

THE Blue Beret

October 1996



UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATIONS 51ST ANNIVERSARY

For the second year in succession, over 3,000 Cypriots and UNFICYP celebrated United Nations Day on 24 October with a bi-communal event at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Not so large an event this year, but nonetheless another event towards bringing the two communities on the Island closer together.

Other, wider ranging responsibilities within UNFICYP left only a short planning period before the actual day but, with the help and hard work of all Contingents, Headquarters personnel, other UN bureaux and outside agencies involved in bi-communal activities, the Ledra Palace was a veritable hive of activity with everything in place well in advance of the first guest arriving for our Reception, themed after the first words of the United Nations Charter: "We, the Peoples of the United Nations..." Beer, wine and soft drinks were cooled and waiting, various national dishes were simmering and sizzling, flags, posters, booklets and brochures were laid out to form an information aisle, a greeting to those entering through the Exchange Point in the Buffer Zone.

Everyone was obviously keen to get there and start - the official timing was 6.30pm but by 5.50pm people were streaming in, being welcomed by Mr and Mrs Feissel, Brig Gen and Mrs Vartiainen, and looking around to see who they could meet. As last year, there were heartwarming scenes of greetings between old friends, cries of joy when encountering a long lost neighbour, a few tears when it all became too much and, despite recent incidents, the years just melted away. This is what makes all the long hours and hard work worthwhile. This is what makes you feel that you, personally, have actually achieved something. This is when you realize that UNFICYP is here for a purpose.



British soldiers serving their delicious roast beef and Yorkshire pud



Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists having an amicable discussion

By the time the Chief of Mission started his welcoming speech at 7.10 pm, there must have been almost 2,000 people! Quite a turn-out and even more arrived before the evening was through! The CM's speech was well received and followed by the most touching and symbolic moment of the evening, when Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot guests read out a joint statement and Cypriot children presented baskets of fruit and preserves from all parts of the island to Mr Feissel.

Everyone then started on the food - Argentinian empanadas, Austrian/Hungarian goulash, British roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, all prepared by Contingent personnel and very well received! Most of the drinks were generously donated by Cypriot companies from the north and south, with bottles being donated by UN personnel themselves - all for a good cause after all! The bands struck up, adding gaiety and a festive air to the night which was, luckily at this time of year, both dry and reasonably warm.

All in all the reception was a success, old friendships re-kindled, new friendships made. Teenagers who had never met before exchanged e-mail addresses in a new spirit of cyber space bi-communalism. Laughter, and the flash of cameras to record the event, all added to a memorable occasion.

All we're waiting for now is the next one - but why wait until next October when everyone was asking when the next one would be held? We're calling on Cypriots, from all corners of the Island - show the world your willingness. Don't wait for the UNFICYP to show the way! After all, as Mr Feissel said, the evening was "...an eloquent message to those who may doubt that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live in friendship and harmony". So, go ahead. We'll assist!

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Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

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FRONT COVER:

THE CHIEF OF MISSION WITH THE CHILDREN OF CYPRUS

BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

On 24 October, people around the world celebrated the 51st Anniversary of the day when the Charter of the United Nations came into force. Various organizations marked that day in Cyprus. UNFICYP traditionally celebrated its birthday with Cypriots across the divide. More than 3,000 guests attended. Those who were not able to participate could get the gist of the evening from our reportage and the front cover. Addressing the gathering in his message for the Anniversary, the Chief of Mission of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, said among other things..."Tonight you have an opportunity to meet some of those in Cyprus who personify the efforts of the United Nations: the soldiers, humanitarian workers and civilian staff. They all have come to this Island voluntarily because they believe in the cause of the United Nations and its mandate in Cyprus. They are devoted to assisting you in every way they can. This reception is bringing together representatives of both communities from many walks of life: youth leaders and political leaders, businessmen, trade unionists, women's groups, educators, lawyers, citizens groups and political leaders. You have an opportunity to help ensure that old contacts between the two communities are not lost and that the new ones are being established. Your bi-communal contacts will help build mutual trust. The Cyprus problem is not a spectator sport. Cyprus is your Island, and it is therefore your responsibility to work tirelessly for a federal settlement. As Cypriots, you must reach out to each other with words and deeds grounded in respect to resolve your differences and rebuild your country. In this endeavour, the United Nations stands not between you, but among you as a friend and supporter..."

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Remarks by the Chief of Mission
of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus
at the bi-communal reception at the Ledra Palace Hotel
on United Nations Day,
24 October 1996

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to see you in such great numbers at this bi-communal reception on the occasion of United Nations Day. Today, we celebrate the day when the Charter of the United Nations came into force on 24 October 1945. Your presence here gives true meaning to the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations which begins with the words: "We the people of the United Nations..."

The Charter of the United Nations is about faith in fundamental human rights and the practice of tolerance. Most of all, the Charter is about living together peacefully. This most important document of international law was drawn up with the horrors of World War II still fresh on everybody's mind. It is, therefore, not surprising that the founding fathers of the United Nations insisted so adamantly on restoring recognition of the basic human values of tolerance and respect for our fellow human beings. Regrettably, we know only too well how much remains to be done to approach these goals, including, of course, in Cyprus.

