

# THE Blue Beret

September 1994



GOODBYE TO THE  
BRITISH ARMY AIR CORPS

HELLO TO THE  
ARGENTINIAN AIR FORCE







## UNFICYP FLIGHT ARMY AIR CORPS 27 MARCH 1964 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1994



Photos by  
Sgt J Relihan

by Capt A Cash



The last OC of UNFICYP Flt AAC,  
Capt Steve Pidgeon.



Capt Andy Cash, WO2 Bill McPhee  
and Sgt Geoff Garth-Walker.



Cpl Tony Stern - all systems go!



Ground handling - LCpl 'Bonnie'  
Langford and LCpl 'Tyson' Smith.



ATpr Ian O'Farrell refuelling a Gazelle.

The UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps, originally known as the Force Aviation Flight, became operational on 27 March 1964. At that time, there were two Austers (MK9) and two Sioux AHI helicopters in support of UNFICYP. In 1965, 21 Flight Army Air Corps assumed the task, and early in 1966, 4th Air Observation Troop of the Royal Artillery took over. On 1 August 1966, the deployment was regularised and UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps adopted its present name.

Before the troubles in 1974, the Flight's main tasks were to resupply the Kyrenia Range OPs and liaison flying between the dispersed contingents. Since then, operations have been concentrated mainly on flights within the Buffer Zone, including observation, reconnaissance, liaison, movement of men and material, CASEVACs, MEDEVACs and also such diverse tasks as humanitarian, ecological, search and rescue and assistance with fire fighting.

The Flight was originally located in Jubilee Camp in an old RCT hangar, quickly named "the slum" by the soldiers! However, it moved to its current location at the south easterly end of Nicosia International Airport in April 1974. This is where the three Gazelle AHI helicopters, which have been in service with UNFICYP since 10 August 1988 when they replaced the ageing Alouette helicopters, have been housed.

The Flight operated with a total strength of 19 men and women - four pilots, eight ground crew and seven technicians. On 18 June 1994, the UNFICYP COS announced that Flight was to be replaced by a new Argentinian Flight of two Hughes 500D helicopters. Therefore, on 30 September 1994, UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps was disbanded and the Army Air Corps flag lowered after 30 years, six months and four days in Cyprus - in the service of peace.



Cpl Tony Stern, LCpl Tyson Smith  
and Cpl Phil Lambert briefing  
the FC and OC Flt.



Sgt Geoff Garth-Walker with the COS,  
the FC and the COO.



LCpl Sally Amandini (right) giving  
a lesson to ATpr Ian O'Farrell!



Refuelling the bowser.



Christina, the Secretary.

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## Front Cover

### Changeover of Flight

by Sgt Joe Relihan

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

Someone said that to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often. Change is very much a part of life in UNFICYP. The dynamics of a changing world have resulted in an increasing demand for flexible UN peace-keeping forces, and UNFICYP cannot be an exception.

British Forces contribute the largest component of UNFICYP. The specialist training and the professionalism which characterizes their contingent has earned them the respect of all other contributing nations, and it is acknowledged that without their presence, UNFICYP would have a much harder task in carrying out its assignment.

At the end of September, the United Kingdom unit of UNFICYP Flight AAC handed over the task of maintaining close air surveillance over the Buffer Zone to the Argentinian wing. The handover, as expected, has been smooth and efficient. However, it is not without a certain amount of sadness that we say goodbye to UNFICYP Flight AAC after over 30 years of dedicated and effective contribution to the Force. We bid farewell to the outgoing unit, and wish every success to the newcomers.

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## LIFE AT ST DAVID'S CAMP - BY VARIOUS SCRIBES



### CSM

SSgt Thomson is responsible for the Accommodation and Cleaning stores, and the Gas account. He is also employed as the Camp Sergeant Major, as well as being BQMS for H Bty, and is ably assisted by Cpl Gray (attached from 216 Para Sig Sqn) at SDC, and LBdr Pike at LPH.

When the Stores account was taken over, it was discovered that a few problems existed. For instance: putting all the stores in logical order and making sure that the furniture was all in one store, and in true storeman fashion, all the blankets were neatly stacked on shelves. With the help of Cpl Gray, the stores are now presentable. The Gas account is a different story, mainly because of the different type of threads fitted



Sgt Dave Daniels preparing some chocks for B-28

to the bottles, ie Italian and French. This has now been sorted out, and hopefully, all future problems will be little ones.

### QM'S Department

The QM's Department is responsible to Sector Two for all stores, buildings, rations and repairs. Our life here can be quite hectic at times, especially when we are preparing for events such as a medal parade! The clothing store is run by LBdr Brooks and assisted by Gnr Cook, who is also responsible for the daily Dhobi run for the western end of Sector Two.

Sgt Brennan is responsible for the UN stores, which includes all

the fridges, air conditioning units and cookers, and he is also the liaison with Sarkis for the TVs and videos in SDC. In basic terms, he is the odd job man of the stores.

