

THE Blue Beret

January 1995





CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES IN SECTOR FOUR

by SSgt Karl Füsselberger



At Christmas, most of the soldiers in Sector Four, as in other Sectors of UNFICYP, were separated from their families. In order to catch a little of the Christmas spirit, AUSCON organised various activities during this festive season.



Col Leitgeb, the Chief Operations Officer, was fascinated by the beauty of the Christmas tree which was placed near the altar. Even Field Post Master Brunnhofer and his assistant, Sgt Bengl, (pictured right) who dealt with literally hundreds of kilos of parcels and cards, managed to attend the service.



Below is a church service with a difference - the Roman Catholic padre and Col Pelican, the Protestant priest who arrived from Austria for Christmas, celebrated mass together, again



on 24 December, at the church in Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta.

Under the circumstances, even though most Sector Four personnel were separated from their families, they shared a very pleasant Christmas with their fellow Austrians.



Pictured above is the church of Ayia Marina, where a service took place on 24 December to celebrate the birth of Christ. The mass was conducted by Chaplain Hazmann, and this charismatic little church in the Buffer Zone was filled by members of 2 Coy, AUSCON. Marietta, pictured below with her father Lt

THE UNFICYP CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



On Friday 16 December 1994, the UNFICYP Christmas Carol Service took place at the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in the Buffer Zone, attended by various members of the military and civilian elements of UNFICYP. The service was conducted by Padre Loveday, assisted by priests of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations from Sectors One, Two and Four.

As usual, renditions of traditional carols from Argentina, Austria and Britain added a special flavour to the service, which was enjoyed by everyone in the true spirit of Christmas.

The beautiful church of the Holy Cross, which was kindly provided for UNFICYP's use on this special occasion by Father Umberto Barato.

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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.

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Front Cover

**A MOWAG from the
Perm FR on patrol**

by Sgt Joe Relihan

EDITORIAL

Now that the holiday season is over, we are all back at our OPs, stations and offices with our resolutions of "things to do better" in the New Year.

1995 marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. As the Secretary-General said in Helsinki at the beginning of January this year:

"This anniversary is far more than a noteworthy date on our calendars. It comes at a time of world transition - at a time when the world situation clearly demands greater international cooperation. Yet, it also comes at a time when international cooperation requires greater understanding and effort than ever before...."

Peace-keeping is the subject of the day. Since the end of the cold war, United Nations activities in peace and security have dramatically increased. The figures speak for themselves.

In 1988, the United Nations was active in 11 disputes or confrontations. In 1992, the number was 13. Today it is 27. Over the same period, the number of military personnel deployed has risen from about 9,000 to 11,000 to 73,000, and the United Nations annual budget for peace-keeping has risen from \$230 million to \$700 million to \$3,600 million today...."

Being a tiny part of this large theatre, let us mark the 50th anniversary of the Organisation through greater daily effort in every area we are engaged in.

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On 28 October 1994, the second Irish CIVPOL Contingent arrived in Cyprus. This Contingent comprises 14 police officers from the Irish National Police Force known as "An Garda Siochana", which, when translated, means "Guardians of the Peace". This is the first overseas mission for all members of the Contingent, with only one exception. Our Force

THE IRISH CIVILIAN POLICE IN CYPRUS

has participated in UN peace-keeping operations in Namibia, Cambodia, Angola, El Salvador, Mozambique and Somalia, and is presently engaged with the UN in the former Yugoslavia.

The Irish CIVPOL Contingent is based in Sector Four, with our HQ in the beautiful village of Pyla. We also have stations in Famagusta and



CH SUPT SEAN GINTY

Sean joined the Garda Siochana in 1957 and has spent all his service in the operational field and training field. He has served in many stations throughout Ireland, including Dublin. He was promoted to the rank of Ch Supt in 1984, and was in charge

of Donegal Division prior to coming to Cyprus. He is a graduate in personnel management.

Ch Supt Ginty is married to Mona, and they have five children. His main leisure interest is trout angling.



SUPT MATT O'DOWD

Matt has spent 35 years in many parts of Ireland from Glaslough, Monaghan to Bantry including eight years in the DMA and seven years in Cork City. He was the District Officer in Clonakilty prior to his transfer to Pyla.

Matt is a very keen golfer, but does not have much time for this hobby in Cyprus.



INSP JOHN DALY

John has 30 years' service in various departments, his most recent posting being to the Courts, Dublin City. John has previous service with UN. He was a member of the Irish CIVPOL Contingent monitoring Independence for Namibia between 1987/90.

John's hobbies are horse riding, golf, swimming, Gaelic football and hurling.



SGT RITA DELANEY

Rita joined the Garda Siochana in 1984. Most of her service has been in Dublin's Inner City. She spent nearly three years in Garda Training College in Templemore, and is presently the SHO in Kilmainham Station.

Her hobbies include sport, reading and history.



INSP NEIL MCGROARTY

Neil joined the Garda Force in 1965. He is a native of Clanmel, Co Tipperary and is married to Moire. They have four children. Most of his service has been in the uniformed section in Dublin City Centre. Prior to joining IRCIVPOL, Neil was attached

to the Communications Section at DMA HQ.

