

THE Blue Beret

August 1994





NEW UNFICYP FORCE COMMANDER



The new UNFICYP Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ahti Toimi Paavali Vartiainen, graduated from the Finnish Military Academy in

1966 and completed a battalion commander course in 1971. From 1974 to 1977, he attended the Finnish War College and completed the Senior Officers' Course in 1983, and the Nordic United Nations Staff Officers' Course in Sweden in 1988. In 1991, he completed the National Defence Course and the High Command Course in Helsinki.

Brigadier-General Vartiainen has held a range of military appointments in the service of his country, including instructor at the Military Academy (1971-1974), Chief of Division at Air Force Headquarters (1978-1984), Deputy Commanding Officer and Commanding Officer,

Engineers' Depot (1984-1988), and Chief of Engineers' Department, Defence Staff (1990-1991). From 1991 to the present, he has been Inspector of Engineers and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Defence. From 1988 to 1989, he served the United Nations as Contingent Commander of the Finnish Battalion in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Brigadier-General Vartiainen is Commander and Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland and holds the Medal for Military Merits of Finland.

Born in 1943, Brigadier-General Vartiainen is married and has one daughter.



NEW UNFICYP CHIEF OF STAFF



The new UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Colonel John Powell, was born in 1946 and was educated at Marlborough College and Durham University. He was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1966 into The Green Howards and served with his Regiment in the UK, Belize, BAOR, West Berlin and Northern Ireland (including exercises in Norway, Canada and an attachment to SAF Oman), occupying various appointments from Platoon Commander to Adjutant.

He attended the Army Staff Course at Shrivenham (Division 2) and Camberley in 1977 and 1978, and was posted to the Ministry of Defence as MA2/CGS. He broke his leg skiing after 18 months in this appointment and, upon recovery, returned to the Ministry of Defence on DMO'S

staff (MO2) for a further 18 months. He then commanded a company in his Regiment in Cyprus, England and BAOR from 1981-1984 before being posted as Chief Instructor at RMA Sandhurst, running the Standard Military Course.

He was promoted in March 1985 to Lieutenant Colonel to become SO1(W) Weapons and Fighting Vehicles on the British Army Staff, Washington. He commanded 1st Battalion The Green Howards from January 1987 to July 1989, mostly in Londonderry and then in Catterick, which included the Regiment's tercentenary. For his services in Northern Ireland, he was awarded the OBE.

Following command, he moved to the Royal College of Defence Studies in London as SO1 JDS(Army), before being



promoted to Colonel and posted to HQDT as Col AT1 in October 1991, responsible for individual training.

Colonel Powell is accompanied by his wife Jill. We wish them both a happy and successful stay in Cyprus.

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 8 AUGUST 1994

Published monthly by the Spokesman's Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP.
P.O.Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: Nicosia 359550
FAX: 359753

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Editorial Assistant
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Sgt Joe Relihan
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Carlos Kammerath
Sector Two	Capt Justin van der Pant
Sector Four	Maj Alois Aschauer
AUSTCIVPOL	Pol Sgt Kathy Roach
IRCIVPOL	Insp Mike Hoare
Perm FR	Capt Neale McArdle
MP Elm	Sgt Pete Conway
Camp Command	C/S Stephen Coy

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.

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-Ell Press
13 King Paul Street
Parissinos, Nicosia
Tel. 350186

Front Cover

**The New Chief of Mission
with the
New Force Commander**
by Sgt Joe Relihan

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The Secretary-General had decided to adjust the command structure of the United Nations operation in Cyprus in line with the arrangements in other Missions. With effect from 1 August 1994, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Joe Clark, has been designated Chief of Mission. The Secretary-General has decided further that, when Mr Clark is not in Cyprus, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Gustave Feissel, who resides in Cyprus, is the Chief of Mission. The Force Commander remains responsible for peace-keeping activities within the Mission and in this respect, reports to the Chief of Mission.

The new Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ahti Toimi Paavali Vartiainen of Finland, took over command on 30 August. In addition to serving in a succession of senior national appointments, the General - an engineer by training - served previously as Finnish Contingent Commander with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights. We warmly welcome him to the United Nations in Cyprus, and wish him every success in his appointment. We look forward also to welcoming soon Mrs Mona Vartiainen and their daughter Maria.

CONTENTS

New UNFICYP Force Commander/ New UNFICYP Chief of Staff	2
Editorial/Contents	3
Regimental Admin Office, Sector Two	4
1 Para Bty - B Troop, E Troop and F Troop	5
BHQ Activities/Presentation of LSGC Medals	6
UN MP Medal Parade/UN MP Canadian Rotation/ Argentinian Personalities around HQ UNFICYP	7
Interview with the former UNFICYP Force Commander	8/9
Famagusta Old City Run/A Shooting Star	10
D-17 PB - Shooting Competition, ARGCON	11
Farmers Control Exercise/Sport in Skouriotissa/ The COO visits Alfa Coy's TAOR	12
St Michael's School - The End of Era/ The ARGCON Football Competition/ AUSTCIVPOL and their "Learn to Swim" Classes	13
Inauguration of the New K.u.K. Letterbox/ New Branch Heads within HQ UNFICYP	14
The Blue Beret Fun and Test Your Knowledge Page	15
Departure of Maj-Gen Michael Minehane	16

