

THE BLUE BERET

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CIVILIAN, MILITARY
AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITHIN UNFICYP



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SKILLS AND DRILLS IN THE BURNING SUN

Normally, a military skills competition is a combined test of skills, drills, knowledge and endurance. The latter can be particularly crucial - a swift run between different stations can help competitors make up for time penalties incurred during the tests themselves.

But the heat stress indicators on 23 July ruled out running between sections. So each competing group was given a set of wheels to travel from one station to another. And they naturally had to stick to the speed limits.

The car radios came in handy at the signals stand and at the observa-



Weapons assembly point

tion and reporting stand. Here, Major Sándor Pávits from Hungary gave the groups a rundown of information on a miniature area of operations. He told them about minefields, ceasefire lines, observation posts and patrol tracks.

Within half an hour, fake forces started working on the minefield, overmanned their post and moved forward, while a hunter intruded the area. All the incidents had to be reported and some had to be reacted on. Austrian Sergeant Chris Holzkecht discovered that this isn't an easy job. "Actually this is my first time on an Observation Post," he admitted. "I think we'd have done better to put a more experienced colleague over here to coordinate the patrol." When his handheld radio collapsed, things became even more difficult.

Slovenian Corporal Ales Franjko liked the abseiling best. "It's the first time I'd done it and although it doesn't count towards the final score, it was great fun. I think we're doing quite well. We certainly won't finish last."

By now we were halfway through the morning. In the distance, at the far end of the main runway, lay the decidedly rough looking mountain bike course. But this wasn't the hardest section. That distinction went to the bleep test, run by British Bombardier and PT instructor Mark Collins.

"In the UK army it's a well-known means to measure a soldier's physical

fitness," he explained. "A taped series of bleeps mark the timeframes within which the competitor has to complete a 20-metre lap. Each next timeframe is shorter than the previous one, so the running speed has to go up all the time."

The gymnasium of St Michael's school wasn't quite long enough so the milskillers had to test over 16 metres. Despite having the airconditioning on at full blast, backed up by fans, everyone agreed that it was the toughest section of the day.

Competition organisers Majors Tim Wood and Chris Wilks kindly provided a welcome respite with the next station: raft-building at the pool. The only real problem here seemed to be understanding the instructions.

"Construct a raft using all the given materials and cross the water. Clothes and equipment all have to reach the other side dry." Most teams stripped off their clothes and jumped in the water, pushing the rafts across with clothing, weapons, and equipment on board. Some, however, sat on the rafts and paddled across on the far-from-stable raft.

Superintendent Ken Uren defended UNCIVPOL's strategy. "Had this been Australia, no one would've dared swim for fear of being eaten by a crocodile or shark."

The argument didn't cut much ice

with the officials.

Still, UNCIVPOL, taking part in the competition for the first time, didn't do too badly overall. They came in an honourable fourth.

Sector 4 (team 1) won, with Sector 2 (team 2) coming second, MFR (team 1) third, then UNCIVPOL, Sector 1 (team 2), MFR (team 2), Sector 4 (team 3), Sector 2 (team 1), Sector 2 (team 3), Sector 1 (team 1) and Sector 4 (team 2).



Water obstacle course



Observation and reporting

The skills competition is a demanding element of the UNFICYP training programme. But, as Lieutenant Ron Molenaar of the MFR says: "It's fun. The soldiers love it - it's way better than doing gate-duty."

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MILITARY SKILLS QUOTATIONS

That's a BFT, a Big F... Tank.

UNCIVPOL member at the
recognition stand

What happened to estimating
the speed of a fast moving tank
through a police radar trap?

Ken Uren (UNCIVPOL)

In our last issue (No 12), the article on page 4 (Liri Bird) was accredited to Capt Vicki Walker. The author was in fact "Lt John Taffs".

The Blue Beret apologises for this error.

EDITORIAL

Austria's involvement in UN peacekeeping dates from 1960, when it established a military field hospital in Congo.

Thanks to the excellent reputation won by the Austrian soldiers there, when the UN needed to set up a peacekeeping force in Cyprus, it asked the Austrian government for help.

The first Austrian element sent to Cyprus established the military field hospital in Kokkinatrimithia. There was also a police contingent. Like the Australians, British, Canadians, Finns, and Irish, the Austrians have been serving in Cyprus ever since.

In 1972, at the request of the Secretary-General, the Austrians brought in a battalion of 276 ground troops. They were then given the Paphos and Polis area of responsibility. The following year, the battalion was divided in two: one half was sent to the Suez Canal and then the Golan Heights.

The other half remained in Cyprus. It was reinforced and moved to the Larnaca district. In 1974, the Austrians suffered the worst day of their history in Cyprus. On 14 August, two days before the ceasefire was agreed, three Austrian soldiers, 1st Lt Izay, MSgt Decombe and Cpl Isak died in a napalm air raid, after preventing an attack on the village of Goshi. Since then, all UN military vehicles have been painted white so they can be more easily identified.

In 1977 the battalion moved again - this time to Famagusta. Because some contingents withdrew from the mission, the Austrians found themselves with more areas of responsibility. To cope with this, other nationalities were brought in to make a multinational battalion. In September 1997, the Austrians were joined by a Hungarian contingent. Since September 1990, they have had additional support and cooperation from Slovenia.

Our history of long service with UN peacekeeping missions has not happened just by chance. With the regaining of Austrian sovereignty in 1955, and the firm establishment of a policy of neutrality, impartial Austrian negotiators have been welcome all over the world to deal with a wide variety of crises. Working for all kinds of UN missions is a very important part of Austrian foreign policy.

For all military personnel, whatever their rank, it is both a challenge and an inspiration to have taken part in Peacekeeping Operations. Guarded by the motto "Protect and Help", the soldiers of the UNAHSB aim to be present whenever and wherever their help is needed.

Lieutenant Colonel Helmut Plieschnegger
Commanding Officer Sector 4

Das österreichische Engagement, im Rahmen der UNO, begann mit einem Feldlazarett im Kongo. Da sich die Soldaten bei diesem Einsatz ungeheuer bewährten und Österreich zu einem ausgezeichneten Ruf verhelfen, trat die UNO auch wieder an Österreich heran, als es galt eine UN-Truppe für Zypern aufzustellen.

So kam es zur Entsendung eines österreichischen Feldlazarettes und eines österreichischen Polizeikontingentes nach Zypern. Die Österreicher waren somit neben den Engländern die Geburtshelfer, für die UN Force in Zypern, welche auch heute noch auf der Insel ihren Friedensdienst verrichten.