Five tragic and unnecessary deaths in as many months is a stark reminder that the current situation in Cyprus is untenable and that a settlement is long overdue. As fellow human beings, we are all saddened and diminished by what has happened. It is important that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots affirm that these tragic incidents do not represent the true sentiments and desires of the people of the two communities in Cyprus and that such incidents must never happen again.

The recent tragic events must inspire not only the leaders of both communities, but indeed all Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to dedicate themselves more than ever to resolve their differences.

Your presence here this evening is an eloquent message to those who may doubt that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live in friendship and harmony in a bicomunal and bizonal federal Cyprus.

Joint Statement
made by Mrs Argyrou Eftimiou, Greek Cypriot,
and Mr Mustafa Anlar, Turkish Cypriot,
read on behalf of all those invited to the
United Nations Day Bi-communal Reception

Your Excellencies, honourable guests and dear friends,

On behalf of all the bi-communal groups, we would like to thank the U.N. for organizing this bi-communal event tonight. And, for all its valuable and very necessary assistance in the bi-communal activities.

We would now like our children, our future, to offer Mr. Feissel a gift, a very special gift which comes from the bottom of our hearts. A gift from the people of Cyprus to the international community for all the help it is giving to us.

We are giving to you a basket of Cyprus fruit and reserves, which sustained life in Cyprus for thousands of years, under very difficult circumstances at times. These products, just like all the Cypriots who are here tonight, come from every corner of the island, east, west, north and south. They were grown on Cyprus soil, just like we all grew up here. The island went through terrible droughts, locust attacks, earthquakes and other natural disasters but its land always managed to provide for its people and sustain life. Like its land, we hope that the peacebuilding efforts of its people will bear fruits and the future generations will live together happily and peacefully on this war torn island.

ALERT STATE YELLOW

From 11 September to 9 October, UNFICYP went through the taxing challenge of a sustained increase in its alert state. Raising the state of alert is one of UNFICYP's graduated responses to events. Twice during this summer, UNFICYP increased its alert state from "Green", the norm, to "Yellow" in order to deter possible further incidents. In the first instance, the change was implemented for a two day period in the middle of August after the incidents in Dherinia. The second period, lasting 29 days, was a response to the continuing tension on the island. The state of alert was raised in order to increase UNFICYP's ability to respond quickly in potential areas of conflict and to keep these areas under constant surveillance. Temporary OPs were manned in Sectors Two and Four, and patrolling was increased, as was UNFICYP's general presence in the UNBZ.

Each alteration of the alert state has achieved its objective, although very difficult to prove as with any preventive measure, since, the proof is in the negative, i.e. nothing happens. The sustained state "Yellow" has also provided UNFICYP with the opportunity to realistically check its procedures, level of training and resources.



Argentinian, Austrian and British soldiers dismounting for a patrol during alert state "Yellow".

The reduction by 44% in the size of UNFICYP in 1993 necessitated a reassessment of how a change in alert state can be implemented. Limited manpower resources require a clearer assessment of the threat as well as a more focused identification of the main effort and how it can be achieved. The circumstances, which triggered the September/October state "Yellow", led UNFICYP to

concentrate its main effort on Sectors Two and Four. As a result, a significant number of soldiers throughout the Force had to be redeployed to ensure that all tasks were met.

Regrouping and redeployment creates problems. Each redeployed soldier leaves a job behind which has to be taken over by others or simply left undone. In the areas to which they are redeployed, the soldiers have to be briefed, tasked and provided with accommodation and food. Such problems can be resolved by drill and practice. Most of all, it requires flexibility, improvisation and a willingness to accept temporary inconvenience or even hardship.

In a peacekeeping mission, an intimate knowledge of the operating area is a prerequisite for success. However, redeployment of forces means that soldiers will be operating in areas where they have little knowledge. Thus, the need for familiarization and reorganization has to be included in the planning.

In particular, it has to be recognized that the receiving Sector will have to provide all necessary administrative support so that all reinforcing soldiers can be deployed where they are really needed - on the OP or on patrol.

Even with the redeployment, the workload on individuals increased enormously. During state "Yellow", UNFICYP had 80% of all personnel on duty in the BZ at any one time with soldiers being on duty for nine days out of ten. Almost all leave was cancelled. As a result, the personnel became very strained.

Despite all the problems, UNFICYP rose to the challenge and proved to be flexible and capable of raising the alert state over a prolonged period of time. The resilience, professionalism and common sense of all personnel ensured that, despite the strains, UNFICYP was able to demonstrate initiative and resolve in response to events.

There are further lessons to be learnt from these periods. The best lesson of all has been that new friendships were made and new experiences gained. Soldiers normally working only within their contingent suddenly found themselves serving next to those from others on the same patrol, in the same OP. Despite all exertion, state "Yellow" contributed to bonding UNFICYP further into a truly international peace-keeping force.

