

# Blue Beret

November/December 1998





## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION

Christmas is a happy season and a time of tolerance and goodwill. Through understanding and respect for others, tension is reduced and the necessary conditions to settle disputes peacefully are created.

We in UNFICYP come from a wide range of countries and often have widely different backgrounds, but we are united in the common service of peace.

Soon we shall also have a New Year upon us, the last year of this century. This will be an industrious year, full of hopes and challenges.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wholehearted contribution to the maintenance of peace on this troubled island. Your efforts have not been in vain, as is evident by the fact that we are celebrating a year passed in a relatively calm environment. We have kept the peace, and we shall continue in our endeavours to make this part of the world a permanently tranquil place for all its people. Then we can go home.

My good wishes to you and your families - wherever they are - over the festive season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to you all.

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The Blue Beret is the 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.

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#### FRONT COVER:

## CHRISTMAS IN UNFICYP

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
CPL DAMIAN FAULKNER

## The Blue Beret



Dear Readers,

Christmas is once again upon us and the old year begins to fade. It is the time of remembering friends, new and old. It is also the time of giving, but all too often, we measure our gifts - we give to those from whom we expect to receive; we give out of obligation; we give gifts, sometimes expensive, but rarely needed. However, when giving is filled with love, the season becomes the happiest time of year.

The New Year is often a time to look both backwards and forwards, and whilst ruminating on what the coming year may hold, we must endeavour to continue our quest for peace, a venture which everyone in UNFICYP is dedicated to.

Much has happened in the past year, notably the changes in the hierarchy, including the arrival of the new Chief of Mission, the new Chief Administrative Officer and the enrichment of the multinational force with a new unit from the Netherlands.

This will be the last issue of the Blue Beret in its present form. It has kept its readers regularly informed of all major activities taking place within UNFICYP ever since its formation back in 1964 and it will continue to do so. However, changes have continually been taking place, and these, coupled with the need for more frequent dissemination of information, have resulted in the transformation of the Blue Beret to a new and less formal shape. It started life as a weekly newspaper, and in 1999, we are going to return to that format. It hardly needs to be said that it will continue to follow the guidelines which have for so long provided our readers with reliable and objective information of current events in UNFICYP.

The editorial staff of the Blue Beret would like to wish season's greetings to you all. May our relationship continue throughout a healthy and happy new year.

*Groeten van UNFICYP  
Greetings from UNFICYP  
Beannachtaí ó UNFICYP  
Herzliche Grüße von UNFICYP  
Üdvözlet az UNFICYP - ból  
Z najlepšimi pozdravi UNFICYP  
Muchas Felicidades de UNFICYP  
B.M. Barışgücü'nden en iyi dileklerle*



## THE ARGCON MEDAL PARADE

On 16 and 23 October 1998, two medal parades took place in Sector One's area of responsibility. After four months in the service of peace, members of Argentina's Task Force 11 were presented with their UN medal for their commendable work in Cyprus.



*The Chief of Mission sets free a white dove at the San Martin Camp Medal Parade*

The first medal parade was held in General San Martin Camp, Skouriotissa, and the second one took place inside the famous ruins of Soli. The two ceremonies had similar programmes and, fortunately, the weather was favourable on both occasions.

At the ceremony in Gen San Martin Camp, the Ambassador of the Brazilian Republic based in Israel, HE Pedro Paulo Assumpcao, decorated the Argentine flag with the medal of "Military Merit".

The Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, then expressed her gratitude to the troops for their peace-keeping efforts and for their commitment, hard work and devotion to duty in the mission. The Commanding Officer Sector One, Lt Col Hector Lopez Parravicini, then presented Dame Ann with a dove, the international symbol of peace, which the



*The Chief of Mission inspecting the troops at Gen San Martin Camp*

Chief of Mission set free, much to the surprise and delight of all those present.



*Medal Parade in Soli Ruins*

Both ceremonies at Gen San Martin Camp and Soli were followed by a display of traditional dances, and all visitors and peace-keepers were then offered typical Argentinian delicacies.



