

THE Blue Beret

March 1995





JOINT JOURNALISTS' GATHERING: PRESS ROOM PROJECT INITIATED: PROCEDURES AT THE LEDRA PALACE HOTEL SIMPLIFIED



On Tuesday 7 March 1995, yet another bicomunal event took place at the Ledra Palace Hotel, this time for journalists representing all the local media on the island. More than 60 attended, together with several diplomats. The event marked the beginning of a long-standing UN project supported by virtually every journalist on the island to establish a joint journalists meeting room. In addressing the gathering, Mr Gustave Feissel emphasized that the venue granted to both journalists' unions would give representatives of the media further opportunity to get together and facilitate their daily cooperation.



Workshops, lectures, press conferences, exhibitions, different meetings, routine gatherings - these are just a few ideas to be further explored and agreed on by all concerned. This is aimed at facilitating a more successful cooperation and daily performance of Cyprus journalists.

Both journalists' unions were invited to participate actively in the future development of the project. Emphasizing the importance of the Cyprus media in assisting in reaching a lasting solution of the Cyprus problem, Mr Feissel invited all those concerned to make full use of the venue.



As depicted in the photographs, the event turned out to be a splendid evening. We hope we shall have many more other such events there in the future.

During the evening, Mr Feissel also announced the simplified procedures for the use of facilities for bicomunal activities at the Ledra Palace Hotel. To quote:



"In response to growing demand, UNFICYP is pleased to announce that it has increased the space available for bicomunal activities in the Ledra Palace Hotel.

In addition, in order to facilitate the use of this space, UNFICYP has simplified the procedure for making reservations. Henceforth, rooms for bicomunal activities at the Ledra Palace Hotel can be reserved through the Office of the UNFICYP Spokesman by calling 359408/9 or 2285816, or by fax on 359752 or 2283964.

The Office of the Spokesman should simply be informed of the names of the participants from both communities. The Spokesman's Office will in turn convey this list to UNFICYP Security at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Participants will be admitted simply by identifying themselves against that list.

It will be recalled that members of the two communities wishing to organize bicomunal activities may contact each other by telephone through the UNFICYP switchboard at 359700-5 or 2273006 or 2283963 or 2277066."

UNFICYP has always supported and has often initiated all kinds of bicomunal events. With these easy procedures at the LPH and more facilities now being granted, we invite all those concerned to make full use of them.



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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

UNFICYP FLAGS IN THE CYPRUS SNOW

BY WO2 KARL FÜSSELBERGER

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

* Yet another important project has taken off this month. The bicomunal press room at the Ledra Palace Hotel, seen as a significant step towards more successful, direct daily performance and cooperation between all journalists on the island, has now become a reality. Future success will very much depend on the effort and willingness of all concerned. We report on this event on page 2.

* As a contribution to the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, the Blue Beret staff have compiled for readers a series of articles which embraces the highlights of its origins, structure, organization, functions and principal agencies. The first of these articles is featured on page 14, and we hope that readers find the information contained therein enlightening.

* Starting this month, our editorial staff, equipped with desk top publishing facilities, is finally in a position to compile the entire Blue Beret magazine on our premises. This is a formidable task which, apart from the cost savings, promises in the long-run to combine flexibility, quality and efficiency. We hope you will find the results agreeable, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

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THE ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE



by Mrs Miriam Taylor

The Argentinian Medal Parade took place on 9 Feb 95 at Skouriotissa Camp. It was a glorious day, and the medal recipients were in position well in time for the parade to start. Many Argentinian families had flown in for the ceremony - quite a distance from Argentina!



The Band of 2 Bn, The Royal Green Jackets

Excellent musical accompaniment for the parade was provided by the Band of the 2 Bn, The Royal Green Jackets, who had travelled from Dhekelia for the event.

Approximately 130 Argentinians received their UN medal, and 12 were presented with their second numeral. Medals were presented by the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen and the Chief of Staff, Col John Powell OBE. Mr Feissel then made a speech, which was duly translated into Spanish.



Members of the first Argentinian Flight to be presented with the UNFICYP medal



Members of the third Argentinian Task Force on parade

Following the ceremony, a wonderful banquet was provided with guests being offered traditional Argentinian delicacies such as locro, paella and empanadas - all so delicious that most platters were cleared immediately!