He is a keen follower of hurling and follows closely the feats of the Irish International soccer squad. For relaxation, Neil collects Irish notes and coins and enjoys reading.



SGT MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Michael is 35 years of age and is a native of Artane, Dublin. He married Sandra four years ago. Michael joined the Force in 1979. He was stationed in Whitehall for 10 years. On promotion, he was posted to Burnfoot Station and returned to Community Relations.

He is now attached to Mountjoy Garda Station. He has successfully completed courses in both official motor-vehicles and motor-cycles, firearms, fingerprints and tactical training.

Michael has a keen interest in all sports and is the holder of a Dublin Club Championship hurling medal at juvenile level. Nowadays, Michael plays table-tennis at home with the ALSAA club in the Business Houses league and enjoys jogging.



GARDA STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Stephen is single and is 34 years of age. He joined the Garda Siochana in 1983 and has spent most of the past 11 years on motor-cycle patrol duties in Limerick, Ireland's third largest city. He is presently stationed in Killarney,

one of Ireland's premier tourist locations. This is his second UN mission to Cyprus, the first being cut short after being injured in an unfortunate cycling accident in January 1994.

Delighted to be back in Cyprus, Stephen is looking forward to his full twelve-month tour on this occasion.

Apart from the work, which he finds very interesting, he would like to improve his SCUBA diving skills, and he is presently studying for his Sergeant's exam.

Stephen was awarded a Bronze Scott Medal in 1988.

Athienou, and happily, a good working (and social) relationship continues. The new IRCIVPOL Contingent were (fortunately) readily adopted by AUSTCIVPOL and by IRCON. We would like to express our sincere thanks to both for the very warm (and somewhat liquid) welcome which they extended to us on our arrival. We do appreciate the help and advice of IRCON,

who also showed us true Irish hospitality at the Hibernia Club.

Now to introduce ourselves.



GARDA MICHAEL KELLY

Michael is 33 years of age and single (still holding interviews...). He joined the Force in July 1982. Michael was previously stationed at Drogheda and Dromad in Co Louth, and is currently assigned to Ashbourne, Co Meath. He has successfully completed

training programmes in drugs, firearms, communications and computers since joining the Force.

Michael has been in Cyprus since February 1994 and has been allocated to the Athienou Station. "I have been able to experience work on both sides of the Green Line, and have found a knowledge of farming to be invaluable in dealing with the problems that have arisen."

A sportsman, Michael has played soccer at League of Ireland level for Drogheda United and has also represented the force in the European Police Championships in 1988 in Malmö, Sweden. He is also a keen cyclist and annually takes part in events to raise funds for charity.



GARDA TOM MCGRATH

Tom joined the Force in 1964. He has spent all his career in rural West Cork, the most southerly part of Ireland. He has been a detective for the past 13 years, and prior to this posting, he served at Clonakilty.

Tom is keenly interested in all sport, and in a previous life, he participated in most. He is a keen golfer, struggling off a 12 handicap.

Tom is married to Siobhan who has now joined him in Cyprus.



GARDA DONAL SMYTH

Donal joined the Force 12 years ago. He was stationed for 10 years on border duty, and was engaged in anti-terrorist duties. He served two years in Slane Station.

Donal is interested in all types of sport, especially Gaelic football. He holds two All-Ireland medals with County Meath. He is also a very keen golfer.

Donal has been married to Brid for five years, and they have two children.



GARDA DERMOT DUGGAN

Dermot is a native of Co Wexford. He joined the Force in 1966, and served in the Dublin Metropolitan area at Mountjoy and Bridewell. Dermot has worked as a patrol man, motor cyclist, and in criminal intelligence. He is presently attached to the Intelligence Section, Security Branch at Garda HQ.

Dermot is married to Marie and has one daughter, Deirdre. He has a keen interest in all sport, keep fit, and the history of the American West (Cowboys and Indians!!!)

Dermot is enjoying the mission to Cyprus. Some day, he hopes to visit distant relations who emigrated to Argentina in 1844.



GARDA PAUL KINSELLA

Paul joined the Force in 1982 and has served four years in the Dublin Metropolitan Area as a patrol officer, followed by six years in the anti-terrorist Special Task Force. Prior to his posting to Cyprus, Paul spent two years as a Police Driving Instructor at the Garda Training College.

His hobbies include jogging, swimming and fishing.



GARDA ELEANOR O'KELLY

Eleanor joined the Garda Force 12 years ago. She is at present stationed at Bridewell, Cork City. She has served in traffic unit, regular unit and drugs squad/surveillance.

Eleanor's interests include horse riding and squash.



GARDA WILLIAM WARD

William joined the Force in 1987, and has since served in Border Stations. He now serves and resides in Cavan with his wife, Cora, and two children. He has worked in many different areas of police duties.

William's hobbies include GAA, cycling and playing snooker.

UNMIH AND UNMOT - ANY IDEA WHAT THESE ARE?

