

# THE Blue Beret

April 1994



## FIRST ALL CYPRUS DARTS TOURNAMENT CYPRUS - HILTON

10/4/94



## THE FIRST ALL CYPRUS DARTS TOURNAMENT

by Sgt Dave Ayers

On Sunday 10 April at 1030 am, 145 Turkish Cypriots crossed the border under UN escort and were taken by bus to Nicosia's Hilton Hotel, where the third bi-communal darts competition took place. The event, which was a huge success, was the first to be held outside the Buffer Zone.

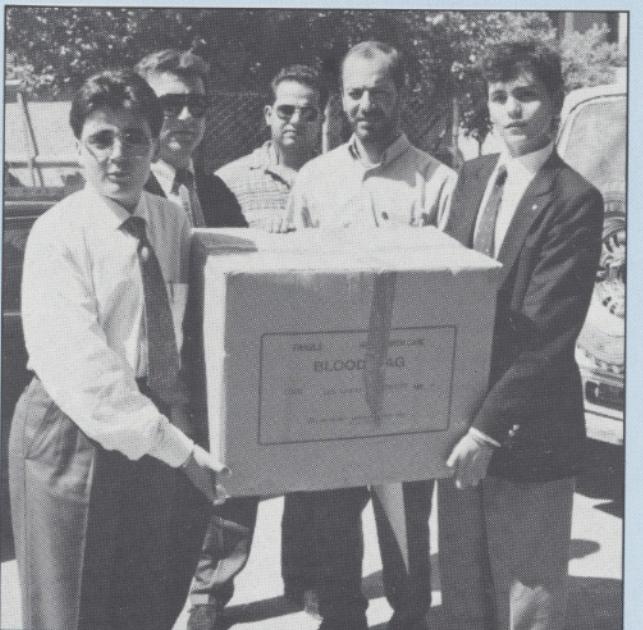
At about 11.00 am, blood donations were accepted from 55 Greek and Turkish Cypriots, lying side by side and happily talking about Cyprus and their individual villages. The donation of the blood was made very enjoyable by the lemon juice and Cyprus brandy served afterwards!

It was an unusual sight to see beds laid out underneath dart boards, which prevented any pre-match training! This continued until 1.30 pm, when the official opening took place. Opening speeches were presented by the UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General Michael Minehane, the AUSTCIVPOL Commander, Cmdr Harry Dales, the Public Relations Officer of the Nicosia Darts Association, Mr Tom Thoupos, and the President of the North Nicosia Darts Association, Mr Akin Kemal.

Lunch was then served which ended at approximately 3.00 pm. A festive and cordial atmosphere prevailed throughout, assisted by the fine fare provided by the Hilton Hotel. The darts tournament commenced at 4.30 pm and continued in a competitive but friendly manner. There was a raffle drawn at 9.00 pm, and all winners were enthusiastically applauded.

The match finished at approximately 10.30 pm and the first two positions were taken by the Nicosia Darts Association.

It should be recorded that thanks are in order for Pol Sgt Doug Child, who was approached in June 1993 by a member of the Turkish Cypriot community for UN



The transfer of blood from South to North Nicosia takes place.



The Chairmen of the two Darts Associations hold a red rose while giving blood for thalassaemics before the competition began. Greek Cypriot Chairman, Tom Thoupos (right) and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Akin Kemal, also have a laugh. Photo by courtesy of the Cyprus Mail.

assistance in creating an opportunity for Greek and Turkish Cypriot darts players to compete together. This initiative was put to the then Commander, AUSTCIVPOL, Cmdr Harry Bryant. After approval had been received from both sides, the first inter-communal darts competition was held at the Ledra Palace Hotel Conference Room on 25 September, an event which was covered in the November 1993 issue of the Blue Beret. A second competition was then covered in the February 1994 Blue Beret. It is now proposed that a second inter-communal darts competition, outside the UN controlled areas, be held in Kyrenia next month.

The blood donated was shared equally, and half was transferred to the North by UN vehicle on Monday 11 April. Present at the transfer were Cmdr Harry Dales, Supt Bob Gray, Mr Tom Thoupos, Mr Akin Kemal and representatives of the thalassaemia associations from both sides.

All in all, a very successful event!

April 1994

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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

Official Opening  
by the UNFICYP Force Commander  
of the First All Cyprus Darts Tournament

by Sgt Stephen Talbot



# The Blue Beret

## EDITORIAL

Our soldiers and officers are seldom treated as peacemakers, their primary task being peace-keeping. How wrong we were on Sunday 10 April 1994.

On this very day, hundreds of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots gathered at the Hilton Hotel for the first All Cyprus Darts Tournament. This was combined with blood donation to aid thalassaemics from both communities. A mixture of a truly noble goal, a large bi-communal venture and a sporting event.

This marvellous endeavour, attended also by politicians from both sides in Cyprus and UNFICYP officials, was addressed by UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General Michael Minehane, who said, among other things: "The real winners are those who give peace a chance".

Both Darts Associations and UNFICYP's Australian Civilian Police worked really hard to ensure the event was a great success. They succeeded! They plan another in Kyrenia. What a beautiful example to others! A Confidence Building Measure in action.

Well done! Congratulations!

