

# THE Blue Beret

September 1993





## VISIT OF FORCE COMMANDER UNIFIL

UNFICYP was recently visited by Maj Gen Trond Furuhovde (Norway), Force Commander UNIFIL. He was accompanied on the visit by his A/COS A & P (UNIFIL's equivalent of CPLO) Col Tuatok (Fiji) and his ADC, Capt P Carey (Ireland). After an office call to Maj Gen Minehane, the visiting group were given the customary UNFICYP HQ VIP Brief and as part of their four-day tour, they also visited both Sectors East and West.

Maj Gen Furuhovde took over command of UNIFIL in February 1993, where he had previously served as Chief of Staff during 1988-89. He is married to Wenche and has two sons.

We in UNFICYP hope his short visit here was both enjoyable and fruitful, and we wish him and all those serving in South Lebanon the very best in their efforts to bring peace to that troubled area.



Maj Gen Furuhovde receives a Quarter Guard from members of Support Regt on his arrival at HQ UNFICYP.



Maj Gen Furuhovde meets Maj Gen Minehane

## UNFICYP SWIMMING COMPETITION 1993

The UNFICYP Swimming Competition has to be the most popular sporting event in the UNFICYP calendar. Clear blue skies, scorching sun and cool clear water - or at least you would think so! However, numbers of competing teams were down from previous years, following the departure of the Canadian Contingent and the shrinking availability of the smaller Contingents. Thus it was that the Austrians of Sector East, the Gunners of Sector West and the Logisticians of Support Regiment were left to fight alone for this year's honours.

The competition was very open, with few early predictions about the outcome. Last year's winners, Support Regiment, have been hit by the recent departure of their stars in 1 Tpt Sqn, whilst the new arrivals of 66 Tpt Sqn remained an "unknown quantity". The Gunners of 39 Regt RA have been practising behind the locked gates of the Ledra Palace Hotel, and there was no mistaking the determination of the Austrians to wrest the trophies. They showed their intent during the frequent training sessions at the UNPA pool, under the critical eye of Maj Wilhelm Fellner, OC 1 Coy.

On the day, most events saw close finishes. Overall, Sp Regt lacked the talent of previous years and the Gunners did not quite have the power to pip the

Austrians to the final touch. The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating and on occasion it was the all round strength of the Sector East team that carried the major honours and the UNFICYP team trophy. They ran out worthy winners by the smallest possible margin - as tribute to their hours of thorough training and the expertise of their team coach. Prizes were presented on behalf of the Force Commander by the Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col HJ Brünings-Hansen (DANCON).



Maj Wilhelm Fellner receives the winner's team trophy from the COO, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen.

# The Blue Beret



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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

### Humanitarian Run in Kormakiti

by S/Sgt Phil Cadman

## EDITORIAL

As was published in last month's Blue Beret, the editorship has changed with effect from this issue. May I, as the new editor, thank Lt Col Dick Heaslip for his stewardship of the magazine over the last twenty editions and for his contribution to its continuing success.

While saying goodbye to one member of UNFICYP, it is my pleasure to welcome the twelve UNMOs, four each from Austria, Hungary and Ireland, who have recently joined the Force. These are the first observers to be deployed on the island, and we hope that their tour of duty will be rewarding and enjoyable.

The editor and staff are dependent upon all members of UNFICYP including military, police and civilian for material, so may I appeal to you to continue to provide articles and photographs in an effort to make the magazine truly representative of the Force as a whole.

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# POLOPS



by Pol Sgt Ronald Krantz



Orjan Green - POLOPS

Superintendent Orjan Green from Sweden is currently working in UNFICYP as POLOPS (the Police Operations Officer).

Orjan carries out his duties as POLOPS, based in the Humanitarian Branch. In general terms, you could say he is a police adviser

for UNFICYP military elements. He is in daily contact with Police Elements - SWEDCIVPOL, AUSTCIVPOL, CYPOL, TCPE and the SBA Police. He also has direct contact with the Ministry of Justice concerning family meetings and permanent transfers from North to South and vice versa.

The family meetings are held at the Ledra Palace and are handled by AUSTCIVPOL. There are also family meetings at the Nicosia central prison where AUSTCIVPOL escort Turkish Cypriots to visit their relatives.

