

THE Blue Beret

October 1993



ARGENTINA'S CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN CYPRUS



The Force Commander welcomes Commander ARGCON, Lt Col J Durante, to Headquarters UNFICYP.



The Chief of Staff welcomes Lt Col J Durante and members of the Advance Party to Cyprus

After the departure of the Canadians from UNFICYP, HQ UN New York sought a replacement unit from member states. Argentina agreed to provide a Battalion of approximately 350 all ranks. A recce party paid a short visit to UNFICYP during August, and on 25 September, the first 73 members of ARGCON arrived, followed by 150 men on 6 October and the remainder on 16 October. Sector One, as they will be called, have taken over the western part

of the Buffer Zone from 176 Battery, 39 Regt, which was previously the responsibility of the Danish Contingent. Their Battalion Headquarters is located at Skouriotissa.

The Commanding Officer is Lt Col Juan Manuel Durante. This Battalion is a composite unit with Officers, NCOs and men drawn from the Army, Air Force and Navy. All of them are professional soldiers.

The Argentinian Armed Forces are currently participating in

peace-keeping missions in different parts of the world with Military Observers in the Middle East, Central America, Angola, Western Sahara and Cambodia. It also has a Battalion in Croatia and an Engineer Platoon in Kuwait with UNIKOM.

AUSCON REMEMBERS 14 AUGUST 1974

The 14 August is a day on which the members of the Austrian Contingent pay a yearly tribute to their fallen comrades.

During the 1974 troubles, four members of AUSCON were travelling in their Landrover on their way to Goshi, a Turkish Cypriot village on the old Larnaca-Nicosia Road. When fighting resumed between the opposing forces, the patrol was recalled to the Austrian HQ and on their way back, they heard Turkish high flying reconnaissance aircraft overhead, followed by low flying fighter jets. The four men abandoned their Landrover and ran for cover. Lt Izay, Sgt Decombe and Cpl Isaak found shelter under a tree, and L/Cpl Sattlecker managed to take cover under a large rock. Flattening himself to the ground, L/Cpl Sattlecker heard an explosion behind him, followed by burning napalm which missed him by inches and several gun shots.

L/Cpl Sattlecker turned back and discovered that his three comrades had been killed in the attack. Every year, a Service takes place at the memorial



The flame burns in memory of Lt Izay, Sgt Decombe and Cpl Isaak.

in Goshi which is placed just a few feet away from where Lt Izay, Sgt Decombe and Cpl Isaak lost their lives in the service of peace.

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Telephone: Nicosia 359550/359551

Editorial Staff

Editor
Comdt Tommy Doyle

Editorial Assistant
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Secretary
Mrs Effie Tsiamourou

Photography
Force Photographer
WO2 Phil Cadman
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector Two	Capt Hilary Long
Sector Four	Maj Helmut Reisinger
Sp Regt	Maj John Ingham
MP Elm	WO2 Günter Sakoparnik
AUSTCIVPOL	Pol Sgt Derek Gough
SWEDCIVPOL	Pol Sgt Ronald Krantz

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

**Commander
ARGCON**

by WO2 Phil Cadman

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

In this edition of the Blue Beret, we are happy to welcome the new Argentinian Contingent to UNFICYP. It is, however, with regret that this month we see the departure of Support Regiment. After nearly 17 years of devoted service to the Force, UNFICYP will undoubtedly feel their loss.

It is noticeable in this issue also that a sizeable portion of the magazine has been devoted to the women in UNFICYP, both military and police. This is our way of recognising the contribution women have and continue to make to the Force.

As with the change in seasons, the changes within UNFICYP will bring new situations and conditions. Every change creates opportunities, and UNFICYP as a whole should endeavour to carry on the important task entrusted to them by the world community.

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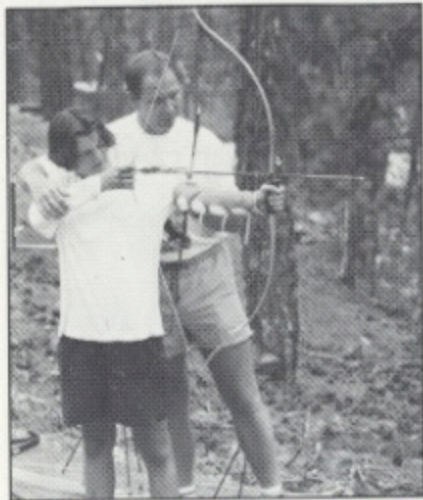
FAREWELL TO KIDCON

by Maj J Ingham



One of the most most popular facilities for families based in the UNPA has been the Nicosia Youth Club, colloquially known as "KIDCON". The Club has operated from its excellent base in St Michael's School for a number of years, latterly under the capable direction of WO2 (SQMS) Harry Lomas, the Master Chef in Support Regiment. In its heyday the Club has had as many as 130 active members - and almost as many happy UN families!

Sadly, as the BRITCON drawdown and departure of other contingents have taken hold, the members have dwindled over the past year. However, the enthusiasm of those youngsters remaining has never diminished, which is testimony to the leadership of Harry Lomas and his hard working team of volunteer helpers. Circumstances have dictated the recent closure of the Club, but no-one should think that the final demise was a quiet affair - far from it.