Was mit einem Feldlazarett 1964 in Kokkinatrimithia begann wurde 1972 durch die Implementation eines UN-Bataillons fortgesetzt. Der erste Einsatzraum war das Gebiet um Paphos und Polis mit dem Auftrag der Friedenserhaltung in den gemischt besiedelten Gebieten. 1973 wurde das Bataillon geteilt und eine Hälfte im Lufttransport an den Suezkanal und später auf die Golanhöhen verlegt.

Der verbleibende Teil des Bataillons wurde wieder aufgefüllt und in den Raum Larnaca verlegt. Das Jahr 1974 brachte nicht nur den Coup d'Etat und Krieg sondern auch die schwärzeste Stunde für das österreichische Kontingent mit sich. Zwei Tage vor dem Waffenstillstand am 14. August 1974 fielen 3 österreichische Soldaten, Olt Izay, OWM Decombe und Kpl Isak, in einem Napalmbombenangriff, nachdem sie zuvor im Zuge von Verhandlungen erfolgreich den Angriff der NG auf die türkische Ortschaft GOSHI verhindert hatten.

Eine Lehre daraus war, daß alle UN Fahrzeuge, auch militärische zur besseren Kennung einen weißen Anstrich erhielten.

1977 verlegte das Bataillon in den Raum FAMAGUSTA. Durch den Rückzug anderer Kontingente aus der Mission wurden immer größere Aufgabenbereiche übernommen. Dies brachte auch eine Beteiligung anderer Nationen im Rahmen des Bataillons mit sich. Deshalb verstärken ein ungarisches Kontingent seit September 97 und ein slowenisches Kontingent seit September 98 das Bataillon.

Das österreichische Soldaten über einen derart langen Zeitraum im UN-Dienst stehen ist kein purer Zufall.

Mit der Wiedergewinnung der österreichischen Eigenstaatlichkeit und der gelebten Neutralitätspolitik unseres Landes waren wir Österreicher immer als unparteiische Vermittler in allen Krisen- und Konfliktgebieten willkommen.

Der Dienst im Rahmen der Vereinten Nationen hat sich zu einem aktiven, integralen Bestandteil der österreichischen Außenpolitik entwickelt. Für die Soldaten aller Dienstgrade war es immer eine große Herausforderung, aber auch das gute Gefühl für die Friedensarbeit einen großartigen Beitrag geleistet zu haben.

Nach dem Motto unserer Armee Schutz und Hilfe sind wir Soldaten des AHSB immer mit tatkräftiger Hilfe zur Seite gestanden. Um die Probleme hier auf der Insel zu lösen bedarf es jedoch nicht der Hilfe vieler, sondern des Willens einiger Weniger.

Lieutenant Colonel Helmut Plieschnegger
Commanding Officer Sector 4

La participación de Austria en las Fuerzas de Mantenimiento de la Paz de la ONU data desde 1960, cuando fue establecido un Hospital Militar de Campaña en el Congo. Gracias a la excelente reputación ganada por los soldados austríacos allí, cuando las Naciones Unidas necesitaron agrupar personal para la fuerza de Paz en Chipre, preguntaron al gobierno Austríaco si podía colaborar con dicha causa.

El primer elemento austríaco enviado a la Isla fue un Hospital Militar de Campaña y un contingente de Policía. Como los austrianos, británicos, canadienses, finlandeses e irlandeses, los austríacos han servido en Chipre desde siempre.

Los austríacos comenzaron a trabajar en el Hospital de Campaña en Kokkinatrimithia en el año 1964. En 1972, el contingente fue reforzado, y se le entregó el área de Paphos y Polis como responsabilidad. Su misión era controlar la situación en esas áreas de poblaciones mezcladas. El siguiente año el Batallón fue dividido en dos: Una mitad fue enviado al Canal de Suez y luego a las alturas de Golán.

La otra mitad del batallón permaneció en Chipre. Esto último, fue reforzado y movido hacia el distrito de Larnaca. En 1974, los austríacos sufrieron el peor día de su historia en Chipre. El 14 de agosto, dos días antes de que el acuerdo de cese al fuego fuera aceptado, tres soldados austríacos, 1º Teniente Izay, Sargento Decombe y el Cabo Isak, murieron en un bombardeo aéreo de armas Napalm, luego de prevenir un ataque en la villa de Goshi. Desde entonces, todos los vehículos militares de la ONU fueron pintados de blanco para ser identificados más fácilmente.

En 1977 el Batallón es movido nuevamente - esta vez hacia Famagusta. Debido a que algunos contingentes se retiraron de la Misión, los austríacos se encontraron con más áreas de responsabilidad. Para equiparar esto, otras naciones fueron traídas para conformar un Batallón multinacional. En septiembre de 1990, tuvieron el apoyo adicional y la cooperación de Eslovenia.

Nuestra larga historia de servir en Fuerzas de Paz de la ONU no sucedió por casualidad. Con la recuperación de la soberanía austríaca en 1955, y el firme establecimiento de una política de neutralidad, los austríacos con su imparcialidad han logrado negociar y ser bienvenidos alrededor del mundo, para lidiar con grandes variedades de crisis. Trabajar para cualquier tipo de misión de la ONU, es una parte muy importante de la política extranjera de Austria. Para todo el personal militar, cualquiera que sea el rango, es un desafío y un orgullo poder tomar parte en una Fuerza de Mantenimiento de la Paz. Resguardados por el lema "Proteger y Ayudar", los soldados de la UNAHSB están presentes cuando y donde la ayuda sea necesaria.

Teniente Coronel Helmut Plieschnegger
Comandante del Sector 4

BB TIPS:

A recently issued UN Information Circular on the potential problems associated with the transition to the year 2000 contained the following tips.

Individually, what can you do to be prepared, you and your family? That depends, of course, on where you are. Experts generally recognise that planning for Y2K in many ways resembles planning for a known disaster like a storm of any kind. So, while this list is by no way exhaustive, it is recommended that:

1. You should have supplies to last several days to a week for yourself and those who live with you. This includes having non-perishable food, water, and prescription and non-prescription medications that you regularly use.
2. It may also be wise to have some extra cash on hand, in case electronic

transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards and the like cannot be processed.

3. If you live in the northern hemisphere, have extra blankets, coats, hats and gloves to keep warm. You may also think of acquiring alternative heating devices.
4. Make sure you have plenty of flashlights and extra batteries stored.
5. If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure that you have enough fuel to run it and only connect what you want to power directly to the generator. Under no circumstances should you connect the generator to your home's electrical system.
6. You should consider having your car serviced prior to the end of 1999, and ensure that you keep it filled with fuel at all times after mid-December 1999.

