

THE Blue Beret

November 1995





HUNGCON - A NEW ELEMENT OF SECTOR FOUR

by Capt S Perr

With the second rotation flight on 14 November, a significant change has taken place within AUSCON. This date marked the arrival of infantry troops from Hungary who have taken over responsibility for Berger Platoon in 1st Coy, Sector Four (in the Louroujina pocket). 39 Hungarians will be integrated into the Austrian Battalion, including the Deputy Commander of 1st Coy, a doctor, a logistics adviser, a duty officer for the HQ and the Commander HUNGCON, Maj Antal Ughy, who is also DCO AUSCON.



CO AUSCON, Lt Col Wildberger, greets Maj Antal Ughy

The birth of HUNGCON was actually on 12 September 1995 when in Sopron, Hungary, the "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed by the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers of Defence. One main reason for this cooperation in Cyprus is to give Hungarian soldiers the chance to learn about and gain experience in a peace-keeping mission from their more experienced Austrian compatriots.

The Austrians are looking forward to long and effective cooperation with their Hungarian friends.



Maj Antal Ughy and his soldiers on their way to the Austrian welcoming delegation



DISABLED CHILDREN FROM AUSTRIA VISIT AUSCON

On 12 September 1995, eight disabled children from the Tyrol were invited to see what life is like in Camp Izay, 1st Coy, AUSCON. This unconventional idea originated in Austria by the "Lebenshilfe Tirol", an official Austrian organisation for disabled children, together with Mrs Loizides, a Nicosia resident who is originally from the Tyrol.

It was a new experience for both the children and the soldiers. Although everything was planned well ahead, it was impossible to know exactly how the children would react. Fortunately, everything did go well, and at 9.30 am, the children arrived at OP 101 from Nicosia, together with three supervisors from their organisation. There they were given drinks and cakes, and were then taken in a Puch Pinzgauer to Camp Izay, from where they were able to view the area around Athienou. They then went on a guided tour around the Camp. Stopping at a water tank truck, they practised fire extinguishing, and were shown several types of equipment used by Sector Four.



Cpl Holzinger greeting the children on their arrival

After lunch, each child was presented with a UN field cap and a teddy bear wearing a UN beret. Their day in Camp Izay was a high point of their holidays in Cyprus.

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Telephone: (02) 359550
Fax: 359753

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Charles Gaulkin

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Cpl John Daly
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Eduardo Acosta
Sector Two	Capt Gus Millar
Sector Four	Capt Siegfried Perr
AUSTCIVPOL	Stn Sgt Greg Lovell
IRCIVPOL	Sgt Jim Tutty
Perm FR	Capt Giles Woodbridge
MP Elm	Sgt Sue Ashton
Camp Command	Flt Sgt John McCormick

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 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:

ARRIVAL OF THE
HUNGARIANS

BY WO2 JOSEF MÖSENER

The Blue Beret



Fifty Years Ago

Fifty years ago, in a bold affirmation of international co-operation, a new organization explicitly mandated to advance peace, human rights, international justice and economic development was created. Born of years of devastating war, the United Nations was conceived as an institution that would bring together the countries of the world to work for the progress of all nations and all peoples, and served as a forum and catalyst for addressing and resolving major global issues.

The function of the Organization lies precisely in making it possible for nations and people to broaden their understanding, enhance their confidence and promote formal and informal processes of closer cooperation. Fifty years ago, the world was weary of war, tired of poverty and burdened by injustice. The United Nations was born to reject a culture of death and to create a culture of life, a culture of peace.

It is not, therefore, surprising that UNFICYP has placed the emphasis of this year's anniversary celebrations on the bicom-munal Open House and Friendship Concert at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The unprecedented support of these events underlines the will of the ordinary citizen to share peace and prosperity in Cyprus. The truly international spirit that prevailed during these occasions strengthens the conviction that the United Nations will endure because it embodies the yearning of the human heart for a world in which all may share peace and prosperity.

