

THE Blue Beret

September 1996



THE BUFFER ZONE

A FRIEND WRITES

It all starts
with barbed wire
rusted
under the sun
hot
like a dried heart
like dust
it is too hard now
to tell
the pain of
your hatred
the frontier
like a dusty line
of sorrow
there
plants
as your only friend
mute bougainville
fig
and pomegranate
sacred fruit of the orient
was this the
price
of your arrogance
in other lands
of constructed hatred
a river
as your only friend
Miljaka
Neretva
the frontier
like salty tears
of sorrow
you forgot
how
to build bridges
and abdicated
your soul
to politicians
and thus
it all ends
under the steps of strangers
over the dust of shared
memories
and regrets.

SECOND VISIT OF PROFESSOR HAN SUNG-JOO, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Professor Han Sung-Joo, paid a second visit to Cyprus from 10 - 15 Sept to further assess the situation on the island. He and the Deputy Special Representative/Chief of Mission, Mr. Gustave Feissel, met twice with both Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash, the leaders of the two communities and, as before, with the leaders of the main political parties of both sides. In addition, Professor Han met with groups of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists.

From Cyprus, Professor Han and Mr. Feissel travelled to Athens and Ankara where they met with each country's Foreign Minister. Their final stop was New York where they had consultations with the Secretary-General. *"there was recognition that such incidents should not recur and the recognition that the situation is very dangerous and explosive which underlines the need for finding an early solution to the Cyprus problem."*



Professor Han Sung-Joo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, with the Chief of Mission, Mr. Gustave Feissel

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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.

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FRONT COVER:

SECTOR TWO ON THE
HUMANITARIAN RUN
BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT



The Blue Beret

EDITORIAL

The General Assembly of the United Nations opened its fifty-first session on 17 September at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It brings together the delegations of all Member States, many of them led by heads of Government or Foreign Ministers, for an examination of a wide range of international issues.

The General Assembly, set up in 1945 under the United Nations Charter, is the United Nations main deliberative organ and provides a forum for multilateral discussion on a full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. The Assembly comprises all Members of the United Nations, and meets in regular sessions each year from September to December, and thereafter as required.

The provisional agenda of this year's session includes a number of items which no doubt will determine the future of the World Organisation, particularly the appointment of the Secretary-General. Of more immediate interest to UNFICYP are the agenda items concerning the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, a review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and improving the financial situation of the Organisation.

The Blue Beret will follow carefully the main decisions of the session. We'll keep you posted.

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Almost every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday an odd mix of trucks, cooling and other vehicles with United Nations markings assemble at the Ledra checkpoint forming a humanitarian convoy to the north. As varied as the vehicles is their cargo: food, clothing, medicines, fuel, pensions and social welfare payments. When the convoys start their arduous route, they are anxiously awaited by the mostly elderly Greek Cypriots in Rizokarpaso and three other villages in the Karpaz at the north-eastern tip of the island, or



The villagers helping to offload their supplies

by Maronites in Kormakiti and its surroundings. Depending on the destination, members of the Austrian or British contingents collect supplies at Government stores in the south for delivery to the Greek Cypriots and Maronites who decided to stay in the north following the events of 1974. Members of IRCPOL and the humanitarian branch regularly accompany the convoys to make arrangements for those who want to temporarily or permanently transfer to the south or just visit their families. They also take care of medical evacuations and resolve difficulties at the local level.

UNFICYP's humanitarian activities flow from the "normalization" element of the Force's original mandate and were recognized by the Security Council in resolution 359 (1974) of 15 August 1974. In the wake of the events of the summer of 1974, UNFICYP was heavily engaged in delivering much needed relief supplies, including food, fuel and seeds, to displaced and other persons. In September 1974, less than a month after the cease-fire declared on 16 August 1974, there were an estimated 20,000 Greek

Cypriots located in the northern part of the island. By June 1975, this number had diminished to some 10,500. Similarly, in September 1974 some 34,000 Turkish Cypriots were located outside the area under Turkish Forces' control. Less than a year later, this number had reduced to some 10,700 people. The Vienna Three Agreement concluded between Messrs. Clerides and Denktash on 2 August 1995 *inter alia* provided that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would be allowed, if they wanted to do so, to move to their respective sides under an organized programme with the assistance of UNFICYP. Moreover, Greek Cypriots present in the north would be free to stay and be given every help to lead a normal life, including facilities for education and for the practice of their religion, as well as medical care by their own doctors and freedom of movement in the north. These provisions by inference also include the Maronites and, according to the agreement, UNFICYP was to be given free and normal access to the villages and habitations of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites concerned. Since then, the numbers of Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north have diminished significantly. A detailed survey conducted in spring 1996 indicated that these communities numbered 487 and 191 respectively. During the same period, some 360 Turkish Cypriots living in the south made themselves known to UNFICYP.