En una circular informativa de la ONU recientemente emitida en lo que respecta a algunos problemas que se podrían suscitar asociados con la transición al año 2000, se incluyen las siguientes recomendaciones:

¿Que se puede hacer para estar preparado uno y su familia? Esto dependerá del lugar donde se encuentre. Los expertos generalmente reconocen que el planeamiento del Y2K en varios caminos se parecen a preparativos para desastres anunciados como tormentas de cualquier tipo. Por lo tanto, esta lista de ninguna manera es exhaustiva, y recomienda lo siguiente:

1. Deben ser guardados alimentos y elementos que ayuden para sobrevivir varios días, por ejemplo una semana, para uno y su familia. Esto incluye comida no perecedera, agua y medicamentos que uno usa regularmente.
2. Es recomendable tener dinero extra en

efectivo, en caso de que las transacciones electrónicas, incluyendo tarjetas de cajeros, tarjetas de crédito y demás, no puedan ser procesadas.

3. Si usted vive en el hemisferio Norte, tenga frazadas de más, abrigos, sombreros y guantes para mantener el calor. También deberían pensar en adquirir recursos alternativos de calefacción.
4. Asegurarse de tener lámparas de luz y pilas extras.
5. Si planea utilizar un generador portátil, asegúrese de tener combustible extra para accionarlo y utilizarlo en caso de necesidad extrema. Bajo ninguna circunstancia debe conectarse el generador para el sistema eléctrico de su hogar.
6. Asegurarse de hacer verificar su auto en el servicio antes del final de 1999, y llenarlo de combustible en todo momento pasada la mitad del mes de diciembre de 1999.

RU Y2K OK?

Demystifying Life with the UN

By Captain Andreas Vas

One Tuesday in July, Sector 4 organised a four-hour line tour for nine relatives who wanted to find out more about the life and work of a UN soldier. The main goal was to show wives what their husbands do, and where they work.

Major Thomas Hutter prepared and guided this presentation of parts of our sector, which started at OP 140 and continued along the Dherinia line to OP 146 - otherwise known as "Baywatch" - overlooking the maritime security line.

During the tour he was assisted by Major Sándor Pávits. At OP 142 they saw a video of past incidents in the sector. Afterwards,



Bird's eye view from the top of OP 140

they moved on to OP 146 to one of the most impressive points of the Buffer Zone, with a tantalising view of the sea. A case of water, water everywhere but nothing they could swim in.

CHIEF OF MISSION RESIGNS



Ann Hercus, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Chief of Mission of UNFICYP, has submitted her resignation to the Secretary-General for family reasons.

The Secretary-General respects the reasons that have compelled Ms Hercus to take this step and he has accepted this resignation with deep regret. The Secretary-General wishes to place on record his appreciation for Ann Hercus' skillful and untiring efforts over the past 12 months in the conduct of his mission of good offices and of the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus. He considers that Ms Hercus has served with distinction in a difficult assignment.

Ms Hercus is currently with her family in New Zealand. In order to allow the work of the United Nations in Cyprus to continue without a significant break, the Secretary-General and Ms Hercus have agreed that she will remain in her post until the end of September.

Ms Hercus took up her post as Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General on 1 July 1998 and was recently appointed Special Representative.

Ann Hercus, Representante Especial del Secretario General para Chipre y Jefa de la Fuerza de las Naciones Unidas para el Mantenimiento de la Paz en Chipre, presentó su renuncia al Secretario General por razones familiares.

Al respecto, el Secretario General aceptó los motivos que han obligado a Ms Hercus a tomar esta decisión y lamenta profundamente su renuncia. El Secretario General desea poner de manifiesto su aprecio por la diestra e infatigable labor que Ann Hercus ha desempeñado al frente de la Fuerza de las Naciones Unidas para el Mantenimiento de la Paz en Chipre y por la aceptada conducción de su misión de buenos oficios, durante los pasados 12 meses. El Secretario General considera que en esta difícil tarea, Ms Hercus ha desempeñado su cargo con distinción.

Actualmente Ms Hercus se encuentra con su familia en Nueva Zelanda. Con el objetivo de mantener ininterrumpidamente la labor de Naciones Unidas en Chipre, el Secretario General y Ms Hercus han acordado que ella permanezca en su puesto hasta finales de septiembre.

Ms Hercus asumió el puesto de Representante Especial Adjunto del Secretario General para Chipre el 1° de julio de 1998 y recientemente fue nombrada Representante Especial.

UN FLIGHT CHARITY PARTY



The presentation: (left to right) Lt Col James Forrest, Clemens Adams, Maj Gen Evergisto de Vergara, Dr Andonis Hadghighannas, Maj Hector Panighi, and Dame Ann Hercus

On Friday 2 July, ARGAIR organised a party at its famous Bandidos club. The Argentinians are famed for their food (this time it was *asado criollo* - a traditional barbecue) and their dancing, so the turnout was good. However the main beneficiaries of this particular party weren't the guests - but the patients in the Neurosurgical Children's Ward of Nicosia General Hospital.

The following week, Major Hector Panighi, OC ARGAIR, handed over the £304 taken in entrance fees to Dr Andonis Hadghighannas, the hospital's chief medical officer.

Ann Hercus, az ENSZ Fotitkár különleges megbízottja, az UNFICYP vezetője felmentését kérte családi okokból.

A fotitkár figyelembe véve az indokokat ami erre a lépésre készítette Ann Hercust mély sajnálattal elfogadta a felmentési kérelmet. A Fotitkár nagyrabecsülését fejezte ki Ann Hercus szakképzettségét és fáradhatatlan munkájáért ahogy a hivatalokat és az UNFICYP missziót vezette. A véleménye szerint Ms. Hercus kiválóan dolgozott ebben a nehéz beosztásban.

Ms Hercus jelen pillanatban Új-Zélandon van a családjával együtt. Annak érdekében, hogy ENSZ Cipruson folytatott munkája töretlenül folytatódjon, a Fotitkár és Ms Hercus megegyezett abban, hogy Ms Hercus szeptember végéig elalátja munkáját.

Ms Hercus 1998. július 01-től a Fotitkár különleges megbízottjának helyetteseként dolgozott, majd nemrégiben különleges megbízottnak nevezték ki.

A nemrégiben kiadott ENSZ körözüvény a 2000. Évre történő átállás problémáinak megoldására ad tippeket.

Egyénileg és a családdal hogyan tud felkészülni rá? Ez természetesen attól függ hogy hol vagy éppen. A szakértők gyakran megjegyzik, hogy az készülődés az átállásra gyakorlatilag hasonló egy valamilyen ismert katasztrófára való felkészüléshez. Tehát itt van egy nem minden részletet kimerítő lista amely a következőket tanácsolja:

1. Az utolsó pár napban gondoskodj magadról és azokról akikkel együtt élsz egy héttel előre. Ez magában foglalja a nem romlandó élelmiszereket, a vizet azokat a gyógyszereket amiket receptre és nem receptre szedsz általában.
2. Hasznos lehet, ha több pénzt tartasz magadnál arra az esetre ha elektronikus tranzakciókkal, beleértve az

ATM kártyát, hitelkártyát, nem tudsz hozzá férni a pénzedhez.