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## 2nd Royal Tank Regiment

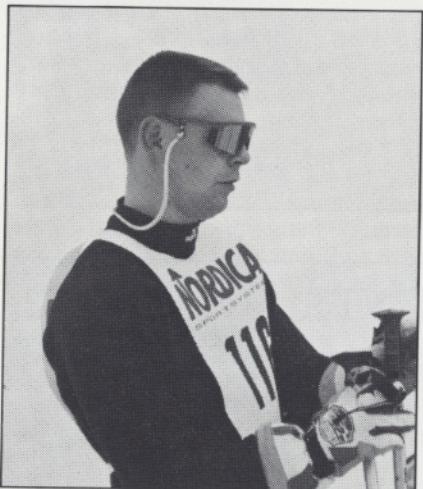
### THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM



A period of calm in Sector Two. In comparison with previous months, the rush of activity has reduced to a quiet murmur. The month of March was a popular time for soldiers to go on their two weeks' UN leave and take advantage of the cultural sights on the island, which many have done. The end of March marked the point at which all but a few soldiers had completed their adventure training package with the Joint Services, being allowed six to seven days in which to conduct an adventurous sport.



The CO, 2i/c and Ms Gloria Kroll prior to the Line Tour



LCpl Rendle prepares for the slalom race

In a flurry of activity, the Regiment hosted the Commanding Officer of the incoming Regiment for Sector Two, Lt Col Brown, 7 RHA and his recce party consisting of two Battery Commanders, the Humanitarian Officer, the Adventure Training Officer, the Operations Officer, the R&R Officer, the Regimental Administration Officer, the Quarter Master and the Regimental Sergeant Major. Each had a separate programme to follow hosted by their opposite number, which enabled them to see at first hand their specific area of responsibility. They left with numerous briefs, handouts and ideas, all of which should assist them in training and

ships. With virtually no training (for operational reasons), the Regiment fielded three teams, one from each Squadron. Alamein (HQ Sqn) returned the Army (Cyprus) champions and inter service (Cyprus) champions, with Burma coming a close second as runners-up in the Army competition. LCpl Harrold returned as the Army individual champion with Capt Ogglesby being runner up in the inter service slalom.

Hockey has found its way into the hearts of both the soldiers and local community, with eight of our soldiers playing for the civilian team called 'The Tramps'. The club consists of locals, ex patriots and members of the UN who regularly field a mixed team. Our own Cpl Clapshaw is the highly respected goalkeeper for the Women's team. By way of a plug; anyone who enjoys hockey and a good social life would be warmly greeted. The club meets on a Wednesday evening in the Four Oaks Pub.



Lt Cols White and Brown with the Ops Offr of 7 RHA being briefed at St David's Camp by Capt Paul Scully, QM Sector Two.

preparing prior to arriving in early June. We wish them well and look forward to their speedy return.

We were delighted to host a number of visitors this month, all of whom shared our enthusiasm in studying and discussing the myriad of detailed issues contained within the City Wall of Nicosia. Parties briefed included the Spanish Ambassador, Mr Manuel Gomez De Valenzuela, his assistant, Mr A Marquez, and the Consular Attachée, Miss A Cisuentes. From the US Embassy, Ms Gloria Kroll, who works for the US Army Department of Staff specifically focused on matters in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, was given a protracted urban and rural line tour which aimed to portray a balanced overview across the Sector. Most recently, a special line tour was arranged for the four UN advisers, Mr Peter Taylor, Mr Larry Johnson, Mr Ajit Banerjee and Mr Raymond Parent, all of whom were impressed by what they saw during their brief stay.

Sport ever popular: we are proud to report that the Regiment produced some spectacular results during the recent Near Eastern Forces Inter Service Alpine Ski (NEFSKI) Champion-

Fear Naught.



## AUSTCIVPOL 39TH CONTINGENT MEDAL PARADE

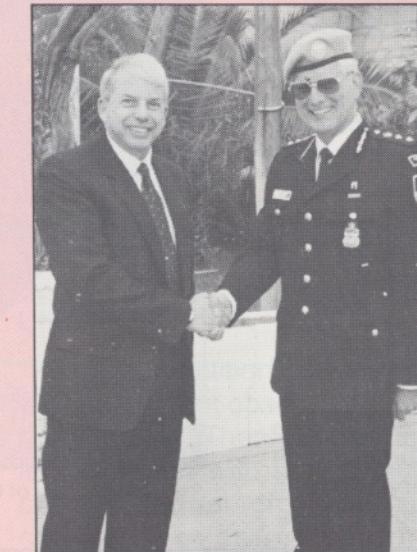
by Sgt Christine Radley

On Friday 4 March 1994, AUSTCIVPOL held their United Nations Medal Parade for the 39th Contingent at the International Mess, UNPA. The Parade commenced around 4 pm with the arrival of the UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General M Minehane, and Mrs Minehane, and the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Stevens, and Mrs Stevens.

Commander Dales opened the Parade, welcoming guests and speaking of the formation of the Australian Federal Police, with whom AUSTCIVPOL members serve in Australia. Australian music was played during the ceremony.

Major General Minehane presented the United Nations medals to recipients: Commander Dales, Superintendents Young and Sheely, Station Sergeant Dellaca, and Sergeants Poole, Radley, Harris, Clarke and Perry.

About 80 guests were present to witness the Parade, and to enjoy congratulatory drinks with the medal recipients afterwards.



Commander Dales of AUSTCIVPOL welcoming the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Stevens



Station Sergeant Paul Speirs with the United Nations medals to be awarded



Medal recipients of AUSTCIVPOL's 39th Contingent saluting on Parade.

## ROTATION IN THE MILITARY POLICE ELEMENT



WOII Peter Stickler (left) and WOII Werner Lechner

March brought the return of two Austrian Warrant Officers, both of whom have previously served with UNFICYP.

WOII Werner Lechner arrived straight from Austria, having just finished a tour with UNDOF MP in Syria: he seems to be quite happy being back in Cyprus.