CO Sector One, Lt Col F Isturiz, greeting the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel

Once the stomachs had been filled, then the musical entertainment began. We in UNFICYP are beginning to realise that the Argentinians are definitely experts in this field. So far, the three Task Forces that have served on the island have all provided excellent musicians and dancers, whom - for most of us - are outstanding. The Argentinians, however, seem to consider this the norm!

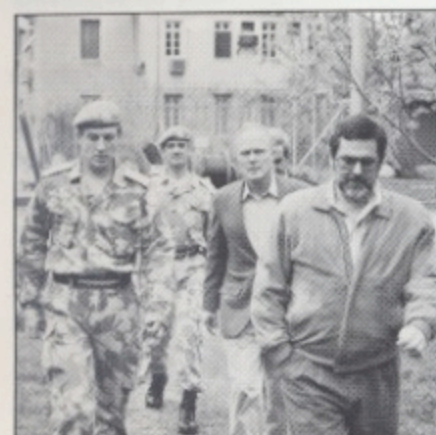
Festivities continued until late in the evening - it was a day we shall all remember.



VIP VISITS TO UNFICYP SECTORS

VISIT OF MR BEATTIE TO SECTOR TWO

US Presidential Envoy, Mr Richard Beattie, recently paid a visit to Sector Two, The Queen's Royal Lancers.



The visit, which included a short brief on the Regiment, its role in Cyprus and a tour through the deserted streets of Nicosia, lasted two hours.

Mr Beattie is pictured above with the American Ambassador, HE Mr Richard Boucher (right) and CO Sector Two, Lt Col Alick Finlayson (left).

VISIT OF MR BEATTIE TO SECTOR FOUR

On 22 Jan 95, Mr Richard Beattie, US Presidential Envoy, conducted a heli line tour in Sector Four. Following that, he was given a short briefing on OP A-14, and an official lunch then took place in Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta.



Above, from the left: the FC, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, US Ambassador, HE Mr R Boucher, CO Sector Four, Lt Col E Eder, US Presidential Envoy, Mr R Beattie, US Special Coordinator for Cyprus, Mr J Williams and Maj Wallig.

VISIT OF MR BOUCHER TO SECTOR ONE

On 1 Feb 95, Sector One received a visit from the American Ambassador, HE Mr Richard Boucher, accompanied by the Counsellor at the US Embassy, Mr Alexander Wolff and the Asst Army Attaché, Lt Col Scott Dorney. They began with a line tour of B-Coy, visiting OPs along the Line where they were briefed by the men on their tasks and how they accomplish their mission. The VIP visit ended with a delightful barbecue at Skouriotissa Camp, where they declared their intention to visit the rest of Sector One.



HE Mr Boucher is briefed by the previous CO Sector One, Lt Col F Isturiz, with Lt Col Dorney looking on

VISIT OF MR JOACHIM HÜTTER TO UNFICYP

Mr Joachim Hütter, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division, Department of Peace-keeping Operations in New York, visited UNFICYP between 13-14 and 24-25 March 1995 in the course of his tour to UN missions in the region. During his trip here, he visited all three sectors and HQ UNFICYP, where he met the DSRSG, Mr Feissel, the FC, Brig Gen Vartiainen, and was briefed by senior officers in the HQ.

Mr Hütter is an old pal of UNFICYP, having served here in the past, most recently as Senior Adviser from 1988 to 1990. It seemed that he enjoyed his visit, having had the opportunity to meet up with friends and colleagues still here.



Surrounded by UNFICYP's officers at the Ledra Palace Hotel in Sector Two



BRITISH AND IRISH LADIES SHOW THE WAY!

by a guest reporter

Contests between the Brits and the Irish have taken various forms through the centuries. In recent years, to coincide with international rugby weekends, these have often had a lewd character - having to do with bodily functions, emotional endurance, and, of course, endless debate before, during and afterwards.



The victorious Irish team

A new twist was given to this venerable tradition here in Nicosia on Saturday 18 February 1995. On the day of international rugby matches in Edinburgh and Cardiff, the ladies of UNFICYP took to the field in a game of competitive - very competitive - soccer. The British ladies lined up against their Irish counterparts.



