the Austrian built Steyr MG 74.



Retired Brigadier Robin Duschene, a former Chief of Staff, recently paid a visit to UNFICYP. He is seen here being briefed by Lt Col Kloss on AUSCON's operational deployment.





The month of October has been one of the busiest for 39 Regiment and of course, therefore, one of the most interesting. It started with the arrival of ARGCON and the subsequent reorganisation of Sector West. 39 Regiment was to take one pace to the right, leaving the rural area, from Kokkina to Mammari, to be ARGCON's Sector One. Sector Two was then resurrected in and around Nicosia.

For the historical record the dates for the changes of command were:

**Friday 8 October 1993.** Command of the rural area, which was 176 Battery's responsibility, was handed over to Lt Col Juan Durante. At 1800 hrs, Sector One came into being.

## THE RESURRECTION

by Captain

**Monday 11 October 1993.** In the meantime, 132 Battery took over the area east of Nicosia, including Ortona House and Camp Liri, from 1 Company AUSCON. Simultaneously, the internal reorganisation of the Sector was completed and the new Battery areas of responsibility were established. At 1800 hrs, Sector Two was reborn.

The size of the 'patch' that is now Sector Two is very much smaller than the previous TAOR. However, it is an active area with some very narrow places of the Buffer Zone and subsequently tensions can often run high.

Throughout all the changes, the only Troop to be left untouched is C Troop, who continue to live in

## 176 (ABU KLEA) BATTERY ROYAL ARTILLERY HANDOVER TO ARGCON

by Major Gareth Pugh

**176 (Abu Klea) Battery Royal Artillery**, from June to October 1993, manned a TAOR that stretched from Kokkina to the UNPA. The Battery took control of the old DANCON sector and the bulk of the BRITCON sector from the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in June. By dint of sheer hard work and extended hours, the Battery maintained the Status Quo within its sector and has been involved in incidents ranging from incursions into the BZ to determining ownership of a lost sheep! However, this considerable overstretch was only ever designed to be a temporary expedient. Therefore, it was with a degree of relief tinged with sadness that we handed over the entire Battery TAOR to the Argentinian Contingent in early October.

The relief came from the hours that were necessary to maintain vigilance over 149.5 Km of CFL and MSL, 100.25 sq km of BZ including the villages of Mammari and Dhenia with only 113 soldiers operating from 9 permanently manned locations. It was a challenge and one that gave junior officers and NCOs real responsibility. The sadness came from handing over control of some of the most beautiful terrain on the island and losing our daily contact with the local Greek and Turkish Cypriots. However, our loss is the Argentinian gain, and the Battery wish them every success in their forthcoming tour.

In preparation for the deployment of around 350 men into the TAOR, several of the existing OPs were opened up again. These OPs had suffered from the ravages of the weather and the depravations of prying fingers. The necessity to continue patrolling whilst at the same time refurbishing the OPs meant that a special Battery 'Task Force' was formed under command of Sgt Martin Perkins. Their task was to refurbish the OPs and identify tasks requiring engineer support. They also moved

stores and equipment as well as painted and gardened. These are all skills that their wives will find useful on our return to Germany!

Once an OP was declared habitable then it was occupied by a small guard force. These 3-man teams continued to identify and rectify the problems as well as carrying out patrolling in the area. This resulted in 16 different locations being manned prior to the arrival of the Argentinians and stretched the Battery still further. Now the Battery has moved a pace to the right and has assumed control from West of the UNPA to the Ledra Palace Hotel. The area is smaller and mainly urban in character. The vistas are not so grand and the air not so clean. However, the challenge of maintaining a peaceful atmosphere will not change and it is a challenge to which the Battery will continue to aspire.



The 176 Battery OP Refurbishment Team. Front row: Gnrs Nettleton and Jones, Sgt Perkins, Bdr Hart and LBdr Gibson. Back row: LBdr Johnson, Gnr Harding, Pte Walkling, Gnrs Doyle and Parker.

## OF SECTOR TWO

Hilary Long

Maple House and operate in the City. The only OP, however, which has remained under the command of 39 Regiment from our first deployment on 1 June to the present day, is B-28, situated to the west of the UNPA.

The following articles will give a closer insight into the activities of 39 Regiment during late September and early October 1993.

Gnr Steffan Atherton, C Troop 132 Battery, briefs the British Minister for Overseas Development, Lady Chalker, Baroness of Wallesey, on the Cease Fire Lines around OP C-73 Paphos Gate. She was delighted to discover that Gnr Atherton came from Wallesey in Liverpool, which is her home town as well.