Bdr Morgan is responsible for the G 1098 stores (equipment table account), as well as looking after the Ammunition and Expense accounts. He also has to look after 17 budgies (of which 12 are pregnant), and 30 goldfish which he had to sign for. All pets are doing well! Bdr Morgan is also becoming an expert rat catcher: only the other day, he managed to trap a rat (11 inches long) in his store and kill it! In support of all the department, on the administration side of life, is Bdr Hunt, whose many late nights at work have brought the department through the very testing time of establishing itself out here in Cyprus. Bdr Hunt is in turn assisted by Petra, who is not only a good typist, but is easy on the eye and a great morale booster to the men!

### Rations

Sgt Lloyd, who is the Ration Clerk and Storeman, works with the Master Chef, WOII (SQMS) Daniel. They work at St David's



Sgt Steve Lloyd ensuring he has enough cream topping to go round.

Camp, and supply all rations to various locations in the Sector Two area. The work starts at five o'clock in the morning, before any of you ever think of getting out of bed, and they don't finish until the late afternoon, as some locations still phone up at night asking for items, as they may have VIP lunches to

do for the next day. Ration accounting is a six day week, with the seventh day on duty, so if any of



LCpl (Mac) McMallion and LCpl (Dusty) Miller checking the vehicle battery charge on one of the ambulances

you have a hand or two to spare, your assistance will be most helpful to the Master Chef and Sgt Lloyd. If you do not see a pineapple with any of your fruit when you receive it, ask the Master Chef why. When he took over the ration accounts it went very well, except for the large debt left by 2 RTR as their going away present, which hopefully will soon be written off!

### MT Department

The MT at SDC is run by Bdr Andy Pelling. There are five drivers who work under him. They are: LBdr Jim Talbot, Gnrs Danny Daniels, Graham O'Hare, Mac Michael and Tag Miller. It's been hard work since we arrived, trying to fit all the details in as well as carrying out gate duties and duty drivers. Our standing details include the Med run to Dhekelia, which goes from LPH daily at 0800 hrs, and the Northwind Patrol, a humanitarian detail in northern Cyprus which is every other Tuesdays. Running pax to and from Adv Trg every Saturday and Sunday, Line Tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and numerous runs to the airports, at all hours, take up nearly all the working week.

The MT section has done well learning all the routes around the Island, especially learning their way around Nicosia, without much help from the local drivers, as Bdr Pelling found out on his first detail...

## G PARACHUTE BATTERY (MERCER'S TROOP) ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY RETURNS TO CYPRUS

by 2Lt P Hallet

After a 30 year gap as a peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, Mercer's Troop have found themselves back on the island. As with any new unit familiarizing itself with the ground and personalities of the opposing forces, the pace of life has been busy. The period has also seen the Battery resolve a higher than average number of incidents during its first few weeks. As well as dealing with OPFOR incidents, both of the Battery's Troops have had their fire fighting skills tested. Major fires have occurred around the Pedious River on the outskirts of Nicosia and the area immediately to the west of the UNPA, the first requiring a rapid and well co-ordinated deployment of individuals from across Sector Two and the Force Reserve in order to bring the blaze under control.

An interesting and unique feature of the tour has been the opportunity for members of the Battery to take their turn as amateur chefs at the Battery's section houses. Rumours abound that the quality is better than back in the UK and that SSgt "Obidiah" Cody's goulash would grace even the finest of London's restaurants.

Despite having only had a short time in which to acclimatise, the Battery put up an impressive performance in the 10Km Fama-gusta Wall run with 10 members of the Battery running, four of whom were in the top 10. Of particular note were Lt Gary Wilkinson, Sgt Michael Kelly, LBdr 'Juss' Ward and Gnr 'Geordie' Armstrong.

Waterloo Day, the Battery's Battle Honour Day, was celebrated on Saturday 18 June with a poolside BBQ at the Ledra Palace Hotel. After the toast in honour of Captain Mercer, an impromptu diving display was organized by LBdr 'Jeff' Jefferies, LBdr Dougie Naylor and Gnr Ryan Mayo, to

name but a few. This was successfully accomplished, the ban on using the top of the high board circumvented by walking along the underside of it. The day was completed by ensuring that everyone experienced the delights of the pool, apart from the CO who had the good sense to leave shortly before the Regimental Sergeant Major and a passing Hungarian UNMO were launched into the water.

The Regiment's football team, which won the UN Football Competition, owed at least some of its success to several high quality players from BHQ. WO2 (BSM) Drew Glen's deft touches, SSgt Norman Maxwell's blinding pace and the amazing elbow-stopping nose of Capt Stuart Skeates all played vital parts.

Military fitness training has also continued with 30 members of the Battery recently taking part in a Buffer Zone Combat Fitness Test over 13 kms, carrying approximately 40lbs in under 1 hour 45 minutes.



The BC looks on with delight as the 2IC, Maj Robinson, is encouraged to take a swim.