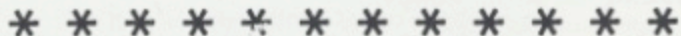
Permanent transfers are also quite common but involve a lot of work: for example, interviews with the people concerned as to why they want to transfer. Permis-

sion must be obtained to allow them to go through the Buffer Zone and vehicles for the transfer have to be organized.

How to deal with demonstrations and hunting in the Buffer Zone is also a very common part of POLOPS' job.

Orjan has been with the police since 1965. When not on a UN mission, he works as an Officer in Linköping, Sweden, in command of patrol shifts. Orjan has served with SWEDCIVPOL five times, as a Sgt, a Dept Commander and now as POLOPS.

For Cypriots, especially those who live on either side of the Buffer Zone, the position of POLOPS is a very important one.



## UNFICYP MILITARY POLICE ELEMENT



The senior Austrian MP addresses CO AUSCON

The recent AUSCON rotation saw the arrival of Sgts Martin Petermichl, Harold Wiedena and Christian Hartl into the MP Element, to maintain the Austrian contribution of eight military policemen. All eight have previous UN service with both UNFICYP and UNDOF and we hope that they will enjoy their time in this mission.

On Wed 21 July 93, the unit was visited by new Commander AUSCON, Lt Col A Kloss, and the

Chief Humanitarian Officer/AUSCON HQ Element Commander, Lt Col R Manzl. Both were briefed by the Senior Austrian MP on the unit's responsibilities and matters involving AUSCON members. Later that day, the Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer, Lt Col JA Ris, presented the United Nations medal/number to 14 members of the unit.



CPLO presents Sgt Gary Lalonde with his UN medal.

# 132 BATTERY (THE BENGAL ROCKET TROOP) ROYAL ARTILLERY

by Capt Peter Friskney RA

132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop), stationed in Sennelager, Germany, deployed to Cyprus in early June. The Battery replaced E Battery of 2 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery as the City Battery and assumed command of the City Battery area on 15 June 1993.

As only eight weeks' notice of the Cyprus tour were given, the lead up to the deployment date was a busy and challenging time for all concerned. Training and administration were conducted, as was a field training and live firing exercise with the Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS), the Battery's primary equipment back in BAOR.



Gnr Peter Jackson manning the OP Tower at Bengal B18

The Advance Party arrived on the Island on 1 June, containing all the Battery's officers and key personnel. The Battery Commander, Major Nick Lipscombe RA, finalised the operational aspects of the deployment enabling the Battery's main body to move direct to their Troop locations on 9 June.

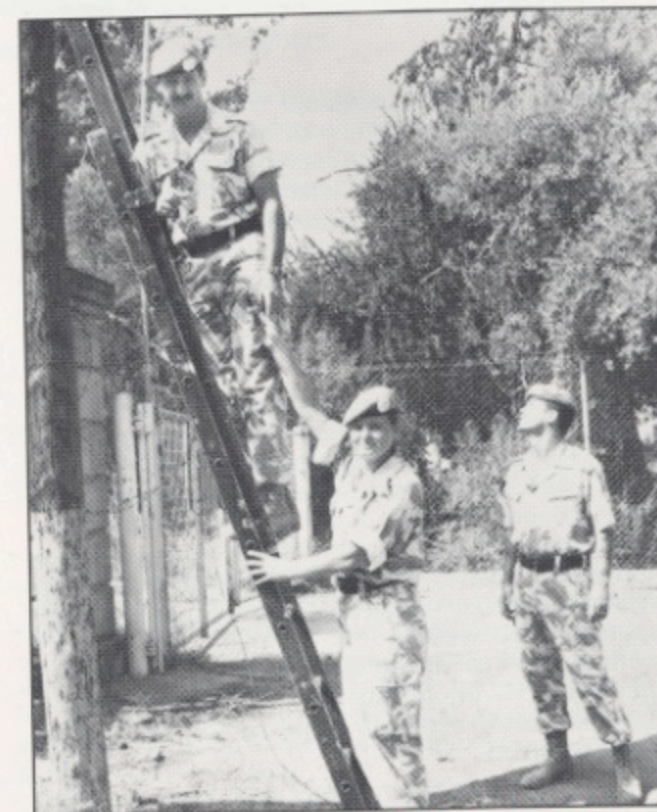
The Battery's area of responsibility stretches westwards from Flatro Bastion through the old city of Nicosia past the UNPA and out to the 20 Easting, 2km east of the village Mammari. At this point, our sister Battery assumes responsibility for the Buffer Zone out to the Mediterranean sea.

