

# THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY  
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP



VOLUME NO 1

ISSUE NO 12

22 JULY 1999

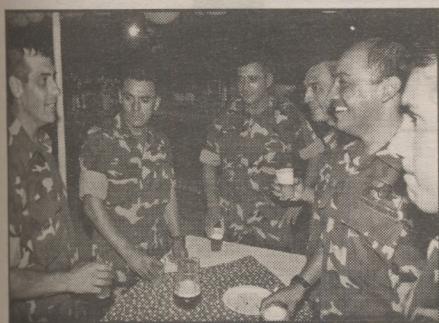
## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso



Force Commander Major General Evergisto de Vergara inspects the Argentinian Task Force

**O**n 9 July, Argentina celebrated 183 years of independence from Spain. The area of land that became Argentina, along with a number of other South American territories, had been arbitrarily allocated to Spain by the Pope, in the 15th century. The rest had been given to Portugal. The Spanish king particularly prized his Latin American lands for the gold and silver they produced.



Time to celebrate

Argentina's struggle for independence began in the early years of the nineteenth century, after Buenos Aires had had to fight off attacks by the British, who had, for a long time, coveted the precious South American metals.

In May 1810, feeling that they had had to fight their own battles without enough support from Spain, the people of Argentina set up their own government. They began to challenge the authority of the Spanish empire by starting revolutionary movements in all its American colonies.

Spain reacted by sending military forces to reestablish law and order. Argentina countered this by establishing its own army. The move was initiated by General San Martin, who had fought in Spain in the battle of Baylen. San Martin realised that the only way to withstand the strength of the Spanish Empire was to establish a regular army. Not surprisingly, San Martin found himself in charge of the army.

By 1816, he felt confident that Argentina could stand on its own feet. He urged congressmen at a meeting in the northern village of Tucuman to declare Argentina's independence. He said that it was nonsensical to set up an army, mint coins, and organise a new government in the name of a distant king. Finally, on 9 July 1816, Argentina proclaimed its independence.

This year in Cyprus, to mark this event, diplomats from Cuba, France,

Ireland, the Netherlands, Russia, UK, and the USA, along with colleagues from UNFICYP, came to San Martin Camp at Skouriotissa on 16 July. As Colonel Rodolfo Mujica, Commanding Officer of Sector 1, stated in his welcoming speech, "As a new nation with only 183 years of history we are still growing. Maybe we are still teenagers with plenty of contradictions and doubts, but we do have a strong feeling that the future is ours. Happy birthday, Argentina."

The music during the whole ceremony was performed by the Sector 1 band. Before the official part of the celebration ended, a choir sang in memory of those who lost their lives in war. But the musicians aren't the only talented members of the Argentinean contingent – as was proved later on.

The swimming pool looked spectacularly festive, with hundreds of balloons in the national colours white and blue. Everyone seemed to enjoy the snacks and drinks (Argentina's empanadas are always popular) and then settled down to applaud the dancers and singers.

Maria Eugenia Rodriguez performed two beautiful songs, accompanied by WO3 Roque Retamar

on guitar. After these songs Roque played some solo guitar pieces.

Next, Mrs Beatriz Mujica danced the Escondido, followed by the typical Gaucho dance "Malambo", demonstrating how the Argentinian gauchos expressed their bravery and manliness in the past.

The audience could hardly wait to dance themselves. As soon as the chance came, the floor was crowded with dancing couples who kept going till late in the evening.



Traditional entertainment for all

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## THE BLUE BERET

The newspaper for UNFICYP's  
civilian, military and police  
personnel

Published fortnightly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 21642, Nicosia, Cyprus

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**I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb.... and I also know that I'm not blonde.**

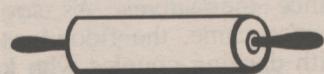
Dolly Parton

**I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch.**

Gilda Radner

**You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy.**

Erica Jong

**AUSTRIAN APFELSTRUDEL****Dough:**

250 gm flour  
1/8 litre lukewarm water  
50 gm butter  
pinch of salt

**Filling:**

50 gm hazelnuts or peeled almonds  
50 gm raisins  
1 kg sour apples  
Juice of 1 lemon  
2 tbsps rum  
1/8 litre sour cream  
2 pinches ground cinnamon  
1/8 litre cream

**Method**

Sieve the flour and salt onto a board, make a

well in the middle and pour in the water. Melt the butter, grease the baking tray and add remaining butter to the dough. Knead mixture until smooth. Form two balls and brush with melted butter. Leave for 60 minutes in a warm, covered bowl.

Chop hazelnuts or almonds. Wash raisins with hot water and dry. Peel and slice apples, then mix with the lemon juice. Add sugar, rum, nuts and raisins.

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Roll out and stretch the dough onto a floured board until fairly thin. Brush with melted butter and sour cream. Spread filling over dough leaving a little space around the edges and sprinkle on the cinnamon. Roll up, place on buttered baking tray and bake in the middle of the oven until strudel begins to brown. Pour cream over and return to oven.

Total baking time: 1 hour. Serves 8.

**EDITORIAL**

Argentina has been a committed contributor to UNFICYP since 1993, when President Carlos Menem took a keen interest in the formation of the initial force. A battalion was created, taking volunteers from the army, navy, and airforce, and at the end of August, a task force of 375 personnel came to Cyprus to familiarise itself with the situation, and to integrate with the British and Austrian troops already on the island. On 8 October, Argentinian troops assumed their full duties. The following year, Argentina took over responsibility for flight operations, and remains in charge of UN Flight to this day.

In the past six years, hundreds of Argentinians have served the mission, and given UNFICYP of their very best. We currently have 410 men and women working in different fields and bases. This makes us UNFICYP's largest contingent. I should note here that we are not all of us Argentinian. We are here together with personnel from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, who work alongside us in a truly integrated manner.

When leaving home, we all have to give up life with family and loved ones for six to twelve months. This is hard. But we know that by serving in Cyprus, we will bring pride to family and friends, because we are regarded as part of the Argentinian Military Force overseas. At the same time it gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our skills as trained soldiers, to demonstrate our professionalism, and to be known worldwide for our dignity and determination.

Life is not, however, all plain sailing. The previous contingent suffered the tragic loss of Sgt Ay D'Agata who died of a heart attack when chatting with colleagues. We have been fortunate that there have not been many operational accidents, but the few that we have had have been potentially serious, like the explosion of an anti-tank mine located under an excavator on 12 January 1998. Luckily the people using the machine were only slightly wounded, but everyone knew that the damage could have been much worse.

On a more optimistic note, being in Cyprus gives us the opportunity to learn more about this beautiful country. Being here also allows us to fulfil the goals of the mission, and, at the same time, to increase our levels of knowledge and experience.

Argentina participates not only in UNFICYP, but in missions in countries such as Angola, Croatia (where we form the mission's main force), Kuwait, and Slovenia. This experience has enabled us to contribute to the accomplishment of international objectives and to integrate with personnel from other countries which enhances professional growth.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodolfo Mujica  
Commanding Officer Sector 1

Teniente Coronel Rodolfo Mujica  
Comandante del Sector 1

Argentinian stands now since 1993 Truppen fuer UNFICYP und zwar seit der Argentinische President, Carlos Menem, sich fuer die Formierung einen Verbandes zu interessieren begann.

