

THE Blue Beret

March 1994





THE FIRST ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE



by Lt (Navy) Carlos Kammerath



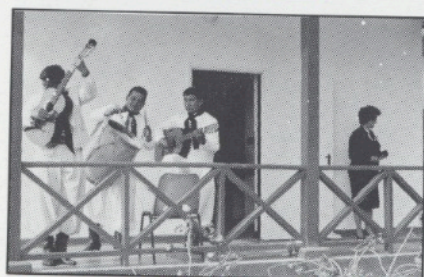
The Force Commander inspecting the Argentinian troops on parade, accompanied by the CO ARGCON.



The FC presenting a medal to Lt Col Mujica



The COS presenting a medal to the RSM, WO1 Silva.



The folklore band, playing at the NCOs' Mess. From the left: SSgt Miguel Humacata, SSgt Domingo Cruz and WOIII Ricardo Baigorria.

On February 25 at 1100 hours, after five months of intensive work along the western side of the Buffer Zone, the Argentinian Medal Parade was held at Skouriotissa Camp, commanded by the CO ARGCON, Lt Col Juan Manuel Durante.

After inspecting the troops, the UNFICYP Force Commander, Maj Gen Michael Minehane, the Chief of Staff, Brig Richard Lambe MBE, the CO ARGCON, Lt Col Juan Durante and the 2i/c ARGCON, Lt Col Rodolfo Mujica presented the Argentinian Officers and NCOs with medals for their participation "in the Service of Peace".

Following the presentation, the Force Commander addressed the Argentines not only in English, but also in Spanish, delighting ARGCON members and surprising guests and friends who attended the parade. The ceremony concluded with the troops marching off on "redoblado" pace.

A special mention must be made of the brilliant performance by the Regimental Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums of the 1st Royal Irish Regiment, led by Bugle Master WO1 RW Hopla and Pipe Major T Jackson, who played our national anthem and Argentine marches like "San Lorenzo" and "Avenida de las Camelias".

Later, a lunch was held at the Officers' and NCOs' Messes, consisting of Argentine specialities like "empanadas", "locro", "lomitos" and pastry, while a folklore band entertained distinguished guests and friends with traditional songs.

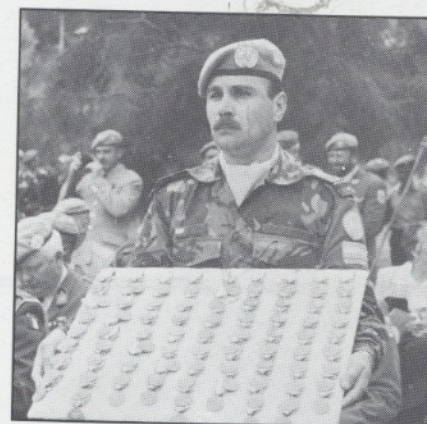
Among the guests who honoured the ceremony were HE Mr R Boucher, the American Ambassador, HE Mr D Dain, the British High Commissioner, HE Mr and Mrs von Hassel, the German Ambassador and his wife, and Bishop Chrysanthos of Morphou.



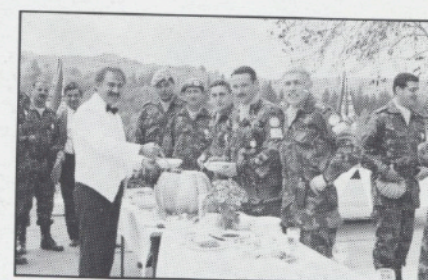
The Argentinian Contingent marching past, with the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment on the left.



Lt Dello Russo



SSgt Merkel



Andreas, serving "locro", an Argentinian stew, to Lt (Navy) Alejandro Vera.

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

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Front Cover

IRCIVPOL Police Officers on duty

by Sgt Stephen Talbot

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

In most parts of the world, spring is the season of the rebirth of man and nature. The gentle awakening of nature in Cyprus starts with the arrival of the swallows.

In UNFICYP, spring was marked by the arrival of the new Camp Command, a role which is of considerable importance to the Force. This Unit took over a number of the responsibilities once carried out by the UNFICYP Support Regiment which left the Force on 15 December 1993. We heartily welcome the new Camp Command, and wish this first Unit a successful tour with UNFICYP.

