

THE Blue Beret

October 1992





UNFICYP CHEQUE

Recently, Mrs Maura Minehane, wife of the Force Commander, and Mrs Trisha Lambe, wife of the Chief of Staff, handed over a cheque for £500.00 to Thea Kyprianou, President of the Cyprus Multiple Sclerosis Association. The cash was raised by the UNFICYP Families' Social and Welfare Committee. Pictured from the left are Rita Pantazis, Thea Kyprianou, Maura Minehane and Trisha Lambe.



SP REGT SKILLS AT ARMS MEETING

by Maj Vince Hazlewood



The winners - HQ Sqn: SQMS Harry Lomas, Gdsman 'Gilly' Gilroy, LBdr Shawn Holder, SQMS Brian Sherrington, SSgt Terry Speak, LCpl 'Mo' Morris, Maj Vince Hazlewood, LCpl Stu Mason

HQ Squadron first. For the first time, the monopoly of Workshop or Signal Squadron winning the Sp Regt SAAM has been broken by the HQ Sqn. This was mainly due to the good shooting of the pistol team. The overall results were:

Falling Plate winners: A Tp, 1 Sqn RCT
Runners-up: Ord/Fit

Pistol Individual Champion: SSgt Speak, HQ Sqn
Pistol Team winners: HQ Sqn
Runners-up: Wksp

SA80 Individual Champion: Cpl Basford, Sigs
SA80 Team winners: Sig Sqn
Runners-up: Wksp

Overall Winners: HQ Sqn
Runners-up: Wksp

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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

The AUSTCIVPOL
Duty Room
by S/Sgt Kev Capon

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

Usually, the editorial column is used to comment on events or activities in UNFICYP because, like every other element of the Force, this office shares the same interest in the local scene. Occasionally, it is necessary to rise above the local unit activities and operations to address issues with which the United Nations as an organisation is concerned.

Recent statements by the Secretary General to mark special UN occasions, eg the opening of the 47th regular session of the General Assembly, referred to the current major issues. These issues include, *inter alia*, the financial burden facing the UN, the increasing demands for involvement in humanitarian operations and the sacrifices made by peace-keepers.

The Secretary-General's most recent message is one of hope for the future and is of special interest to all involved with the work of the organisation. It is reprinted here for the benefit of members of UNFICYP.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON UNITED NATIONS DAY, 24 OCTOBER 1992

My message on this United Nations Day is one of hope.

Despite the news of wars, hunger, homelessness and disease affecting millions, the world is moving toward a new, more participatory, people-centered way of conducting international affairs.

To many people, particularly those living in countries in transition, this is a time of turbulence and uncertainty. In other places, anarchy seems to prevail. In much of the world, economic distress brings bewilderment and fear.

The United Nations too is undergoing change. The Charter enjoins us to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". Today we have a new opportunity to fulfil the purposes and principles of the Charter. Its goals - peace, prosperity and political participation - are the prerequisite of the life in dignity to which every man and woman aspires.

The first truly global era has begun. Critical issues increasingly require universal attention and effort. Development, disarmament, the environment, human rights and the underlying causes of conflict, all have a global dimension. The need for the world organization and its work is greater today than at any time since its founding.

I see hopeful signs that a new and better era is emerging. A reinvigorated United Nations will be at the heart of cooperative international progress.

On this United Nations Day, therefore, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the Charter. Let each of us ask what we can do to confirm the United Nations as mankind's best hope for the future.



THE DANCON MEDAL PARADE

by Maj Per Knudsen



The Colours and the Colour Guard

The Danish Contingent recently held its 57th Medal Parade at which UN medals were presented to the soldiers of DANCON 57, the last full Danish Unit to serve in UNFICYP.



HQ Coy forming up

The Parade was attended by approximately 180 guests. The UN medal was presented to 175 officers, NCOs and privates by the Force Commander, Maj Gen MF Minehane, the Chief of Staff, Brig RM Lambe MBE and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Col P Resch. The remaining 335 men in DANCON have already served with UNFICYP and they will receive their Silver Numeral from their Company Commanders.

