

THE Blue Beret

June 1996



VISIT TO UNFICYP OF MR MICHAEL PORTILLO

During his visit to the island for an inspection of Sovereign Base Areas and British troops in Cyprus, the British Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Portillo, also visited Headquarters UNFICYP.

After receiving an internationally formed guard of honour, at which he surprised us all when speaking to the Argentinian soldiers in



Mr Portillo meeting British soldiers



Mr Portillo with the Chief of Mission and Force Commander

fluent Spanish, he paid a call to UNFICYP's Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel. The Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, was also present at the meeting.

From there, Mr Portillo flew to the Ledra Palace Hotel compound for inspection of the British Contingent of UNFICYP, and was taken on a line tour in the walled city of Nicosia.

MR PETER P SCHMITZ SENIOR ADVISER

Mr Peter Schmitz recently arrived to take up the function of Senior Adviser to the United Nations Operation in Cyprus.

From November 1992 until May 1996, Mr Schmitz was Desk Officer at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the United Nations peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia.

From October 1989 until November 1992, Mr Schmitz was Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP). In this capacity, he was involved in the efforts to negotiate a political solution for Afghanistan in the aftermath of the withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1988.

Mr Schmitz joined the United Nations in 1984 and, after a brief stint in the Protocol Department, was the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs. In this capacity, he

was inter-alia responsible for the coordination of United Nations assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, coordination of United Nations drug control programmes and cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations.

Mr Schmitz holds an MA in Political Sciences from the University of Hamburg. He was born in Germany in 1954, and is married with two children.



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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

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FRONT COVER:

ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE

BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

With the onset of summer, it is inevitable that the chronic problem of forest fires is with us again. Year after year we are warned of the hazards, yet again and again, damaging fires have ravaged the island (see Blue Beret front covers July 1995 and May 1994). Countless other smaller incidents have occurred, simply through the carelessness of individuals who, without any regard for the environment, take reckless risks and cause irreparable damage.

UNFICYP's Fire Inspection Unit has recently carried out a thorough investigation within the UNPA in order to check all electrical installations. A number of faults have been discovered and rectified, and precautions taken to ensure that everything possible has been done to prevent hazards in the area.

It is, however, up to each and every one of us to do our part and ensure, as members of UNFICYP and guests on this beautiful island, that we heed all warnings and keep in mind that wherever we are, particularly in the hot, summer months, the threat of fire is constantly with us. Be careful.

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ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE



On 18 June 1996 at 1830 hours, the Argentinian Medal Parade was held in San Martin Camp, where 247 Argentinian and two Brazilian soldiers of ARGCON's Task Force 6 received their UN medal "in the service of peace".



CO Sector One greeting the Chief of Mission on his arrival

The ceremony began with all the Argentinian Contingent members formed up before the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen and other high ranking visitors.

The ceremony continued with the Argentinian national anthem, followed by the first part of the Brazilian national anthem. Subsequently, Sector One's Roman Catholic priest, Father Carlos Sara



Father Sara, blessing the UN medals

(see above), blessed all the UN medals which were then presented to the recipients by the Force Commander, the Chief of Staff, Col Ian Talbot, the CO ARGCON, Lt Col Gustavo Calvi, the CHO, Lt Col Jorge Tereso, the CO UN Flt, Lt Col Oscar Crippa, the 2IC ARGCON, Lt Col Daniel Oneto and the SHO, Lt Cdr Gustavo Arduso.



The march-past following the medal presentation

Once the national flag and the standard of the Contingent had been honoured, the ceremony continued with a military march-past. Two helicopters then carried out a flypast over the Camp.

The final part of the ceremony was the performance by five members of Sector One who played and sang typical Argentinian folk songs, after which a group of men, women and children delighted the audience with Argentinian folk dances. The last event of the evening was the playing of traditional military music called



The Force Commander presenting the UN medal to CO UN Flt

"Retreta del Desierto", played by the Sector One Band and conducted by WO2 David Hugo Oberti. After the ceremony had finished, all guests were invited to a buffet in the Officers' Mess and by the pool where typical Argentinian food was served.

Then on 20 June, a similar ceremony was held in Soli, where personnel who were unable to attend this function were presented with their UN medal.

39 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

With the departure of 12 Regiment RA, Sector Two is now administered by 39 Regiment RA with 344 soldiers deployed to Cyprus as part of UNFICYP.