REGIMENTAL ADMIN OFFICE, SECTOR TWO

RAO	Capt J M Whitelaw AGC (SPS)
AGC Det Comd	Lt P J Naisbett AGC (SPS)
RAOWO	WO2 (SQMS) DC Siddall
Imprest Holder	WO2 (SQMS) P Whiteside
SFA	SSgt SJA Graham
Chief Clerk	Sgt S Davies
Part 2 Orders Clerk	Cpl A Watt
Docs Clerk	Cpl D Warren
Finance Clerk	LCpl MA McKendry
Ord Rm NCO	LCpl KD Pembroke
G2/3 Clerk	Pte LE James
Mov Clerk	Cpl F Stapleton
G Para Bty	LCpl I Winterflood
I Para Bty	Cpl IJ Williams
Ops Clk	LCpl M Thorington

Following the departure of 2 RTR, the Admin Office of 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery is now responsible for the Finance and Administration of Sector Two BRITCON. After much reorganisation and unpacking of boxes, the department is now fully operational, supplying anything from cash to T-Shirts and postage stamps.

At the helm is Capt John Whitelaw, who spends his days equally between organising football, discussing football and selling T-Shirts. Our recent addition, Lt Paul Naisbett, has joined us on commissioning and is still finding his way around.

WO2 (SQMS) Sid Siddall has taken over the role of RAOWO, which involves the day-to-day running of the office and paying the troops on the weekly pay run. Being new to the finance side of things, he is constantly checking his balance after each payment, which can be seen from the photographs, whilst WO2 (SQMS) Pete



WO2 (SQMS) Siddall paying out to the boys at OP B-18



The Regimental Admin Staff combined

Whiteside, the anchor man from HQ BRITCON, controls the imprest account.

SSgt Steve Graham, when he can be found, is responsible for all non-public funds, including the running of the central booze store, and is official taster of all brands he has introduced.

Sgt Steve Davies, the Chief Clerk, is constantly under pressure in an attempt to satisfy the Regimental hierarchy, ably supported by Pte "Airborne" James, who at times allows his mind to wander to the joys of being a baby Para.

The main office is manned by Cpls Andy Watt, Del Warren and Frank Stapleton, who between them share the responsibility for documentation and movements. Del Warren is trying to instruct the other two on the art of blaming each other when things go wrong.

In the outer office you will find LCpl Kev Pembroke, dealing with the mail distribution, whilst LCpl "Mac" McKendry makes all the payments to the soldiers. In a short time, LCpl McKendry has mastered the art of asking everyone who draws cash where they are going and what the nightlife is like there, thus planning his social life around the intelligence gathered.

Working outside the office are Cpl (Wills) Williams, attached to I Para Bty, LCpl Ian Winterflood at G Para Bty with LCpl Mark Thorington in support of the Ops and Ops Info cells.

Regrettably, the time on island does not permit us the chance to relay some interesting stories, due to the overload of work to date, however things are settling down and our portfolio of good stories is filling up for future editions.

1 PARA BTY (BULL'S TROOP) RHA - SECTOR TWO

Para Bty's area of responsibility begins at Paphos Gate in Nicosia and runs through the city past Omorphita to the Sector boundary with AUSCON.

The Battery is sub-divided into three line troops, and is controlled and administered by a Battery HQ situated at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The three troops are located at Maple House, Ortona and Camp Liri.

The Battery has settled in well having received an excellent handover from Burma Sqn, 2 RTR. Operationally the routine is varied with all elements of the Battery having now had face to face dealings with both sides.

On the sports and competitions front, the Battery was able to provide several members of the successful football team who lifted the UNFICYP football trophy recently. Battery shots took part in the shooting competition. We are looking forward to what looks to be a hard fought inter-troop multi sports competition, and several members of the Battery are training for the UNFICYP swimming competition scheduled for 3 August.



Gnr Rose, Gnr Henell and LBdr Radford patrolling the BZ in Nicosia.

The Gentlemen of Bull's are here to work hard and play hard, each troop has contributed to this article and each has its own style. Read on.

B TROOP

01 June saw the arrival of B Troop F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery RHA attached to I Parachute Battery (Bull's Troop) RHA in Cyprus. This is the first occasion that the present-day serving soldiers of B Troop have served as part of a UN peace-keeping force.

After our arrival at St David's Camp where we were issued with our equipment, we carried on to our final destination, Camp Liri, situated on the eastern outskirts of the city of Nicosia. The next day we started a full and very comprehensive takeover from our hosts, 2 RTR. For several days, we spent most of our time travelling around our areas of responsibility and trying not to get lost within the streets of Nicosia! At first sight a daunting task, but as the days progressed and we became more familiar with the area, a few hours were set aside to take in some of the sights and learn some of the history of this antediluvian city.

Now that the Troop has settled in, a few long-term projects have been started to try and improve the living conditions of the soldiers and to establish good relations with both sides.