CONTENTS

HUNGCON/Disabled Children	2
Editorial/Contents	3
Irish Police in Athienou/FC's Visit to Camp Command ...	4
The UNFICYP Military Skills Competition	5
St Barnabas School for the Blind/Help! Half Marathon ...	6
Visit to the Red Cross in Limassol/AUSTCIVPOL Induction	7
Music UNites	8/9
Yes, I am a Peace-Keeper	10
MPs Going for Gold/Flying in Cyprus	11
Sector One News	12
2nd IRCIVPOL Contingent/Argentinian Music/ Maratonistas	13
Permanent Force Reserve Platoon	14
The Austrian Medal Parade	15/16



THE IRISH POLICE IN ATHIENOU



The Irish police have been established in the village of Athienou since October 1993 with four members assigned for duty in the village and surrounding Buffer Zone. Athienou is a village of some 6,500 people whose main income is derived from agriculture. It is situated some 20 km from Nicosia, and during the summer months, it is one of the hottest places on the island.

Since their arrival in October 1993, the Irish Police have integrated well into the local community, mainly because, unlike their predecessors, they are resident in Athienou and also have their own office in the centre of the village. IRCIVPOL are responsible for patrolling the widest part of the Buffer Zone in and around the village, and also patrol the Louroujina pocket.

The four members attached to Athienou are all keen to keep fit, and can be regularly seen cycling



From the left: PO Paul Kinsella, Sgt Michael O'Brien, PO Dermot Duggan and PO Stephen Flaherty

and jogging in the Buffer Zone. Problems experienced by the members include missing livestock, fires in the Buffer Zone and dealing with hunters during the open season.

FORCE COMMANDER'S VISIT TO CAMP COMMAND

On 16 October 1995, the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen, paid a formal visit to No 4 Camp Command. He first inspected a Guard of Honour, and then received a briefing by the OC Camp Command, Comdt John Tolan.

The Force Commander then visited all installations within Camp Command, where he was briefed by the respective NCOs i/c of those locations on their duties and responsibilities.



The Force Commander inspecting the Guard of Honour

Seen left is BQMS Tommy Daly, pointing out to the Force Commander Cpl Mick Shanahan, who has returned to Cyprus after 23 years to collect his medal. Mick first arrived in Cyprus in October 1973, but was re-assigned to the Sinai Desert after only two weeks during the Yom Kippur War. Mick has full intentions of completing his tour of duty and receiving his UNFICYP medal this time round!



THE UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

by Flt Sgt John McCormick

On 18 October, the UNFICYP Military Skills Competition took place in the UNPA. The Competition was organised by Operations Branch and Camp Command with assistance from the Sectors and the Civilian Police. This competition proved to be a successful event with a total of 11 teams taking part. It was a difficult course to follow, and the skills of all teams were severely tested.

First came the Incidents Observation Report, after which the teams left the Airport area on a Forced March, heading towards the Obstacle Course. The next test was the tunnel dig, followed by the First Aid stand where help had to be rendered on the spot. Then came the stretcher

run, with one "lucky" team member being carried for a distance by the rest of the team! Next came the grenade throwing, where all teams scored well. The last skill to be tested was marksmanship on the 200m range.

All scores were then added up, with points being deducted for penalties or added for bonuses, as appropriate. Sector Two did very well, with teams 2B and 2A coming first and second respectively, and the PFRA came in third.

At the end of the Competition, prizes were presented by the Force Commander, who congratulated the winners and thanked the organisers, the scrutineers and AUSCON's catering team.



The winning team, 2B, from Sector Two





ST BARNABAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



Since its foundation in 1919, St Barnabas School for the blind in Nicosia has specialised in teaching and caring for children with visual disabilities. The School was founded by Dame Louisa Storrs, wife of the Governor of Cyprus. It originally had only male pupils and was run on a purely voluntary basis. Now it takes both male and female pupils, and since 1957, the School has been under government control. Its funding comes mainly from the government, but due to the high cost of the specialist equipment that the children need, the School also relies on fund-raising and voluntary donations.

At present there are 25 children in attendance, ranging from nursery school age to sixth form. Most of the children attend on a daily basis. Disabilities range from partial-sight to total blindness, some with multiple handicaps as well. The School also caters for adult requirements, and it runs courses in skills such as telephony. In addition, the School works at integrating children into the local mainstream education system, and offers support to about 19 pupils in 16 schools throughout Cyprus. The School provides books in Braille and offers additional help to blind children in local schools who can also study on their personal computers (with voice synthesizers). New technology is a great help to the blind pupils, and the School has raised money to buy essential specialist equipment such as close circuit television for the partially sighted, talking dictionaries and a "Versabaille" Braille and audio information system with Greek language printer.



