

# THE Blue Beret

September/October 1998





# MINISTERIAL VISITS TO UNFICYP

On Tuesday 6 October 1998, the Ministers of Defence of the Argentine and Britain jointly visited UNFICYP.

Prior to their arrival at HQ UNFICYP, His Excellency Mr Jorge Dominguez, the Argentine Minister of Defence, and the Right Honourable George Robertson MP, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Defence, attended a meeting at the residence of the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr David Madden.

They continued on to Headquarters UNFICYP where they were received by the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, and the Chief of Staff, Col C Coats. Following a joint inspection of the multinational guard of honour, the Ministers were escorted into the Headquarters and provided with a short briefing by the Chief of Staff.

The two Ministers then attended a training exercise involving Argentinian and British troops from the multinational Mobile Force Reserve. This exercise included assistance from UN Flight's Bell 212 helicopter and a TACTICA Armoured Personnel Carrier, which was transformed for the exercise into an armoured vehicle ready for emergency casualty rescue.

His Excellency Mr Jorge Dominguez, accompanied by the Argentine Chief of Joint Staff, Lt Gen Carlos Maria Zabala, then continued on to Sector



HE Mr Jorge Dominguez with the Force Commander (left) and personnel from Sector One

One, where he inspected the Argentinian troops and visited UN Observation Post 22 in the Buffer Zone.

His brief visit to Sector One ended with a reception at the Headquarters of the Argentine Task Force, where he took the salute and thanked the contingent on behalf of the Argentinian President, Dr Carlos Saul Menem, and himself, for their loyalty and devotion to duty.

Meanwhile, the Right Honourable George Robertson, accompanied by Mr DJ Banner, Secretary of the Minister, Lt Col CM Deverell MBE, the Press Secretary, and Mr McGoven, the Assistant to the Secretary of State, continued on to 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery, a unique opportunity for the Secretary of State to observe at first hand one of his Regiments on an operational tour. The visit party now included journalists from the British Forces Broadcasting Services and British Sky News.

The visitors walked the Green Line within Nicosia's city walls, where they met soldiers, both British and Dutch, whose job it is to maintain peace in this area.

At the end of his visit, the Secretary of State said how heartened he was by all he had seen, and that he now had a clear picture of the problems faced by the young soldiers in their day-to-day peace-keeping efforts.



Visit to Sector Two on the Green Line  
From the left: the Adjutant, the Chief of Staff, the Right Honourable George Robertson, the Commanding Officer, the RSM and the Battery Commander, Sector Two East

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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:

## VISIT OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE OF ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
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# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

Peace-keeping has come a long way since 1948, when the United Nations despatched its first truce observers in the Middle East and along the Indian-Pakistani cease fire line in Kashmir. Today, 50 years later, there is overwhelming evidence that United Nations peace-keeping has made a difference; lives saved, conflicts stalled, wars prevented and the establishment of law and order necessary for tackling the great problems of humanity. Not every time, but most times.

In addition, the dynamics of a changing world have resulted in an increasing demand for more efficient and flexible peace-keeping missions. Times change and we change with them. It is not therefore surprising that, following the arrival of Dame Ann Hercus, the Chief of Mission, changes are to be expected within UNFICYP. The senior management team has consulted widely and has identified a number of key areas for change - some small, some large. It is within this framework that the Spokesperson's Office is recently undergoing reorganisation. The next issue of the Blue Beret will inform readers on new developments in this area.

After over 10 years of loyal and dedicated service with UNFICYP, Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski, the previous Spokesperson and Editor of the Blue Beret, has accepted a posting in Tajikistan on a new assignment. His colleagues and friends in the mission, and in particular the editorial staff of the Blue Beret, wish him all the very best and every success in his new venture.

## CONTENTS

Ministerial Visits to UNFICYP .....	2
Editorial/Contents .....	3
UNFICYP celebrates the Multinational Face of the UN .....	4/5
Why Not?/Slovenian Contingent in Cyprus .....	6
Visit of the Austrian Minister of Defence/ Hungarian Soldiers in UNFICYP .....	7
Pilgrimage to Apostolos Andreas Monastery .....	8
End of School Year/Memorial Service in Goshi .....	9
Sector Two 19 <sup>th</sup> Regt RA/Ledra Troop .....	10
City Troop .....	11
Ortona Troop/Liri Troop .....	12
Multinational Medal Parade of Sector Four .....	13
Logistics Branch, Sector One/Equipment of Sector Four's Reserve Platoon .....	14
The AUSTCIVPOL Medal Parade/Last AUSTCIVPOL Medal Parade for Commander Barry Carpenter .....	15
The Buffer Zone .....	16



# UNFICYP CELEBRATES THE MULTINATIONAL FACE OF THE UN

For the fourth consecutive year, UNFICYP celebrated 24 October, United Nations Day. This year, the event recognized 50 years of peace-keeping activities and was held at the Ledra Palace Hotel, the base of the British Contingent.