The Regiment in all is 510 strong, and those not in Cyprus will remain at the Regiment's base in Albemarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, Northumberland, 10 miles west of Newcastle. Elements of the Regiment are also serving in Bosnia, BATUS and with trials teams at RSA Larkhill.



XXXIX

39 Regiment was the first Royal Artillery Regiment in the British Army to be equipped with the Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS), with which it deployed to the Gulf conflict where it played a key part in providing general support fire power to 1st (UK) Armoured Division.

The Regiment comprises of 56 (Olpherts) Headquarters Battery, 57 (Bhurtapore) Locating Battery, 132 (The Bengal Rocket Troop) MLRS Battery and 176 (Abu Klea) MLRS Battery.

NEW CO SECTOR TWO: LT COL NICK CLISSETT



Lt Col Nick Clissett was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1976. As a junior officer, he held a number of regimental and staff appointments in the UK, Germany and Northern Ireland, and was fortunate to exercise in Hong Kong, Norway, Denmark and Cyprus.

He attended the British Army Staff College at Camberley in 1988, after which he was appointed as Military Assistant to a senior officer on the

Central Staff of the Ministry of Defence in London. This period included the build-up to the Gulf conflict and consequently involved extensive travel in the Middle East. He returned to regimental duty to command E Battery, 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, stationed initially in Germany and subsequently in the UK. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in January 1993 and returned to the Staff College as a member of the Directing Staff.

Lt Col Clissett assumed command of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery in August 1995 as the Regiment moved from Germany to Newcastle in the UK.

He is married to Sappho, and enjoys sailing, skiing, hill walking and music.

THE IRCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE: 21 MAY 1996

At 1660 hrs on 21 May 1996, IRCIVPOL held their Medal Parade at the UNPA Nicosia.

The UNFICYP medals were presented by the Force Commander, Brig Gen Vartiainen, in the presence of the Chief of Mission, Mr Feissel.

Many family members and friends travelled from Ireland for the occasion, and their presence was very welcome and much appreciated by all concerned. After the formal ceremony, a reception was held in the International Mess for family members and guests. Later that evening, festivities continued in the Hibernian Club.

Members of IRCIVPOL would like to thank everybody who assisted in making their special day a huge success.



Members of the outgoing IRCIVPOL Unit outside the International Mess



AUSCON MEDAL PARADE IN DHALI

by Capt S Perr

AUSCON's Medal Parade took place in the village of Dhali. Dhali is situated approximately 15 km south of Nicosia, and Sector Four really appreciated the kind hospitality of the local authorities in hosting this event.



The FC and CO Sector Four inspecting the medal recipients

In the presence of the Chief of Mission, Mr G Feissel, the FC, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, the COS, Col I Talbot and the Austrian Contingent Commander, Lt Col V Horatzuk, presented the medals. This was the first time that the Hungarians had taken part in a Medal Parade since they began their peace-keeping participation within AUSCON. Among them was the only Hungarian female soldier, 1/Lt Anna Finda.

Among the many guests of honour were the Ambassadors of Germany and France, Air Vice Marshal Miller (Cdr British Forces Cyprus), and the Military Attachés of the UK, the USA and France.

The Austrian Contingent was very happy to welcome to their Sector a band from Austria to play at the



Austrian and Hungarian soldiers ready for the ceremony

ceremony, namely the Weinlandgruppe KLÖCH from South Styria (see below). Their music was excellent and a fine example of Austrian culture for so many people of different nationalities.



The Austrian Band

Following the parade, all guests were invited to a reception where once again, the Austrian chefs did their best and offered an excellent buffet which everyone enjoyed.



1/Lt Anna Finda, delighted with her medal, talking with Col Talbot and Maj Ughy

Lt Col Horatzuk talks with Cpl Kienast

THREE TIMES AROUND FAMAGUSTA

by Capt S Perr

On 27 April, "Three Times Around Famagusta" was the slogan for the 128 participants of the Old City Run of Famagusta.

This track runs directly around the old city, along the route of the famous Venetian Walls. Three times around the old city measures a

stretch of 10 kilometres, which is the distance required for this run.

The Old City Run is now a traditional event within UNFICYP, and joins the numerous sporting activities which take place throughout the year. It was, therefore, no great surprise that so many members from the various contingents within the Force and their relatives, male and female, met together in Famagusta.