The British goalkeeper, Toulia Horner (alias Henry V), receiving close attention from Ann Sullivan, Ireland's midfield star

sides in transactions involving seven figure sums of money.... BBC Sports, CNN and other media concerns were all interested in covering the event live, but the price put by the organizers on the world-wide TV rights was too high, and in the end, the "press box" was occupied by your own correspondent alone.

A large crowd basked in glorious sunshine as the teams took the field. Many spectators were in various states of undress - one had to assume because of the heat. The Irish ladies wore green, while the Brits sported an unfamiliar sky blue. The Irish had acquired the services of a graceful Australian police officer as well as a determined lady of German nationality. Two Argentinian ladies (apparently mother and daughter, although nobody could tell who was who!) displayed exquisite diplomatic aplomb by lining out, one for each team. The referee, a serving member of Her Majesty's Forces, raised some eyebrows in the Irish camp: just before the start, he was seen to receive a plain brown envelope containing banknotes from a man speaking with a strong Irish accent.....



The British runners up

The game began at a furious pace that was maintained throughout. Both sides were highly motivated, with British finesse pitted against Irish strength and mobility. The Irish were soon stunned by an early flash of opportunism in the British attack. The Brits led by a goal until shortly before half-time, when the Irish equalised following several efforts. Coaches, supporters and admirers showered both teams with advice, encouragement and mineral water during the interval. In the second half, greater reserves of energy among the Irish ladies landed them in a 3-1 lead, despite their having missed two penalty kicks. The closing minutes saw a spirited rally by the British ladies, urged on by their ferocious (Henry V-like) goalkeeper, and they were unlucky on two occasions not to score. The full-time whistle saw the Irish ladies to victory by a scoreline of 3-1.

This was a memorable event. The humour that pervaded the proceedings should not obscure the fact that very creditable football was played by some very fit players. The day was rounded out in further conviviality when all concerned retired to the Hibernian Club, there to watch the live rugby from home.



DRIVING IN CYPRUS



by Sgt Mark Beazley AGC (RMP)

During 1994, there were 172 traffic accidents involving UN personnel which resulted in 20 people sustaining injuries, some



Don't be a statistic

of which were quite serious. With these figures in mind, it might be prudent to look at the nasty pitfalls affecting motoring in Cyprus.

It is true that driving in Cyprus is unlike what most of us are used to at home. Should any road user give you cause for complaint, spend your energy and time concentrating on your own driving, and refrain from angry words and gestures. We should all remain alert and expect the unexpected!

Goats and sheep are the wealth of many inhabitants, especially in the mountainous areas. They are allowed to graze close to the roadside, and invariably wander onto the road, so be sure to reduce your speed when you see animals.

Cyprus is a beautiful country and has many places of interest. Your car is the only means of getting to see them. Enjoy your motoring and remember the three "cs": care, courtesy and consideration.

THE PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE

The month of January saw the troop get into the swing of everyday patrolling, gate guards and the overall security of the UNPA. There was still time for some personnel to go to Dhekelia for adventure training, which included top-roping, parachuting and canoeing. January also saw ten members of the Force Reserve complete a life-saving course at the Nicosia Swimming Pool, so there will be ample life savers during the summer months when the UNPA swimming pool opens.

SSgt Smith led a small expedition to Mount Olympus for a 15 km walk up the mountain on New Year's Day - it was the perfect cure for a hangover! On the sports side of activities, we entered the Argentinian football competition with the only official multi-national team, and finished a creditable fourth place. Then on January 21, the Force Reserve took on Camp Command at rugby. The game ended in a draw, and then it was down to the Hibernia Club to watch the televised game between Ireland and England, which, unfortunately for the Irish, did



not end in a draw!

The month of January ended with a great day out at the Australia Day celebration, in which the Permanent Force Reserve entered two boats, neither of which was successful.

On January 31, the troop had a training day in which all aspects of security were tested, from suspected car bombs to intruders - a very active day, and enjoyed by most at the end.



THINK PINK - FLAMINGOS (PHOENICOPTERIDAE) AT LARNACA SALT LAKE

by WO2 Karl Füsselberger

It is a fact that the extensive travel of migrant birds depends on the season. We differentiate between autumn travel (towards south into winter quarters) and spring travel (towards north back to the breeding grounds). Birds tend to make these trips on elliptic routes (autumn = south east, spring = north west). Some birds cover distances as far as 10,000 km.