It took the form of an outdoor festival at which the multinational face of the UN was displayed through contributions by all Sectors and Units of the Force and in which all nationalities were reflected.

There was certainly plenty for the 5,000 visitors to choose from, the activities being centred in three main areas. Argentinian dancing, Irish music and a Hungarian/Austrian Tae Kwan Do display were the highlights on stage, whilst superb music and marching displays by the Band of the Brigade of

Gurkhas and the Argentinian Military Band, interspersed by a hilarious and strenuous games programme in the main arena, kept spectators amused and enthralled alongside breathtaking displays of abseiling by Dutch



A baby being held by an Argentinian soldier from Sector One



The superb band of the Brigade of Gurkhas



UNFICYP personnel ensuring that young visitors enjoy themselves at the Open Day

soldiers, determined to throw themselves from the roof of the hotel.

This was very much a day for the children and an array of 'fairground' attractions, with a variety of stalls including face painting, a bouncy castle and swimming pool games, were complimented by exhibitions of a multinational culture and heritage. Culinary delicacies offered at the four national food tents included empanadas from Argentina, goulash and apple strudel from the Austrian/Hungarian Contingents, Irish stew and cakes and drinks from the British Contingent, all of which proved very popular. These and many more activities occurred within the wider backdrop of providing information about the UN, its role throughout the world and its successes.

It was abundantly clear from the general atmosphere and the



The Dutch abseiling down the side of the Ledra Palace Hotel

mood of all visitors and participants that the day achieved its aims and was a great success.

The hours flew past, and when 5 o'clock arrived, it was with great reluctance and some sadness that people began to leave for home. The Ledra Palace Hotel exit was blocked by people excitedly chatting and asking for the date of the next event.



The CM after the prize presentation to the overall winning team from Sector Two



The Tae Kwan Do display



A display of the Argentinian national dance, the tango

The event was a Force-wide commitment reflecting hard work by military, police and civilian personnel from all Sectors and Units. The significant contribution of many family members is particularly acknowledged, and special thanks are due to Sector Two for having prepared the site and administered the event so efficiently and professionally.



Happy faces



## IN MEMORIAM



As many of you will have learned, a tragic accident marred this day. 3¼-year-old Vergina Nicolaides, from Lakatamia, died in a riding accident involving a pony. Despite prompt action from

the UNFICYP medics present and her swift transport to the Nicosia General Hospital, doctors were unable to save her life.

UNFICYP expresses its great

sorrow at this tragedy and the loss of this dear little girl. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to Vergina's parents, family and friends.



## WHY NOT?

As with the majority of modern armies of the world, the Argentine Army now has a considerable number of women who have joined the armed forces.

Female participation began in 1981. At first, only certain specializations were accepted, such as professional nurses and infirmary assistants. Now, however, women form not only an active part of the permanent force of voluntary soldiers, but began approximately two years ago to participate in the national military academy. Female cadets are currently training in many fields including artillery, engineering and communications.

At present there are 11 women taking part in the Argentine Task Force at Sector One. Four hold officer ranks, three are NCOs and the remainder are privates. All of them fulfil functions of logistic



support, but the day isn't far off when the cadets now training in artillery, engineering and communications will be integrated into all branches of Sector One. One may even hold the rank of Commanding Officer.

*And why not?*

## SLOVENIAN CONTINGENT IN CYPRUS

Situated in central Europe, the Republic of Slovenia is one of the smallest countries in the region. It borders Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, and measures 20,256 sq km with a population of almost two million.

Slovenia has proven to be a very dynamic, young member of the UN family. It is therefore justified in being proud of the fact that its contribution to UNFICYP has already reached the third rotation. A decision was taken this year to increase the Slovenian strength from 10 personnel to platoon level (26 personnel). On 23 September 1998, SICON III - the first Slovenian platoon - arrived in Cyprus. A day to remember, and an event to celebrate.