Ein eigenes Battalion wurde aufgestellt, Freiwillige der Armee, Marine und der Luftwaffe wurden aufgenommen und Ende August 1993 kam das Argentinische UN Battalion in der Stärke von 375 Mann nach Zypern um sich mit der neuen Lage bekannt zu machen und die Zusammenarbeit mit den Britischen und Österreichischen Truppen, die schon vor Ort waren zu ueben.

Am 08 Oktober 1993, uebernahm das Argentinische UN Battalion erstmals die volle Verantwortlichkeit fuer seinen Sektor.

In den vergangenen 6 Jahren haben hunderte von Argentinern in UNFICYP gedient und Ihr Bestes gegeben. Zur Zeit haben wir eine Stärke von 410, Männer und Frauen die in verschiedensten Rollen und Einsatzgebieten arbeiten. Das macht uns zum größten Kontingent in UNFICYP. Ich moechte hier auch noch erwähnen dass wir nicht alle aus Argentinien sind. Wir haben im Battalion auch Armeangehörige aus Bolivien, Brasilien, Paraguay und Uruguay, die mit uns vollkommen gleichberechtigt zusammenarbeiten.

Wenn wir Argentinien verlassen, müssen wir unsere Familien und Alle, die uns lieb und wert sind, zuruecklassen. Das ist sehr schwer. Aber wir wissen auch, dass wir durch unseren Einsatz in UNFICYP unseren Familien und Freunden Ansehen bringen, da es als Ehre gilt mit der Argentinischen Armee im Ausland zu dienen. Ausserdem gibt es uns die Möglichkeit weltweit unsere Professionalität, Ehre und Mut unter Beweis zu stellen.

Leider geht aber im Leben nicht immer Alles nach Wunsch. Unsere Vorgänger mussten den tragischen Verlust von Wachtmeister Ay D'Agata hinnehmen, der während einer Unterhaltung mit Kameraden plötzlich einen Herzinfarkt erlitt. Glücklicherweise hatten wir nicht allzuviel Vorfälle operationeller Art, die wenigen jedoch die wir hatten, haetten aber wesentlich tragischer ausgehen koennen; wie zum Beispiel die Explosion einer Panzermine unter einer unserer Baumaschinen am 12. Januar 1998. Die beiden Soldaten, die die Maschine bedienten, wurden zum Glück nur leicht verletzt, aber jedermann wusste dass dieser Vorfall auch wesentlich schlimmer ausgehen haette koennen.

Wenn man nun aber das Ganze optimistischer betrachtet, gibt uns unser Aufenthalt hier in Zypern auch die Gelegenheit mehr ueber dieses wunderschöne Land und seine Leute zu erfahren während wir unseren Auftrag erfüllen.

Argentinien's Teilnahme an Friedenserhaltenden Einsätzen beschränkt sich nicht nur auf Zypern, sondern inkludiert auch Einsätze in Angola, Kroatien (wo wir den Hauptteil der Kräfte stellen), Kuwait und Slovenia. Diese Einsätze erlauben es uns international für den Frieden zu wirken und mit anderen Nationen zusammenzuarbeiten was letztendlich wieder unserer Professionalität zugute kommt.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodolfo Mujica  
Commanding Officer Sector 1

**TIPS FOR CHEFS**

well in the middle and pour in the water. Melt the butter, grease the baking tray and add remaining butter to the dough. Knead mixture until smooth. Form two balls and brush with melted butter. Leave for 60 minutes in a warm, covered bowl.

Chop hazelnuts or almonds. Wash raisins with hot water and dry. Peel and slice apples, then mix with the lemon juice. Add sugar, rum, nuts and raisins.

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Roll out and stretch the dough onto a floured board until fairly thin. Brush with melted butter and sour cream. Spread filling over dough leaving a little space around the edges and sprinkle on the cinnamon. Roll up, place on buttered baking tray and bake in the middle of the oven until strudel begins to brown. Pour cream over and return to oven.

Total baking time: 1 hour. Serves 8.

**WELSH CAKES****Ingredients**

450 gm plain flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
Pinch of allspice  
Pinch of salt  
100 gm butter  
100 gm vegetable shortening  
200 gm sugar  
100 gm seedless raisins  
2 eggs, beaten  
Milk to mix  
Sugar for sprinkling

**Method**

Sieve flour, baking powder, allspice and salt together and

rub in butter and shortening. Add sugar and raisins. Bind with the beaten eggs and a little milk to make a fairly stiff dough. Roll out and form into rounds, using a circular pastry-cutter with a serrated edge, or a glass.

Cook on a well-greased griddle or in a heavy iron frying pan for about three minutes a side. The cakes should just turn golden brown, and must be cooked through to the middle, but they should not be too dried out.

Sprinkle with sugar and serve while still warm.

# TROUBLE AT KOHIMA GATE - MFR EXERCISE

A group of 60 "rioters" gave UN soldiers a hard time on 2 July, when they tried to enter the Buffer Zone to commemorate the famous burning car incident of 1994. It was clear that UNFICYP was determined to keep things as quiet as possible, and protect the "rioters" from themselves. Initially the peacekeepers deployed in a non-provocative manner, although there were armoured personnel carriers parked nearby.

But the tension grew and projectiles began to fly towards the multinational peacekeepers. Instantly, protective gear was taken out of the cupboards and the unprotected soldiers were quickly replaced by colleagues equipped with blue helmets, body armour and shields. Patiently the replacements waited until the "crowd", kindly provided by the sectors, cooled down, helped by a stream of refreshing water generously distributed by the fire brigade.

One soldier received medical treatment after injuring an ankle, and a civilian woman sustained minor head injuries.

Soon after midday the crowd dispersed. UNFICYP remained on the spot, however, and continued monitoring the situation throughout the day.



MFR soldiers in protective gear, fighting the heat

# THE INSPECTOR'S CALL

By Sergeant Arjan Doeser

*"Private Ismail, there's still a spot on the floor. Clean it right now - with your toothbrush, if necessary."*

In the background, swiftly and professionally, someone is raking the gravel.

Bengal troop commander Lieutenant Ralph Kostense has been testing his men on a daily basis. The soldiers have to prove they know all about the tower brief and all details on the ceasefire lines in their area of responsibility. Not only must they be able to do this in Dutch, they also have to be able to reproduce the knowledge in English, orally as well as in writing.

Why is all this going on? Because the Force Commander is coming to inspect us. The chain of command passes by to pre-inspect. The opportunity to dot more i's and cross more t's is well taken.

Finally it's D-day. A last glance at the ops-room. Drinks have already been poured, an orderly standing by, ready to serve them. Then the tower announcement sounds: "Target in sight! Estimated time of arrival: figures one, out."

Quickly all personnel in civilian clothes, ready to depart for hard-earned days of TAS (Training, Administration, and Stand down) are sent inside their rooms.



*"OP 45 ready for inspection, sir."*

We're off. The first few minutes are crucial. Beads of sweat are running down spines. All the visiting officers seem to be very friendly, but is this genuine? Better keep everything and everybody on a tight rein, it could be fake. First guide them to the ops room for the briefing.

"Where are those damned drinks," hisses the Lieutenant at one of the saluting soldiers when he

walks by.

"Good afternoon sir, welcome to the ops room of Bengal Troop. My name is Sergeant Doeser. Would you like an ops room brief sir?"