A UN dependant, Suzanne Bartzsch, learning the art of archery

The Youth Club has operated within the network supported by the British Forces Cyprus Youth Services. A wide range of sporting and social events takes place throughout the year, with more than a fair share of trophies coming to our Nicosia youngsters. When not engaged in away fixtures, the Club has organised its own activities on a regular weekly basis.

The annual highlights for Club members have traditionally been the summer holidays activity programme



Ord Sup Det Fire Visit for the Junior Fire Fighting Course - July 1993

and annual camps. This year's activity programme was once again a mixture of well proven events including visits to local units (don't they all love helicopters and fire engines?!), ice-skating, 10-pin bowling, and huge parties where all the BFC Youth Clubs came together for ear-splitting days of (dis)organised fun.

Whilst the programme itself may have been based on previous successes, there were two unknown factors introduced from outside. Each year, the BFC Youth Service employs a number of SSVs (Summer Season Volunteers) from the UK who provide full-time continuity and leadership for the youngsters during the working day. This year, the Nicosia Club was fortunate to have the services of Caroline Jackson, an enthusiastic Lancashire lass from Blackpool, and Terri Monaghan, an experienced youth worker already on the island.

The final thrash in the Club before it closed its doors at the end of an era was a BBQ and disco - and what an all singing and dancing affair it turned out to be. Altogether it was a memorable night, and a tribute to both the enthusiasm of the organisers and the amazing energy of the youngsters present.

And so to Troodos. The culmination of every summer's programme is the series of adventure camps run by the BFC Youth Service. This year, the venue was the Troodos mountains where a full programme of activities ran daily from pre-breakfast to the end of the night. With such a variety of age groups and activities it is difficult to mention the full range

of fun. Suffice it to say that with .22 shooting, archery, rock climbing, mountain biking, swimming, arts and crafts, and a circus workshop, there was more than enough to occupy even the most demanding. Add to all this the evening quiz games, bingo, discos and a new games workshop and readers will realize just how much of a strain was placed on the administration. That things ran (fairly) smoothly, and everyone had plenty of excellent food, was once again tribute to the many helpers and professional staff, headed by Billy Rookes, the Youth Service Officer. Well done all, you deserve an accolade.

The entire programme throughout the holidays was a resounding success and a fitting end to the Nicosia Youth Club. When Harry Lomas and his volunteer helpers closed the Club doors for the last time, no doubt they locked inside the happy memories of all those who were members of KIDCON over the years. From them, and the grateful parents too, we can only offer a huge vote of thanks for a job very well done.



Harry Lomas with the "Mix & Match" team winners



THE WHEELS HAVE STOPPED TURNING

by Maj J Ingham



On 15 October, after some 28 years' service, the UNFICYP Tpt Sqn ceased to function operationally. With its passing an era draws to a close, one which has seen its share of tragedy and upset, but also a great deal of professionalism, courage and a unique record of service in support of others.

The story of the UNFICYP Tpt Sqn starts in the summer of 1964 when 7 Sqn RCT, strengthened by a troop from 1 Sqn, deployed to give first and second line support to a UN Force dispersed over the length and breadth of the island. As the role became more clearly defined, the Sqn found itself used in a greater variety of ways in addition to its prime function. This is a trait that has continued right up until the closedown of the Sqn - flexible to the end.

7 Sqn did not manage to hold on to the UNFICYP mantle for long, however, and a large number of other Sqns have rotated through at six monthly intervals. A league table shows those Sqns that have tended to monopolise the UN role, headed once again by 7 Sqn who were present also at the time of the Turkish Intervention in 1974.

Transport Squadrons - A Record of Service

	Number of Tours
7 Sqn RLC	10
1 Sqn RLC	9
8 Sqn RLC	8
60 Sqn RLC	7
66 Sqn RLC (present UNFICYP Tpt Sqn)	5
15 Sqn RLC	3
38 Sqn RLC	1
18 Amphibious Sqn	1
34 Ghurka Tpt Sqn	1



Drive past of the truckies (1986)

In 1977, the Sqn's role was formalized under the wing of the then newly formed Support Regiment. It has been in this form that the remainder of the Sqn's time has been spent with UNFICYP.

During its 28 years, the Sqn has driven some 65 types of vehicle ranging from the AEC 10 tonner, known to all as "the knocker", to a VW hearse. At one time it was



Real life drama: members of the Tpt Sqn evacuate holiday makers from a burning hotel via the canopy of a 4-tonner.

reputed to hold a total of 45 staff cars - nearly one for every two men, in addition to all its other task vehicles.

A common factor throughout the years has been the collection of sewage by the famous "UGGIE" wagons. A number of notable incidents have occurred which have led at times to the UGGIE drivers living alone and outside. Nobody volunteers to help these luckless souls when they break down - and can you blame them?

The Sqn has adapted its vehicles in many ways; none more ingenious than on 16 March 1987 when Dvrs Townsend and Jones saw smoke rising from the Frangiorgio Hotel in Nicosia. Without regard for their own safety, they manoeuvred their vehicle up to the hotel to facilitate the escape of civilians trapped inside.