DANCON held a very good Parade under the command of Contingent Commander, Lt Col



The parade awaits the FC



The band of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters

N E Jacobsen, and musical accompaniment was by the Band of the 1st Battalion, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters from the SBA Dhekelia.



B Coy listens to the FC's speech

The Force Commander addressed the Parade and thanked "the Vikings" of DANCON for their contribution to UNFICYP over the last 28 years, ending his speech in perfect Danish! The Parade finished with a march past and ended up at "Bronshoj Torv" where the Colours were encased. Refreshments were then served, followed by a buffet lunch in the DANCON Messes.

The personnel in DANCON would like to thank all participants for a wonderful day - one which they will never forget.



The FC salutes the Colours



VIKING CAMP

by Maj BMH Esbensen, OC HQ Coy



Since 1970, Viking Camp has been "home" for 44 Danish Contingents. The Camp is situated in Xeros, and the Cyprus Mines Corporation was a busy and dusty neighbour up until the events in 1974, when mining activities ceased.



The Viking Camp Infirmary

DANCON was originally located in Nicosia but due to deployment changes in UNFICYP, it was re-located to the Lefka District. Since then, HQ and HQ Coy have been based in Viking Camp, Xeros, having taken over from the Irish Contingent. At that time, it consisted of 46 tents and some corrugated iron buildings. With the arrival of DANCON, the planning of a new Camp was authorised.

After the 1974 events, several buildings from the Cyprus Mines Corporation were taken over by DANCON. The Manager's house and Pay Office were strong, stone buildings, and are now used as accommodation for the Commander and eight officers.

Today, Viking Camp consists of 58 buildings, portable cabins, shacks and huts, providing offices and accommodation for HQ DANCON and HQ Coy.



Members of the Workshop



The main road in Viking Camp

FORCE COMMANDER ON A LINE TOUR IN SECTOR ONE

Recently the FC visited Sector One. Maj Gen Minehane was inspecting the Contingent's area of operations as part of his review of the Forces' deployment.

The Force Commander and his MA over looking the area from OP D-34 guided by Pte T Meier. →



NEWS FROM THE SCOUT CAR SQUADRON

by Capt Charles Hedley

It is hard to believe that the Squadron has been in Cyprus for two months. The Cyprus leisurely way of life has certainly not been reflected in the hectic pace of events. The welcoming briefs have given us the opportunity to play host to the logistics teams, meet the personalities at the MP Company and enable the Officers to find out whom not to cross up at the Headquarters!

Nevertheless, it has been pleasing to report that the Scout Car troops on the ground have settled quickly into their patrol programmes and intermingled favourably with their Danish, Canadian and Austrian hosts. In return, we have been able to arrange for an exchange of two Canadian soldiers with Tprs Hymus and Preston for a couple of days. It is hoped that in the future, similar visits from different contingents can be arranged. The two remaining troops are both accommodated in Prince William Camp: one works for the Sector Two Regiment, while the other patrols the City. However, unlike our predecessors, the rotation of troops will occur more frequently as they move station every two and a half weeks.



Range Day



Lt Cook and Cpl Southern inspecting the Buffer Zone

The other major task of the Squadron is to command the Force Reserve, bringing under its wing a platoon from each contingent. A study day was held early in the month, followed by Exercise Pandora's Box two weeks later. The troops received a rude awakening early in the morning "crashing them out" to a meeting place in Sector Three. There then followed a series of communication and military knowledge stands and a crowd control demonstration run by the Australian Police, which enabled the different nationalities to get to know each other, and for the Cavalry to pit itself against the brawn of the Gunners.

The beauty of Cyprus, as the Squadron has been discovering away from military challenges, has been the wide range of exciting sporting activities on offer. Our tour to date has certainly proved to be intriguing, offering outstanding opportunities to travel and explore the island, and meet a wide variety of people amongst the UN Forces. It has been a wonderful start.