VISIT TO UNFICYP BY AIR COMMODORE JL UPRICHARD AIR OFFICER (SECURITY) & PROVOST MARSHAL (ROYAL AIR FORCE)

On Monday 23 September 1996, Air Commodore JL Uprichard, the Air Officer (Security) & Provost Marshal (Royal Air Force), visited UNFICYP. The Air Commodore was in Cyprus to discuss the formation of the Cyprus Joint Service Police Unit which is to take effect on 1 April 1997. This will mean the British RAF Police and Royal Military Police on the Sovereign Base Areas will form one unit, taking advantage of the expertise and resources that both have to offer, thus providing a better service to the community which they serve.

During his visit to UNFICYP, Air Commodore Uprichard travelled around the UNPA and in particular the site of old 'RAF Nicosia'. Following a VIP brief by the COS, Col RI Talbot, the Air Commodore then went to the UN MP Element where he had the opportunity to meet MPs from ARGCON, AUSCON, BRITCON and IRCON. He was impressed with the professionalism he met, and commented on how appropriate it was that the MP



Air Commodore Uprichard meeting WOII Brever and Sgt Hade during his visit to the UN MP Element

Element now occupied the same real estate that had once been HQ RAF Police, RAF Nicosia.

Following this, Air Commodore Uprichard went on a line tour with Sector Two before moving on to Ayios Nikolaos.

HUM BRANCH TO THE RESCUE

On 30 September 1996, an urgent request was received by the Deputy Commander IRCPOL, Supt M Cosgrave, for group "O" negative blood. He immediately contacted Maj Plesnitozer, Humanitarian Branch Sector Four, and within one hour, three Austrian soldiers with the correct blood group presented themselves at Larnaca Hospital. The patient, Mrs Spyroulla Soteriou from Pyla, had a successful operation on 1 October and is doing very well.

On 4 October, Mr Stavrou, Town Clerk, presented the Austrian soldiers with a gold pin in appreciation of their prompt response.



Mr Stavrou with the three Austrian soldiers: Albert Stuhler, Roman Wenger and Gernot Jurosek

ARGCON/BRITCON SIDE BY SIDE

DURING a busy period when members of ARGCON were working alongside BRITCON soldiers, the photo (left) shows an opportunity for closer ecumenical ministry for Argentinian Padré Raul Perrupato (Roman Catholic) and British Padré Ray Hayter (Anglican) in caring for their men.

Padré Ray Hayter (second from left) and Padré Raul Perrupato (right) with soldiers from UN 45



SHOWING THE FLAG EVEN AT NIGHT

It is well known procedure that all patrol vehicles are to be clearly marked with a UN flag and, when used during the hours of darkness, the flag is to be illuminated.

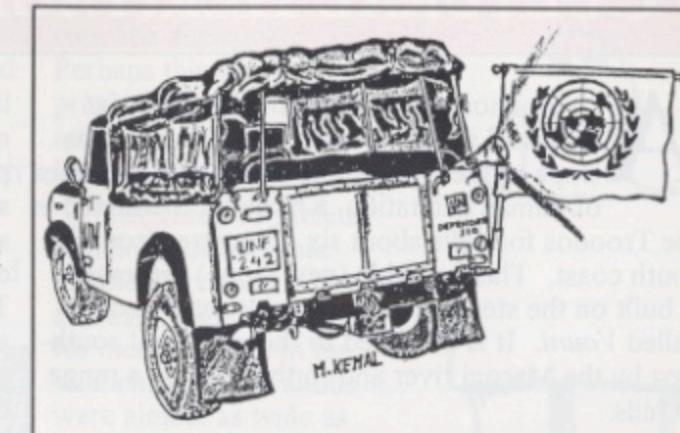
During the recent increase in the alert state, the Quartermaster (Technical) walked into the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Light Aid Detachment and said: "Staff, we have a slight problem with vehicle flag lights.... Can you help?"

Over the years, the old Landrover fleet had been modified to have flag lights fitted. However, this is not the case with the fleet of vehicles presently on lease to UNFICYP. There are currently many varied, some technical and others not so technical, methods of lighting up the UN flag.

The solution to the problem is very simple: attach a light to the vehicle. Achieving the solution, however, is not so simple when you take into account the following:

- The number of vehicles involved.
- The different shapes and sizes of vehicles.
- The procurement and cost of the materials, lights and brackets, etc.
- The amount of labour involved to manufacture, attach and wire in the modification.
- The length of time it would take to modify the complete vehicle fleet.

The problem required rapid response and so the solution needed to be quick to assemble and



simple enough for the troops on the ground to embody. Most important of all though, it needed to be operationally effective.

20 minutes after the QM (T) had walked out of the LAD, a successful working prototype had been assembled and tested in a wind tunnel (held in front of a fan!). The stop gap solution had been achieved by attaching an army right angle torch to a flag pole with two plastic tyre wraps. To help keep the flag flying upright, a length of coat hanger was cut, bent into shape, attached to the flag pole and threaded through the top of the flag. A simple, cheap and effective solution to the problem.

Eventually, a proper modification will be introduced, but that will take time and cost money. So until then, a coat hanger and a torch will suffice.