Mrs Birgit Horateczuk, Mrs Constantinou (Headmistress), Mrs Jill Powell and Ms Christine Gardner

Some of the children go on to further education: recent success stories include former pupils now studying law and child psychology at the University of Athens. Vocational training is also offered for those not going on to college or university, and there are classes in handicraft skills such as basketwork and pottery. Help is given to the children's families, who are advised on how to bring up blind or partially blind children before school age, and are also advised on daily living skills and mobility techniques.

Members of the UN Families Welfare and Social Committee visited the School on 21 September and donated a cheque for £185.00 towards a "Bubble Ball Bath" for pupils with multiple handicaps. The bath provides a safe and stimulating area for exercise and play for these children; and is an appropriate donation, as this money was raised by the UN families' sponsored swim.



HELP! HALF-MARATHON AND FUN RUN



On Sunday 15 October, several members of UNFICYP and their wives took part in the "Help!" Charity 13.1 mile Half Marathon and 5.8 mile Fun Run. Part of the course took participants up the hill from Kyrenia to Bellapais. Turkish Cypriot athlete Şenlik Çetinkaya won the Half Marathon for the third time in its four-year existence in a time of 1 hour, 14 minutes, 38 seconds, and Mrs Jill Powell came an impressive third in the Fun Run.

The total cash raised through the Fun Run and Half Marathon sponsorship, together with the raffle and tombola, reaped about £3,900, which will be donated to charitable causes.



VISIT TO THE RED CROSS IN LIMASSOL



Standing on high ground on the outskirts of the busy port of Limassol, the Red Cross Home for Sick Children has open views of the city and sea beyond, and a bright and cheerful atmosphere. This atmosphere comes not only from the light, airy feel of the building itself, but also from the positive attitude of the dedicated staff who work there.

The Red Cross Home was built in its present position in the late 1970s, and officially opened in 1981. The original home was in Kyrenia, but after the events of 1974, a new location had to be found. The Home provides day schooling, physiotherapy and occupational and speech therapy for physically disabled children. Until last year, it was a residential school for 60 boarders, but now it is a day centre for 70 children up to the age of 18 years. The old dormitories were converted into occupational therapy units, and in 1990, two new classrooms were added on.



One of the bright, airy therapy rooms

There are five physiotherapists and three occupational therapists, who all work full-time, and the children require a high level of individual attention. Many of the children are very intelligent, as their handicaps are physical and not mental, and there has been some attempt to integrate children into normal schools. But this is very expensive, as each child needs a full-time carer.



Mr Stelios Sykallides (Director), Mrs Jill Powell, Ms Gabrielle Philippou and Mrs Katerina Christodoulou (Matron)

The government gives a certain amount of financial assistance to the Red Cross: some of the staff and some of the equipment are state funded, and the children who attend the home pay no fees, but the Home has to raise an additional £20,000 each year to keep going. Their two main sources of fund-raising are an annual door-to-door collection and the sale of Christmas cards. The Limassol Branch of the Cyprus Red Cross are active in fund-raising, not only for the Home in Limassol, but also in response to appeals from other countries, helping refugees and supporting the Red Cross mobile blood donation unit.

In response to a recent request for help, some members of the UN Families' Welfare and Social Committee, together with representatives from different UN contingents, visited the Red Cross Home in Limassol on 26 September to donate some paintings and posters to decorate the children's therapy rooms.

A future project is also being planned to help tidy up the gardens of the Home, as, due to limited financial resources, they cannot hire a firm to do this work. If anyone would like to help, please contact Gabrielle Philippou at the Housing Office. Many thanks to all who contributed posters and paintings, which are much appreciated and will certainly be enjoyed by the children.

AUSTCIVPOL INDUCTION

Seen right are members of the 45th and 46th AUSTCIVPOL Contingents who gathered at the front of the Linou Station as part of the October 1995 induction programme.

A briefing was provided to the Contingent members by Stn Sgt Portway before heading out onto Track 100.





On Monday 30 October 1995, some of the leading musicians of Cyprus got together for a bicomunal concert, and it was a day to remember in the history of Cyprus. The concert was organised by UNFICYP as the second event in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, following the successful UN Open House which took place on 22 October. Once again, members of both communities were invited by UNFICYP to the Ledra Palace Hotel, this time to the once magnificent ballroom.



