

THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP

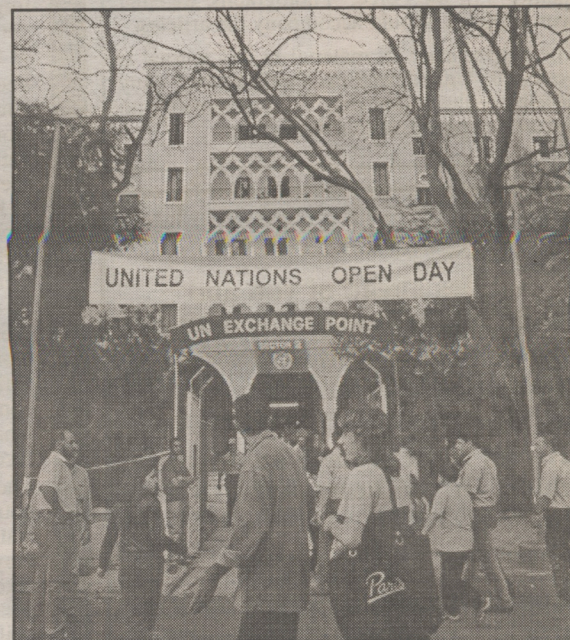


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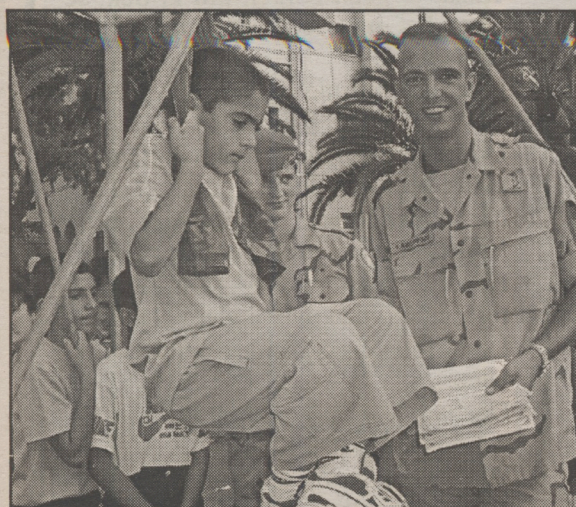
A SUNDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE



Around 5,000 people flocked to the Ledra Palace last Sunday for the UN's international open house - an afternoon of entertainment and fun for families from all over. Military, police, and civilians had been preparing the event for four months.

Sector chefs cooked heaps of food which proved just a little bit too delicious - early-comers polished it all off. Contingents laid on a truly comprehensive array of sports and games, as well as exhibition stands. And the music didn't stop until rain brought a rather soggy end to what was otherwise voted a great afternoon out with a "terrific atmosphere".

*Photographs by Corporal Julie Bottrill (SBA),
Captain Gregorij Hvastja and Major Paul Kolken*



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THE BLUE BERET

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

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

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QUOTATIONS

What lies ahead of you and
what lies behind you is nothing
compared to what lies within
you.

Anon

It's all right to have an open
mind - if you know what to let
in.

Anon

Love is not what makes the
world go around - but it sure
makes the ride worthwhile.

Anon

EDITORIAL

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON UNITED NATIONS DAY

My dear friends,

This year's United Nations Day is a special one. The world's population has just passed six billion, and we are about to enter a new millennium.

In one sense, both these things are simply numbers. Yet both give us something to celebrate, and something to think about. Together, they mark the opening of a new chapter in human history - a chapter in which, more than ever before, we shall all share the same destiny.

It is a moment to take stock: to look back on what we have achieved, and where we have failed - and then to look forward, and think how we can make the new era better than the old.

It is shocking to think that nearly half of us are entering the new era in abject poverty, with two dollars a day, or less, to live on. That is one thing we really must change.

It is also shocking that people in so many places today are exposed to violence and brutality. The twentieth century has been the most murderous in human history. We must make sure the twenty-first is more peaceful, and more humane.

And it is worrying that the world's climate seems to be changing, in a way which could destroy the homes and livelihoods of millions. Controlling and managing this process may yet prove to be the biggest challenge of all.

People all over the world look to the United Nations to protect them - from hunger, disease, violence, and natural disasters - whenever the task seems too big for nations, or regions, to handle alone. But we at the United Nations can do nothing alone, either. Our strength is the strength of our member states, when they agree to act together for the common good. Next year, leaders from all over the world will come to New York for the Millennium Summit. They will consider the challenges ahead, and what the United Nations can do to face them.

Those leaders will be representing you, the peoples of the United Nations. It is up to you to make sure they come here firmly resolved to take decisions which can lead to a better life for all of us, and for our children.

I am counting on you - and I thank you all.

BOODSCHAP VAN DE SECRETARIS- GENERAAL TER GELEGENHEID VAN VN- DAG

Beste vrienden,

Dit jaar is de VN-dag een bijzondere. Niet lang geleden werd de zes-miljardste wereldburger geboren, en we staan op het punt een nieuw millennium in te gaan. Van de ene kant zijn het slechts cijfers. Aan de andere kant bieden beide feiten ons iets om te vieren en iets om over na te denken. Gezamenlijk markeren ze de opening van een nieuw hoofdstuk in de geschiedenis van de mensheid. Een hoofdstuk waarin we meer dan ooit tevoren elkaars lot zullen delen.

Het is een moment om bij stil te staan: om terug te kijken naar wat we bereikt hebben en naar waar we gefaald hebben, om vervolgens vooruit te blikken en er over na te denken hoe we het volgende tijdperk beter kunnen maken dan het vorige.

Het is schokkend te bedenken dat bijna de helft van de mensheid het nieuwe tijdperk in troosteloze armoede betreedt, met vijf gulden of minder per dag om van te leven. Dat is iets dat we echt moeten veranderen.

Het is ook schokkend dat veel mensen bloot staan aan geweld en wreedheden. De twintigste eeuw was de meest moorddadige in de geschiedenis. We moeten er voor zorgen dat de één-en-twintigste een meer humane en vrediger eeuw wordt.

Het is zorgelijk dat het wereldklimaat verandert op een manier die het levensonderhoud en de huizen van miljoenen vernietigt. Het onder controle krijgen van dit proces is wellicht de grootste uitdaging van alle.

Mensen over de hele wereld verwachten dat de Verenigde Naties hen beschermen - tegen honger, ziekte, geweld en natuurrampen - wanneer die taak te veel schijnt te zijn voor naties of regio's om alleen aan te kunnen. Maar ook bij de Verenigde Naties kunnen we niet alles alleen. Onze kracht is de kracht van de lidstaten, wanneer zij overeenkomen gezamenlijk op te treden voor het algemeen belang.