The Battery is composed of a Battery Headquarters (BHQ) and three line troops. The BHQ is responsible for the operational coordination of the Battery and the daily administration of the line troop. The line troops man the various OPs and conduct regular daily patrols throughout the Buffer Zone. They also provide manpower for the Force Reserve, who are on call as a Quick Reaction Force, prepared to operate anywhere along the entire length of the Buffer Zone.

The transition from BAOR soldiering to that of UN peace-keeping has run smoothly. All members of the Battery enjoyed the challenges posed by the variety of tasks required to maintain a firm, fair and friendly presence in the Buffer Zone. The Bengal Rocket Troop looks forward to the remainder of their tour and the changes to come in the forthcoming months.



Gnrs Tommy Booth and Steve Sinnott escorted by Buffer the dog



Maintaining communications, Sgt Steve Crisp aided by Bdr Martyn Quigley and Gnr Michelle Cox ensure the Bty's communications are fully operational.

## THE LEDRA PALACE HOTEL - A BI-COMMUNAL CENTRE

The Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia was built after the Second World War and was opened in 1949. A brochure from the 1960s describes the hotel as "Nicosia's most distinctive hotel" - "the meeting place for travellers from all parts of the world". Up to 1974, the Ledra Palace was a focal point for journalists, businessmen and politicians. Being in the centre of Cyprus and at the "crossroads of the Middle East", it was the venue for high level meetings and international conferences.



Mr Joe Clark delivers his statement to the bi-communal press conference at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Seated on the left is Mr Gustave Feissel and on the right Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski.

Today, the Ledra Palace is home to members of Sector West, and even though it is in the Buffer Zone, it continues to be an important meeting place.

A good example of bi-communal cooperation took place in July, when a bi-communal press conference was held there for Mr Joe Clark, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Cyprus. Also in attendance was Mr Gustave Feissel, the Resident Representative and the UNFICYP Spokesman, Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski, who was the Conference Co-ordinator. Both Greek and Turkish Cypriot journalists, reporters and TV crews entered the Buffer Zone from their respective checkpoints and met together in the Conference Room for coffee before the meeting started.

The conference opened with a statement from Mr Clark on his mission and the success of his first visit to Cyprus in the office of SRSG. He addressed the package of confidence-building measures, namely the opening of the Nicosia International Airport and Varosha, describing the negotiations that had been carried out to date and what he hoped would happen in the future. This was followed by half an hour of questions from the floor.

## DEMONSTRATIONS - SECTOR WEST - JULY 1993

by Lt Wendy Morton RA

Every year, July is destined to be a busy month for demonstrations. Most of the marches were known in advance through the network of humanitarian teams, the Australian Civilian Police, and the groups themselves. Preparations were made by all concerned and updates changed from daily to hourly. There were many conflicting views that this year the marches would not happen on the same scale that they have done in the past. Most of them didn't - one did!

Most of the petitions were presented by the Greek Cypriots although there was an unannounced march at the North Ledra Checkpoint, where WO2 Frank Mann was despatched to receive the petition. In contrast, the handover of the petition in Akaki from the Avlona Refugee Organisation took nearly five hours. Capt David Hercus arrived with SSgt Mick Whitbread, the Humanitarian Officer, expecting a few speeches followed by the handover, but no. They were greeted by village dignitaries who introduced them fully to Cypriot hospitality, and it was only when the street party began to disperse that the petition was presented.

The contrast in the marches must be exemplified by the Pancyprian Committee of Relatives of Missing Persons and the Motorbikes Rally on 25 July. The



Committee for Missing Persons Rally.

former consisted mainly of groups of people carrying photographs of relatives who went missing in 1974, whereas the bikers expressed their feelings in a much more forceful manner. It was indeed a contrast that was greater than had been expected at the beginning of the demonstration 'season'. However it was handled according to the situation, and a statement was issued by UNFICYP.

It has certainly been an historical education for all of those involved and has highlighted many aspects of peace-keeping in Cyprus that are not necessarily encountered on a daily basis.