VISIT TO UNFICYP BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALFRED PLIENEGGER

From 24 to 28 September 1996, Lt Gen Alfred Plienegger, the CO of the First Corps of the Austrian Army, paid an official visit to UNFICYP. He first visited the Austrian Contingent located in the eastern part of the island, and was then escorted to the Headquarters where he called on the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen.

Following his visit, Lt Gen Plienegger travelled on to Damascus, where he met troops serving with UNDOF.

This was not Lt Gen Plienegger's first visit to this mission. He served here as Chief Operations Officer from September 1980 to September 1981.



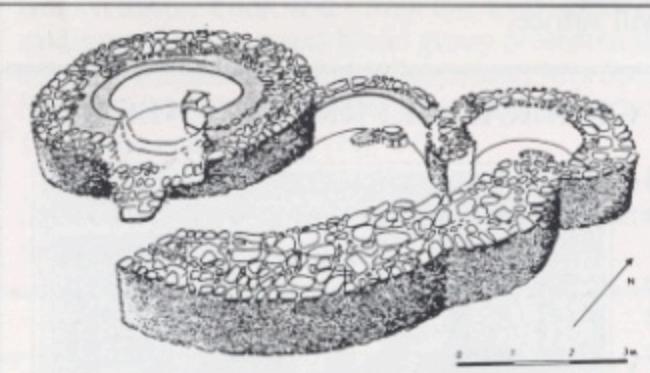
Lt Gen Plienegger outside HQ UNFICYP with the FC

A BRIEF ENOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part II

At a junction point where the old Nicosia/Limassol road meets the motorway on the slope of the hill lies one of the earliest traces of human habitation. Khirokitia is situated in the Troodos foothills about six kilometres from the south coast. This neolithic (new stone) settlement is built on the steep slopes of a rocky eminence called *Vouni*. It is bordered to the north and south-east by the Maroni river and to the west by a range of hills.

It was 1934 when archeologists first unearthed this important settlement, which dates back to the 7th millennium BC. Khirokitia is perhaps the most authentic discovery of its era. Climbing the hill along the stony footpath connecting the river site with the houses, visitors can easily comprehend the life of the first Cypriots. They must imagine how the landscape appeared in the neolithic period by ignoring the road below the site, replacing the stony terraces by dense vegetation and accentuating the ravine at the top of the hill which separates the settlement from the rocky spur.

By taking advantage of the natural protection offered by the meander of the Maroni river and the escarpment of the hill, the inhabitants of Khirokitia isolated their living space from the outside world with constructions which imply an important communal effort.



Sketch of an architectural complex

They lived in a distinctive style of house known as a "tholos", built on circular foundations and shaped like a beehive or igloo. The houses vary in size, the largest having an outer diameter of approximately 10 m and an inner diameter which varies from 4.20 to 5.60 m. This provides a living space of between 14 and 25 square metres. If one accepts the figure of ten square metres as being the

living space necessary for one person, this structure may accommodate two or three people. The smaller structures have an outer diameter ranging from 3.30 to 5.60 m and an inner diameter of 2.00 to 3.50 m.

The walls of houses were made of stone, pisé or mudbrick, used together or separately. Both faces of the walls were whitewashed, and the inner face was sometimes painted with red ochre.

The floors of these houses were covered with a layer of plaster which was periodically renewed. In some houses, there is a succession of up to ten layers. According to the functions of each structure, the floor contained a variety of features such as platforms, low partition walls or domestic installations like hearths, basins and troughs.

The method of roofing is not clearly understood. The existence of domed roofs, which is technically possible and ethnologically attested, was based on the fact that some walls at Khirokitia have a distinct tapering curvature. However, during recent excavations of the site, fragments of pisé bearing traces of branches on the side were found inside some of the houses. This may indicate that the roofs were flat and made of branches or reeds covered with mud. If this is so, it is possible that the larger structures with an inner diameter of 5.60 m were also flat roofed.

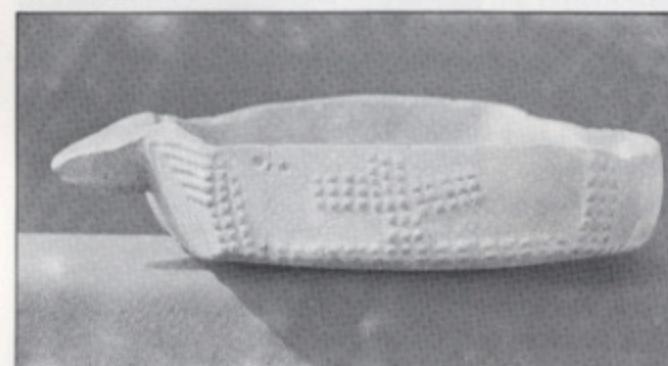
The settlement at Khirokitia was inhabited by farmers who cultivated wheat and barley, as shown by the analysis of carbonised seed material. Grain was harvested with flint sickles hafted in wood or bone. Only the flint blades have survived. Meat from deer, sheep, goats and pigs was provided by hunting and stock breeding, and wool was used to weave clothes.