Another significant recent event was the first Argentinian Medal Parade, an event which brought a new flavour to this type of ceremony. Officers and NCOs of the first Argentinian Contingent to serve in Cyprus were decorated with the UN medal for peace-keeping in a poignant ceremony which all of us will remember.

As it happens, the Argentinian Battalion has now come to the end of its six month tour. This month, UNFICYP bids farewell to the first Argentinian soldiers to serve in Cyprus, and wishes the incoming Battalion an equally successful tour.

Spring is the time of change - it may be that other great changes are in the air.

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WOULD YOU LIKE A MATE?

by Capt Mario Devincenti



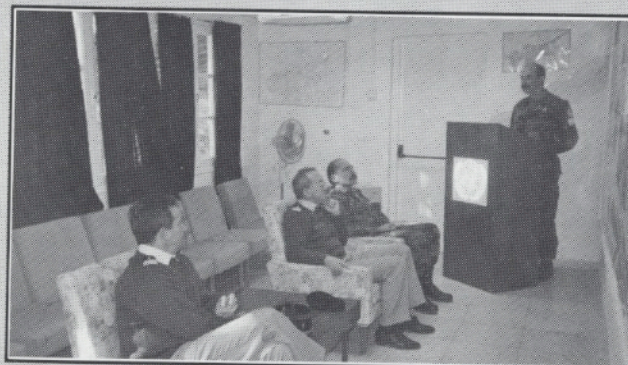
"Would you like a mate?" This is the very first question Argentinian soldiers ask every time someone visits Sector One's OPs, PB or wherever an Argentinian is dwelling.

Basically, "mate" is a brew, like tea or coffee, and contains a stimulant called "mateine", similar to caffeine. This traditional beverage is an Indian heritage and is taken not only in Argentina but also in Paraguay, Uruguay and southern Brazil. In other countries, it is used as part of a diuretic diet.

"Mate" keeps you awake and free from hunger whilst working or studying, but it is definitely not a drug. European immigrants have added sugar, orange peel, coffee, mint and other spices to smooth its strong, bitter flavour. It is served as a refreshment, either hot or cold, depending on the region.

Whatever the reason for their visit, Argentinians offer their guests this special brew as a sign of hospitality.

VISITORS TO SECTOR ONE



Lt Cdr Victor Isgró briefing visitors to Sector One: Col Francois de Pas, the French Military Attaché to Syria and Cyprus (centre), Maj Dominique Davignon (left) and Lt Col JM Durante.



After a Christmas visit to UNPROFOR's Argentinian troops in Croatia, Monseñor Norberto E Martina, the Armed Forces' bishop and Monseñor Mario L de Leone, the Army's Chaplain, arrived in Cyprus.

They were received by the Commanding Officer Sector One, Lt Col Juan Durante, and ARGCON's Padre, Arnoldo Santucho.

During their visit, a chapel, refurbished by the Engineer Platoon, was inaugurated at Xeros Camp.

Pictured below are Monseñor Norberto Martina and Monseñor Mario de Leone at the Xeros Camp Chapel.



A visit to Skouriotissa early this year by the German Ambassador and his wife, HE Mr and Mrs von Hassell (centre) with the CO ARGCON and his wife.



DON'T BE SHY - JUST DO IT!

by Sgt P Conway



It has unfortunately become apparent that numerous thefts of equipment and stores are regularly occurring on the UNPA which is costing UNFICYP an absolute fortune. In the main, these incidents are petty thefts and pilfering, but as we know, it all adds up. We all have a duty to stamp this out and report any incidents we see. I am sure that at some stage, everyone has seen an individual acting in a manner which causes you to wonder what he or she was doing! We automatically tend to think that they have authority or permission or are acting officially... but are they?

The only way to be sure is to CHALLENGE THEM! Ask them who they are! Ask them what they are doing! Ask them if they have authority! Ask them from whom! Don't be afraid, don't be shy - just do it! Whether they are civilian or military, it doesn't matter: whether they are driving a civilian or other vehicle, it doesn't matter - if you are suspicious, then CHALLENGE.

If you are not happy with the answers given, report the incident to the Military Police on 359666. Remember, someone could be stealing your property. Hopefully, someone will CHALLENGE them.



THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE!

The United Nations library is a facility which is offered free to UN and entitled personnel, and can be found in the Community Centre, near the NAAFI and next to the school.