*Decoration of the Argentine flag with the medal of "Military Merit"*

## UNFICYP'S FORCE MILITARY POLICE UNIT (FMPU)

Effective 7 December 1998, the United Nations Military Police Element was retitled the "Force Military Police Unit (FMPU)".

In the July/August issue of **THE BLUE BERET**, the former UNFICYP Military Police Element gave readers the latest update on the formation of the Unit with the arrival of personnel from Holland. Since then, another contingent has joined the Unit. Shortly after the arrival of the Dutch Marechaussee, a Slovenian Military Policeman joined the staff, which now consists of seven different nationalities and makes it a really international Unit. It is time now to remind everyone of the tasks carried out by the MP patrols on a day-to-day basis.

MP patrols are conducted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are three shifts, each consisting of four/five members. During a shift block, the taskings include traffic control, traffic checks, VIP escorts, discipline related tasks and security patrols of all UN installations.

One of the major tasks an MP patrol crew carries out is Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) investigations involving UNFICYP vehicles and those of civilian vehicles belonging to off-duty personnel.

Since the beginning of this year, the FMPU have investigated 137 accidents with 11 injuries, none of them fatal. To compare the figures with those of 1997, when the FMPU investigated 179 RTAs with 20 injuries, none fatal, the accident rate has dropped by 23.5% and the injury rate by almost 50%. These figures speak a clear language. They express the efficiency of the MP patrols carried out throughout the year, and the efforts in driver education at contingent level.

In the coming year, the FMPU will be carrying out more traffic checks in an attempt to reduce speed-related offences and traffic accidents, so

**DRIVE SAFELY AND CAREFULLY**

## MP DETACHMENT - DHERINIA

Over the past few years, it has been difficult for members of UNFICYP to find the Military Police Detachment at Dherinia, since it used to be located on the second floor of an apartment complex. As time went by, the flat, which was used as the Military Police Station and also as accommodation for the MPs posted there, proved to be too small. In early February, it was accepted that a new building was necessary to meet the demands of running an efficient and effective police station.

Some weeks later, the perfect site was found. Once the Force Provost Marshal was confident that this was the answer to the military police requirements, the administrative process between the United Nations and the Cyprus Government began. Finally, on 1st October 1998, the new UN MP station in Dherinia became operational - was this the reason that 1st October was declared an UNFICYP holiday?!

The MPs' area of responsibility (AOR) covers a large part of the island, stretching from the north eastern tip of the Karpas



peninsula, including Larnaca, as far west as the village of Athienou, and the MPs patrol the whole area as well as along the patrol tracks.

As shown above, the new station is a vast improvement on the previous accommodation. It is situated on the main road from Ayia Napa to Dherinia, and is sign-posted from all directions. The address is 85 Omonias Street, Dherinia, and the contact number for any member of UNFICYP seeking help is:

**(03) 829210, fax (03) 829486.**



## CIVILIAN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN SECTOR FOUR MEDICS SAVE LIFE

Wednesday 14 October 1998 was a day like many others for the medical team at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta - disinfecting wounds, prescribing medicine and the never-ending routine paperwork. Then at 16:15 hours, a the Camp guard telephoned the Medical Centre with the news that, very near to the Camp gate, a critical traffic accident had taken place.

The Sector Four Medical Centre administers first aid to everyone, military and civilians alike, so a medical team was immediately despatched to the scene of the accident.

Although the medics had not long been on the island, there are no longer any "pinkies", since these soldiers have already served in UN and NATO missions on the Golan Heights in Syria and in Bosnia.

WO I Zierlinger and Cpl Grieshofer described the scene: "A car, which had obviously been speeding, crashed into a tree. The front was totally crushed, and the driver was still trapped behind the steering wheel. The teamwork of the Turkish Cypriots to bend open the door of the vehicle and rescue the victim was great."

The Austrian medics went straight into action. Severe wounds were obvious, with heavy bleeding to the chin, multiple fractures of the thigh bone,



WOII Baldauf, Cpl Grieshofer and WO I Zierlinger contusions on the upper body that indicated several broken ribs as well as internal injuries. The father of the heavily injured man arrived at the scene and fainted. He, too, had to be administered first aid.

