

THE Blue Beret

April 1995



EASTER GREETINGS





UN MP ELEMENT MEDAL PARADE



by Sgt C Leeson

Friday 3 February saw the UN MP Element hold its first Medal Parade of 1995. The MPs from ARGCON, AUSCON, BRITCON and IRCON, all marched together onto the parade "square" (the car park outside the MP HQ) at 1400 hrs to a rousing march played by the band of the Cypriot Police who had graciously agreed to provide the music for the occasion.



The demo team

Once on parade, the assembled MPs received their well deserved UNFICYP medals and

numerals from the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen, before falling out and then providing the parade guests with a comprehensive display of the roles and duties carried out on a daily basis by the UNFICYP Military Policemen.



Members of the UN MP Elm on parade

After the demonstration, participants and guests alike adjourned to the relaxing surroundings of the MP Lounge for a barbecue lunch, washed down with cold beer. Well, it's all in a day's work...!

VISIT BY CHIEF GENERAL STAFF OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES, GENERAL MAJECEN



From 3-5 April 1995, the highest ranking Austrian Officer visited UNFICYP, where he inspected "his" soldiers in Sector Four. The Austrian Photographer was with him almost all the way, and took this opportunity to present a wide range of instructive photographs.



Maj Huffer briefing Gen Majcen on the area around OP UN-96



A Guard of Honour in CDL V, commanded by 2/Lt Plöchl



Austria, although never having been a great naval power, still holds OP UN-146 by the sea. From the left: Maj Poscharnig, Col Kraljic, Lt Peer, Gen Majcen, Lt Col Eder, Col Szerba and Col Pantlitschko.



VOLUME 32 NUMBER 4
APRIL 1995

Published monthly by the Spokesman's Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: (02) 359550
Fax: 359753

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Cpl Willie Quain
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Alberto Von Wernich
Sector Two	Capt Will Packard
Sector Four	Maj Helmut Auernig
AUSTCIVPOL	Pol Sgt Mark Bainbridge
IRCIVPOL	Insp John Daly
Perm FR	Capt Lance Lindsey
MP Elm	Sgt Chris Leeson
Camp Command	C/S Pat Galligan

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 Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications, except where acknowledgements are made to another copyright. No article or illustration may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-El Press
13 King Paul Street
Parissinos, Nicosia
Tel: 350186

FRONT COVER

UNFICYP CELEBRATES EASTER IN CYPRUS

BY WO2 KARL FÜSSELBERGER

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

* You all know that the Blue Beret is an in-house publication of the Force which relies heavily on your contributions. With the workload involved in the publication of this magazine, the staff in the Spokesman's Office would never be able to fill the space without your assistance. We also believe that we are offering you a unique opportunity to present your Sector/Unit and its characteristics in whatever way you choose - something we are all interested in reading about. Your daily effort under the UN flag has yet an additional opportunity to be documented in this way. We appreciate how busy you are, but do please contribute.

* You must have observed that the majority of articles in the Blue Beret are undersigned by their original author. However, this is not always the case. Quite recently, we had a few bits and pieces which, at the request of the original author, are not undersigned. We granted this request, however we would like to hereby express our appreciation to all our anonymous contributors for their efforts. Their up-to-date and future contributions will always be most welcome.

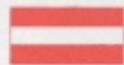
* For quite a long time, this magazine has talked about the occasional replacement of photographs by sketches. It appears that we have succeeded in discovering new talent! We hope you find the drawings on page 5 by Mr Mustafa Kemal both interesting and artistically tasteful. You will see more of Mustafa's work in future editions.

CONTENTS

UN MP Elm Medal Parade/Visit by General Majcen	2
Editorial/Contents	3
It's Tradition - and we like to observe it!	4
How Easter is celebrated	5
The Charge of the Light Brigade/QRL Aliwal Revue	6
Quiz Night at the Hib Club/Sector Two win the UNFICYP Football Competition/Volleyball News/Crossword Puzzle Announcement	7
Interview - The International Mess Manager	8/9
Camp Duke Leopold V	10
UNFICYP Skiing Day - A Roaring Success	11
Argentina's New Contingent Arrive/New CO ARGCON/The FC visits Sector One	12
Ireland - The Country and Its People	13
Organization and Structure of the United Nations	14/15
The British Medal Parade	16



IT'S TRADITION - AND WE LIKE TO OBSERVE IT!



by WO2 Karl Füsselberger



The fact that we in AUSCON are 3,000 km away from home makes no difference - our Austrian traditions are still observed, particularly at Easter time. Some of these traditions, many of them Nordic, date back to archaic times, although you may not realise it. Here below is a little background information.

The word "Easter" originates from "Ester", the goddess of fertility in pre-Christian Austria. Her annual feast was celebrated with certain rites, and some of these can still be found in our Easter celebrations when the world today commemorates the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Just before Easter, Austrian children colour hard-boiled eggs with their parents and, on Easter Sunday, take them to "Eierpecken", which is performed as follows: two children (sometimes as old as 75 or more...!) each take a coloured egg and, with the pointed end, knock each other's egg until one of the two shells breaks. The winner, with the whole egg, also keeps the broken one. It can be a very good way for children to beat their older and more skilled opponents using a basic knowledge of physics. (Note: The pointed end of the egg is the strongest, for those of you who want to try it for yourselves!)