In May 1995, UNFICYP conducted a comprehensive humanitarian review of the situation of the Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Maronites living on the respective other side



The Chief Humanitarian Officer, Lt Col Tisi Baña (left), overseeing the delivery of supplies to Maronites

THE HUMANITARIAN SIDE OF UNFICYP

of the Buffer Zone. It revealed that their living conditions were a far cry from the promise of a "normal life" of the Vienna Three Agreement. With the endorsement of the Security Council, UNFICYP has established a catalogue of essential improvements ranging from the lifting of restrictions on freedom of movement to the establishment of telephone lines. Since then, any improvements - or the lack thereof - are reported to the Security Council twice a year.

UNFICYP's humanitarian branch constantly feels the pulse of the social situation in the villages and other locations in the north, many of them far from one another. Patrols to the Turkish Cypriot communities scattered throughout the south, in particular in the Limassol and Paphos areas, require the humanitarian teams to remain overnight in some very isolated parts of the island. The



The Sector Four Humanitarian Officer and Ms D Bridger talking to a Greek Cypriot resident in Rizokarpaso

humanitarian personnel are greatly encouraged by the rapport which exists between the patrols and the members of the communities they visit. Whenever possible, they try to bring about local solutions to the problems and complaints they encounter. However, if a solution can not be found, it may be necessary to pursue matters with the appropriate higher level authorities on either side.

The United Nations Buffer Zone, which extends approximately 180 km roughly from east to west across the island, contains some of the most fertile land in Cyprus. UNFICYP therefore encourages economic development in this area. However, as control over this area has been ceded temporarily to the United Nations,

UNFICYP has to insist on certain criteria and conditions before authorizing anybody to proceed with the economic activity concerned. 1576 landowners are farming in the Buffer Zone and there also exists a significant number of commercial, industrial and property developments.

As there has been no official contact between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot authorities since 1974, UNFICYP also acts as facilitator between the parties with regard to essential electricity and water services on the island to ensure that



UNFICYP soldiers are always welcome in the village of Asomatos

their age is an instant gratification and a reminder of what peace-keeping is all about: to bring people together.





CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



The work carried out by members of the Australian Civilian Police is very varied and involves a lot of contact with both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. For this reason, it is of vital significance that they have a good rapport with members of the two communities on the island and develop the best possible relations. One way of achieving this aim is by being exposed to the cultural backgrounds of the two communities, and in recent months, members of AUSTCIVPOL were delighted to accept invitations to two weddings, one on each side of the Buffer Zone.

Popi, who has been a good friend to AUSTCIVPOL for many years, celebrated the marriage of her son at the Ayios Dhometios Church, followed by a reception attended by no less than 3,000 guests. AUSTCIVPOL members were not sure what to expect when they arrived at the reception area and found a double bed placed in the middle of the street!

They were later treated to a traditional village ceremony, which involved the women dancing around the bed with a basket of linen. They used this linen to make the bed and then raised the bed above their heads and danced around it again. The men at the reception then took over this role, and it culminated with the bed being placed back in its original position. Members of the community then joined in the dancing, placing ten and twenty pound notes on each corner of the bed.

AUSTCIVPOL also had the pleasure of attending Cem and Engin Yalcin's wedding at Bellapais in the north of Cyprus.

During the reception, money was pinned on the dress of the bride, as is tradition. The bride and groom later made a toast "to a large family", using a bottle of Australian wine which had been presented to them by contingent members.

Cem is a radio announcer at Radio 2 and many of his work colleagues attended the event. Finally, AUSTCIVPOL members were able to put faces to the voices.

Both weddings gave AUSTCIVPOL a chance to experience Cypriot generosity and hospitality across the island.



President Clerides (centre) with Popi on his right and members of AUSTCIVPOL and their partners



Cem and Engin with some of their relatives and AUSTCIVPOL members

AUSTCIVPOL were further surprised when President Clerides, who was also a guest at this wedding, took time to speak to contingent members, proof of which was captured by a photograph.