After 15 minutes, the Cypriot ambulance arrived on the spot and transferred the man to the local hospital. The following day, he was flown to an intensive care unit in Turkey.

This case clearly shows that qualified medical support in a mission is vital, and that immediate treatment of the injured - whoever they may be - greatly increases their chances of survival.

## DR URSULA STENZEL VISITS SECTOR FOUR

On 31 October 1998, the Austrian representative to the European parliament, Dr Ursula Stenzel, visited Sector Four. Given the current negotiations concerning Cyprus' accession to the EU, the Austrian representative found it both useful and logical to see for herself the problems faced by the soldiers of the multinational battalion based in the east of the island.

In the morning, she was presented with a briefing on the current situation by the Battalion Commander, Lt Col H Hufler, where, among other issues, the differences and recurring problems between the two communities were discussed. Following this, Dr Stenzel was conducted on a line tour, led by Maj J Pulko, and was given the opportunity to speak directly with a number of soldiers on duty in the Buffer Zone.

Her final stop was in Pyla, the small village in the Buffer Zone where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live side by side.



From the left: Lt Col H Hufler, Dr U Stenzel and Maj J Pulko

Dr Stenzel expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to visit the Austrian soldiers on duty in UNFICYP, and said that the impressions she had gained would be very valuable in her undertakings with the European parliament.

## PILGRIMAGE TO APOSTOLOS ANDREAS

One of the last major tasks of the Humanitarian Branch before handing over to the new Civil Affairs Branch took place on 30 November 1998. Another pilgrimage to the monastery at Apostolos Andreas, located at the tip of the Karpas peninsula, took

place with just under 1,500 Greek Cypriot pilgrims visiting the shrine. This number includes many who travelled from as far away as Australia, the UK and other locations.

39 coaches transported the pilgrims to and from the monastery, starting at the south Ledra check-point well before 7:00 am and arriving back at the same location after 8:00 pm. The coaches stopped at Boghaz for a rest, both on the outward and return journeys, making the trip a lot more pleasant for the pilgrims, especially the elderly.

From UNFICYP's point of view, the whole event went according to plan, and was an organisational success. Pilgrimages in the future will be organised by Civil Affairs.



A few minutes before the departure of the pilgrims, the former CHO, Lt Col E Cundins (centre), met with the two organisers responsible for the coordination of the whole event: Dr T Christopoulos (left) and Mr Azim Altioik, in the Conference Room at the Ledra Palace, Sector Two

## CANCON MEDAL PARADE

On 2 December 1998, the Canadian Contingent held a Medal Presentation at the International Mess on the UNPA, Nicosia.

During a brief ceremony, all members of the three-person contingent were presented with their UN medals by the Force Commander, Maj General EA de Vergara. Receiving their medals were Capt R Cooper (Contingent Commander), Capt E Pellicano and Sgt P Hodgins. The event was attended by many UNFICYP personnel, with Dame Ann Hercus, the Chief of Mission, as guest of honour.

Prior to the presentation, the Force Commander commented that the Canadian Contingent has been serving with UNFICYP since its inception in 1964, and that over 35,000 Canadian soldiers have completed peace-keeping tours on the island, with 28 of them losing their lives in the service of peace.

Following the presentation, the Contingent



The three contingent members with their wives, from the left: Susan Cooper, Capt Rob Cooper, Angela Pellicano, Capt Eric Pellicano, Carmen Hodgins and Sgt Paul Hodgins

Commander made a point of emphasizing the contribution made by the wives and families of contingent members, whom he publicly thanked for their support.



## DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE "BLUEY"

The "Bluey" is a familiar aspect of service for all British soldiers. It is the standard, pale blue, three-fold, airmail letter form that has been sent between British soldiers and their families and friends during tours of duty in the Gulf, Bosnia, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and on many other operations.

So important is its role in their lives that one regiment returning from Cyprus had a silver "Bluey" made as a centrepiece for their Officers' Mess to commemorate their tour. This poem, by Jean Booth, reflects the place of the "Bluey" in so many of our lives.