The bicomunal audience wait in anticipation

Prior to the event, it was difficult to estimate the numbers who would turn up. The response by the public was so great that the start of the performance was delayed 45 minutes until an audience of over 1,000, the maximum capacity of the ballroom, was settled in. The evening started with opening remarks by the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, who stated that he hoped this would be the first of many such activities and contacts between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. He stated: *"The Open House was an unprecedented success and it showed the interest of both communities to meet each other and get to know each other. I was particularly touched when speaking to many of the parents - Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot - when they told me that their children spoke with some amazement when they noticed that the Greek Cypriots or Turkish Cypriots really didn't look any different from themselves. This is a sad commentary. It underlines the importance of events such as these, and the importance of the two communities rolling up their sleeves and doing these things themselves."*



Savvas Savva

The concert was a pot pourri of musical genius, starting off

with Savvas Savva, a pianist-composer who played his own compositions based on Cypriot folkloric songs. This was followed by Arman Ratip, also a pianist-composer, renowned for his own compositions. The first bicomunal duet of the evening was performed by Turkish Cypriot Beyhan Demirdağ and Greek Cypriot Katie Economidou, accompanied by American pianist, Vic Salvo. The two women sang in harmony songs ranging from the traditional "Amazing Grace" to pieces by Mozart and Bizet.



Arman Ratip



Rüya Taner

Then came the lovely and talented concert pianist, Rüya Taner, who, even though so young, has already gained much international fame. Her performance was followed by Turgay Hilmi, a French horn virtuoso, accompanied by the celebrated pianist, Martino Tirimo. This was the second bicomunal duet of the evening. After Turgay received a bouquet of flowers at the end of the performance, he explained that the man who presented the flowers was his former Greek Cypriot teacher at the English School, Mr Panos Panayi, the man who introduced him to the joys of music and the French horn. Turgay then played an encore in a moving tribute to his teacher, whom he had not seen in over 21 years.

Martino Tirimo followed at the piano. His choice of music included Debussy's "L'Île Joyeuse" (Joyful Island), and his words of hope were applauded. The evening's entertainment ended with Beyhan Demirdağ and Katie Economidou, this time with Katie singing the lullaby "Durnam" in Turkish and Beyhan singing a Theodorakis song entitled "Chrysoprasino Fyllo", a gesture which brought the house down. The duet then sang the finale, John Lennon's "Imagine", the words of which were most fitting for this specific evening of bicomunal get-togetherness. They were accompanied not only by Vic Salvo but by Zbigniew Irzenski who played the saxophone, and UNFICYP Spokesman Charles Gaulkin on the clarinet.



Martino Tirimo



Music UNites

by Mrs Miriam Taylor

Even the intermission on this particular occasion was of note. What was scheduled to be a 15 minute break lasted almost three times as long, with Cypriots who hadn't seen each other for over 20 years meeting up on the second successful UN occasion in only a few days. Everywhere, the feeling of goodwill spilled over, and the difference in the language was no barrier - what couldn't be expressed in words was happily expressed in sign language!



Turgay Hilmi



A warm atmosphere during the intermission

Headlines and Comments in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Press

"Music Crosses the Divide"
Cyprus Mail

"Through their music, the performers gave messages of peace and friendship to the crowds from both communities."

Kıbrıs

"Few imagined just how many people would stream through the North and South gates of the buffer zone into the former ballroom of the UN-controlled building. Politics seemed largely to be pushed aside while the musical emotions of the artists swept the auditorium. There was little, if any, banter over whose territory was whose, just delight among Cypriots in the accomplishments of some of their most talented people."

Cyprus Today

"The Uniting Power of Music"
Cyprus Weekly

"The great number of ordinary people, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot, who attended the bicomunal 'Friendship Concert' organized by UNFICYP proved that the common people of the two communities want to see the Cyprus problem resolved so they may join together and work for peace and progress in all spheres of life for the whole of Cyprus."

Phileleftheros

"Greek and Turkish Cypriots came together to enjoy a performance by artists from both sides, and it was clear from the audience's response to the musicians and to one another that more such 'bicomunal friendship concerts' are greatly desired and would be appreciated by the people of both communities."