Flamingos resting in the Larnaca Salt Lake

The birds orientate on landmarks (coastlines, mountains, rivers, etc). The exact trigger factor for these journeys is not known, but scientific speculation leans towards the idea of the different angle of sun radiation and star formations.

The flamingo (Spanish Flamenco - English flame, most likely because of the flame textured feathers of the bird) belongs to the family of the rain whistler birds. They can grow up to 1.3m tall and have an extremely long neck and legs, with downward bending beaks used for filtering. Most of the food is gathered while wading through the water.

Flamingos breed in large colonies where they lay single eggs. In all, there are five different varieties, and all of them are protected species. The variety in Cyprus is the pink flamingo (*phoenicopterus ruber roseus*), which is a subspecies of the great flamingo.

The flamingo has a long history in southern Europe and the Middle East. Many ancient Egyptian vases with flamingos painted on them have been discovered. In Northern Africa, the flamingo was pictured on several mosaics and vases, and used as a synonym for the goddess 'Astarte'. The ancient Romans used to eat the meat of young flamingos as one of their most delicious delicacies.

Members of UNFICYP, with or without children on the island, should take the opportunity to visit this impressively beautiful species in their natural habitat. A "trip to the flamingos" for you and your family will undoubtedly make a nice afternoon outing - a great opportunity to enjoy nature at its fullest.

CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

by WO 2 K Füsselberger

Not only famous Austrian tennis players, like Thomas Muster, are very active in Sector Four. Tennis is played by many soldiers simply to keep themselves fit. Currently, the tennis branch of AUSCON's Sports Club is managed by WO1 Schalko. He was in charge of the tournament which recently took place, and was himself a participant.

In the last few weeks, the elimination rounds were held, and on Sunday 5 February, the finals of the singles and doubles were played. In the doubles competition, LCpl Oberhumer and LCpl Reiserer defeated S/Sgt Warscher and LCpl Hagmayr. In the singles, WO1 Schalko played against Capt Schagerl, and after a hard match, WO1 Schalko won 6:4, 6:2.



From left to right: LCpl Hagmayr, S/Sgt Warscher, Capt Schagerl, WO1 Schalko, LCpl Reiserer and LCpl Oberhumer



THE HISTORY OF CAMP BERGER

by WO2 Karl Füsselberger

The peace-keeping troops of UNFICYP have been stationed in Louroujina since the inception of the Force in 1964. The first contingent responsible for this area came from Denmark, and the Camp was called "UN Denmark Louroujina". The Camp then consisted of two buildings, namely the command post and the "Blue Ship", with the soldiers being accommodated in six tents. Since there were no roads at that time, the Danes used horses to patrol the area. Initially, the situation in Louroujina was extremely sensitive. However, the Danes were able to contain the fighting simply by flying the UN flag when out on patrol.

The Irish Contingent took over control of Louroujina in 1969 and stayed there until 1971. The Camp was duly renamed "UN IRCON - Louroujina".

Then in 1971, the British Contingent moved in for one year, with the Paras and The Queen's Regiment each completing a six month tour.

In early 1972, the Canadians moved into Louroujina. 2 PPCLI was the first Regiment to serve in the area, followed by another eight rotations until 1977.

Then it was the turn of the Swedes! They took control of what was known as Sector Five ("Rural Area"), and, since the first Swedish Officer in command was called "Siam", the Camp was named after him - Camp Siam. Then in 1981, the Swedish Queen gave birth to a daughter who was named Madeleine, and so the Camp was renamed after the little princess. The Swedish Contingents were on six-monthly rotations, and they developed a very good rapport with both communities.

However, in 1987, the Canadians once again took over responsibility for the area when the Swedish Contingent pulled out of UNFICYP. In October 1987, the Camp was renamed Camp Berger, after Pte Berger who served in

CANCON and was killed in the troubles during 1974.

In June 1993, when the Canadians withdrew from UNFICYP, the Austrians moved in. What happened to the good old horses from 1964? Well, they turned white and faded away.....