## SECTOR FOUR'S NEW SERIES

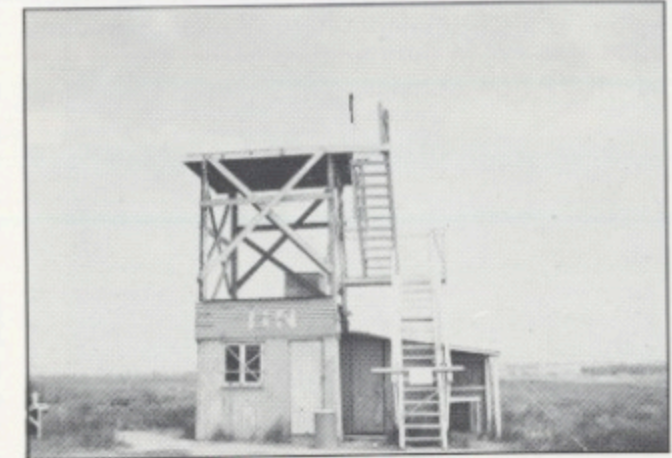
### PART IV: THE AUSTRIAN ENGINEERS

The Austrian Engineers are always busy, but now, after having taken over the former Canadian Sector, they are even busier.



Engineers in action on the roof of Orдона House in Nicosia

There is a lot of work such as improving accommodation, electrical installations, plumbing and many repair jobs. However, the newly arrived engineers are now well in control of the situation.



Maybe their next mission?

## CHANGE OF COMMAND AT UNAB AND AUSCON



Col Resch addressing the officers of AUSCON on the occasion of the change of command at AUSCON.

In a solemn military parade on 6 July 1993, the change of command took place at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta.

Lt Col Helmut Hossinger, having commanded the Battalion for one year, handed over to Lt Col Andreas Kloss. During Lt Col Hossinger's tour, the Danish and Canadian Contingents withdrew from UNFICYP which led to a number of changes in the Force. In addition, UNAB's personnel strength was reduced in November 1992 and the Battalion had to be totally restructured by 15 June 1993.

Lt Col Hossinger returns to his posting with the Territorial HQ in the province of Styria. UNAB wishes him all the best back home, especially in his future career.



Signing over responsibilities. From left to right: Lt Col Kloss, Col Resch and Lt Col Hossinger.

The outgoing Commander of the Austrian Contingent, Col Peter Resch, paid tribute to the departing CO UNAB and welcomed his successor. Lt Col A Kloss has taken over command of the Austrian Battalion in Sector East, and on 13 July he also took over the post of CO AUSCON, an appointment which had been restricted to General Staff Officers for years.

The Austrian Contingent wishes Lt Col Kloss every success in his UNFICYP tour.



## "BETTER IS THE END OF A THING

by Lt CT

Those of us experiencing "the end" of UNFICYP Workshop REME find it hard to agree with the wise words of Ecclesiastes. Certainly the formation of the Workshop in June 1964 was not in the happiest of times, and with UNFICYP now consisting of far fewer personnel



Now - A Foden Recovery Vehicle

than the original force, it would appear that progress of some sort has been made. The closure of any establishment is always, however, a sad occasion and this sadness is all the greater when the establishment has enjoyed almost 30 years of hard work, success and happiness.

3 Infantry Workshop (64 all ranks) arrived in Cyprus on 21 February 1964 and operated initially from Episkopi in support of the Truce Force. The Workshop moved to Nicosia on 11 May, becoming fully operational on 12 May, taking over from the Parachute Brigade Workshop. The Workshop finally officially opened as the UNFICYP Workshop on 21 June 1964.

The primary task of the Workshop was the inspection and repair of all British vehicles in use with UNFICYP in what was then the Nicosia Zone. Additional tasks undertaken were the repair of radios and arms, technical assistance when requested by other units and provision of recovery facilities for UNFICYP vehicles in the Nicosia Zone. The Workshop has always been housed in its current location in Jubilee Camp although vehicle repairs actually commenced in tents, and it took time before the use of two large hangars was agreed to, only one of which remains today. Heavy and armoured vehicles were repaired by the military section whilst light vehicles were repaired by the civilian section.



Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

## THAN THE BEGINNING THEREOF

by Lt CT McClean, REME

*Quotation from Ecclesiastes*

3 Infantry Workshop handed over to 8 Infantry Workshop (Airportable) REME in October 1964, and it appears that the Workshop continued to be manned on a six-month roulement basis until the end of 1965. At this time, the Workshop deployed Sgts with DANCON, SWEDCON and FINCON to inspect and repair, when possible, the British vehicles used by these contingents. If the damage was beyond unit level repairs, equipments were then backloaded to the Workshop itself.