### NO BLUEY TODAY

No Bluey today, whatever can I write?  
Tell you about the rain, or the kids' fight?  
My day is full of work, the shops and what's for tea,  
But when the day is over, no sleep is there for me.  
My mind is in a turmoil, did I lock the door?  
No good to lie and worry but I have to check once more.  
I think I'll get a coffee while I'm out of bed;  
Should I check the car now, what was that you said?  
Now the wind is blowing, the door shakes in its jamb;  
The phone begins to ring, it's probably your Mam.  
I tell her that you're fine, as are the kids all three;  
Why is it that no-one asks about me?  
Maybe it's the smile I wear upon my face,  
My tears are kept in check, they surely know their place.  
I really need some sleep now, tomorrow's nearly here;  
I'll have to keep the light on, although there's nowt to fear.

The alarm is so shrill, the kids are noisy too;  
Breakfast is all over and still no news from you.  
I walk home from the school and my heart, it feels like lead;  
Don't you really love me, is it something that I said?  
My neighbour there is smiling, a Bluey in her hand;  
Why it's her and not me, I cannot understand.  
Another day slow passes, then letters galore;  
Two come in the morning, the afternoon brings four!  
Thank you my darling, you brighten up my day.  
I love and I miss you, what more can I say?  
To conclude my story, there's one thing that's true,  
Happiness is a Bluey, from You.

Jean Booth

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*One must be poor to know the luxury of giving.*

George Eliot  
(British novelist)

*I know what I have given you. I do not know what you have received.*

Antonio Porchia  
(Italian writer)

*Presents, believe me, seduce both gods and men.*

Ovid  
(Roman poet)

*Nobody shoots at Santa Claus.*

Governor Al Smith  
(American politician)

*To give and then not feel that one has given is the very best of all ways of giving.*

Max Beerbohm  
(British caricaturist and writer)

*The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than its value.*

Charles Dudley Warner  
(American writer)

*A gift, with a kind countenance, is a double present.*

Thomas Fuller  
(British historian)

*Never look a gift horse in the mouth.*

(Proverb)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE - AUSTCIVPOL

A memorial service in memory of Australian Police Officer Sergeant Ian Donald Ward (New South Wales Police), was held on November 12, 1998 by AUSTCIVPOL Commander Barry Carpenter APM and members of the Australian Civilian Police Contingent UNFICYP.

Sergeant Ward, aged 25 years, had been in Cyprus for only five days. He was tragically killed at about 1045 hours on November 12, 1974 by a landmine on the Lefka Road in the vicinity of where a memorial in Sergeant Ward's memory now stands. Stationed at Paphos, Sergeant Ward, in company with Sergeant Woolcott (AUSTCIVPOL), were conducting an authorised transfer of a Turkish Cypriot man and his four children from Ayios Nikolaos to Lefka in an AUSTCIVPOL Landrover.

The vehicle transporting Sergeant Ward and his company was travelling along a bitumen road towards Lefka village when it detonated a landmine, killing Sergeant Ward and severely injuring the Turkish Cypriot man. The Turkish Cypriot died from his injuries the following day.

The memorial service was conducted by Padre Richard Dunstan-Meadows and Padre Bert Hes, Sector Two Chaplains, with the Lament played on



Laying the wreath of remembrance  
by Sgt Christine Radley

bagpipes by Lieutenant Martin Kemp RA, 19 Regt. A tribute and laying of a wreath of remembrance was conducted by Sergeant Christine Radley (AUSTCIVPOL), with members of the Argentinian Contingent also in attendance to pay their respects to a fellow peacekeeper killed in the service of peace.

## THE FAMAGUSTA OLD CITY RUN

On 14 November 1998, the *Famagusta Old City Run*, organized by the multinational battalion of Sector Four, took place.

The weather conditions on the day were perfect. The distance of the run along the historical wall, around the old city of Famagusta, was about 10.5 km. 70 participants took part on this traditional event. Lt Col Hufler, Commanding Officer of Sector Four, was able to welcome runners from all sectors of UNFICYP, as well as representatives from the German Embassy, the US Embassy and last, but not least, participants from the

northern part of Cyprus. It was a great honour for Sector Four that Col Christopher Coats, COS UNFICYP, took part on this run.