UNIT ADMIN OFFICE, UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT

by Sgt RA Charles



From the left: SSgt Smith, Cpl Jervis, WO2 Whiteside, Cpl Bott, Sgt Jeffrey and Maj Smith

The Support Regiment Unit Administration Office is situated in Jubilee Camp. The Office is responsible for all the pay and documentation requirements of Sp Regt personnel.

The office staff consists of Maj Ken Smith (Regimental Admin Officer), WO2 Pete Whiteside (Div 2), SSgt Andrew Smith (SSA), Sgt Paula Jeffery (Div 3), Cpls Sarah Linstead and Mark Jervis (two Div 4s) and Cpl Steve Bott (docs clerk).

In spite of working extremely hard during office hours, the members of the UAO also manage to get involved in many recreational activities, all of which engender a happy team spirit enabling everyone to enjoy their UNFICYP tour.

AUSTCIVPOL's LEDRA PALACE STATION

by Supt Ken Hunt

Arguably the busiest and most challenging of AUSTCIVPOL's stations, the Ledra Palace station is home to four Australian Civilian Police. Station Sergeant Lloyd Schmidt's "beat" includes the Buffer Zone through the centre of the old walled city of Nicosia and south to the Louroujina pocket. He and his three Sergeants work with the Canadians in Sector Three, reacting to incidents which involve civilians.

The Ledra Palace Hotel, situated in the Buffer Zone, is often the location for meetings between the two communities. It is also the major crossing point. Daily through Ledra Gate, an AUSTCIVPOL member drives the hospital bus transporting day-patients from North Nicosia hospitals to those in the south. Other taskings may include special escort duties, supporting the Humanitarian Branch in their operations or escorting patients requiring urgent medical treatment.

Nicosia, especially around the Ledra Gate, is the scene of many demonstrations during the year. Part of the duties of AUSTCIVPOL is to provide advice to the military about crowd control and to liaise with both Cypriot police services to minimise public disorder.

Outside the city, Sector Three Rural Company controls the Buffer Zone which stretches south-east through the Omorphita and Messaoria plains. Many of the tracks border minefields, some of which may not be accurately recorded or marked. These are sometimes revealed when the generated heat of a



Sergeant Jayne Chandler with Capt Gobiel of Sector Three, investigating the origin of a grass fire.

grass fire explodes the landmines. In cases where the fires have damaged farmers' crops or equipment or civilians have been killed or injured, AUSTCIVPOL will commence investigations into the cause.

Only 20 strong, AUSTCIVPOL members are stretched thinly along the Buffer Zone. From the mountains of Troodos to the plateaux of Mammari and Louroujina, they meet and mix with a cross section of the Cypriot population, citizens and visitors alike. Each Australian police officer is a volunteer, fulfilling a role of contribution to the maintenance and restoration of law and order in Cyprus.



Sgt Peter Murphy, Stn Sgt Lloyd Schmidt, Sgt Paul Southern, Sgt Bob Corrigan.

UNFICYP MP COY AYIA NAPA DETACHMENT - ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE

Ayia Napa - sun, sea, sand and yes, of course, Nissi Beach. Add to this 190 pubs, 19 nightclubs and plane loads of tourists and it is not hard to imagine why Ayia Napa is the place of choice for those of you having the occasional day off. Many within UNFICYP will indeed have happy memories of this holiday haven. A fact of military life is that where there are UN soldiers, there are sure to be UN Military Policemen, hence the UN MP presence in Ayia Napa.

From the seven contingents within the UN MP Coy, four are currently represented at the Ayia Napa Detachment, Austrian, Canadian, Danish and British. The Detachment is commanded by WO1 Fred Oster from AUSCON, assisted by Sgt Brian Weatherbee, Det 2IC from CANCON whose Cordon Bleu cooking is second to none.

The Detachment's responsibility is to provide Military Police support and services to the Ayia Napa area. Due to the absence of a large permanent military presence within this area of responsibility, the primary role is conducting disciplinary patrols, by day at Nissi Beach and by night at the "square". Close liaison with bar/pub owners and the local Cypriot Police ensures relatively smooth sailing for all Detachment members.