Capt Absmann (left) and Lt Humer

Currently, the platoon consists of three OPs, under the command of Capt Absmann with Lt Humer as 2ic. In addition to observation from OPs, vehicle patrols are carried out daily.



MCpl Rantasa in an artistic mood

In the COMCEN, you can see LCpl Merlo, a 21-year-old lumberjack from Vorarlberg. With him is Sgt Koch, a 36-year-old high school teacher. One of them plays football, and the other likes to ride and paint. They are both single, so if there are any eligible ladies in UNFICYP wishing to find out who likes what, you will have to ring them personally to find out!



LCpl Damey on guard

At OP CS-48 we meet LCpl Damey, currently on his first tour with UNFICYP. He has previously served in UNDOF on the Golan Heights.

To raise the standard of living, MCpl Rantasa is currently bringing his OP CS-65 up to scratch. If he carries on like this, he could end up among some of the most famous Austrian painters!



LCpl Merlo (left) and Sgt Koch

The last station of our trip brings us to OP CS-52, where we meet Sgt Feldsberger, a 31-year-old craftsman from Carinthia, who is fulfilling the most important task of the Austrians in the Louroujina pocket. He is pictured observing his area of responsibility, and so contributes his part to keeping the peace in this area.



Sgt Feldsberger on duty



DIFFERENT CAP BADGES WITH THE QRL IN NICOSIA

The Queen's Royal Lancers deployed to Cyprus in Dec 94 for a six-month tour on the Green Line, centred in Nicosia. With the Regiment are a number of attached personnel not normally seen by the Queen's Royal Lancers.



Royal, a section from 1st Battalion the Coldstream Guards, and members of both 204 Signals Squadron and The Queen's Own Yeomanry. Within the QRL there has been some change around as well: Sgt Tony Oakley, REME, who is normally in charge of the QRL LAD gunfitters, now finds himself in Cyprus as the Troop Sergeant of the busiest troop on the line.

Included in this assortment are three sailors from HMS Ark

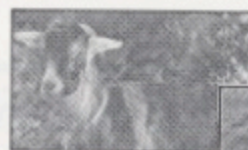
Variety is the spice of life, or so they say.....

MEM Hubbard from HMS Ark Royal



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS' LATEST RECRUITS!

The Queen's Royal Lancers have recently increased their number in Nicosia, the new additions being two goats! The pair were christened Aliwal (above



left) and Balaklava (below right), after the Regiment's two most famous battle honours. They have naturally been put to work, keeping the grass trimmed on the Commanding Officer's lawn!

CLOSURE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS COMMUNICATION CENTRE, UNFICYP, AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

On 6 February 1995, the Royal Signals Communication Centre in UNFICYP ended over 30 years of service with the United Nations in Cyprus. During this time, it supported the British Contingent and other contingents processing Signal Message Traffic for both the BRITCON Defence Communication Network, Rear Link and the UNFICYP facsimile network. Before their departure, they installed a new user-friendly system, Dial Up Secure Telegraph (DUST), in Wolseley Barracks, the home of the six-monthly roulement regiment, where The Queen's Royal Lancers are now doing a tour. This equipment was handed to the Regiment's signal personnel after intense training from the Royal Signals Detachment.



Sgt Charlie Hanson, i/c R Sigs Det, handing over the COMCEN keys to SSM McDonagh, Camp Command. COMCEN operators LCpl Bevan and Sigs Kennedy and Cooper look on.

Finally, thanks go out to all who have served in the COMCEN over the years - a job well done.



AUSCON'S MEDICAL CENTRE

by MD Maj Gerhart Schiller

It looks like a private villa and is located outside Camp Duke Leopold V, built on a high hill, surrounded by palm trees and a park. No stranger would guess that this building is a most important part of AUSCON, being the Medical Centre in Famagusta.



Gerhart Schiller



Mike Kohla

Our hygiene expert is WOII Dieter Tichy, a 28-year-old from Burgenland (eastern Austria) and a recognised expert in his field. Originally his trade was to be an electrician, but then he decided to become a male nurse and worked as such in an Austrian hospital. One year ago, he completed a tour with UNDOF on the Golan Heights. His hobbies are travelling, especially in Asia and the Middle East, photography and computers.