Back on the line, the winner of the most imaginative immediate report (IMREP) competition was Gnr "Spender" Corrigan, who reported hearing what he believed to be anti-aircraft fire going "BOOM BOOM, BOOM BOOM,



G Para Bty stride out on their March and shoot training, led by the smiling Sgt Kelly.

BOOM BOOM, BOOM BOOM". On further investigation the suspected heavy guns turned out to be nothing more sinister than the bass drum of a military band!



Capt Skeates with everything to hand, including a cup of tea and combat pencil sharpener!

Members of Battery Headquarters have also accompanied C Troop's Section based at Kingston on several of their patrols. The Battery Clerk has not emerged from behind the computer since encountering, on one of these patrols, a "huge, vicious-looking snake" that slithered between his boots.

Finally, the Battery is pleased to announce that another form of patrolling has been successfully tested, with Lt Gary Wilkinson and 2Lt Paul Hallet riding two ex-race horses through the Buffer Zone.



## IT'S A KNOCKOUT COMPETITION



Who's holding the joker then?

The BRITCON Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess held a very successful four-a-side Knockout Competition on 18 August. The following teams took part:

**WO's & Sgts' Mess teams A and B**

**WO's & Sgts' Mess ladies team**

**Austrian Element of the Force Reserve**

**Austrian Chaplains team**

**Sector Two**

**Australian Civilian Police Hib Club.**

Everyone had an excellent evening, a little more strenuous than they were probably anti-



This one means business!

icipating, but what did they expect when the events were thought up by WO1 Parkin and Sgt O'Hanlon?

The outright winners were the Australians, who were well out in front of everyone - but what else do they do in Aussie land but swim?

←  
Getting ready.



## VISIT BY MAJ GEN SANTIAGO GROBA

The Commander of the Argentinian 2nd Army Corps, Maj Gen Santiago Groba, visited HQ UNFICYP on 9 September 1994 as part of his visit to ARGCON. On arrival at HQ UNFICYP, he was met by the UNFICYP COS, Col JSW Powell OBE, and inspected the guard of honour. He then paid a courtesy call on the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen. Following this, he departed by helicopter for Sector One, where he inspected the Argentinian Sector. Later in the day, he returned to HQ UNFICYP and paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of Mission, Mr G Feissel.

Maj Gen Groba was accompanied on his visit by the CO ARGCON, Lt Col JM Durante. After one year in UNFICYP as the first ARGCON Commander, Lt Col Durante saluted and bade farewell to the FC and COS.



From the left: Lt Col JM Durante, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen, Col JSW Powell and Maj Gen S Groba.

## SURVIVING CYPRUS - "THE AUSSIE PERSPECTIVE"

by Pol Sgt Dave Ayers

Despite vigorous training and the intense scrutiny of Laurence Durrell's "Bitter Lemons", once I had actually arrived on the island, it suddenly dawned on me that perhaps the theory does not quite compare with the realities and quirks of UN life in Cyprus. You tend to build a picture of brave UN troops doing an "Atlas" impression and, in the odd few days off, stepping over donkey droppings whilst they befriend the locals and shop for pottery and copper, drinking their "cafe metrio" or "orta kahve" under the Cypress trees, calling out a cheery "Kalamari" to all those within earshot. Maybe the odd swim in the briny - modestly attired, of course, so as not to cause offence to ancient morals and sensibilities passed on from generation to generation, schooled whilst cooking halloumi and crushing olives. Not so, says this cynical correspondent: there are greater perils and hazards on this island that man has never faced before! In the three short months I have been here, I have seen grown men cry at the sight of a toilet, I have seen paratroopers run from fear of yet another night in Ayia Napa (which has since been renamed "No Nicosia..."), and I've also seen the disturbing effect on war-hardened men by the mere words "last orders, please". Yes, readers, nothing quite prepares you for a tour in UNFICYP, and I feel it is my duty to Australians who come after me to receive a few words of fatherly advice from a scarred victim. As such, I enclose an extract from our new training manual.

### EXTERNAL HAZARDS

**Departing home:** Once you have announced to the missus that you have been accepted for Cyprus, whatever you do, eat huge quantities of humble pie before leaving. This can prove emotionally and financially very rewarding. One veteran who failed to do so has recently spent \$1,500.00 on the pleasure of rowing over the phone, followed by the purchase of a gold bracelet as an additional sweetener. Yes, readers, no matter what gut-wrenching, nauseous feeling it

engenders, you should even take the kids out and do the washing-up on your last day at home. The sacrifice is well worthwhile.

**Your car:** Leave your wife a series of longer dipsticks to keep reaching the oil for six months. Inflate your tyres to 100p/sf, so that they will be the usual 10p/sf by the time you get home.

**Your house:** Put up a "beware of the dog" sign. Disconnect the phone (see "departing home") and take the spark plug out of your mower. Better to return to a jungle than a mower with no blades, petrol in the oil tank and oil in the petrol tank... Whatever you do, hide all paint brushes and decorating materials.