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part I

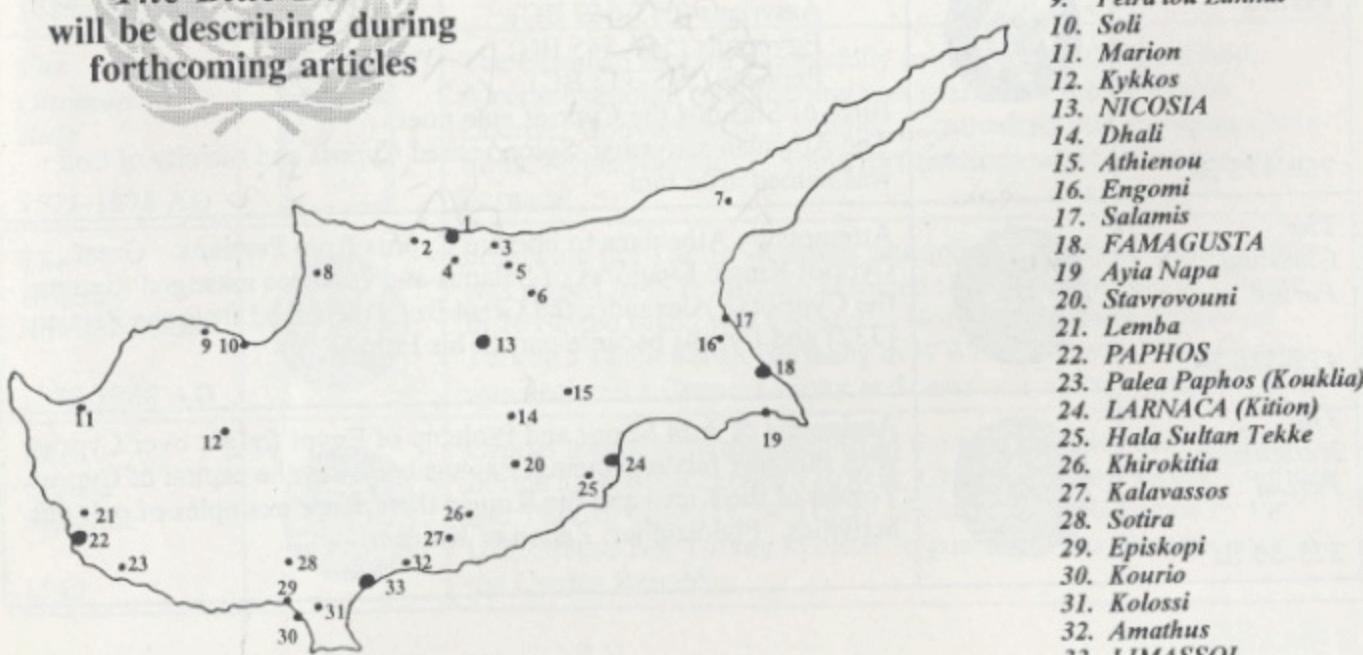
INTRODUCTION

At the Eastern corner of the Mediterranean where East meets West lies the small but fascinating island of Cyprus. Its long and turbulent history, dating back to neolithic times (7,500 BC), is one of the oldest recorded in the world. For over 8,000 years, civilisations from Europe, Asia and Africa met and left their traces on the surface of the island. Men, myths, ideas, religions, customs, music, dancing, plants, food and wine have developed over the centuries and have all become an intrinsic part of the island's unique identity and role in the history of the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond. From the mists of time, Cyprus has been connected with mythology. Legend has it that, as the birthplace of the Goddess of Love and Beauty, there is a symbolic realisation to the island's natural beauties.

The Blue Beret has compiled a series of short articles in an attempt to provide its readers with a brief cultural portrait of Cyprus, a part of the Mediterranean basin whose shores gave shelter to outstanding civilisations and whose influence went beyond the confines of the island and played a central role in shaping the route of history at this important crossroad of three continents.

A newcomer to the island may well ask "what can one see in Cyprus?" Every span of land from Cape Andreas in the east to Akamas in the west has something to reveal to the visitor. We begin our short journey with an overview of the main periods, and in future issues of the Blue Beret, we shall be introducing you to the most important footmarks in historical sites. These will hopefully assist the reader to appreciate the role played by this relatively small but significant island.