Volgend jaar komen leiders vanuit de hele wereld naar New York voor de Millennium Topconferentie. Zij zullen de uitdagingen die voor ons liggen bespreken, en wat de Verenigde Naties eraan kunnen doen om die uitdagingen aan te gaan.

Deze leiders zullen u, de mensen van de Verenigde Naties, vertegenwoordigen. Het is aan u om ervoor te zorgen dat zij hier vastberaden naar toe komen om beslissingen te nemen die leiden tot een beter leven voor ieder van ons, en voor onze kinderen.

Ik reken op u, en bedank u allen.

ANSPRACHE DES UN GENERALSEKRETÄRS

Liebe Freunde

In diesem Jahr ist der UN Feiertag ein ganz besonderer. Die Weltbevölkerung hat gerade die 6 Milliarden Grenze überschritten und wir sind auf dem Weg in ein neues Jahrtausend. Natürlich kann man sagen das sind bloß Zahlen, trotzdem geben uns beide Grund zum Feiern und zum Nachdenken. Gemeinsam eröffnen sie ein neues Kapitel in der Geschichte der Menschheit, eines, mehr als je zuvor, wo wir alle das selbe Schicksal teilen sollten.

Jetzt ist der Zeitpunkt kurz innezuhalten und darauf zurückzublicken, was wir erreicht haben, aber auch darauf wo wir versagten, und trotzdem in die Zukunft zu blicken. Vor allem aber darüber nachdenken, was wir in dieser kommenden Ära besser als in der vergangenen machen können.

Es ist erschreckend, daß fast die Hälfte von uns in dieses neue Jahrhundert am Rande der Armut beginnen und mit 2 Dollar am Tag ihr Leben fristen müssen, das ist etwas was verändert gehört. Außerdem ist es schockierend wie viele Orte der Gewalt und Brutalität es nachwievor gibt. Das zwanzigste Jahrhundert war das gewalttätigste aller Zeiten und wir müssen sicherstellen, daß das einundzwanzigste ein friedliches und humaneres wird.

Ferner ist es beunruhigend, daß sich das Weltklima in einer Art und Weise ändert, die bedrohlich für das Leben von Millionen ist, diesen Vorgang unter Kontrolle zu bringen ist mit Sicherheit die größte Herausforderung.

Leute auf der ganzen Welt sehen die Vereinten Nationen als Einrichtung des Schutzes, vor Hunger, Seuchen, Gewalt und Naturkatastrophen, so oft ein Ereignis zu groß für eine einzelne Institution oder einen Staat erscheint. Aber wir, die Vereinten Nationen, können nichts alleine bewirken. Unsere Stärke ist die der einzelnen Stärke unserer Mitglieder wenn sie sich auf eine gemeinsame Lösung einigen können.

Im nächsten Jahr werden sich alle Führer der Staaten in einem Millenniumstreffen in New York einfinden, dort werden sie die größten Herausforderungen der nächsten Jahre diskutieren und einen Weg festlegen wie diesen am besten begegnet werden kann. Diese Leute werden uns alle repräsentieren, uns die Angehörigen der Vereinten Nationen.

Es liegt an uns, daß diese Leute dementsprechend vorbereitet zu diesem Treffen kommen und dort auch Entscheidungen treffen die ein besseres Leben für alle von uns und vor allem für unsere Kinder bringen.

Ich traue und bedanke Ihnen.

BB TIPS: YOUR DUTY TO BE HAPPY

- * Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in simple things.
- * Make the best of your circumstances. No-one has everything.
- * Don't let criticism worry you. You can't please everybody.
- * Don't let others set your standards. Be yourself.
- * Do the things you enjoy doing, but don't get into debt in the process.
- * Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary things are harder to bear than the actual ones.
- * Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about many places.
- * Don't be one who never gets over things.
- * Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself.
- * Keep busy at something. A very busy person never has time to be unhappy.

Extracts from Robert Louis Stevenson

- * Határozd el, hogy boldog leszel. Tanuld meg, hogyan lehet az egyszerű dolgokban is örömet találni.
- * Tedd jobba a körülményeidet. Nem kaphatsz meg mindent egyszerre.
- * Ne hagyd, hogy a kritika nyugtalanítsa téged. Nem kedvezhetsz mindenkinek.
- * Ne hagyd, hogy mások állítsanak eléd normákat. Légy önmagad.
- * Tedd azt, amit örömmel teszel s ne kétértelmű céljaid elérésében.
- * Ne terheld magad mások problémáival. A képzelte nehézségek több gondot okozhatnak, mint a valóságosak.
- * Légy nyitott a világ dolgaira. Ha nem utazhatsz, olvass érdekes témákról.
- * Ne te légy az, aki soha nem tud túllépni a nehézségeken.
- * Tegy meg mindent azokért, akik kevésbé szerencsések, mint te.
- * Foglald el magad. Az elfoglalt embernek nincs ideje boldogtalannak lenni.

Extracts from Robert Louis Stevenson

- * Prepara tu mente para ser feliz. Aprende a encontrar lo bueno de las cosas simples.
- * Haz lo mejor que puedas con lo que tienes. Nadie puede tener todo en la vida.
- * No permitas que las críticas te desanimen. No se puede conformar a todos.
- * No permitas que otros te condicionen. Decide por tí mismo.
- * Haz lo que te guste, pero no dejes que esto te domine.
- * No te compliques. Las cosas de la imaginación pueden ser mas difíciles de sobrellevar que la realidad.
- * Busca incentivos. Si no puedes viajar, lee acerca de muchos lugares.
- * No seas alguien que nunca supera las situaciones.
- * Haz lo que puedas por aquellos menos afortunados que tú.
- * Mantente ocupado. Una persona muy ocupada nunca tiene tiempo para no estar feliz.

Extractos de Robert Louis Stevenson

- * Besluit gewoon om vrolijk te zijn. Put vreugde uit eenvoudige dingen.
- * Maak het beste van je omstandigheden. Niemand heeft alles.
- * Maak je geen zorgen om kritiek. Je kunt het niet iedereen naar de zin maken.
- * Laat anderen niet voor jou beslissen wat gewoon is. Blijf jezelf.
- * Doe de dingen die je leuk vindt, maar maak geen schulden.
- * Neem andermans zorgen niet over. Niemand is daarmee geholpen.
- * Heb veel interesses. Kun je niet reizen, lees dan over andere plaatsen.
- * Leer slechte ervaringen achter je te laten.
- * Doe wat je kunt voor hen die minder gelukkig zijn dan jij.
- * Wees altijd bezig. Iemand die druk is heeft geen tijd om ongelukkig te zijn.

Uit Robert Louis Stevenson

SECTOR 1: THE ENGINEERS

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Sector 1's Engineer Section devotes its time to maintaining and improving living conditions for all personnel. Their shops, deposits, carpentry and lodgings are all located in Roca Camp. Lieutenant Victor Piorno, Engineer Section Commander, told us: "We do a huge variety of tasks including general repairs, mending generators or improving the patrol track."