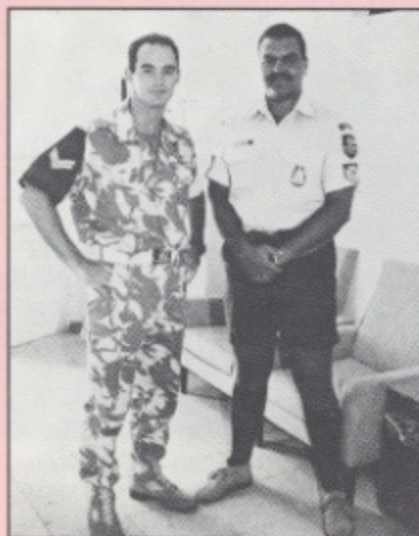
No article on the Tpt Sqn would be complete without mention of those who over the years have suffered serious injuries and the families of the people who have died providing a service towards peace with the UN in Cyprus. As the Sqn stood down from its operational role on 15 October, it was these people who were at the forefront of our minds.

56 (OLPHERTS) HEADQUARTERS BATTERY ROYAL ARTILLERY

by Capt Hilary Long

56 (Olpherts) Headquarters Battery is the most varied sub unit in 39 Regiment Royal Artillery on account of the wide mix of cap badges, trades and tasks, brought together under one command. The departments and branches in 56 Battery work side by side to support the Line Batteries and to provide the command and control for Sector Two's operations and liaison with Headquarters UNFICYP. The Battery also supplies men for the Sector's Force Reserve platoon. It is commanded by Major Mark Wentworth, who is also the Operations Officer for Sector Two.

56 Battery has its origins in India as 5th Company 3rd Battalion Bengal Artillery, formed on 2 June 1786. The honour title 'Olpherts' was given to the Battery on 19 October 1966 in commemoration of Captain Olpherts, who commanded the Battery during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. During the first Relief of Lucknow, Captain Olpherts, or "Hell Fire Jack" as he was known, won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry. He charged the



Bdr Shane Waters of the Regimental Provost staff with Sgt George Argente of the Ledra Palace AUSTCIVPOL detachment. Bdr Waters is also the Battery's Physical Training Instructor and is responsible for gruelling, early morning PT sessions.

enemy on horseback and captured two rebel guns which were pouring fire onto the flanks of the advancing forces.

The Battery, over the course of its history, has served in many wars, campaigns and locations. For the latest of these, the tour with UNFICYP, the Battery deployed with 97 men and women. If one speaks to a soldier in 56 Battery he may be called Gunner, Private or Craftsman as there are many attached personnel from other Corps. These are the Adjutant General's Corps, the Royal Logistic Corps (Catering) and (Supply), the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Royal Signals and the Army Physical Training Corps.

Whilst in Cyprus, 39 Regiment's Headquarters Battery operates from several locations. Wolseley Barracks and the Ledra Palace Hotel are home to the Regimental Headquarters and the Operations Branch, including the Humanitarian Team. St David's Camp is the Logistic Element's base, or more familiarly, the Quartermaster's Department. The Battery also includes the Adventure Training Team who are based in Dhekelia.



OPERATIONS BRANCH 39 REGIMENT RA



by WO2 Frank Mann

The Operations Branch of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery comprises 14 officers and soldiers who are the watchkeepers and signallers responsible for manning Sector Two's Joint Operations Centre, 24 hours a day. Everyone in the Operations Branch is double-hatted and also works in one of the cells that make up the Branch. The Operations Officer is Maj Mark Wentworth.

The Signals Troop operates the rather temperamental exchange in the COMMCEN and also issues and maintains the communications equipment for the Sector. This is run by WO2 Steve Harriman and

SSgt Skip Matthews and their willing team of signallers who answer your telephone if you ring Wolseley Barracks.

The Operational Information Cell, namely Lt Wendy Morton and WO2 Frank Mann, provide information to the Line Batteries and to the Headquarters.

The Public Relations Officer and Assistant Operations Officer, Capt Hilary Long, and the Regimental Photographer, L/Bdr Trevor Higgs, are kept busy keeping people informed and dealing with the media, visits, city tours and Blue Beret articles!



L/Bdr Jim Beveridge mans the temperamental telephone exchange in Wolseley Barracks

The Operations Branch is open all day for IMREPS, FIREREPS, SITREPS, SHOTREPS, SEAREPS and radio checks. Roger Out.

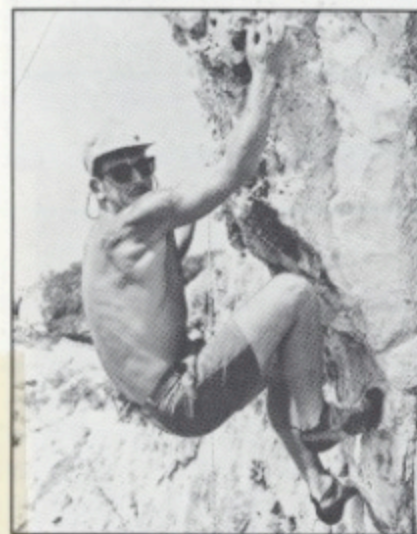


ADVENTURE TRAINING TEAM



by Capt David Hunter

39 Regiment Royal Artillery has a small Adventure Training Cell based at Dhekelia for the tour in Cyprus. This provides a much



Sgt Michael Craddock, one of the climbing instructors, demonstrates a perfect pose.

needed release for our soldiers from the rigours of life on the line. The team has a staff of six instructors and can offer soldiers the opportunity to take part in several adventurous activities including sea canoeing, rock climbing, free fall parachuting and sub aqua diving. Many people have also taken the plunge and have bungee-jumped at Ayia Napa beach nearby. To date, over a hundred students have passed through our doors, along with scores of personnel from the other British units on the Island.