Reconstruction of three stone houses

KHIROKITIA

In addition, several findings made of raw material not available in Cyprus, like haematite and blades of obsidian (which is not native to Cyprus, but is found in abundance in Asia Minor) indicate that these people managed to cross the sea to reach the opposite shore and establish trading with other neighbouring countries. All the evidence demonstrates that at Khirokitia there was a well organised society which was highly exceptional for that time.



Stone bowl from Khirokitia

Nothing is known about the religion of these people, as no shrines have been identified. Burial customs, on the other hand, are well known. Regardless of sex or age, the dead were usually buried inside the houses in a contracted position without specific orientation. They were placed in shallow pits and then covered with a layer of mud which made up part of the floor. Sometimes they were accompanied by grave goods such as jewellery



Tomb

and stone vessels. A middle-aged woman was found wearing a necklace of carnelian with her pelvis and legs placed on two broken andesite vessels. In some cases, a large stone was placed

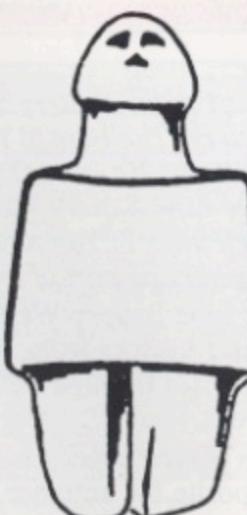
over the deceased. Perhaps this was to prevent the spirit from returning to haunt the living.

The study of skeletal remains indicates that people were short. The average height was 1.61 m for men and 1.50 m for women, and their skulls were almost as wide as they were long. Infant mortality under one year of age was high. It also seems that men lived longer than women, and that the majority of adults died between the ages of 25 and 40. It may be that natural causes such as diseases to which the island population at that time were particularly susceptible played a decisive part in the destruction of this civilisation.

The origins and decline of this highly original culture are still not clearly known. Was there another, older culture, or was it brought to the island by settlers from the continent? If so, where did these people come from? Due to the lack of architectural remains, the effects of erosion and the depredations of man, the knowledge of this site's re-occupation is also of a limited nature. As was the case with all other aceramic sites, Khirokitia suddenly came to an end. It was not until 1,500 years later that the site was re-occupied by a ceramic culture.

Khirokitia is only a 45-minute drive from Nicosia and is well worth a visit. It is a place where history has impressed its presence on every inch of land - a meeting place of the past and present. Only by walking over the narrow streets of this fascinating neolithic settlement, with its ruins and reconstructed houses, can the visitor

attempt to imagine how, 7,000 years ago, people from this part of the world lived and worked.



SOCER FRIENDLIES

Some of the best "policed" sports events took place earlier this year. Two games of football were played between the Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE) and AUSTCIVPOL (with a little help from their friends). The first took place at the UNPA sports field, and was the first game ever between the two teams - which might explain the torrential rain on the day! Despite desperate attempts to come to grips with the pace, youth and talent of the TCPE, AUSTCIVPOL were clearly outclassed. The closest we got to them (in sporting terms) was before the kick off and later, when the two teams retired to the Kangaroo Club for 'light refreshments'. At this stage, embarrassment dictates that the final score be kept a secret...



Above are both teams, after their ordeal. And now the truth is out!
First game: AUSTCIVPOL: 3, TCPE: 12
Second game: TCPE: 10, AUSTCIVPOL: 6

Having already played two matches, the third game between HQ National Guard and HQ UNFICYP was eagerly awaited - by some!



The HQ UNFICYP team

NG had the better of the first half, playing some good football and deserving of their 2:0 lead at the interval. HQ UNFICYP obviously benefited from some good "advice" from their team manager at

half-time, as they scored four goals in the second half, including one by veteran defender George Burton - to snatch victory by 4:3.

The fourth game was played in hot, humid conditions on the beautifully manicured pitch at HQ National Guard. Conservation of energy was

It was played in ideal conditions at the UNPA earlier this year before a small but appreciative group of spectators. HQ



The team from HQ National Guard

and leaves the way open for the fifth in the series - perhaps?

The TCPE hosted the second match which was played in north Nicosia. Still smarting from the result of the first game, the Aussies had an intense recruiting drive within the UNPA and naturalised a few more 'would be' Australians for the Day (Irish, British and Argentinian). This time, the weather was fine and hot (about 37 degrees too hot), and the football ground was in magnificent condition. International 'AUSTCIVPOL' were full of confidence, but unfortunately, so were the TCPE... Despite a valiant effort by the multi-nationals, the TCPE were once again just too good, and although there was a noticeable improvement, we still came second. As with the first game, the final score will be kept a secret! After the match, the teams were well entertained at the TCPE police club.

THE UNFICYP SWIMMING COMPETITION

by 1/Lt M Oberfeld

Hosting a swimming competition is not an easy job for a small unit like the Permanent Force Reserve, and especially on those days when everybody is keen to jump straight into the crystal clear water of the UNPA swimming pool.