E TROOP

On returning to Ortona House after six days on Sector Reserve, it was surprising to see two Iso-containers on the front lawn. It was a bit early for sea freight to be packed! The MFO boxes had only arrived about two weeks earlier. How was everyone to survive without quilts and electric fires, if they were to be shipped off home?? However, there was no need for alarm.

On looking closer, it was clear that these were not Iso-containers, but Iso-apartments. At last the answer to our overcrowding problem had arrived (for those who are unaware, overcrowding is a problem when more than two men have to share a room). Though, like Guinness, we are not bitter, we are thankful that after six weeks, things are starting to happen. All that remains to be done now is for them to be connected to the electricity supply and the air conditioning fitted.

There are now four months left of the tour, so in that time, maybe somebody can spark and put the plug in!

They're here! The porta-cabins arrive.

F TROOP

On 8 June 94, the main body flight arrived at Larnaca Airport, Cyprus to take over the United Nations peace-keeping role from 2 RTR. For most of the members of F Troop, this was their first Regimental tour and also their first UN tour.

After the coach journey to Wolseley Barracks where we were issued all our equipment needed for the tour, we moved on to Maple House (home for the next six months). No sooner had we arrived than we were straight into our kit and out on the line, learning all the Cease Fire Lines and our beloved OP Briefs.

After a few weeks, we have now settled into our daily routine, maintaining good relations with both the opposing forces and looking forward to the next four months in our peace-keeping role.



BHQ ACTIVITIES

After thorough preparation
That filled all our days in May,
BHQ made the move to Cyprus
And was issued the Blue Beret.

"Stag on 7 RHA," was the cry
From the swiftly departing Tankies,
They left us the sun,
And a whole lot of fun,
And a huge load of sweaty old hankies.

And so we began
UN checkpoints to man
And our briefings we hold every
morning,
OPFR escorts, and meeting reports;
An extensive part of the BZ to scan.

BHQ is the nerve cell:
A hard working team
Who'll never miss out on
A Fat-Boy's ice cream.

With the BC and BK
And the old BSM,
We've more good experience,
Than ten lesser men.

The Ops Officer's a lunatic
Of sensible sorts,
On sea fish and salmon
And raw slugs are his thoughts.

As for young officers,
There's a couple of those
To bungle and bluff,
And be kept on their toes.

By juggling Staff Fletcher
(He's totally awesome)
And Sergeant Major Commander
That makes up the foursome.

There's Staff Sergeant Rogers,
The BQMS,
And one thing's for sure,
His sun tan's the best.

A bit like the right arm
Of MT Sgt Dick,
Which he rests on the window
For waving at chicks.

On the net there's Lance Bombardier
Powell
And Bombardier Winfield
Gnr Kempster and 'H',
Who likes Dusty Springfield.

In charge there's Bombardier Kelly
Or that's what we hear,
For he's watching telly
with an icy-cold beer.

So what do we do,
With this unbeatable crew
To maintain the peace
In our own Sector Two?

With constant reports
From the troops on the ground
We aim to keep track
Of all incidents found.

A Paphos Gate drive through,
A stray Tk Cyp cat.
An IMREP for this,
A SHOTREP for that.

We all know the score,
Our brief was emphatic:
Stay calm at all times
And be diplomatic.

And, at times, it occurs,
(Believe me it's true)
That we're all at a loss
When an IMREP comes through.

Is it a trick?
Some odd kind of lure?
What this incident needs
Is a new kind of cure.

And so he appears
In a bold shade of blue,
The crowd's going wild,
"UN MAN, its true!"

What else do we cover?
The odd demonstration
Of the coup anniversary and
The Turkish intervention.

And last but not least,
We must mention the clerk,
Who when typing this piece
Stayed in long after dark!



The UN man →

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

On Monday 11 July 1994, Brig RM Lambe, MBE, as one of his last acts as Commander of the British Contingent, presented two members of the Contingent with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Warrant Officer Griffith is the Chief Clerk in the Contingent Headquarters, while Sergeant Taylor works in the Army Supply Detachment.

The medal is awarded for 15 years' exemplary service in the British Armed Forces.



WO2 Griffith and Sgt Taylor with their families receiving LSGC medals presented by Brig RM Lambe MBE.



UN MP MEDAL PARADE

by Sgt C Leeson



WO2 Peter Stickler, holding the medals and numerals to be presented.

On Friday 24 June 94, the UNFICYP MP Element held its half yearly Medal Parade with the FC, Maj Gen Minehane, presenting the recipients with medals and numerals. As the FC moved down the front rank, the "Veterans" receiving their "number 2s" were easily spotted, as they had a deeper and darker suntan than everyone else present.

At the end of the parade, the FC said some very true words of praise about the valuable contribution the Element provides to the Force, and the effectiveness with which its members carry out their duties. He then went on to reprimand MCpls Gerry Grenier and Glen Perron for being improperly dressed (shock horror) and then, ordering them forward, he rectified the situation by presenting



UN MP Elm at attention.

them with Sgt stripes and an unexpected promotion!