The NCOs and soldiers deal with all Sector 1's plumbing and electricity problems. Warrant Officer II Hugo Torres explains: "We are substituting metal water tanks for plastic. The Finnish engineers gave us a hand. It has been great to see how pleased people are with what we've done."

They also deal with carpentry. Sergeant Luis Ocampo and 1st Corporal Jorge Greco are the wood repair experts. "We mend chairs, cupboards and all kinds of other furniture in the camps and in the OPs. And we repair roofs, doors or anything else wooden that needs fixing. Our work never seems to stop, but

we are proud of it."

Sector 1 is the only sector that possesses its own heavy machine operators to repair the patrol tracks. The machines are a leveller, an excavator, a roller and a dump truck. Sergeant Rodolfo Sandoval and 1st Corporal Ariel Martínez are the drivers. Other members of the section work on the maintenance of the patrol track, placing 2,000 metres of asphalt and using ready-mix concrete to facilitate patrolling.

In San Martín Camp, the section has completed work on the construction of a bathroom for Warrant Officers. The team is now working to repair another bathroom, construct a situation room and build an office.

The engineers have a lot to do and they approach their work with speed and efficiency. In spite of the fact that almost none of them are specialists in construction, their work is of a high professional standard. Thank you, engineers!



La Sección de Ingenieros del Sector 1 realiza diversas tareas relacionadas con el mantenimiento y mejoramiento en los distintos campos, en lo que respecta a instalaciones y servicios. Tienen sus talleres, depósitos, carpintería y alojamientos en el Campo Roca. Su Jefe el Teniente Victor PIORNO nos cuenta: "Dentro de alguna de las actividades que realiza la Sección de Ingenieros se encuentran los arreglos de aquel material que se deteriora o que necesita un mantenimiento especial como los generadores de electricidad o el mejoramiento de las tracks."

Los Suboficiales y soldados se encargan de todos los trabajos de plomería y electricidad del Sector. El Encargado de la Sección, WO II Hugo Torres nos explica:

"Estamos realizando el reemplazo de los tanques de agua metálicos por plásticos, y colocamos también equipos de aire acondicionado en los lugares comunes dentro de los OPs y PBs. Los ingenieros finlandeses nos dieron una mano, quienes trabajaron en las instalaciones eléctricas. Nos sentimos realmente contentos porque pudimos ser testigos de los festejos que el personal expresaba al recibir tan reconfortante servicio."

Además de estas funciones, también se ocupan de las tareas de carpintería. El sargento Luis Ocampo y el cabo 1º Jorge Greco son los expertos en reparar la madera del contingente. "Realizamos las reparaciones de aquellas sillas, armarios o

diferentes muebles que se encuentran en los campos o en los OPs. Nosotros nos ocupamos de trabajos relacionados con reparaciones sobre techos, puertas u otras maderas. Nos enorgullece trabajar en esta tarea que es realmente constante."

Sector 1 es el único de los contingentes que posee sus propios operadores de máquinas viales para reparar la Patrol Track. Las máquinas son una motoniveladora, una retrocargadora, un 'roller' y un camión volcador. El Sargento Rodolfo Sandoval y el CIIM Ariel Martínez son los conductores de las máquinas viales. Además se está trabajando en el mejoramiento de la Patrol Track colocando 2000 metros de capa asfáltica, empleando concreto 'ready-mix', para facilitar el patrullado.

En Campo San Martín se ha finalizado la construcción de un baño con todas las comodidades para los Suboficiales del Sector 1. Para no perder el tiempo también se dedican a la tareas de la reparación general de otro baño, la construcción de una sala de situación y una oficina.

Como ven, los Ingenieros tienen muchas tareas para realizar, y realmente lo hacen en forma eficiente y veloz. Es destacable el excelente trabajo que realizan en todas sus actividades. A pesar de que ellos no son especialistas en construcción, sus trabajos son de un gran nivel profesional. Zapadores argentinos, continúen como hasta el momento que cada uno de nosotros reconocemos y agradecemos sus brillantes funciones.

Chief of Staff visits Force Military Police Unit



Sergeant Smith, duty Station Commander at the Force Military Police Unit, briefing Colonel Jeremy Brooks, Chief of Staff, on the force's favourite secret weapon - the speed gun.

WORKING IN THE SKIES



Over the past week, Sergeant Raúl Vilte and Sergeant Victor Gaspar, UN soldiers who work in the ARGCON Signal Section of San Martín Camp, have been hanging about on top of an antenna. When I managed to get them to climb down from their 17-metre perch, we talked about their work and how they feel doing these tasks.

"Do you spend a lot of time up in the air like this?" I asked.

"Yes, in Argentina we're always up there! We maintain the wires and make sure the connections are OK,

and adjust the frequencies for the right HF communication. It's part of our daily work."

"What sort of safety precautions do you take?"

"We use safety belts to make sure we're firmly attached to the antenna."

"What have you been doing up there?"

"We've been pointing the antenna in the best direction for communication with Argentina. Although this antenna is an HF type, and we have the technical capacity to talk to people all around the world,

we have to prepare it for the best and clear connection with home."

"Are you ever scared?"

"Not now, but some years ago, when we started working at these heights, we sometimes felt a bit of vertigo. But the more you do it, the less you feel."

All of us love to talk with our families in Argentina. The Radio Station gives us this chance. Without these men we wouldn't be able to. So we owe it to them to say thank you for doing such a risky job on our behalf.

TRABAJANDO EN LOS CIELOS

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Durante la semana pasada los Sargentos Raúl VILTE y Victor GASPAS, soldados de las Naciones Unidas que trabajan en la Sección de Comunicaciones del ARGCON en Campo San Martín, realizaron una tarea sumamente interesante colgados del tope de una antena. Luego que descendieron de las alturas, aproximadamente 17 metros, conversamos sobre este trabajo y sus procedimientos y de cómo se sentían realizándolo.

"Ustedes acostumbran a trabajar en las antenas? Contestaron: "Si, en Argentina trabajamos continuamente en este tipo de tareas. Solemos realizar el mantenimiento y limpieza de los cables

de conexión y ajustamos las frecuencias para la correcta comunicación en HF. Es una tarea diaria."

"Que tipo de seguridad adoptan para subir? "Usamos cinturones de seguridad para que nuestros cuerpos estén sujetos a la estructura de la antena."

"Que tipo de tarea realizaron?"

"Colocamos la antena en la correcta orientación para que sea más fácil de recibir la comunicación desde Argentina. Aunque esta antena es del tipo HF, y estamos en capacidad de hablar alrededor del mundo, debemos prepararla para la mejor y clara conexión."

"Sienten temor al trabajar en los cielos? "No, pero algunos años atrás, cuando nos iniciamos en nuestras carreras al trabajar en estas tareas, a veces sentíamos un poco de vértigo. Pero luego de hacerlo en varias oportunidades, perdimos esa sensación."