With the exception of parachuting, which is a two week course, all students spend a week with us and complete a very intensive course of instruction in their chosen activity. One of our aims is to ensure that as many soldiers as possible leave Cyprus with a qualification which they can use on our return to Germany.



Instructors WO2 Stew Stevenson and Bdr Mark Owens warm up for the next lesson.

Adventure Training is both strenuous and satisfying. All we can say is - come on down, the water's lovely!

ST DAVID'S CAMP - SECTOR TWO

by Maj Iain MacPherson

How sweet it all must have seemed approximately 24 months ago when St David's Camp was the home of the Welsh Gunners. Again it is the home of Gunners,

but much water has passed under the bridge in the meantime.

Yet another chapter in the long history of St David's Camp is in the making. It has been home to refugees, hospital patients, cavalry, infantry and armoured units and gunners. Now it is home to the logistic hub of Sector Two.

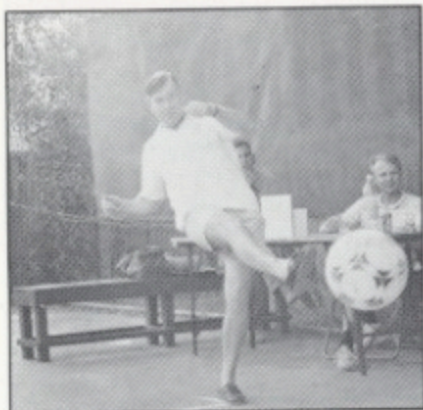
Up to the arrival of ARGCON, much appreciated support was provided to the Kokkina enclave in the extreme west, down through Xeros (and what was the DANCON area), embracing Skouriotissa, the Box Factory and into Nicosia City (via the Ledra Palace Hotel/Wolseley Barracks complex) including the various Line Houses, OPs and patrols (many of which are of CANCON origin).

In the meantime, Sector "West" has been reshaped into Sector One under ARGCON and Sector Two under BRITCON - the Logisticians have risen to the challenge and taken part in the making of yet more history.



Craftsman Steve Freemantle of the REME carrying out a vehicle inspection at St David's Camp.

AUSCON SPORTS' CLUB SUMMER FAIR



The Chief of Staff kicks off



Mr Paul Kavanagh and his advisers on a tour through Camp Duke Leopold V



Although a few came well prepared (look at Maj Fellner (right) who seems to have purchased raffle tickets for the whole of 1 Coy!)....



Sector Four's DCO, Lt Col Wolfgang Wildberger, President of the ASC, puffs away on his cigar as he is honoured by ...

On Saturday 21 August 1993, AUSCON held its traditional AUSCON Sports' Club (ASC) Summer Fair.

Intensive preparations were made for many of the ASC's activities, with special attractions such as the football wall, the tennis skills' challenge, a darts stall, a bicycle trial, an airgun shooting range and many more. Visitors were able to test their skills and talent and compete for three prizes at each stall.

In addition to the competitions for the more "sporty" types, everybody had a chance to win at the big raffle in the evening, with top prizes ranging from an air ticket to a mountain bike. At 8.30 p.m., the grand draw took place and the lucky winner was WO2 Schönggruber from AUSCON's Humanitarian Branch



Sgt Kerschberger, mastering the challenge of the bicycle trial.

who was presented with the first prize, donated by an Austrian travel agent. However, since the ticket was Vienna-Larnaca-Vienna, WO Schönggruber is now considering who the lucky person to spend a holiday in Cyprus will be!

The profit netted during the evening will be used for the acquisition of new sports equipment for the Club.



.... a single ticket won the first prize!



... the Ops Branch boys, who perform the highlight of the evening, a satirical version of the song "Lilly Marlene"

A RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS TO AUSCON

by WO2 Peter Stickler

Either the Tyrol has been flooded with German tourists and visiting Cyprus was a convenient method of getting out of their way, or (as a lot of people suspect) the 30-odd Tyroleans in Sector Four requested some auxiliaries from back home. For those of you unfamiliar with Austria, the "Tyrol" is one of the smallest provinces in the west of Austria, famous for its mountains.



Fieldpostmaster Meisthuber, to the right of the counter, introduces his office to the visitors.

It started in a harmless enough fashion with an unofficial visit from the Governor of Tyrol, Dipl Ing Dr Alois Partl, to Camp Duke Leopold V. He had been spending his holidays in Cyprus with family and friends, and took the opportunity to meet some fellow countrymen.