We then all retired to the bar for war stories and beer, making sure of course that we'd all booked taxis home first.

UN MP CANADIAN ROTATION

by Sgt C Leeson

We are undergoing quite a large rotation within the UN MP Element at the moment and, as part of this change, we bade a fond farewell to our entire Canadian Contingent of Sgt Jim Goudie and MCpls Eric Lévesque, Fabio Duchesne and Andy McLean, who are now back in their resident stations in Canada after a very successful tour with UNFICYP. In their place we say welcome to Sgts Bob Tarras, Eve Gaudreau, Glen Perron and Gerry Grenier. Since their arrival, both Gerry and Glen have received promotion to Sgt by none other than the Force Commander, Maj Gen Minehane, himself and all four were properly introduced to the MP Lounge that night during a Mug Out which consisted of a Karaoke and a spit roast pig.

All four have already settled in well to their roles as UN MP patrolmen and, if initial impressions are anything to go by, they will prove to be a credit



Alright, who's missing?

to the UN MP Element, UNFICYP and Canada. Welcome, lads.

ARGENTINIAN PERSONALITIES AROUND HQ UNFICYP



In 1983, Lt Col Simonini was posted to the Cavalry Armour School as Armour Instructor for a Company

Lt Col Carlos Simonini graduated from the Argentine Military College in 1973, after which he served with the 8th Armour Regiment (AMX 13), 2nd Armour Regiment (SK 105 Kurasier) and 3rd Independent Scout Squadron (AML 90).

Commander's course. In 1989, he graduated from the Staff Officers' School, following which he was posted there as a Staff Officer/Personnel & Logistics Instructor for doctrine and training.

In 1991/92, he joined the UN as a Military Observer in UNAVEM II (Angola). His last posting was with the General Staff of the Argentine Army at Buenos Aires City.

Lt Col Simonini is married to Bibi and they have three daughters, all of whom are with them in Cyprus. His favourite sports are horse riding, jogging, tennis and pistol shooting.

INTERVIEW

The UNFICYP Force Commander **Major General Michael Minehane**, talks to the **Blue Beret** about his last assignment with the United Nations on peace-keeping operations, his personal experiences and thoughts on the effectiveness and role of UNFICYP in Cyprus.

BLUE BERET: Now that you are coming to the end of your assignment with UNFICYP, what kind of experiences have you had?

Force Commander: The mission of any peace-keeping force is the establishment of conditions under which the parties involved in the conflict could work peacefully together to reach a viable solution. The character and composition of UN field missions varies according to the peace-keeping tasks which may range from maintaining civil order to monitoring the implementation of complex agreements, including performing the role of peace-keeping operations as buffers between hostile elements in a conflict.

The experiences I have encountered during my present assignment are in many ways unique and different to previous appointments, both in content and level of accountability. They range from the traditional military command to responding to the changing requirements of HQ UN New York, co-ordinating troops from different contributing nations, maintaining the required level of knowledge and sensitivity of politics in Cyprus, and remaining calm under conditions of strain. The main events encountered on the military command side were:

- The withdrawal of two main contributors, ie Denmark and Canada;
- A draw-down by 50% from the UK;
- The resultant major redeployment;
- The inclusion of a Contingent from Argentina;
- Learning to live with a unique financing system; and



- Civilianization of the functions of a large UK Support Regiment.

BLUE BERET: What do you think has been your personal contribution to UNFICYP?

Force Commander: I think that my previous experience with UN missions as far back as 1961 in the Congo, followed by Cyprus in 1968 and the Lebanon in 1979 and 1982 have provided me with accumulated knowledge of the modus operandi of UN missions, and have helped me to co-ordinate effectively a complex organisation comprising a variety of disciplines such as operations, administration, logistics and financial departments, manned by specialists originating from a number of UN member states. It is not hard to appreciate the difficulties and imperfections that are inherent in such an environment. However, with determination and dedication to the UN mission, a workable system was maintained throughout my stay as Force Commander.

BLUE BERET: Professional soldiers are the first to say that their prime aim is to prevent war. However, to achieve this, you need sufficient military strength. Would you say that following the recent reductions in the UNFICYP presence on the island, the role of the UN in Cyprus has been reduced to a "symbolic" one?

Force Commander: I would not agree that our

Yes, ... our presence is a moral as well as a symbolic one."

role has become symbolic. Yes, we are much reduced, but our presence is a moral as well as a symbolic one. We remain an essential physical

presence in the Buffer Zone, representing the UN. Our supervisory presence and our availability as an impartial intermediary remain critical for stability and peace on the island, a condition essential to the pursuit of the Secretary-General's mission of good offices.

BLUE BERET: Is peace in Cyprus more fragile now than before?

Force Commander: No, I don't see peace in Cyprus as more fragile than before. Despite the rhetoric, the situation is stable and our

Interposed, as we are, between the two communities, we have contributed to creating the conditions necessary for peaceful settlement through negotiations.

presence is appreciated by both communities. Interposed, as we are, between the two communities, we have contributed

to creating the conditions necessary for peaceful settlement through negotiations.