Estos hombres son profesionales y sabemos que estamos dichosos de poder hablar con nuestras familias en Argentina. La Radio Estación nos entrega esta oportunidad. Sin estas tareas no se podrían hacer los enlaces. Por lo tanto, debemos decir gracias, a todos estos hombres que realizan esta riesgosa tarea.

REAL LIFE

Das Feldpostamt 1501 AUSCON/UNFICYP stellt sich vor

Am 15. November 1976 wurde das Feldpostamt 1501 Auscon/UNFICYP in Betrieb genommen. Zuvor wurde die Postversorgung über die zypriotische Postverwaltung abgeleitet, wobei es im Krisenjahr 1974 zu großen Problemen mit der Zulieferung kam.

Daher wurde nach dem Muster des bereits gut funktionierenden Feldpostamt am Golan 1500 UNDOF/Ausbatt das FPA 1501 errichtet.

Die Aufgaben sind bzw. waren:

- Annahme von bescheinigten Briefsendungen bis 2 kg
- Abgabe von bescheinigten Sendungen und Paketen bis 2 kg.
- Philatelistische Wünsche zu erledigen.

Der Postzugang aus Österreich erfolgt 4 x wöchentlich der Postabgang in die Heimat 3 x wöchentlich, jeweils mit der

AUA. Als Postgebühren werden die Inlandsgebühren angewendet. Die Laufzeit einer Sendung bewegt sich zwischen 1 - 2 Tagen und ist damit weltweit führend. Aus Erfahrung von anderen Einsätzen weiß man, daß uns andere Nationen bezüglich der Schnelligkeit der Postbeförderung beneiden.

Lediglich die Vielfalt der Angebote lässt zu wünschen übrig.

Technisch wären zusätzliche Dienste wie Telegrammdienst, Geldpostdienst, Paketbeförderung bis 31 kg durchaus denkbar, doch das Verkehrsministerium seitens der Post und das Verteidigungsministerium sind sich leider über eine Erweiterung der Anbotspalette nicht einig. Bleibt nur zu hoffen, dass sich 'in der Zukunft etwas ändert.

Für die Moral der Truppe ist ein funktionierendes Feldpostwesen absolut wichtig. Dies bestätigen führende Psychologen.



Das Feldpostamt 1501

Trotz Handys, Fax usw. erhält jeder Soldat 2 x pro Woche Post von zu Hause und gibt 3 x pro Woche Post auf. Das geht durch eine eigens angelegte Statistik hervor.

Dem Feldpostamt steht ein Feldpostmeister, der auch in Österreich mit den Agenden eines Amtsleiters betraut ist, vor an seiner Seite ein Gehilfe, der ihm in Abwesenheit (Krankheit, Urlaub) vertritt.

Abschließend kann man ohne weiteres behaupten, daß die Post um "gute Kontakte" bemüht ist.

SECTOR 4'S AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

It is always important to keep up the morale of soldiers serving away from home and families, and the Austrian Field Post Office is certainly one office busy trying to achieve this aim. At the inception of UNFICYP in 1964, all post came and left through the Cypriot system, but since 15 November 1976, the Austrian Field Post Office has been handling post to and from home using Austrian Airlines. The same service is offered to UNDOF in the Golan Heights.

In Sector 4 there is one post master and one additional soldier for support/replacement during leave periods. At first, the post office only handled letters up to 2 kg,

packets up to 2 kg and sold stamps, but nowadays, packages up to 31 kg, money transfers and telegrams are not a problem. However, Auscon would like to upgrade the services currently offered and are looking to some changes in the future.

Although there are more modern communication methods these days (mobile phones, internet, etc), on average, most soldiers receive news twice a week from home and use the service three times a week to send mail back. Charges are exactly as for Austria, and because of the frequent flights, mail takes on average one to two days to arrive at its destination - an excellent service.

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS MEDAL

By Sergeant Michelle Lomas-Travers



The Police Overseas Service Medal, or POSM as it is affectionately called, was established on 25 April 1991 and recognises service with international peace-keeping operations by officers of Australian Police Forces. On 13 October, 10 Australian officers were presented with their POSM medals.

The image of the wattle (Australia's national flower) over the globe represents Australia's police forces serving in a protective capacity throughout the world. The

globe is actually centred on Cyprus, signifying the first operation for which the medal was awarded.

The ribbon consists of black and white squares in a chequerboard pattern, which is the internationally recognised symbol of police. A bar is used on the ribbon to indicate the location of the service operation which the award recognises.

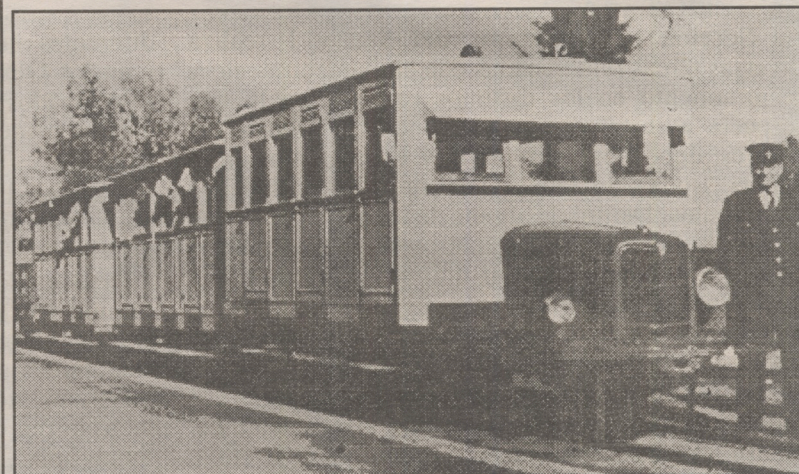
Police officers must perform 90 days' overseas duty before being eligible for the medal.

TRAIN SPOTTING IN THE BUFFER ZONE

By Corporal Major Mark Kingston

The Buffer Zone is seen by many of us as just a place of work. We study its periphery with a professional eye, ensuring that neither side poses a threat to the other. However if you stop for a moment and look closely at the central area of the Zone you will discover that it holds some strange and historical surprises.

water had to be softened chemically so as not to damage the engine boilers. The railway sleepers, yet another "spotter's" term, were taken from the forests in what is now Sector 1 they were used to keep the track true and straight. The main problem the engineers faced was bridge maintenance. Rivers in Cyprus are harmless dry beds in summer,



The Cyprus Government railway's passenger carriages

I came across one such surprise while travelling in Sector 2. Hidden amongst the undergrowth I "spotted" a 1920s railway coach. Having uncovered this industrial archeological find, I put on my mandatory "spotters" anorak and horn-rimmed glasses and set out to investigate the lost railways of Cyprus.