The overall winner was a runner from north Nicosia with a time of 35:55 min. Most of the participants managed to reach the finish line within 50:00 min. This is an indication of the very good shape the UNFICYP soldiers are in.

The food, goulash soup and a barbecue, was provided by the Austrian kitchen, the "Hilton" of Camp Duke Leopold. The event was concluded by a prize-giving ceremony conducted by Col Coats and Lt Col Hufler.



Mrs Angela Pellicano (right) and  
Mrs Andrea Kettler, the female  
participants and winners

This successful event has deepened the excellent relationships between Sector Four and all those involved.



## 47th REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY DEPLOY TO SECTOR TWO

**47TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY** "The Hampshire and Sussex Gunners" deployed from its home in Thorney Island, Hampshire, to Sector Two of the 'Green Line'. Under the command of Lt Col Ian Tinsley RA, the Regiment reconfigured from its normal Air Defence orbat to the new UNFICYP orbat of one HQ battery, two line batteries and a contribution to the Mobile Force Reserve.

The Regiment's December deployment to Cyprus has come at the end of a busy year. 1998 has taken members of the Regiment on exercise and operations to Canada, America, Germany, Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

The future is equally busy for the Regiment. Shortly after its return from Cyprus, it will gain another battery as part of the UK's Strategic Defence Review and convert from the Javelin weapon system to the new High Velocity Missile.

The Regiment is a direct descendant of the 4th Coast Training Regiment and assumed the number 47 in 1947. In the 52 years since then, the Regiment has had a variety of equipments and locations ranging from the Corporal Guided Missile, the 105mm Pack Howitzer, the 105mm Abbot and the FH70 from 1989. In 1993, the Regiment completely retooled as an Air Defence Regiment, equipped with Javelin.

The Regiment's homes have been equally diverse, including Dortmund and Gutersloh in Germany. More temporary operational homes have included Aden, the Oman, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong and the Gulf. The Regiment's most recent operational tour was to Northern Ireland in 1997.

For the UNFICYP tour, the Regiment were delighted to welcome 10 officers and 90 soldiers from C (Tiger) Company of the 11th Airmobile Infantry Battalion, Royal Nether-



*47 Regt will re-equip with the HVM air defence system on completion of the UNFICYP tour*

lands Army. They are a Forester company from a mixed Forester/Grenadiers unit. They are part of 11 Airmobile Brigade from the Multinational Division. The Dutch Company have been fully integrated into the Regiment, fulfilling a variety of roles within the line troops and the Civil Affairs Team. Their Company Commander, Capt Peter Hageman, is employed as the Sector Ops Info Officer.

The Regiment also brings with it a detachment of Queen's Gurkha Engineers from 36 Engineer Regiment in Maidstone, Kent. The Gurkhas support 5 Airborne Brigade and further enhance the multinational composition of 47th Regiment.

The Regiment has three equipment Batteries and one Headquarters Battery. 31 (HQ) Battery, under command of Major Rob Ware, who would normally form the command and logistic element of the Regiment, now fill posts in teams such as Sector Civil Affairs and Continuation Training. 31 (HQ) Battery was formed in 1755 and joined 47th Regiment in 1965.

10 (Assaye) Battery has deployed to become part of the multinational Mobile Force Reserve. The Battery's title 'Assaye' was won at the battle of Assaye on 23 September 1803. The Battery joined 47th Regiment in 1993.

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL IAN TINSLEY RA

Lt Col IAN TINSLEY was born in 1959 in Hanover, Germany, into a service family. He was educated at the Duke of York's Royal Military School and Manchester University where he gained a degree in Economics. He was employed in that latter field by Barclays International in London for one year before deciding to join the Army.

He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in January 1982, joining 40th Regiment in Colchester. He served in Belize, Norway and Hong Kong before taking part in the arms plot to Hohn, thereafter spending a further year in Germany. This included two tours at the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada as a Forward Observation Officer. He then joined 105th Regiment in Edinburgh as Adjutant, and followed this by commanding HQ Battery in 27th Regiment Topcliffe, North Yorkshire. He attended Division 2 of the Army Command and Staff Course in 1990-91.