Cyprus Weekly



Beyhan Demirdağ and Katie Economidou, hand in hand



The artists at the end of the performance



YES, I AM A PEACE-KEEPER

by Lt (Navy) Eduardo Acosta



Since Argentina commenced sending its troops to peace-keeping operations, I have always wanted to join such a mission. I envied those who wore the blue beret, as I saw this as a good opportunity to become acquainted with the personnel of other armies, a chance to learn about different countries and their cultures. However in the last few days, I think I have discovered the true meaning for being a Blue Beret.



All my own work

On 22 October, I had the opportunity to participate in the organisation of the Open House, when UNFICYP celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations by inviting members of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to gather together in the grounds of the Ledra Palace Hotel and celebrate the occasion. It was really satisfying to see the enthusiasm with which members of all Contingents showed in

preparing for this event - a lot of hard work and effort was required, more than most people realise.



Young artists at work

The big day finally arrived and, even before the opening time of 12 noon, people from both communities started arriving at the Ledra Palace Hotel. I personally witnessed one occasion when two families, who obviously knew each other, met with such enthusiasm - they live on opposite sides of the Buffer Zone, and had not had the opportunity to meet each other for over 20 years. The older members embraced



A divided house - through the eyes of a child

each other warmly, while the younger ones shook hands with the bashfulness of a first encounter.

Apart from the the military band, my Contingent, the Argentinian Contingent, was proud to exhibit five stands. We offered traditional Argentinian delicacies such as empanadas and asado, all of which disappeared in amazingly quick time! We also organised activities for the children, one of which gave them the opportunity to sit down with crayons and paper and draw. At the end of the day, I looked at some of the results produced by the children, and one of these pictures caught my breath. It showed a large house, divided right down the middle, with children playing either side. To me, this drawing indicated the sad realities of life. It showed the thoughts of this child, and how he understands the problems of his country - the house representing a country, a community - divided.

At the end of a very successful day, when most people had already left, I felt tired yet satisfied. I took off my beret and jacket, and sat down to relax a little and meditate on the activities of the day. I then remembered a documentary which I had seen on United Nations activities, accompanied by a beautiful piece of music by John Lennon entitled "Imagine". I suddenly understood the burden of my responsibilities as a Blue Beret. I realised at that moment that I actually represented many countries all over the globe, even more so in the year of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, and that I belonged to a very special team whose main objective was to guarantee peace in the world.

I don't know how much time passed, but suddenly I felt the presence of a woman who approached me with her small son and said: "Excuse me, sir, are you a peace-keeper?" I stood up and, with the same pride I hold as a Marine, I replied: "Yes, madam, I am a peace-keeper".



MPs GOING FOR GOLD



The last weekend of October turned out to be a profitable one for two members of the UN MP Element, with both being presented winning medals for two different sports.

On Saturday 28 October, Sgt Sue Ashton AGC (RMP) SIB played in her first competition for the local Hockey Club in Nicosia, the "Tramps", at the English School, taking on teams both civilian and military from all over Cyprus. The medal turned out to be an added bonus for Sue, as she hadn't expected to play for the first team, but she proved her worth in midfield in the 'A' Squad as they did not lose a game throughout the tournament. Also playing in the team were WO2 (RQMS) Harry Harrison and Sgt Steve Somerville, BRITCON.

Sue was later heard saying she used muscles she didn't know she had and now wished she hadn't, due to the pain! Sue is a former Warwickshire county hockey player, and has represented the Women's Army (Cyprus) Team.



Sue Ashton (kneeling, left) with other members of the "Tramps"



On Sunday 29 October, Sgt Simon Arbuckle (left) shot for the first time in the Ayios Nikolaos Clay Pigeon Club monthly medal competition at Ayios Nikolaos.

This consisted of two different styles of

clay pigeon shooting, both scoring 25. The first was down the line (DTL), where two shots are allowed at each clay pigeon. The second, Style Compact Sporting, varied on whether two clays were thrown or one. The result was extremely close, with Simon and his nearest rival both on 46 or 50. On count back on the DTL, it was found that Simon had hit 4 clays with his second shot, and his rival had hit 5.

The rival is now regretting taking Simon's membership fees, as he only joined that morning!

FLYING IN CYPRUS

When I first arrived in Cyprus in 1993, I was quite astonished to find that flying civilian planes was so restricted and that the procedures to file flight plans and to obtain airport passes for both pilots and passengers, even for domestic flights, was rather complicated and prolonged. But one has to understand that, due to the situation here in Cyprus, it could be dangerous if someone deviated from their planned route.