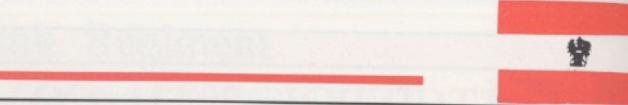
The eager readers of the Blue Beret know WOII Peter Stickler, at least by name, as he assisted the Sector Four Press Officer in Famagusta prior to his posting back to the MP. He is also glad to be back, and so too are his wife and daughter, who might now - on the odd occasion - see a little more of him!

## SECTOR FOUR NEWS

### SUPPLY RUN TO THE KARPAS

Once a week, Sector Four's Humanitarian Section is tasked with supplying the Greek Cypriot community in the Karpas area with all necessary goods provided by the Cyprus Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Several trucks are taken over by Sector Four personnel at the Ledra Palace Checkpoint. This convoy is escorted by one Warrant Officer from the Humanitarian Section, plus a Turkish Cypriot policeman. Having arrived at the first meeting point, the convoy starts the resupply run. To support five villages takes approximately six hours.

In addition to the supply run, which is also known as the Northwind Patrol, Sector Four's Humanitarian Section conducts house visits and interviews with Greek Cypriots in the Karpas area on a regular basis.



Distribution of food to the Greek Cypriot community at Rizokarpaso.

### INTERNATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE AT THE AUSCON CLUB

A Mass was recently held in the AUSCON Club at HQ UNFICYP for members of the AUSCON HQ Element and the Permanent Force Reserve, together with international participation from Argentinian and Hungarian members of UNFICYP.

The newly arrived AUSCON Chaplain, Otto Krepper, took the opportunity of meeting not only his Austrian soldiers, but also the Padre of the Argentinian Contingent, Arnaldo Santucho, with whom he read the church service.



The AUSCON Chaplain, Otto Krepper (with guitar), with the ARGCON Padre, Arnaldo Santucho.

### INAUGURATION OF THE SWIMMING POOL AT CAMP IZAY, 1 COY UNAB



WO1 Hutterer being thrown into the pool by his comrades

As the leader of "Project Swimming Pool", WO1 Willy Hutterer insisted on being the first to test this latest piece of equipment, recently installed in Athienou. This swimming pool, located for the past few years at Camp Liri, was a donation from the former Canadian Contingent.

The new arrivals in the Austrian Battalion will undoubtedly take full advantage of the pool in their Camp, and for this reason, the name of WO1 Willy Hutterer will be remembered - at least for the time being...

### UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION 1994



The BRITCON team negotiating the Irish Bar at the obstacle course.



The Shooting Range

For the first time in the history of UNFICYP, the Austrian Battalion had the honour and the pleasure of organizing the UNFICYP Military Skills Competition 1994. The head of the organizing committee was AUSCON's DCO and Sports Officer, Maj Ernst Eder, who was given excellent support from Sectors One and Two and HQ UNFICYP.

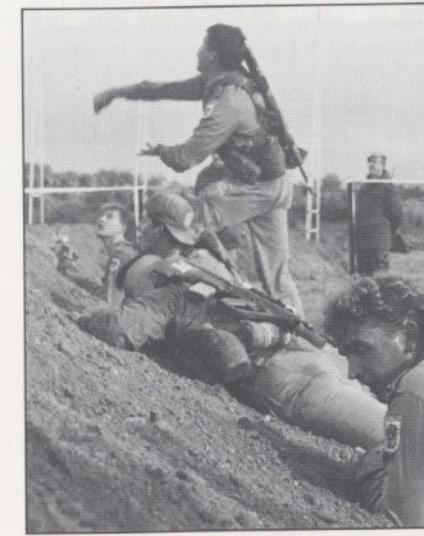
The Competition started off with an incident observation and reporting test. Then followed the forced march with the obstacle course, tunnel dig, first aid casualty evacuation and grenade throwing. Additional points could be scored at the shooting range.

The final results of the day showed the high standards of the whole of UNFICYP, as all participating contingents succeeded in winning a medal. Sector Two's B Team were the overall winners, closely followed by Sector One's A Team and Sector Four's A Team.

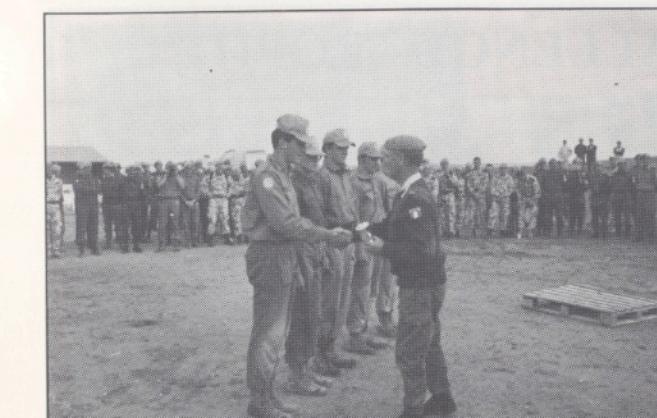
Worth mentioning is the excellent spirit shown by all participants during the competition, and the fact that the day passed without accident!



The ARGCON team climbing up the large wall at the obstacle course



Grenade throwing



Prize giving by the Force Commander to the Austrian A Team (Lt Leschanz, MSgt Feller, Cpl Unterweger, Cpl Haider and LCpl Koinig).



The winning BRITCON 2B Team with the trophy (2Lt Smith, SSgt Ribton, Cpl Paterson, LCpl Brock and LCpl Stork).