Two Austrian officers know the answer to this question. **UNMIH** stands for **United Nations Mission in Haiti**. Col Victor Klein was the SMO Sector Four from Nov 92 and FSMO UNFICYP from Jan 94. Between these tours, he was a member of the advance party for



the 6,000 personnel serving on the Caribbean island of Haiti.

Col Klein (pictured below left) has a lot of UN experience. He has served as AUSCON's Medical Officer in 1990; he also completed a tour in 1991 with UNAFHIR (UN Austrian Field Hospital Iran) as the DCO, and was a member of UNGCI (UN Guard Contingent Iraq) as the CMO.

Now for **UNMOT**. It is Capt Thomas Starlinger (right) who can solve this one. He served with AUSCON from Jul 93 to Oct 94 as Military Observer, Sector Two, where he was responsible for humanitarian tasks.

However he has now been posted to a very different mission area, with temperatures of -15°C instead of +30°C in Cyprus. The

country in question borders on China, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and is a member of the CIS. The solution? **UN Military Observer in Tajikistan**. Capt Starlinger is one of 17 UNMOs serving there since Oct 94.



AMRS - AUSTRIAN MILITARY RADIO SERVICE

From the early sixties to the mid nineties by WO2 Winfried Breuer

At the end of October 1994, all parts of the KW signal station, which had been on order for some time, finally arrived at AUSCON. On 2 Nov, the reconstruction team arrived, under the leadership of Col Klocko, and between 3-5 Nov 94, the stereo set was exchanged for a new "Harris Falcon" KW station. The Harris Falcon station provides great advantages as regards security from interception and the transmission speed of written documents, since the new screen teleprinter works faster than a fax.

Simultaneously, the old directional antenna TH-7 was removed. It was a very difficult job, because



WO2 Breuer, AMRS operator, with his new equipment.

this antenna was installed with the help of a British/UN Gazelle helicopter, however this helicopter was not available for the removal of the equipment. Therefore, it was roped down by the simplest means available.



Mounting the heavy antenna with a UN helicopter in 1991

The main task of the AMRS is to transmit official written and oral messages to the Austrian Ministry of Defence and the Austrian HQ, as well as providing the facility of private calls for each member of AUSCON to and from Austria by a telephone interface. Additionally, the AMRS operator receives the daily world news and the national and inter-



Dismounting the antenna from a height of 10m with manpower!

national sports news twice a week, so that everyone is fully informed all the time.



AUSCON SOLDIERS SUCCESSFUL AGAIN

by Capt M Fedl

On 27 November 1994, a downhill race from the village of Droushia to Polis took place - on mountain bikes! The participants descended a height of 700m over a distance of 15 km. The race was organised by a Nicosia bicycle dealer, Micromania, and the Droushia Heights Hotel. AUSCON submitted a team of four consisting of Capt Fedl, Sgt Ertl, MSgt Nimmerfall and LCpl Strebl, under the leadership of Maj Hufner, DCO and Sports Officer, Sector Four.

On the day, the weather conditions were very bad and the cyclists had to keep their wits about them all the way, since the track was in a bad condition due to recent heavy rainfall. Strong winds and changing weather conditions prevailed throughout the day, and made the competition even more interesting!

At approximately 1200 hrs, the "seniors and oldies" section, consisting of about 25 participants, started down, followed by approximately 25 bikers in the "juniors and fun" class. The final results were LCpl Strebl (first), Sgt Ertl (second) and Capt Fedl (sixth) - all of whom are happy with the results, since it was a stiff, international competition.



Sgt Ertl, a member of the COMCEN at 1 Coy, AUSCON, together with his "silver" bike.

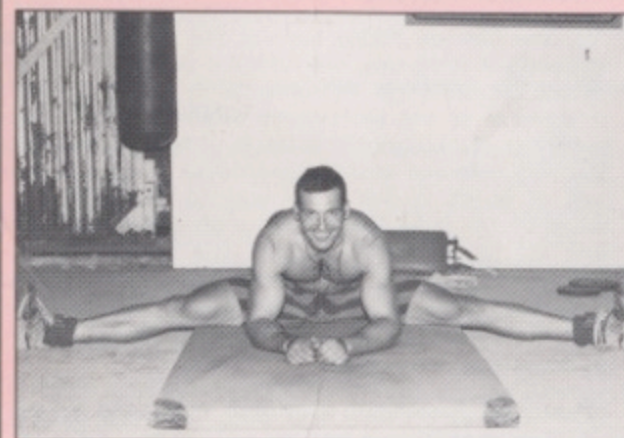
Following the presentation of prizes, an excellent barbecue was organised at the Droushia Heights Hotel, during which further competitions were planned.

THE STRONG MEN OF AUSCON

by 2/Lt Plöchl

It takes about two years to get a figure like those pictured on the right! Furthermore, a special diet, no smoking and hard training up to five times a week for about 60-90 minutes is necessary.