Map of Cyprus showing some of the ancient sites which *The Blue Beret* will be describing during forthcoming articles



1. KYRENIA
2. Lapihos
3. Bellapais
4. St Hilarion
5. Buffavento
6. Kythrea
7. Kantara
8. Ayia Irini
9. Petra tou Limniti
10. Soli
11. Marion
12. Kykkos
13. NICOSIA
14. Dhali
15. Athienou
16. Engomi
17. Salamis
18. FAMAGUSTA
19. Ayia Napa
20. Stavrovouni
21. Lemba
22. PAPHOS
23. Palea Paphos (Kouklia)
24. LARNACA (Kition)
25. Hala Sultan Tekke
26. Khirokitia
27. Kalavassos
28. Sotira
29. Episkopi
30. Kourio
31. Kolossi
32. Amathus
33. LIMASSOL

MAIN PERIODS IN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS

Classified Period		Main Events of the Period
<i>The Early Years</i> 7,000-3,900 BC		Stone Age; Neolithic settlements at Khirokitia, Troulli, Erimi, Kantou, Kalavassos, Sotira, Lemba, Petra tou Limniti and Ledra (Nicosia).
<i>The Bronze and Copper Age</i> 3,900-1,650 BC		The discovery of rich copper reserves enabled the island to become an important trading centre for the Near East and the Aegean. Large settlement of Phoenicians at Ayia Paraskevi (Nicosia), Kissonerga, Pano Arodes, Episkopi, Sotira, Kalavassos, Palea Paphos and Kitium.
<i>The Late Bronze and Iron Age</i> 2,500-1,050 BC		Arrival of the Mycenean Greeks and Achaeans. City Kingdoms were established throughout Cyprus at Kythrea, Idalio (Dhali), Kourio, Golgi (Athienou), Salamis, Kyrenia, Lapithos, Paphos, etc.
<i>The Cypro-Geometric Period</i> 1,050-750 BC		Phoenician tradesmen settling at Kition and Amathus. Art: geometric shaped pottery. Establishment of Greek Cypriot kingdom of Salamis. Important monuments of this period: royal tombs at Salamis.
<i>The Cypro-Archaic Period</i> 750-475 BC		The island's strategic position, together with its natural wealth of copper and timber, attracted a number of invaders. Cyprus was conquered successively by the: Assyrians (673-669 BC) Egyptians (560-545 BC) Persians (545-332 BC) Birth of Stasinos the Cypriot epic poet. The Athenian statesman Solon visited Cyprus and the city of Soli was named after him.
<i>The Classical Period</i> 475-325 BC		Attempts by Athenians to liberate Cyprus from Persians. Great Cypriot Kings: Evagoras of Salamis and Onesilos managed to unite the Cypriots. Alexander the Great freed the island from the Persians (332) and Cyprus became part of his Empire.
<i>The Hellenistic Period</i> 325-30 BC		Antigonus of Asia Minor and Ptolemy of Egypt fought over Cyprus with Ptolemy finally winning. Paphos becomes the capital of Cyprus. Tombs of the Kings and the Kourio theatre are examples of cultural activities. Philosopher: Zenon of Kitium.

Classified Period		Main Events of the Period
<i>The Roman Period</i> 30 BC - 330 AD		Cyprus became part of the Roman Empire. Anthony presented Cyprus to Cleopatra. Disastrous earthquakes at Kourio. Visit by Apostles Paul and Barnabas. Spread of Christianity. The Jewish revolt resulted in the destruction of Salamis.
<i>The Byzantine Period</i> 330-1191 AD		When Rome fell, Cyprus became part of the Byzantine Empire with its capital in Constantinople. Empress Helena visited Cyprus. Foundation of Stavrovouni Monastery. Autonomy of Archbishop of Cyprus. Arab invasion of the island. Death in Larnaca of Umm-Haram (Tekke at Salt Lake). Cyprus was turned into a Byzantine stronghold and the great castles of St Hilarion, Buffavento and Kantara were built.
<i>Richard I of England and the Crusaders</i> 1191-1192 AD		Cyprus fell into the hands of Richard the Lionheart during the 3rd Crusade. King Richard marries Berengaria of Navarre in Limassol. Cyprus was sold to the Order of the Knights Templar. Transfer of sovereignty to Guy de Lusignan.
<i>The Frankish Period</i> 1192-1489 AD		Introduction of the feudal system. Many imposing Gothic monuments, eg Agia Sofia (Nicosia), Agios Nikolaos (Famagusta) and Bellapais Abbey. Walls of Nicosia and Famagusta were built. Establishment of the Catholic Church. From 1374-1464, Famagusta was ruled by the Genoese Republic. The last Lusignan queen, Catherine Cornaro, was coerced into giving up her throne to the Republic of Venice.
<i>The Venetian Rule</i> 1489-1571 AD		Cyprus was mainly used as a military post. Improvement of defences, including the Castle of Kyrenia. The Ottomans conquered Egypt.
<i>The Ottoman Rule</i> 1571-1878 AD		The Ottoman Empire successfully gained control of the island. A certain amount of autonomy was granted to the Orthodox Church. Conversion of a number of cathedrals into mosques (Ayia Sofia, Ayios Nikolaos). Some fortifications work at Paphos and Larnaca.
<i>The British Administration</i> 1878-1960 AD		Following the Turkish-Russian war and the Treaty of Berlin which was signed in 1878, Britain assumed the administration of Cyprus. In 1914, the island was declared a British possession, following Turkey's alliance with Germany in WWI. In March 1925, Cyprus was declared a Crown Colony and remained as such until 1960.
<i>The Cyprus Republic</i> 1960		Cyprus gained independence from the British under the London-Zurich agreement between Britain, Greece, Turkey, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. A Treaty of Guarantee was signed by the UK, Greece and Turkey in order to guarantee the independence of the Cyprus Republic.