Well organized and efficient preparations for deployment took place well in advance with briefings on peace-keeping doctrines and techniques, exchange of experiences and information from the previous contingent which were of enormous value.

On September 13 1998, the contingent left for Austria where it continued the final preparations at the Austrian Training Centre in Vienna. Members of the two incoming contingents - Austrian and Slovenian - worked hand in hand to familiarize themselves with



*Slovenian personnel at UN OP 139*

topics such as crowd control, OP duties, demonstrations, negotiations, etc. Then on 23 September 1998, the first Slovenian platoon was deployed to Cyprus.

Two Slovenian officers are now conducting their duties at HQ Sector Four in Famagusta: Captain Videtič, the Contingent Commander/Supply Officer, and Captain Pisarevič, Duty Officer in Ops Branch.

SICON III contingent members share the common feeling of pride and responsibility, and are all determined to accomplish their duties, in accordance with UNFICYP's mandate, to the best of their abilities.



## VISIT OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE



*Dr Werner Fasslabend with Dame Ann Hercus*

From 9 to 11 October 1998, the Austrian Minister of Defence, Dr Werner Fasslabend, and a high ranking delegation paid a visit to Cyprus.

In a tightly-packed schedule, a wreath-laying ceremony took place in Goshi on 9 October, after which the Minister visited the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, and the Force Commander, Maj Gen Evergisto de Vergara, at HQ UNFICYP. In the afternoon, following a visit to President Glafkos Clerides, the Minister attended the Austrian Medal Parade with the Chief of Mission and Force Commander.

The following day, Saturday 10 October, the programme included a general tour of Camp Duke Leopold V. The Minister and delegation also inspected Observation Posts in Dherinia, Camp Marie Therese, Pyla and Athienou and met with soldiers of all ranks from the three contingents of Austria, Hungary and Slovenia.

In his final address, the Minister expressed his great appreciation at the opportunity to visit Sector Four, and said how impressed he was with the experience and motivation of the soldiers he had met.

## HUNGARIAN SOLDIERS IN UNFICYP

The Hungarian contingent successfully completed the autumn 1998 rotation on 22 and 29 September, when 55 men and women were repatriated to Hungary and 57 newcomers arrived in UNFICYP.

Hungarian participation dates back to August 1993, when the first four Hungarian Military Observers arrived in UNFICYP. Then in 1995, the Hungarian government signed an agreement with the United Nations and Austria, authorizing the deployment of a Hungarian platoon under Austrian operational command.

In accordance with the Hungarian Constitution, no conscripts are permitted to carry out their service abroad, so all Hungarian soldiers serving with UNFICYP were selected from professional or contracted volunteers in the rank of Corporal up to Lieutenant Colonel. Application is open to all military personnel who fulfil the criteria of the selection board.

As "Szolnok", the 88<sup>th</sup> Rapid Reaction Battalion, is specialized not only in quick deployment but also in peace-keeping techniques, the majority of personnel are selected from that unit. The majority, but not everybody, so you can also meet aircraft and infantry personnel as well as female



*Hungarian soldiers at Camp Izay in Sector Four*

computer operators and many more.

After gaining experience, HUNCON's platoon strength was increased to company level, and since 23 September 1997, 107 Hungarians serve in various locations within Sector Four. The main base and "home" is Camp Izay, and all members of UNFICYP, military, police or civilian, are welcome to visit the Camp on any occasion.



## PILGRIMAGE TO APOSTOLOS ANDREAS MONASTERY

The Monastery of Apostolos Andreas (St Andrew) is an important Christian shrine situated on the very spot where the voyaging Martyr allegedly set foot on the Island in search of water. Situated some 22km beyond Rizokarpasso at the virtual tip of the Karpas Peninsular, it is revered and respected throughout Greek Orthodoxy.

A 1997 agreement between the leaders of the two communities resolved that three annual Greek Cypriot pilgrimages could be made to the Monastery during Easter, on 15 August and on 30 November, in return for similar reciprocal trips by the Turkish Cypriots to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque near Larnaca.