Not only does the library provide a good range of fiction, both hardbacks and paperbacks, but it also tries to cover all the subjects that you may be interested in. If you cannot find what you want on the shelves, then ask the friendly library staff who will do their best to get it quickly. Books can also be borrowed from the island-wide Command Library service, so there is a very large choice available.

The library staff are always pleased to receive book recommendations from users. The Assistant Librarian is Mrs Anthi Yiannopoulou, and you can speak to her on Nicosia 359317.

There are books for children as well as adults, a good selection

of magazines (changed regularly), music cassettes, talking books and much more. We have a very good range of self-instruction language courses available (usually consisting of a book with cassettes) and we can quickly supply courses on Arabic, French, German, Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and others besides these.

You can use the reservation service to obtain new books, or most other books that you find difficulty in locating while in Cyprus. Simply fill out a request card, which will be posted to you as soon as the book is received at the library.

The library is open during the following hours:

Summer (from 1st May):
Mon-Fri : 0900-1300 hrs
1600-1900 hrs

Winter (from 1st Oct):
Mon-Fri : 0900-1300 hrs
1500-1800 hrs



Anthi

All personnel are very welcome to use the library, and you will find that the range of books and services offered are much better than taking 'pot luck' with paperbacks.

Why not call in today?

50TH BIRTHDAY OF AUSCON'S FELDPPOSTMEISTER

by WO2 Peter Stickler



FPM Meisthuber stays adamant: had Mozart ever turned fifty (the poor chap died in his thirties), not only would he have looked like this, but his performance on the fiddle could have been similar.

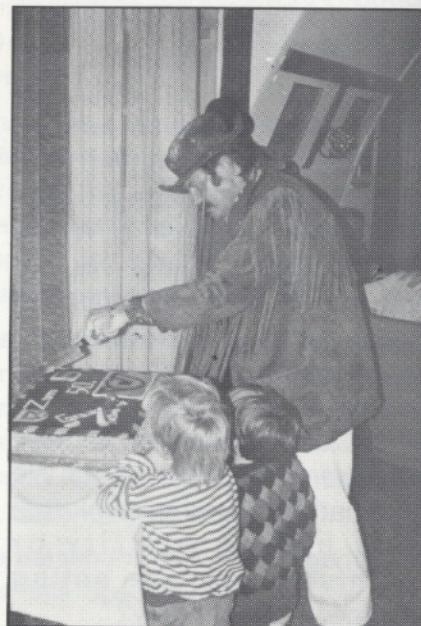
instrument into the hottest fiddle on the island when he played country 'n' western and Irish tunes! Then there was his act on the nail board, which might go to prove that sometimes, when you are half a century old, you could end up with the skin of an elephant - even if you don't look (or act) your age!

There is many a birthday celebrated in AUSCON, but not often a 50th one - and very rarely a 50th birthday of a man so talented as the officer in charge of the Austrian Forces Post Office - read on.

The party, which took place on 12 January 1994, was a very special occasion. FPM Meisthuber impressed his friends and other guests not only with his classical repertoire on the violin, but also with his capability of turning his



After his performances, a little relaxation on the nail board...



Dressed to kill - his birthday cake, if nothing else! The FPM with two of his younger fans, who were eagerly waiting to test "the stamp".

Worth mentioning was the superb birthday cake, styled as a stamp - only thicker!

By the way, the FPM is also a painter, and we all hope that we don't have to wait for his 100th birthday to see an exhibition of his work!

AUSCON PLAYS DHEKELIA

by WO2 Peter Stickler

The invitation came from King Richard's School in Dhekelia. AUSCON officers accepted the challenge to play against the staff of the school, the ACCIE's soccer club, on 23 January 1994 in the ESBA.

It was a big surprise, though, when old acquaintances were renewed on the football field: some of the players were recognised as members of the British team who took part in the UNFICYP football tournament.

The match was then celebrated with an extensive barbecue, and a return game is already scheduled to take place in Famagusta.



The DCO, Maj Eder (in the air), successfully trying to avoid another goal, so the AUSCON loss was kept at 5:2

FORCE COMMANDER'S TACTICAL CONFERENCE IN SECTOR FOUR

by Maj H Reisinger



The higher echelons of UNFICYP! Standing, from the left: Lt Col R Manzl, Ch Supt T King, Lt Col Brünings-Hansen, Lt Col A Ris, Cmdr T Dales and Maj T Sharp.