On 17 July, this event materialized. There was a lot of work to do before the competitors were able to reap the fruits of victory! Eventually, five teams (out of a possible 10) entered, and following a strict training schedule, they presented themselves on the day in a fighting-fit condition. Along with a variety of different musical accompaniments, the races started.



The race is on!

The individual events started with the 100 m backstroke, followed by 100m butterfly, 200 m breast stroke and 200 m freestyle, all of which were won by members of Sector Four. Then followed the relay races, and again, all events were won by Sector Four.

However, there were two outstanding performances in addition to the successes of Sector Four personnel. The first was the excellent butterfly relay 4 x 50, where only two teams managed to finalize. Secondly, we should all praise the efforts

of the four "young stars" in the HQ team, who, once again in the butterfly event, displayed excellent swimming skills.

One aim of this event was to change the spirit of UNFICYP competitions. As opposed to the pure military skills contests, such as the mandatory UNFICYP Military Skills

and Shooting Competitions, the PFR tried to organise a sporting event which would be:

- * open to every member of UNFICYP, be it military or civilian personnel, dependants or any UN ID card holder;
- * more motivating than frustrating;
- * more fun than force and, of course;
- * a change from the day-to-day routine.

This "new spirit" was encouraged by all Training Officers in order to promote a better understanding of competitors, organisers and spectators alike. The PFR, itself an international unit, hope that this understanding will spread, and that everyone will get into the Olympic spirit - after all, participation is more important than victory.

VISIT OF THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER

The Duke of Westminster paid a flying visit to the island on 6 July in his capacity as Honorary Colonel of the Scottish Yeomanry. The tour of Sector Two started with a briefing on the background of the Cyprus situation in the All Island Briefing Room. The Duke was then driven to UN 75, from where he walked along the Green Line to Maple House. During his brief tour, the Duke talked with officers and men from Sector Two on their duties and life style whilst serving with UNFICYP.

The Duke being briefed by Major Staveley, with Lt Brunswick on the right



The Force Commander congratulating Gráinne King



LESSONS LEARNED BY ARGENTINIAN TASK FORCE 7

The events in Cyprus which took place last August were the most significant since the troubles in 1974. Sector One was, and still is, expected to provide reserves to other Sectors and the UNPA in case of an emergency. Unpredictable situations could include a variety of missions whereby those detailed have to report whatever they observe and, in many cases, they are required to solve an incident before it escalates.

The problems we sometimes face could exacerbate the situation, if not handled correctly. In order to avoid any possible difficulty, we decided to transfer some of the manpower from our HQ and Support Coy, however, the big question was whether we would be able to train them to an acceptable standard in time. The answer was to create a method which would be possible to follow in any sort of situation.

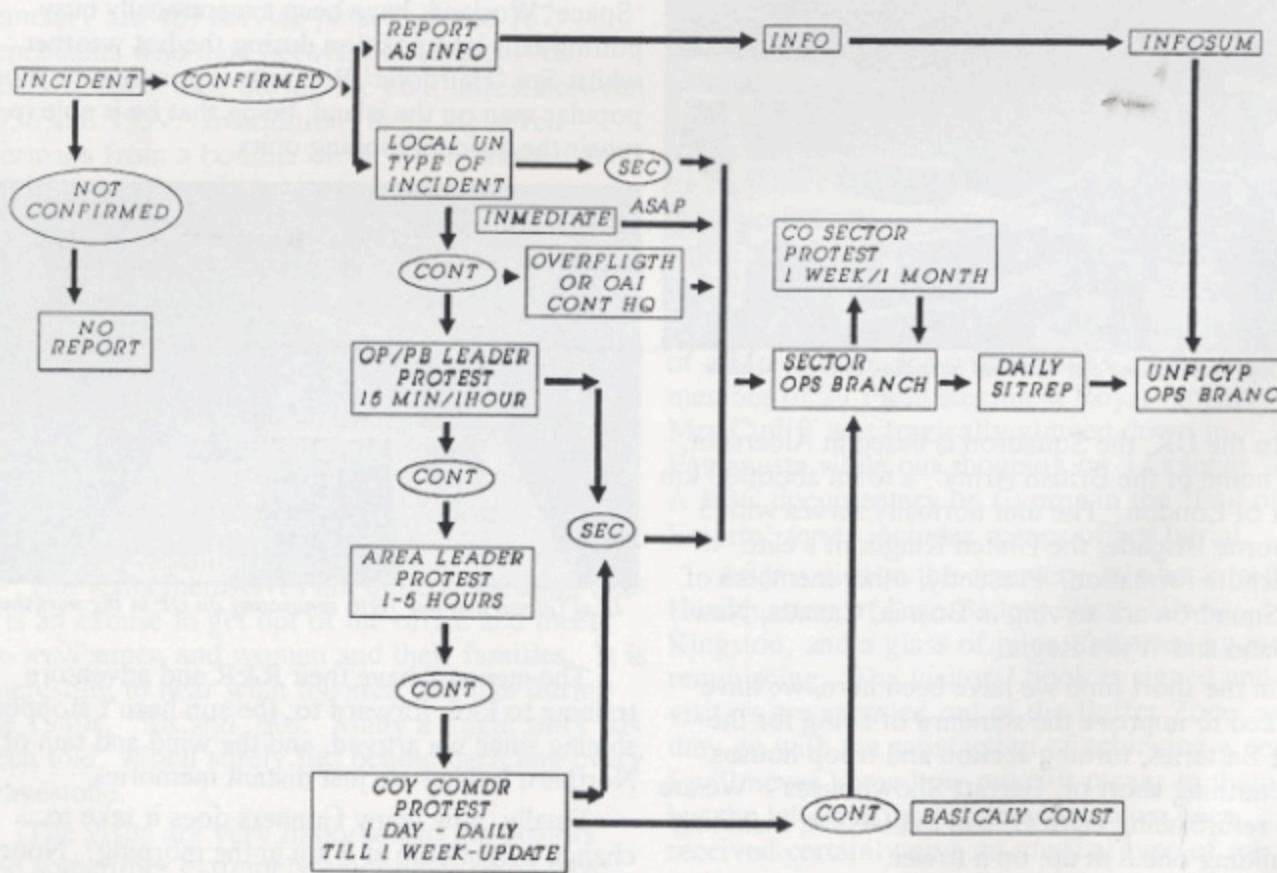
After a number of briefings and meetings, we believed we had hit the jackpot. We haven't re-