**Alamein Squadron** is a deceptively large organisation, at least on paper, encompassing varied personnel and functions. The mixture ranges from the CO with Regimental Headquarters, Unit Admin Office and Orderly Room to Ops Info, Humanitarian, Adventure Training and R & R Cells to Signals Troop, Provost and Medical Centre. All in all there are nearly 150 personnel making up the Orbat. This wide variety inevitably means that Alamein is virtually spread all over the Island. The core of the Squadron resides at St David's Camp, situated about 5 km west of Nicosia Airport. This is comprised of the Motor Transport Section (MT), Light Aid Detachment (LAD), Quartermaster's Department (QM) and Chefs, not



The hub of MT (from the left): Tp Rose, WO2 Hunt, LCpl Briggs and Tpr Jones.



WO2 Hunt (RQMS) watches 2Lt Hall and the QM making policy decisions.

forgetting the attached Royal Engineers, making us about 50 strong in total.

The MT Section has a fleet of two minibuses and four trucks. Regular duties are transporting personnel to and from airports for duty and R & R, adventure training and conducting medical runs. Beside the routine daily runs, there has been a constant flow of last minute details to keep them on their toes and ensure they stay flexible. With the Officers driving vehicles here too (not normal practice for us), this keeps our MTWO busy with a whole new group at which

to bark, the subalterns as well as junior NCOs!

The LAD, despite having the new contract landrovers, has been kept busy. Although not always in its usual role, it has provided the type of technical REME ingenuity so often required. Recovery Mechanics have been busy as usual: whether it be the staff car, an ambulance or rover, they are ever ready to help. The Argentinians have acquired a healthy respect for them, especially their abilities in the area of generator lifting!

The QM's department, as one would expect, has been constantly

## RUGBY - VICTORIA CHALLENGE TROPHY

On Sat 19 Feb 94, the might of the Victoria Club tested the armour of the higher echelons of 2 RTR in the inaugural match of the Victoria Challenge Trophy.

The game, fast and furious, was strongly contested by both sides, with the Victoria Club emerging as winners with a scoreline of 10 points to 7. It was a proud moment for WO2 Footitt when he collected the trophy (his first ever) from the COS, Brig Lambe, and some might say that there were tears in his eyes.

Whilst on the subject of tears, the day was tinged with a little sadness as members of the Victoria Club bade farewell to two of its flock, namely the senior member, WO1 Alan Buckley, and the baldest member, WO2 Yogi Footitt, who are now both back in the UK.



Members of the victorious Victoria Club Select

## ALAMEIN SQUADRON

by 2Lt TA Hall

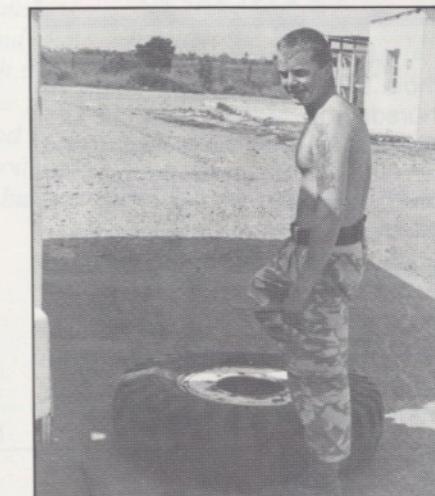
busy. Gratefully, things have now settled into a good routine. The most regularly required items are gas, clothing, ammunition (for various competitions and training) and furniture. The RQMS deals with all the technical and maintenance aspects within the Regiment.



The really important people of SDC (from the left): the Master Chef, WO2 Harris, QM Staff, Sgt Dennis, RQMS, WO2 Hunt and the MTWO, WO2 Whittaker.

Here, we try not to take the attitude that stores are for storing! As for the Chefs, what can I say, except where would we be without them? They are always busy and do an excellent job.

In the Camp itself, we have been plugging away at occasional refurbishment to generally improve the Camp and working conditions:



Tpr Nash repairing a puncture



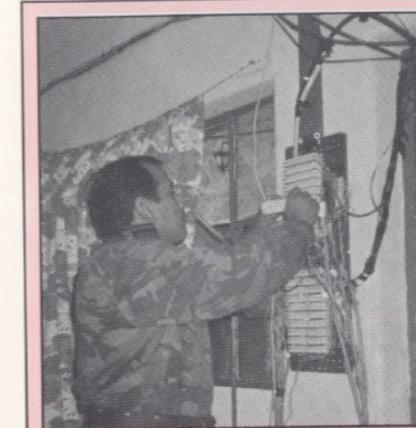
LCpl Garrison, REME, repairs a Bedford



LCpl Coombes collects rations from SDC

shown some prowess. The 6-a-side football team continues to do well and we hope to go on to win the league. In the recent NEFSKI Alpine Championships in Troodos, the Alamein team was most successful and won the Championships. Of note was LCpl Harrold's performance: he won an award as the overall best individual. Alamein also entered teams into the UNFICYP Military Skills and Shooting Competitions.

Looking ahead, we are now over half way through the tour, and already it seems like only yesterday that we arrived. Before we know it, we shall be getting ready to leave. There is no doubt that this again will be another busy time for Alamein!



SSgt Ramón Flores installing the new switchboard at Skouriotissa Camp

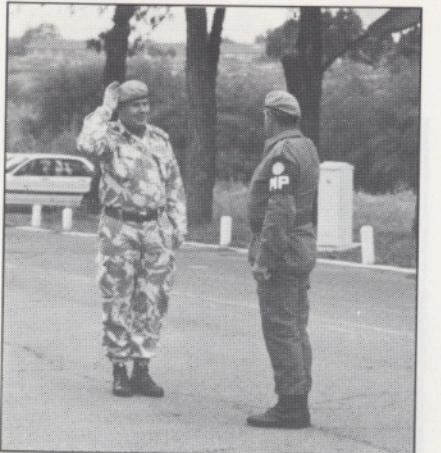
## NEW SWITCHBOARD AT SKOURIOTISSA CAMP

In order to augment the communications facilities at Headquarters Sector One, a new switchboard was installed at Skouriotissa Camp. The provision of this new system means that the Signal Platoon will now be in a better position to deal with

the intensive communications traffic in Sector One.