This is a must in order to be successful. Pte Strebl, for instance, pictured below, was a member of the winning Austrian team in the last UNFICYP Military Skills Competition; in addition, he won the mountain



If you are not trained, do not attempt this exercise....



MCpl Zimmel, WO2 Wimmer, Pte Strebl and Sgt Sztachovic in AUSCON's torture room, training for the "Mr UNFICYP"

bike downhill race from Droushia to Polis on 27 Nov (see article above), several bicycle competitions in Austria and also participated in the Kyrenia Half Marathon.

However, the basic aim of the strong men of AUSCON is to develop an athletic body and to keep in top condition, prepared for any challenge.

INTERVIEW

ARGENTINIAN MEDICAL OFFICER

Major Dario Sachetti

Dario Sachetti was born in Buenos Aires on 21 July 1957. He entered the School of Medicine (University of Buenos Aires) in 1975 and graduated as a general practitioner in 1981. He entered the Navy in 1983 and carried on the Special Marine Corps training for medics so that when he finds himself posted on a field task, he automatically becomes a member of that branch of the Argentine Navy.

Dr Sachetti worked as a student and post graduate investigator in biological chemistry. He also continued in internal medicine and was Chief of Residents. Following that, he carried out post graduate studies and specialised in clinical oncology, in addition to being Chief of the Oncology Division at the Navy Hospital in Buenos Aires.

Dr Sachetti is married to Susana, who is also a doctor, and they have one daughter, Mercedes, who is five years old.



Q. Just about everywhere we turn, people are talking about problems of drugs, smoking, cancer, heart diseases and AIDS. How do you explain that?

A. Advances in science and technology and, in particular, the information media such as cable and satellite communications, television, computers, magazines and VCRs have contributed in bringing health and medical issues nearer to our homes. This is a very encouraging development, since the concept of preventive medicine is basically linked with increased awareness of the population regarding health care. Of course, while many things have changed, a great deal has remained the same. People still get sick and need to seek medical help. Nowadays, the phantoms of death are diseases that we cannot cure, eg AIDS or some kinds of cancer and a lot of other situations settled in modern society as a result of lifestyles, ie drugs, alcohol abuse or smoking, which finally get the human body into a physical and psychological nightmare.

Q. What do you consider the greatest health threat to humanity over the next few decades?

A. While many infectious diseases can now be controlled by immunisation, or have been completely eradicated, as in the case of smallpox, new diseases and pathological conditions have arisen. Through our own recklessness and ignorance, our abused environment has become less nurturing, more threatening. AIDS is a grim spectre, which today represents an unprecedented challenge to international public health.

Q. AIDS is perhaps the most treacherous illness today. Given that the cure or treatment of AIDS is still not visible in the near future, what is your advice to people, and in particular members of UNFICYP?

A. The answer is, of course, prevention, since it is the only weapon we have against AIDS. Not only UNFICYP members, but the world in general, must be aware of it. The use of condoms is the cornerstone in our fight and is also the best advice I can give. The other measures of prevention are generally well explained and detailed in the media. Concluding, the

best protection is your own knowledge, behaviour and practice of safe sex.

Q. Recently, there has been some encouraging news that medicine is gradually discovering the innermost secrets of cancer therapy. One can mention progress made in the fight against childhood leukemia. Is there any hope in the war against cancer?

A. As cancer is a mixture of different illnesses, the possibilities of treatment, or even cure, differ considerably. We have actually a 90% positive response in testicular cancer, and life expectancy has improved considerably in breast cancer, but unfortunately, there are other malignancies for which we do not have effective means to stop the growth if the tumor has not been completely removed by surgery, as in the case of kidney cancer. The early detection of any kind of cancer is still the most effective way of achieving therapeutic success.

Q. No one can say precisely how many people use illicit narcotics, but official sources admit that the number is enormous and growing. Some sources even estimate that in the European Union there are five million hard drug users, and of these, one million are addicts. To what do you attribute this sudden upswing of drug use?

A. No one can be 100% sure of the reason for the upswing in drug use, but I think it is a combination of two factors. First, the uncertainty of modern life, in spite of all the technology available, can cause a feeling of personal frustration, a feeling of losing the very essence of the human soul. Of course, the use of drugs is the worst way to deal with this situation, because drugs only supply a phantom relief and are by no means a cure. The second reason is, of course, money. As is well known, international networks are at large, and their one and only interest is to penetrate the media and increase consumption of drugs and drug abuse.

Q. What is the penetration of drugs in the armed forces?

A. In the Argentinian Army, we fortunately have a low percentage of drug abuse. I do not have any details of other armed forces.

Q. The health risks of smoking and the addictive properties of nicotine are generally acknowledged by medical authorities. In what way do you think this is hazardous to smokers, and do you find that soldiers, because of the nature of their work, are more prone to smoking?

A. I personally consider smoking a drug abuse. It increases considerably the risk of developing lung cancer and cardiopulmonary disease. Generally, it is a fact that military personnel are more prone to smoking than the national average. I suppose the stressful nature of the job influences the smoking habit. Another reason could possibly be the desire (commercially promoted) to appear a "real macho", a situation very common between teenagers. Fortunately, this concept is not held by young Argentinian soldiers and they are, at present, less prone to smoking. Consequently, they compare favourably to older military personnel.