3. Ha az Északi féltekén laksz, szerezél be plussz takarót, kabátot, kesztyűt és sapkát. Továbbá gondoskodj alternatív fűtő berendezés beszerzéséről.
4. Légy biztos benne, hogy elegendő zseblámpa és elem áll rendelkezésedre.
5. Ha hordozható aggregátor működését tervezed, legyen elég üzemanyagod az üzemeltetéshez és csak csatlakoztatnod kelljen ahhoz amit ezzel akarsz működtetni. Ha nincs más lehetőség ezzel táplálthatod az otthoni elektromos rendszert.
6. Ajánlott hogy az autódon szükséges javításokat 1999. végéig elvégezzék, és 1999. decemberének közepétől mindig tartsd üzemanyaggal feltöltve.

Eine kürzlich veröffentlichte UN Rundsendung die sich mit dem Year 2000 Problem befasst hat, enthielt folgende Ratschläge:

Was können Sie und Ihre Familie, abhängig davon wo Sie sich befinden, tun vorbereitet zu sein? Experten vermuten, dass die Vorbereitungen für das Y2K Problem ähnlich den für Naturkatastrophen sind. Die Liste kann jedoch nie vollständig sein, aber trotzdem einige Hinweise:

1. Sie sollten sich einen Vorrat an nicht verderblichen Lebensmitteln, Wasser und Medikamenten für sich und ihre mit ihnen im gemeinsamen Haushalt lebenden Personen anlegen.
2. Außerdem sollte man etwas Bargeld zusätzlich zur Verfügung haben falls die elektronischen Zahlungsmittel (EC-Karte, Kreditkarte etc) nicht funktionieren.

3. Wenn sie auf der Nordhalbkugel wohnen stellen sie sicher einige extra Decken oder alternative Heizmöglichkeiten zu besitzen, falls die normalen Heizungen ausfallen.

4. Stellen sie sicher einige Taschenlampen und Extrabatterien zu Hause zu haben.

5. Wenn sie ein Notstromaggregat einsetzen wollen, vergewissern sie sich genug Treibstoff gelagert zu haben. Verbinden sie nur solche Geräte die sie wirklich verwenden wollen direkt mit dem Aggregat. Verbinden sie auf keinen Fall das Aggregat direkt mit der Stromzufuhr ihres Hauses oder Wohnung.

6. Sie sollten ihr Auto vor dem Jahreswechsel zum Service bringen und ab Mitte Dezember sicherstellen, daß der Tank immer gefüllt wird.

REAL LIFE

WOMEN IN SECTOR 1 - MUJERES EN SECTOR 1

By Lieutenant Gastón Grasso

Eighteen years ago, the Argentinian army started to integrate women into the force, acknowledging that women can be just as capable as men.

And since then, they have proved just how capable they are. Here in Cyprus, the Argentinian contingent has 13 female members, working in San Martin and Roca Camps. There are three NCOs and ten privates. They work in Logistics, the Signals Branch, and the Health Division, and one works as secretary to the Commanding Officer. All this takes the women out to the OPs, and involves them in conducting health training, performing office tasks, taking part in and organising parades, and doing maintenance work, among other things.

Nowadays, women can enter the Military Academy for Officers and the NCO Army Academy. It takes them four years to become an officer and three to be an NCO. This is a period of hard military training and demanding studies.

Some people might think the army is a little tough for women, but demand for places at the academies is high.

There are more Argentinian women serving with UNFICYP than ever before in its history. They say they think they are fortunate to be here, and that they are happy to be with the UN in Cyprus.

"We never ever dreamt that we could represent our country in such a mission. It is a dream come true. The army gave us the opportunity and we have to take advantage of this. We really miss our families and



friends in Argentina, but this is a unique experience. We feel very proud of our nation and all of those soldiers who accomplish the mission every year."

Day by day these women work together and are great companions and friends, not only at work. A group of them went touring Cyprus together when they had leave last month. They are also enthusiastic and mutually supportive participants in a range of competitions. A number of them have entered marathons, for example, and one was a member of the Military Skills Competition team.

We men feel very proud of these brave and skillful women in Sector 1. We hope to continue to increase the number of women serving with UNFICYP to show other nations just what Argentinian women are made of.

El Ejército Argentino ha integrado a la mujer en la Fuerza desde el año 1981. A lo largo de la evolución de las sociedades y con la participación de la mujer en diferentes actos, ellas han logrado realizar todo tipo de tareas con la misma efectividad que los hombres.

Después de todo, en cada tarea han tenido excelentes resultados. El actual contingente de Argentina está compuesto por 13 mujeres quienes trabajan a lo largo del Campo San Martín y Campo Roca. El mismo está conformado por 3 Suboficiales Subalternos y 10 Soldados Voluntarios. Ellas se desempeñan en los Cargos de Logística, Operaciones y Comunicaciones. También colaboran en la División de Salud Médica y en la Secretaría del Comandante de Sector 1. Otras actividades que realizan son de colaboración en los puestos de la línea, entrenamiento de enfermería, tareas de oficina, desfiles, trabajos de mantenimientos, etc.

Al momento, desde nuestra participación en UNFICYP, este es el contingente de mujeres más grande que haya enviado el Ejército Argentino. Todas estas jóvenes soldados, tuvieron la

suerte y la posibilidad de concurrir a esta comisión y están muy contentas por esta distinción.

En estos días, la mujer argentina puede ingresar al Colegio Militar e intentar graduarse como Oficial, como así también a la Escuela de Suboficiales del Ejército. La carrera les lleva a ellas cuatro años de duras pruebas para recibirse como Oficial y tres para ser Suboficial. Estos períodos son de exigido entrenamiento militar y estudios de capacitación.

Aunque el Ejército da la imagen de ser un poco duro de sobrellevar para las mujeres, la República Argentina posee una gran cantidad de candidatas femeninas que son voluntarias para unirse a la vida militar y llevan el deseo de brindar sus mejores voluntades para el país.

Sobre sus participaciones en UNFICYP, las Soldados Voluntarias opinan: "Nunca pensamos en nuestras vidas que podríamos representar a nuestro país en esta Misión. El Ejército nos entrega esta oportunidad y debemos sacar ventaja para desarrollar todos los conocimientos posibles sobre esta vivencia. Realmente extrañamos a nuestras familias y amigos de Argentina, pero ésta es una única experiencia. Nos sentimos muy orgullosas de nuestra Nación y de todos esos soldados que cumplen con la Misión cada año".