The job was a joint effort and carried out in double quick time, since CYTA technicians, UN Radio personnel and the Sector One Signal Platoon installed the system within 24 hours.

## UN MP ELM NEWS



Someone should tell the COS that he doesn't need to ask to present the medals - he's the Boss!!



Argentinian MPs find it difficult to contain their pleasure during the Medal Parade!

## MP MEDAL PARADE

A Medal Parade involving the whole MP Element took place on Thursday 10 March 1994. 12 Unit members were on the receiving end, with nine medals and three numbers being presented by the COS, Brig RM Lambe. The parade was taken by CS C Shine and the CPLO, CO Sector One and CO Sector Four attended as guests.

At the conclusion, everyone retired to the MP Lounge for a beer and the obligatory curry!



Who said the COS can't make dreams come true?



WO2 G Sakoparnik shows the youngsters just how to 'puff out' a chest.

## RETIREMENT OF BETTY IOANNOU AND SAVVAS MIKKELIDES

Thursday 31 March 1994 will be remembered as a sad day in the UN MP Element, as that was the day which saw the enforced redundancy of two long serving LECs who boast 32 years' service between them.

Betty Ioannou, a self exiled Brit, came to Cyprus in 1972 and began employment as a typist in the UN MP Coy on 25 November 1974. She was promoted to Clerk II in January 1979 and Clerk I in July 1984. She has held the appointment of Chief Clerk since March 1993. Betty is married with two grown up children, both of whom are studying abroad.

Savvas Mikkelides joined the UN MP Coy on 8 February 1982 as the barman in the MP lounge. Savvas is married with three children and three grandchildren.

Betty and Savvas have been stalwart members of the MP Element, and their hard work and dedication have assisted in the smooth running of the unit during the past 20 years. Both of them will be sadly missed, and all of us in the MP Element give them our thanks and wish them good luck and every success for the future.



Betty and Savvas

Footnote: Savvas will remain the MP barman, as all unit members have agreed to pay him from their own wages. Unfortunately, this will only be on a part-time basis.

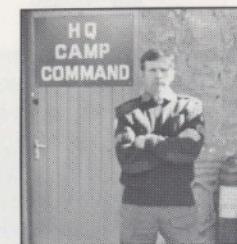
## HEALTH MATTERS

Like a machine, the body needs energy for all its actions. It also needs a constant supply of materials for growth and for replacing its own worn out parts. Both these needs are met by food and drink - the fuels of the body - and oxygen. The blood acts as a transport system to carry the food and oxygen to the cells where the food is burned

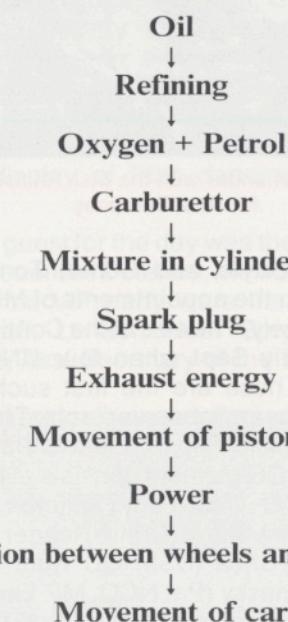
to produce energy. Any waste products are then removed by the blood for disposal through the lymphatic system. If our energy intake is more than our output, it is converted into body fat.

The following compares the human body and a car:

Sgt Dick O'Hanlon

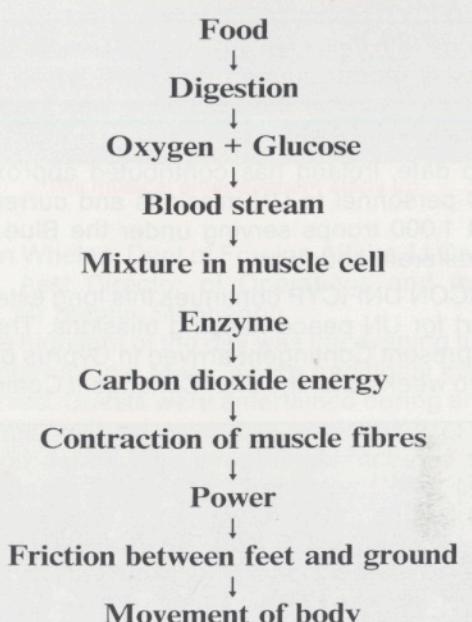


## CAR



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## SPORTS PERSON



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## FLUID FACTS

Now that the warm weather has arrived, more care should be taken with your fluid intake, especially if you are participating in any high intensity exercise lasting over 30 minutes.

(1) Do not rely on thirst alone to monitor your fluid needs. A better bet is to monitor your urine. Clear coloured urine in significant amounts indicates adequate hydration. Dark coloured urine is concentrated metabolic waste and means you are dehydrated.

(2) You should maintain an adequate fluid intake throughout the day - one litre for every one thousand calories you burn. Carry a water bottle with you, especially when exercising.

## (3) Pre-Exercise

(i) Tank up on 1/2 - 1 litre of water 15 minutes before working out.

(ii) Consume only water or sugar free fluids at this stage.

## (4) During Exercise

(i) Drink about one glass of fluid every 20 minutes. Water is appropriate for exercise up to an hour. For longer, you should try to consume 120-240 calories per hour, eg fruit juices.

(ii) Replacing lost electrolytes, eg sodium potassium, is less important. The main purpose of electrolytes is to enhance water absorption. Sports drinks, eg Isostar or Gatorade, are recommended.