The Humanitarian Branch of UNFICYP planned and coordinated many aspects of the arrangements for the trip, which eventually took place on 13 September 1998, a little later than originally planned. At 6:45am, the 1,276 pilgrims began walking through the Buffer Zone at the Ledra Palace Hotel in organised groups. They boarded buses at the checkpoint, under the supervision of UNFICYP soldiers and police officials with the cooperation of both sides. Having got on buses an hour quicker than is usual for such events, the pilgrims travelled the 102 miles to the Monastery. The more senior citizens had the opportunity to gaze over half-forgotten ground, to snatch a nostalgic glimpse or to rekindle memories of a house once lived in, of a road once travelled or of a tree once climbed, as the villages swept past.

By midday, everyone had arrived, some seeing the Monastery for the very first time. Others met old friends from the Karpas villages. People roamed the peripheral grounds, down to the water's edge, where many picnicked whilst waiting their turn to enter the Monastery and participate in the ongoing service. It was also an occasion for quiet meditation as those in the slow moving queue lit candles of all sizes (some quite enormous) and waited for entry into the hallowed halls. A moving sight indeed.

One cannot and must not underestimate the importance of this event to the Greek Cypriot community, in terms of both religion and sentiment.

Seat vacancies are as gold dust; the desire for them far exceeds capacity, with over 6,000 applications for this latest trip. A tried and tested vetting procedure had been developed to ensure absolute fairness and impartiality during selection, whilst giving appropriate priority to special groups such as the elderly, the disabled and persons travelling from overseas for the occasion.

After about three hours at the Monastery, it was back to the buses for the slow drive back to Nicosia, under excellent convoy arrangements, stopping again at the half way point for refreshments. It was almost dark as the first groups got off



the buses at the Ledra Checkpoint and by 8.15pm, the last 'stragglers' had made their way past the Ledra Hotel to their waiting vehicles, footsore but in good spirits after the 14-hour day.

It was a long day for UNFICYP too, especially for those on duty in the Buffer Zone and those who accompanied the travellers throughout. From the UN perspective, the trip was an overwhelming success, and the people showed their appreciation as they returned through the checkpoint. Such a pilgrimage, involving so many people, is an enormous undertaking in terms of coordination and control, and Lt Col Cundins, the Chief Humanitarian Officer, his staff and all other UNFICYP personnel who assisted should be warmly congratulated.

Everyone agrees that this latest event was a most satisfying day and a sign, perhaps, of a resurrection of the pilgrimages to Apostolos Andreas, the next of which is scheduled for St Andrew's Day, 30 November.

## "END OF SCHOOL YEAR"

Whilst conducting an extra Northwind Patrol to the Karpas in Sector Four, the Sector Humanitarian Officer and a member of HQ UNFICYP's Humanitarian Branch were invited to attend an "End of School Year" play which was to be performed in the Greek Cypriot school of Rizokarpasso this summer.

The activity was organized by three Greek Cypriot teachers in the Karpas, the first such event in the last 24 years. The 34 Greek Cypriot primary school children enthusiastically, successfully and commendably performed to a large audience of parents and fellow villagers, with a programme including a village wedding scene, folk dances and choir songs.

As reported by "KIBRIS", the headmistress of the school, Despo Mouzouri, expressed happiness at being able to realize such an activity for the first time, and stated: "I hope you will enjoy the activities to be presented by our children, who are our future, in this, the nicest corner of our country".

Kibris also stated that the number of teachers at the school had gone up to three with the arrival of



Children performing the "wedding scene"

two more teachers at the start of the last school year (September 1997), and this had enabled the children to engage in social activities. The two new teachers, Alexia Gulia and her husband, Grigorios Kotsicas, who were both originally from the Karpas, said they intended to stay on for another year, as Rizokarpasso was "one of the nicest places in the world".

## MEMORIAL SERVICE AT GOSHI

On 14 August 1974, 1/Lt Johann Izay, SSgt Paul Decombe, Cpl August Isak and L/Cpl Sattlecker from the Austrian Contingent were travelling from Goshi towards Larnaca with orders to observe the opposing forces from a safe distance. In accordance with UN rules, the vehicle they were in was painted white with the UN crest on both doors. A UN flag was flying from the vehicle, and all four soldiers wore blue helmets, clearly identifying them as members of UNFICYP.

Whilst in open ground approximately 1 km from Goshi,

they were attacked by Turkish Forces fighter planes using 20 mm board cannons and napalm bombs. 1/Lt Izay, SSgt Decombe and Cpl Isak lost their lives in the attack.

Every year, the Austrian Contingent commemorates this tragic event at the Goshi memorial, located only a few metres from the original site, by a guard of honour and a wreath-laying ceremony. Headquarters 1 Coy Athienou was named after 1/Lt Izay, and the UN Medical Centre in Athienou was named after Cpl Isak.