In 1967, due to financial reasons, the two vehicle repair sections were amalgamated and the old light vehicle shop was demolished. This was the forerunner to a number of changes that have enabled the Workshop to evolve to its present day format. In 1967, the Officer Commanding the UNFICYP Workshop became double hatted, taking on the extra duty of Force Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (FEME). On 14 January 1977, the Workshop became a sub unit of the then newly formed UNFICYP Support Regiment and so the changes have gone on. The biggest change of all is, however, now upon us.

The present OC, Major IP Graham, oversees 29 military and 16 civilian personnel. Of the 29 military personnel, five are on two-year accompanied, continuity postings whilst the remainder are on six-month roulement tours from their parent units in BAOR or the UK.



Then - The Scammel recovery vehicle (1967)

The Workshop will cease to exist on 15 December 1993, following a two-month drawdown period. In the meantime, the Workshop continues to enter into all events, be they military, sporting or social, usually with resounding success. One of the many jobs associated with the closure of the Workshop will be the backloading of the numerous trophies in the Workshop cabinet to the Corps' Museum in Arborfield.

It remains only to thank all departments and individuals in UNFICYP who have worked for and with the Workshop over its 30 years, and to wish those staying on with the Force all the best.

### CIVILIAN WORKFORCE

Throughout 30 years of change, one thing has remained consistent - that is the loyal service provided by the varying numbers of civilian personnel employed. The Workshop currently employs 16 civilians. During their careers they have maintained a variety of equipment including the Austin K9, Bedford QL, Humber and Ferret Armoured Cars and the Vanguard staff car as well as vehicles presently in service. The current foreman, Mr Ibrahim Hashmet (Abe), has been employed with the Workshop since its formation. The photograph shows him being presented with a long service certificate by the DGEME, Major General Boyne.



### MP ELM - PROMOTION

19 years after his first tour with UNFICYP as a LCpl, MSSgt Günter Sakoparnik was promoted to WO2.

Since 1974, WO2 Sakoparnik, who is currently working with the SIS MP Elm, has worked with the UN Peace-keeping Forces in Israel, Syria and Cyprus over a period of 10 years. Congratulations and good luck for the rest of your tour.



Lt Col R Manzl (CHO) (left) and FPM Capt Nackstein (right) present Günter Sakoparnik with his new rank markings on promotion to WO2.

## UNAB: WALKING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS



Col Alfons Kloss  
(as a Major)

The new CO/UNAB, Lt Col Andreas Kloss, is unique in UNFICYP as he is the son of Col Alfons Kloss, the first Commanding Officer of an Austrian Battalion to have served in Cyprus. Col Kloss commanded the Austrian Battalion, located in the Paphos area from April 1972 to April 1973. Having roots in an Austrian Officer's family, it was only a matter of time before Lt Col Andreas Kloss would follow his father as CO/UNAB.

After two tours with UNFICYP (1977 and 1984), Lt Col Kloss has taken over command of UNAB and AUSCON for one year. Maybe

after this tour, he will take over one of the many other important positions once held by his father. Col Alfons Kloss now lives in Salzburg, after 40 years of duty as an Officer in World War II and in the Austrian Armed Forces.



Lt Col Andreas Kloss.

## AN AIRREP WITH A DIFFERENCE

Place : Three kilometers south east of Petrophani  
Date/Time : Friday 16 July 1993 (about 1130 hrs)



Under the watchful eyes of AUSCON's Humanitarian Officer, Maj J Hohenbühel, six large balloons were filled with helium.



The team which had been digging near Petrophani (as reported in Blue Beret Issue Aug 93) mounted a remote controlled camera on to a wooden frame.

And the JOC is still wondering how one can have an entry and an exit point in the middle of the Buffer Zone...!



The whole construction was directed over the excavation site at a height of approximately 20 metres.

## NEW ARRIVAL IN UNFICYP



A change in personalities has taken place in the Supply Detachment. Capt John Robson has returned to the UK to take up a post in Catterick. The position of OC Sup Det has been taken by Maj Fred Bowes.

One of the major responsibilities in his new job is that of the UNPA Fire Officer, and this was highlighted when he was called out to a fire on his very first day on duty!

A keen photographer, Maj Bowes joined the Army in 1963. He has served in Aden, Canada, Denmark, Germany and the UK. This is his first tour in Cyprus and the United Nations. He is accompanied by his wife Soona. Welcome to UNFICYP, we hope you have an enjoyable tour.