Lt Col Tinsley's 'Black Bag' appointment was as a member of Directing Staff at the Junior Division of the Staff College based in Warminster. During the final six months there, he led a training

team to Uganda. From 1994-95, he commanded 10 Battery in 47th Regiment at Thorney Island in the south of England, taking the Battery on a six-month tour of Northern Ireland. From there he took up a Grade 2 staff job in the Royal Artillery Personnel Branch, part of the Ministry of Defence in Stanmore and, a little later, in Glasgow.

He was promoted in 1997 and appointed Commanding Officer 47 Regt in June 1998.

In his youth, he represented the Gunners at rugby, but now supports from a safe distance! He remains a keen runner, skier and dinghy sailor, likes a decent game of squash and dabbles at fly fishing.

Lt Col Tinsley is married to Vicky, a midwife who runs the maternity services for a National Health Service Trust in Wiltshire.



21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery has taken on the responsibility of Sector Two West. It was raised in February 1758, and earned its Battery title in Gibraltar.

In 1976, the Battery re-equipped as an air defence Battery. They are reinforced by a Dutch troop who are stationed at the Falcon Troop location.

43 Battery (Lloyds Company) has taken on the responsibility of Sector Two East, which includes the Ledra Palace Hotel. Raised in 1808, the Battery was commanded by Capt Lloyd at the Battle of Waterloo. The Battery converted to air defence with the Blowpipe system in 1977. 43 Battery have also deployed



*Members of 11 Airmobile Battalion RNLA, escorts to the Queen's Coach (Sep 98)*

with a mixed Anglo-Dutch orbat with one complete Dutch troop manning the line at Liri Troop.



## THE UNFICYP WAREHOUSE

On your way to the Nicosia International Airport, located on the south-western part of the UNPA, you will find the Supply Unit at the UNFICYP Warehouse - a small but important "outstation".

The Supply Unit consists of six staff, headed by the Supply Officer with two Greek Cypriots and three Turkish Cypriots. This is a considerable reduction in staff from the days when the operation was run by the British Support Regiment's Supply Detachment (Sup Det). However, in 1994, it was decided to transfer the supply functions from the Sup Det to the UN civilian administration. This move also led to the discontinuation of drawing supplies through the British Forces, and UNFICYP was faced with the more cumbersome and time-consuming procurement actions from the domestic market.

At long last, this outstation has now been linked to the rest of the UNFICYP world. The EDP Unit has installed a new microwave dish which has connected us to the Reality and Lotus computer programmes, in addition to e-mail and Internet facilities, which are of great advantage to both this unit and related offices.

Apart from food, the Warehouse holds almost everything needed to support the Mission on a daily basis. Supplies range from pins and needles to stationery, cleaning materials, furniture, defence stores, etc. In addition, we also run different loan pools supplying crockery/chairs for large functions such as Medal Parades and other official events.

The way to obtain items from the Warehouse is relatively simple. As a matter of routine, we have issues every month for items such as stationery, batteries and cleaning materials. The figures for these issues are based on statistics, and should normally be sufficient to cover each period. These items are issued to the Sector Quartermasters and to a number of smaller

units who, in turn, make a further distribution to the end user. So please, check with your logistics representative before storming the Warehouse with requests, otherwise the chances of returning empty-handed are quite high. As for the offices at Headquarters, please refer to Camp Administration in order to obtain any of the above materials.

For all other items, the way forward is simply to fill in a requisition (UN 900) form, signed by an authorized person, have it approved (for military units by CPLO/FOWO and for civilian offices by CGS/Section Chiefs) and bring it here. The Warehouse personnel are more than happy to help out.

There are invariably small "twists in the tail" with items which are "non-stockable", i.e. not "fast-moving". In certain cases, a different method of obtaining such items through procurement takes place - this may also take more time, so you have to be patient when this happens. In order to keep meticulous control, we conduct bi-monthly statistics and stock checks of all stores which enables us to ascertain that no one is forgotten.

The atmosphere in the Supply Unit is excellent with Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots working side-by-side in harmony. For those of you who have not found our whereabouts, look out for new road signs.