## 132 BATTERY (THE BENGAL ROCKET TROOP) ROYAL ARTILLERY TAKEOVER BEFORE HANDOVER

by Captain Martin Gamble

The Bengal Rocket Troop had remained static in its original locations since their arrival in Cyprus in early June 1993, so it was with little surprise that the news of a move was received. With C Troop acting as a Regimental pivot, as the only line Troop to remain stationary during the whole re-deployment, the remaining two Troops from 132 Battery were to extend the unit's TAOR out to the last and take over two new areas from the Austrians.

However, had it been a simple case of handing over one of our old areas to 176 Battery whilst taking over our new area, then we would have been firstly amazed and secondly happy with the simplicity of the whole plan. It was obvious from the outset that there was a need for a difficult and slightly protracted handover in Sector One. As a result, it was decided that the three Troops from 132 Battery would man the five Troop areas in the interim period when the Austrians had moved away, and thus The Bengal Rocket Troop was manning the new Sector Two, as it is to be called, in its entirety. This requirement led to a stretching of our resources across the area but, despite the resultant lack of manpower to get our new area looking "just-so", the takeover was closely followed by a swift handover to our sister Battery, with both us and them realising that there was still work to be done as a result of the accommodating way in which we had taken over from, and handed over to, AUSCON and ARGCON respectively.

The move has come at an opportune time in our tour to enable everybody to have a change of scenery, with the exception of C Troop who have a constant change of view with the "line-tours" which this month



The B Troop command team at Ortona House: From the left: Sgt Bob Schoales, 2Lt Paul Jones, Sgt Steve Farley and WO2 David Cotter.

included 27 Danish students, before the end of our time in Cyprus. The move and full transfer of command was completed at 1800 hours on Mon 11 Oct 93 and we now have an area of responsibility from the West of the Ledra Palace Hotel, through the city of Nicosia and then out to an area to the south-east of the Athalassa Forest.

The re-deployment of the Battery was completed with little fuss and The Bengal Rocket Troop now looks forward to a period of consolidation in our new area which should then be followed by an opportunity for all to return to a normal routine. We'll see, only time will tell!





## INTRODUCTION

An era is over. After 29½ years, the last Swedish Contingent C-115 has left Cyprus forever. On 8 October 1993, six years to the day that the Swedish Battalion handed over their area of responsibility to AUSCON and CANCON, SWEDCIVPOL handed over to the Australian Civilian Police. During their time in Cyprus, Sweden has sent over 21,000 Swedes to the island, with approximately 1,000 all ranks serving in SWEDCIVPOL.

But we were not the first Swedish peace-keepers to arrive in Cyprus. In the year 1372, 619 years before the first female police officer joined SWEDCIVPOL, Saint Birgitta arrived on the island. She was a very brave woman who soon turned crazy when she tried to solve the political complications in Cyprus. She prophesied that there would be trouble on the island in the future, and that it would be known about far and wide. Her words were strong and perhaps not as diplomatic as a modern-day peace-keeper, but history has proven that her prophecy came true. The events that have taken place in Cyprus show that this remarkable woman was more competent than crazy!

On 27 March 1964, UNFICYP was established. Sweden participated in the Force from the beginning, and at first sent 2688 men from the Congo and Gaza Battalions. They arrived in Cyprus at the end of April 1964.

In June 1964, UNFICYP consisted of 173 members from

five countries: Sweden, Australia, Austria, New Zealand and Denmark. At this point, it should be mentioned that the island was divided into zones under UN supervision, and not north and south with a Buffer Zone, as it is at present.

On 6 May 1964, the first Swedish civilian police arrived and at a ceremony at Wolseley Barracks on 9 May, they were posted to Paphos where at that time, there was a lot of unrest. The Commander was Hans Lagerhorn, who stayed in Cyprus until 1967.

On 9 December 1964, SWEDCIVPOL moved to Famagusta and there they remained until 1978. They then moved to Larnaca, where they stayed until their departure from UNFICYP.

Between 1964-1970, investigations into murder and disappearance were quite common for SWEDCIVPOL, apart from sabotage, animal poisoning and traffic accidents. In order to get to know the local



population, a system of village patrols was started, with Commander SWEDCIVPOL being a very popular visitor. In fact, when he didn't accompany the patrol, the villagers used to say "do we have to have trouble for you to come and see us?"! Due to the nature of the ground, the village patrols were equipped with donkeys, and this kind of mounted patrol became a common sight in the Swedish zone! In this way, SWEDCIVPOL were able to solve problems at a lower level.

In the summer of 1966, the strength of SWEDCIVPOL stood at 40, placed not only in Famagusta, but also in Larnaca, Chatos and Ayios Theodoros with sub-stations opening up later in Yialousa and Angastina.