## THE UNFICYP "LEARN TO SWIM CAMPAIGN" AUSTCIVPOL CAUSE A SPLASH - by Derek Gough

Each year, during the hot summer months of Cyprus, AUSTCIVPOL conduct swimming training for the children of UNFICYP members plus UN adults who cannot as yet swim adequately enough to get themselves out of trouble, should the occasion arise.

On 29 July 1993, the 'Learn to Swim Campaign' once again got underway and with the keen assistance of other Australian Contingent members and one of their wives, the Chief Instructor, Pol Sgt George Argenti, got the first class off to a flying start.



Police Sgts Trish Reynolds and George Argenti working with the young students before taking the plunge.



Police Sgt Trish Reynolds has a confidence building chat with her young students.

This year, 21 children aged between 4 and 10 enrolled for the course together with 15 adults who were largely 'thirty something'. Those who successfully completed the course were awarded a certificate for their new achievements and as a bonus, an Australian 'Skippy Pin' was presented to each of those children who managed to swim at least half the width of the UNPA Swimming Pool.

## 39TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY MEDICAL CENTRE

The changing faces of the Medical Centre by Capt Charlie Williams RAMC

To provide medical cover for Sector West from the Kokkina Enclave to Nicosia, the Medical Section has been divided into two smaller sections, one at the Ledra Palace Hotel for 56 (Headquarters) Battery and 132 Battery personnel, the other at Viking Camp at Xeros for 176 Battery.

At Viking Camp, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars handed over an up and running medical centre with a bedding down facility. The medics are Sgt Chalky White, LCpl "Molly" Molyneux and Gnr Tina Collison. The Doctor, Capt "Charlie" Williams, is also based at this location. However, her daytime hours are split between Viking Camp, the Ledra Palace and the OPs, troop and section houses along the line.

The medical facility in the Ledra Palace is now in its third location. The first was a small room in St David's Camp; the second was a larger room with an attached bathroom on the first floor of the Palace. The third, and we hope final, is a suite of rooms on the ground floor. L/Cpl Paul Arands and L/Cpl James Whiggam, the Ledra medics, are getting the Centre into shape with the help of some equipment donated by the outgoing Canadians.

As well as providing care for the members of the Regiment, the Sector West Medical Section were on standby to cover the recent demonstrations season.



Gnr Tina Collison, Regimental Medical Assistant

During the demonstration march by motorcyclists on Sunday 25 July 93, the doctor was called upon to treat several casualties. At the Ledra Checkpoint, six members of AUSTCIVPOL and two demonstrators sustained injuries. One of the latter collapsed with a suspected epileptic seizure and was taken to Nicosia Hospital in the UN ambulance.

The doctor and her medical team sincerely hope that the Regiment remains healthy during the remaining months of 39 Regiment's tour with UNFICYP!



## CONTINUING THEIR SERVICE TO AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS FROM SOLDIER TO POLICEMAN

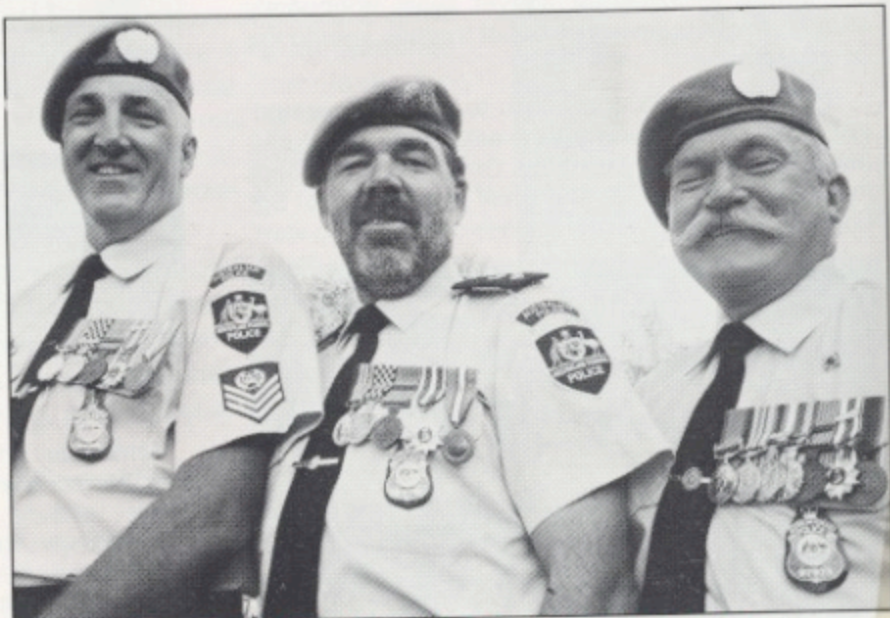


Three of the civilian policemen presently serving with AUSTCIVPOL have previously served with the Australian Army before changing careers to become members of the Australian Federal Police.