ARCON reserves during the 11 August troubles

invented the wheel, but what we have done is to achieve our aims by using the graphic below which is referred to in whatever incident we come up against. If Sector One reserves are again required to move like shuttlecocks, they will be prepared to represent the Argentinian Contingent and undertake any mission, any time, any place.

INCIDENT REPORT RECURRENT GRAPHIC



LT COL GABRIEL TOMAS PAVLOVCIC OFFICER COMMANDING UN FLIGHT

Lt Col Gabriel Pavlovic was born in Córdoba, the geographical centre point of Argentina, in 1955. When he was 11, he entered the Military High School (Army) as a cadet and graduated five years later, simultaneously gaining the rank of 2nd Lt (infantry reserve) and a Bachelor's title. At 16, he joined the Air Force and attended the Military Aviation School (MAS).

He was commissioned in 1975, earning his Military Aviator wings, and the following year he became a glider and fixed-wing pilot. He was assigned to the 1st Attack Squadron and during this time, without leaving the normal flight routine, he volunteered to become a Whirlybird Club member, just (in his own words) "to have complete flight experience".

Being a "flightaholic", he trained in many types of aircraft and helicopters. However, there was always a special place in his heart for the Chinook which he began flying in 1979. In 1987, he attained the rank of Squadron Comd.

He was an instructor at the MAS for three years, training students in jets and props, and he also completed four summer tours in the Antarctic region, flying helicopters. During his career, he served in the 7th and 1st Air Brigade, completed the Air War College and was promoted to the Chief Officer rank. For five years he served as Chief of the Airfield Inspection Branch.

Lt Col Pavlovic holds two diplomas in Accident Investigation and Prevention (one from the Aeronautical Engineering School and the other from the Royal Institute of Technology of Sweden). He also holds a Master's Degree in Hygiene and Security. From 1984 onwards, he has been a Flight Safety Officer and a member on Boards of Inquiry for all types of accidents as both an Operational and Human Factor Investigator.

Since 1991, his other assignments, as a holder of an ATP full-rated (ACFT/HEL) licence, is as a current inspector in aeronautical and security themes. Prior to his position as OC UN Flight, he was appointed to the Operations Branch in the Armed Forces Joint Staff in his country.

Happily married to María Teresa, they have three children: Martin (15), María de las Nieves (12) and their "family game", Micaela (3). Lt Col Pavlovic enjoys the rare hobby of taking photos and flying as many aircraft as he can.

PS: He is also a member of the BANDIDOS CLUB! Stop by if you want to see him in action.



VISIT TO CYPRUS BY AUSTRALIAN POLITICIANS

During the month of September, three separate groups of Australian Politicians visited the island of Cyprus. Mr Dean Brown, the Premier of the state of South Australia, was amongst these visitors. The politicians were briefed as to the role of UNFICYP and specifically AUSTCIVPOL by Commander Carpenter and Sergeant Hall. Following the briefing, Mr Brown was taken on a Green Line tour.

An informal reception was then held at the Kangaroo Club, where AUSTCIVPOL was thanked for their hospitality, and where the Australian policemen learned more about the personality required to become a politician.



Mr Dean Brown (left)
with CO Sector Two (centre) and Comd AUSTCIVPOL

39 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY LINE BATTERY EAST

It has been an interesting tour for Line Battery East, punctuated by some exciting moments which have reminded us all that this is an operational tour. The following articles give a taste of life on the Line in our area, which covers Nicosia city centre (Ledra and City Troops), the Omorphita Plain just east of the city (Ortona Troop) and the open farm land to the south-east (Liri Troop).