Another Austrian tradition on Easter Sunday is the "Easter Bunny nest". These nests are hidden somewhere outdoors for little children to find, and can sometimes hold quite a treasure for the lucky finder as they contain chocolate eggs, coloured eggs and other goodies. Finding such nests can be quite an experience for young children, as well as for those experiencing their second childhood! But who says it's not good to be a child at heart, especially on such occasions? Christ taught us that we must become like the little ones if we are to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and what better time to follow this call than at Easter and Christmas?



Easter in Camp Duke Leopold V

The first plant to blossom in Austria in spring is the "Palmkätzchen", a reed-type bush with little soft bushy balls on it, hence the name, which comes from two words: Palm - like the palm tree, and Kätzchen - like kittens. These twigs are taken to church on Palm Sunday when the priest blesses them. People then hang them up in their stables and kitchens, and farmers hang them in their fields as protection against fire and evil spirits.



MCpl Peter Suntinger (left) who provided the recipe for the "Kärntner Reindling", together with SSgt Harald Warscher

In my federal state, Carinthia, we make a special cake called "Kärntner Reindling" at Easter time. Like other specialities for the Easter feast, it is taken to the priest for blessing so that it will be wholesome for all those who have observed the Easter Fast. The best way for you to appreciate the beauty of this tradition is to try the cake for yourself. Here is the recipe:

500 gr flour
4 eggs
20 gr yeast
¼ litre lukewarm milk
200 gr sugar
lemon peel
raisins, amount according to taste
cinnamon

Mix the yeast into the lukewarm milk, then add the eggs, flour and lemon peel and leave to rest for half an hour. Roll out until about ½ cm thick. Spread the raisins, cinnamon and sugar on to the dough and roll up. Place in a "Reindl", the traditional deep, round metal tray which gives the "Reindling" its name. Bake at medium heat for about 50 minutes. Sprinkle with icing sugar.

Try it, enjoy it and good luck!



HOW EASTER IS CELEBRATED

EASTER IN AUSTRALIA

by Sgt Mark Bainbridge

Easter celebrations "down under" are really no different to the rest of the Christian world insofar as remembering the death of Christ and his resurrection.

It is a four-day break away from the hustle and bustle of working life, that allows people to spend time with their families and, if they wish, to reflect on the religious aspects of Easter. This period in the Australian calendar also marks the time when the season begins to change and the endless summer days and stifling heat starts to dissipate.

EASTER IN ARGENTINA

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich

Easter in Argentina is celebrated in much the same way as any other Christian country. There are two important aspects to our Easter, i.e. religion and tradition.

As regards religion, Argentina, being a mainly Roman Catholic country, begins the Easter period with Lent. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, ashes are anointed on the foreheads of all those attending Mass, signifying that man comes from the earth and

EASTER IN IRELAND

by Insp John Daly

Easter in Ireland is a celebration of breaking the forty days fasting during the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. It is the custom to abstain from meat and meat extracts on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and each Friday during Lent. People are also encouraged to reduce food intake each day to just one main meal and two colations, a colation being a simple light meal. Another source of penance or abstinence practised is to forego the enjoyment of a pint (beer, etc.) and Easter

The "footy" sports (rugby league, rugby union Australian Rules and soccer) are usually into the beginning of their seasons and a number of big yacht races commence on the Saturday after Good Friday.

Australia is fast becoming more cosmopolitan and, as far as the religious aspects of Easter are concerned, all Christian religions may celebrate this feast in whichever manner they choose.

Commercially, it is the time for little kids and the Easter Bunny

will return to the earth. Also during Lent, meat is not eaten on Fridays to mark the period of abstinence.

Once the fasting period is over, Easter festivities begin with the traditional reunion of families who get together on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

In Argentina, there are many traditional songs at this time of the year, sung both in and

comes as a happy release for these people.

Easter in Ireland is a time for prayer and celebration. Religious ceremonies commence on Holy Thursday and continue until Easter Sunday morning. The Pastoral candle is lit for the first time and is lit thereafter for religious ceremonies during the coming year. This candle is about 15 cm in diameter, 30 cm in height and weighs several kilos. The candle symbolizes the association

and then the joy of going to the supermarket to find two or three aisles chock-a-block with all different types of chocolate Easter Eggs.

Easter in Australia - a time for your family.



outside churches. There are also special delicacies which follow much the same fashion as Europe, such as Easter Eggs, sweets, cakes and so on.



between the resurrection and the light of Jesus Christ.

It is not a particularly happy time for children who are encouraged not to eat sweets during Lent, but to store them for a celebration on Easter Sunday morning. Chocolate Easter eggs in various presentation packs are the highlight for children and indeed adults alike. Happy faces are painted on boiled eggs to start the celebrations, which makes breakfast on Easter Sunday morning a joyous occasion.



THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE



One of the most famous actions involving the British Army is the Charge of the Light Brigade. The Battle of Balaklava (of which the Charge was a part) is one of the three principal battle honours of The Queen's Royal Lancers, the Sector Two Regiment.