Still, the southern part of Cyprus offers many possibilities and challenges for pleasure flights and flight training. The distance between Larnaca and Paphos Airports can be flown in 45 minutes by a Cessna 172 (see right). One scenic route is a cross country flight starting from Larnaca via Limassol - Paphos - Polis - Ayia Marina - Troodos range and back to Larnaca.

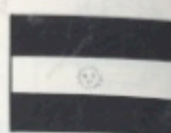
Flying is usually expensive, especially in middle European countries. However, Cyprus is one place where you can get reasonable prices compared to Austria and Britain. The private pilot's licence obtained in Cyprus is based on British and American standards.



For all who want to discover Cyprus from another view or possibly even learn to fly, contact UN Military Police WO2 Lechner or MSgt Hartl for further information.



THE RESERVES EXERCISE IN SECTOR ONE



On 20 September 1995, Sector One's Reserves took part in an inter-sector competition. The exercise consisted of an inspection of teams (top right), a cartography test (bottom right), a 10km trot with equipment (top left) and a shooting competition (bottom left).



At the end of the day, the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Garay, thanked Operations Branch for organising the event, and congratulated all participants for the effort and enthusiasm shown during the exercise. He also expressed his satisfaction at the results, which indicate a marked improvement in the level of reserves training.



FRENCH DEFENCE ADVISER VISITS SECTOR ONE

As part of his visit to UNFICYP, the French Defence Adviser from Damascus, Syria, Col Roignan, was in Sector One on 28 September 1995. He was accompanied by Capt Migliavaca (Duty Officer from the JOC), and was received in San Martin Camp by the 2ic, Lt Col Oneto, and staff members.

After a general briefing on the Sector, Col Roignan was taken on a line tour of Alfa Coy's area, ending in a lunch in Kokkina, attended also by the Force Commander, CO Sector One and the OP personnel.



Col Roignan being briefed by Lt Col Oneto

MARCHING WITH THE FORCE COMMANDER

Last September, the Force Commander, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, made a visit to Sector One. As is his custom, the General participated in a march along Sector One's trails in order to familiarize himself with areas where there have been recent incidents. He was accompanied by the Commanding Officer, staff members and company personnel from the Sector.

At the end of the march, the General sat down to lunch with Sector One soldiers and then went diving off Kokkina Beach.



Brig Gen Vartiainen leading the marchers through the BZ



2ND IRCIVPOL CONTINGENT

Shown right is the 2nd Irish Civilian Police Contingent, which arrived in Cyprus on 30 October 1994. The members are pictured having just received their UN service medals.

The occasion on 8 June 1994 was a special one, because it was the first time that the two CIVPOL Contingents had hosted a joint Medal Parade. In total, 35 members were presented with medals, 20 Australian and 15 Irish. The IRCIVPOL Contingent have now sadly almost concluded their 12-month tour of duty, and will leave the island during November.

All members leave behind a lot of happy memories of Cyprus, and a whole host of new friends. We wish the new Contingent good luck and a happy and rewarding tour.



ARGENTINIAN MUSIC ON THE AIR

From last September, the radio programme "Eco Latino" (meaning Latin Echo) is on the air. Running it are SSgt Carlos Curbello, SSgt Julio Isla, and Misses Agustina and Maria Garay, the daughters of CO Sector One, Lt Col Garay.

Transmission is carried out on 106.3 FM "Blue Star 2" as follows: Monday to Friday 13:00-14:00 hours, and Saturday 13:00-15:00 hours. The station is located in Astromeritis, and Sector One personnel are grateful for the opportunity given to the Argentinian soldiers who now receive both on the line and in the Camps the news, messages and music in Spanish. In fact, one good outcome of this exceptional idea is that many local citizens have telephoned through to "Eco Latino" to express their appreciation for the programme and the service it provides.



From the left: SSgt Isla, Miss Agustina Garay, SSgt Curbello and Miss Maria Garay

"MARATONISTAS"

Last September, personnel from Sector One participated in two marathons organised by sporting institutions in different locations on the island. One was the "Pharmakas" 7 km marathon (bottom left), run on mountain roads in which members of ARGCON gained second (SSgt Eliseo Genesini), third (SSgt Carlos Curbello) and fifth (Lt Gustavo Chimeno) places.