From the left: Lt Col J Trummer, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, Dame Ann Hercus and Lt Col H Hufner



## SECTOR TWO 19<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY (THE HIGHLAND GUNNERS)

In the first of a series of articles that will familiarize us with the Sub Units of Sector Two to UNFICYP, we are introduced here to Sector Two East. The unit concerned is 25/170 (Imjin) Battery, Royal Artillery.

The following articles give a taste of life on the line in an area that runs from the Ledra Palace Hotel/Wolseley Barracks, where Battery Headquarters is located, through the old walled city of Nicosia. We continue onwards through Ortona Troop on the Omorphita Plain, to Liri Troop, manned by men from the A/Kingscoy 11<sup>th</sup> Airmobile Brigade to the east of the Sector, located next to the western troop of Sector Four, AUSCON.



Battery Commander Sector Two East, Maj J Calder-Smith (left) with WO2 (BSM) Ward

## LEDRA TROOP

LEDRA TROOP is blessed with the smallest Area of Responsibility (AOR) within the Sector, only 800m by 400m. However, it is possibly one of the most important, due to the fact that it contains the only official civilian crossing point between both sides in Cyprus.

Due to our unique geographic position, being co-located with both Regimental and Battery Headquarters means that we have a varied and

demanding set of responsibilities. In keeping with all other UN line troops, we have to monitor both the opposing forces' cease fire lines (OPFOR CFLs). This is made significantly easier in the Ledra area due to our small size, and the fact that large parts of the area were unmanned under an agreement that was reached in 1989. As we cannot see a number of the National Guard and Turkish Forces Observation Posts (OPs) from our own positions, we regularly deploy foot patrols to dominate the ground and to liaise with the OPFORs up to Company level.

Perhaps our most important responsibility is the provision of the Sector reserve that is at a constant state of readiness at two hours' notice to move. This more than makes up for the routine of living and working within the Ledra Palace/Wolseley Barracks area. When we are in role as the Sector reserve, our responsibilities within the AOR fall to others within the Ledra Palace.

There are inevitably other tasks that are the penalty of living and operating close to the focus of command for both Regiment and Battery, but this is more than compensated for by the higher living standards that we have in comparison to the line troops.



Lt Seaton briefing the CM in Ledra area

## CITY TROOP

CITY TROOP occupies approximately half of the old shopping precinct known as Maple House, while the other half is deserted and in a dilapidated state. As soon as 1 Royal Tank Regiment (1RTR) had handed over command to 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment, the Unit immediately established a refurbishment scheme, aimed at improving the general standard of the Troop house and the Buffer Zone in order to enhance the Troop's operational capability.

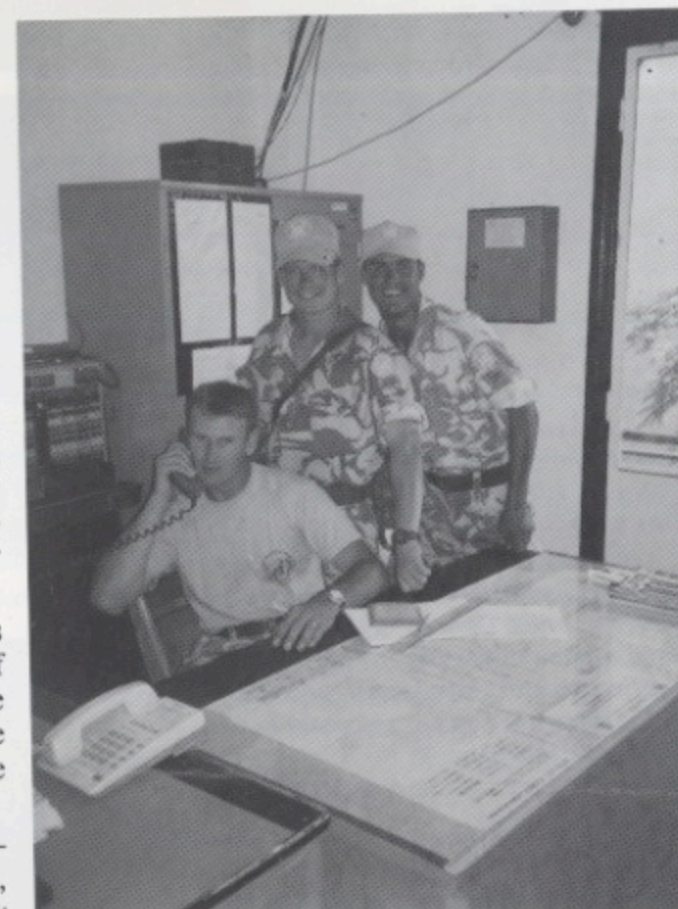
As Maple House is a much visited location, the façade was generally in a good state of repair and, apart from a good lick of paint, only minimal work was required. However, the living accommodation needed a fair amount of attention: the Troop eagerly swung into action erecting mosquito screens, eradicating the past Unit's presence and stamping their own identity onto the building.