Sitting, from the left: Ms Susan Matthew, Lt Col A Kloss, Maj Gen M Minehane, Brig R Lambe, Lt Col R Mujica and Lt Col S White.



The Force Commander's Tactical Conference in Sector Four's highlands.

On 21 January 1994, AUSCON hosted the Force Commander's Tactical Conference. After the start in Pyla, where the participants were extensively briefed on the latest developments in one of the most sensitive areas of the Sector by both IRCIVPOL and 2 Coy/AUSCON, OPT AS-18 was visited. In true mountain-climber tradition, schnaps were served after having reached the peak of the highest point in the Sector (even though it was only a strenuous drive instead of the usual climb!).

The Conference was concluded at OP AS-01 in Athienou, where a light lunch was served - a very light lunch, as expressly requested by the Force Commander, who apparently remembered that AUSCON's chefs' views in that direction are somewhat different...

THE FIRE FIGHTERS OF CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V

by Maj H Reisinger



WO II Rack, 1/Cpl Eberharter, L/Cpl Minicher, WO II Irrasch, Sgt Ziervogl, and Maj Steinbühel in front of their Headquarters.

The re-organized Quick Reaction Group of AUSCON's HQ Coy recently took on a new task. Having renovated their Headquarters' accommodation in Camp Duke Leopold V, they are now responsible for second line fire fighting. They are, therefore, formally in charge of two water trucks with high pressure pumping equipment.

Small but efficient, the pride and joy of Camp Duke Leopold and the HQ Coy Commander, they are allowed to utilise his commando pick up for long range transport of their Chubb Fire Foam 90 1 extinguisher - otherwise, they would have to push it along on two wheels!



Demonstrating their overkill capacity, the fire brigade scares a small fire to an early death.



The Irish Government and Police Commissioner having granted permission, the team selected and trained, we found ourselves in Cyprus in late October 1993, joining personnel from a number of other nations toiling with UNFICYP. While the Irish Police have served with the UN in Cambodia, Angola, Namibia and with smaller groups in other areas, Cyprus and UNFICYP represented a new mission for us. Despite the many years of UNFICYP existence, information was scarce on the precise nature of the CIVPOL role here, but a few phone calls to the Australian Commander and IRCON Senior Officer elicited many useful points of interest. An advance guard of two officers, including the author, arrived a week earlier. The initial experience was not good.

For the most part, the civilian police were to be accommodated with the military, which was



Visit of Assistant Commissioner Thomas O'Leary to IRCIVPOL last January. From left to right: Supt James Noonan, Mr Paul Kavanagh, A/Comm T O'Leary and Ch Supt TC King



Members of the Camp Command

not consistent with the previous policy whereby the Swedish Police lived in separate quarters. Having to occupy accommodation with the military is alien to the nature of the police officer, who works and lives in the community, sharing every aspect of the life of the people and being more effective from that basis. The point having been made to all concerned, the officers were deployed.

The strangest aspect of the new responsibility was deploying into an area and among a people whom we knew absolutely nothing about. In the ordinary operation of a police force, there is the "bank" of knowledge, acquired by the police force over the years. When a new officer arrives, he is immediately introduced to this bank of knowledge, and has an opportunity to ask the more seasoned officers in the area about any aspect of the life of the community in which he may be interested.

The Australians were, as usual, most helpful and gave us of their time and knowledge, limited unfortunately to what they could acquire in the four weeks they were deployed pending our arrival. And so, the process of making "sense" of the new task was underway. Then there was the need to get a fix on the geography, the limits of the Buffer Zone, the Eastern Sovereign Base Areas, the cease fire lines, and a whole host of unfamiliar terms. Who, or what, was "the COO"? Worse still were the CPLO, MPIO, CHO, SA, etc. etc. A normal police report turned out to be an INCREP in Cyprus, and so on.

Parallel to this we met the "wall" of bureaucracy now becoming so familiar to us: the

THE IRCIVPOL EXPERIENCE IN UNFICYP

by Ch Supt TC King

ubiquitous Form 900, the weekly and/or monthly returns on everything and, in general, the usual requirements of administration compounded by the need to administer a force comprised of different nationalities, and their own ways of doing things. The consensus among the team is that we will never again complain about our own force administrators! Quite a conversion.