**Detective Sgt Doug Child** joined the Australian Army in 1963 and after training, was posted to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regt. He transferred to the Intelligence Corps in 1964, and thereafter served in a variety of units, carrying out Battle Intelligence and Counter Intelligence duties. During this time he completed two tours in Vietnam. He left the Army at the rank of S/Sgt in 1975 to join the Police Force where he has since served in Canberra, Melbourne and Perth. Doug returns to Perth in September 1993 to rejoin his wife and two children.

**Detective Supt Ken Hunt** also joined the Australian Army in 1963 and served for six years in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. His service also included a tour of Vietnam.

Ken joined the Police Force in 1971 and has been mainly involved with the investigation of large scale fraud offences, counterfeiting and illegal drug importations. He has also served on task forces investigating organised crime, and in recent years, his specialist skills have been used by the Australian Federal Police in the training of detectives. He is taking voluntary retirement from the Australian Federal Police in August 1993, and with his wife Jane, he plans to set



Doug Child, Ken Hunt and Derek Gough pose for the official photograph before the Australian Medal Parade.

up a "Computer-Crime" consultancy business based in Melbourne.

**Detective Sgt Derek Gough** joined the Australian Army in 1957 and his first posting was as an Infantry Platoon Commander. He was subsequently trained as a Parachutist and Air Operations Officer. He saw active service with the Royal Marine Commandos in Sarawak while on a two year attachment to the British Army in Malaya, and served in Vietnam during 1963 and 1969, the latter tour including a lengthy attachment to the United States Army.

During his service with the Australian Army, he served with the United Nations in 1967-77 as a Military Observer in Kashmir. In 1983, he took voluntary retirement from the Army having reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and joined the Australian Federal

Police. Since joining the Police, Derek has served as a patrol officer in Canberra and then as a detective in the "Breaking" and Special Crime Squads. He is also a member of Canberra's Anti-Terrorist Squad where he performs operational intelligence duties. Derek returns to Australia in March 1994 to be reunited with his wife and five children.

All three police officers agree that their military experience prepared them well for their careers in the police force, as both organisations put great store in teaching the benefits of self-discipline, man-management and good communications skills.

The ease with which all three moved from the Army to the Police Force was also greatly assisted by the spirit of mateship that personifies the lifestyle in both areas of service.



## AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN POLICE MEDAL PARADE

by Pol Sgt Derek Gough



On Friday 23 July 1993, AUSTCIVPOL held its Medals Parade for those members of the 38th Contingent of the Australian Police who had not previously served with the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

The Australian Government was represented by His Excellency Mr 'Eddie' Stevens and his wife Franca, who on arrival at the parade took the Royal Salute during which was played the Australian National Anthem - "Advance Australia Fair".

The Acting Force Commander, Brigadier Richard Lambe MBE, who was accompanied by his wife Trisha, officiated at the parade and on his arrival was afforded a General Salute. The Brigadier then presented the United Nations Medal for service in Cyprus to each of the five police on parade.

Proudly parading to receive their medals, presented for their participation "In the Service of Peace", were Sgt Shane Austin and Pol Sgts Sharon McTavish, Derek Gough, Simon Hicks and Giorgio Argenti.

Following the medal presentations, the Acting Force Commander addressed the Australians and the large number of official guests and friends who attended the parade. He congratulated all Australian Police serving with the UN in Cyprus for their capacity to accept and perform to a high standard their changing roles, tasks and responsibilities during difficult times.



Pol Sgt Sharon McTavish receives her medal from Brig Lambe.

The Australian High Commissioner concluded the formal part of the proceedings by congratulating all medal recipients and reminding them that, as well as representing the United Nations in Cyprus, each and every one of them also acted as Ambassadors for Australia.

The AUSTCIVPOL Sgts' and Offrs' Mess then provided refreshments and a splendid buffet meal for the 150 guests.