To everybody's surprise, the inspecting officer, Colonel Coats, answers: "No, thank you."

Did he really say no? What does he mean, no? After preparing everything, going through all those headache-inducing rehearsals and with all this adrenalin that's rushing through us? Instead, the Colonel asks: "How are you enjoying yourself?" But what has that got to do with the test?

Something similar happens on the tower. Corporal Rutger Berendsen had just started off on his speech when he is told to stop. "I know the area," says the visitor. "Please tell me something about yourself."

That was all folks, the dreaded test. Three weeks of sweating, learning missions, memorising briefings, scrubbing and raking. First of all there is a sense of disappointment. But then, everybody realises that the aim of the whole exercise has been achieved. All the ins and outs are known off the tops of our heads. Bengal troop is ready to face the rest of the tour. And we have a collective sigh of relief.



## ARGENTINIAN EMPANADAS



### Ingredients:

#### Dough

1 kg flour  
1/4 kg melted lard  
2 cups hot milk

#### Meat filling

1/2 kg rump steak, chopped into small cubes  
2 large onions, finely chopped  
1 green pepper, finely chopped  
2 boiled eggs, sliced  
A few olives, stones removed  
A few raisins  
salt  
paprika

The meat filling should be prepared the previous evening and left in the refrigerator.

Fry chopped meat in hot oil. Add the onions and green peppers and then salt and paprika. When cooked, thicken meat juices with a tablespoon of flour.

The next day, sieve flour onto a flat surface. Make a hole in the centre, add the melted lard and also the hot milk and a pinch of salt. Knead dough until smooth, then divide into portions the size of a medium potato.

Roll out dough to a circle of approximately 15 x 15 cm. Place three tablespoons of meat filling on half of the dough, with two olives, four raisins and one slice of egg. Then fold the other half over filling and press with fingers all around, turning the edges upwards to give the shape of a half moon. Repeat.

Bake in the centre of a hot oven (250°C) for about 20 minutes.

# A TASTE OF WALES

A week or so ago, the chefs of the 22nd Regiment Royal Artillery brought the taste of Wales to the Friday morning sector commanders' briefing at UNFICYP HQ. They turned up with a traditional delicacy known as Welsh cakes. These small griddle cakes are popular throughout the principality. Indeed, most houses always have a tin-full handy.

"It wasn't easy" says WO2 Nigel Fox, the catering WO for Sector 2. "To begin with, I couldn't find the recipe. But with the help of Staff Sergeant Wayne Thomas, a true Welshman, I succeeded. He

contacted his mother back home in Wales and got hold of the recipe. The next problem was to find a Welshman to make them. Unfortunately, we don't have any Welsh chefs, so we had to ask a Yorkshireman, Corporal Mark Ellis."

Ellis followed the recipe to the letter, and now Welsh cakes have become standard fare for all visits to the British element of Sector 2 - the Dutch, of course, have their own speciality: spicy cookies known as speculaas (but they cheat: they don't bake them, they buy them in).

# REAL LIFE UNMP AROUND THE CLOCK

By Lieutenant Stephanie Gras-Ficq

The FMPU (Force Military Police Unit) works a 24-hour day. It is based at two police stations, one at the UNPA and the other in Dherinia.

We have a headquarters unit of six people, five station commanders (of whom one works at Dherinia), 14 patrollers (of whom four work at Dherinia) and three special investigators. The patrollers are on duty 12 hours a day, for six days at a time. They then get two days off.

The FMPU includes people from seven different countries: Argentina, Austria, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and the UK.

Our days begin like everybody else's. We get up, get washed, shaved (if male) and dressed. Then, we transform ourselves from normal human beings into military police officers.



Ready, set, blow!



Several nationalities but only one goal: safety and security within the force

WO II Lechner, MSgt Zubor, and SSgt Monzon give something of an idea of what happens in a military police officer's day.

Shifts start at the station at 08.00 and 20.00. Normally the station commander is the first to arrive. After he has taken over he'll brief his oncoming personnel about the jobs to be done that day or night, and send them away on a special or routine mission. Tasks are likely to include running speedtraps, carrying out vehicle and document checks, doing disciplinary patrols or vehicle or foot patrols, out of bounds checks, security checks, escorting VIPs and traffic duties.

The patrols work within their area of responsibility: the Dherinia station covers the area from the northeastern tip of the Karpas Peninsula to Athienou and Larnaca, while the UNPA station looks after the rest of the island.

Meanwhile, back at the station, the station commander watches the telephones, the Motorola radio and a computer on which he records everything that happens for the daily occurrence book.

Every incoming telephone call has to be answered. It might just be a routine matter. But it could be an urgent request for help.

If something has happened, the station commander immediately sends a patrol to the scene and the military police action begins. We take photographs, make

sketches, take statements, and generally try to find out what exactly happened. It is vital to get all the details we can.

Most of the incidents we deal with are traffic accidents. These range from the minor to the very serious. Any incident that involves criminal activity is initially dealt with by the regular military police, but may then get handed over to the headquarters unit and the special investigators.

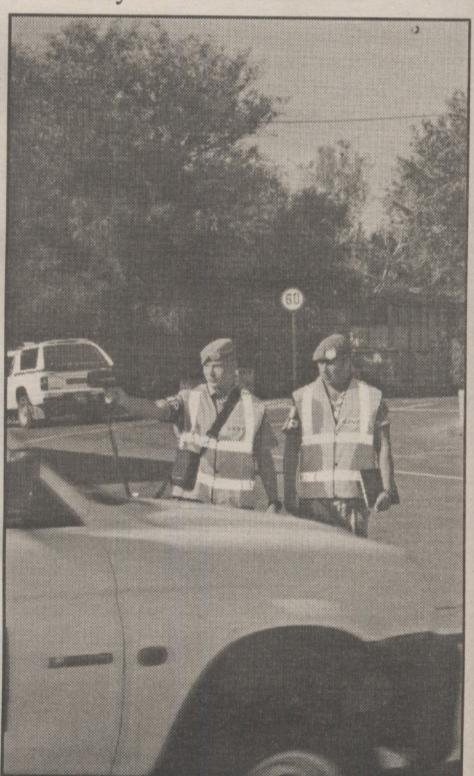
A lot of the work we do is very routine and not very popular. No one likes us patrolling the area and checking to see people are sticking to the speed limit and carrying the right documents. But by doing this, we do help make sure there is a better flow of traffic.

It can be quite interesting in the morning watching people who, as soon as they see one of our patrol cars, suddenly remember the rules, and slow down and put on their seat belts.

You've probably worked out for yourselves that we don't normally hang about at one location for more than 10 minutes, because by then, everybody coming along will have been warned that we are there.

Anyway, next time we stop you, please don't try to kid us that driving 15 kilometres above the speed limit is not too much, or to tell us that you have never broken the rules of the road before in your life. It really doesn't help you or us.

Just remember we're doing our job, just as you're doing yours. And, believe it or not, we're doing it in the interests of your own safety.



Slow down, speed kills

## THE LIRI BIRD

By Captain Vicki Walker

It's quite common for British soldiers on tour to acquire a pet of some sort. Many of those who have been to Northern Ireland will have got used to picking up a stray dog or two. But when the Welsh Gunners took over Liri Troop, they found something a little more bizarre.