**Departing work:** The day before you leave work, check the leave roster and place all your outstanding correspondence and files into the in-tray of the most obliging bloke who is on leave with the promise that you'll buy him a beer on your return (a swift calculation reveals that 40 hours' work for the price of a beer may well be very good value - there may even be a tax deduction there somewhere).

### INTERNAL HAZARDS

**Irish:** Only come out at night, have been blessed with two livers, and can sing and play music like angels. Extreme caution must be used when socialising with them, as they tend to wrestle you to the ground and pour black, creamy fluid between your lips at every given opportunity. If you have trouble with the accent, don't worry, as they will elbow you in the ribs when it is time to laugh or answer!

**British:** Most unusual: there seem to be two types. One is a distinctly refined chap, usually without a chin, who tends to drink something called G and T and is often seen with a cravat and an MG. Tends to socialise with Fionas and Marjories. Finds colonials rather quaint. The other is a cross between prehistoric man and Paul Gascoigne - very witty, but will bash you if you do not laugh

at his jokes. Often heard at 10.00 pm, calling an ancient mating cry "ere we go, 'ere we go".

**Austrians:** Have only one ambition in life, and that is to be obeyed at all times without question. They have a very simple philosophy which is quite easy to understand: they love guns, yodelling, beer and Ayia Napa. They make particularly good MPs, as they have an enviable method of positive assertion.

**Argentinians:** Great diplomats, soccer players and chefs. Can make beans on toast a gastronomic extravaganza. Perfect hosts and gentlemen. Have the uncanny ability to do anything with nothing. Caution to personnel on accompanied postings: do not take your wives or daughters within 10 miles of an Argentinian camp!

**Canadians:** Every Canadian is called Bob. Appear to be easy-going, until you mistake them for American - you only do this once! They love to slap you on the back, usually when one has taken a sip of beer forced on one by an Irishman. Have major influence in the International Mess - note Squirrel brand peanut butter which, wisely, none of them eat. Deadly at Karaoke nights, when they have a tendency to make up their own words, or sing out-of-tune sea shanties.

**Finns:** It is believed that they are somewhere on the island, but have never had a confirmed sighting. It is rumoured they frequent hot, damp places and can attack with a loofer without warning. Many have claimed to have seen this species, but have been ridiculed as they have made this claim after a visit to the Officers' Mess.

**Other Australians:** Have been described by the Force Padre as gifted, suave, debonair and an example to all!

On a last note, if you require any further "on the job" training, please contact me in my branch office, third stool from the right in the Aussie Mess, any Saturday night!





## NEWS FROM SECTOR ONE



### VISITS TO SECTOR ONE

by Capt Julio Belfi



Mr José Maria Valentin Oteguay and Col Jorge Mainoli.

On 2 July 1994, the Argentinian Ambassador in Israel, Mr José Maria Valentin Oteguay, together with the Army and Air Force officers attached to the Argentinian Embassy in Israel, Col Jorge Mainoli and Air Force Col Marcos Martinez, visited ARGCON. After a briefing in Skouriotissa Camp, they made a line tour and then visited D-38, D-26, D-12 and Kokkina Camp where they enjoyed a barbecue.

On 27 July, Col Hernan Florencio Olmos, the Argentinian Military Attaché in Egypt, was received in ARGCON's HQ by the CO, Lt Col JM Durante, and was offered the traditional "asado", prepared by ARGCON's cook.

### ARGCON'S NEW SHELTER IN THE TRANSPORT PLATOON

by 2Lt Luis Echagüe



2Lt Echagüe and six drivers stand under their work of art.

A new shelter of corrugated iron was completed on 10 June 1994, thereby protecting all the vehicles of Sector One's Transport Platoon against the sun and rain. This shelter covers an area of 220m<sup>2</sup>, is 5m high and provides protection for up to 12 trucks.

This construction was made entirely by the Platoon's drivers, under the supervision of the Engineer Platoon. Although it only took a few hours to construct, it took 50 days to complete because the drivers did everything in their spare time.

In spite of the fact that the drivers are not professional builders, this was an excellent example of the Platoon's workmanship and goodwill.

### OP D-38's NEWS

by 1Lt Fernando Pietrobelli



Cpl Juan Manuel Estopinan

On 18 July, in Area 40 (D-38), a new 220v electric engine was installed. After a long and productive life, the old Peter Lister generator broke down. Our Ordnance Platoon replaced it in a few hours with a new one.

In addition, WOIII Schooff built a shelter for the new Peter Lister, this time with a Wilson base. This generator currently provides the heliport and the OP building with electricity for up to eight hours.

We hope it lasts, at least until our successors arrive!

### SCALE MODEL IN PATROL BASE D-26

by 1/Lt Luis Cabanillas



From the left: SSgt Velázquez, WOII Turza, SSgt Garcete and SSgt Porco.