But what of the people we were involved in helping to police? These were different in the different areas, Famagusta being exclusively Turkish Cypriot, Athienou being Greek Cypriot and Pyla being a mixed community. The people we have encountered in Cyprus have, in general terms, been wonderful, open, generous and welcoming. We have now established an excellent rapport in all areas, and we all have people that we could now count among our "friends". Officers have now established a bank of knowledge about the community in all areas and already the place has a familiar feel. We know the pattern of movement of people in the early mornings, the places where people live and work, the various relationships of family ties. We even cheer the local football teams to win against teams from outside "our" community. We have attended weddings, parties and even funerals.

In all of this, we have been supporting (and been supported by) Sector Four. Of course, that name only lasted a few days. It was AUSCON first, and now has progressed to the point where we deal on a daily basis with colleagues in the UN, and most of the AUSCON officers and men are personally known and familiar faces to us. Relations could hardly be better, whether personally or professionally. This gelling of the



Visit of Deputy Commissioner Thomas O'Reilly and Ch Supt Pat Crummy to IRCIVPOL 23-26 Jan 94. From left to right: Supt James Noonan, Ch Supt Pat Crummy, Maj-Gen M Minehane, D/Comm T O'Reilly and Ch Supt TC King.

military and CIVPOL elements in Sector Four is one of our most satisfactory experiences.

Having passed the 90 day milestone, which qualifies the team members for the UN medal, it is opportune to reflect on our tour to date. The abiding experience of everyone is the sense of mission we find in the multi-national force; proud wearers of the blue beret, united in the pursuit of a desire to maintain, if not bring, peace to an island with a wonderful people and a near perfect climate. We also treasure the many friends we have made and the many memories we shall take with us when we return to a homeland we left in search of experience. It has been an experience we would not like to have missed.

THE IRISH ARE HERE IN STRENGTH

Command are the Force Catering Officer, the Force Health Inspector, the Garrison Sgt Major, the Force Photographer, the Welfare and Recreation Sergeant, the Duty Free Supplies Manager, the Work Services and Automatic Storeman, the Accommodation Stores Storeman and the Weapons and Ammunition Storeman.

There are, of course, many more important appointments held within the Unit which will be reported on in the near future.

Many members of the Camp Command are UN veterans, and although they regard their daunting tasks as a great challenge, they have once again set out to prove the versatility

and adaptability of the Irish. As the Camp Commandant says, "In Ireland, people are our greatest resource. We do not find fault: we like to find a remedy".

We wish Camp Command all the best in the future, and we look forward to enjoying their company.



2ND ROYAL TANK REGIMENT THE MIDDLE MONTH



by Capt Pete McIntyre

The Regiment has reached the mid tour point in a blur of time. Whilst memories of arriving and the struggle to learn the patch are still vivid, there exists a calm confidence which exudes at all levels. No longer is there a need to consult maps and charts as soldiers have grown accustomed to their surroundings and duties. In short, there is now little in the life of a soldier living on the line which causes concern. To expand the working knowledge throughout the Regiment, Squadrons are now conducting cross line tours at Troop/Squadron level, in order to allow soldiers living in the rural environment the opportunity to witness urban operations and vice-versa.

Visits: the Regiment hosted a number of influential guests during the month of February.



Maj Jasper chats to HE Mr S Tzur, the Ambassador for Israel, and Mr Lutsky on his City Line Tour.

On Wednesday the 9th, HE Mr S Tzur, the Ambassador for Israel, along with Mr D Lutsky were given the City Line tour: both marvelled at the unique situation our soldiers cope with. Also, the French Ambassador, HE Mr G Pavret de la Rochefordiere, escorted by Capt DEWB Hoskins, visited the old French Embassy in the Buffer Zone to inspect the building.

Maj Gen MF Minehane inspected Sector Two on Thursday 17 Feb, accompanied by his Military Adviser, Maj JCW Brooks, and the Force Engineer, Maj KC McLeod. Starting at St David's Camp, the inspecting team was shown the Sector, including all the contentious areas within our boundaries. The Force Commander took the time to meet as many soldiers as possible during his inspection, which took in all troop locations and several OPs. This was concluded with a light

lunch for all on top of Pyramid Hill, which was a perfect setting to end the tour.



A moment's "pose" atop Pyramid Hill after lunch.