Blackstone, an orphaned jackdaw, was found in the old printing factory below UNOP 84. The chick had fallen out of one of the hundreds of birds' nests in the factory, and had been brought back into camp. Fed on a diet of bugs and muesli, Blackstone has grown in stature and has begun his first teetering attempts at flying. Very tame, he is unafraid of anyone in the troop, and will often join members for a sunbathing session or at the outside bar for crisps and a coke. Meanwhile, a close encounter with a white paintbrush left him looking like a magpie for days.

His efforts to make friends are not always appreciated though. Cries for food at sunrise can be particularly grating on the nerves.

"Responsibility for looking after Blackstone falls mainly on the shoulders of Gunners Sharon Harris and Rick Curzon,



Bdr Steve Cripts with Blackstone

who can often be seen chasing flies and carrying dubious-looking foodstuffs," says Bdr Steve Cripts. "It could be that they are looking after him too well: plans to release him into the wild have so far been thwarted by his reluctance to find his own food. The troop will keep him as an honorary member until he decides to leave."

In the meantime, though, as Blackstone has the jackdaw's traditional penchant for collecting glittering objects, everyone keeps a close eye on anything shiny they have, in case it gets "Blackstoned".

## OPERATION SUNFLOWER

By Captain Andreas Vas

On 1 July, Sector 4 conducted a fictional exercise in a small village in the Buffer Zone. The scenario featured increasing tension between two communities because of several unsolved problems and there was a risk that this tension might lead to riots.

As one of UNFICYP's key jobs is to keep tension as low as possible, a special company, called Sunflower, made up of four platoons plus medical and fire-fighting teams, was deployed to the area.

Two platoons looked after the six checkpoints that had been set up, while the other

two acted as a local reserve. The exercise was run by Lt Col Pallai, DCO UNAHSB.

Soldiers from Sectors 1 and 2, as well as the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR), came along to pretend to be members of the two communities. During the exercise, the deployed forces had to handle nine different situations. In each of these, between two and four checkpoints were involved. Sunflower Coy had to deal with peaceful individuals as well as crowds of aggressive demonstrators. Meanwhile, the medical and fire-fighting teams were also given specific problems to handle – and all in soaring summer temperatures.



Hungarian soldiers keeping "cool" in high temperatures

# PEOPLE

# CHEERING ON - AND CHEERING UP

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Eduardo Castellanos, padre to the Argentinian contingent, (UNFICYP's largest contingent) is a busy man. At weekends he leads church services not only at San Martin Camp, but also at Rocca Camp, Brown Base, and Saint Barnabas' church at the UNPA. During the week he travels along the hilly tracks in the Buffer Zone to visit the soldiers who work at the observation posts and patrol bases.

"I spend time with them and listen to anything they wouldn't discuss with anybody else," says the priest. "Although most men and women are content and working quite happily, every once in a while they might want to talk about their feelings,

about their families and friends back in Argentina or about religion. Being there and listening is my main job, but of course - if I am asked to - I also try to help and give the best advice I can."

Father Castellanos is a loyal supporter of the sportsmen of his contingent, cheering on soccer teams or encouraging runners on the last stretch of a road race.

"I very much like being in Cyprus, supporting the Argentinian peacekeepers during their tour. I try to help them, but they also help me a lot. One thing I am particularly proud of is all the support I have received in assembling the new chapel in San Martin Camp. There is still more work to do, so volunteers are always welcome."



"Proud of all the support my people give me."

## APLAUDIR Y ANIMAR

El Padré Eduardo Castellanos, quien es el sacerdote del Contingente Argentino, (el contingente más grande de UNFICYP, es un hombre muy ocupado. Los fines de semana oficia misas no solamente en el campo de San Martín, sino también en el campo Rocca, en la base Brown y en la iglesia de Barnabas en la UNPA. Durante la semana va a las colinas de la zona de amortiguación, viajando por caminos de terracería, para visitar a los soldados que trabajan en los puestos de observación y en las bases de patrulla.

"Paso un tiempo con ellos, escuchando todo aquello que quieran discutir, así como sus confidencias", dice el sacerdote. "Aunque la mayoría de los hombres y de las mujeres parecen estar contentos y felizmente trabajando, de vez en cuando les gusta hablar de sus sentimientos o de su familia o de amistades que se encuentran en Argentina, o inclusive, de religión. Mi labor principal es estar ahí con ellos y escucharlos, pero si me llegan a pedir algún consejo, por supuesto que trato de darles el mejor."

El Padré Castellanos es un leal seguidor de los deportistas de su contingente, animándolos en los

partidos de fútbol, así como también animando a los atletas en su último estirón de la carrera.

"Me gusta mucho estar en Chipre, apoyando a los Cascos Azules de Argentina durante su estancia. Trato de ayudarlos siempre, al igual que ellos también me ayudan a mí. En particular, estoy muy orgulloso de la ayuda que se me ha brindado para poder construir la nueva capilla en el Campo San Martín. Todavía hay mucho trabajo por hacer y por lo tanto, cualquier voluntario que se aparezca, es siempre bienvenido."

"Estoy orgulloso de todo el apoyo que mi gente me brinda."

# IRISH INVADE LEDRA

By Sergeant Ricki Hanisch

No - that's wrong. The correct word is integrate.

In early May, as part of the integration of the former AUSTCIVPOL and IRCIVPOL into a single UNCIVPOL unit, the Ledra civilian police team welcomed Police Officer Mary Birmingham. The Ledra team, which had previously been solely made up of Australian Police, was one of two civilian police stations who began working with police from another country that day. The other was Pyla, formerly an IRCIVPOL post, which for the first time welcomed Australians into their midst.

The Ledra Aussies had already met Mary on 9 March. She had helped out with the police contribution to the International Women's Day celebrations at the Ledra Palace Hotel a few days earlier. As well as providing civilian police support, UNCIVPOL ran a highly successful tombola.

"It was a very enjoyable day," Mary says, "and it was terrific to meet the people I knew I would soon be working with."



Mary Birmingham with Andrew Thorp from Australia

# SOUNDS OF THE VALLEYS

By Captain Gareth Rhys-Evans



The choir performing at the Ledra Palace

Everyone knows that the Welsh pride themselves on their national rugby team. It is also wellknown that we are extremely proud of our singing.

For the soldiers of the Welsh Gunners, however, singing had long been an underground activity. I use the word underground partly because we rarely sang publicly. But also because our favourite location had always been our rugby clubhouse, a former RAF command bunker. This all changed dramatically in April with the arrival of our new Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Huw Lawford hauled us out of our cosy niche, thrusting us into the harsh glare of the public and sobriety.

Over the past three months or so, we have drawn on the music of those icons of Welsh popular culture, Tom Jones and Max Boyce, as well as hymns and arias remembered from long Sundays spent in local chapels. So we now have a repertoire that extends beyond the rugby

songs that had previously been our speciality.

The warmth of Ledra Palace turned out to be the ideal arena in which to coax untrained and sober voices into a choir. From the high harmonies of "The Sisters of Sin" to the gravelly sound of "The Basement", we turned ourselves into a respectable regimental choir. We met, and overcame, the musical challenges posed by "Men of Harlech", "Sloop John B", and of course "Delilah", with the result that we can now perform quite a variety of music.