In 1904, the railway construction depot was inside the old walls of Famagusta, opposite the Othello Tower, an area that Sector 4 will know as the Desdemona Gardens. In order to give access to the docks, three archways were driven into the old Venetian curtain walls, traces of which can still be seen today. Great care was shown not to use stone for the railway construction from the walls and the ancient buildings, although there were rumours that stone was taken from Bellapais Abbey.

The Cyprus Government Railway was narrow gauge. For those unfamiliar with the terminology of "spotters", this means that the track was 2 feet, 6 inches wide. It ran from Famagusta harbour through Nicosia and terminated in Morphou, a distance of 76 miles. There were approximately 30 intermediate stations or halts, a number of which acted as post offices; a prime example of one of these stations can still be found west of the "pig farm" in Sector 2. The entire journey would take up to four hours travelling at 20 miles per hour, many Cypriots said that they could cover the distance quicker by donkey and refused to use the service, but this cannot be confirmed as I've never met a "donkey spotter".

Coal was the fuel, which came from England to the Famagusta docks; some even came from the Admiralty yards at Port Said in Egypt over 284 miles away. The trains of course were steam, and

but in winter torrents would often sweep the bridges away. Maybe travelling by donkey wasn't such a bad idea after all.

We tend to think that railways were built for the benefit of passengers, but this is not so, for the Cyprus Government Railway freight was the economic driving force behind its conception. The Cyprus Mines Corporation, which was located in the west of the island and who's mines can still be seen today adjacent to Camp Roccas, used the CGR for the transport of copper, chrome ore and asbestos to Famagusta docks until port facilities elsewhere in the island were developed. During some troubles in 1931, a number of unsuccessful attempts were made to tear up the track as it was regarded as a symbol of British Colonial Rule.

In 1945, the railway trains were still running to time, but then the donkey owners switched to the new 6-ton diesel lorries, against which the CGR could not compete. Road haulage meant the end of the railway. The railway was also faced with the problem of new engines, new track and carriages because the whole system was over 40 years old. There was much gossip that the railway was quite inefficient and that the Ford Motor Company wanted the railway to close down in order to boost their sales of motor vehicles. Very difficult to prove, but who knows, it may have been the major reason for the closure of the CGR.

The last train left Nicosia for Famagusta on 31 December 1951, and it was then that engine No 1 was lifted by crane to its final resting place by British army engineers using a 20 ton crane. The engine still stands in Famagusta as a memorial to a marvellous episode in the history of Cyprus.

PEOPLE

Lovable Military Policemen 2

By Lieutenant Stephanie Gras-Ficq

Another policeman to know and love: this time a British one. Britcon provides six members of the Royal Military Police, one officer and five NCOs to UNFICYP's military police unit.

They've been explaining to us how they came to join this elite group.

Once potential military policemen or women have completed their basic military training, they attend the Royal Military Police training school in Chichester, west Sussex. For six months, the students are taught legislation and its implication to service life. They learn about policing British Army garrisons and their role in the military community. They are also instructed in the RMP's role in operations such as the Gulf War and the former republic of Yugoslavia. If they complete the training successfully, they are promoted and can be posted to any provost company in the world.

As well as doing general police duties they have numerous opportunities to specialise. For example, they can follow intensive courses and apply to join the SIB (Special Investigation Branch) or move into close protection.

Having heard all this, we had to decide which of our Brits to introduce you to. But in the end, the choice was obvious. Many of you will already know him - but for those who don't, we are shining our

spotlight on "smiling Brit", currently acting shift commander within FMPU lines: Sgt Dave Cook.

Dave comes from Wigan, Lancashire and joined the RMP in May 1986. He has served with provost companies in West Germany, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Canada and the UK. He has also taken part in major military exercises in USA, Belgium, Egypt and Gibraltar. When this tour ends, he'll be posted to 101 Provost company in Germany. But for the moment we can all enjoy the company of this professional, friendly, sporting, patient, and constantly-smiling police officer....



Sgt Dave Cook knows the route

BORN TO COUNT

Kadena Marathefti, Finance Section, Payroll

By Noel Evdokiou

Kadena Marathefti is one person it pays all local UNFICYP staff to be nice to. In charge of the payroll in the Finance Section, she is responsible for ensuring local employees' salaries are safely deposited in the bank at the end of each month.

An UNFICYP employee since 1995, she admits that the job - strictly for those with a head for figures - would not be everyone's cup of tea. "It is a very complex job, and certainly needs 100% accuracy, but I enjoy it," she says.

It is also one that she was groomed for from a very early age.

Her Greek Cypriot father - her mother is Irish - owned a barber's shop in London for years, which meant that Kadena's life in accountancy started from about the age of nine.

"He used to bring home all his earnings in a large brown carrier bag," she recalls. "In those days, Sterling was in £.s.d. (pounds, shillings and pence), and a hair cut cost about 2s.6d, so his earnings were mainly in coins. The currency system was made up of farthings, pence, three penny pieces, six penny pieces, shillings, florins, half crowns, ten shilling notes, pound notes, and five pound notes. I don't remember any ten pound notes, there were certainly some about but they never came into our household! There were also guineas, which were the equivalent of one pound and one shilling, but they were only used to price very prestigious goods (snob's money).

"Now with all this coinage, in order to make things really difficult, there was no decimal system. There were four farthings to one penny. Twelve pennies to a shilling. Two shillings and six pence to half a crown, and four half crowns to a pound note.

"It was my job to count my father's earnings and enter them in an exercise book with three columns for £.s.d. This exercise book was then given to his accountant so his taxes could be worked out and paid. The coins had to be counted and put into small thick paper bags given to us by the Post Office. These were all different colours according to the coinage and were pale pink, pale blue, pale green, etc. I used to sit at the dining room table and count the coins and put them into their respective bags. This coinage system certainly

made good practice for long division sums. If the exercise book balanced on the first go, there was a big sigh of relief from me as this meant I could now go out to play."

Nowadays, Kadena's counting is all done in her head, with all the help offered by modern technology, such as calculators and computers.

But newer is not necessarily better, given that computer glitches can often lead to anything from frozen screens to hard disk crashes to the system going down.

"Sometimes I long for the good old days," she admits. However, she has been promised new software in the year 2000 that should iron out any remaining problems.

One of Kadena's difficulties is that not one wage slip is the same, even for people on the same pay scale. There are always the differentials to work out, such as various benefit entitlements.

Not surprisingly for someone in her position, Kadena has the inevitable task of having to pass on requests for advances from time to time.

But the Chief Finance Officer has always stood by the book, knowing that it could only create chaos out of the order that has existed so far.

So local employees take note. The official pay date remains the last day of every month.

The good news is that salaries are paid into the Bank of Cyprus' main branch three working days before the deadline in order to be processed promptly, so people always get their money on time.



GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME

By Captain Vicki Walker

It is common knowledge that some soldiers count down the number of days they still have to do on a tour before returning to their families and loved ones. Captain Guy Wood, Ops Officer Sector 2 East, however, is counting down to a different event. 22nd Regimental Group return to Britain and Holland on 9 December, Guy gets married nine days later on the 18th.

His fiancée, Gayle, has been out to see him during his R&R. The holiday here, however, was not quite as relaxing as Guy was hoping. Gayle had some of her wedding outfit made, so it was a case of trooping round the shops in search of the "just right". They spend time on the phone most evenings and the bills do mount up as they discuss the important things like what colour the balloons should be for the reception.

The wedding will be a military wedding with Guy in "Blues" and an honour guard made up of officers from the Welsh Gunners, again all in "Blues" with swords and proudly earned UN medals, but the connections with the Army go deeper than just Guy's involvement. He first met Gayle during his first posting at 47th Regiment (who served in Sector 2 from December 98 to May 99). Her father still serves with them as the Quartermaster and it is down at Thorney Island (47th Regiment's location) that Gayle and Guy will tie the knot in a little 12th century church.

Guy admits that it is difficult being apart. Being away for all of the preparations is a double-edged sword. He misses out on all of the responsibility (although he did organise the honeymoon in Canada) but also feels that he is missing out on the excitement. His reputation as a boy-racer (always seen taking first place on the UNPA go-karting circuit) has also influenced his organisational input into the wedding plans: they will leave the wedding in Guy's own Caterham 7!

So in between meetings with the OPFORs and briefings, Guy has little time to get nervous about the forth coming event, although he is hoping for some extra time off to get ready for the big day.



Guy Wood in his wedding outfit

NEWS

VISITORS AND THE CITY LINE TOUR

By Captain Vicki Walker

Over the past five months, Sector 2 has received more than 800 visitors. Some of them are VIPs, some of them are VVIPs.

Recent big names have included US envoys Moses and Weston. Otherwise, the last two months have seen one Field Marshal, five generals, five colonels, 22 lieutenant colonels, seven ambassadors and 382 other personnel coming to Sector 2 - we seem to become even more popular when the weather begins to cool off.

Most visitors want to go on the Nicosia "Green Line Tour". Every Tuesday, morning and afternoon, a group of visitors is led through the buffer zone in the old city of Nicosia. Many a bemused tourist stands by to watch a guided tour walk past on the way back to Wolseley Barracks, wondering where to go to pick up tickets to join in.

Those who can do the tour hear a host of stories from the past 25 years.

One of the first they encounter is the sad tale of Annie Couppis. Annie was determined to stay in her house after 1974, despite its proximity to the buffer zone - her front door was right on the ceasefire line. The problem was that there was no exit at the back, which meant that the only way out was into the buffer zone. So an agreement was reached that when she wanted to go out, UNFICYP soldiers would escort her through the buffer zone to the nearest gate, known as Jeep Gate. Her family would have nothing to do with her after she decided to stay in the house, so she was "adopted" by UN

soldiers who used to share their rations with her and generally looked after her. In 1991, Annie died. She was 91 years old. UNFICYP personnel attended her funeral.

"Spear Alley", as the soldiers call it, used to be one of the most militarised areas in the world, with three companies of soldiers (UN and opposing forces) living along a stretch measuring less than 100 metres in length. It also includes the narrowest part of the buffer zone.

The buffer zone has seen many things miraculously grow over short amounts of time, including walls, bunkers and painted maps. "10 Plus Wall" was a wall that kept on growing. After a little investigation, UNFICYP discovered that one of the opposing forces kept adding layers of bricks - i.e. altering the military status quo of the buffer zone. UNFICYP hit on the idea of painting the top row of bricks white so it would be easy to see if any more bricks were added. But the wall kept on growing and the line stayed in the same place. The opposing force had been taking off the top row of white bricks, adding a couple more rows and replacing the white line. UNFICYP's next step was to count down ten bricks from the top and paint the white line at that level. Since then, the wall has stopped growing.

Each Sector 2 rotation appoints a Visits Officer. On arriving, one of the Visits Officer's first tasks is to work his or her way through the stories and learn them by heart. And then we tell them over and over again. It's a job that might



Field Marshal the Lord Vincent GBE KCB DSO meets Myfanwy the goat

threaten to become boring. But I have to say that the reactions one sees and hears from the visitors as they walk through this sadly empty part of Nicosia make it all worthwhile.

FEWER WARS AND MORE DEMOCRACY IN THE 1990s

Some 5.5 million people have died in war during the 1990s. A shocking figure. Nevertheless, the number of armed conflicts worldwide dropped from 55 in 1992 to 36 in 1998.

As UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan pointed out at a World Bank meeting in Washington DC in October: "More old wars have ended than new ones have begun."

At the same time, the number of democracies has almost doubled. Annan points out that studies show that democracies (even when countries are very poor) have very low levels of internal violence compared with non-democracies. He added that "balanced development" - which helps everyone, not just a ruling elite - is another major factor.

"If war is the worst enemy of development, healthy and balanced development is the best form of conflict prevention," Annan stressed.

MASTER DRIVER GORDON'S SAFETY TIPS ON WINTER DRIVING

By WO 2 Gorman, Master Driver HQ UNFICYP

1. Summer is over. The days are getting shorter and the weather is getting worse with heavy rainfalls and the possibility of snow in the Troodos mountains.
2. So now is the time to think about the following points:
 - a. When was the vehicle last serviced?
 - b. Do my tyres require changing?
 - c. Is my vehicle battery topped up with distilled water? Are the terminals greased?
 - d. Have I checked my windscreen wipers? Do they need changing?
 - e. Are my washer jets working properly and does the washer bottle contain enough water and anti freezing cleansing fluid?
 - f. Do all my lights work properly?
 - g. Is there any anti-freeze in my engine radiator?
3. Winter hazards include:

WINTER SUN - Dazzle from winter sun is a highly underestimated hazard. Reduce your speed when driving into the sun especially in wet or icy conditions. Use your sunglasses and sun visor of the vehicle.

FOG - Drive slowly, allowing more time for your journey. If you have them, turn on your fog lights front and rear.

ICE - Braking distances multiply by 10 in ice conditions. If you are travelling at 80 kph on the motorway and you hit ice, it will take you 53 metres x 10 = 530 metres to stop in an emergency, or - more realistically - the distance to the car that you smash into in front of you. At speed it could be fatal. So **SLOW DOWN**.

RAIN - Heavy rain will reduce visibility particularly from vehicle spray. Always use dipped headlights and reduce speed. At night, wet conditions worsen the glare from headlights so again, slow down.

SNOW - Falling snow reduces visibility so always switch on your lights. Even treated roads can be slippery, so drive slowly in the highest gear possible, manoeuvre gently and avoid harsh braking.