A number of our soldiers managed to secure hard fought prizes within UNFICYP competitions. The Shooting Competition (see separate article) saw a modest victory in the Falling Plate Section. More prestigiously, Normandy's team won outright the Military Skills Competition which, after four weeks' concentrated training, proved to be a tremendous success, given the competition provided by Sectors One and Four.

Sport remains an important release for the gladiators in the Regiment. The football team played a hard game against ARGCON and sadly walked away defeated 3:4. On a brighter note, they did beat Barclays Bank convincingly with an 8-4 result. Future fixtures include the Israeli Embassy and first division teams from the northern and southern parts of the island, all of which is good solid experience for the players.

The skiers are due to compete in the Near Eastern Forces Skiing (NEFSKI) competition and we await the results in anticipation.



The ARGCON and 2 RTR football teams after a hard game.

NORMANDY SQUADRON THE SECOND ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

by Capt Sebastian Pollington RTR

Having settled down well into our tour in Cyprus, this represents the first opportunity for Normandy Squadron to formally introduce itself to the wider environment of UNFICYP. Our arrival in Nicosia in early December was cushioned by a comprehensive and informative handover by 176 (Abu Klea) Battery RA, despite their own relatively recent move to the City. This handover was complemented by the truly kind and multi-national welcome we received within the UNFICYP community, both from the Headquarters and the Contingents alongside us.

Normandy Squadron was formed this year out of two Tank Squadrons, and owes its name to the memory of its past distinguished service in Northern France in the Second World War. It stands alongside Burma Squadron as one of the two Line Squadrons. Numbering 108 officers and men, the Squadron is divided into a Headquarters Troop and two Line Troops, and contributes a further Troop to UNFICYP's Force Reserve. Our dispositions are reflected in our area of responsibility, which takes us along the line from, in the west, our Regimental boundary with the Argentinian Contingent to Wolseley Barracks in the east. We have immediately recognised this as an interesting area, offering the varied aspects of rural, suburban and urban peace-keeping.

Our new environment is an interesting one. Service in the cause of peace out here in Cyprus



The Force Commander with the OC during his first visit to Normandy Squadron. Lt Richard Rawlins looks on.

requires an entirely different show of force for any Tank Squadron in comparison to their performance elsewhere. The challenging political situation here, and the busy local one, combine to offer us a great deal of interesting work over our six-month tour of duty. This new role in the service of peace is being embraced at every level by our soldiers, some of whom have served on the island before.

It is with this outlook that we introduce ourselves to all those involved here in Cyprus, and we look forward to the remainder of our tour.



Normandy Squadron pose for a photograph beside OP B-40



THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

Here are two rather charming articles on the UNFICYP Shooting Competition, the first an artistic commentary by the organizing unit, and the other a more personal point of view by the outgoing Press Officer of AUSTCIVPOL, Pol Sgt Derek Gough.

by Capt JS Carlarne



A victorious Sector Four team captain.

At 080615 B Feb 94, the storm had moved up into the Kyrenia mountains. Rain bloated clouds swung listlessly eastwards above the plains and on into a colourless dawn. A small group of soldiers rolled



Officials and visitors on the firing point

the carcass of a 9X9 nine tent onto the mound of debris that had once been an Admin Area. Then at 080900 B Feb 94, the first competitors fired.



UN MPs in action

The UNFICYP Shooting Competition was a day made memorable by contrast. It was a day born into the wreckage of a storm that ended in the drilled

order of a military prize-giving ceremony. It was a day that lasted for eight hours, but which had begun eight weeks previously, like many such events with a committee meeting and a lot of coffee. During the course of this meeting it was decided that Sector Two would run the ranges on the day and provide the administrative base for the event. The various adjudicating bodies were to be drawn from across UNFICYP in the hope of providing a wholly neutral system of arbitration.



Sector Two Falling Plate winners

The high degree of preparation by the competing teams only became apparent on the day of the event. The competitors dealt admirably with often quite difficult conditions to demonstrate a high standard of shooting competence.

Sector One's rifle team gave a particularly good account of themselves with their FN rifles. AUSTCIVPOL came a most commendable second in the Pistol competition. The day, however, went to the Sector Four team, winning every competition except the Falling Plate, which was taken from them in the final by Sector Two.