At the beginning of September, all UNFICYP Tyroleans assembled in the AUSCON Officers' Mess where a briefing was provided to the visitors on the general tasks of the Austrians in UNFICYP, together with a guided tour through the Camp. After that, they were invited to sample Tyrolean dumplings prepared by Sector Four's chefs. This could have been the end of this month's Tyrolean saga. But...



SOO, Maj Pöcher, during his fourth briefing of the day....

That party must have been the recce troop! One week later, the descendants of Andreas Hofer invaded Camp Izay. (Andreas Hofer was one of the more famous Tyroleans who played a large part in the French resistance, and every Tyrolean likes the idea of being one of his descendants!) We are now talking about a group of 50 odd visitors, members of the "Kameradschaftsbund", an Austrian organisation of retired servicemen. Their arrival coincided with the arrival of approximately 35 members of the Innsbruck-Saga brass band, complete with traditional costume.



WO I Baumgartner, AUSCON's HAM radio operator, explains to LH Partl how he keeps in touch with Innsbruck, the capital of the Tyrol.

With such a crowd, five different groups were given briefings, alternating with a shuttle service to OPT A-20. This gave them a first-hand impression of the soldiers' living conditions, with goulash from the field kitchen, draught beer and the band playing tunes fresh from the Tyrolean mountains. Camp Izay thus provided an atmosphere not unlike that of Austria, which made the whole event something to be remembered, not only by AUSCON, but - we hope - by the visitors as well.

And 92 visitors from one and the same province within one week must be a record!



The band, playing for goulash and a beer in Athienou.

THE HUMANITARIAN TEAM, SECTOR TWO

by Sgt Paul Judd

The Sector Two Humanitarian Team is made up of seven members. Capt Georgie Cutter is the Senior Humanitarian Officer and is in overall charge of both the humanitarian and economic matters in the Regt's area. One of his major tasks is the Long Northwind Patrol to Kormakiti. This is a convoy that delivers food and humanitarian aid every fortnight to the Maronite communities and Greek Cypriots who live in the North.

Up until the handover to ARGCON, the area had been vast, stretching from Kokkina to Nicosia. From Kokkina to Skouriotissa, Capt Sigmund Uray, UNMO, and S/Sgt Mick Whitbread dealt with any problems that occurred. The main task in this area was to monitor and

repair the water pipes that run across the Buffer Zone.

Skouriotissa to B-28 was under the watchful eye of WO2 Roy Rickets, the Farming Warrant Officer and Sgt Paul Judd, who in the main looked after the problems of the local farming community.

Finally, the area of the City of Nicosia was monitored by Capt Thomas Starlinger, UNMO, and S/Sgt Ade Scarbrough, with a variety of tasks from arranging bi-communal meetings to tasking engineers to fix a broken sewage pipe.

Part of the farming side of the job involved attending village meetings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. These gave the farmers an opportunity to speak about their problems and to obtain



Capt Thomas Starlinger (an Austrian UNMO with Sector Two) and Sgt Paul Judd at a village meeting in the coffee shop at Mammari.

various types of passes and permits as required. The meetings, however, would not have been such a success if it were not for the local village interpreters who turn up every week.

As a way of saying thank you to the interpreters, a barbecue was held at St David's Camp to which they, the muktars from each village and some of the local farmers were invited. It was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The rural area has now been handed on to the Argentinian Humanitarian Team, and the team from 39 Regiment will now focus on the new Sector Two area in Nicosia and the surrounding countryside in the Buffer Zone.



The barbecue at St David's Camp for the local interpreters, muktars and farmers.

THE CRAFTYMAN'S ARMS

by Lt Colin McClean

The history of the Craftyman's Arms is steeped in mystery, the earliest reference found to date being an article in Blue Beret magazine dated 7 August 1968. I quote: "Besides working and playing hard, social life is not too bad either. The REME have their own club called the Craftyman's Arms, run by themselves. The profit made from her sales is used to present each soldier at the end of his tour with a pewter tankard, engraved with his name and UN

badge, as a memento of his happy, hardworking tour at UNFICYP Workshop REME".

In time, the tankard has been replaced by an UNFICYP Workshop plaque and the method of presentation now involves a ceremony of scree readings and ritual cleansing in ice cold water. It is a shame that the "Crafties" closes at the end of October, although it is hoped that much of the collected memorabilia will find homes in similar REME establishments around the world.



The Craftyman's Arms

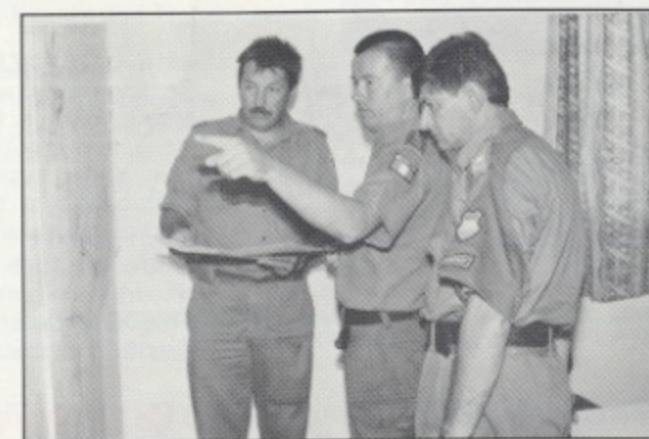
AUSCON GOES INTERNATIONAL

With the restructuring of UNFICYP, the Austrian Contingent has taken over part of the area once under the administration of the Canadian Sector. To assist in their mission, Sector Four (as the Austrian Sector is now called) has been allocated the services of two Hungarian and two Irish Officers who will act as United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) in their area of operation.