It is in this building, which dates from the beginning of this century, that I am privileged to work, together with six other team members. We are responsible for the health of all AUSCON soldiers, and also several local patients.



Walter Wilfling



Dieter Tichy

MCpl Klaus Schwager is a 27-year-old medic from Carinthia and will be in Cyprus until July. He is very interested in medicine and is planning to become a male nurse at the end of his military career. His favourite sport is body building, but he also likes other sports in his spare time.

We have a crew of seven consisting of two doctors, two Warrant Officers and three Corporals. The two doctors, Capt Mike Kohla and myself, are 31 years old. We are also both general practitioners, and, coincidentally, we both intend to follow orthopaedic studies on our return to Austria. I admit we have a lot common, but there the similarity ends. I am from Lower Austria, and my tour with UNFICYP is from July 1994 until March 1995. Capt Kohla, from Carinthia, arrived in December 1994 and will leave in July 1995.



Klaus Schwager



Fritz Anger



Andreas Holl

23-year-old Cpl Fritz Anger is also a male nurse and is from Vienna. He has one son, and he firmly believes that there is no place like home! His hobbies are his family and reading good books, but he also uses a lot of his spare time back in Vienna doing voluntary community service by driving an ambulance.

What would we do without WO1 Walter Wilfling?! He is 38 years old and a Styrian 'oak', built like Arnold Schwarzenegger and the chief of the crew. He is sure that Arnold has the bigger biceps, but he has the bigger abdominal circumference... Seriously, however, he is a very experienced member of our team, seeing as this is his 15th tour! His hobbies are hunting and driving large, fast Limousines. He is married and has one daughter.

Cpl Andreas Holl, a medical assistant, is 22 years old and comes from Upper Austria. His hobbies are riding motor-bikes, travelling and handball.

As you are most likely aware, Sector Four covers a wide area. We not only look after the medical and psychological needs of our soldiers, but we are also here to advise them on hygiene matters. Due to excellent team work and adequate equipment (including two 4x4 ambulances), we feel we can fulfil our task satisfactorily.



THE HIGH FLYERS!

by Mr Paul Pascallis, Head of the Day Centre for Disabled Children

In a quiet suburb of Nicosia, there is an inconspicuous house where, since 1982, the Cyprus Society for the Protection of Spastic and Handicapped Children runs a day centre for disabled children. At this centre, within a climate similar to a playgroup, these children receive physiotherapy, speech therapy, basic education and other services to assist their development.

As part of their lessons, the teachers were explaining to the children the fact that soon it would be Green Monday, when the long fast before the Orthodox Easter starts and when, traditionally, families go to the fields to eat vegetables and other non-animal products - and also fly kites!

The idea then arose that it would be fun to build a kite and take the children to a large, open space and fly it.



Success - it's up!

This is, to say the least, easier said than done. Finding a large open space within a short distance of the day centre is no easy task.

Hence on Thursday 23 February, with the assistance of the Spokesman's Office, HQ UNFICYP, the children and staff of the centre found themselves on the runway of the Nicosia International Airport. The first problem we faced was where to park the bus and cars! With so much space, we were spoilt for choice.

Then came launch time! Here was a good news and bad news story. The individual mini kites were a resounding disaster, having the aerodynamic qualities of a brick! However, the large, main kite was superb, and was only held back by a lack of string.

After a while of kite flying, which was upstaged by a fly past of one of the UN helicopters, the children and staff were invited to look over the helicopter.



The children and staff in front of the Argentinian helicopter

The group therefore made their way to the helicopter pad, when, after looking over the machine, out came the edibles - as is well known, no Cypriot event is complete without food!

Unfortunately, time passed rather too quickly and everyone had to start back to the day centre, after having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and knowing that this trip would be a talking point amongst staff and children for some time to come.

SECTOR TWO SAPPERS RUNNING WELL!

Having entered an eight-man team in the Cyprus All Island Cross-Country Championships on 21 Jan 95, the team came away minor unit champions with six runners to count, finishing in the first nine places. Spr Roddy, the team coach, said: "It was a particularly good result, as the team had celebrated a possible victory in the bar - the night before the race!"

Two members of the Det, Sgt Buttery and LCpl Campbell, then went on to run in the inter-services, representing the winning Army team. Both runners gained their Army cross-country colours.