Q. It is generally expected that the world's total population is expected to double within the next 20-30 years. It is also certain that our resources are limited, which means shortages of food supplies and raw materials, greater health hazards, fewer job opportunities and lower living standards. How can we stop this from happening?

A. I consider three important points to be of prime importance:

a Providing technology and finances to developing countries in order that they may properly exploit their own resources, and continue wide educational and sanitary programmes;

b Signing treaties of aid and co-operation between countries which share regional interests and natural resources; and

c Extensive use of family planning policies.

Q. Coming from a Catholic country where birth control may not be officially acceptable, can you see any way out?

A. In Argentina, the majority of the population is Catholic, but they are free to choose any method of contraception they consider acceptable. Personally, speaking as a Catholic, I am not in agreement with certain methods, but as a doctor, I have the responsibility to provide my patients with every possibility. The final choice, however, lies with the patient. I feel bound to add here, that the Catholic Church is in agreement with natural methods of family planning.

Q. Turning to a more personal question, do you find travelling exciting?

A. Of course I do. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity of travelling around the world aboard the tallship "Libertad", the training ship of the Argentinian Navy. I have also been to the Amazonas and (so far) last, but not least, here to Cyprus. Living in different places, comparing different cultures and mixing with various nationalities I find fascinating, and that is one reason I volunteered to serve in UNFICYP.

Q. What is the role of a doctor in a military environment?

A. Essentially, as health advisor and medical counsellor, teaching. Doctors are obliged to attend and, if necessary, evacuate any casualty, but the first thing we have to do is practise preventive medicine and

provide briefings on different risks inherent to the soldier i.e. first aid and evacuation policies, sexually transmitted diseases and anything a soldier is or could be exposed to.

Q. What is specifically different between your present post and that of a military doctor in Argentina?

A. The only difference is that here in UNFICYP, we share the field and work together with other nations, the most important thing I have experienced since I became a military medical officer. When I first arrived in Cyprus, I noticed that all the medics have the same problems and objectives: the equipment may possibly be different, but the goals are the same.

Q. Do you have sufficient choice of medicine locally?

A. Yes I do. I have noticed a great variety of medical supplies here in Cyprus.

Q. Can you treat all medical cases, or do you have to seek assistance from local specialists?

A. No, I am not able to treat all medical cases because I have neither the skill nor the technical capabilities. I rely on the Nicosia General Hospital, where I have already made many good friends, to seek assistance.

Q. Concluding this short interview, I would like to ask you one final question. What is the role of the UN in the health issue?

A. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 marked a new beginning in the affairs of the global community. The formidable attainment of the highest possible health by all peoples was assigned to the World Health Organisation (WHO), an agency established back in 1948.

Perhaps the most important milestone since its formation was the year 1977, when the World Health Assembly set the goal "Health for All by the Year 2000". The strategy selected for achieving this objective has been based on the following eight essential elements:

(1) Education concerning prevailing health problems;

(2) Proper food supply and nutrition;

(3) Safe water and sanitation;

(4) Maternal and child health, including family planning;

(5) Immunization against major infectious diseases;

(6) Prevention and control of local diseases;

(7) Appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries; and

(8) Provision of essential drugs.

The United Nations seeks to ensure the combined effort of governments and people to reinforce health systems, promote research in all aspects of health, provide safe drinking water and also effective immunization for all citizens. The WHO also directs and co-ordinates a number of special programmes, including a global strategy to prevent and control AIDS. Thanks to the WHO, the health situation is, on the whole, encouraging. However, the 21st century health care should continue to be based on prevention of disease and on meeting basic human needs for nutrition, hygiene, shelter and education.



NEW BRITISH REGIMENT THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS



The Queen's Royal Lancers, an Armoured Regiment, are based in Osnabruck, Germany and are equipped with 50 Challenger I Main battle tanks. The Regiment has deployed to Cyprus for a six-month UNFICYP tour which will finish in June 1995.

The Queen's Royal Lancers are the result of the amalgamation of two famous Regiments in June 1993, the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers and the 17th/21st Lancers, themselves results of previous amalgamations. The Regiment can claim unbroken service to the British Crown since 1689 by way of the 5th (Irish) Lancers. The most famous action carried out by the Regiment was the Charge of the Light Brigade, on which the 17th Lancers were in the front rank, their motto 'Death or Glory' adding an extra poignancy to the charge. The Regiment celebrates the Battle of Fondouk (in North Africa) every year as the principal



A Challenger I tank

Regimental Battle Honour, as it was shared by the 16th/5th Lancers and the 17th/21st Lancers. The Regiment now wears the motto with the Skull and Crossbones as its cap badge.

Since amalgamation, the Regiment has trained hard on its tanks, culminating in a large scale live firing exercise carried out in Canada. There is considerable experience of United Nations service within the Regiment, the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, one half of the amalgamation Regiment, providing the UNFICYP Scout Car Squadron from January to December 1992.