## (5) Post Exercise

(i) Drink fluids until your urine is a clear colour. Because muscles are most receptive to replacing glycogen immediately after exercise, carbohydrate sources

such as fruit juices are good recovery choices.

(ii) Because of the high calorie content in some juices and soft drinks after exercise, you may consume more calories than you expended.

(iii) Avoid alcohol, as this has a dehydrating effect, causing you to lose rather than gain valuable fluids. Alcohol should not be consumed before serious competition: the more competitive, the longer one should refrain.

This article was written by Sgt Dick O'Hanlon, who is a member of No 1 Camp Command, IRCON. Sgt O'Hanlon is a qualified Sports Therapist, Education and Fitness Instructor (DIP/TEC DIPNCEF)



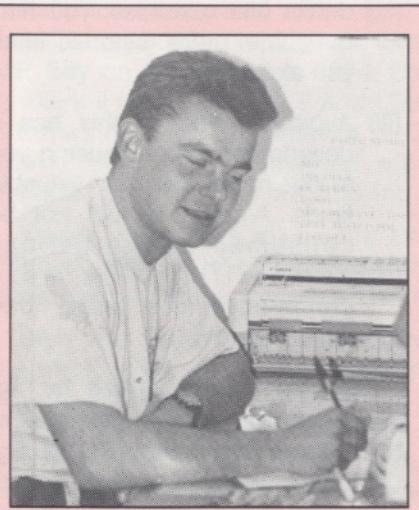
Ireland has a long tradition of participation in United Nations peace-keeping missions. The first Irish Observers served in Lebanon in 1958, and the first full Infantry Battalion saw service with UNOC in the Congo in 1960, rising to a high at one stage, in that Force, of two infantry battalions and an armoured squadron. Ireland also supplied line troops to UNFICYP from 1964 to 1973, when the unit then serving in UNFICYP was redeployed to UNEF II as a consequence of the Yom Kippur war in the Sinai. The UNFICYP commitment at its highest involved two battalions with their own organic light reconnaissance and heavy mortar support elements, whilst the rear elements of another Irish Battalion was then ending its service with UNOC.

To date, Ireland has contributed approximately 42,000 personnel to UN missions and currently has almost 1,000 troops serving under the Blue Flag in many different countries.

IRCON UNFICYP continues this long established support for UN peace-keeping missions. The NCOs of the present Contingent arrived in Cyprus on 2 July 93. Two weeks later the then Contingent Commander,



The IRCON Contingent



L/Cpl Crook Williams attends the FAX

## SIGNALS TROOP (UNRR BRITCON)

After arriving in December 1993, the Sigs Tp has been involved in many tasks. Apart from the normal daily routine of manning the JOC 2 and the Commcen, Sigs Tp have completed a much needed rebuild of JOC 2 with the professional expertise supplied by RE Det. The rebuild included the move of the Commcen which is now co-located with the JOC 2.

The largest and most daunting task, however, has been the installation of the new telephone exchanges within the sector (as many as would be found in a Garrison location). This

was not as easy a task as it initially seemed, since it involved the renewal of most overhead cables and the removal of all old exchange frames. These tasks were completed by R Sigs Line Det, while most of the boxes and indoor cabling and all of the programming was completed by Sigs Tp.

All of this is a far cry from the armoured signals that we are used to, but all members of Sigs Tp have adapted well and worked many extra hours to ensure that, where possible, all communications links are functioning 100%.



The Force Commander with the Irish Minister of State, Mr Noel Dempsey

Comdt Tommy Doyle, and Comdt Tony O'Sullivan arrived to take up the appointments of MPIO and SO2 Co-ord respectively. The size of the Contingent further increased in early Sept when four UNMOs arrived on the Island. These are the first such Officers to serve UNFICYP in an "observer" role. They are Capts Phillip Cotter, Phillip Smyth, Liam O'Carroll and Ian Counihan. The NCO element consists of the following: Contingent SNCO C/S Tony Scanlon (S Clk Ops Branch), C/S Colm Shine (Crime Reader & Dep FPM), CQMS Richie O'Shea (DSM CC Hum Branch), Sgt Gerry O'Shaughnessy (Pat NCO, MP Elm), Sgt Fintan Lambe (Pers/Logs Branch) and Sgt Dave Dooley (FC's driver, whom we "inherited" from the last contingent). In Oct 93, a 15-strong Irish Civilian Police Force arrived to bolster the Contingent numbers to 27 all ranks.

In Feb 94, a Camp Command unit was established consisting of a further 18 Irish personnel. Our total strength is now 45.

The local Irish Civilian (Field Service) community



## IRCON's MEDAL/SHAMROCK PARADE

by C/S T Scanlon

is also well established and people such as Pat and Ber Brennan, Pat Crowley and John Burke (UNCMP) make a large contribution.

On 15 Mar 94, the "original" Contingent members plus the Gardai (Civilian Police) held their Medal Parade and reception to celebrate St Patrick's day. The first and more formal event took place in the morning, when the Contingent paraded at St Columba's Church, UNPA to receive the UNFICYP Medal from the FC UNFICYP, Maj Gen MF Minehane and immediately after the parade, the tradition of shamrock distribution and a church service took place. This was followed by a reception at the Hibernia Club where the children of the Contingent, trained by Mrs Barbara Lambe, entertained the guests with a cultural display of Irish dancing and traditional songs.