SECTOR TWO'S VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Last August, a team of five volunteers from 57 Bhurtpore Battery RA, 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, the current UN Roulement Regiment in Nicosia, went down to Limassol to assist in the redecoration of the patients' living area at the Theotokos Foundation.



Gnr Barron "on guard" with a paint brush!

The foundation cares for mentally handicapped people of all ages with varying handicaps. At present, it has 48 live-in patients. The foundation survives mainly on donations, and after a meeting between WO2 Pete Highfield (Humanitarian Team) and organiser and foundation leaders, it was agreed that manpower was the best donation that the Regiment could supply.

On arrival, we were given our paint - white naturally - rollers and brushes. We then set straight to work. Our task was to repaint eight rooms, seven of which were sleeping quarters and one a living room type area where patients are slowly introduced into everyday ways.

PlaygroUND Improvements

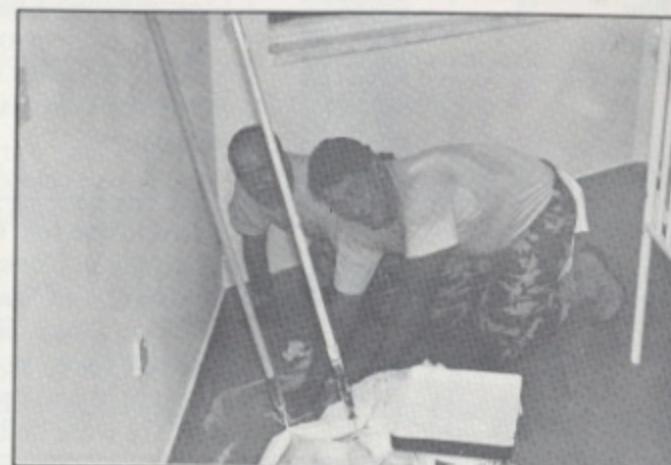


A new playground deserves smiles all round

The UN came to the rescue yet again recently when 10 young lads serving with the REME attached to 39 Regt Royal Artillery, together with personnel from the Regiment's Humanitarian Team, finished off a job left by 12 Regt RA. The playground of a residential rehabilitation school for the mentally handicapped, situated near Kyrenia, is now in shipshape condition with a new seesaw, metal gates and renovated swings.

Many thanks go to the lads from REME: SSgt Quant, Cpl Tennant, Briggs, Thompson, Masterton and Rawling, LCpl Crowther and Donaghue and CFNs Cartwright and Swift.

The new Hum Team comprises Maj Andy Lukes, Sgts Mark Wiseman, "Titch" Brookwell and Keith Field, plus WO2 Peter Highfield.



WO2 Highfield and Sgt Field knuckle down to it

By lunchtime, five of the rooms had been completed, beds had been remade and the occupants were well into their afternoon siesta. This was no mean feat when you consider the size of the volunteer force.

After a delicious but very large lunch, it was agreed that another visit would be required to complete the three rooms left. This was mainly due to not wanting to disturb the occupants of these rooms whilst they were sleeping.

Another meeting was arranged for a later date in August to complete the task. The author would like to take this opportunity to thank Sgts Keith Field and Mark Wiseman, LBdr Charlie Charlesworth and Gnr Tracey Barron for making the effort and taking the time out to help those less fortunate than themselves. Your assistance in this project is greatly appreciated.



THE UNPA SWIMMING POOL



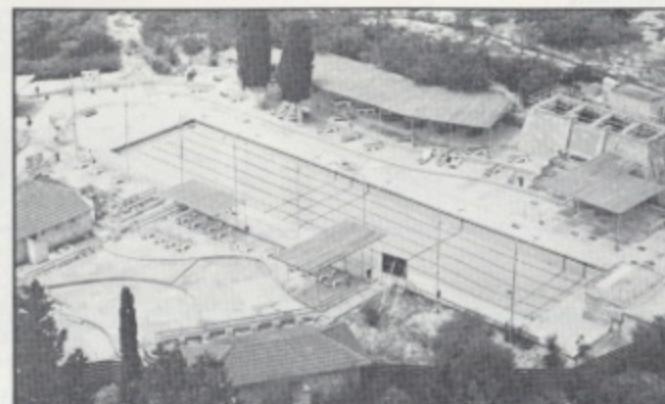
September is in, and the old pool committee is nearly out. The water temperature may have dropped a little, but we're still looking forward to another six weeks or so of sun, swimming and fun.