BLUE BERET: Do you think that the role of the UN has been enhanced over the last few years?

Force Commander: Following the important changes witnessed over the last few years, a greater number of states see the United Nations as an instrument capable of maintaining international peace and security. Looking at the Cyprus situation, out of necessity, we find ourselves with fewer soldiers doing the same tasks. The perception of us must surely be that we continue in a very pragmatic way to contribute to peace and security on the island.

BLUE BERET: Having served in an international organisation, where is home for you now?

Force Commander: Home will be Dublin. My wife Maura and I retain strong links with Cork, where we have many relatives and friends.

BLUE BERET: Is there a message you wish to convey to the members of UNFICYP?

Force Commander: These last two years have been an extraordinary time for everyone. The Force lost long-term contributors and friends when the Swedes, most of the Canadians and Danes were withdrawn. Their service and national character had become firmly imprinted upon UNFICYP to their great credit. Those remaining ensured that the upheaval was minimised when Austria and the UK, between them, held the ring.

To the relief of many, Argentina came to UNFICYP's rescue to reinforce a depleted line. Its Task Force arrived and quickly impressed us all with its robust professionalism and its universal popularity. As UK hands over responsibility to Argentina for providing the UNFICYP Flight in September, I wish the new boys well.

The role of IRCIVPOL and AUSTCIVPOL expands monthly, as does their reputation for firm and fair dealing. AUSTCIVPOL's setting up and running of the Ledra Exchange Point has been a marked success, as has IRCIVPOL's presence in Pyla.

We have nearly civilianized all the administrative functions, once performed by a Logistic Support Regiment, and it is very much to the credit of the civilian administrative staff, assisted by the military logistics staff, that the replacement of a 30-year-old system has caused so little turbulence.

I hand over the Force with mixed emotions. I have derived great pleasure from serving with you, and will take away many amusing and memorable images of you, the Force, carrying out your duties. I am sad, too, because we shall not meet again. You have shown Maura and me such generous hospitality and friendship which we will treasure.

In the meantime, I must ask all of you to keep to the task set us. You must try to maintain the integrity of every square inch of the Buffer Zone, as you must maintain strict self discipline in your duties.

you must maintain strict self-discipline in your duties. While none of us would say these duties are inspiring or exciting, I must emphasize the importance of your presence. It is you who allow the politicians and diplomats to seek solutions in an atmosphere of relative security. But your task, I suspect, will remain long-term and one which I am sure you will continue to do to a high standard. May I wish you godspeed and a safe return to your families at the end of your tour. Thank you for your hard work.



FAMAGUSTA OLD CITY RUN AND ASC FUN COMPETITION

Saturday 11 June was a very sporty day for AUSCON and a fair number of international guests.

A series of sports events started at 0900 hrs with the Famagusta Old City Run, a 10 km event which led some 80 competitors - including 10 veterans - three times around the walled city. 71 sportsmen succeeded in finishing the tour, with Sgt Chris Leeson as the winner of the men's class, and WO 1 Hernan Tadeo Cortinez as the winner of the veteran's class and also overall winner.



Old City Run - the competitors starting the race...

Then at 1300 hrs, the AUSCON Sports Club Fun Competition started in Camp Duke Leopold V, Sector Four's Headquarters. A decathlon took place including golf, shooting, billiards, coin throwing, can hitting, a bicycle trial, tennis, soccer, darts and the wheel of fortune - all of which had to be completed to get a chance of winning a mountain-bike, a sound machine, a camera, a weekend for two at the Cyprus Hilton or one of the numerous fun prizes.

The participants in the competition undoubtedly enjoyed the afternoon, as well as the subsequent



... on the way

evening with typical Austrian food, drink and music...



The overall winner, WO1 Cortinez, with Lt Col Kloss and Maj Eder during the prize giving ceremony.

A SHOOTING STAR

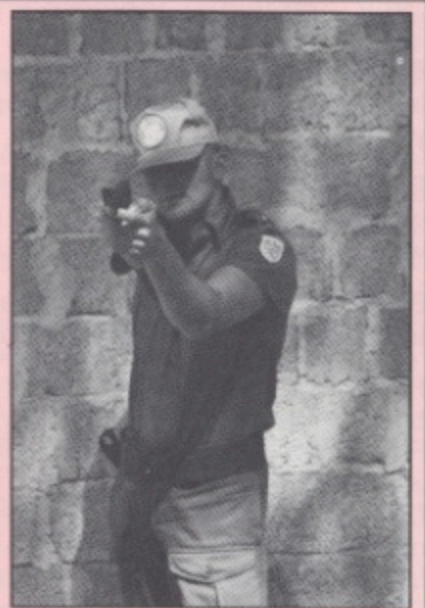
Cpl Christian Holzknacht was AUSCON's photographer from November 1993 until July 1994, and was well known for "pulling the trigger", just at the right moment! The numerous excellent photos which he contributed to the "Blue Beret" during the last few months were proof of his qualities as a photographer, as was his ability for fulfilling various "extra orders", be it for duty purposes or privately for his comrades.