The two Hungarian UNMOs are Maj Ughy, who is Commander HUNCON, and Maj Udvardy. Back in Hungary, Maj Ughy holds the post of Chief Operations Officer of the General Staff, and Maj Udvardy is an instructor at the Staff College for NBC Affairs. For both of them, Cyprus is a very new experience but, being the professionals they are, they have no problems adapting to the UN environment.

From Ireland, we have Capt Liam O'Carroll, who has spent the last five years as Operations Officer on the border between Northern and Southern Ireland, and who has previously served with UNIFIL in Lebanon. Capt Philip Cotter, Adjutant at the Irish Military College, found life in Athienou different to his previous posting in UNIFIL, but nevertheless, his experience in that posting will undoubtedly help AUSCON in the future.

The initial period of intensive training was too



Maj Udvardy (right) and Capt Cotter (centre) discussing their tasks with Sector Four's SOO, Maj Pöcher.

brief for all of these officers to brush up their rudimentary knowledge of the German tongue in time to deal with the Austrian duty officers!! The UNMOs now work in two internationally manned teams involving mainly liaison and resupply tasks to the Karpas area.

Sector Four speaks for the whole of UNFICYP when welcoming the UNMOs to this mission, and wishes them an enjoyable and worthwhile tour.

UNFICYP MILITARY POLICE ELEMENT REVIEW OF THE LAST TEN MONTHS

The past ten months have seen a number of considerable changes affecting the Military Police contribution to UNFICYP. Due to the withdrawal of the Canadians, Danes, Finns and more recently the Swedes, the unit has gone from a Company of 56 personnel to an Element of 23 (subject to the arrival of six Argentinian MPs and the return of four Canadian MPs). This manpower reduction has necessitated the closure of our outlying detachments at Xeros, Famagusta and Larnaca. Our limited manpower resources are now consolidated within the UNPA, which enables us to maintain proactive policing of these areas with daily long range patrols.

As we approach the end of the island's main tourist season, 1 November sees the end of the permanent manning of the Ayia Napa Detachment. This four-man section of MPs has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the local CYPOL and establishment owners since the Detachment opened in April this year. The spin-off from this, together with the greatly appreciated assistance from our 'Red Cap' RMP colleagues from SBA Dhekelia who have been forming joint UN MP/RMP patrols, has seen fewer incidents involving UNFICYP personnel compared



The withdrawal of the last Finnish MP (WO3 Jukka Valling), the last Swedish MP (Capt Stefan Nacksten) and (who was thought to be!) the last Canadian MP (Sgt Gary Lalonde)

with previous years. Although the Detachment building which is situated close to the main town will not be permanently manned, it is planned to dispatch UN MP patrols to Ayia Napa from Nicosia at weekends over the winter months.



"Peace Keepers" working with the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) are not restricted to soldiers and administrators; they also include policemen and policewomen, attached to the United Nations from Sweden and Australia. After 29 years

with UNFICYP, the Swedish Contingent is to withdraw this month, and it is thus fitting that a little mentioned group of Police Officers gain some recognition for their contribution to this Mission - the "Ladies of Law and Order".

Prior to 1986, only male police officers were permitted to serve with SWEDCIVPOL and AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus. However, following Australian

representations which commenced in 1985, the United Nations agreed to allow female members to serve with AUSTCIVPOL and subsequently SWEDCIVPOL. Initially, policewomen were only permitted to serve in administrative positions, but in December 1990, female officers were approved to be employed in the full range of operational tasks. The first policewoman to serve with

SWEDISH CIVILIAN POLICE



**POLICE INSPECTOR
ANN LINDBERG**

Ann joined the Swedish Police Force in 1978 and eventually became a teacher at the Police Academy after a successful career as an investigator in Stockholm. Ann has a grown family who remain in Sweden during her service with the UN.

Because there is a large percentage of females in the Swedish Police Force, Ann has never met any sexual discrimination in her duties. However in Cyprus, she was surprised to discover that initially, some people were a little bemused by a female having the rank of Inspector. Despite this, she now feels that the professional way she has performed her duties has achieved the appropriate respect.

Ann has thoroughly enjoyed her work with UNFICYP, and hopes to be given similar opportunities in the future.



**POLICE SERGEANT
LENA
BENGTSSON**

Lena joined the Swedish Police Force in 1979 and since that time, she has worked as a patrol car officer in Stockholm. She is single, and, never having worked with the UN before, Lena welcomed this

opportunity to serve world peace and also develop her English language skills.

Lena worked primarily in Athienou during her time in Cyprus, and experienced no difficulties as a female in carrying out her normal duties. However, she does express some doubts as to her acceptability as a negotiator in Cyprus.

In her spare time, Lena likes to explore the island and engage in cross-country running, gym work and skiing.