## COAST TO COAST

In total, 23 metres of tape, 62 blister needles and two second layers of skin were needed to maintain the feet of the four soldiers of the Mobile Force Reserve. They also needed 150 litres of water for their foot patrol from Kokkina's OP 01, all along the Buffer Zone track to Baywatch's OP 146. In total, they raised £1,000 for their charity fund, "Cancer Research".

The two British Lance Bombardiers, Jeff Brown and Digger Gardiner, walked side by side with the Dutch, Sergeant Rene Seelen and Grenadier Pim Hoevenaars. After a good breakfast and strong coffee, they started with their very long patrol. They walked 42 km the first day along the difficult tracks of Sector One, up as far as OP 17, and they found the hospitality of all troops in Sector One to be outstanding.

The second day, after a good bed and breakfast in Camp San Martin, the patrol started again for this day's target, Camp Brown. By this time, Jeff's feet were bleeding and the supporting medical Sergeant, Patrick van Bavel, ordered him to stop. Sergeant Frank Mulder took over for this day and walked with the others to Camp Brown. The soldiers thought that the worst part of the 208 km patrol was behind them....WRONG!! Later they would experience the long, dusty tracks of Sector Four. By the end of day 2, they had walked 84 km.

On the third day, Jeff was still not able to start with the others at Camp Brown. While Jeff and Patrick consulted the LPH doctor, the patrol walked along the never-ending ups and downs of C Coy (the Marines) area.

At this stage, a Kokkina dog called Perro joined the patrol. Later, Perro found a female dog called Perra. Perro was subsequently picked up by his legal owners, while Perra liked to walk with the four tireless MFR soldiers. The Patrol entered Sector Two at Bengal area. Jeff's feet were



*Mission accomplished*

recovering with special medical treatment and he joined the patrol again. After lunch they walked on to Falcon Troop with the CO, RSM and the Quartermaster of Sector Two. The third day finished at Paphos Gate after 123 km. By this time, Perra had gone her own way.

The fourth day went smoothly with the patrol crossing Sector Two very quickly - after all, it was the shortest one! After a good lunch provided by Liri Troop, the patrol entered the long tracks and wide fields of Sector Four. Their platoon commander, 1/Lt Heister, checked the progress during an airmobile patrol with the UN helicopter. He reported feeling very proud that four soldiers of his platoon were doing this charity activity. After long (and hot) hours of more walking, they marked 164 km at OP 98. The hospitality of the Hungarians in this part of the Sector was also very good.

The fifth day - and the worst - arrived. The patrol was tired after the first 20 km. They were quietly wrestling with their aches and pains, with their blistered feet and tired legs. They walked past Camp Izay and finally past Camp Pyla, stopping at the beginning of the Dhekelia SBA. At the end of this day, a total 196 km had been covered.

The sixth and last day was the easiest and started at Ayios Nicolaos. At the end of the last 12 km of Buffer Zone track, the patrol was hosted by the troop of Capt Karas. Fruit, food and squash was provided to the exhausted but happy patrol. Finally they reached their goal - OP 146. After a warm welcome by several colleagues, the patrol jumped into the sea for a victory dive. These soldiers were proud to finish this tough challenge; they were proud of their personal reasons for walking the 208 km through UNFICYP's Buffer Zone to raise money for cancer research.

On behalf of the COAST TO COAST PATROL - thank you all for your support.



*100 km down, 108 km to go!!*



## CASUALTY EVACUATION

During a meeting between the UNFICYP Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, and the Force Medical Officer, Lt Col M Enk, an idea transpired. Due to the possible requirement to supply armoured vehicles equipped to evacuate injured personnel in an emergency, it was decided to provide the TACTICA Combat Vehicles with a tailor-made kit which enables them to be transformed in a matter of minutes to an armoured vehicle, ready for casualty rescue from the battlefield, minefields, scenes of violent demonstrations, etc.

This kit essentially comprises a foldable stretcher, the handle bars to install it into the vehicle, an extra flag pole for the Red Cross Flag, Red Cross stickers for the sides and roof of the vehicle, intravenous hydration solution bottle holders and an emergency case. In this way, a safe and comfortable medium is on hand to evacuate one stretcher and two seated patients, assisted by a medical doctor and a nurse.