From the left: Sgt Nielsen, Cpl Warner, Sgt Simonsen, Cpl White, Cpl Pitman, Sgt Weatherbee, MCpl MacDougall and WO1 Oster (Det Comd).

Now that you have a little insight as to our role and function at the UN MP Det Ayia Napa, do not hesitate to contact us, no matter how slight you feel the problem may be. Remember, Ayia Napa is a place to be enjoyed.



ANNUAL UN MP COY DINING-IN NIGHT



MP Coy members and guests



The "top table": From the left: CWO Church, Sgt Joe Sheppard, Mrs Wallin, Mrs Resch, Maj Boone and the DCOS, Col Resch

The UNFICYP Military Police Company recently held their annual Dining-In Night. The function was held at the Ledra Palace WOs' and Sgts' Mess, and was attended by 70 members of the MP Coy with their ladies and members of the Australian and Swedish Civilian Police. Our guests of honour were the DCOS, Col



MP Coy members and guests



From the left: Sgt Pitman, Sgt Emma Shaw, WO2 Gerry Kelly and WO2 Ray Storch

THE RECOVERY SECTION

by Cpl Porter

The Section has three recovery vehicles:

The first is a Foden 6x6 Heavy Recovery Vehicle. Because of its unique lift capability, the Recovery Section is often called upon to assist with miscellaneous loading/unloading, moving and/or positioning of various items within UNFICYP.

The second is the Bedford Recovery Vehicle, tasked for the recovery of the 'lighter' vehicles such as Bedford 4 Tonners, Ferret Scout Cars and Landrovers.

Finally, there is the Bedford Platform Recovery Vehicle which handles lighter loads. It has a small winch in order to pull the casualty up onto the rear of the vehicle, at which point it is strapped down before being brought back for repair.



Foden 6x6 Heavy Recovery Vehicle with LCpl Mackleden



Bedford Platform Recovery Vehicle with Cpl Porter



Bedford Recovery Vehicle with LCpl Mackleden

During the summer period, when the weather is good, the number of recoveries is low. However, as the weather worsens, the recovery crew can expect to be called out to a greater number of jobs. In order to achieve a 24 hour recovery service, the Section shares a Duty Recovery Rota with the Force Scout Car's recovery mechanic, Cpl Hunter.

MRS CHRISTINE WILKINSON (WRVS)



Mrs Christine Wilkinson (WRVS)

Mrs Christine Wilkinson, Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS), joined the WRVS in January 1990 and has been with the King's Division, Infantry Training Depot at Strensall for the last 18 months. Chris has been posted to UNFICYP for two years to look after the welfare of the single British soldiers.

The WRVS room is located in the Elizabethan Club, so do go for a game of table-tennis or a chat and a brew. Chris can order your flowers for birthdays, etc. and can be contacted at HQ UNFICYP on Extension 2791.



NEWS FROM SECTOR TWO



PROMOTION WITHIN HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Four members of Headquarters Battery, Sector Two have recently been rewarded for their hard work within the Regiment.

Gunner John Ferris, the Quartermaster's clerk, was promoted to Lance-Bombardier. John will shortly transfer from the Gunners to the Adjutant General's Corps, a new Corps for administration within the British Army. The steady promotion prospects of clerking, together with the increase in pay, is welcomed by John as he plans to marry his Danish fiancée, Puk, in the near future. John is a good cross-country runner and he enjoys all endurance sports.

Another soldier within the Quartermaster's Department to be promoted is Bombardier Paul Bowles to Sergeant. Paul began his career in the Army as a mounted gunner in the King's Troop. These soldiers are often seen on ceremonial duties at the Horse Guards, Whitehall, London. Since arriving at 5th Regiment RA, he has been employed as a Technical Storeman. He recently passed a Battery Quartermaster Storeman's course which resulted in his promotion to Rations Sergeant. He still has to be up at the crack of dawn, not to feed the horses, but to collect food to feed the hungry soldiers of Sector Two.