Lieutenant General Sir Richard Swinburn KCB visited the Queen's Royal Lancers on Tuesday 18 October 1994. During his visit, he presented several Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, as well as attending a Dinner Night in the Officers' Mess.



The skull and crossbones of The Queen's Royal Lancers

CO SECTOR TWO - LT COL AI FINLAYSON QRL

Lt Col Finlayson was born in Hong Kong on 15 November 1953. He was educated at Radley and Sandhurst and was commissioned into the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers in March 1973. He served as a Troop Leader with the Regiment in Northern Ireland, Hong Kong and Germany before being posted to the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Armoured Corps from 1975 to 1977. He returned to the Regiment as Assistant Adjutant and was appointed Adjutant in 1979. He served as S03 G3 Ops in HQ British Forces Belize from February to October 1982 and then as S03 G2 in HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade from October 1982 to April 1984. He returned to the Regiment

as Operations Officer in Tidworth where he also ran the Polo Club. In 1986, he attended the Army Staff College at Camberley before returning to the Regiment as a Squadron Leader in Germany. In 1988, he took his Squadron to Northern Ireland as the Prison Guard Force. He served as Chief of Staff 19 Infantry Brigade at Colchester in 1989 and 1990. He returned to the Regiment in November 1990 as Second in Command and served with the Regiment in the Gulf, Germany and the UK. He attended the Joint Services Defence Course at Greenwich in 1992 before being posted to the ARFPS at SHAPE as S01 Plans. He spent six months in Bosnia from September 1993,

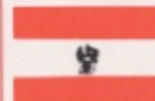


working as Chief Operations Officer in HQ Bosnia Herzegovina Command.

Lieutenant Colonel Finlayson is married to Kate and they have one son. His sporting interests include fly fishing, shooting, riding, skiing, cricket, lawn tennis, real tennis, rackets and squash.



THE DHERINIA LINE PLATOON 2 PLATOON, 2 COY, AUSCON



by 1/Lt KAWolf

With the withdrawal of the majority of CANCON from UNFICYP on 15 June 1993, AUSCON took over a major part of the former Sector Three. 2 Coy AUSCON is now responsible for an area of 64 km² and is deployed between the Karavous Pass and OP A-28 at the eastern seashore of the island. Currently, 2 Coy has two platoons: 1 Platoon has its command post in Pyla, and its TAOR stretches from the Karavous Pass to the western boundary of the ESBA in Dhekelia.

2 Platoon covers the following areas:

The Link Road, or Akhna Line, in the very west of Sector Four, about 30m north and south of it, connecting Dhekelia and Ayios Nicolaos. 2 Platoon monitors this area with six men who are stationed at OP/PB A-20, covering all the OPTs along this stretch. OP A-20 is also called "Camp Maria Therese", where the Force Reserve Platoon or Sector Four was stationed before the changes in 1993.



OP A-14, HQ 2 Platoon, is located in a metal processing factory, which still produces different kinds of hardware

The HQ of 2 Platoon, OP A-14, is located between Ayios Nicolaos and the Mediterranean Sea and is manned by 10 men. In addition, OP/PB A-05 is located in this area, and four patrols are conducted on a daily basis. OP/D A-20, the most eastern OP of Sector Four, is responsible for monitoring and reporting all ships crossing the MSL. The MSL is the UN "Maritime Security Line", stretching three miles from the coast into the sea.

A very special and sensitive area is the fenced and deserted city of Varosha, which is also the responsibility of 2 Platoon. OPs A-15 and A-30 report any activity within Varosha.

The Platoon, totalling 42 soldiers and four vehicles, is tasked with maintaining the status quo within its TAOR of the Buffer Zone along the SBA Link Road and within Varosha. All in all, the soldiers of 2 Platoon enjoy their various duties, and many of them are looking forward to serving in Sector Four's "Dherinia Line Platoon" at some time in the future.



Sgt Fiebrich and his "second eyes"

The Liaison Post at Strovillia, located near Ayios Nicolaos, is manned by one Austrian and one Turkish soldier and is responsible for this small village. Strovillia was occupied by the TF in 1975. It still has 19 Greek Cypriot inhabitants, and every Sunday a census is conducted.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT THE UN MP ELEMENT

On 18 December 1994, the MP Elm was privileged to host the UNFICYP Children's Christmas party which was organised by Mrs Janet O'Toole and Mrs Mary McKenna of the UNPA playgroup. The festivities included a visit by Santa Claus (Sgt Brian McGahey, AUSTCIVPOL), who arrived by helicopter and distributed presents to all 75 children.

The food, pop and magician all went down a treat. The parents

too enjoyed themselves with refreshing glühwein and food, and altogether, a good day was had by all.

The UN MP Elm wish all their friends in UNFICYP a Happy and Prosperous New Year. They also wish Santa bon voyage: Brian recently returned to Australia on completion of his tour. He will certainly be a hard act to follow next Christmas.



Santa's visit to the MP lounge.