Día a día estas mujeres trabajan juntas y son grandes compañeras y amigas, no solo en el Ejército. Un grupo de ellas ha visitado lugares exóticos de Africa el mes pasado, durante sus vacaciones. Así también participaron en competencias que se desarrollaron en la Isla y obtuvieron valiosos premios por sus capacidades.

Nos sentimos orgullosos de estas valientes soldados quienes demuestran sus condiciones en cada actividad que se realiza en el Sector 1. Nosotros seguiremos integrando a estas agradables mujeres durante nuestras misiones, y así podremos mostrar a nuestros compañeros extranjeros cuan bellas y capaces son las Damas Argentinas.

THE PARACHUTETTES

By Gunner Natasha Jaskolski



Peel, Punch, Pull, Arch

On 12 July, Lance Corporal Zoe Edwards and myself set off to do a two-week basic parachuting course in Dhekelia. We had no idea what to expect and nerves were running high. They calmed down, though, when we met the rest of the course participants and the lessons began.

When you know your life is at stake you certainly pay full attention to what the instructors tell you. By the end of the day we were all wandering round muttering the reserve drills: "Peel, Punch, Pull, Arch." This was just in case any problem should occur and the reserve chutes have to be deployed. The day soon ended with all our drills well tuned. The next morning we were to jump for the first time. Needless to say, my nerves had revved up again, ensuring that I didn't sleep at all.

The first jump was a static

line jump and was a bit of a blur as my emotions took over. The second and third jumps were also static line jumps to ensure that we left the plane and got into position correctly. Each time it got a bit easier to leave the plane, and by the third we were ready to move on to the next phase.

Phase Two consisted of doing dummy pulls, until we were proficient enough to go "free-fall". No one found any real problems with this phase and I got really excited when I was given the all clear to go free-falling.

Your first free-fall is the most dangerous jump. You just mustn't let your nerves take over as you have to stay calm and composed to be able to pull your chute. I was the first one to do a free fall jump and it went (even if I say it myself) brilliantly. My exit and position were correct with the

landing being really soft. Zoe had a good jump too, but her moment of glory didn't last long as her next one went wrong. She jumped out but left the plane incorrectly, which meant she was plummeting to the ground upside down. In a panic she pulled her chute, but as she was upside down, both her legs got tangled up in the parachute. Luckily she managed to free her legs, but not in time to prevent a hard landing. A lucky escape that proves how dangerous a sport it is.

All the training culminated in a 30-second free-fall which has to be one of the best moments of my life. To say that I am now totally addicted to parachuting is an understatement, and I thoroughly recommend the Dhekelia course to anyone. It has made my tour and I hope to complete the advance course while I'm out here.

NEWS

WEDDING IN THE UNPA

By Captain Attila Rabai

Never in the history of Hungarian peacekeeping has a Hungarian soldier married abroad. MCpl Tamás Kuti and Ms Vivien Brenner broke with tradition and tied the knot on 17 July at a wedding ceremony held in St Barnabas Church in the UNPA.

Having got the blessing of both sets of parents for this very unusual wedding, permission had to be obtained from the appropriate Hungarian authorities.

All wedding preparations were well in hand. Sector Four Padre, Austrian Alexander Pytlik, contributed to this very special occasion by undertaking a very hard task - again a first. He managed to learn the wedding ceremony in Hungarian and conducted it in the language of the bride and groom.

The wedding party was held in Camp Izay, where the young couple and their guests recalled some traditional Hungarian wedding customs, for example the "stealing of the young woman".

If anyone wants to know more



about this practice - ask one of your Hungarian colleagues.

A magyar békefenntartás történetében ezidáig egyedülálló-

ként, házasságkötésnek lehettünk tanúi 1999. Július 17-én. Kuti Tamás, szkv. feleségül vette Brenner Vivient. A polgári esküvő is és a templomi is Nicosiában volt. Az esküvőt hosszú előkészítés előzte meg. Először is a szülők beleegyezése kellett a külföldön történő házasságkötéshez. Ezután kellett beszerezni a hatósági engedélyeket.

Külön nehéz feladat hárult Alexander atyára, aki miután a Magyar Honvédség Tábori Lelkész szolgálatától megkapta, meg kellett tanulnia magyarul a ceremóniát.

A házasságkötés utáni hagyományos vacsora Camp Izayban volt, ahova a magyar kontingens összes tagját meghívták.

A jó hangulatú vacsorán felelevenítették a magyar szokásokat, mint például a menyasszony tánc és a menyasszony lopás.

Reméljük az ifjú párt csak az ásó, kapa és a nagyharang választja szét és ezúton kívánunk nekik ismét nagyon sok boldogságot.

GOATLESS NO MORE

By Captain Vicki Walker



First of all, I would like to report, somewhat belatedly, the sad demise of the Welsh Gunners' loyal servant, Bad Attitude. At the end of last year, we were abruptly left without the services of the evil-tempered, over-active goat, who had helped us through so many official parades and events.

The regiment's deployment on operational tour to Cyprus thrust us back into a hectic whirlwind of visiting generals, politicians and civil dignitaries. Wishing to provide an appropriate ceremonial element to these visits, Sector 2's SCAT team was tasked with Operation Goat - "The acquisition of goats, one, for the parading of".

Major Phil Curtis delegated the chore and SSgt Andy Griffin and Sgt Dave Burge duly delivered after much searching around - with loud protests from both that "I'm not looking after it if we find one."

In fact, finding a goat in Cyprus is no problem. But they tend, unlike the ones we're used to in the UK, to be brown with long, flowing ears.

The SCAT team managed to explain that we were looking for something rather lighter in colour, with smaller, perter, ears and curly horns. They also dodged attempts to present us with an over-sized sheep. (We're the Welsh Gunners: of course we know the difference between a goat and a sheep.)

Thanks to the kind generosity of one of the Buffer Zone farmers, they finally came home with a white goat with ears that stick up, answering to the name Myfanwy.

Myfanwy is currently residing in Wolseley Barracks in a temporary paddock, awaiting transfer to her new permanent stables and looking distinctly nervous at the prospect of "Coat Training" with the Provost Bdr, Robbie Reynolds.

Her first engagement is the official Sector 2 cocktail party - we trust our guests will be as pleased to see Myfanwy as we are. But we are a bit worried as to how the chefs will react.

THE THOUSAND-POUND SWIM

By Corporal Major Mark Kingston

On 23 July, the UNFICYP Community Welfare Committee, handed over a donation of CP1,000 to two children's charities. The donations were warmly received by the Elpida Foundation and the Help Those With Cancer Charity. Both charities provide care for children suffering from cancer.

The money will be used to buy badly needed equipment. Both charities remarked on the committee's continued generosity, and invited members to visit the hospitals to see what their hard work had achieved.