The Battle of Balaklava was part of the 1854 Anglo-French Crimean Campaign against Russia in support of Turkey. The aim was to destroy the Russian Black Sea Fleet and remove the threat to the East Mediterranean. The means to achieve this was intended to be the capture of Sebastopol, the Russian Fleet's base. After a series of actions, the Anglo-French forces besieged Sebastopol, being supplied by the Royal Navy through the port of Balaklava. The road from this port ran up through a defile and on to the Balaklava Plain before running up on to the high ground around Sebastopol. The British Headquarters was set up on the high ground, giving an excellent view over the whole plain and the forces arranged on the plain to protect the port.

On the morning of 25 October 1854, a large Russian force of Cossacks moved to threaten the British positions and were successfully charged by the British Heavy Cavalry Brigade. Later, this Cossack force moved to capture some British artillery pieces. Raglan, the Commander of the British Forces, had heard that Wellington had never lost a gun in battle (untrue), and so ordered the Light Cavalry Brigade to charge to

protect the guns. The message was conveyed to Cardigan, the Light Cavalry Commander, by Capt Lewis Nolan, an impetuous young officer of the 15th Hussars. Unfortunately, the guns that had been so clear to Raglan on the heights were completely obscured to Cardigan on the plain. Cardigan asked Nolan where the guns were, to which the exasperated reply: "There, My Lord, are your guns" was made as the young cavalry officer swept his arm across the battlefield. The only guns visible were the distant Russian battery at the end of a valley with Russian guns on both flanks as well as at the end. So, the scene was set for the Charge. 673 cavalymen of the Light Brigade charged down the valley, maintaining parade ground formations as the Russian guns cut bloody swathes through the serried ranks.

The front left-hand Regiment was the 17th Lancers, one of The Queen's Royal Lancers' constituent Regiments and, in the ensuing action which saw the British Cavalry overrunning the guns before withdrawing, only 34 members were left of the 140 who charged that fateful day. The Light Brigade had suffered 442 casualties in total, and was rendered ineffective by the losses suffered.

The spectacle of this fine force superbly mounted with iron discipline to certain destruction moved the French General present to comment "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas de guerre" - a fitting epitaph for a heroic action.

QRL ALIWAL REVUE

To commemorate the Battle of Aliwal (1846), The Queen's Royal Lancers held a Revue which was watched by the entire Regiment. Members of QRL were chosen to take part in a series of sketches



The Buffer Zone Blues Band

which represented the humorous side of the Regiment's last year.

The Battle commemorated by the Revue took place in Aliwal, in the Punjab, approximately 200 miles NW of Delhi. The action was part of the first Sikh War and saw the 16th Lancers (one of the Queen's Royal Lancers' constituent Regiments) break the Sikh Infantry Triangles in a series of heroic charges. After the Battle, the lance pennants were so soaked with blood that they dried solid and in memory of this, The Queen's Royal Lancers always crimp their pennants.



QUIZ NIGHT AT THE HIB(ERNIA) CLUB

A very enjoyable quiz night was held recently at the Irish Hibernia Club. In all, 16 teams took part in what was a keenly contested competition. The proceeds of the night went to the very deserving UNFICYP Swimming Pool Fund.

Pictured here are the winning team on the night: From the left: Audrey Maughan, Anne Doyle, Sylvia McCracken and Jim Steele.



SECTOR TWO WIN THE UNFICYP FOOTBALL COMPETITION



QRL footballers practising

The Queen's Royal Lancers, the UN Sector Two Regiment, have won the UNFICYP Football Competition. The QRL side played five matches, winning four of them. The results are as follows:

QRL v ARGCON	1-2
QRL v ARGCON (playoff)	4-3
QRL v Force Reserve	5-3
QRL v IRCON	1-0
QRL v AUSCON	3-0

VOLLEYBALL: QRL VERSUS NATIONAL GUARD TEAM



Capt Lee Bowen QRL goes for it!

Early in the year, a team from the National Guard challenged The Queen's Royal Lancers to a game of volleyball.

The intrepid QRL team, who turned up with some of its members having only played once or twice, was surprised to see the Greek Cypriot team wearing a strip actually sponsored by the Opel Car Company. It was at this point that the QRL team realised quite a battle was in store for them...

After three heroic games, victory was conceded to the National Guard at 2:1. All in all, it was a very enjoyable event.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello readers! This month, the Blue Beret staff regret to announce that there was no need to use the Editor's helmet to choose the winner of the Crossword Puzzle, since only one entry was received for BB No 08. Mr Jagjeet Singh is invited to collect his prize from the Spokesman's Office.

This lack of support might be attributed to the hectic Easter celebrations, so we are giving you a rest this month. However, if this trend continues, the Editor may be forced to reconsider the inclusion of the Crossword in future editions.



INTERVIEW

International Mess Manager

by Mrs Miriam Taylor

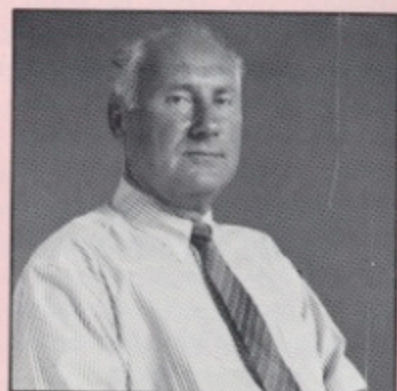
Michael George Kelly was born on 15 December 1940. He is a graduate of Manchester University, and has also undertaken training courses at Carnegie College and Birmingham University.