UNFICYP ROYAL SIGNALS DETACHMENT

Comd : Sgt Charlie Hanson
21/C : Cpl Lee Street
1/C Comcen : LCpl Kev Wyatt

Since the disbandment of 644 Signal Troop UNFICYP in September 1993, the Royal Signals' presence in UNFICYP has still remained strong with a small team of men providing and maintaining communication for the British Contingent and assistance to the other contingents.

The Det consists of six Telecommunications Mechanics and three Communications Centre Operators.

The Telemechs have been very busy over the last year with the installation of three new telephone exchanges in Camps within the British Sector of the UN, and the laying of a 12km ring cable around the British controlled Buffer Zone, providing telephone and direct line communication for the Observation Points. Their next mammoth task is the rewiring of the Ledra Palace Hotel, which accommodates a large percentage of the British Contingent and members of other contingents.

The Comcen is manned by an operator 24 hours per day, supporting the British Contingent by sending and receiving facsimile and telegraph messages, both



Members of the UNFICYP Royal Signals Detachment.

island-wide and world-wide. In the very near future, the Comcen will be moving location and will be operating on a new advanced computerised system, Dial Up Secure Telegraph (DUST), which will increase the proficiency of the Comcen.

All in all, 1994 has been a good year for the Signals Detachment, and a big thank you goes out to past members of the Det, without whose help we would not have accomplished so much.

SPONSORED SIT UPS IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH



Bdr Taff Morgan in action

admin team acting as official counters, fund raisers and general dogsbodies.

Bdr Morgan set up his charity event area outside the Ledra Palace Hotel in full view of the soldiers enjoying the Miller Lite promotion, which was also being held that day, and was able to benefit by collecting donations from people entering and leaving the function.

After 4½ hours of non-stop sit ups, Bdr Morgan decided that his fluid loss should be addressed with the help of Miller Lite, and so, after a grand total of 5,001 sit ups, he stopped to tumultuous applause from his supporters.

All the contributions collected for this event were donated to a hospital in Southampton for the purchase of a breast scanner machine.

On Friday 28 October 1994, Bdr "Taff" Morgan, of the outgoing British Regiment, 7 Para RHA, began his bid to complete 4,000 sit ups non stop. He was aided in this feat by an expert

FINCON, UNFICYP



UNFICYP's Finnish Contingent is currently made up of two Finns. The first is Major Henry Mälkki (pictured above, left), Commander FINCON, who is the Liaison Officer to the Turkish Forces and also the Force Signal Officer. Maj Mälkki has previous UN experience in UNTSO (1984-85) and UNTAG (1989-90).

The other staff member is WO3 Henry Perttula, the Force Commander's staff assistant and driver. WO3 Perttula has previously served with UNFICYP (1990-92), and also with UNDOF (1982-83) and UNIFIL (1984-85). He is married, with two daughters aged 1 and 3 years.

"SAVE-A-CAN" CAN SAVE A LIFE

by Maj G Pauschenwein

While in Cyprus environmental protection is still in its infancy, awareness has been raised by the "Cans for Kids" Society (PO Box 565, Nicosia, tel: (02)-376373) - at least when it comes to the waste of valuable items like aluminium cans used for drinks.

This legally registered charity organisation advocates the collection of cans for recycling. Not only does this campaign reduce litter and pollution, but it saves raw material and yields money, which is earmarked for a most noble cause - the sick children from all over Cyprus being treated at the paediatric ward of the Makarios Hospital. Thus, both the environment and the youth benefit.

When the Austrians in Sector Four learned about this venture, they readily jumped on the bandwagon and started collecting cans from all over Sector Four, crushing and delivering them to Nicosia during routine supply runs. All these efforts eventually came to fruition when, on 14 December 1994, during a small ceremony, the children's, neonatal and paediatric oncology wards were presented with medical equipment worth £9,000.00, bringing the total value of machinery donated so far to £19,000.00.

All in all, a most worthwhile operation, which hopefully will attract more support by UNFICYP



Maj Pauschenwein, the AUSCON representative, handing over medical equipment to the head of the children's ward, Mr Andreas Hadjidemetriou

members for the sake of sound environment and children.

So remember - when you next empty a can, don't trash it, cash it!



12 SU WALKABOUT 94 HQ BRITCON TEAM

by Sgt C Leeson

Saturday 15 Oct 94 saw a 3 person team from HQ BRITCON (SSgt Paul Brookes, Sgt Chris Leeson and Mrs Diane Sweeney) competing against 51 other island based teams in the 1994 12 SU walkabout competition. The event is held annually in the area between Troodos and Episkopi Garrison and is designed to give participants an insight into what the infamous two-day Cyprus walkabout consists of. To that end, the course comprised five check-points situated around a 30-mile course that covered very hilly, rough ground over which the teams had to navigate their way in the fastest possible time.

This event was one of the toughest for years, and competitors not only had to deal with technical map reading/route selection and arduous terrain, but some of the worst storms for years which forced many teams to retire. Some of the participants' sole aim was to just stay on the course, whilst others were "going for it" in an attempt to win the event.