Over recent months, the committee has organised a firework display, band concerts and children's events such as the Easter Egg hunt and support to other activities. The latest event organised by the



committee was the 13 July swimming competition reported in the last issue of *The Blue Beret*.

Much of the credit for the success of this evening - and so many other events - goes to Susie Coats. Susie leaves Cyprus in September, after two years of unflagging work as chair of the committee. While she has been here, the committee has raised more than CP8,000 for deserving causes.

As Susie points out: "The money the committee's raised has not only helped Cypriot charities, but has helped our own UNFICYP community in many ways." She adds: "I would like to pay tribute to the committee, and all those who have helped us, for all their hard work during my time in Cyprus."

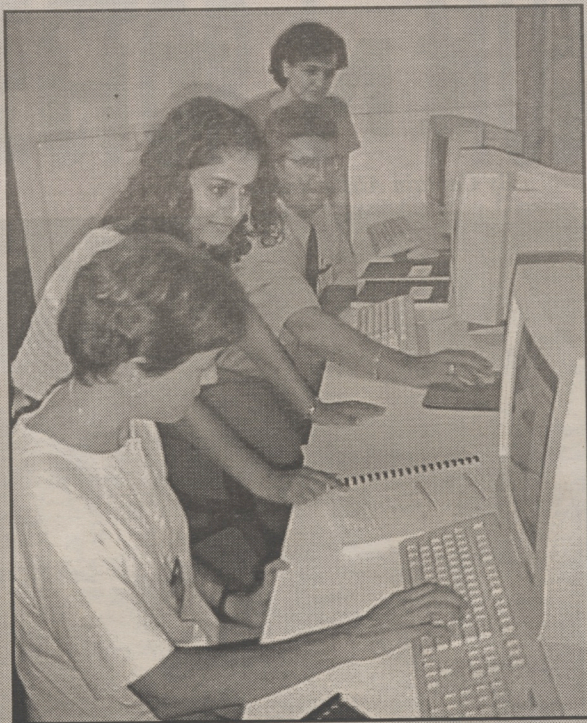
NEWS

Y2K CONSCIOUS

Newspapers and magazines are full of dire warnings about the impact changing over from the 1900s to the 2000s is going to have on the world's computer systems. No one is really sure what will happen, but the general consensus is that it's better to take precautions now.

Clearly, a vast organisation like the UN has as much at stake as anyone. So a worldwide effort has been taking place to ensure that its computer systems are upgraded to such an extent that they are "Y2K-proof".

As part of this campaign, UNFICYP is updating the system in its Finance Section. Effie Petrou from NetU, a computer company in Nicosia, has spent a week training all personnel within the section on the new Sun Systems accounting software which includes ledger accounting, multi-currency report writers, purchase order processing, and an administrative course.



Effie (second left) with Christina, Pat and Eleni from the Finance Section

The aim is to change all the software in Finance from the current version (406) to the upgraded 425 software package in the autumn, in good time for the next millennium.

FIRES IN UNPA



MFR to the rescue

A fire broke out on the afternoon of 22 June in the UNPA, beside the road running from the headquarters complex down to the car rental kiosk. Bone-dry grass meant it spread rapidly. The MFR, the UN Fire Crew, the military police, Support Services, and the local fire brigade got everything under control

within a couple of hours.

This provides a timely reminder of the very real risk fire poses to us here in Cyprus. See Blue Beret Issue No 9 for tips on how to prevent fires breaking out, and what to do if you come across one.

Most important of all, if you spot a fire, call the JOC immediately (ext 4555).

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE UNPA

By Noel Evdokiou

Recent media reports have highlighted the fact that UNFICYP has announced the closure of a number of shops and businesses currently located in the UNPA.

UNFICYP's Chief Administrative Officer, Clemens Adams, explains that there were several factors behind the move, not least the need to rationalise UNFICYP's operational costs as part of the UN General Assembly's clear directive that the Force must find ways to reduce spending.

While the businesses may have appeared to run themselves, he points out, the cost of maintaining utilities such as electricity and water supplies for the premises was until recently covered by

UNFICYP. Concessionaires now pay a token contribution for utilities.

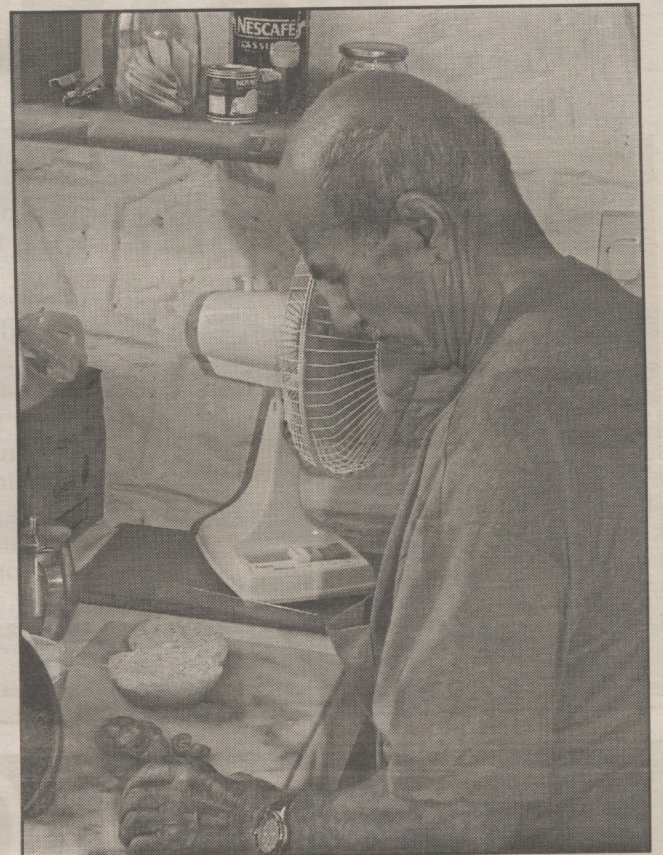
UNFICYP's financial burden has been increased by having business and other activities scattered across the wider UNPA area. This legacy from the days when there were more people living and working in the UNPA has proved both inefficient and costly. From now on, UNFICYP will work to "reduce its footprint" on the area, as Adams puts it, by consolidating facilities at the central camp.

The civilian police have already moved down to the main camp from their old location near the airport terminal. And the central warehouse is being transferred to the main camp from its previous site near UN Flight. All this means that space in the central camp is now at a premium - a key reason why some concessionaires are being asked to leave.

In addition, accommodation for soldiers is being transformed from the old-style barracks blocks to units with common rooms and indoor toilet and washing facilities. The old blocks slept twelve; the new ones eight. The administration is therefore having to find more buildings to use for accommodation.