When WOII Jorge Turza was appointed Leader of UN Patrol Base D-26, he decided to make a scale model of the Tactical Area of Responsibility. This task was postponed until the building of the Patrol Base house was completed.

WOII Turza and his patrol (SSgt Oscar Velázquez, SSgt Rodolfo Porco and SSgt Ramón Garcete) began to construct the model. His dream has now come true and, in fact, it is very useful. The aim is to facilitate the knowledge and understanding of the TAOR. In addition, the maquette provides accurate and complete guidance on minefields, military positions, CFLs, etc. The maquette is placed in a well illuminated location within the Patrol Base, thereby facilitating the scheduling of patrols and detailed, accurate briefings for visitors.



## THE ARGCON MEDAL PARADE

by Lt (N) Carlos Kammerath



Lt Col Durante presenting medals to Alfa Coy.



2Lt Echagüe, the flag bearer.



Mr Feissel presents SSgt Amaya with his UN medal.

On Friday 19 August 1994, the members of the Argentinian Contingent were presented with their United Nations medals by the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, the Acting Force Commander, Col John Powell OBE, the CO ARGCON, Lt Col Juan M Durante and the 2ic, Lt Col Rodolfo Mujica.

Once again, the Medal Parade was conducted at the front of Skouriotissa Camp in a very Cypriot village atmosphere. Some 170 multi-national guests honoured the ceremony with their presence and watched

approximately 200 soldiers march on to the music of the Royal Irish Rangers band. After the medal presentation, it was time for the "vets", those who have served for a second period in UNFICYP, to receive their silver numbers.

Finally, Mr Feissel addressed the troops with very emotional words. The event finished with a dinner, a fine occasion to thank all our friends for their support and friendliness since the very first moment that the Argentinian Contingent arrived in Cyprus.



Guests honouring the parade.



The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment.



Col J Powell, presenting the UN medal to the Marines.



At the NCOs' Mess.



## IT'S HARD TO DRIVE A WATER TRUCK

by SSgt Karl Füsselberger

A very important assignment in great demand in the Transport Platoon is the water truck driver. In one way, the job is fairly independent because the boss is usually miles away! However, this post holds a lot of responsibility. All the HQ Coy and 2 Coy personnel obtain their water supply in these trucks which are currently driven by LCpl



LCpl Fred Tanzer (left) and LCpl Thomas Nemeth (right) in front of their vehicle.

Fred Tanzer and LCpl Thomas Nemeth.

And they are indeed very busy men! If you want to contact them, you have to get up very early - before they start the so-called "Big Tour" at 0530 hrs. Three times a week they start in Camp Duke Leopold with unloading the truck. It must be filled during the night, because if any fire service action is required, the drivers must be ready at short notice.

First they drive to Varosha and Dherinia to refill the truck and start to supply OPs on the Dherinia Line, ending at the Pyla Platoon. The water tanks in the camp contain 120,000 litres, and there is a need for 40,000-60,000 litres per day. On many occasions, patience is

required when there is no electricity in Varosha and the boys have to go to Dherinia to get their water. The mileage per day is between 150 to 200 kms. So if they do their job well, then they can finish in 24 hours!

One of the three drivers is always on standby to cover extra work, like taking part in Cop Woodpecker or any additional water requirements.



LCpl Nemeth releases the faucet.



## CANCON ROTATION - ARRIVING JUST IN TIME TO LEAVE!

by Capt BE Hamilton

The CANCON rotation of summer '94 is now over and the new members and their families are comfortably settled in. Unfortunately, shortly after their arrival, the rumour of a complete Canadian withdrawal from UNFICYP by the end of 1994 was confirmed.

In the meantime, however, all ranks and families are making the most of their remaining time in Cyprus. The new CANCON Commander is Maj Bob Parsons, the FE, and Maj Bob Black is the new SO2 Ops (Policy and Plans). Capt Jeff Willis has taken over as a JOC duty officer, while Capt Brian Hamilton is the new SO3 Ops Info (yes, it's true: the two new Capt's selected prove that not all Canadians are named 'Bob!').

CANCON remains one of the best policed contingents with the replacement of its four military policemen. Now out patrolling a street near you are Sgts Eve Gaudreau, Jerry Grenier, Glen Perron and Bob Tarras. Rounding up the team are the two old hands providing the continuity, namely WO Jack MacDonald in Pers/Logs and Sgt George Houston in Ops Info.

As a final note, CANCON will most definitely host an



From left to right. Back row: Sgt Grenier, Sgt Tarras, Sgt Perron, Sgt Houston, Sgt Gaudreau and WO MacDonald. Front row: Capt Hamilton, Maj Black, Maj Parsons and Capt Willis.

all-ranks farewell social event - detailed instructions to follow. In the meantime, it's 'carpe diem' for those of us who will be 'the last of the many' Canadians to serve in Cyprus.

## THE QUARTERMASTER'S SECTION

by SSgt Karl Füsselberger

The QM's Section forms a very essential part of AUSCON, being responsible for catering, clothing, salaries and quartering equipment.