The BRITCON team completed the event in 8 hrs 54 minutes, which placed them 7th overall and convincingly won them the mixed team category of the competition.

From the left: Sgt Chris Leeson, Mrs Diane Sweeney and SSgt Paul Brookes



SECTOR ONE'S ENGINEERING PLATOON

SILENTLY BUT EFFICIENTLY

by Capt Mesa,
Argentine Army

It often occurs within the Armed Services. History always remembers the infantry soldiers, tanks or artillery that win battles; even those who lose battles. Here in Cyprus, we talk about men on the line, staff officers, etc. However, behind all these organizations there are men who silently, but with the same professionalism and efficiency, do their jobs in support of front line members. That is the case of the Engineer Platoon. That is why I wish to share with you the efforts that the so-called "Moles" do on behalf of the entire group.

During May 1994, a British Engineer Platoon rebuilt the road over the Limnitis River. It was agreed that



ARGCON's Engineer Platoon would carry out any necessary improvements before the rainy season in those places which could possibly be affected by the water volume. In the above photograph, you can see WO2 Anderson and Corporals Alfonso and Bitancurt preparing the concrete used, together with metal sheets and iron rods to reinforce the road.

Also, at Skouriotissa Camp, the Engineer Platoon have installed a higher central mast on which to raise the United Nations flag. On the other two lower masts, the Argentine flag and the Argentine Task Force pennant are raised. In the photograph on the left, you can see some of the men taking part in the installation process i.e. Capt Mesa, WO2 Anderson, WO Morcillo, SSgt Doval, Sgt Melgarejo, Sgt Lopez and Cpl De La Vega.



MAINTENANCE OF WATER SUPPLY

by Capt Alfredo Mezza, Argentine Army

One of the greatest problems in the western OPs of Sector One is water supply. That is the case at D-12, the highest Observation Post UNFICYP has within the entire Buffer Zone, with an approximate height of 380 metres above sea level. The water supply to this OP is made by means of three pumps that lift the water and store it in tanks.

Of course, due to the height and the mountainous terrain surrounding the OP, the maintenance works on the water pumps and the whole water supply system turn into a very hard job, sometimes involving climbing activity - but all within the capabilities of the Sector One Engineers Platoon!



SSgt Paiz (Navy), Sgt Alvarez, WO2 Morcillo and SSgt Barli during the last maintenance duties conducted at D-12.

ATHLETIC CLUB "ELPIDA" ROAD RACE

Cpl Brendan Downey and Cpl Ann O'Sullivan, pictured right, both took part in the Athletic Club's 8 km road race "Elpida" in the village of Gourri on 23 October 1994.

Both individuals won their respective categories, and at the end of the race, they were presented with their trophies and also a certificate.



THE BLUE BERET FUN AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PAGE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BB No 06

Hallo readers, and a happy 1995 to you all. We in the Blue Beret office trust that this will be a healthy and prosperous year for you, and that your enthusiasm for solving crossword puzzles doesn't wane! The lucky winner of BB No 05 was Mrs Sally Kyriakides, who is invited to collect her prize from the Spokesman's Office.

For the next puzzle, a bottle of delicious white wine will be won by the lucky person whose name will be drawn from the Editor's blue helmet on 17 February 1995.



Clues:

Across:

1. Large, grassy plain of Argentina
4. Justifiable self-respect
8. UNFICYP Contingent
9. Italian dish of prawns
11. Number of musicians playing instrumental music
12. Counter over which drinks are served
14. African river
16. Passing enthusiasm, craze
17. Informal conversation
20. Vital organ
22. Vibrating
25. River of South America
26. Infectious disease of dogs causing madness
27. Sloping at a high angle
28. Of considerable size or amount

Down:

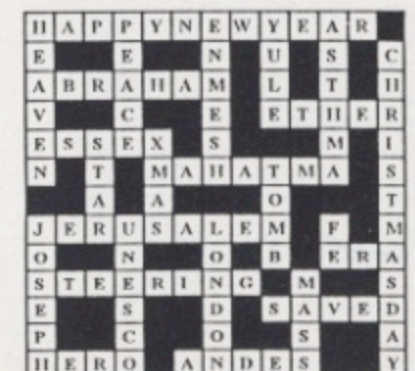
1. A small body of infantry
2. Mysterious, full of strange charm
3. Solitary, with no companion
5. Cover with additional layers
6. Wall to hold back water
7. One who conveys false information
10. Austrian composer
13. Once more
15. Anger
18. Blow, hostile act
19. Tropical fruit, full of fibre
20. Leader, top of body
21. Make suitable
23. Coating for cakes
24. Sudden strong rush of wind



BLUE BERET TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Which of these three countries once served with UNFICYP?
 - a. New Zealand
 - b. Holland
 - c. Poland
2. When did the last member of the Danish Contingent leave UNFICYP?
 - a. 1992
 - b. 1993
 - c. 1994

ANSWERS TO BB 05



SECTOR FOUR AND IRCIVPOL AT OP AS-29, PYLA