Special guest for the day was the Minister of State at the Department of Defence, Mr Noel Dempsey. Also included in the VIP party were the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Noel Bergin, Mr Michael O'Donaghue, Asst Secretary of the Dept for Defence,



The musical entertainment starts up

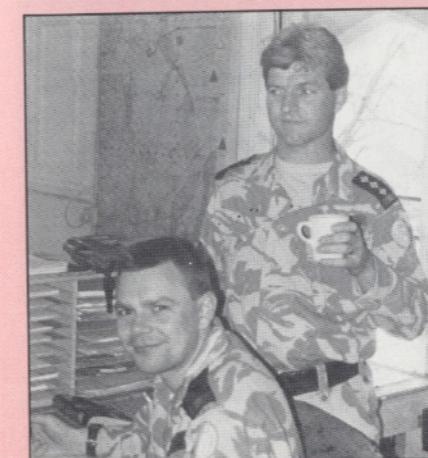
Mr Sean Whelan, Dept of Foreign Affairs, Lt Col Eddie Heskin, Asst Director of Operations and the Irish Consul, Mr Stephis Stephanou.

The highlight of the day was the evening function in the International Mess, where traditional Irish food was served. Guests were entertained during and after the dinner with an extensive programme of music, song and dance. This programme included special performances by harpist Capt Irene Cotter MD RO, Capt Finain O'Higgins, C/S Colm Shine, CQ Charlie Loughman, Sgt Ronnie Howe, Mr Gerhard Meisthuber and the ever present Sgt Dave Dooley, in addition to an entertaining musical programme by members of the RIR Band and "ceile" dancing by IRCON. The "craic" was mighty.

As a footnote to all these celebrations, it is worth recording that St Patrick came to Ireland in 462 AD and, as these events in UNFICYP testify, wherever there are Irish around the world, he continues to be remembered annually. This year, IRCON also celebrates 30 years of continuous military contribution to the UN in Cyprus.



Mrs Lambe and her dance team



Capt McIntyre and L/Cpl Rendle share a duty and a coffee in the JOC



WO2 Horton (RSWO) proves he can still climb trees.



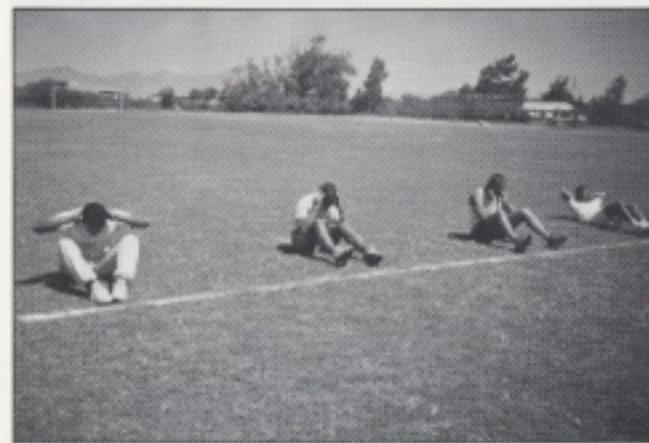
C/S T Scanlon (author)

## FORCE RESERVE PLATOON

### SPORT IN THE PERMANENT FORCE RESERVE

by Sgt Steve Williams RTR

All work and no play for the Permanent Force Reserve. How boring you might think? You could not be further from the truth. Apart from the very arduous military tasks carried out, we in the Permanent Force Reserve pride ourselves on being able to react quickly and efficiently to an incident anywhere on the island. With this in mind, we must ensure that we keep ourselves physically fit at all times.



It's not all Foxtrot and Morphou: there's time for fun as well, ha ha

To start with, we parade three times a week at 07.45, ready to carry out a very strenuous training programme comprising of activities such as running, circuit training and battle PT, including the Assault Course, all based on building stamina, self confidence and team work. The team work is very important when working together as three different nationalities to build a strong bond between us (Argentinians, Austrians and Brits), which, I must say, we are very successful in doing.

Apart from the mandatory physical training programme, the Permanent Force Reserve also pride ourselves on being a very competitive bunch, be it between ourselves or with personnel from the Sectors.

We have at present an internal sports league, run purely between the three sections in the Reserve. All members are urged to take part, from the OC down to the youngest soldier. Activities such as 6-a-side football, rugby, swimming, tennis, volleyball, relay races, and squash are all played with great enthusiasm and spirit.

However, above all the sporting activities mentioned, the Reserve considers itself as being the most experienced and successful 6-a-side



Lt Thompson and members of the Force Reserve during an arduous assault course session.

football team ever to hit Cyprus. Teams from far and wide quiver in their astro turf boots when subjected to playing the Renegades. We have not lost in our last nine games, which is very much down to an outstanding goal performance from our Argentinian forward, Sgt Chico. We are also taking part in an on-going Regimental League, run by 2RTR, in which the Reserve are considered favourites, and we hope it will only be a matter of time before we are lifting the championship cup.



Force Reserve's very own Rambo: Cpl "Sky" Kelenc

In conclusion, the Permanent Force Reserve class themselves as a very strong multi-national force in which sport plays a very important part of our day-to-day life. We are very proud of our achievements so far, and hope we can continue our run of sporting success into the future.

## GOODBYE - AND HELLO

### DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST ARGENTINIAN CONTINGENT TO SERVE IN CYPRUS

by 1/Lt Hernan Camps

Having completed the rotation of Sector One at the end of March, the first Argentinian Battalion to serve in Cyprus is now back in Argentina. All of us will have returned to our Regiments and Units, very proud of the fact that we have served with UNFICYP. During the last six months, ours has been the difficult task of peace-keeping operations.

This was the first for soldiers from Argentina, and we now understand the importance of being members of the UN. We have given the best of ourselves in Cyprus, as other fellow soldiers have done in peace-keeping missions around the world. We come from a large country which does its best to contribute towards the maintenance of peace at the same high standard that other contingents deployed on this island have done for so many years.