Left to right: Sgt Bowles, Bdr Jacobs, Bdr Bird and L/Bdr Ferris

Yet another soldier to be promoted within the Quartermaster's Department is Lance-Bombardier John Jacobs to Bombardier. John is employed as the Clothing Storeman and is also responsible for the Battery's mountain bikes, which the soldiers use quite often. A keen sportsman, John is a member of the Battery's DANCON March Squad and in quieter moments, he has been spotted out and about with a metal detector - probably looking for little parts fallen off the mountain bikes!

The fourth soldier to be promoted was Lance-Bombardier Paul

Bird to Bombardier. Paul has exchanged his Dortmund job of operating and maintaining the 432 Command post for the Ops Room of Sector Two. His patience, learnt from trying to keep the Regiment's elderly Army personnel carriers roadworthy, has been equally useful in dealing with cracking landlines and difficult radio checks. John is a keen mountain bike rider, whose unusual idea of an enjoyable weekend is to cycle up and down the Kyrenia mountains.

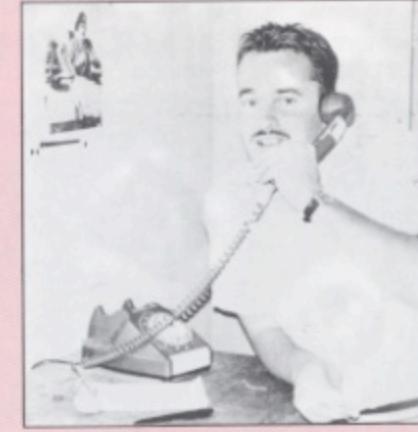
REFLECTIONS OF THE HQ BATTERY



Bdr Hopkinson sorts out the mail for the soldiers



WO2 (BSM) Lucery arranging future events for HQ Bty



Cpl Tucker AGC (SPS) sorting out the soldiers' pay



NEWS FROM SECTOR TWO



by Lt T Price-Jones

SOLDIERS OF SECTOR TWO VISIT SECTOR ONE



Sector Two soldiers being given a briefing by Sector One

NEW BATTERY SERGEANT MAJOR IN P (THE DRAGON TROOP) BATTERY



WO2 (BSM) Sheppard demonstrates his "mean" look!

WO2 (BSM) John Sheppard BEM has recently taken over the post of Battery Sergeant Major, P Bty. John, who's a retired rugby player, has been a member of P Bty for most of his military career.

SOLDIERS OF Q BATTERY RUN FOR CHARITY

Fifteen soldiers of Q (Sanna's Post) Battery recently took part in the 1992 Limassol Fun Run/Walk for Charity, organised by the Lions Club, Limassol. The route took them along the Limassol sea front, starting at the Old Port and finishing at Kolossi Castle. £75 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Research Trust of Cyprus.



Members of Q Bty's sponsored run

VISIT BY COLONEL C COPELAND



From left to right: Capt AJ Waller, Col C Copeland and Lt Col RE Preedy

Col Chris Copeland RA, Commander General Support, HQ 1 Artillery Brigade, Dortmund, 5th Regiment's higher command in Germany, recently visited them in Cyprus.

Col Copeland toured the line of Sector Two and spoke to many of the soldiers and officers. This was his last visit to the Regiment as Commander General Support, as he is soon posted from Dortmund Garrison.

AUSTCIVPOL HOSTS UNFICYP VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

by Supt Geoff Hazel



The Grand Finalists with the UNFICYP Volleyball Shield. CANCON (white) ran out winner against DANCON.

The 1992 UNFICYP Volleyball Competition was held in August in the Trident Hanger, UNPA. Each of the four Sectors entered two teams with one from Support Regiment, The UN Military Police Company, AUSTCIVPOL and SWEDCIVPOL combined to form a team called "UN Police".

As the day wore on, the heat in the hangar increased - not entirely due to the outside temperature. The high quality of the players, each individual's commitment to do the best by his team and the vocal support of the spectators took the atmosphere to pressure cooker proportions. Some sequences of play were so exciting that spectators imagined them akin to replays of the Olympic Games.