5. These are only a few points to take into account whilst driving in Cyprus. Listen to the radio to get updates on the weather report and try not to make the journey if it is not essential.

REMEMBER: SLOW DOWN AND ALLOW MORE TIME FOR JOURNEYS

IT COULD SAVE A LIFE - YOURS!

CLASSIFIED

ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE

Rover 600, metallic gold, 4-door saloon, EMN registration, excellent condition, 63,000 km, duty paid, £10,000 ono. Tel: (02) 353266 any time.

Mitsubishi Galant saloon (red), 1983, very good condition (many renewed items: brakes, tyres, etc), £1,000. Tel: +43-664-330.27.81 (Alex) or (03) 821463 (Capt Holzer).

Opel Astra 1.4, 1996, 19,000 km. Dark red, a/c, c/l, automatic doors, very good condition. Price: £4,500. Tel: (02) 590941 or 357619.

Toyota RAV4, 5 doors, 1996, 54,000 km, 2.0 litres, 95 PK, injection, e/w, p/s, a/c, 4-w/d, dark green, new tyres, excellent condition. £6,995 ONO. Tel: (02) 469677 (O) or (02) 623920 (H).

Mazda 626 Estate 2.00, 7-seater, d/f, a/c, e/w, sun roof, only 41,000 km. £2,000 - price negotiable. Tel: (02) 753001 (O) or (02) 660997 (H).

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Leaving Cyprus - entire household for sale including:

- * Regency dining table + 12 leather-bound chairs
- * 2 antique Chinese sideboards
- * 1 Chinese sofa table
- * 1 desk, 2 bookshelves/cupboards, 2 chairs, examining couch, shelves, lamps, etc at very reasonable prices.
- * Occasional tables, Persian rugs and many, many other household items.

For further information/prices, please call (02) 353266 any time.

For items below, please call Shane Smith on (09) 684956.

* **4-piece bar**, black (2 wall units; bar with wooden top; top with light; 5 stools) + 1 large and 2 small black tables with glass tops. All for £450. Tel: (09) 684956 any time.

* **Queen-size bed**, white (including mattress) with matching bedside tables, large dressing table with mirror and stool. All for £400.

* **Keyboard** Korg Poly 800II; Yamaha DX27 digital programmable algorithm synthesizer; Peavey KB15 portable keyboard amplification system; Stand and various accessories included. All for £250.

All items can be delivered.

Game Boy color with 6 different games. £75. Tel: MSgt Szanto on (02) 864774.

Washing machine, large load, £120. Tel: Ann on (02) 864402.

Firewood for sale. Home delivery. Tel: (02) 777422 or (09) 678812.

French-fry eating cat (neutered) looking for a

home. All vet. documents provided. Owner leaving Cyprus. Tel: (02) 376544.

Bunk beds (Danish made, as new) with mattresses and ladder: £245. **Double bed** (Danish-made, wooden) with two mattresses and side table: £95. **Electric heater**: £15. Tel: (09) 607007 or (04) 642168.

Bargain Prices! Children's clothes from birth to four years, summer and winter, from only 20 cents to £5. Also play mats, play pen, sterilizer, bouncy chair, etc. Tel: (02) 670600 from 0730 to 1530 or 351349 after 1600 hrs.

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

New large house in Ayios Andreas area. 4 bedrooms, one with shower and a/c, hall, sitting room, dining room with a/c, large oak kitchen with electric oven, etc, two garages, c/h and solar water heater. £550. Tel: (02) 781477 any time.

House in Anthoupolis (fully furnished, if desired). 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, c/h and a/c in every room. 10 mins from UNPA. £450. Call (02) 382098 after 7:00 pm.

Flats for rent near UNPA. Very reasonable prices. Tel: (09) 650700 or (02) 355470.

2-storey house (close to Forum) with 3 bedrooms (master with a/c and shower), large, open-plan living area with all electrical fittings in kitchen, c/h, garage (two cars), solar heater. Tel: (02) 352991 or (09) 680551.

FACILITIES

WHY DON'T U.NETWORK@ THE UNPA?

The next meeting will take place on **Wed 10 November** at 10.00 am in the HIVE.

Come along for a cup of coffee and exchange information with a friendly group of spouses from UNFICYP and diplomatic missions. More info at (02) 591933 or (02) 489553.

THE NICOSIA LIBRARY is located at 23 Sycamore Road, UNPA. Tel (02) 359317.

A new selection of books, audio tapes, videos and CDs have arrived. Language courses available on long-term loans.

STOP PRESS: The Nicosia Library now has Internet facilities available. Come and read your favourite newspapers, research your school or university project, or simply search for news and information in cyberspace.

Library hours

Monday to Friday:

1000-1300 and 1500-1700 daily

Please ask Anthe or Rosemary for further details.

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).

The Nicosia HIVE Coordinator is Karen McCormack.

All nationalities are welcome!

New opening hours from 1 November 1999:

Mon: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Tue: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Wed: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Thur: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Fri: Closed.

JUST A SECOND, the nearly-new clothing exchange in the Nicosia HIVE, has opened again. So spring-clean your wardrobes and bring in your autumn/winter clothes. Sellers receive 80% of the selling price and the remaining 20% goes to the UNFICYP Community Welfare Fund. Make some money and support a worthwhile cause. Opening times are every Mon and Thurs, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. For more information, phone Karen at the HIVE on (02) 359316.

SERVICES

DECORATIVE ART LESSONS.

Qualified teacher gives daily lessons to children aged 5-12 years in ceramics, drawing and handicraft using clay, paper, wood, etc. Ring Andri on (02) 424598 or (09) 648333.

BEAUTY TREATMENTS BY NIKI.

Niki will be at the HIVE on Thursday 11 November. A wide range of facials, manicures, pedicures and

waxing treatments available. For appointments or more information, call Niki on (05) 391640 or the Nicosia HIVE on (02) 359316.

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 baby-sitting and assisting at drinks/dinner parties. Tel: (02) 330296 after 1600 hrs.

MATURE BABYSITTER Reliable, mature lady available for baby-sitting. 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 Vyzantiou Street, Ayios Dhometios, (close to UNPA, near Astra garage). Tel: (02) 773206.

BRATCON YOUTH CLUB.

If you are aged between 8-16 and want to meet other young people from within the UNFICYP and international community, BRATCON is the place to go. We are open on Friday nights from 7:00 to 9:30 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. We are also connected to the Internet so that members can "chat" to people from all over the world.

Come along and make some new friends. For further information, contact Mark Kingston on (02) 359418, or come along to one of our club nights. Membership is £1.50 per term or £4.00 annually. Nightly subs - 50c for members and 75c for visitors.

YMCA NEWSFLASH!!

The YMCA is announcing its new hours.

Now open from 08:00 to 1400 and 16:00 to 21:00 hours.

Now adding burgers and chips to the menu!