Choir practice attendance has been excellent and so has the effort - given all our other duties. Our first public performance at the UNPA swimming competition on 13 July went swimmingly by all accounts. With other invites coming in, we hope to expand our repertoire over the next few weeks. So if you'd like to add a certain something vocal to your next event, give us a call (through the JOC at Sector 2) and we'll be glad to help if we can.

# NEWS

## A SHEEPISH EXCHANGE

By Sergeant Ricki Hanish

If you'd been around the Ledra Palace Hotel on 8 July, you could well have been excused for thinking you'd taken a wrong turn somewhere and ended up at a sheep market. With five livestock lorries, and a motley crowd of people (UNCIVPOL, police from both north and south, military personnel, and civilians) along with 180 sheep and goats bleating and baaing, it was tempting to sit down in the dust and wait for the bidding to start.

What was, in fact, occurring, was the transfer of stolen livestock from the south back to the north. The animals had been stolen on the night of 20 June, from a farmer

in Louroujina. The thief, a Greek Cypriot, took them to the south. On 7 July a judge ordered the immediate return of the livestock to the north, and Inspector John Galvin, UNFICYP's civil affairs police liaison officer, began work arranging the transfer, which took place the next day.

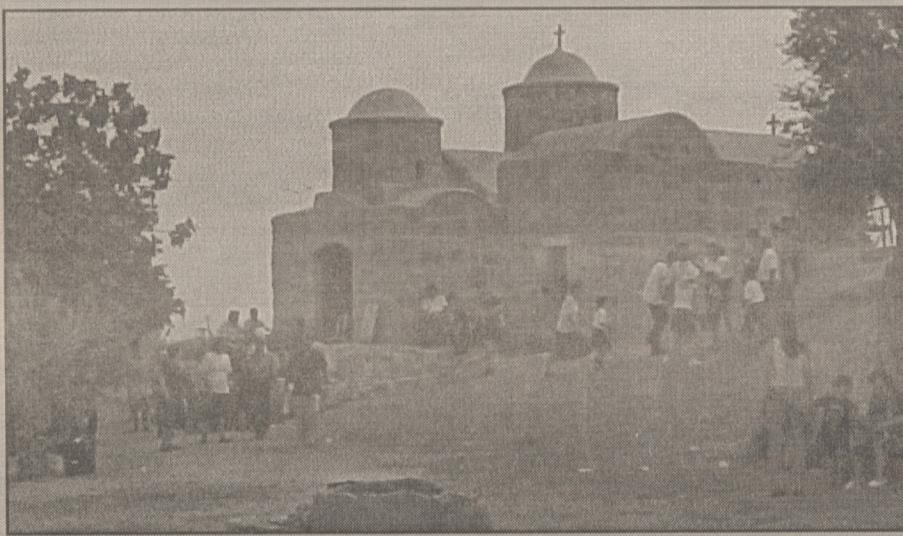
On the same day, another livestock transfer took place at Pergamos. This time 89 animals travelled from north to south, having been stolen by a Turkish Cypriot who had taken them north.

The two transfers occurred with both sides waiving all feeding charges and with no transport costs claims made against the owners of the animals.



Police Liaison Officer John Galvin counting sheep

## GETTING TO THE CHURCH ON TIME



Traditionally, 17 July is St Marina's day. This year, to mark the occasion, 860 people visited the church of Ayia Marina in the Buffer Zone. Sector 4 personnel escorted the worshippers to and from the church. Firm believers in the motto 'Be prepared', the Austrians

had a medical team on stand-by. They were concerned that hot weather might cause heat stress and dehydration. Fortunately the weather was cloudy, so the service wasn't necessary. UNFICYP also laid on a shuttle bus for elderly and less mobile churchgoers.

## Camp Duke Leopold Revisited

Camp Duke Leopold recently played host to three Swedish veterans who came, with their wives, to visit the place where they had served in the '60s and early '70s. They toured the camp and then had a chance to sit down in the Officers' Club and talk about what had changed and what had remained the same.

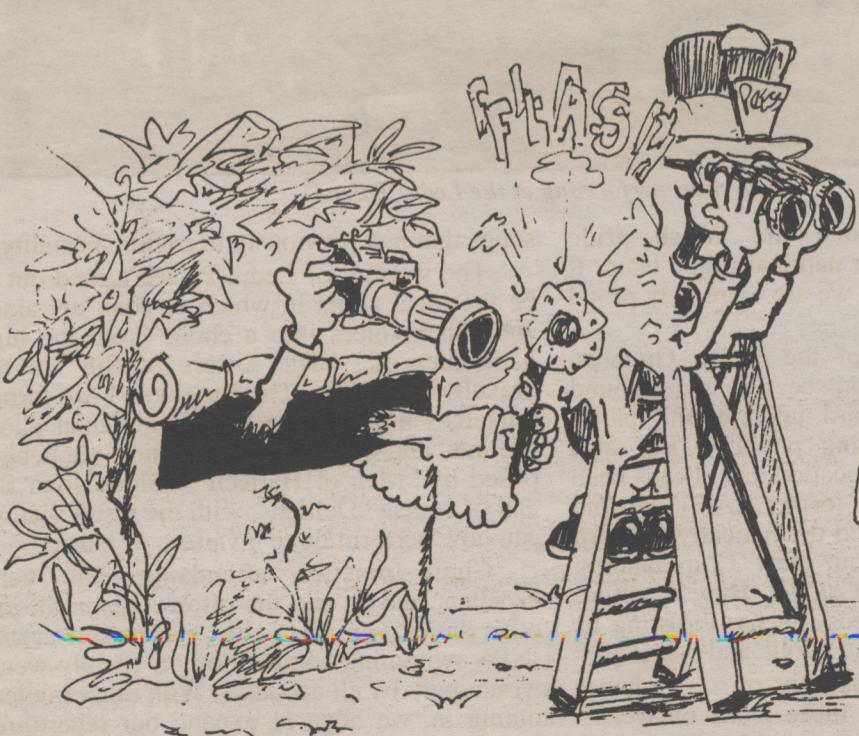
They said, for example, that there used to be just one storehouse for all different

items like weapons, clothes and equipment. Now all these things are kept separately. They noticed that most of the buildings had undergone a change of function. One visitor found that his old quarters had been turned into the Officers' Club TV room.

Nevertheless, they felt that a lot of the buildings looked much the same – despite the passing of more than a quarter of a century.



Swedes on a sentimental journey



LBdr Mark Mowley

Media interest explodes as the UN maintains peace and stability in the Buffer Zone

# CLASSIFIED

## ITEMS FOR SALE

### CARS FOR SALE

**Nissan 1100cc**, 1993, d/f, a/c, red, 31,000 km. £1,000 ONO. Phone Piers on (02) 861380 (o) or (02) 781602 (h)

**Mazda 323**, blue, 1300 cc, 1990 £1,100 ONO. Phone (02) 314439 (o) or (02) 318162 (p).

**Mitsubishi Galant Super Saloon**, 1985, 1600 cc, p/s, a/c. £700. Call (02) 592467 or (02) 864555.

**Mitsubishi Lancer GLX**, d/f, a/c, p/s, r/c, 70,000 km. £1,600 and a **Peugeot 309**, 1987. £400. Phone (02) 353290.

**Ford Taurus 3.0 LX**, lhd, red, aut, 4-door sedan, 1989, a/c, p/s. 60,575 km. £2,000. Phone (02) 592 298 or (09) 428 155.