Adams added that an extensive survey had been carried out among UNFICYP personnel before decisions were taken on which businesses were to be maintained and which were to be closed down. A questionnaire established how often different businesses were being used and assessed levels of customer satisfaction. It also highlighted the point that many businesses were duplicates - there are currently two barbers located side by side, for example, one of which has been doing much more trade than the other. All concessionaires have now received copies of the questionnaire, which indicated that some outlets had almost no customers at all. They were also given three months' notice.

David Moussa, who runs a small sandwich and souvenir shop opposite the Civil Affairs Branch, complained that concessionaires were not given an opportunity to negotiate with UNFICYP about remaining on the site. He said that businesses such as his provided a convenient service for UNFICYP

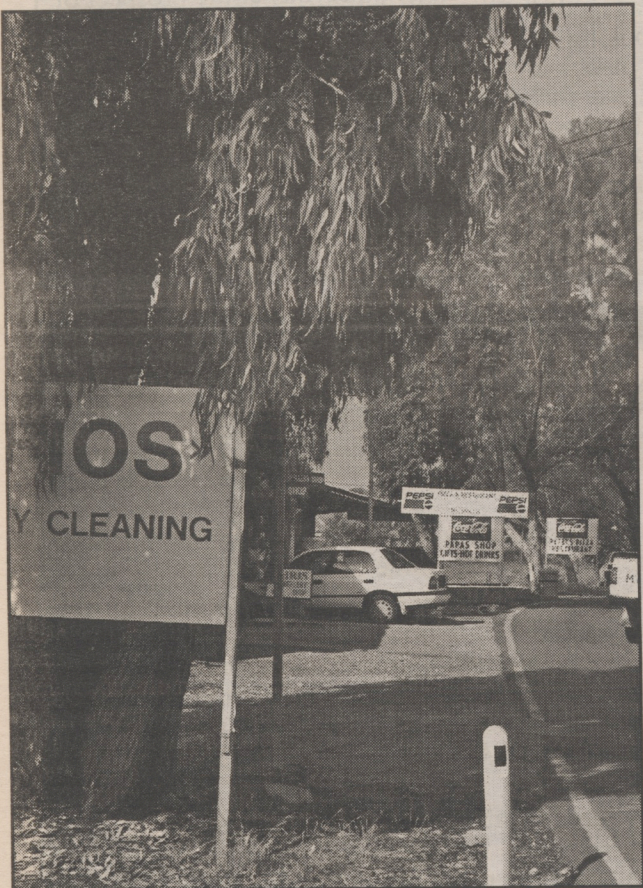


Canteen and gift shop David: "My last rolls. Now I'll retire."

personnel.

Acknowledging this point, Adams said that a small number of essential services would be retained. New concessions will be given out for these, and current providers of services will have the chance to submit their proposals in a competitive bidding process. They include a single fast-food shop, one grocery store, one barber's shop, a banking outlet, a tailor, and a laundry facility.

Meanwhile, the Cyprus Government has been encouraging UNFICYP to make greater use of downtown shops and restaurants, and to minimise the facilities available in the UNPA, concerned that shops and restaurants in Nicosia have been losing trade to the UNFICYP-subsidised UNPA premises.



Space is at a premium, facilities are being reviewed

CLASSIFIED

ITEMS FOR SALE

CARS FOR SALE

BMW 520i Sedan, 1986, 5-speed, a/c, radio-cassette, insurance to Apr 2000, 2 new tyres, new battery and recently serviced. £700 d/f. Tel Sgt Andy Thorp on (02) 676870.

Mercedes 200, one owner, full service record, lhd, 195,000 km. £1,000. Tel: (02) 492650.

Honda Prelude Sports, EXM 271, 1992, 2.0 litre engine, new tyres, only 37,000 km. £1,960. Tel: (02) 864681.

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, 70,000km. £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, 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

Selling up:

- Large, natural pine double bed + mattress. £100.
- 2 small six-drawer chests, one teak, one pine. £5 each.
- Siemens washing machine/dryer (2½ years old). £80.
- Multigym, 2 yrs old, cost new £423. Price now: £190.

Tel: (02) 492650.

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. £350 OVNO. Computer Table £15. Contact WO2 Barry Green on ext 4510 or (02) 359001.

Black dining table with 8 chairs, new cloth upholstery, £220. Tel: (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 WO's & 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

3-bedroom ground floor house, fully furnished, in Ayios Pavlos (close to UNPA). Solar water heater and c/h. Tel: (02) 774783.

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.

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

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

3-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).

3-bedroom house in Makedonitissa, 10A Florinis. Study, attic, large kitchen, sitting-dining room. 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 with a/c in room of choice. £280 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. Tel: (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: Yannis (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.

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.

Change of Library Hours:

1000-1300 hrs: Mon to Fri

1700-1900 hrs: Mon-Wed-Fri

It's closed Tues/Thurs afternoons

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.

Notice: The Nicosia HIVE will be closed from Fri 6 Aug to Wed 25 Aug inclusive.

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 Vyzantiou Street, Ayios Dhometios, Nicosia (close to UNPA, near Astra garage). Tel: (02) 773206.

MISCELLANEOUS

"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.

British Chaplain: Padre Philip McCormack.

Dutch Chaplain, Padre Frank Duyvenvoorde.

NOVICE ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

Thursday 12 August

Start at BBC Officers' Club patio, UNPA

Registration and bar opens at 1800 hrs

Individual starts between

1830 hrs and 1930 hrs

4.5 km course and 2.5 km

course for children, pram

pushers and dog walkers.

Rosettes for all finishers

Open to all BBC Officers'

Club members, Families and

Guests.

More info: 02-864756

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.

Lechner

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 help to support a good cause.

Staff required for YMCA

Mon-Fri, 0800-1300 hrs

Would suit a dependant.

Please contact Rose at

359308 or enquire at the

YMCA

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

BLUE BERET SPORTS SECTION

INTRA-SECTOR 2 SOCCER

By Warrant Officer 2 Sjirk van der Werff

Football fever was high at the UNPA on the evening of 26 July. The Dutch 13 Battery (aka Sector Two West) had been lined up to play Turkish Cypriot forces, but the latter pulled out at the last minute, leaving 13 Battery with no one to play. The British 22 Regiment, however, came to the rescue.

This was the first time the Sector 2 West team had sported 13 Battery Air Defence shirts. The first half started off slowly for the Dutch, but by the second half the players had sorted themselves out and things began to gel. Team captain, Sgt Danny Wolff said after the game "We weren't that good in the first half as it was the first time we had played together, but after the break we were much better and started scoring."

22 Regiment managed to hold

out against 13 Battery to secure a 3-2 win. Team coach WO1 RSM John Hood said: "I enjoyed the game and 13 Battery played very well."