The AUSCON Quartermaster, Maj Dietman Foditsch, is currently serving his first tour with UNFICYP. He is a very busy man, not only advising the CO on all the above matters, but also being personally responsible for a variety of tasks - from dealing with local banks over liaison with HQ UNFICYP, down to working out the monthly menu in cooperation with AUSCON's SMO.



WOll Raich and MSSgt Warlitsch preparing a delicious salad.

However, he has a competent and dependable staff working for him: WO Max Hojas is the Paymaster, his third tour in Cyprus. WOll Schiffer is in charge of all

rations, having gained previous UN experience in the Golan Heights. He performs his duties in a very professional manner, being ably assisted by the catering NCO, WOll Zimmer. Responsible for all equipment is WOll Rack, assisted by MCpl Blasch.

In charge of all clothing matters is WO Stammler, assisted by MCpl Wallner - they are the reason AUSCON personnel are always so perfectly kitted out!

The AUSCON Kitchen Crew.

Front row:

Cpl Hudmast, LCpl Stern, MCpl Zimmer and Cpl Wallensteiner. Back row: LCpl Eska, WOll Holzner, MSSgt Warlitsch and WOll Raich.

WOll Holzner is the Master Chef, who works together with WOll Raich, MSSgt Warlitsch, MCpl Zimmer, Cpl Wallensteiner, Cpl Hudmast, LCpl Stern and LCpl Eska in three shifts to provide a constant, perfect service. Not only do they cater for all personnel of CDL V, but also for many functions - including the ones at far away places like HQ UNFICYP!

WO Stammler handing out clothing to Pte Hauser.



## BEER AND GOULASCH SOUP

Sponsored by Austrian Companies for AUSCON



Two leading food companies, Brau AG-Zipfer (beer) and Knorr (soup), recently supported Austrian personnel working in the Buffer Zone to stand the heat of this summer more easily.

Three barrels of Zipfer beer and 25 large cans of Knorr soup were sent from Austria free of charge and were distributed to the different coys. This is further proof of the integration between the Austrian Armed Forces and the Austrian economy.

Capt S Perr hands over Zipfer beer and Knorr soup to the Coy Comd, 1 Coy, Maj M Wallner





## THE BRITCON MEDAL PARADE

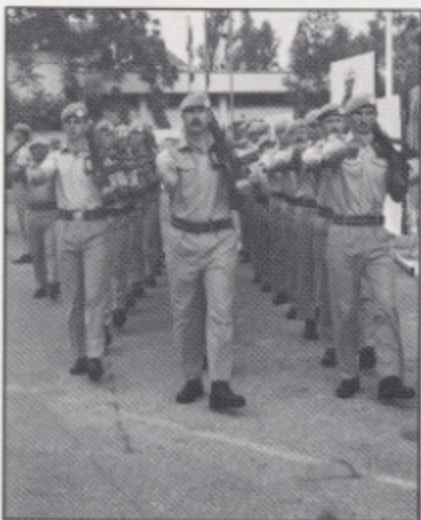
by Capt Justin van der Pant  
photos by Sgt Joe Relihan



Col Powell greets the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Colin Jennings.



WOI (RSM) SD Wilmot gives the order for the parade to march on, led by the RA Band.



H Battery march onto parade, led by Bdrs Morgan and Featherbe-Morgan.

At 1830 hours on Monday 19 September, 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, led by the Royal Artillery Band, marched onto parade at Wolseley Barracks.

As the sun set and a full moon appeared, 138 men from the Regiment awaited the arrival of the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, and the Deputy British High Commissioner, Mr Colin Jennings. After a brief inspection, accompanied by music from the RA Band, the medals were presented by two prominent guests, Maj Gen AGH Harley, CB, OBE, and Brig Mike Raworth. Again, such classics as the theme from "A Bridge Too Far" were played by the Band, particularly relevant with the 50th Anniversary of the Arnhem landings being celebrated only the day before.

The parade marched past with the Force Commander taking the salute, and then moved under the two 105mm light guns before leaving the arena which was created by using hand painted screens.

The band and flag lowering party then marched back on and the sunset ceremony concluded with the regimental flag and national flags of the UNFICYP contributing nations being lowered to the tune of "Sunset". Celebrations quickly followed with a VIP cocktail party before the all ranks BBQ started on the patio of the Ledra Palace Hotel. It was undoubtedly a very successful parade, though tragically, all our thoughts are with 2Lt Tom Rayner, who fell accidentally on the night of the parade from a third floor window, and is now recovering in hospital in London.



The FC inspects Bdr Thomas, G Battery



Maj Gen AGH Harley CB, OBE, presents Gnr Simmons with his UN medal.



The RA Band march past during the sunset ceremony

## PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE

by Sgt Maj Nobby Clarke

At 0600 hours on Tuesday 14 July, the Permanent Force Reserve paraded. Was it another fire call-out? Or perhaps another seige of the Ledra Palace Hotel? No; this time, the troop was parading for something which was invigorating, refreshing and loved by all - a "BFT"!