For most of his working career, Mike has been involved in further education administration and leisure development. He has also dedicated a lot of

his spare time to charity, particularly the physically handicapped.

Mike is married to Glavki, and his interests include golf, squash, motoring, gardening, reading and family life.

Mike has three daughters, three grandchildren and, as he puts it, a long-standing headache!



The Blue Beret: Eating habits, likes and dislikes are often identified with specific nationalities. It is widely known that food consumption expresses the status of individuals according to a whole range of criteria (age, sex, social and economic status, etc) and unconsciously reveals the underlying structure of societies. The famous French gastronome Brillant-Savarin (1755-1826) in his celebrated works on gastronomy "La physiologie du goût" wrote: "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are". Now Mr Kelly, as Manager of UNFICYP's International Mess, what does all this tell you?

Mike Kelly: I will agree with the notion that a meal is a means of expressing and asserting a national, regional or local identity. However, the missing connection in the process of transforming the various ingredients to a proper meal is the cook. From a personal point of view, I would retort: "Show me a kitchen and I will determine the vintage of the chef".

BB: Eating together in a multi-national force such as UNFICYP must be different in many ways. Can you elaborate on this issue?

MK: The International Mess is an all-ranks catering facility for UNFICYP personnel. Eating together as a multi-national force offers a whole lot of different challenges and opportunities. We are called upon to cater for the comforts and needs of all personnel, irrespective of rank and

nationality, and create a friendly and warm atmosphere. As you may appreciate, even the most delicious food lacks savour if it is eaten in solitude. Our Mess provides a forum where both military and civilian based personnel can get together and share their meals in a supportive and coordinated environment, and are given the opportunity to create new bonds and strengthen those bonds which already exist.

BB: Has the role of the UNFICYP Mess changed over the years?

MK: As an institution, the function of the UNFICYP International Mess has changed dramatically since my arrival some five years ago. Being a Yorkshireman with initially an education administration background and latterly in leisure development, I surfaced with pre-conceived concepts of fast food, restaurants, bars, vending and gaming - each adding a certain kind of muscle to the more physical aspects of the leisure industry.

The UNFICYP Officers' Mess, as it then was, catered primarily for the comforts and needs of the unaccompanied officer on tour with the UNFICYP Mission. There were also umpteen regimental dinners, national days, VIP luncheons and very frequently a party just for the sake of having a party.

Kitchens were serviced by British military chefs supported by a handful of locally employed



civilians who primarily provided a UK cuisine which satisfied the needs of the majority.

The demise of Support Regiment some 16 months ago resulted in the birth of the existing UNFICYP International Mess, an all-ranks catering facility for personnel, both military and civilian, based on the UNPA.

Initially, the organizational and administrative changes created upheaval. Kitchens and dining rooms were renovated by Support Services and a more sophisticated range of equipment was installed. Establishment was increased to meet demands. More recently, Michael Muller has taken up the reins as Rations Officer and overall administrator of the International Mess, and has implemented the UN Ration Scale of issue providing a greater variety of menu.

A system of portioning at serveries, frowned upon initially, has provided fairer portions and administratively a method of monitoring realistically the allocation of the 'scale of issue'.

Gradually the culture of the Mess has changed to accommodate the new realities within UNFICYP. Today, every attempt is made to satisfy the varying ethnic tastes and eating habits of a gaggle of nationalities.

BB: What sort of organization and meal programme do you have in the UNFICYP Mess?

MK: We cater for day-to-day feeding based on a 14-day rotating menu cycle, which provides at least three courses at any one time. Hardly a new concept, but to date, there have been few complaints - however, in catering, "some" should always be expected.

Our dining rooms cannot be described as opulent or magnificent in appearance, but are sumptuous in a quiet, reserved sort of way. The waiters try hard to communicate and please.

BB: Do you recall any amusing incidents during your service with UNFICYP?

MK: Occasionally we experience misunderstandings which relate generally to second language translation, although I recall a recently retired waiter responding in a very British manner when a visiting officer, after attending a

regimental dinner, asked: "How do you know this coat is mine?": "I don't," he responded, "but you gave it to me".

BB: What situation or events have offered you the biggest challenges?

MK: National days, which frequently give us the opportunity of serving ethnic menus (long live Krampus and St Patrick's Day), are always popular. It is true that a few years ago, many of the contingents regarded the Mess as a somewhat barbaric outpost in the world of gastronomy. This was partly due to the dictates of the menu range, but efforts to include ethnic menus on such occasions have proved to be a resounding success. These will always be both memorable and happy times.

BB: In every successful recipe there are some secret ingredients. What is hidden behind the success of the International Mess?



Shine Nurdaner (left) and George Nicolaou choosing menus!

MK: Shine Nurdaner and George Nicolaou are the genii behind the Mess kitchens. They set a fine example of inter-communal trust and cooperation - Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot chefs sharing their abounding knowledge. They first met just over a year ago, achieving instant success and rapport with all who came into contact with them. Tributes to their combined phenomenal efforts for last year's summer ball and the CANCON farewell still echo within the establishment.