**POLICE SERGEANT
MARIANNE
PALSSON**

Marianne joined the Swedish Police Force in 1979 and worked in a Mounted Unit before coming to Cyprus. She was based in Gothenbourg with the unit for the last ten years, where she mainly carried out

mounted police duties at demonstrations, football matches and other major events attended by large groups of people. At Gothenbourg, Marianne had her own horse and hopes to go back to him when she returns to Sweden this month.

A single officer, Marianne initially served in Pyla, but in her latter months she was posted to Famagusta, where her main task was developing a good working relationship with the Turkish Cypriot Police Element. She says that her most interesting duty is the monthly 'money-run' to Karpas and seeing the totally different life-style in that village.

To keep fit, Marianne does body-building exercises, running and, of course, horse riding, and she is determined that this will not be her last UN experience!



**POLICE SERGEANT
ANN-JULIE
LINDAHL**

Ann-Julie became a policewoman in 1979 and, prior to arriving in Cyprus, she was a Remount Instructor at the Mounted Unit in Stockholm where her love of horses and policing could be fully satisfied. Apart

from her police duties, she also took an active interest in show jumping, cross-country events and dressage with excellent results. Although Ann-Julie found life very quiet in UNFICYP compared to her duties at home, she still found working with the UN a fascinating experience. She works mainly in the mixed village of Pyla and also conducts patrols in the Buffer Zone. After working in a male dominated environment for 17 years in the Swedish Police Force, she has experienced no difficulties in Cyprus caused by the fact that she is female, and formed strong relationships with both Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the Pyla community.

Ann-Julie's hobbies are travelling, horse training and keeping fit in the gym. For those bachelors intent on winning her heart, she also loves eating out and watching fast action movies!



by Ronald Krantz and Derek Gough

UNFICYP was attached to AUSTCIVPOL in 1988 and the first policewoman from Sweden arrived in 1991. Delays in implementing the UN decision were initially due to inadequate accommodation facilities for female members and, of course, being female did not guarantee automatic selection! They still had to compete for positions with their male colleagues.

The duties performed by the policewomen are now the same as those expected of policemen. These duties include the investigation of civil offences in the Buffer Zone, dispute solving, crowd control, various humanitarian tasks, patrolling of the Buffer Zone to detect and prevent unauthorised intrusions and liaison with the local police authorities. Their ability in all of these

areas of employment has proved to be satisfactory, despite some earlier fears that cultural and religious problems could arise.

AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN POLICE



**POLICE
STATION SERGEANT
ANNE
DELLACA**

Anne is a single officer and lives in Canberra. She arrived in Cyprus on 18 September for a six month tour.

A former school teacher and nurse, Anne joined the Australian Federal Police in 1981. Much of her police career has been served in Canberra, working in various areas, including the Juvenile Aid Bureau, Breaking Squad, Gaming and Vice and the Drug Squad. Anne also spent a three-year secondment to the National Crime Authority in Sydney. Prior to taking up the Cyprus post, she worked in the Internal Investigation Division in Canberra.

Anne's hobbies include running, swimming, cycling and aerobics.



**POLICE SERGEANT
CHRISTINE
RADLEY**

Christine lives in Melbourne. She is single and arrived on 18 September for a six month tour.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in languages, Christine joined the Australian Federal Police in 1986. She has spent all of her police career in Melbourne in the following areas: Intelligence Branch, Drug Operations Division, Commonwealth/State Joint Task Force, Fraud and General Crime Division.

Christine speaks fluent French. Her hobbies include abseiling, SCUBA diving, snow skiing, water skiing and viewing alternative and French films!



**POLICE SERGEANT
SHARON
McTAVISH**

Sharon joined the Australian Federal Police in 1985 and, after a period as a patrol officer in Canberra, she became a detective and served in the Drug Squad and the Sexual Assault Unit. Immediately prior to being

transferred to Cyprus, she was attached to the National Crime Authority in Sydney, where she investigated large scale fraud matters, organised crime and illegal drug importations.

Sharon is a single officer and comes from a family well versed in the ways of policing. Her father is a Police Superintendent. During her time with UNFICYP, Sharon has carried out the full range of civil policing duties but has tended to specialise in the "humanitarian tasks" area where she has shown some affinity.

Her major interests are swimming, skiing and singing, her rendition of 'The Rose' always attracting acclaim! After her tour ends in March 1994, she hopes to return to detective work in Canberra.



**POLICE SERGEANT
MELITA
ZIELONKO**

Melita joined the police force in 1979 and has seen most of her service as a mobile patrol officer in Canberra. A married officer, this is her second tour with AUSTCIVPOL. On both occasions, her husband

Charlie Gaughran, who is a Station Sergeant, also served with AUSTCIVPOL.

During this tour, Melita has performed the full range of civil police duties as well as some complex administrative tasks. She has enjoyed her liaison duties with the local police forces, and finds language difficulties encountered in some areas an enjoyable challenge.

Melita is an excellent cook and is always willing to help out with the catering for Contingent functions. A keen sportswoman she participates in volleyball, cricket and ten-pin bowling. She hopes to return to patrol duties in Canberra next March.