All this, however, is not what makes him a "shooting star". Unknown to many is the fact that Cpl Holzknacht is well able to hit the target in yet another field. We

are not talking about his many excursions to Ayia Napa, where, due to his sharp tongue, his sociable nature and his great physique, he had untold success... What makes him, finally, a real shooting star is his success in the various shooting competitions he took part in.

In the last UNFICYP Shooting Competition for example, he reached first place in the single classification of the pistol match, and his team also reached first place. In the recent UNFICYP Shooting Competition run by ARGCON, he was equally successful.

We wish him the ability to hit as many targets in his future life!



Cpl Holzknacht - winner of numerous shooting competitions

DELTA 17 PATROL BASE

by 1Lt Victor Sosa

D-17 stands out, due to the large area of responsibility that it covers, ie approximately 15 km comprising different geographical features such as hills, rivers, dams, valleys and plains. In some places, the survey of both Cease Fire Lines is performed from the OP's watchtower, some others from the top of the highest hills and the rest while conducting foot and vehicle patrols.

The personnel serving at D-17 are also deployed to occupy unmanned UN OPs on a random basis and for short periods to ensure a UN presence all along the Buffer Zone.

In cases where a specific point of interest cannot be reached due to minefields or terrain features, the weekly heli patrol provides adequate support for the task.

This type of operation was initiated about four months ago in order for the present Sector One



D-17 foot patrol. From the left: SSgt Juan Carlos Gadanos, 1Lt Victor Sosa and WO1 Daniel Torres.

to accomplish their mission more efficiently and with the same success that their predecessors attained.

SHOOTING COMPETITION - ARGCON

by Lt (Navy) Carlos Kammerath

A bit surprisingly, the month of June was a rather quiet period for peace-keeping troops deployed in Cyprus and it was, thus, a good opportunity to test professional skills, for example shooting. Therefore, on 30 June, in soaring temperatures, competitors from several contingents showed up on either the rifle or pistol ranges.

From the start, AUSCON were the favourites, due to their outstanding record in years gone by. However, the other teams decided to give the Austrians a run for their money, no matter what weapon they were going to use!

The final results were as follows:

Teams

Rifle : 1st Sector Four
2nd Sector Two

Falling
Plates : 1st Sector Four (B)
2nd Sector Four (A)



The Austrian team with their Steyr rifles.

Pistol : 1st Sector Four
2nd Sector One

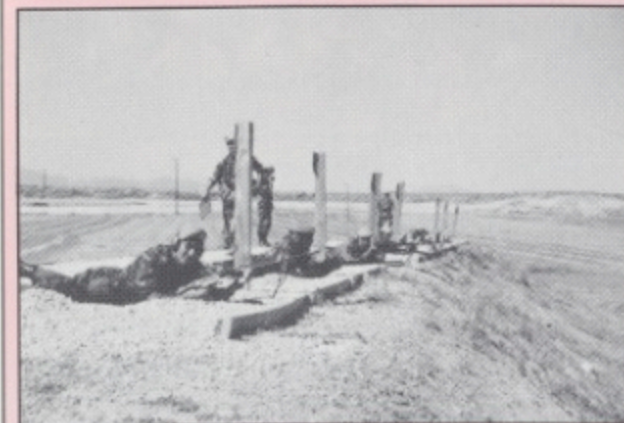
Individuals

Rifle : 1st SSgt Ricardo Akins (Sector One)
2nd Lt Anton Resch (Sector Four)

Pistol : 1st Cpl Christian Holzknacht (Sector Four)
2nd WO1 Carlos Abarza (Perm FR)

Following the competition, contestants and spectators gathered together for a cold drink and the now well-known Argentinian "empanadas".

Finally, the Force Commander, Maj Gen Minehane, presented the prizes, stressing the importance of competition to keep the highest standards of marksmanship skills among the different units within UNFICYP.



The Argentinian team with the FALs.

FARMERS CONTROL EXERCISE

by Lt Gabriel Terza

On 1 June from 07:30 to 13:00 hrs, Charlie Coy (Marines), which runs the eastern area of Sector One's TAOR along the Buffer Zone, conducted an exercise aimed at checking UN permits granted to local workers by the Humanitarian Branch, thereby obtaining reliable data for statistical records. On this occasion, we counted on the professional support of the



Marines inspecting vehicles at the checkpoints.

AUSTCIVPOL Detachment based in Linou.

Charlie Coy deployed eight checkpoints between Potamis River and the eastern 20's, the boundary with the British Sector. Two Marines were posted with a radio at each checkpoint set on all the roads entering the Buffer Zone, while mobile patrols drove along the intermediate areas and secondary roads.

The local population openly cooperated with UN personnel and received with interest the explanations given by the Argentinian Marines, who then related the date and place where the Sector Humanitarian Officer would meet local farmers, shepherds and other workers to issue or renew Job Passes.

As a result of this exercise, 87 vehicles and 120 persons were identified, including 16 farmers



Marines controlling pass permits during the exercise

without permits and two with outdated ones.