The UNPA swimming pool was originally built in the 1950s by the men of RAF Nicosia. Today, the pool is still maintained by the British by their Essential Services Group (ESG) BRITCON.

The management of the pool is now delegated to a committee drawn from HQ UNFICYP, BRITCON and Camp Command, who took over this duty from the British. The committee is chaired by the CPLO, and looks after the following:

- The raising of funds to ensure the adequate maintenance of the pool.
- The control and issue of membership cards.
- The training of lifeguards and organization of their duty rosters.
- The purchase of pool accessories.
- The cleaning and upkeep of poolside amenities.

The UNPA pool is one of the largest in Cyprus. Its water capacity is approximately 500,000 litres. The water is tested twice daily by the attendant and monthly by personnel from The Princess Mary Hospital, Akrotiri. It is circulated by two 10k Worthington water pumps, and uses four filters to



An aerial view of the UNPA swimming pool

maintain its clarity. Only liquid chlorine is used.

The pool is run on a voluntary basis for the good and enjoyment of all. These days, its funding is provided by membership subscription, UN welfare, grants from the British retained sites and the families welfare committee.

Our lifeguards are raised and trained from among the soldiers, police and civilians who work in the UNPA, and they provide their services to the pool free of charge. Their only reward is a lifeguard T-shirt.

So, next time you are enjoying yourself at the poolside, spare a thought for your unpaid lifeguard and all those who kept the pool going.

HAPPY SWIMMING!

The pool will be closing down in late autumn, and hopefully it will be as successful a venture next year as it was during 1996.

On behalf of everyone, the Blue Beret would like to thank Camp Command for their sterling work.

NEW DRIVER FOR THE FORCE COMMANDER



WO1 Räikkönen (left), the FC (centre) and WO1 Perttula

After a successful two-year tour as driver/assistant to the Force Commander, WO1 Henry Perttula left the island on 8 September 1996.

His successor is WO1 Pasi Räikkönen, who has taken this post over for an initial six-month tour. Pasi comes from Oulu in central Finland, and has just arrived from a one-year tour in the former Yugoslavia, where he served as a chef. As a matter of fact, Pasi informs us that he has been in the restaurant business for over 20 years.

It may therefore be interesting to note that Pasi is single - and available!

THE UNFICYP MILITARY PENTATHLON

When, at a midsummer Training Officers' Conference, Camp Command were asked to organise a Force sporting event, the 2i/c Camp Command, Capt Neil McDonnell, wondered if it might be possible to organise a more ambitious event than usual. After the Conference, he consulted the Camp Recreation NCO, Sgt Nigel Cadogan, and asked him whether the holding of a Military Pentathlon within the UNPA was feasible. Following an examination of the available facilities, Sgt Cadogan (himself a former pentathlete at international level) felt such an event was "on", and planning and organisation commenced to hold the pentathlon on 10/11 September 1996.



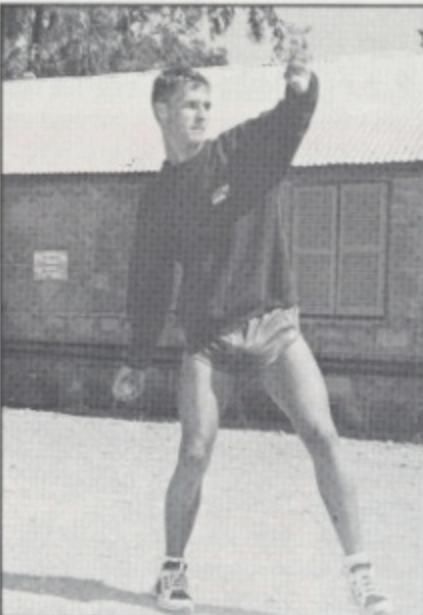
The 50 m obstacle swim

It was thought that the competition would attract 30-40 competitors; the final tally was 80, including three ladies. The competition was fierce, with personnel who were unfamiliar with the disciplines of the pentathlon taking to the event with gusto. Day 1 was unfortunately marred slightly by an operational call out, which resulted in several Sector Two competitors having to withdraw temporarily to Nicosia - though they returned to complete the competition on Day 2.