**BMW 523i**, reg EMT 634, white, 2.5L 6 cyl, d/f. Tel: (05) 343565 or 09-652643.

**MG convertible**, reg EMT 411, dark green, 1.8L, 4 cyl, d/f. Tel: (05) 343565 or 09-652643.

**Mazda 323**, 4-door hatchback, 5 sp, a/c, p/s, 70,000 km. £3,000 ONO. Call Sue: (02) 592103.

**Mitsubishi Lancer GLX**, 1993, aut, a/c 60,000 km, all maintenance records available. £2,000 d/f. Phone Steve: (02) 352211.

**Mitsubishi Galant Super Saloon 1800**, aut, 09/93, 64,500 km, d/f, a/c. £1,700, Tel (02) 864518.

### OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

**Goldstar TV/VCR combination**, 1997, incl external powered antenna. £200. McAfee Office software package. Includes many programs. Minimal system requirements: Pentium 166, 32 MB RAM, German Windows 98 OS. £50. For both items contact Klaus during office hours on (02) 864527.

**Game Boy Color**, 6 different games £75. Contact MCpl Szanto, block 302 Blue Beret Camp or via MFR QRF-room (02) 864470.

**3 Sofas, 1994** (2x2, 1x3 seater) £250. AC/heater £250. AC £200. Available end of July. Phone (02) 353290.

**Beautiful wooden octagonal play-pen** (Swiss) with fitted, padded, wipe-clean mat. £40. Tel Shona on (02) 670600 (o) or 351349 (h).

**LTV Decoder** (new). £25. Tel: (02) 777772.

**Suzuki Intruder VS1400 GL**, 1997, 3,700 km, all original plus leather saddlebags. £3,500 d/f or approx 4,400 dp. Phone Steve: (02) 352211.

**Sony TV** with super trinitron 72 cm picture tube, dolby surround and video recorder PAL/SECAM/NTSC. £950. Phone Francine Petit, (02) 769202 (O), (02) 355475 (H) or (09) 644002.

**Household Items**. TV+VCR, £150; fridge-freezer, £90; washing machine, £75; drinks trolley, £25; plus other items. All as new, prices negotiable. Tel: (02) 356758.

**Intel Pentium 200 MMX computer**, 32 MB RAM, 3.2 GB hard drive, 24 sp CD ROM, speakers, monitor, colour printer, Windows 95. £450 OVNO. Computer Table £15. Contact WO2 Barry Green on ext 4510 or (02) 359001.

**Black dining table with 8 chairs**, new cloth upholstery, £220. Phone (02) 774325 or (09) 614068.

## ITEMS FOR HIRE

### HIVE ITEMS FOR HIRE

The NICOSIA HIVE operates a comprehensive loan store. Items available are: VAX machine, child's car seats, pushchairs, backpacks, high chair, travel cots, children's toys and bikes, cool boxes, sun loungers, golf clubs, radio/cassette players, BBQ, etc. Call the HIVE to check availability.

### DISCO FOR HIRE

The UNPA WOs' & Sgts' Mess (The Vic Club) has upgraded its disco equipment to a high standard. This is available for hire for functions etc. The cost of hire is now £50.00 per event. Two DJs are also available and separate arrangements should be made with either DJ regarding fees. Bookings for the disco should be made through the PMC, WO2 Miller on (02) 359760 ext 126 (W) at least seven days in advance.

### HAVING A PARTY?

The Youth Club is now available for hire. Many facilities including new disco equipment and lights, barbecue and plenty of space! Contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more details.

## PROPERTY TO LET

Two minutes walk to the beach. Amathus (Limassol) area, one-bedroom flat, fully furnished with TV, covered parking, common gardens, tennis court and swimming pool. £15 per day. Only serious persons call between 15:00-19:00 hrs. No agents please. Tel: (02) 486423.

Two bedroom fully furnished a/c apartment near UNPA. £300. Phone Klaus (02) 864520 or Evroula (09) 605992.

Three bedroom flat in Makedonitissa. Large kitchen and sitting-dining room. Call Mr. Stelios: (09) 623769.

Three bedroom fully furnished house, c/h and a/c in Makedonitissa, 5 Karaiskakis Street. For more info contact Maria Eleftheriou at (02) 396129 (o) or (02) 352367 (p).

Three-bedroom house in Makedonitissa, 10A Florinis. Study, attic, living and dining-room, large kitchen. A/C. £600. Phone (02) 592298 or (09) 428155.

Two large apartments (first and second floor, same building) for rent in Strovolos, near Dhimos supermarket. 4 bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, large verandas and independent c/h. £300 per month each. Tel Andri on (02) 422352.

Fully furnished flat, 3 bedrooms, large sitting/dining room, large kitchen, 2 bathrooms, parking, verandahs, c/h. Tel: (02) 779429 or (02) 777772 after 6:00 pm.

4-bedroom second floor apartment. 275 sq.m. c/h, solarium, office, large kitchen, sitting-dining room, hall. £350. Call (02) 422357.

250 sq.m. house at 11 Papaflessas Street, Makedonitissa. Tel: (02) 350896 or (09) 673293.

4-bedroom unfurnished house in

Makedonitissa. Fully equipped kitchen, 2 bathrooms, laundry room, 2 telephone lines, c/h and a/c. Big garden. Call Antonis (09) 644511.

3-bedroom ground floor house in Makedonitissa. Large kitchen, 2 WCs, parking and large garden. £260. Phone: (02) 351348.

3-bedroom ground floor house in Makedonitissa. Large kitchen, spacious reception area, a/c, c/h, parking, large garden. Phone (02) 351498 or (09) 610646.

4-bedroom upper 2-storey house in Makedonitissa. Large master bedroom, guest room with bathroom, large kitchen and sitting-dining room, a/c, c/h, many appliances. Tel (02) 350451.

Double-storey house in Anthoupolis area, 10 min from UNPA. Big living room, large solid wooden kitchen, 4 bedrooms, split unit and spare shower in master bedroom, big yard, c/h and solar water heater. £400. Contact Stelios: (09) 621143.

Luxury house at 33 Ioannis Psycharis Street, Ayios Andreas. 3 bedrooms + master bedroom, sitting room with bar, modern kitchen with all amenities, c/h, a/c, flower and fruit tree garden. Contact (02) 771039 or call opposite the premises for Mrs Alexia Hadjigeorgiou.

Flat in Lycavitos. Third-floor, 3 bedrooms, storeroom, covered parking, c/h, provision for a/c. Let furnished or unfurnished. Rent £400 (negotiable). Tel: Yannos (02) 344461/09-693993 or Yanna (02) 864524.

Second-floor apartment in Romanos Street (Hilton area) for rent. Living room, 3 bedrooms, 2 WCs, bathroom, CH, car park. Rent: £210. Phone Mrs Leto, (02) 374820 or 591153.

First floor house in Strovolos (11 Herodou Attikou St). 220 sq.m. with 3 bedrooms, hall, living room, office, kitchen, 2 WCs, laundry room, garage and c/h. Solar water heater. Rent: £400. Tel: (02) 422516.

## SERVICES

### NICOSIA LIBRARY

The Nicosia Library, 23 Sycamore Road, UNPA. Tel (02) 359317. Many new books now in stock. For the new entrance, please follow the arrows round the side.