It should be mentioned here that Sector One received excellent cooperation from the civilian population during this exercise, which will provide the background for efficient management of humanitarian activity in the Buffer Zone.

SPORT IN SKOURIOTISSA

by Capt Julio Belfi

At the end of May, a tournament was held in Skouriotissa Camp between the five Argentinian Companies based in Sector One including football, volleyball and swimming. Although all competitions were interesting, the most outstanding was the swimming race which, apart from the normal crawl, breast stroke and relay races, ended up with a funny contest called the "iron frog" - all, incidentally, won by the personnel of Skouriotissa Camp!

The most outstanding competitor was definitely 51-year-old Hernan Cortinez, who, in addition to his performance on this occasion, has also won numerous prizes abroad in many sporting competitions.

See right: WO1 Hernan Cortinez receives a prize from the FC for 1st place in the veteran category.



THE COO VISITS ALFA COY'S TAOR

by Capt Cesar Cassini

On 6 July, UNFICYP's outgoing Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col HJ Brünings-Hansen, visited all the OPs and OPTs in Alfa Coy's TAOR in the western part of the Buffer Zone during his handover programme for the incoming COO, Lt Col Franz Leitgeb.

During this Line Tour, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen briefed his successor on different matters such as terrain features, the Status Quo, UN installations and tasks fulfilled by the Sector personnel. Lt Col Leitgeb thanked everyone for their assistance during the handover programme, and urged the personnel of Sector One to continue their efficient service to him as they have done in the past.

The visit concluded with a light lunch in Kokkina Camp.



From the left: Cpl Paniagua, WO1 Copa, SSgt Zarate, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen, Lt Col Leitgeb, Maj Landaburu, Capt Cassini and WO1 Cabreza.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL - THE END OF AN ERA

Maggie Probert (B.Ed) - Headteacher (1992-1994)

St Michael's Primary School is situated in the United Nations Protected Area at Nicosia. However, sadly, on Friday 15th July, the bell rang and the children skipped off home for the last time. Huge reductions in manpower over the last 18 months and the demise of Support Regiment have led to falling roles. Now, with just twelve children remaining, the school has fallen victim to the government's cost-cutting measures and been forced to close.

St Michael's has always been a community school in the true sense of the word, and it has been a pleasure to work in partnership with parents and military personnel who have been committed to its success.

It was difficult to know how to mark such a sad occasion as the closure of a school, but, with a Barbecue for the children and their parents and a Thanksgiving Service conducted by Padre Joseph Loveday, we think we struck the right balance. The children were fully involved in the planning and organisation of both events - making kebabs and sheftalia for the BBQ and learning songs and poems for the service - and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



"School's out"

The Thanksgiving Service was attended by all children, parents and staff. Other guests included Maj Gen M Minehane (Force Commander), Col JSW Powell (COS and Commander BRITCON), Lt Col C Martindill (CEA HQ ETS), Sqn Ldr TD Archer (SO2 Schools) and members of the School's Advisory Committee.

THE ARGCON FOOTBALL COMPETITION

by Lt Cdr Raul Luna

This event took place between 20-29 June 1994 on the UNPA pitches, and was hosted by Sector One, with teams from Sectors One, Two, Four and HQ UNFICYP taking part. The best record was claimed by Sector One, and in the final against Sector Two, this team won 5:2. However, the overall winner was Sector Two.

Prizes were presented by the COO and CPLO, who congratulated everyone for their competitive and friendly spirit throughout the event.

The two teams in the finals



AUSTCIVPOL AND THEIR "LEARN TO SWIM" CLASSES

Once again, the Australian Police Contingent conducted "learn to swim" classes at the UNPA pool during May, June and July. The classes were open to children five years old and over, and ran for six weeks each Saturday morning, well attended by 15 children.

The aim of these classes was to teach confidence in the water, standard safety procedures and then move on to instruct in basic freestyle and breaststroke techniques. At the end of the course, the children were proudly presented with a certificate of merit for their achievements.

A great time was had by all, instructors and children alike. Many of them can be seen at the pool during the week, playing and practising their new skills. Keep up the good efforts, kids!



The proud recipients and their instructors.

INAUGURATION OF THE K.u.K. LETTERBOX

by MSgt H Smetana

The Austrian Field Post Office in Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta has a new letterbox, a facsimile of a "Mainz-Weber" which was in use during the days of the Austrian-Hungarian empire - a real K.u.K.



Lt Col Kloss, FPM Meisthuber and the two artists, L/Cpls Fötschl and Reisner during the inauguration



A masterpiece of craftsmanship

(which stands for Kaiserlich und Königlich, ie the Imperial and Royal) letterbox.

FPM Gerhard Meisthuber had the idea of trying to get such a mail box, after he received a postcard from Austria with a photo of one on it.

As can be seen in the picture above, two of AUSCON's engineers, L/Cpl Fötschl and L/Cpl Reisner, built a true copy of the original within 45 working hours. The new letterbox was attached to the front side of the

Post Office and solemnly inaugurated on 2 June 1994 by CO Sector Four, Lt Col A Kloss, FPM G Meisthuber, L/Cpl C Fötschl and L/Cpl H Reisner.