The team members with their trophies



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



On the night of 14 March 1995, the Irish Minister for Defence, Mr Hugh Covney, arrived in Cyprus. The purpose of his trip was to celebrate St Patrick's Day with the Irish Contingent of UNFICYP.



Camp Command, ready for a pint of Guinness

This year, the festivities took place on 15 March, rather than the traditional 17 March, due to the fact that the Minister had to share his time with the troops of UNFICYP and UNIFIL.



Mr Covney, inspecting the Quarter Guard

As usual, the Irish Government sent the resupply ship, L.E. Emer, laden with Irish food and drink for the festivities.

The arrival of this ship is a multi-purpose affair, in that it gives the naval personnel a chance to see the UN at work and, in turn, is a welcomed break for the UN personnel serving in both UNFICYP and UNIFIL.

On the morning of 15 March, Mr Covney inspected an honour guard drawn from The Queen's Royal Lancers at HQ UNFICYP. He was met by the UNFICYP COS, Col John Powell OBE, and the CO Camp Command, Lt Col John Cummins. He was then briefed by the FC, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen.



The head chef and his staff at the International Mess

At 1100 hours, the Irish Medal Parade took place. This parade saw the presentation of medals and numerals to 23 personnel. When the formalities were completed, the traditional blessing of the shamrock by Father Making took place, followed immediately by the presentation to the Contingent members by Lt Col Cummins.

Following the Medal Parade, there was a reception in the International Mess, however celebrations did not end there. They continued at the Hibernia Club until the early hours to ensure that the shamrock was well and truly drowned - in typical Irish fashion!



IN MEMORIAM



It is with deep regret that this St Patrick's Day was celebrated without the presence of a dear friend of the Irish Contingent in Cyprus, Mrs Maureen Kattashis Cusack, who sadly died of cancer on 18 August 1994, one day before her 47th birthday.



Maureen, who ran a clothing factory, was of invaluable help to IRCON. For years, she dressed the Irish dancers in their costumes for the Irish dancing display.

Her lovable character, and the overwhelming kindness she showed to everyone who met her, will be sorely missed.



THE ORIGINS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

compiled by Mrs Miriam Taylor

The idea of an international organization responsible for the enhancement of international cooperation is a very old one, and can be traced as far back as the writings of the ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle who wrote of the conditions necessary for peace. These ideas found a number of followers in Europe during the Renaissance, but nothing came of their efforts because the need for international cooperation was never considered a compelling enough reason for the various European states to surrender any of their sovereignty to an international authority.

The first significant steps in the creation of an international organization began during the 19th century and involved the exploitation of common resources, such as the navigation of the Rhine or international co-operation in the fields of communications, health and commerce. Two of the bodies, namely the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) survived and are now special UN agencies.

The tragic experience of modern warfare during World War I led to the creation of the first major organization of the world's countries dedicated to the preservation of peace and international co-operation, known as the League of Nations. It was headquartered in Geneva and was founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles (1919), largely an initiative of the then American President, Woodrow Wilson, who believed that war prevention required prior commitment. From 1919 to 1939, the League achieved some important successes and helped in the reconstruction and resettlement of parts of war-torn Europe. Unfortunately, the League's major shortcoming was its impotence to prevent great power aggression. The failure of the League of Nations was mainly the failure of its members to uphold the provision of the Covenant.

The outbreak of war underlined the urgent need for an organization dedicated to peace. The Atlantic Charter of August 14, 1941 called for the creation of a "permanent system of general security". The purposes and principles of this Anglo-American charter were incorporated into the United Nations declaration on January 1, 1942 in which 26 nations pledged their co-operation in fighting the Axis powers.

The first major step towards the formulation of a permanent organization was taken at a meeting of diplomatic experts of the Big Four powers (the US, UK, USSR and China), held during August 21-October 7, 1944 at Dumbarton Oaks, an estate in Washington DC. The Dumbarton Oaks proposals, as modified at the Yalta Conference, formed the basis of a Conference which was convened at San Francisco on April 25, 1945 and drafted the Charter of the United Nations (UN). The Charter was signed on June 26 by five governments and entered into force on October 24, 1945.