## FAREWELL CYPRUS

by Pol Sgt Inald Krantz



SWEDCIVPOL 62 Unit - the last one



Sgt Bengt Persson lowering the flag for the last time.

HQ SWEDCIVPOL was stationed in Famagusta for quite a while, but at different locations.

Needless to say, during the 1974 troubles, the workload for SWEDCIVPOL increased substantially. An entirely new situation had developed with a large refugee problem, both north and south. For many years, a Swedish police officer was stationed in the "Missing Persons Branch" at HQ UNFICYP, Nicosia.

During the 1980s, the situation had stabilized and SWEDCIVPOL's duties changed gradually into Buffer Zone police. A lot of the work inevitably involved agricultural problems within this area. For example, when a Turkish Cypriot owned carrot patch was eaten up by Greek Cypriot owned goats, a lot of diplomacy was needed to stop this incidents escalating - as you can imagine!

Apart from normal police tasks, SWEDCIVPOL spent a lot of time recently on humanitarian work. An extremely humanitarian service called the monthly

"money run" must be mentioned here. Every month, SWEDCIVPOL delivered pensions and other benefits to Greek Cypriots living in the north of the island.

During the years, many police officers have, apart from their normal police duties, done extraordinarily well in the different sporting events which have taken place within UNFICYP. Furthermore, individuals have, on their own initiative, participated in the social life in Cyprus in different ways, for example by donating blood, singing in choirs, providing traffic education for children and many other activities.

SWEDCIVPOL has always consisted of volunteers. Each post has had approximately ten



Sgt Lars-Göran Nilsson handing the flag over to Ch Supt Kent Robert.

applicants, who may have extended their contracts and/or returned for second or more tours. A former Supreme Commissioner of the Swedish Police Force was right when he said: "When they are recruited to SWEDCIVPOL they are very good. But when they return, they are even better!"



## EPILOGUE

SWEDCIVPOL duties during the years varied a lot, but one fundamental fact has remained the basis of our operation - a good rapport with the local population, and in particular with the police authorities from both communities. Co-operation between police of different nationalities has been made easier by the fact that police officers from different countries, with different languages, have one thing in common - a specific way of reasoning. This is when we realise that different mother tongues don't matter very much!

For SWEDCIVPOL, duty in Cyprus is over. After 29½ years we have left the island for good, and we wish our successors all the very best.

1,000 Swedish police officers have each given at least half a year of their lives to Cyprus. In return, Cyprus has given us all something to remember for the rest of our lives. We all hope that the day will come when there is no need for UN troops in Cyprus - the island of Aphrodite, the goddess of love.



Ch Supt Kent Robert handing over the Swedish flag to the Supreme Commissioner of the Swedish Police Force, Björn Eriksson (centre) and General Lennart.



## AUSTRIA'S HIGHEST RANKING PERSONNEL OFFICER VISITS UNFICYP

by WO2 Peter Stickler

On 23 October 1993, General Dr Franz Eckstein, Head of the Personnel Section in the Austrian Ministry of Defence, visited Camp Duke Leopold V. He flew in from Beirut, where he had earlier visited the Austrian troops on the Golan Heights serving with UNDOF.

After a reception in the AUSCON Officers' Mess, the General was given a briefing on the Austrian commitment within UNFICYP and the present deployment of AUSCON personnel. Later, all ranks of AUSCON had the chance to meet the General in the WO's and Sgts' Mess in Camp Duke Leopold V and to discuss with him personal career matters.

The following day, the General met the Force Commander, Maj Gen Minehane. He also met the Austrians serving within the UNPA, and went on line tours through both 1 and 2 Coys' areas of responsibility.

The purpose of the two-day fact finding mission was not only to gain an impression of the current

problems as result of the restructuring of the Force, but also to get first hand information with regard to possible tour extensions for AUSCON personnel.



Gen Eckstein had heard about the size of locally grown garlic, and when he thanked the chefs for his superb dinner, he took the chance to have a look!

## UNFICYP MILITARY POLICE MAKES HISTORY THE FIRST BRITISH FORCE PROVOST MARSHAL

By WO2 Günther Sakoparnik



The month of October saw the farewell of the last Swedish Force Provost Marshal, Capt Stefan Nacksten. Capt Nacksten handed over to WO2 Gerry Kelly, who has been in charge of the Unit's Special Investigation Section

since July 1992. In taking this appointment, WO2 Kelly made history by becoming the first British FPM in UNFICYP. He immediately researched the privileges (which he claims comes with the appointment) and has been heard quoting King Charles I's Articles of War dated 1629 which read as follows:

### "Does the 'Marshal' have a horse?"

The Provost must have a horse allowed him and some soldiers to attend him, and all the rest commanded to obey and assist, or else the service will suffer, for he is but one man and must correct many and therefore he cannot be beloved."