NB: We are always looking for relief staff for the YMCA. If you fancy working a few hours now and then with a friendly team, contact Rose at the YMCA or ring (02) 359308.

When did you last see an offer like this?

Fast women looking for male partners who can stay the distance on 4 Dec 99.

For more information, contact the UNFICYP Personnel Office, Ext 4480.

KEEP US INFORMED

Are there any charity functions, concerts, UN-related events, etc coming up in the near future? Sectors/branches/UN-associated clubs are invited to advertise well in advance all events of interest to our readers.

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.

To advertise in the Blue Beret, send your ads to the Public Information Office at HQ UNFICYP or e-mail to blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com.

NB: Advertisements will be

THE NICOSIA DOG SHELTER



Volunteers needed to help in our charity shop. Can you spare a couple of hours at any time on any day? All money raised is for the Nicosia dog shelter.

Please help. Call the shop on (02) 669568 and support a good cause.

kept in the Blue Beret for a **maximum of three consecutive issues.**

If readers wish to continue to advertise, they are requested to call/re-apply in writing.

BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

SPORT UNIFIES



Sport seems to be a truly unifying element all over the world. At least this proved to be the case on UN day. Several sporting events took place, including a rugby demonstration by British soldiers and an impressive martial arts demonstration by Hungarian soldiers. Austrian powerlifter Christian Chmela showed his preparation for the World Championships in November is well on track. The Dutch organised several typical lowland games, including a bicycle race, a greasy pole contest and a sack race.

Those who chose not to take part at least had the opportunity to observe the achievements of the soldiers and participating visitors.



ORIENTEERING IN THE UNPA - FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

By Diana Bridger

The sport of orienteering developed in Sweden in the 1930s as an extension of military map-reading exercises. The idea slowly spread worldwide and has really taken off in the last couple of decades becoming one of the fastest growing sports. Whatever their level, all orienteers negotiate (usually) unknown territory in search of a series of numbered or lettered control points marked on a map they carry. They must clip the appropriate box on their control card to prove they have reached the correct controls in the right order. In competitive events, the orienteer who completes the course in the fastest time is the winner. At novice level, the majority of participants simply trot round the course, regarding the map reading aspect of the sport as a problem-solving dimension which adds interest to a jog or brisk walk in the countryside.

Since June 1999, when the Officers' Club became the venue for the running of a monthly Novice Orienteering Competition, some 70 participants - including over 30 children - have enjoyed navigating the courses set in the UNPA. The regular core have become quite competitive and a small league with points has developed. There are usually two courses: An 'A' course of between 4½ to 5 km and a simple 'B' course of approximately 2½ km. Currently in the lead on the 'A' course is Supt Ken Uren, followed by Janet

Forrest, Cpl Colin Gent and WOII Mark Kingston. On the 'B' Course the Adams family are just in front of Miss Misty Green and the de Weever family. There will be two more competitions before the end of the year. The next event is on Sunday 21 November at 10:30 hrs from the Officers' Club patio and everyone is welcome. Maps are provided and all under 18s receive rosettes - so just turn up with your running shoes on!



Misty Green on a map-reading course

CLASH OF THE TITANS UNITED NATIONS DAY TUG O' WAR COMPETITION

By Major Miles Brown



Take the strain - pull!

Take a group of sixteen good-looking, heavily-muscled men. Divide the group into two teams. Put a team at each end of a thick rope, then tell them to pull as hard as they can until they collapse with exhaustion or they succeed in dragging the opposition four metres through the dust. That, in a few lines, is the ancient sport of Tug o' War!

Some months ago, Sergeant Dave Burge came up with the idea of having an inter-troop Tug o' War competition within Sector 2. His idea quickly took root and within a few weeks it had grown

into a full-scale event open to all challengers within UNFICYP. UN Day appeared to be the perfect occasion to hold the competition and the excellent response from throughout the Force promised that the battles on the rope would be both exciting and hard-fought.

As hosts, Sector 2 entered a number of troop teams and also a team consisting of ageing yet still handsome warriors from Sector HQ. The MFR turned up with a truly multinational force; AUSCON fielded a typically efficient and well-disciplined team, whilst HUNCON had clearly decided to forget good looks in favour of big muscles (sorry HUNCON, only joking). The Dutch in Sector 2 West made a rare break from integration with the British in order to combine their best players into one team. They were obviously looking for an unexpected win!

The event was split into two phases, with the preliminary rounds taking place in the morning and the final stages being held as part of the UN Day celebrations. In fact, some of the best battles were fought in the morning with particularly notable performances from the MFR and Ledra Troop, and a big display of power from the Hungarians. The stage was set for a highly enter-

taining afternoon and the combat commenced with the MFR winning the Sector 2 inter-troop pull (I could have sworn that the MFR was a company!). On came the big boys and after the conflict of the semi-finals the big Hungarians were left with the prospect of an easy final against the old men of Sector 2. Oh how wrong they were. They forgot the first rule of war, which is never to start a fight unless you're pretty sure you can win! Victory was claimed by HQ Sector 2 captained by W02 (RQMS) Calpin, proving that old heads can still beat young muscles!

Overall it was an excellent competition which was made all the more exciting by the huge crowd of supporters who had flocked from all over Cyprus to attend UN Day. Every team performed with great energy, friendship and humour and everyone vowed that next time the Tug o' War trophy would be leaving the British sector. Thanks must go to Sergeant Burge for his organisational skills, and to the patient officials who had to explain the rules outlined above more than once.

Final congratulations must also go to all the competitors who distinguished themselves through their team spirit and great sportsmanship.

THREE IN A ROW

28 November 1999, Cyprus Aphrodite Half Marathon, Cypria Maris Sports Centre, Pafos. The start will be at 10.00 hrs while the 5km Fun Run will start at 10.05. Cash prizes. Entry fee: CYP 7.00.

Further information can be obtained from the Cyprus Health Runners Club, PO Box 28167, Strovolos 2091, Nicosia, Cyprus. Tel: (02) 420559, Fax: (02) 420559, e-mail: runclub@spidernet.com.cy or www.cylink.com.cy/half marathon. Application forms must be received by 13 November 1999.

2 and 3 December 1999, Cyprus Challenge Half Marathon 1999. Start and finish on 2 December, will be at the Rodon Mount Hotel at Agros. The start on 3 December will be at the square of Lefkara Village. The finish will be at Vavatsinis Village.

Further information can be obtained from the Cyprus Challenge Half Marathon, PO Box 12063, 2340 Lakatamia, Nicosia. Tel: (02)370396, Fax: (02) 370404, e-mail: skakour@spidernet.com.cy

5 December 1999, Kolossi Marathon, Half Marathon and 10km race. More information can be obtained from Kolossi Marathon, PO Box 12063, 2340 Lakatamia, Nicosia. Tel: (02) 370396, Fax: (02) 370404, e-mail: skakour@spidernet.com.cy.