The General Assembly held its first meeting in London on January 10, 1946, but it was decided that the permanent headquarters of the organisation would be in the United States. The site chosen was a tract of land along the East River in New York City, donated by John O Rockerfeller Jr.

The primary objective of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security. The Organization is also dedicated to the development of friendly relations among nations, based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; to the achievement of international co-operation in solving international, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian problems, and to serving as a centre for harmonizing the action of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

With the founding of the United Nations, a framework for international co-operation on a scale unprecedented in human history was put in place and in the nearly five decades since then, membership in the Organization has tripled.

Conceived as a universal organisation, the UN has in its membership nearly every state on the planet, currently amounting to 185 nations.

To commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945, United Nations Day is celebrated each year on October 24, by which date the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories.

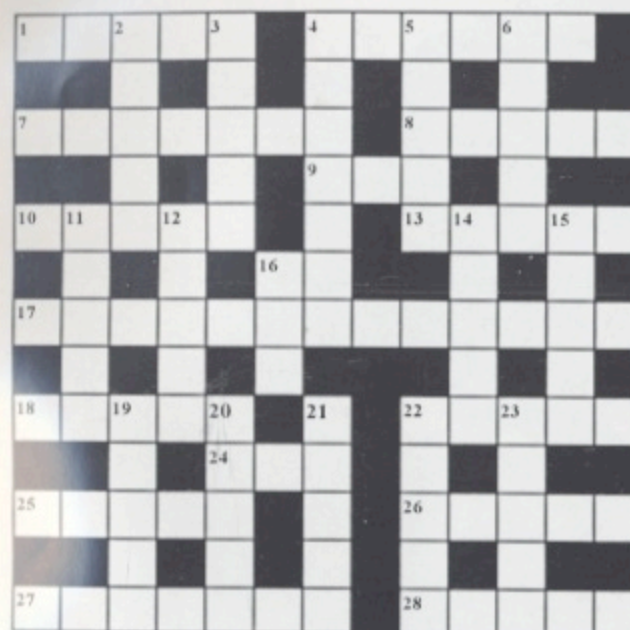


THE BLUE BERET FUN AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PAGE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BB No 08

Hello readers! Spring has arrived, and the sunny Cyprus sunshine is already high in the skies. Easter is approaching, and we in the Blue Beret office all hope you will have a very happy one. We are pleased to announce that the lucky winner of BB No 07 was Ms Allyson Maccordy, 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 20 April 1995.



Clues:

Across:

- 1. A body of troops
4. Largest island in the Malay Archipelago
7. UNFICYP high ranking official
8. Asian sub continent
9. Amusement, jollity
10. Grandmother's pet name
13. Lose one's way
16. Exists
17. Fixed or intense attention
18. Parts of a car's wheels
22. Prepared to go
24. A private vehicle
25. Thick, TV wire
26. Striped member of the cat family
27. Musical entertainment
28. Last letter of Greek alphabet

Down:

- 2. Supreme power, sovereignty
3. Written composition
4. Capital of Northern Ireland
5. Pours down, drizzles
6. Person having authority by age or experience
11. Extreme suffering
12. Small recess in wall to contain a statue
14. Inscription by which a book is known
15. Audibly, not in silence
16. House providing lodging and food for travellers
19. Small warbling bird with a red breast
20. Location, stage-set
21. A planet's track
22. Proportion
23. Corner, space between two intersecting lines

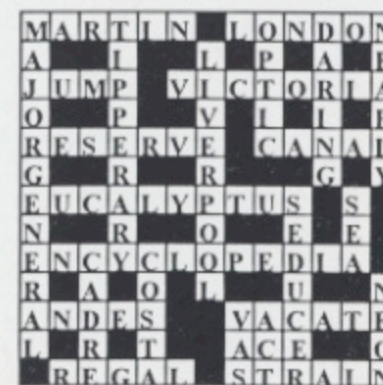


BLUE BERET TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

- 1. How many countries currently contribute troops to UNFICYP?
a. 5
b. 6
c. 7
2. How many vehicles does UNFICYP currently hire? Approximately:
a. 100
b. 150
c. 200

Answers: 1 = c, 2 = b

ANSWERS TO BB 07



THE IRCON MEDAL PARADE