CITY TROOP - SECTOR TWO

The group of men who became City Troop first gathered after the Regimental Exercise. They were a strange collection of gunners from 176 and 57 Batteries, Royal Logistic Corp, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Territorial Army. Within a few weeks of our deployment to Cyprus, we were joined by a further three gunners from Recruit Training and 29 Comd Regt RA, taking our numbers up to 30.

Once deployed, this Troop settled themselves into an old shopping complex known as Maple House. Situated on the Green Line (or Buffer Zone), the house allows excellent opportunities to explore all the medieval and more modern aspects of the old city of Nicosia within the 16th century bastion walls.

The Troop area runs from west to east between the walls for approximately 2 km. Its western point is Paphos Gate, the site of UN 65 OP Paphos overlooking the Roccas Bastion. This OP never fails to be popular with the denizens of Maple House for its outstanding view! The Buffer Zone then runs eastwards past such notable landmarks as Holy Cross Church, Yellow Car, Olympus Hotel, Tourist Bunker, Four Minute Walk, Magic Map, Magic Mansion, Otto's Cafe, Grissly Bunker, Silver Bunker, Four Faces, Tea Chest Wall, Freezenburg, Broken Toe, Popcan Fence, Monument to the Moon and on to UN 72 OP Century. From here, the line runs through Beaver Lodge and on to the eastern point UN 75 OP Jeep on the Flatro Bastion before running north into the Ortona area.

As all these names suggest, there is a tale to be told at every twist and turn on the line. It makes for an immensely interesting couple of hours walking and absorbing the contrasts of the line. This is something which regularly happens with regimental and troop line tours moving through the area, disturbing the quiet solitude which surrounds the stray dogs, cats, lizards,

snakes and Greek and Turkish sentries posted on the line.

The Troop area is continually busy, since most incidents observed by the Battery occur in its AOR. Hence, OP duties are never dull, and the opposing battalions always cause a smile with what they attempt to get away with in terms of minor incidents.

Life within Maple is a constant mix of soldiers on or off duty. Working, sleeping, playing chess, table tennis or volleyball and football, reading novels or the latest tasking orders, all this happens in the same space at the same time. There is also the opportunity for any number of PT activities which all the Troop are actively encouraged to take part in. For those on time off, the opportunities are endless, but the trail always leads away from Maple and on to hiking adventures or to exploring the coastal towns throughout the island where beaches and water sports ensure that everybody stays fit and that time off passes in a flash.

Our time with the United Nations in Cyprus is passing swiftly, thanks to being so busy. The Troop feels proud for what they are achieving and the spirit in which they are working. However, thoughts often turn to life after Cyprus and loved ones at home.



AVM Millar visiting Maple House

ORTONA TROOP

Formed from members of every corner of the Regiment, including 57 Battery, REME Workshop and not forgetting one of the most important elements - the Chef - the Troop deployed and set about learning the job. Ortona's Troop is a relatively peaceful one, and were even congratulated one morning on encountering a real incident! Operationally, we have dealt with small problems like overmanning of OPs, deployments of heavy weaponry on the cease fire lines and stone throwing. More seriously, we have had to put out brush and crop fires.

Although there have been various incidents, these are generally surrounded by periods of calm, and as a result, keeping boredom at bay becomes an issue. Once again, the Troop has worked well to overcome these problems with everyone participating to make life pass a little faster.

Before its departure, the Troop would like to thank 12 Regt RA for not quite telling us all the facts during the handover week... Everyone was well aware that a dog had been adopted, but forgot to mention the fact that she was pregnant with nine puppies!



Three of the puppies take it easy

In addition, a cat has taken refuge in the grounds of the house and given birth to three kittens. It seems reasonable, therefore, to ask that the name "Ortona Troop House" be changed to "Ortona Pet Sanctuary". (Anyone looking for a pet should contact the Troop on 010 3572 359760, Ext 213).

LIRI TROOP

Liri Troop settled very quickly into their unconventional role as peace-keepers in what had been a tense and fragile situation. All personnel were briefed and tested before the Commanding Officer was satisfied and the gating was lifted, allowing people to get away for a well earned break.

The normal routine involves each section rotating through three-day shifts, three night shifts and three days off, if the current situation permits. The duty shift has the responsibility of permanently manning an OP and carrying out mobile patrols in the Buffer Zone. Those who man the OP will usually do so for four to six hours in their 12-hour duty, and they have a very important role in observing both sides on the ground and in the air. The first indication of an incident is usually reported by the OP and then acted on by those on patrols.

The patrols have to cover a large area, parts of which are not visible from the OP, and the NCO carrying out the patrol is the first port of call to resolve an incident on the ground. A great deal of patience is required at times!

The vast majority of incidents were of little



Outside Liri Troop house

importance, but on occasion they were more serious, as was the case on 11 August during the Bikers' Rally. A great deal of preparation beforehand erecting defences and practising crowd control had been carried out, and all those on the ground can be proud of their performance.

Interspersed with quite dreary routine and the odd frantic period there was a chance for a bit of fun and relaxation. Overall, it has been an excellent tour. Morale was good, spirits were high, but it is a special day when we all return to Albemarle to be with our family and friends again.