### Opening Hours:

1000-1300 and 1700-1900 hrs Mon - Fri.

All nationalities are welcome.

Huge selection of fiction & non-fiction books for adults and children

Book search and reservation service.

Language cassettes and books available on long-term loans.

Many music cassettes and books on tape.

Videos now available on loan.

Photocopying at 5c per copy.

Computer & CD-ROM for use with military studies. "COIC Career Builder" programme.

*The Library will be closed during the week 26-30 July.*

**YMCA NEWSFLASH!!** The staff of the YMCA are just "abuzz" with ideas to improve our service to you. Visit Jackie, Carol and Ann at the canteen and sample our great sandwiches,

English breakfasts, tea or coffee. We make a mean milkshake, and yes, Rose will be baking again. Need a card or a gift wrap for a special occasion coming up? How about stamps, stationery, etc? Call into the YMCA.

### NICOSIA HIVE NEWS

The NICOSIA HIVE is open for information and advice and is located at 21 Sycamore Road, UNPA (within the Married Quarters area). Tel (02) 359316. The Nicosia HIVE Coordinator is Karen McCormack.

All nationalities are welcome!

Opening Times: Mon-Wed-Fri, 0930-1230 and 1500-1700 hrs.

## FACILITIES

### SANDRA'S HAIR FASHIONS

Sandra's Hair Fashions is situated at 21 Sycamore Road on the Married Quarters Patch. Open Mon-Fri between 0900-1800 hrs. Tel: (02) 776454.

### ENGLISH LESSONS

Qualified and experienced teacher available to teach English to small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Tel: (02) 772991.

### EVENING BABYSITTING AND ASSISTING AT PARTIES

Lady available for evening babysitting and assisting at drinks/dinner parties. Tel Maroulla: (02) 330296 after 1600 hrs.

**MATURE BABYSITTER** Reliable, mature lady available for babysitting. Tel: (02) 623850 after 1600 hrs.

**UK-TRAINED SEAMSTRESS** available for alterations, zip replacements, costume making, etc. Also specialises in beautiful creative home fabric decorations. Contact Stella on (02) 491840.

**JOB WANTED:** Woman is looking for houses, offices and staircases in Nicosia + area to clean. Own transport available. 12 years experience. Call (02) 433811.

### BRITISH TRAINED SEAMSTRESS

Specialises in dressmaking for formal occasions, ball gowns, wedding dresses and outfits, etc, also alterations and repairs. Mrs Chris Broad. 28 Vyzantou Street, Ayios Dhometios, Nicosia (close to UNPA, near Astra garage). Tel: (02) 773206.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### TEDDY TOTS PLAYGROUP, UNPA

Children from the UN and international community are most welcome. Ages: Two to rising five. Excellent facilities, air-conditioned, follows English pre-school curriculum. Small numbers in class. For further information Tel: (02) 359655 (school) or 359225 (home).

### "BRATCON" YOUTH CLUB

If you are aged between 8-16, and want to have some fun, "BRATCON" is the place to be seen. We are open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6-8.30 pm at St Michael's School in the UNPA. Our club is run by volunteers. We do everything from sporting activities to staging our own pantomime.

Come along and make some new friends. For further information, contact Pam Kingston on (02) 359112, or pop in on one of the nights that we are open and find out for yourself. Membership is £1.50 per term or £4 annually.

Nightly subs - 50c for members and 75c for visitors.

### VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The "BRATCON" Youth Club urgently requires new volunteers to help out at their twice-weekly sessions. If you have some free time and would like to work with a bunch of happy kids, please contact Pam on (02) 359112 for more information. Don't delay - pick up the phone NOW.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH, UNPA: ANGLICAN EUCHARIST

Roman Catholic Mass, Saturdays: 18:00 hrs.

Sunday worship: 09:00 hrs.

All welcome.

Sector 2 Padre's Office (LPH) tel: 864760/1, Ext 301.

Britcon Chaplain: Padre Philip McCormack.

Dutch Chaplain, Padre Frank Duyvenvoorde.

## WANTED - NEW YOUTH LEADER

DO YOU HAVE SOME SPARE TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT YOUR ENERGY INTO A MUCH NEEDED FACILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8-16 YEARS?

THEN THIS COULD BE THE POST FOR YOU! FREE YOUTH WORK TRAINING IS PROVIDED.

JUST PHONE PAM FOR MORE DETAILS ON (02) 359112

## SEE CYPRUS FROM ABOVE

Sightseeing flights over Cyprus available.

Experienced pilot. 4-seat, high winged aircraft gives excellent view. Great fun.

An experience not to be missed. For more info, call (02) 864669. Ask for Mr.

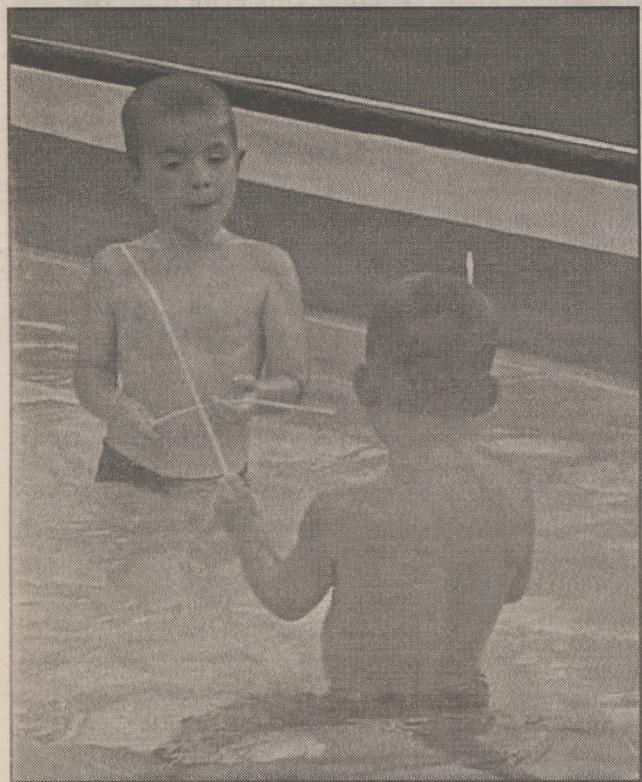
# BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