MARCH ON THE LADIES

by Maj J [unclear] RRF

"March on the Ladies" is a cry not often heard, but on this occasion, it is fitting. So much is written about the men of UNFICYP in the Blue Beret that the time has come to redress the balance, (or at least, that is what I've been told by the ladies!).

In numerical terms, the percentage of ladies in the British Army is about 3%. Support Regiment, however, has a somewhat higher ratio - for which we count ourselves fortunate. A quick run through the array of jobs carried out by our girls shows their many talents.

Centre is Sgt Marion Gillies QARANC. Marion is a registered general nurse and a familiar figure as she goes about her duty as the practice manager. Her wide ranging job includes the smooth running of the practice administration as well as the care of medical supplies, liaison with Sector medical teams and coordination of support from island-wide medical establishments. In her limited spare time, Marion is working towards a University Diploma Course with a view to becoming a social worker in the future.



Angela

Heading our contingent of ladies is Col Angela Curran RAMC, who is the recently arrived Chief Medical Officer for UNFICYP. Angela has been an Army Doctor for 19 years, during which time she has served in Cyprus, Berlin and SHAPE (Bruxelles) in addition to spending 12 years at the Guards Depot, Pirbright. When not working to keep us all in peak trim, Angela divides her leisure time between bird watching, animal conservation and an interest in ballet and art.



Donna

No account of life in a unit can ignore the fact that an army marches on its stomach - and no group marches on its stomach more than the WOs' and Sgts' Mess! It is here, behind the scenes, that we find Sgt Donna Grosvenor RLC. She has the demanding task of keeping the Mess well fed and happy. Her job is as busy as the Mess itself, for in addition to the daily catering needs, there is a succession of social functions to test her culinary abilities, as well as keeping the accounts up to scratch. Surprisingly, Donna still finds time to keep herself trim by running, cycling, swimming and doing aerobics.



Back row from the left: Cpl Helen Richardson, Carole Lambert. Front row: Pte Vanessa Bowes, Cpl Sara Crampton.

Regiment's headquarters is Cpl Jayne Hurrell AGC. The busy pace of a clerk's life here keeps her on her toes. Jayne's duties are mainly clerical, but we do know that she has been searching the unit computer records to find "Mr Right". Before joining the army, Jayne had thoughts of joining the Police Force, so if you are under 6' tall, don't apply! Not content with this quest, Jayne keeps an eye on her curves by working out regularly at "Perfect Bodies" gym. What more can we say?



Sara

Next door to the RHQ we find the cheerful face of Cpl Sara Crampton who beavers away on all our behalves in the Unit Admin Office.



Marion

Also working in the Medical



Jayne

Working right at the hub of the



Back row from the left: Cpl Helen Richardson, Cpl Jayne Hurrell, and L/Cpl Carole Lambert. Front row: Pte Vanessa Bowes, Cpl Sara Crampton.

Anyone who knows the volume of work involved in coordinating personnel documents, postings, training courses and the control and issue of ID cards and passes will realise that she is a very busy lady indeed. Sara is coming to the end of her six month tour and has enjoyed seeing the island. She has also developed an interest in (and I quote) "delicate weight training".



Vanessa

Next door again is the British Forces Post Office, from where all British mail starts its journey around the globe. In here, our two ladies are Ptes Vanessa Bowes and Donna Cockerill. Although these two actually live in Dhekelia, they spend their working days with



Donna

UNFICYP. Their day starts at 6:00 am with the collection of other (male!) post office staff, followed by the mail from the Dhekelia Post Office. Our two intrepid drivers then make the journey to Nicosia. At the end of the day it is back to Dhekelia and the chance to relax until tomorrow. Donna enjoys letter writing (surprise, surprise), and the night life at Ayia Napa. Vanessa also likes letter writing (is it mandatory for posties?) and the booming night life of Napa, but justifies the excess by "beasting myself in the gym". Beasting or no, we could not live without the mail girls.



Carole

From one form of communication to another. Two more of our ladies work in 644 (UNFICYP) Sig Tp. LCpl Carole Lambert mans (sorry about the pun) a shift with the COMMCEN at Blue Beret Camp where she is responsible for processing signal traffic and facsimile documents. This calls for a practised eye and accuracy - a responsible job if ever there was one. Nearby in the nerve centre of all UNFICYP operations, the JOC, we find Cpl Helen



Helen

Richardson who works a 24 hr shift to maintain the essential communications for the Ops Centre staff. Hers can be a hectic day's work. Both of our signallers include weight training and sunbathing amongst their interests. Carole also collects model dragons, but really we think that's just an excuse to seek out a handsome St George!



Kathleen

Finally in our trip around the unit we arrive at the hangar of 66 (UNFICYP) Tpt Sqn to find Cpl Kathleen Keenan. Kathleen is a Section Commander, whose prime responsibility is to provide vehicles and drivers for the humanitarian relief of the Greek Cypriots in Northern Cyprus. These operations are carried out in conjunction with the UNHCR and, at times, call for the divergent skills of the diplomat and the professional soldier. It's demanding work but highly satisfying, and the results symbolise everything that is good in UNFICYP's continuing efforts on the island.



SUPPORT REGIMENT MEDAL /DISBANDMENT PARADE



The sun goes down on Support Regiment