During this tour, we have shown our abilities in many ways, for example dealing with demonstrations, solving a number of incidents and competing in training exercises and competitions with the other Sectors and Units within UNFICYP.

We have also been lucky to have had the opportunity to increase our cultural knowledge, firstly by learning about the island of Cyprus and also by visiting nearby Middle Eastern and European countries. We feel that we are now in a position to transmit this professional and cultural experience to other potential Argentinian peace-keepers.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to make dozens of new friends of all nationalities, whom we would very much like to meet again one day.

We return to Argentina to our families, who have supported us so well during our time abroad.



### ARGENTINE TASK FORCE 2 SAYS HELLO!

by Capt Julio Cesar Belfi

With the arrival of the third flight on 28 March, the rotation of Argentinian Task Force 2 (ATF 2) was completed.

ATF 2 comprises 370 professional officers, NCOs and men: four companies are from the Army and one is from the Navy, with two men attached from the Air Force. Before their arrival, they all spent a period of time together, during which they were informed about the island of Cyprus and instructed on the mission of UNFICYP. Some of the newly arrived officers and NCOs have already gained UN experience from their tour in Croatia as members of the Argentinian Battalion in UNPROFOR. The Commanding Officer of this Battalion will continue to be Lt Col Juan Manuel Durante and the 2ic Lt Col Rodolfo Sergio Mujica, who arrived with ATF 1.

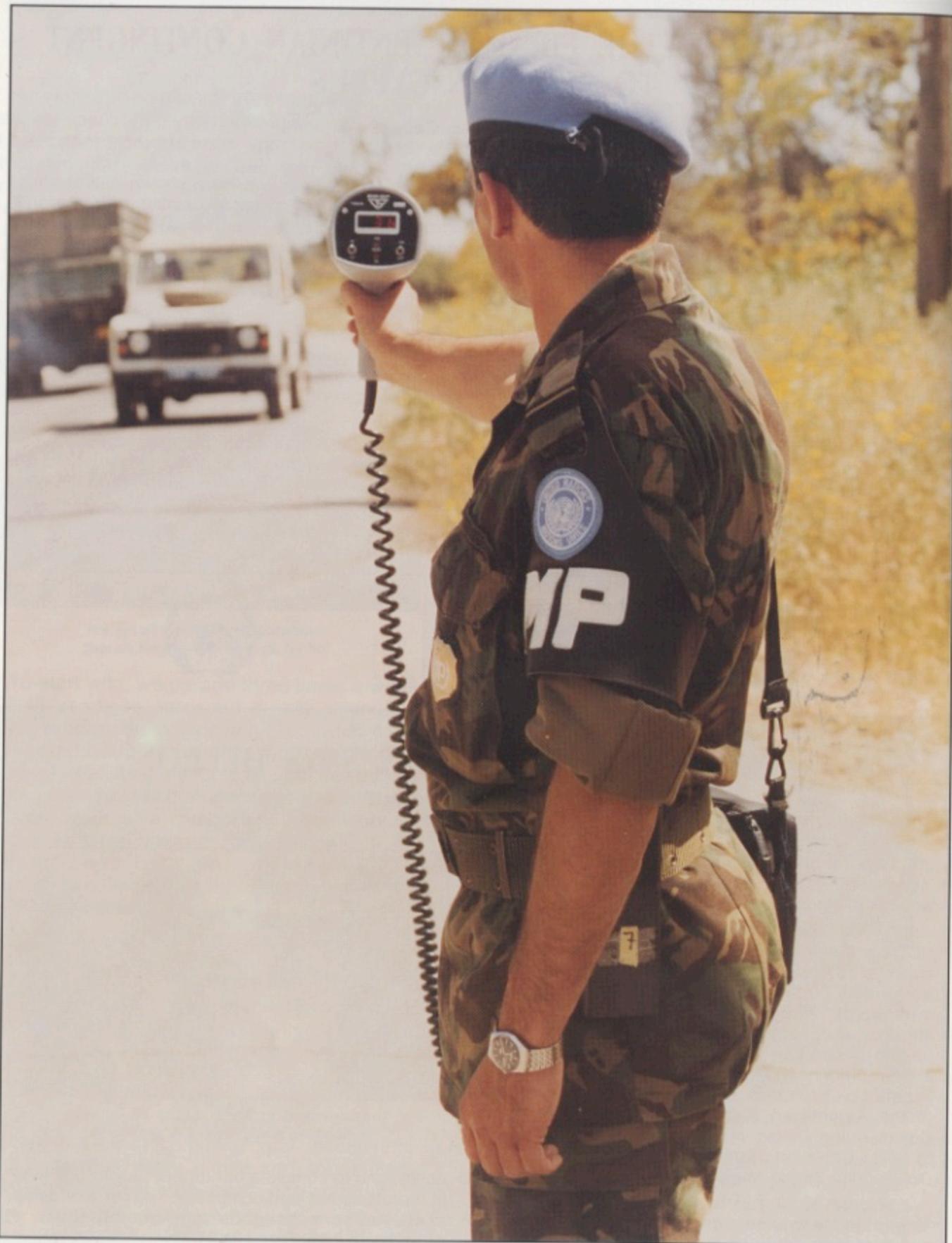
We are all glad to be in Cyprus, and we look forward to meeting our comrades on the island. Our aim is to carry out our mission to the best of our



The Commanding Officer, Lt Col JM Durante, welcoming newly arrived Argentinians.

ability, and to complete our tour of duty in UNFICYP in a professional and competent manner, just as our predecessors have done. The members of Argentinian Task Force 2 all bid you hello!

## UNFICYP MILITARY POLICE ELEMENT



Sgt Hector Perrotta from Argentina, carrying out speed checks in the UNPA