Sector One prove their worth using the FN rifle

Yet despite their justifiable pride in their prowess, the high point for the competitors must have been the shared experience of a truly multi-national competition.



by Pol Sgt Derek Gough

On Tuesday 8 February, the UNFICYP Shooting Competition took place in the UN Protected Area, Nicosia with the Australian Civilian Police entering a four-man team comprising Paul Speirs (coach), George Argenti, Dale Brown, Derek Gough and Wayne Perry.

In Australia, Federal Police Officers are armed with .38 calibre revolvers, but in Cyprus, AUSTCIVPOL members are unarmed: in consequence, the first problem our team had was to borrow some sidearms! Fortunately, the Military Police came to the rescue with the loan of some 9mm Browning automatics, which had once belonged to the Canadian Contingent. Grateful as we were, the age of these weapons soon gave cause for some concern, due to their inaccuracy and unreliability: however, the only other suitable alternative were boomerangs!



The "A" team pose with the coach. "Get off me foot, Brownie!"

Three of the team members had never even seen a 9mm Browning before, let alone fired one, but undaunted, stripping, cleaning and stoppage lessons were soon organised by the team coach (who had once seen someone strip one), and who was the only team member to have actually used one before (Vietnam 1969!... was that really a quarter century ago?). However, the Aussie Police, always 'equal to the task', were soon stripping and cleaning their weapons as if they had been born with them. ("You've got a spring thing left over, George!"... "Must be a spare one mate".)

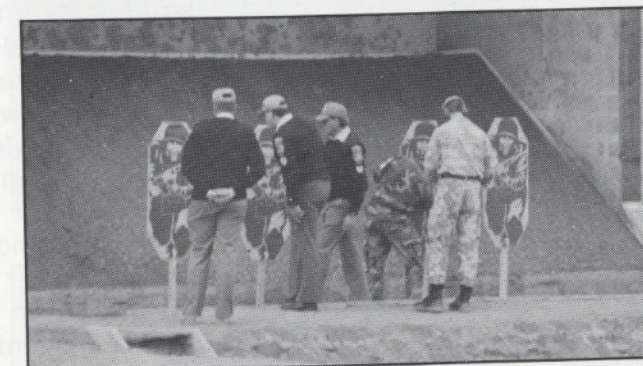
Practice shoots were then held to familiarise members with the weapons and after a few days, individual scores in both 'snap' and 'deliberate' shoots were more than reasonable and expectations were high. However, constant 'stoppages' due to weak magazine springs were quite a worry, especially in the timed shoots. Unfortunately, 2 RTR came to the rescue on the day of the competition, by loaning us some newer magazines, and that excuse sadly faded!

During the actual competition, high winds and heavy rain daunted many others, but despite also being delayed for some two hours by an administrative mystery, the Aussie team commenced the shoot full of optimism and bravado. In spite of the team 'veteran' deciding to take a rest during the timed exposure shoot (thus being then required to fire off six rounds in two seconds!), the combined team score proved to be quite satisfying. Out of the six teams competing,



Dale and George "make their day"

AUSTCIVPOL came a good second with our best shot, Dale Brown, equalling the individual top score in the whole competition. A superb effort, given that he had never fired a Browning before and the fact that the Austrian soldier he tied with used a 'state of the art' "GLOCK".



The coach pensively examines the targets, with George and Dale wondering why so many bullets were blanks...?

Of course, being able to boast that Aussie Coppers can outshoot all others in UNFICYP would have been nice, but the fact that we outshot the best that the British, the Argentinians, the Force Reserve and the Military Police could offer, and that we gave the Austrians a real fright, was more than satisfying. And, didn't we let them know about it!

THE PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF CYPRUS

by LCpl David Hughes

Our party arrived on the island on 8 December. We were welcomed by the RSM, who informed us how busy we were going to be, and that some of us would be out on the line that very evening... This was going to be a different kind of roller coaster ride! We soon learnt that the watch words for the next few weeks were "remain flexible".

I am part of the Permanent Force Reserve, based at the site of the Nicosia International Airport which came under UNFICYP control during the 1974 events. Along with a section of Argentinian and Austrian soldiers, we form, as the name suggests, a reserve force for the different sectors on the island. We provide mobile patrols for the areas where the sectors cannot fulfil the tasks themselves.



The 2ic tries his hand on a Steyr

Initially, there was some apprehension about working alongside soldiers of different nationalities. However after very little time, it was plain to see the enthusiasm amongst



Force Reserve en masse

the Brits, the Argentinians and the Austrians, and how keen everyone was to get on with everyone else. Each section in the Force Reserve has soldiers from all three nations which works very well, and I personally am enjoying the experience.