## SWIM FOR IT

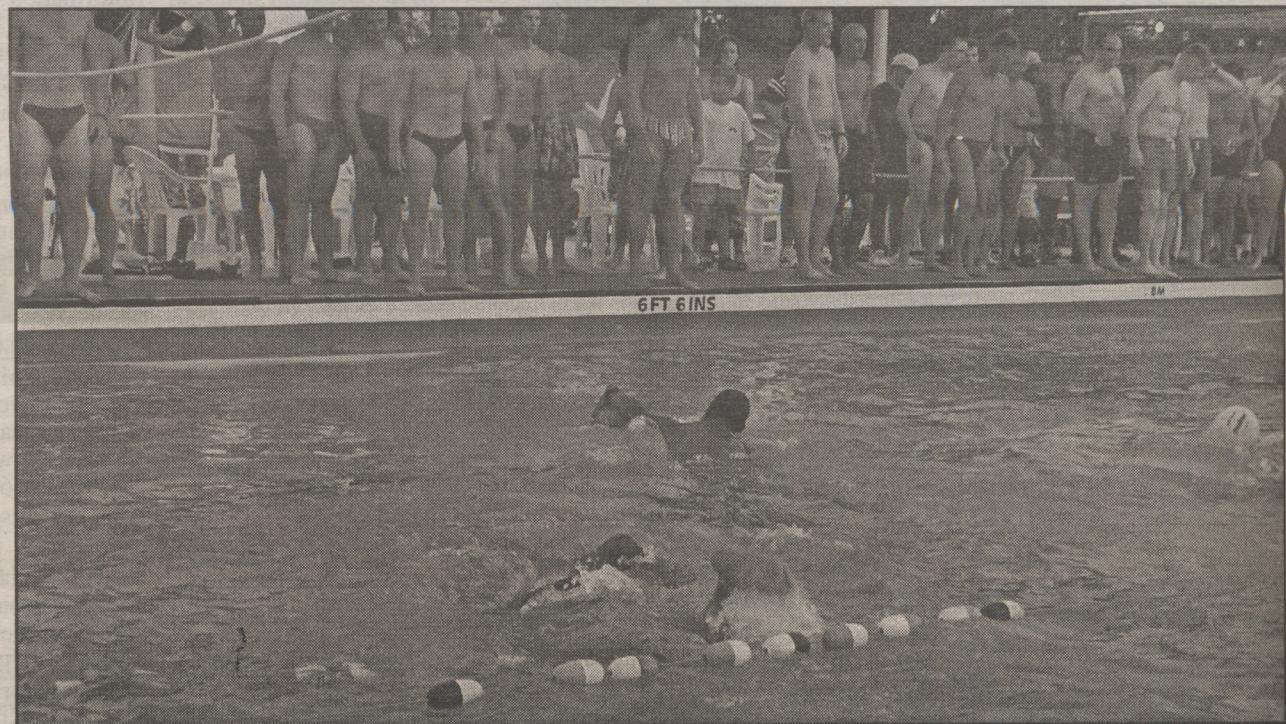
The only sensible thing to do after duty hours during a Cyprus summer seems to be to go to the pool. And that's exactly what UNFICYP personnel and their families did on Tuesday 13 July. Some went to compete; others to watch, enjoy each other's company, and generally have a good time. The swimming competition was also an opportunity for families to get together again at the end of the school year.

Competitors from the UNPA and all sectors raced fast and furiously, with enthusiastic support from spectators. There were also fiercely fought children's races, with 39 medals lying waiting for the quickest children. Military winners simply went home with eternal glory.

After the military had finished the "serious" part of the competition, they launched into the famous chain of command race. Team members were instructed to behave like dolphins, diving under and jumping over lines, come ashore, pick up a ball (or a cap or a closed can of beer) or put on an operation overall and do the return journey. Chief of Staff Colonel Chris Coats was doing really well but failed to go over a lane dividing line and lost time correcting this. People seemed to get disqualified for all kinds of reasons (Sergeant Jerry Behan is a famously strict referee), but no one appeared to complain.



One for all, all for one, en garde!

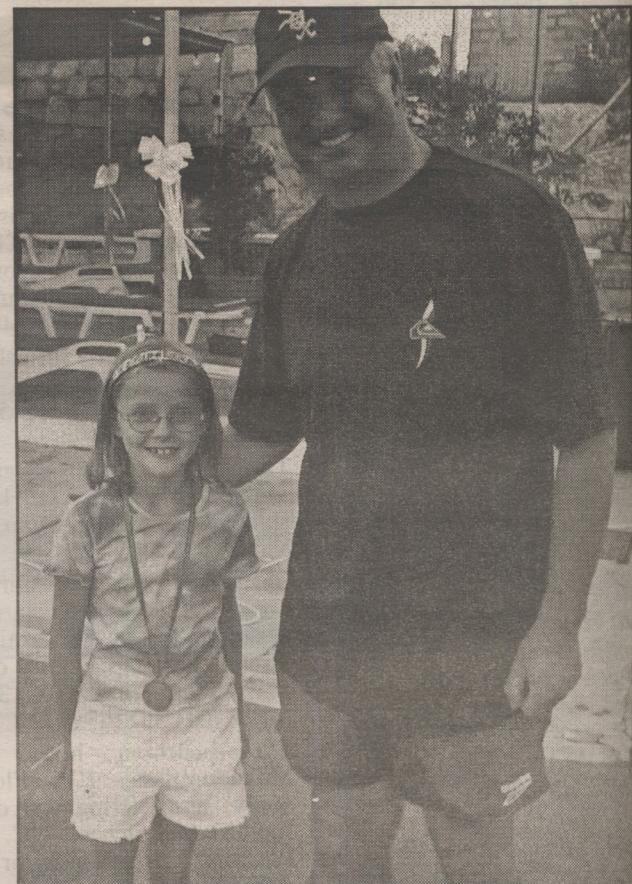


Chaos during the chain of command race

For anyone with any energy left, two floating goals were launched and a water polo match started. But by now, most people were more interested in collecting food from the barbecue and salad bar – kindly laid on by UNCIVPOL.

After dinner, a team of persistent raffle-ticket sellers led by the Chief of Mission ambushed unsuspecting carriers of wallets. Lack of change pushed even the reluctantly charitable to buy either five or even ten tickets at a time, enabling the Welfare Committee to raise more than CP1,000 for charities in both north and south. The lucky winners, meanwhile, went home with prizes ranging from tickets for a flight to a beautiful Mediterranean island to a couple of tickets to go go-karting on the UNPA. There were quite a few envious-looking kids as Wlodek Cibor walked away with an inflatable bouncy castle.

Then it was entertainment time. Before the disco got going, Bratcon children danced to the accordion music of Dr Eireen Cotter. Sector 1 (renowned for having the best dancers in UNFICYP) contributed a Malambo performance. Sector 2 (more talented vocally than on the dance floor) turned up with a Welsh Choir, while the MFR (whose taste has often been described as dubious) elected to impersonate The Village People performing "YMCA".



COS Colonel Coats presented a medal to proud Leanne Behan (3rd 1-width backstroke, 8-10 years old) and 38 others

## HOW LONG IS A MILE?

By Captain Vicki Walker

On 10 July, four members of Sector 2 went down to Dhekelia to take part in the Dhekelia One Mile Swim – a race sponsored by the UK's 2 Royal Anglian Regiment.

All four finished in the top 20, with Captain Phil Curtis coming in seventh, SSgt Pete Barnes 11th, SSgt Ted Comber 16th, and Sgt Linda De Jager 18th.

One mile in a swimming pool seems far enough, but out at sea with waves, wind, salt, and

currents, it must seem that much further.

Ted Comber certainly thought so: "Swimming in the sea is much harder than swimming in still water." He went on to confess: "Not only did it seem further – it was further. I got lost."

The sea swimming team will be in action again soon at the Episkopi Bay-to-Bay Swim on 23 July, giving the Sector 2 Ops team just a few days to finish waterproofing SSgt Comber's map.

## VETERAN'S RUGBY

Do you think you are over the hill, but would still like to play rugby? Then we have news for you.

Phil Davies from the finance office in the UNPA would like to put together an over-35 rugby team to play out of Nicosia. Don't hesitate, pick up the phone now and dial (02) 864443 or (02) 357903.

Do you play in a veterans team already? Then please get in touch too. Perhaps the new UNFICYP veterans can play against your team.