## UNFICYP TRANSPORT SQUADRON'S FIRST IMPRESSIONS



by Lt Des Carey

On 15 July 1993, the main body of 66 UNFICYP Transport Squadron left a cool, rain-soaked British summer and stepped out into the heat of mid-afternoon Akrotiri en route to Jubilee Camp.

First impressions have confirmed that most of our preparations prior to deployment were well worth the effort. This was especially so for drivers who were training to face the somewhat unusual hazards of road conditions in Cyprus and the Buffer Zone. Luckily, a sizeable minority of the Squadron have served in UNFICYP before, and assertive driving is the order of the day.

66 UNFICYP Transport Squadron will be the last of a long line of 50 separate Transport Squadrons to have served in UNFICYP. Despite the run down of Support Regiment and a reduced vehicle fleet, we look forward to producing the best support



Ceremony of the UNFICYP Tpt Sqn key - Capt A Hackford hands over to Maj M Lanham

possible to UNFICYP until our departure at the end of the year.



## 1 SQN RLC DEPARTS

by Lt SA Wood



Capt Alison Hackford



1 Sqn RLC has now come to the end of its extended 12 month tour with UNFICYP. The tour began with 130 soldiers deploying in July 92 under the command of Maj Eain Crossen. Two months into the tour, Maj Crossen had to return to England and Capt Alison Hackford assumed command until the end of the tour in July 93.

It has been a busy and demanding time for the Squadron. We have had to cope with many changes from being extended for a further six months to reducing in numbers by 50 personnel. We have also been through our historic recapbadge from RCT to RLC.



Pte Josey receives her new cap badge from Brig Lambe

The Sqn has completed thousands of miles each month in support of the Sectors and Contingents. The driving in Cyprus has been quite a challenge, especially for our less experienced drivers. They return to England with a wealth of experience most drivers take years to accumulate. The Sqn has had very few culpable accidents, which directly reflects the Squadron's high professional standards.

Cyprus has excellent adventure training facilities and the Squadron has taken full advantage of what was on offer. We now have many qualified and capable sailors, divers, climbers, parachutists and skiers.

We have taken part in the many Support Regiment and UNFICYP competitions, from Military Skills to the Football League. The Sqn even provided the UNFICYP best rifle shot of 1993.



LCpls Davies and Doughty, Sgt Jones, SSM Slaney, LCpls Sweeney and McKee

Overall, 1 Sqn RLC has had an excellent time whilst serving with the United Nations. We would like to thank all Contingents and the personnel within them for their friendship and assistance throughout our 12 month tour.

We would also like to welcome in 66 Sqn RLC who took over the reins on 19 July 1993. We are sure their tour will be as enjoyable as ours has been.



Members of the Uggi and Water Section



Members of the UNHCR Section - Pte Deakin, LCpl Davidson and Pte Miller - Cooke



## VISIT OF QMG TO SUPPORT REGIMENT

by Maj J Ingham



LS & GC Medal - Sgt Steve James

The Quartermaster General of the British Army, General Sir John Learmont KCG CBE, visited UNFICYP on 21-22 July 1993. As befits his position as the Army's chief logistician, his express purpose in coming to Nicosia was to visit the logistic sub-units of Support Regiment and the UNFICYP Flight AAC. General Sir John Learmont is also the Director of the Army Air Corps, so the visit was very much a 'family' occasion.

The visit of the Regiment started with an office call to the CO, Lt Col IPG Stevens RTR, followed by a meeting with the newly arrived 66 Tpt Sqn RLC. There followed short visits to each of the other sub units in turn, before the General was asked to take part in a more formal occasion, the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to two members of the unit. The presentations were made to WO2 P Jones (MP Elm) and Sgt S James (Unit Admin Officer), in the WO's' and Sgts' Mess. At the same time, a presentation of the Army Air Corps' highest commendation was made to S/Sgt G Sutcliffe AAC, for the manner in which he handled the emergency landing of a helicopter in the Troodos mountains in Nov 92.

After a short break for refreshments, during which he met Mess members, the General ended his visit with an informal barbeque lunch with all members of UNFICYP Flight.



LS & GC Medal - WO2 Jones



Commendation - S/Sgt Geoff Sutcliffe

The Regiment was particularly pleased to host General Sir John, and the interest he showed in both professional and personal matters made for a rewarding visit all round.



QMG relaxes with members of AAC Flt during his tour of UNFICYP.



**UNFICYP SWIMMING COMPETITION**

The Austrians swim ahead as winners