It took a few weeks to get settled in and used to the routine of UN peace-keeping, but now that things have calmed down, we are all enjoying life a lot more. We have already been tested in our operational readiness on Exercise Pandora's Box. The entire Force Reserve assembled in the UNPA and enjoyed an interesting day of cross-training on each other's rifles and vehicles. Everyone got the chance to take a closer look at the Panhard APCs from ARGCON which were based in Sector One. We, as the Permanent Force Reserve, also have our own Mowag APCs, which were demonstrated to the three contingents.



An Argentinian Marine from Sector One firing a British rifle.

We are quite fortunate because by providing mobile patrols on the island, we are able to get out and about more often than the guys who have to man the line. It is a very beautiful island, and both sides offer their own unique culture and humour. I have also been lucky enough to see quite a lot of Cyprus, including a look from the air provided by the AAC.

Everyone seems to be approaching the job with a lot of enthusiasm now, and I look forward to the remainder of my tour in Cyprus. To sum it all up, putting on the blue beret certainly is an experience!



UN MP TRAINING DAY

by Sgt Pete Conway



On Thursday 10 February 1994, the UN MP Element held its monthly training day. The idea was to hone some basic police and military skills, whilst being introduced to others.

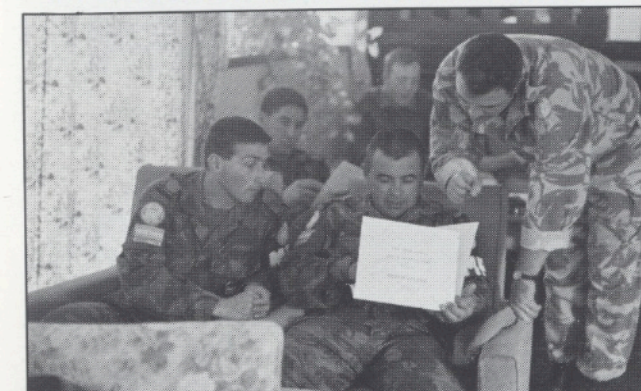
The whole unit took part, and the day started at UN Flight with a safety brief on action to be taken at the scene of a helicopter crash, together with fire fighting instructions using the different equipment available. This led on to a unit level fire fighting demonstration at the UN MP HQ by Sgt Chris Leeson.

A lecture was given by Sgt Conway on the taking of photographs at traffic accidents, and was followed by instruction on first aid by Cpl Eric Levesque. After a break for lunch, the Mil Skills team tackled the obstacle course, while the remainder of the unit met up at AUSTCIVPOL's Offrs' and Sgts' Mess and got thumped at volleyball (3-0) before retiring to the bar for a well earned drink.

It is rumoured that while all this was going on, the Special Investigation Section played Cluedo!



UN MPs practising their 'sneaking up on helicopters' drills



Sgt Conway, not satisfied with explaining the content of photographs, proudly shows his bald patch to the camera.



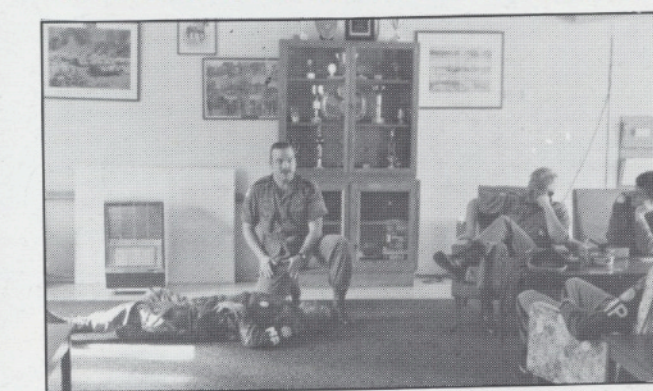
A dramatic portrayal of a fractured collar bone, while three wise (?) monkeys look on!



Cpl Levesque vaults an obstacle, while the identity of spectators is hidden to protect the innocent.



Sgt Leeson operates the hose whilst pulling a ridiculous face.



Cpl Levesque shows what happens to people who fall asleep in his lectures, while others unwittingly await their turn!

THE UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION



The UNFICYP Military Skills Competition took place on 22 February 1994, organised by Sector Four