The transformed TACTICA (right) on a MEDEVAC exercise

All personnel within the Mechanised Section of the MFR, under their leader, Lt Dingo Cabrera Rosas, worked together to develop this project. They also received the support of the FOWO, the UNPA Medical Officer and ARGCON engineers.

UNFICYP now has nine armoured personnel carriers that, in a matter of minutes, are capable of changing into vehicles equipped to rescue injured personnel right from the hot spot. In the event of any emergency, help is at hand. Hopefully, the situation will never arise.

## UNCIVPOL REMEMBERS THOSE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

On 29 September 1998, the Police Remembrance Day service was held at St Columba's Church in the UNPA. The Police Remembrance Day is held annually to honour those Police Officers of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea who were killed in the line of duty. Members of AUSTCIVPOL, IRCIVPOL, the Military Police, British Customs and Australian Federal Police attended the service.

In a stirring speech to the assembled congregation, Supt Phil Hutson of AUSTCIVPOL suggested that: "When you leave the church today, pause at the front door and take time to look around. If you hadn't noticed before, we are surrounded by barbed wire with opposing forces on both sides of us. Look at the triangular red signs that remind us that we are amid a minefield and remember Ian Ward who, whilst performing peace-keeping duties on this island, was killed in a mine explosion."



Police Remembrance Day Service at St Columba's Church

Remember we are performing those same duties. The Police Officers named in the honour roll were exactly the same as us. They had the same hopes, dreams and ambitions for a full and long life... Focus upon the fact that each of them went to work, believing that at the end of the day, he would come home."

## OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DE VERGARA MEDICAL CENTRE

On 2 December 1998, the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, and the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, officially opened the Medical Centre in the UNPA. It is called the *DE VERGARA MEDICAL CENTRE* in honour of the current Force Commander whose commitment and enthusiasm helped see the project reach fruition. The project also symbolizes the cooperation between military and civilian UN units as well as agencies of the government of Cyprus.

The De Vergara Medical Centre is situated in buildings 186 and 187 in Blue Beret Camp. It provides first line and routine medical cover for UNFICYP military and civilian personnel and BRITCON dependents. In addition, the numerous non-UNFICYP personnel working in or visiting the UNPA can count on emergency medical cover through this facility. Since September 1998, an average of 100 patients each month have been treated, which is equal to the figures for treatment of patients in each of the Sectors during the same period.

The facility is designed as a basic medical care centre with the capability of being transformed into a unit with a higher level of medical support when needed, for example in a major emergency. In such a case, it could be reinforced with additional personnel and specialized medical equipment.

The De Vergara Medical Centre is part of a programme to improve medical support within



Outside the new Medical Centre: From the left: Lt Acuña (MD), Maj Gen de Vergara, Lt Col Enk, Sgt Walmsley, Dame Ann Hercus and Cpl Watts

UNFICYP. Other achievements are new medical emergency equipment for the Sectors, the more capable helicopter for casualty evacuations and, most recently, the step-by-step replacement of ambulances.

At present, this international medical centre is staffed during working hours by an Argentinian medical officer and two British nurses. They can be contacted on telephone number 864445. After normal working hours, a nurse on duty and/or the medical officer are available through the Joint Operations Centre.

## Force Hygiene Officer assumes office in UNFICYP

In June 1998, Maj Gerhard Zechner assumed office in UNFICYP as the Force Hygiene Officer. As such, he is responsible for the:

- supervision of the Force in hygienic matters, both general and environmental;
- hygiene, water and food supplies;
- hygienic training of personnel, particularly the kitchen staff; and
- liaison with authorities in their malaria control plan.

Maj Zechner started his military career in 1984 when he was responsible for hygiene and food control.

At that time, he was also responsible for a platoon of Haflinger horses, which carry heavy loads in off-road terrain and are also used for patrolling activities. He was promoted in 1987.

Since 1994, Maj Zechner has served on three occasions in the Operations Branch of the Austrian Battalion in UNDOF on the Golan Heights.

Maj Zechner's hobbies include sailing and deep sea diving.





# OPENING OF THE DE VERGARA MEDICAL CENTRE