FPM G Meisthuber, who deals with approximately 300 kg of incoming and 100 kg of outgoing mail per week, is also a master of the violin, well-known all around the island as "Paddy Murphy". Furthermore, he uses his limited leisure time for extended bike tours.

NEW BRANCH HEADS WITHIN HQ UNFICYP

THE NEW CPLO

On 24 June 1994, Lt Col Adrian Ris handed over the post of Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer to Lt Col Roberto Osvaldo Ferrer, the first Argentinian to hold this post.

Lt Col Ferrer was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 17 Dec 52. He entered Military College in Dec 69 and was commissioned on 7 Dec 73. He is a specialist Staff Officer who, having carried out the basic infantry, para, free jumping, special jumping, infantry advance and staff courses, has also completed postings in mechanized and airborne regiments. Lt Col Ferrer has previous UN experience in the Golan Heights (1989-1991) as a Military Observer and Operations Officer.

Lt Col Ferrer is married to Maria Mercedes Lagleyze, and they have four children, two girls and two boys aged between 16 and 2. He is interested in tennis, volleyball, swimming, horse riding and jogging, and his hobbies include classical music and reading.



THE NEW COO

On 13 June 1994, the last Dane to serve in UNFICYP, Lt Col Hans Brünings-Hansen, handed over the post of Chief Operations Officer to his Austrian successor, Lt Col Franz Leitgeb.

Lt Col Leitgeb was born in Styria, Austria on 21 July 1960. In 1978/79, he carried out his Basic and Reserve Officer's Training, and between 1979-1982 he attended the Military Academy.

From 1982 to 1988, he was OC of a Tank Coy and a Staff Officer in the HQ Cavalry Battalion. From 1988 to 1991, he attended a General Staff Course at the Defence Academy, and from 1991 to 1994, he was Deputy Chief Logistics Officer in 3 (Mech) Corps.

Lt Col Leitgeb is married to Bernadette, and they have a two-year-old daughter, Marietta Sophie.



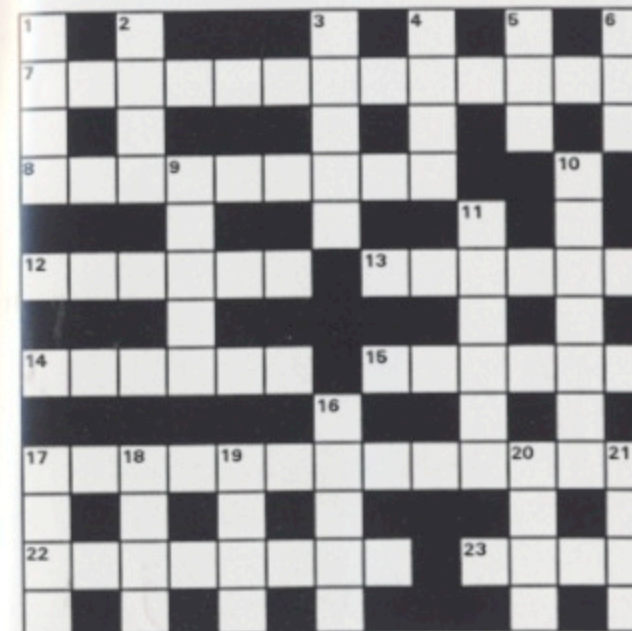
THE BLUE BERET FUN AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PAGE

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

Editor

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BB No 01

This is it - your chance to win a bottle of stimulating transparent liquid, highly recommended and kindly donated by the UNFICYP Spokesman! It will be given to the first all correct entry to be drawn out of the the Editor's top helmet! Solutions to arrive at the Spokesman's Office, c/o Asst Editor, HQ UNFICYP not later than 30 September 1994.



Clues:

Across:

7. Sweets, chocolates, etc.
8. Military Unit
12. UNFICYP SRSG (1967-1974)
13. Military ceremony
14. Together
15. Tests accuracy
17. Showing against authority
22. Ex UNFICYP SRSG: now Defence Minister for his country
23. Man's name

Down:

1. Cabs (analogue)
2. Nautical measure of speed
3. Colour or discolour
4. You would keep it in your purse
5. Private vehicle
6. Organ of vision
9. Drink the health of
10. North American Indian
11. Fervent
16. Backless seat
17. Harbour
18. Use no words but act just the same
19. African River
20. Country found in Rain
21. Name of UNFICYP mediator (1964-65)

THE BLUE BERET TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. When did Cyprus become independent?
 - a. 1958
 - b. 1960
 - c. 1963
2. When was UNFICYP established?
 - a. March 1964
 - b. October 1967
 - c. July 1974
3. When was the UN Headquarters inaugurated?
 - a. 1944
 - b. 1947
 - c. 1952
4. Who was the longest serving UNFICYP Commander?
 - a. Lieutenant General D Prem Chand
 - b. Major General G Greindl
 - c. General K S Thimayya

DEPARTURE OF MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL MINEHANE



During Major General Minehane's tour in Cyprus, UNFICYP went through great changes. The above montage depicts some of the events which took place during this time.