The 8 km cross-country run

The pentathlon was based as closely as possible on the real international competition. It consisted of a 50 m obstacle swim; a slow and rapid fire shoot; a grenade throw; an obstacle course; and an 8 km cross-country run. Competitors' times or scores were "converted", using a special table which gave "below optimum" performances (a score below 1,000) and very good performances (a score above 1,000) for each of the five events.



The grenade throw

Whether the event will take place again will be largely up to the future Sector Training Officers. The eagerness of this year's competitors indicates it to be a popular competition.

Congratulations to the winners, commiserations to the losers, and thanks to the personnel of Camp Command who ran and umpired the competition and consolidated the results.



The fire shoot

RESULTS

There were 20 teams with a total of 80 competitors.

Winning Teams

- 1st: ARGCON
- 2nd: ARGCON
- 3rd: AUSCON

Winning Individuals

- 1st: CPIM Duarte: 4450 (ARGCON)
- 2nd: WOI Louse: 4323 (AUSCON)
- 3rd: SSIM Fasines: 4240 (ARGCON)



One of the obstacle courses



THE IRCON MEDAL PARADE

The IRCON Medal Parade took place on Friday 9 August with 15 personnel receiving medals. The two veterans, RSM Paddy Guerin and BQMS Mick O'Shea, received numerals 4 and 3 respectively.

Mr G Feissel, Chief of Mission, and the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen, escorted by Lt Col O'Callaghan, received a general salute, sounded by the Argentinian band.

The Force Commander then presented Comdt Ray King with his medal. Comdt King is the current ADC to the Force Commander, who has waited 23 long years to receive his UN medal! This honour was cut short after only two weeks of Comdt King's first tour with UNFICYP, when he was posted to the Sinai. Comdt King then introduced each medal recipient to the FC, a very proud moment for every serving soldier.



A delighted Comdt King, assisting the Force Commander with medal presentations

The Force Commander spoke and thanked the recipients and their families for their continuing support to the United Nations. In addition, he welcomed ex servicemen Tom Frain

and Tony Hutchinson who also served in Cyprus in the early years of UNFICYP.

The military part of the parade came to a close with Helen King, Comdt King's wife, singing the Irish national anthem in Gaelic. The medal recipients were marched off, and the VIPs and guests were entertained by traditional Irish music and song performed by Irene Cotter, Dearbhail



Medal and numeral recipients before going on parade

Eadaoin and Grainne O'Callaghan, Grainne King and Jeany Kelleher. The highlight of the event was the singing of Cheryl Thompson, Fergal O'Callaghan, Jenny Tolan, Paul and Aoife Conneely, Alwin and Kilian Whelan, all children of serving soldiers, giving the parade a real family atmosphere.



Jeany Kelleher singing a traditional Irish song

A buffet, prepared and served by the staff of the International Mess, was a breathtaking display of excellent food. The final touch was the Irish coffee, prepared and served by the medal recipients, to round off an excellent meal.

GOODBYE TO THE 47TH, WELCOME TO THE 49TH CONTINGENT

CHIEF Inspector Antonis Theocarous of the Cyprus Police recently hosted a dinner for the departure of the 47th Contingent and the arrival of the 49th Contingent.

The venue was the Agapitos Restaurant, located on the old Troodos Road, and this provided ample opportunity for liaison between the two forces. Each member of the 47th

Contingent was presented with a Cyprus Police plaque, which was accepted with appreciation.

AUSTCIVPOL have been in Cyprus since 1964 and have benefited over the years from good relations between the two police forces. In many areas, they have been able to work in unison with the Cyprus Police to achieve the goals set for them by the United Nations.



GLOGGI AND SCHICHO ARE BACK AGAIN!

Last month, the Styrian cabaret duo known as "Gloggi and Schicho" were hosted by the Austrians in Sector Four. This is their third tour to Cyprus, and they have also been guests of the UN Battalion in the Golan Heights on three occasions.

Gloggi Vollmann and Fritz Schicho have been working together for the last 15 years, and have therefore gained a great deal of experience, particularly in political satire, both on radio and TV. They are well known all over Austria, and have also performed in Zurich, Bologna, Vienna and Nuremberg.

Due to their highly successful visit last year, they were once again invited to entertain the members of Sector Four, where they performed in Camp Duke Leopold V, Camp Izay and Camp Pyla.



Schicho (left) and Gloggi (right), joking about having their photograph taken!