BB: In what way do you think the International Mess is different to other local catering establishments?

MK: The International Mess provides much more than your downtown restaurant. It is an all-in family, and no hidden extras!



CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V


It is traditional within UNFICYP for the camps in the Sectors to be named after certain celebrities, and Sector Four is no exception. The camps named after Lt Izay, killed during the 1974 troubles, and Marie Therese are well known, but very few know much about Duke Leopold V, who gave his name to the Battalion Headquarters in Famagusta.

The feudal house of the Babenbergers originated from the hills close to the shores of the Danube and gradually expanded eastwards along the natural course of the river. Vienna was first mentioned in the year 881 as the scene of battle between the "Franks" and the "Magyars". However, the city became a key political and economic centre after the Babenberg Henry Jasomirgott established his ducal residence at Vienna's "Am Hof". By 1137, Vienna was already chronicled as a fortified city. The reign of Henry Jasomirgott is a milestone in Austrian history. It was under him that, in 1156, Austria was raised to a duchy, granted juridical autonomy and endowed with rights of succession through both male and female lines. It gave Austria a specially privileged position within the Holy Roman Empire, which led to her establishment as an independent state.

On 13 January 1177, Duke Henry Jasomirgott died. He was succeeded by his 20-year-old son, who was invested as Leopold V of the Dukedom of Austria by the German King and Roman Emperor, Frederik Barbarossa, in a military camp at Candelore near Persono.

The Babenbergers were clever rulers and, though actively involved in crusades to the Holy Lands, managed to consolidate their authority in their own domain. Relations between Leopold and the Emperor were very good from the beginning, and friendly relationships were also developed with Bohemia, following the appointment of one of Leopold's relatives as the Duke of Bohemia. Furthermore, following the declaration of peace at Eger, a new frontier was established in the region, roughly identical to the border between Austria and the Czech Republic of today. Similarly, peaceful relations with neighbouring Hungary were consolidated - how could it be otherwise - with the marriage of Leopold V to Ilona, the sister of King Stephen III of Hungary.

The involvement of Leopold in the crusades coincided with the rise of the Sultan Saladin, who crushed the Christian army and conquered Jerusalem on 3 October 1187. Saladin's victories stirred the Christians to launch the Third Crusade. This is perhaps the best known of all the crusades, because its leaders were so famous and included the Emperor

Frederik Barbarossa of Germany, Phillip II of France and Richard I of England.

The Emperor, who had considerable experience in war expeditions and crusades, called up and selected all those who were trained in combat, and in addition, those who were wealthy enough to finance themselves for a two-year period were allowed to accompany the crusade.

Duke Leopold joined the forces of Emperor Frederik who took his army overland through Europe and Byzantium, entering Asia Minor in 1190. Here, disaster struck when Frederik was drowned. The alliance of the Christian kings was shaken and eventually, the third crusade failed to accomplish its mission.

However, thanks to the courage of Duke Leopold V from Austria, the Crusaders did manage to conquer the town of Acre (Ptolemais). Leopold, heading a group of 500 archers, climbed the walls of Acre and, being the first Duke to enter the city, planted his banner on the walls. In the course of making his way to the top of the castle, he fought his way ferociously and, in doing so, his white cloak was covered with blood from the fighting. The only part left white was around the waist because of his belt. According to legend, the colours of the Austrian flag, red-white-red, are attributed to this event. Following his return to Austria, the Duke fulfilled the vow he had taken during the attack of Acre and donated his blood-stained service coat, his sword and his lance to the Virgin Mary at Maria Lanzendorf in Lower Austria.



The gate at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta

Coming back to AUSCON stationed in Cyprus, in the spring of 1973, the newly built camp at Paphos was named Camp Duke Leopold V in honour of the Duke. With the change of the operational area of the Austrian Battalion to Larnaca and later to Famagusta, the name of the camp was retained so that everyone remembers the Duke who was the first established Austrian soldier in the Middle East - an example of military courage.



UNFICYP SKIING DAY - A ROARING SUCCESS!


by Maj Helmut Auernig

Once again, it was up to AUSCON to organize the UNFICYP Skiing Competition. However in Cyprus, things don't always run according to plan - as the Austrians learned, yet again, on this occasion!



Everything had been prepared, but

The event had been scheduled for 7 Feb 95 and, with this date approaching, it appeared highly likely that the event would have to be cancelled for lack of snow on Mount Troodos. Nevertheless, the Cyprus Skiing Club, who had participated in the preparations, kept on insisting that snow would fall - and it did! As luck would have it, on the evening of 6 Feb, continuing through the night, such huge masses of snow fell that the next morning, there was no other alternative than to cancel the event. Not only was it impossible to prepare the slope properly, but driving to the top of the mountain on snowy and icy roads would have been really dangerous for most visitors not used to such conditions.



The FC with Maj Huffer

Therefore, in cooperation with the Cyprus Skiing Club, to whom all the installations belong, it was decided to hold a Skiing Day as compensation. This was fixed for 28 Feb, and after all the trials and tribulations, it was undoubtedly a tremendous success.