He has already submitted a UN 900 to the CAO with a justification for the horse. Maybe we could lease one from Astra...?



WO2 Kelly (above left) subsequently handed over the position of FPM to WO2 Jim Trafford on 10 November 1993, who will hold this appointment for the next 18 months. We wish Jim a successful tour.

## THE FIRST IN AND THE LAST OUT TWO BROTHERS IN CYPRUS

By Pol Sgt Anders Folkesson

At the end of the fifties, Sweden sent Battalions to their first UN missions, firstly Gaza and later the Congo. In 1964, a soldier named Folkesson was posted to Cyprus with the first Swedish Battalion to join UNFICYP. 29 years later and among the last Swedes to leave the island, there was also a member of SWEDCON named Folkesson. John Folkesson helped start the mission, and Anders, his brother, assisted in folding up the last Swedish Battalion to leave UNFICYP.

Everyone knows what Cyprus is like today, but what was it like in 1964? John Folkesson tells us.

"The Swedish Government decided in March 1964 that Sweden would contribute to the new UN Force in Cyprus. SWEDCON C-24 was established with volunteers from the Congo and Gaza, together with a unit from Sweden, a total of 1,000 men. I was one of those who flew from the Congo to Nicosia on 30 April 1964.

At that time, SWEDCON's responsibility was the north west area of Cyprus. Setting up the camp involved a lot of building which was hard work! However I also have fond memories of Cyprus, spending my off duties hours on beautiful beaches



John (left) and Anders, flying the UN flag back home in Sweden.

with their white sands.

After five tours with Swedish Battalions in UN missions I am back home. I am proud that I helped start Sweden's contribution to UNFICYP with SWEDCON C-24, and that my brother Anders was a member of the last Contingent C-115."

## THE LAST PYLATHON

by Pol Sgt Ronald Krantz

Early one September morning, 20 participants gathered in



Harald Flechl, the individual winner, was also a member of the (Austrian) winning team. He is pictured above left, with Hans Plach (centre) and Jörgen Siefried.

Pyla to run the very last "Pylathon". This was a tradition organised by SWEDCIVPOL since the UNFICYP sub-station opened in Pyla in 1984. Taking part were some real Austrian professionals, and then there was me - the real amateur!

At 0900 hours, the gun went off and everyone started. 1 hour, 1 minute and 14 seconds later, Harald Flechl won the race after a hard run of 15.2 km in 32°C of heat. The fastest Swede was Bo Månsson at 1.06.37.

And what about me? Well, the winner was already in the middle of his shower when I eventually

arrived. However I have one title that nobody can take away from me - I was the last member of SWEDCIVPOL to finish the last Pylathon!



## SWEDCIVPOL Commanders in UNFICYP

Apr 64 - Apr 67	Hans Lagerhorn, Stockholm	Apr 82 - Apr 83	Bo Zetterman, Mariestad
Apr 67 - Apr 71	Torsten Lindberg, Stockholm	Apr 83 - Apr 84	Bo Nyström, Västerås
Apr 71 - Apr 72	Gunnar Henriksson, Kiruna	Apr 84 - Apr 85	Jost Herholz, Stockholm
Apr 72 - Oct 73	Folke Eriksson, Lidesberg	Apr 85 - Apr 86	Karl-Gustav Mauritzon, Göteborg
Oct 73 - Apr 75	Åke Ekström, Malmö	Apr 86 - Oct 86	Sven Smedjegården, Stockholm
Apr 75 - Apr 76	Sven Bagge, Piteå	Oct 86 - Apr 87	Stig Pettersson, Stockholm
Apr 76 - Oct 76	Hans Johansson, Östersund	Apr 87 - Oct 88	Karl-Georg Andersson, Malmö
Oct 76 - Apr 78	Lars Lundberg, Malmö	Oct 88 - Oct 89	Lennart Pettersson, Stockholm
Apr 78 - Apr 79	Yngve Larsson, Stockholm	Oct 89 - Oct 91	Håkan Thelin, Norrköping
Apr 79 - Apr 80	Lennart Pettersson, Stockholm	Oct 91 - Oct 92	Claes Johansson, Köping
Apr 80 - Apr 81	Jack Sjögren, Kristinehamn	Oct 92 - Oct 93	Kent Robert, Stockholm
Apr 81 - Apr 82	Curt Holm, Stockholm		





VISIT TO HQ UNFICYP OF FIELD MARSHAL,  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Edinburgh inspected the Guard of Honour at HQ UNFICYP on 22 October 1993. Accompanying him was the UNFICYP Force Commander Major General MF Minehane (centre) and the Guard Commander, Capt Liam O'Carroll (left).