A VISIT INTO THE PAST

On Thursday 26 September 1996, two visitors from Sweden were invited to Camp Duke Leopold V. On the occasion of his 50th birthday, Mr Clas Andersson returned to the place where he served as a 20-year-old signals corporal in the former "Camp Carl Gustav" some 30 years ago. Mr Andersson was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Eva Jansson, who arranged this trip as a birthday surprise for her husband.

After being welcomed by the DCO of the Austrian Battalion, Maj Hammerschmid, the visitors enjoyed typical Austrian food, and were then shown around the camp. Mr Andersson remembered most of the buildings, and even found the accommodation where he lived for more than one year. After a visit to Famagusta, our Swedish guests left the camp with very fond memories of their visit into the past.



From the left: Mrs Jansson, Mr Andersson and Capt Speringer (PIO Sector Four)

SUCCESS YET AGAIN!



Some of the participants with their well-earned trophies

In late August, a Marathon was held over a distance of 7 km in the village of Agros, situated in the Troodos mountain range. An invitation was extended to the Argentinian Contingent, who sent a large number of participants to the event, joining the 150 local and international athletes. The Argentinian runners were proud to receive seven of the 15 awards, as follows:

Women's Event: 1st: Cpl M Seco, 2nd: Pte M Heredia, 3rd: Pte M Otrera.

Men's Event (20-30 years): 2nd: Sgt M Sanchez

Men's Event (31-39 years): 1st: WO L Soria, 2nd: SSgt P Fernandez

Over 50s: 1st: WO R Orihuela

Congratulations to all of them.



THE TIMES

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THURSDAY AUGUST 15 1996



START THE NEW SEASON

Pick your team for £50,000 SUPPLEMENT

A LEVELS: THE DAY OF RECKONING

Indispensable guide students and parents PAGES 8, 9

BEST FOR BOOKS

■ Jeanette Winterson on Joan of Arc
■ Daniel J Boorstin on the father of longitude PAGES 34, 35

WANTED	
<input type="checkbox"/> Manager	120K
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	60K
<input type="checkbox"/> Adviser	50K
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	50K

TOP JOBS SECTION 3

A-level pass rate climbs to 86%

Scramble for places at universities

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHATER

RECORD A-level pass rates to be announced today will trigger an unprecedented scramble for places at leading universities and increase pressure on the Government to relax the examination system.

More than half of this autumn's 280,000 higher education places will have filled by the time admissions officers open with the 15th successive rise in A-level grades. Almost 80 per cent of candidates pass with 58.8 per cent achieving grades A to C — the minimum requirement for a university place.

The improvements in both cases are about two

months. These allow universities to recruit more students over a longer period of time and to require for the final examination if they are likely to fail.

The only major study of standards in modular A levels concluded that students pass at least one grade higher than candidates of similar ability on traditional courses, and this year the "modular" students' pass rate was higher in all subjects than in traditional masters' and new courses.

David Trieman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said that, paradoxically, the new courses were "stunning successes".

What a coincidence — I failed to run an A-level review college, too!

— David Trieman

in

both cases by about two

months.

Permanent Force Reserve Platoon Headquarters United Nations Force in Cyprus P O Box 1642 Nicosia CYPRUS

The Editor
"The Times"
1 Pennington Street
London E1 9XN

26 August 1996

Sir,

As a Captain in the Argentine Army, I have for the past seven months, been serving with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; first as the Personnel Officer to the Argentine Contingent and more recently as Second In Command of the Permanent Force Reserve Platoon (PFR Pl), a tri-national platoon of 53 soldiers from Argentina, Austria and Britain.

On Wednesday 14 August 1996, during the absence of the Platoon Commander, I had the honour to be In Command of the PFR Pl in Dherinia, where the main incidents took place along the United Nations Buffer Zone. I was surprised when I recently saw a photograph of myself on the front page of your newspaper, taken directly after two of the British soldiers under my command had been shot and injured.

As you know, in 1982, Argentine and British Forces fought against each other in the "Falklands War", known to us as the Malvinas Islands. Today Argentine and British soldiers are working alongside one another, as Peacekeepers in Cyprus.

In our Platoon, Argentine, Austrian and British soldiers, serve together, and did so commendably in Dherinia last week, to keep the peace. As an Argentine officer, it is with great esteem that I serve with, and command, British soldiers in the PFR Platoon as UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS.

Through the pages of your newspaper I would like to express my pleasure in working with such admirable soldiers and to hope that God may continue to bless us in our mission for PEACE.

Yours faithfully,

JORGE ALFREDO FIASCHI
CAPTAIN
2IC PFR Pl



THE IRCON MEDAL PARADE