The too-good-to-be-true sunshine welcomed numerous guests. Attending were the FC, Brig Gen

Vartiainen, his MA, the Branch Heads of Operations, Humanitarian and Personnel & Logistics, the COs of ARGCON and AUSCON and many, many lovers of sport from Sectors One and Four (guess who were missing...?).

Traditional Austrian dishes such as Gulasch, Apfelstrudel and Glühwein appeared on the scene, these items being well-known to most UNFICYP members.

In addition, several trays of Faschingskrapfen (carnival doughnuts) did not survive the day. Coincidentally, this was the day preceding Ash Wednesday. In Austria it is called "Faschingdienstag", which marks the end of the carnival period and has to be funny.

Getting back to the Skiing Day, this started with a flag run performed by our ski artists with the chief organizer, Maj Heinz Huffer, in

front, to insiders known as DCO Sector Four. The front cover of the March edition of the *Blue Beret* depicts the opening run. The central event was a WISBI run for everybody (WISBI = "wie schnell bin ich", or, in English, "how fast am I"), which was won by Cpl Waldner from Carinthia, and showed that skiing talents can be found all over the world - from Finland to Argentina. The FC in particular did very well, using cross-country skis on the wet soft snow, not suitable in the first line for downhill.

Demonstrations by skilled AUSCON skiers rounded off the programme. The main contribution to the Skiing Day's great success came from all who participated and brought with them such necessary items as good humour and high spirits.



Going in for the high jump!



Lt Col Eder congratulating Cpl Waldner on his overall victory



ARGENTINA'S NEW CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN CYPRUS

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich



ARGCON No 4 arriving in Cyprus

Following the departure of the third Argentinian Contingent, 125 members of ARGCON No 4 arrived in Cyprus on 16 Jan 95, followed by 117 men on 20 Jan and the remainder on 26 Jan.

Handover/takeover activities began with the arrival of the first flight. Finally, on 24 Feb, the official handover ceremony took

place, when Lt Col Fernando Isturiz handed over command of the Argentinian Contingent to Lt Col Hernan Garay.

Sector One's command is in good hands though, with many professional soldiers who have actively taken part in other conflict regions around the world.

THE NEW CO ARGCON - LIEUTENANT COLONEL HERNAN GARAY

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich

Lt Col Garay was born in 1948 and joined the Military Academy in 1965, being commissioned as a 2/Lt (Infantry) in 1969 and appointed as a Platoon Leader with the Infantry Mountain Regiment No 20. As a junior officer, he was also appointed to other

Infantry Units and the NCOs' school and Military Army Academy.

Lt Col Garay is a Military Parachutist, and has taken part in the South Atlantic Conflict (1982) as a Company Commander, following which he was presented with the "Congress Medal" as a South Atlantic Conflict Vet.

He took command of the Support Aerial Parachutist Company (1988-90) and the 14th Infantry Regiment Airborne (1992-93). During the present year, he has been attached to the Operations Branch at the 4th Brigade Airborne.

Lt Col Garay is married to Rachel, and has five daughters and two sons, aged between 1 and 19 years.



THE FORCE COMMANDER VISITS SECTOR ONE

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich

On 7 and 8 March, the Force Commander, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, visited Sector One. He began at OP-12, where he was received by Sector One CO, Lt Col Hernan Garay, and all the Staff Officers. He was then briefed on the most relevant matters concerning Sector One in the areas of Alpha and Bravo Coys. He then went on line tours in both Coys and was briefed on recent incidents which have taken place in these areas. In addition, he took part in a shooting activity arranged for his visit.

The Force Commander enjoyed his visit to our Sector, and most importantly, had the opportunity of talking to the soldiers on the line.



The FC on a walking line tour in Sector One



IRELAND - THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE



by Insp John Daly, IRCIVPOL

LOCATION

The Emerald Isle, the world's 20th largest island, situated on the Atlantic coast of Europe, has 3,000 miles of coastline, which encompasses such natural wonders as the Cliffs of Moher, the tranquil Lakes of Killarney, the spectacular hexagonal basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway and the green pastures of the Curragh, where horse-racing and breeding are world renowned. Ancient Ireland was divided into four provinces, the principal cities of which are: Dublin to the east in Leinster, Cork to the south in Munster, Galway to the west in Connaught and Belfast to the north in Ulster.

PEOPLE

The hospitable people of Ireland, of Celtic origin, are eloquent English speakers with "the gift of the gab" and are witty and articulate conversationalists. The native Irish language is principally spoken in the Gaeltacht region to the west, where a genuine "Cead Mile Failte" - "a hundred thousand welcomes" - is extended to all visitors. Two-thirds of the 5 million inhabitants live in the Republic's 26 counties, the majority of whom are Catholic while the six north-east counties of Northern Ireland, with a predominantly Protestant population, remained as part of the United Kingdom, when Ireland was partitioned in December 1921. 25 years of sectarian violence have cost 3,000 lives, but since 1 Sep 94, the "troubles" have ceased while a settlement is being negotiated.

CLIMATE

The climate of Ireland is dominated by the moderating effects of the surrounding seas. As a result, snow is rare in most winters except in the mountains. Average temperature in January and February, the coldest months, is between 4-7°C. July and August, the two warmest

months, have average temperatures between 16-20°C. Average annual rainfall lies between 800 and 1200 mm over most of the country.