The Dutch coach of the 13 Battery team, WO2 Sjirk van der Werff, said after the match: "This first game was a good start for the team and during the match they played better and better. We've established a good foundation to build on and will play better in the next game."

At the end of the match there were drinks and food for everyone, provided by personnel from Ypenburg.

Goals were scored by Gnr Lucas and LBdr Roberts for 13 Battery and Cpl Butler, Cfn Crabtree and Cpl Wallace for 22 Regiment.



Air defenders attacking each other

WELSH GUNNERS SHINE AT AKROTIRI

By Major Miles Brown

When the news came through that we were going to Cyprus for a six-month period that included the summer, the Welsh Gunners' Rugby Football Club girded their loins for rugby at its toughest - 40°C temperatures, blistering sunshine and rock-hard terrain. It was with some trepidation therefore that the club entered in the Akrotiri International Floodlit 10s competition, which was fought out during the week 19-23 July. The knowledge that the two previous winners had been teams representing the entire British army and air force did little to convince our modest regimental club that the competition would be anything other than brutally competitive.

The campaign started slowly with an unsatisfying draw against the Army Veterans, although the result seemed better when the Veterans went on to win the competition. The result turned out to be just the shock that the team needed and a change of strategy brought devastating wins against a confident RAF Aldergrove (46-0) and the Akrotiri Ospreys (49-0). The Welsh played fast, open rugby, scoring from almost every attack under the leadership of SSgt Ned Kelly. LCpl Richie Yeomans distinguished himself by scoring a hat trick in each game. The Episkopi Eagles were then dispatched in the quarter-final. The Gunners then came up against the scarily on-form Army team.

The match turned out to be the game of the tournament. Following massive hype and speculation from BFBS Cyprus everyone turned out to see if the Welsh Gunners could pull off the biggest upset for years. The Army took to the field resplendent in white, whilst the Gunners wore the traditional red, white and green of Wales. The referee blew to start the game, the army kicked off and fullback Lt David Blackburn took the game forward with LCpl Yeomans and Capt Gareth Rhys-Evans in support. There was a flurry of passes and to the Army's astonishment the Gunners had scored. SSgt Hall converted the try, making the perfect start to the match. Shaken but undaunted the Army pressed back and were rewarded with a try to make it 7-7 at half-time. The game settled down with chances for both sides, however well into the second half, under huge pressure, the Welsh conceded a second try. They then had to suffer heartbreak when scrumhalf Lt Matt Young was knocked into touch only a yard from scoring what would have been the try of the season. The game ended in defeat, but by only 5 points to an Army side that then went on to beat the RAF by a larger margin in the final.

It was a hugely satisfying moment for all involved with Welsh Gunners RFC. Army trials beckon for a number of players and everyone is now looking forward to the '99/'00 season with new resolve. If anyone'd like to take us on, get in touch.

UP WHERE WE BELONG

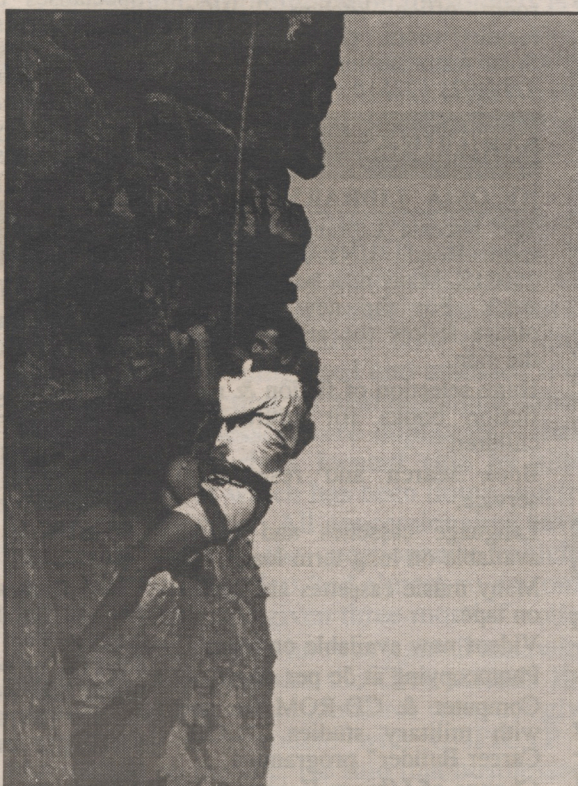
By Lieutenant Sebastian Hitz

The lift goes up where we belong, where the eagles cry on a mountain high.... Guess what we Austrians miss most in Cyprus?

Yes. That's it. Snow and the Alps. (Sorry, Cyprus - the Troodos are nice but they aren't quite the same.) So no wonder mountain guide, Captain Volkmar Ertl, was anxious to set up holds on the wall of UN position 49 in Varosha.

The new climbing wall is quite something. The holds are very challenging and can be compared to a 6, partly 7 degree mountain. I recently joined the climbing enthusiasts who meet at the bottom of the wall in the evening, when the heat has abated. It was, of course, expert alpinist Captain Ertl who showed us the way up. Captain Matthias Ritz, Sector 4's second mountain guide, was hot on his heels.

Their shared interest in climbing also leads the two officers to Cape Greco. From below, it looks as though they dance up and down the cliffs. It's an amazing spectacle - two guys, completely at home in this sheer environment, hauling themselves up almost as quickly as they let themselves down.



"Dancing on the cliffs"

The lift goes up where we belong where the eagles cry on a mountain high... Raten sie was die Österreicher hier in Zypern am meisten vermissen?

-Richtig- Den Schnee und die Alpen. (Entschuldigung Zypern - der Troodos ist nett aber doch nicht ganz das selbe). Darum ist es auch kein Wunder, daß der Bergführer Hptm Ertl am OP 149 in Varosha Klettergriffe angebracht hat.

Diese Kletterwand ist eine echte Herausforderung und kann mit einer Klettertour des Schwierigkeitsgrades 6 und teilweise 7 verglichen werden. Vor kurzem habe ich diese Gruppe die sich öfters am Abend am Fuß der Wand treffen, da dann die Hitze nicht mehr so groß ist, besucht. Und wie zu erwarten war konnte ich Hptm Ertl dort antreffen der uns sofort eine Einweisung für den Weg nach oben gab. Hptm Ritz, der zweite Bergführer vom Sektor 4 befand sich gerade auf dem Weg nach oben.

Dieses gemeinsame Interesse hat die beiden Offiziere auch zum Cap Greco geführt. Wenn man oben zusieht erscheint es als würden die Beiden die Klippen nach hinauf und hinunter tanzen. Eine echte Sensation dort zusehen zu können, wie sie sich in diesen Elementen bewegen und beim erklimmen der Klippen fast gleich schnell sind wie beim abseilen zum Fuß der Wand.