After playing six hard games, both finalists, CANCON and DANCON, made full use of the lunch break to rest before the gold medal match. The first game seemed to be going to the team

from Viking Camp, but gradually, the Canadians turned the game around to take full charge of the match. In the final analysis, CANCON One defeated DANCON One 15-10 and 15-5.

Throughout the day, good sportsmanship was a feature. The appreciation of the organisers goes to all who officiated in the competition and to the players who graciously accepted some of our more "unusual" decisions.

THE ORDNANCE DETACHMENT



Sgt Del Pentland (right) with Panikos, who is putting the last coat of varnish to the wood before the upholstery process.

The Ord Det employs several civilians in a variety of jobs in and around the Detachment.

Panikos Shamakides is an upholsterer and works in the Ord Det's refurbishment department. His job is to repair and upholster non-maintenance furniture for re-issue to units in UNFICYP. Panikos has worked at the Ord Det for five years, and produces a high standard of work.



Thomas Nicolaides, working on old furniture with a few finished items in the background.

SUPPORT REGIMENT CATERERS

by SSgt Speak • Catering Dept, Sp Regt



Three times a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, hot food is provided to the living-in personnel of UNFICYP by members of the Army Catering Corps.

The Army Catering Corps was formed in 1941 to provide a better and more efficient feeding system for the British Army. Since then, the Corps has served all around the world and on every conflict from the Falklands to the Gulf War and more recently in Yugoslavia.

All Chefs entering the Corps are trained at Aldershot in England to levels set by the Civilian Industry.

This makes members ideally suited to enter the trade on leaving the Army.

To commemorate the Corps' birthday, this year members of Support Regiment placed a wreath at the grave of Pte R Adamson who is buried at Wayne's Keep Cemetery, Nicosia. Pte Adamson, Army Catering Corps, died aged 22 on 22 October 1954, whilst on service in Cyprus.

The Catering Team consists of the Messing Officer, Maj (QM) Tony Chaytors RA, with Master Chef WO2 (SQMS) Harry Lomas BEM assisted



WO2 (SQMS) Lomas BEM at Wayne's Keep Cemetery



The Catering Dept: Back Row: LCpl Smith AG, Cpl Colgan CJ, LCpl Topping A, Cpl Snook I, Pte Paxton M, Cpl Paton R, Cpl Turner RM DERR.

Front Row: Cpl Penrose AT, Sgt Jones P, WO2 (SQMS) Lomas CH BEM, Maj (QM) Chaytors A RA, SSgt Speak TW, Sgt Mackie JH, Cpl Bowers DA.

by SSgt Terry Speak. These are the only permanent members of the team. They provide all the messing requirements for the Jubilee Camp Regimental Restaurant, the WOs' & Sgts' Mess and the HQ UNFICYP Officers' Mess.

Amongst their many commitments, the Chefs provided a Fish & Chips stall at the Spring Fair, frying for five hours, serving over 1,000 portions of Fish & Chips!! In addition to the heavy workload, members of the Department are still very keen to represent the Regiment and Squadron in competitions such as Shooting, Mil Skills, Cross Country, Orienteering, Bowling and Football to name but a few, as well as mass participation in major UNFICYP events such as the DANCON March.

SUPPORT REGIMENT MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

by Maj Vince Hazlewood



Sp Regt Mil Skills 92/2 - The winning Ord/Fit Team.

For the second time in a week, the outsiders have won - this time Ord/Fit, who usually finish in the lower half of the results, have pulled off an

excellent win in the Sp Regt Mil Skills Competition. Led by Lt Peter Duke, the team were never out of the top two positions. 254 Sig Sqn chased hard all the way with WO2 Yeoman Kelly having pulled a calf muscle on the march, gamely completing the assault course despite being in considerable pain.

The winners were:

10km March:	Ord/Fit
Shooting:	B Tp 1 Sqn RCT
Map Reading:	Sig Sqn
Grenade Throw:	Ord/Fit
Recognition:	Sig Sqn
Assault Course:	Ord/Fit
Overall Runners up:	254 Sig Sqn
Overall Winners	Ord/Fit

CAVALRY ON PARADE