Running up mountain roads



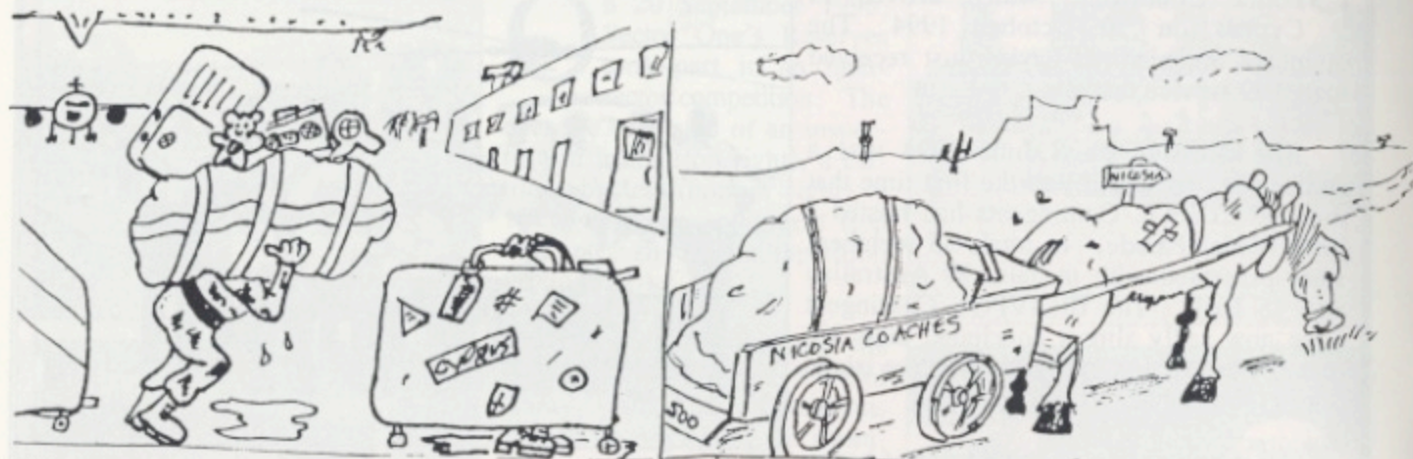
..... and in the streets of Nicosia

The second was the International 5 km Run, which took part in the streets of Nicosia (see right). Here, ARGCON personnel took second (SSgt Genesini) and sixth (SSgt Curbello) positions.



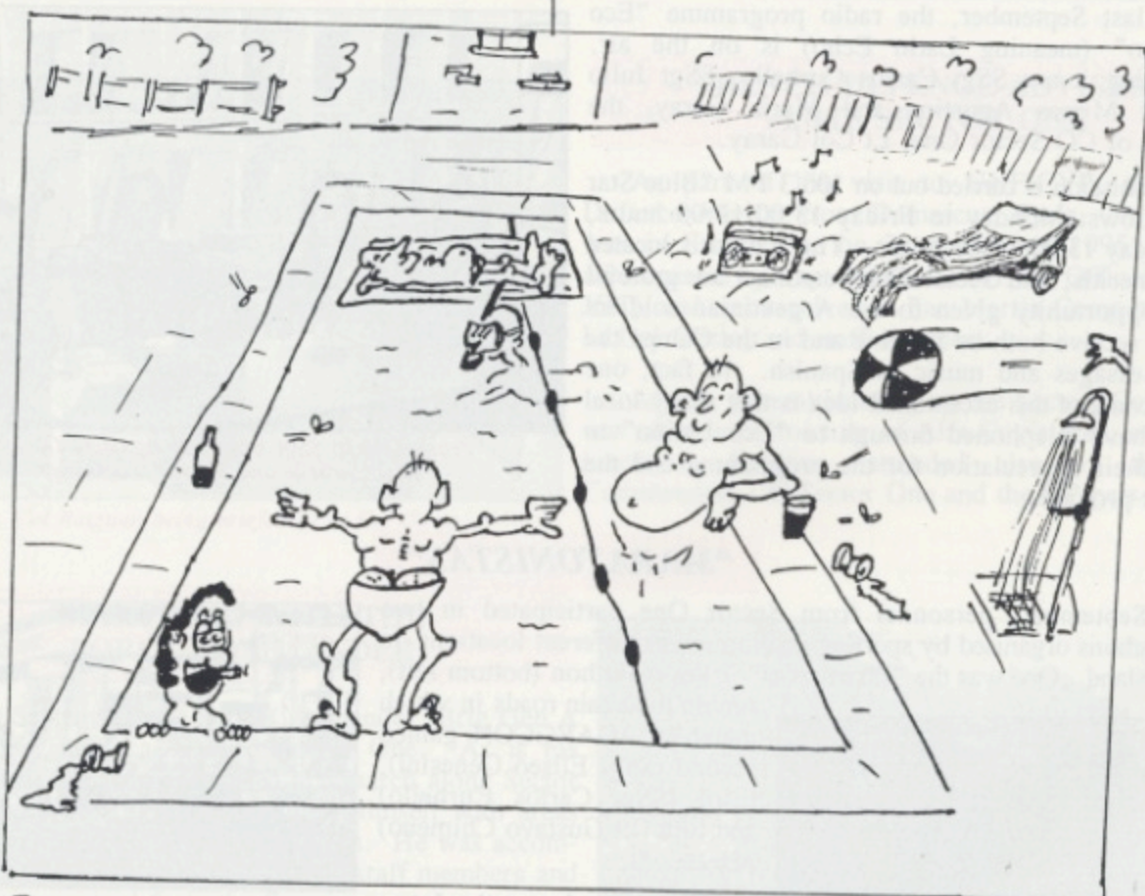
PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE PLATOON