City Troop's Area of Responsibility (AOR) runs from Paphos Gate in the west, bisects the old city of Nicosia and ends at the far eastern edge of the Flatro Bastion. It is 1.6 km in length and boasts the narrowest part of the Buffer Zone, which is a mere 3.3 metres in width.

The reason why the Regiment initiated a refurbishment policy for the Buffer Zone is that in parts, the vegetation had grown so much that it actually impeded our operational capability. City Troop had one such area, the Flatro Bastion. The vegetation in this location had initially been trimmed by 1RTR, but had since grown back to such an extent that it now obscured visibility from the Observation Post on the Flatro Bastion; so, it was decided to trim it once more. A JCB and chain saw team from the Royal Engineer Detachment were tasked and, with manpower from City Troop, proceeded to clear the



Gnr Crosby (left) and Gnr McCauley on patrol in City Troop area



Lbdr "Duke" Earl, Lbdr "Clint" Mathias and Gnr Matt Neely in the Ops Room

area of every piece of foliage. The Battery Commander of Sector Two East was somewhat shocked when he came down to inspect the Troop's progress and saw that the area had literally been flattened. It's now unofficially known as the "Flat" bastion.

Operationally we have been busy, as the opposing forces are at their closest within our AOR. We have had to deal with the usual incidents of over manning, stone throwing and general accusations off ill doing from both sides.

As well as the operational responsibilities which the Troop undertakes, it also hosts the majority of VIP visits to the Regiment and is very much a 'show' Troop as its AOR has so many fascinating and varied points of interest.

The Rest and Recreation cycle swung into full effect with no delay, and the Adventurous Training Centre in Dhekelia has had a steady flow of satisfied customers. The Troop members settled quickly into the job at hand, and are enjoying the delights which an operational tour in Cyprus can provide.



## ORTONA TROOP

**SECTOR TWO** as a whole is sub divided into two smaller areas of responsibility, Sector Two East and Sector Two West. Ortona Troop is the third troop in Sector Two East. It is bordered in the west by Nicosia City Troop, and in the east by Liri Troop, which extends out into the rural Omorphita Plain.

Thus, Ortona Troop's portion of the Buffer Zone lies in a busy, suburban landscape. The Troop's area of responsibility is 1.5 km in length, and the Buffer Zone between the Turkish Forces and National Guard varies from 10 m to 50 m in width. The ground is mixed scrub land and trees, interspersed with old derelict residential and commercial properties.

The first impressions of our Troop area were amazement and disbelief. The opposing forces were so close that they could almost offer each other a cigarette, if they were inclined to.

It is also hard to believe that some of the decrepit sentry towers they continue to man have been there for 24 years, when they do not look as if they could withstand a good downpour. The whole area has literally been caught in a time warp since the events in 1974. Old houses still contain newspapers over 24 years old. Children's school books for written work and mathematics can be found in some of the old houses, abandoned during the troubles.

Our first month was spent working extremely hard in three main areas. First, we had to learn the intricate



Gnr Cotgrave and Gnr Maskell from Ortona Troop

detail of the Buffer Zone and cease fire lines in our Troop area very quickly so that we could begin to patrol and monitor the area, thus maintaining its integrity. It was also important to build a good relationship with the opposing forces at both soldier and officer level. This helps in both resolving minor problems at the lowest level, and in gathering operational information.

Finally, we put a tremendous amount of effort into renovating the Troop living and social accommodation, transforming a run-of-the-mill Troop house into one of the best on the Green Line. After all, an area is only as good as you make it!

## LIRI TROOP

**NEEDLESS TO SAY**, we of the Dutch Contingent are delighted to be here as part of the UNFICYP family and, in particular, with the British Gunners of 19 Regt RA.