For our multi-national readers and runners, a brief explanation is necessary. The BFT, the Basic Fitness Test, is - as the name implies - the minimum physical requirement for the British Army which all soldiers must attain. It consists of a 1.5 miles (2.5 km) run/walk as a squad, followed by 1.5 miles (2.5km) where one attempts to fly, like sugar off a shovel, as personal pride is now at stake.

This occasion was special - not for the 30 BRITCON personnel who were there, at their own insistence, for the sheer "pleasure" of the occasion, but for our comrades - the 12 ARGCON and 11 AUSCON personnel who were attempting to gain the coveted "pass" certificate. Stretching, yawning,



Sgt Tolley (BRITCON) always prefers to run in his amusing palm tree hat!

groaning and moaning being completed and all under starter's orders, we were off.

The first circuit was run as a squad, albeit at a gentle pace, revealing a few chinks in the Perm FR armour. Some members of the squad appeared

to be flagging and dropping back. No names, no pack drill, but would the troop commander, Capt Neale McArdle, find his second breath? During the second lap, he did manage to do so, but unfortunately, others didn't! 30 BRITCON ran (1 failed); 8 ARGCON ran (all passed, but one hid under the bed [get you next time, Romero!]) and 9 AUSCON ran with 4 failing.

However all was not lost for those who failed. The following week, everyone passed. ARGCON and AUSCON were happy, and BRITCON was so inspired that they immediately volunteered for a 15 km road race on 31 July - and promptly went into secret training (down in Ayia Napa). The 31st dawned and the Perm FR were there - 7 BRITCON personnel ran and all completed the run, each gaining a medallion. It appears that, regardless of the temperatures, fitness is here to stay!



A proud display of BFT pass certificates.



SSgt Ibarra (ARGCON) and Lt Köstner (AUSCON) in a sprint finish.



## SIGNALS TROOP, 7 PARA RHA

by Bdr 'Taff' Topps

Signals Troop, "H" Para Bty (Ramsay's Troop) RHA, is located at the Ledra/Wolseley Barracks complex in Nicosia.

The primary task of the Troop is the manning of the Joint Operations Centre of Sector Two and the exchange. We are also responsible for repair and maintenance of all the signals equipment, and for liaison between the Royal Signals Line Detachment and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority.



Bdr 'Taff' Topps "I'll have a pizza with ham and mushrooms, please".

Once we had taken over from the Signals Troop of 2RTR, we quickly settled down to a shift routine. The first few weeks were extremely busy with a never ending flow of faxes and a hectic time on the exchange. On the JOC side, one of the busiest times was in June during the fire which spread from B-28 to the UNPA in which we coordinated the fire-fighting efforts. In July, most members of the Troop had a welcomed break from the confines of the JOC and took part in operations in the Buffer Zone



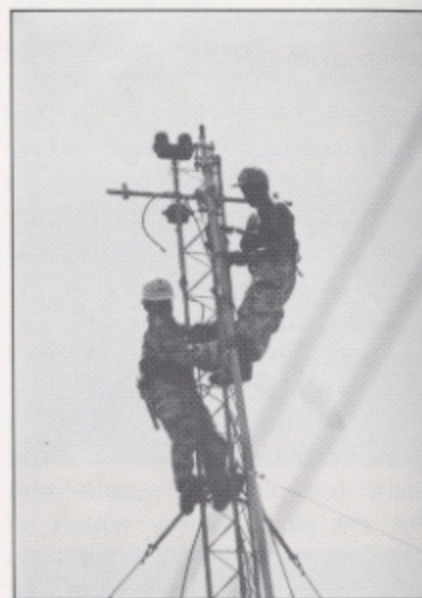
SMIS - the morning after the night before...

during the 20th anniversary demonstrations. We are now firmly set in the routine, with members of the Troop disappearing here and there on their R & R and adventurous training. All this is a far cry from our role as Airborne Gunners, but the Signals Troop have adapted well to this new role.



Sgt Potter guarding the Sigs Store.

Now a bit about the lads. The Troop Commander, WO2 (SMS) Jimmy Harper, in between dealing with the Line Det and CYTA, is running the Regimental Bingo, which is proving to be very popular (£££!). Sgt JJ Potter has found himself busy commanding various Quarter Guards for distinguished visitors and touring local breweries! SSgt JJ Walker (our rear link Sgt) thinks he's in paradise with so many Landrover TDI's to play with. Bdr Peter Greenwood joined us in mid-July after recovering from the injury he sustained playing football back in the UK. Bdr Gary Laing and Gnr Paul Tink, when not on stag, can be found in Ayia Napa, returning with tales of Scandinavian Goddesses (I think not!!). LBdr "Burtie" Burton spends all his money on phone



"Don't tell me you've dropped another spanner, Sgt Walker".

cards to ring his fiancée back on the Isle of White, while our ex Life Guard, Gnr "Scouse" Mahoney, spends his time helping out at the stables. Last but not least, there's Gnr Jimmy Griggs, our Regimental DJ Star, who was last heard doing some mixing on the local radio station, Radio One.