Sketches by Gunner Michael Holdsworth



ARRIVAL IN CYPRUS. SELF HELP SYSTEM
RAF MOVEMENTS PERSONNEL NOT AVAILABLE,
STILL HAVING BREAKFAST IN THEIR 5 STAR
HOTEL ACCOMODATION!

TIMES ARE HARD IN UNFICYP.
FUNDING FOR THE PERMANENT FORCE
RESERVE (PFR) VEHICLES AS USUAL
A HIGH PRIORITY!!



3 MONTHS INTO THE TOUR AND THE PFR HAVE SETTLED INTO
A HARD WORKING ROUTINE. LITTLE TIME FOR RECREATION, THE
CLOSEST BEING 20TH LIFEGUARD FOR 29 COMMANDO REGIMENT
PERSONNEL ENJOYING THE UNPA FACILITIES!!



THE AUSTRIAN MEDAL PARADE

by Capt S Perr

On 25 October 1995, 162 members of the Austrian Contingent on their first tour with UNFICYP received their UN medals "in the service of peace" in the ancient amphitheatre of Salamis. This location provided a worthy setting for events such as this, in particular after sunset with torchlights illuminating the glorious surroundings and the wild nature of ancient Salamis.



Marching on the colours

In the presence of the CM, Mr Feissel, the FC, Brig Gen Vartiainen, the COS, Col Powell, and the CO Sector Four, Lt Col Eder, presented the medals. Among the recipients were John Ekemezie Okoro, the Austro-African priest, and Sylvia Szegedi, AUSCON's doctor. Sylvia was the very first woman to receive an UNFICYP medal in Sector Four.



The Alpine Band from the Tyrol

On this particular occasion, the Austrians were able to organise the participation of an original Austrian Alpine band from the Tyrol (Matrei). Their music was excellent, and the personnel from Sector Four were proud to be able to demonstrate to all nationalities present a part of Austrian culture so far away from home. It appeared that the audience liked the Austrian marches and also the "Zapfenstreich", a trumpet solo, announcing in former times the signal for recruits to present themselves in the barracks before midnight.



Sector Four's Medal Parade in Salamis Amphitheatre

Following the parade, an equally attractive location was selected for the reception - the famous Othello Tower, part of the Venetian walls of Famagusta, where more than 350 Austrian soldiers and their guests



The reception at the Othello Tower

celebrated the Medal Parade with an excellent buffet, and, of course, music and dancing. AUSCON wish to thank the authorities in Famagusta who undoubtedly helped to make this event a success.



Austrian chefs presenting their creations!



November 1995

The Blue Beret

16



AUSCON'S MEDAL PARADE: 25 OCTOBER 1995



AUSCON's Medal Parade on 25 October in the ancient Salamis Amphitheatre with music from the Austrian Alpine Band from the Tyrol giving the event a special solemn atmosphere