We have been split into three troop locations across the Sector, one of which is based at Liri Troop on the east of the line abutting the western Troop of AUSCON. There is a secret suspicion that we were given Liri Troop area as the landscape resembles that of the Netherlands in all but the quantity of water around. Well, that and the lack of windmills!

We first heard of this deployment after returning from a winter training exercise in Norway. It turned out that our training was less than perfect for the climate that we experienced on disembarkation from the plane - and what we endure on the plain at Liri. There are 30 Dutch men from the A/Kingscoy 11<sup>th</sup> Airmobile Brigade based here in total, with the responsibility of patrolling the Buffer Zone that is 9 km in length and up to 1.5 km in width. Within this area we man three Observation Posts, one permanently and two during the day only. This variety allows our soldiers to obtain the maximum benefit of working the line, as there is always something happening to observe and report on. The area that we



Cpl Pronk and Sgt Edelenbos at Liri Troop

cover is most varied, from the suburban decline to the north of the Ortona Troop area, down through the rural Omorphita plains to the south towards the Austrian Sector.

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the tour - which goes to prove that time flies when you are enjoying yourself!

## MULTINATIONAL MEDAL PARADE OF SECTOR FOUR

On 9 October 1998, the Medal Parade of the multinational battalion of Sector Four was held in the ancient amphitheatre of Salamis near Famagusta. Yet again, this location provided a worthy and beautiful setting for such an event.

After sunset and in the presence of guests of honour, families and friends, 81 members of Sector Four's UNAHSB (Austrians, Hungarians and Slovenians) lined



Members of Sector Four on parade in the spectacular amphitheatre of Salamis



The standards of the multinational battalion

up and proudly marched on parade to receive their UN medal "in the service of peace". The medal recipients were inspected by the Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, the Force Commander, Maj Gen Evergisto de Vergara, and the Austrian Minister of Defence, Dr W Fasslabend.

After the medals had been awarded, the Chief of Mission thanked Lt Col H Hufner, Commander Sector Four, for the good work of the three contingents. She then presented Lt Col J Trummer, the Austrian Contingent Commander, with the Chief of Mission's special commendation.

300 spectators immensely enjoyed the Austrian marches played by the Styrian band

of the "Grazer Verkehrsbetriebe", who had come from Austria especially for this function.

The event ended with a firework display in Salamis, and a reception was then held in the equally attractive Othello Tower situated within the Venetian Walls of the old city of Famagusta.

The Austrian Minister of Defence expressed his gratitude to all soldiers in the Battalion, especially the Austrians who have been serving with UNFICYP for the past 34 years in the service of peace.

A wonderful buffet/barbecue was served by the Austrian chefs, and international music by the Styrian band contributed greatly to making this an unforgettable evening.



Reception at the Othello Tower in the old city of Famagusta



## LOGISTICS BRANCH, SECTOR ONE

Every day during their tour of duty, the personnel of Logistics Branch in Sector One's San Martin Camp work hard for the members of their Contingent. Their tasks are often forgotten, and invariably they are taken for granted - at least until necessity arises.

In such cases, priorities have to be established. Contingent personnel have to have the means to perform their duties, including basic needs such as food, water and equipment. All these items have to be acquired as laid down in Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs); bureaucracy at its peak, with forms to be filled and materials, once they have been received, redirected to the right place at the right time. All this procedure is better known as the Logistics cycle. New requests are regularly submitted and the cycle starts again in an effort to minimize time loss and avoid crisis situations.

Once the solution to a problem is solved, the personnel of this Branch are then often forgotten, only to be remembered again in case of need. Nevertheless, this does not detract from the con-

scientious and efficient way in which the Unit operates. The Chief of the Branch is Maj Guillermo Voget. His auxiliary officer is Lt (Navy) Aldo Aguirre, and the Assistants are WOII Juan Chavez, WOII Juan Yañes, WOII (Navy) Carlos Quiroga and WOIII Jorge Paccioretti.

This group of men are always busy in a constant effort to process requests effectively in the belief that it's better to practise maintenance than to repair. Thanks for a job well done!