This month we bid farewell to two of our members. Gnr Paul Tink is returning to the UK for the Army Boxing Team and we wish him the best of luck - also to Sgt JJ Walker who is posted back to 216 Para Sig Sgn. At the same time, we welcome his replacement, Sgt Cave, also from 216: we hope he enjoys his stay with the Regiment.



LBdr Burton and Bdr Laing, kite flying...

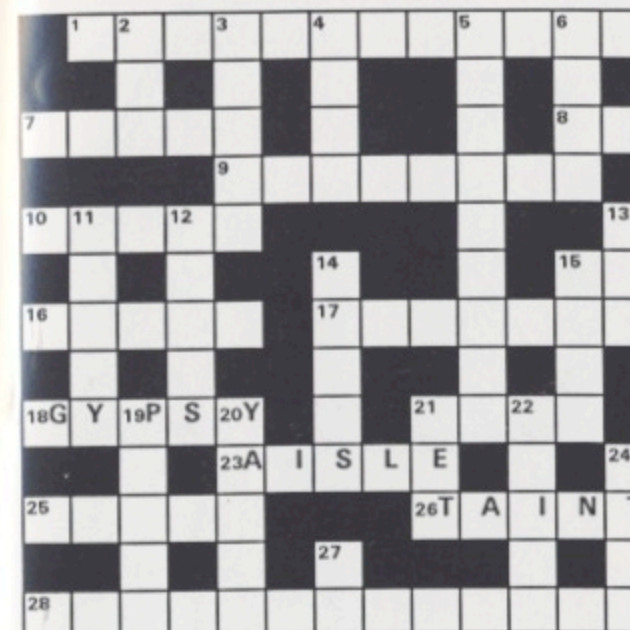
## THE BLUE BERET FUN AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PAGE

This page is aimed at helping Blue Beret readers to improve their knowledge on matters related to UNFICYP and the UN organization in general. I hope you find the Blue Beret Fun and Test Your Knowledge page useful.

Editor

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BB No 02

This is your second chance! Since no correct answer to the first crossword, BB No 01, was received, the offer of a bottle of stimulating transparent liquid, highly recommended and kindly donated by the UNFICYP Spokesman, still stands. It will be presented to the first all correct entry to be drawn out of the Editor's top helmet! Solutions to arrive at the Spokesman's office, c/o Asst Editor, HQ UNFICYP not later than Monday **31 October 1994**.



#### Clues:

##### Across:

1. One of HQ UNFICYP's main branches
7. SRSG for Cyprus
8. In the direction towards
9. United Nations Secretary General
10. Popular game in Russia
15. Above, covering
16. Female wizard
17. Town of Uganda, mainly known for its airport
18. Member of a wandering race
21. Continue living in the same place
23. You walk up this when you marry in church
25. Fundamental, elementary
26. Pollute, become infected
28. Sea surrounding Cyprus

##### Down:

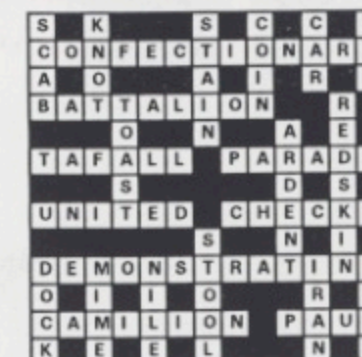
2. United Nations Agency
3. Ship in which Noah and his family took refuge
4. International Civil Aviation Organization
5. Symbolize or stand for
6. Performs in a play
11. Bearded, covered with hair
12. Punches, short stockings
13. Single, undivided
14. Grants someone temporary use of
15. Follow orders
19. Worked as a model
20. Light sailing vessel
21. Place in specified position, solidify
22. Quick moving, nimble
24. Knock unconscious
27. Introducing an alternative



### THE BLUE BERET TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Which of the following UNFICYP Force Commanders is not from India?
  - a. Gen KS Thimayya (Jul 64-Dec 65)
  - b. Lt Gen IAE Martola (May 66-Dec 69)
  - c. Lt Gen DP Prem Chand (Dec 69-Dec 76)
2. Which of the following UNFICYP Force Commanders is not from Ireland?
  - a. Maj Gen M Minehane (April 91-Jul 94)
  - b. Maj Gen JJ Quinn (Dec 76-Feb 81)
  - c. Brig AJ Wilson (Dec 65-May 66)

#### ANSWERS TO BB 01



Answers: 1 = b, 2 = c



## A FRIENDLY HANDSHAKE



RSM Carlos Omar Haas (Argentina) in a friendly handshake with RSM Stan Wilmot (Britain) at the ARGCON Medal Parade.