LAW AND ORDER

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. Its law is based on common law and legislation enacted by Parliament under the Constitution. Regulations of the European Communities have the force of law in Ireland. These laws are enforced by "An Garda Siochana" (Guardians of the Peace) in the 26 county republic, while the "RUC" (Royal Ulster Constabulary) police the northern six counties independently viz. Armagh, Down, Antrim, Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh. Both Police Forces have an excellent cross border working relationship - unfortunately for the wrongdoer! An Garda Siochana is a one-unit Police Force with rank structure from Commissioner down to Garda.

CAPITAL

Dublin, the capital, is a modern European city which offers all cultural attractions. Dublin was the birthplace and inspiration of great authors, among whom George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) and William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) were Nobel prize winners. Trinity College, Dublin, displays the nation's most beautiful Book of Kells, which contains a latin version of the New Testament handwritten and illustrated by the Irish monks of the 8th century. Belfast is the second largest city in Ireland, being the main administration centre for Northern Ireland and is renowned for its heavy industry, most notably ship building. It also boasts the largest deep-sea port on the island.

PASTIMES

Ireland's 800 lakes and rivers provide excellent fishing for salmon, pike, trout and bream.

Many of the winners of the world's richest horse races were bred at the National Stud. With more than 100 18-hole courses, golf can be played on the suitable green terrain. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) promotes participation in "gaelic" football, handball and the fastest field game of all - hurling. All watersports are actively pursued, while the more leisurely adorn the hundreds of sandy unspoilt beaches.

ENTERTAINMENT

In the numerous hotels and pubs, the traditional fare includes a substantial portion of fresh meat, fish, butter, eggs or potatoes. Stout - rich creamy black Guinness, lovingly drawn from the keg - deserves its far-flung fame, while an Irish Whiskey must be taken neat or with a little water - never with ice. Alternatively an Irish Coffee - a hot coffee laced with whiskey and sugar, with a tablespoon of thick cream floating on top and served in a stemmed glass - must be slowly sipped to savour its texture. In the friendly and relaxed pub atmosphere, the programme of entertainment ranges from ballads to the scraping of violins, the plucking of harps and guitars or the squeezing of bagpipes and accordions, while reels, jigs and hornpipes are danced until the "Garda" knock in the small hours calls an end to the merriment.

CONCLUSION

Ireland, because of its westward location, its beautiful and breathtaking scenery, the renowned hospitality of its easy-going people, the many lakes and rivers (ask Jack Charlton) and the entertainment and craic (Irish for fun) on offer far outweigh the few drops of rain that might dampen the spirits - or the pint of Guinness, known locally as a 'pint of Arthur' (Arthur Guinness).



The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 marked a new beginning in the affairs of the global community.

In signing its Charter on June 26 and instituting a working system of international cooperation, the 51 original members of the United Nations reaffirmed their devotion to the maintenance of international peace and security, the fundamental human rights and the promotion of economic and social development.

The Charter of the UN declares that membership of the United Nations is open to all peace-loving nations which subscribe, accept and are willing and able to carry out their obligations. Apart from the original 51 member states, new members are admitted by a decision of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Security Council. At present, there are 185 member states. The Charter also provides for the suspension or expulsion of members for violation of the principles of the Charter, but no such action has ever been taken.

The six principal organs of the United Nations are the:

- * General Assembly
- * Security Council
- * Economic and Social Council
- * Trusteeship Council
- * International Court of Justice and
- * International Secretariat

General Assembly

This is the only organ in which all of the UN members are represented, each with an equal vote. The General Assembly *inter alia* may, with certain specific limitations, make recommendations to the member states and/or the Security Council on any questions or matters within the scope of the Charter. The General Assembly also receives and considers reports from other organs of the United Nations, including annual and special reports from the Security Council. In addition, it considers and approves the budget of the Organization; the expenses are borne by the member states as apportioned by the General Assembly.

Other functions include acting as an organ of political settlement. The General Assembly can issue appeals and recommendations to parties in a conflict, as well as provide commission of inquiry and conciliation to facilitate a peaceful settlement.

In its elective capacity, the Assembly chooses all the members of the Economic and Social Council and the elective members of the Security Council and Trusteeship Council. Along with the Security Council, it also participates in the election of judges of the International Court of Justice and the appointment of the Secretary General. The Assembly shares with the Security Council the power to propose amendments to the Charter as well as the right to convene a conference for the purpose of revising the Charter. It appoints the Secretary General upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

The General Assembly meets in regular annual sessions. The Assembly President is elected in a personal capacity at the outset of each session. A general debate at the opening of each annual session provides all members with the opportunity to raise issues of concern to them. Special sessions of the Assembly may meet at the request of the Security Council, or whenever the majority of members agree to a special session. With an extensive list of items on its annual agenda, the Assembly relies heavily on committees to manage the workload.

Security Council

The members of the United Nations, under the Charter, confer upon the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this, the Council acts on behalf of the members.

Member states, in adhering to the Charter, agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council in accordance with the Charter. The Council is a 15-member body consisting of five (5) permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) and ten (10) non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. In selecting non-permanent members, the Assembly strives for an equitable geographical representation from all continents. The presidency rotates each month in English alphabetical order among the members.

Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes including the concurring votes of all five permanent members, who also have the right to "veto" a decision. An abstention by a permanent member does not constitute a "veto". The Council is so organized as to operate continuously. It may establish subsidiary organs, such as Sanctions Committees. It has a permanent Military Staff Committee.

In Chapter IV, the Charter provides for extensive functions, including those of initiative, of the Council in the Pacific Settlement of Disputes, and in Chapter VII for Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression. The term Peace-Keeping is not mentioned in the Charter, and the body of Peace-Keeping Practice that has grown from the 1950s is sometimes known as "Chapter 6½".

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Charter included among the very purposes of the world Organization, "to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights". This inspired the inclusion of ECOSOC among the principal organs of the Organization. Its 54 members are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of re-election.

ECOSOC has normally met at least twice a year, the first time in April at UN Headquarters and the second in July in Geneva. Under the Charter, ECOSOC is authorized to make or initiate studies, reports and recommendations on socioeconomic, educational, health



ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

compiled by Mrs Miriam Taylor

and related matters; to promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all; and to prepare draft conventions on the subjects for submission to the General Assembly and call international conferences.

The Council is assisted in its work by commissions organized on functional or regional bases. The functional commissions, including an economic, a social, a human rights, a women's status and a narcotic drugs commission, carry out studies in their fields and otherwise assist the Council in the performance of its duties. In general, these subsidiary bodies formulate resolutions, recommendations and international conventions on which the Council and General Assembly take action.

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council, acting under the authority of the General Assembly, was established to supervise the administration of trust territories by the administering states. Major goals of the Trusteeship system were to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self government or independence.

The Council comprises the United States, China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. Voting in the Trusteeship Council is by simple majority. Each member has one vote. The Council meets in annual sessions.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the UN, and its statute is an integral part of the Charter. The Court consists of 15 judges who are elected by absolute majorities in both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges are chosen on the basis of their personal qualifications, not their nationality, though efforts are made to see that the principal legal systems of the world are represented in the Court. Judges serve nine-year terms and are eligible for re-election. No two judges may be nationals of the same state. The seat of the Court is at The Hague, Netherlands.

Only states may be parties in cases before the Court. The jurisdiction of the Court covers all questions which the parties refer to it, and all matters specifically provided for in the UN Charter or its treaties or conventions in force. States may recognize as compulsory the nature of the Court's jurisdiction in all legal disputes concerning:

- (i) the interpretation of a treaty,
- (ii) any question of international law,
- (iii) the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of an international obligation, and
- (iv) the nature or extent of the reparation to be made for the breach of an international obligation.

The Court's function is to decide, in accordance with international law, such disputes as are submitted to it.

Though the volume of cases have been small, the Court has rendered important judgements in disputes relating to territorial claims, the law of the sea, commercial interests and property rights.

International Secretariat

Unlike under the League of Nations, the Secretariat of the United Nations is a principal organ of the Organization. It comprises the Secretary General and such staff as the Organization may require. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly, normally for a five-year term, upon the recommendation of the Security Council. He is the Chief Administrative Officer of the entire Organization.

Also unlike the League of Nations, the UN Secretary General has important political functions and a power of initiative. He makes an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization and, under Article 99 of the Charter, he may bring to the attention of the Security Council "any matter" which, in his opinion, may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. In the early decades of the United Nations, when deadlock was so much a feature of the inter-governmental organs, successive Secretaries General painstakingly built up the political, diplomatic and humanitarian functions and strength of the Office to the stage where the incumbent has become chief spokesperson of the Organization and, indeed, of the international community as a whole. The present Secretary General has led the debate on renewal and restructuring the United Nations through his Agenda for Peace, Agenda for Development and a myriad of other declarations as the Organization prepares for a second half century.

As the administrative arm of the UN, the Secretariat employs nearly 25,000 men and women from more than 150 countries. These individuals serve as clerks, translators, technicians, project directors, negotiators and administrators. Positions are allocated on the basis of geographic distribution and the size of national contributions to the UN budget as well as on merit. Staff members take an oath not to seek or receive instructions from their home government or outside authorities.

The first Secretary General of the UN was Trygve Lie, of Norway, who served until 1953. Dag Hammarskjöld, of Sweden, served from 1953 until his death in a plane crash in Africa in 1961. U Thant, of Burma (now Myanmar), served until 1971. He was succeeded by Kurt Waldheim, of Austria, who held the office from 1972 to 1981. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, of Peru, served from 1 January 1982 to 31 December 1991. The present Secretary General and the sixth occupant of the post is Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt, who took office on 1 January 1992.

NB: This article deals with the United Nations, which is at the core of the United Nations system or "family". It does not cover the Specialized Agencies and Programmes such as UNESCO, FAO, etc, which will be covered in a separate issue.



COMMENDATION - SERGEANT CRAIG FORD

Photograph by Cpl Willie Quain



On 19 February 1995, whilst skiing in the Troodos mountain range, a young Cypriot girl hit a rock and was thrown approximately 25 feet down a bank, hitting a tree. On examination, Sgt Ford found that the girl was not breathing. He applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and first aid, and then accompanied her to the Nicosia General Hospital, where she is currently making a recovery.

For saving the girl's life, Sgt Ford was awarded a Commendation from Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal P Millar.