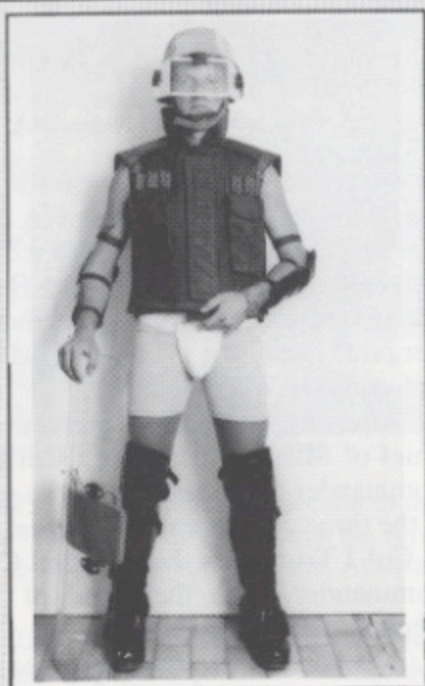
From the left: WOII Chavez, WOII Paccioretti, Maj Voget, I/Lt (Navy) Aguirre and WOII Yañes

## EQUIPMENT OF SECTOR FOUR'S RESERVE PLATOON

Sector Four's Force Reserve Platoon is stationed at UN 139 and UN 135 with the main task of monitoring the "Corridor Road" between Dhekelia and Ayios Nicolaos, as well as conducting Long Range patrols in Sector Four's area of responsibility.

During the events in Dherinia in August 1996, 12 members of the Austrian Contingent were injured. To prevent similar incidents nowadays, UN soldiers in Sector Four are equipped with helmets and shields, teeth protectors, flack jackets, arm and leg protectors and body protection shields. To enable all soldiers to properly use the above mentioned equipment, many hours of instruction are necessary.

This training is carried out in Austria's peace-keeping centre in Vienna before deployment to Cyprus. Of course, with the variation in temperatures on the island as well as the humidity count, a high standard of readiness and skills can only be achieved by carrying out regular exercises.



## THE AUSTCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE

Approximately 320 guests witnessed the presentation of the United Nations medals to the 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Contingents of AUSTCIVPOL on 19 August 1998. The Chief of Mission, Dame Ann Hercus, made the presentation to the 20 members of the contingents. The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, under the direction of Captain Ed Keeley and led by Drum Major Charra Bahadur Singh, were selected for the occasion in recognition of the close relationship the Gurkhas had with the Australians during World War II.

In a speech following the presentation, Dame Ann, who hails from New Zealand, said that she was honoured to have had the opportunity to



A member of the Brigade of Gurkhas

present the medals to members of AUSTCIVPOL, as New Zealanders had always stood, fought and died together with Australians in times of conflict.

Dame Ann then asked HE Mr Howard Brown, the Australian High Commissioner, to pass on her thanks to the Australian Government for its continued support of UNFICYP.

The members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Contingent completed their tour on 24 August 1998, having been replaced by the 57<sup>th</sup> Contingent who arrived on 17<sup>th</sup> August.



Members of AUSTCIVPOL awaiting the arrival of the Chief of Mission

## LAST AUSTCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE FOR COMMANDER BARRY CARPENTER

This was the last AUSTCIVPOL Nations Border Relief Operation in Medal Parade for the Command- Thailand) and UNOSOM (United ing Officer, Commander Barry Nations Relief Operation in Carpenter APM, who is due to Somalia).

complete his tour in January 1999 following three years' service with UNFICYP.

He has also served with other UN Missions in UNBRO (United

Commander Carpenter concedes that each United Nations posting has its special memories, however it is his tour with UNFICYP which is the most memorable, and adds that his greatest reward would be the knowledge that he had contributed in some way to the development of all police officers who have passed under his command.



Commander Carpenter with the Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr H Brown



A FRIEND WRITES ON

# THE BUFFER ZONE

*It all starts  
with barbered wire  
rusted  
under the sun*

*hot  
like a dried heart*

*like dust  
it is too hard now  
to tell  
the pain of  
your hatred*

*the frontier  
like a dusty line  
of sorrow*

*there  
plants  
as your only friend*

*mute bougainville  
fig  
and pomegranate  
sacred fruit of the orient*

*was this the  
price  
of your arrogance*

*in other lands  
of constructed hatred  
a river  
as your only friend*

*Miljaka  
Neretva*

*the frontier  
like salty tears  
of sorrow*

*you forgot  
how  
to build bridges*

*and abdicated  
your soul  
to politicians*

*and thus  
it all ends  
under the steps of strangers  
over the dust of shared  
memories  
and regrets.*