I feel it necessary to mention the Argentinians in particular, because they contributed so many runners and spectators, ensuring the complete success of the run and providing a distinctly warm-hearted atmosphere throughout the whole event.

In the end, all those who managed to reach the finish line, especially in the heat of the day, can consider themselves a winner! James Hayden (IRCON) came in first with a winning time of 36 mins 33 secs, followed by three Austrians with an equal time of 38 mins 29 secs.



Old City runners, shortly after the start

THE OMBUDSMAN CONTACTS AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS

The word Ombudsman is originally Scandinavian and, roughly translated, means "the man who takes care of and is interested in the complaints and worries of his fellow human beings". The Ombudsman is an official institution of the Republic of Austria, and there are three independent branches which deal with the different affairs of everyday life.

Therefore, we have two Ombudsmen and one Ombudswoman in Austria (in the UN, they are called Ombudspersons).

One of Dr Horst Schender's duties is dealing with military matters, and he is in contact with soldiers in their barracks in Austria and also those serving abroad with UN missions.

Following conferences attended by European Ombudsmen in Limassol from 4 to 11 May, Dr Schender arrived for a visit to AUSCON. This was his second visit to UNFICYP, accompanied on this occasion by his secretary, Dr Peternell, and Col Pandlitschko. From 12 to 15 May, every Austrian soldier in Camp Duke Leopold, at all OPs in the Buffer Zone and in the Headquarters had the opportunity to voice their personal and duty problems. The Ombudsman is in a position to solve a considerable number of difficulties, and his assistance and support provides an efficient and important service to all Austrian soldiers.



Mr Schender shakes hands with Austrian soldiers in Camp Duke Leopold V

THE OLD CITY RUN QUIZ

by Capt S Perr

Readers will have read the article on page 7 of this issue of the Blue Beret which describes the Old City Run in Famagusta.

Walking around with my camera, I watched the runners with their preparations for the start and suddenly, I had an interesting idea...

There were so many faces with so many different legs of all shapes and sizes - long, short, thick, thin - and mostly male.

So, I decided to give a chance to all Blue Beret fans, in particular the female readers, to do something that men usually like to do to women - and that is to stare at men's legs! All of you, but most particularly the females in UNFICYP, are invited to sharpen your eyes on the photographs

on these two pages and match the legs to the faces. For instance, face "A" may go with legs "4" - or there again, maybe it doesn't! Those readers with the highest number of correct pairs will have their names put in a hat, and the first three drawn from the hat will each be presented with a special prize with the compliments of Sector Four.

Send your answers by **19 July** to the:

**Press Officer
Sector Four
CDL V Famagusta
AUSCON**

The results will be published in the July issue of the Blue Beret - so watch out for your name!



Face A

Legs 1



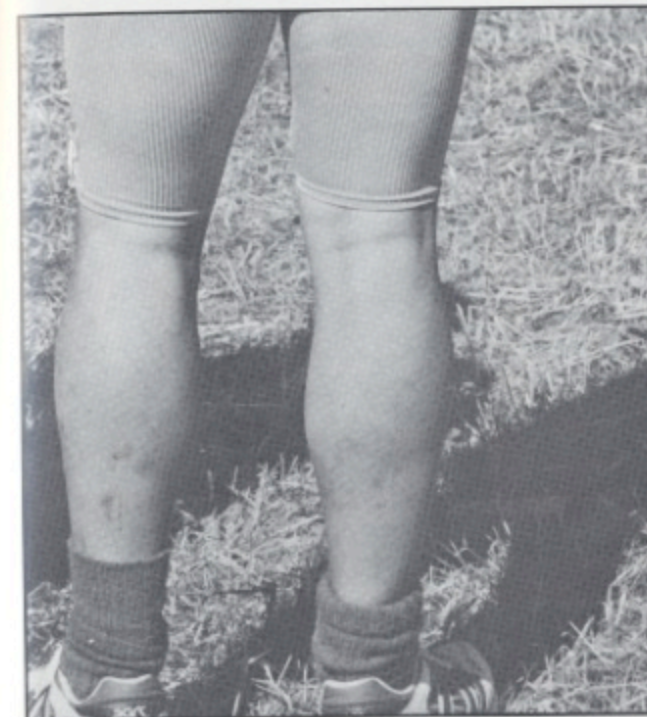
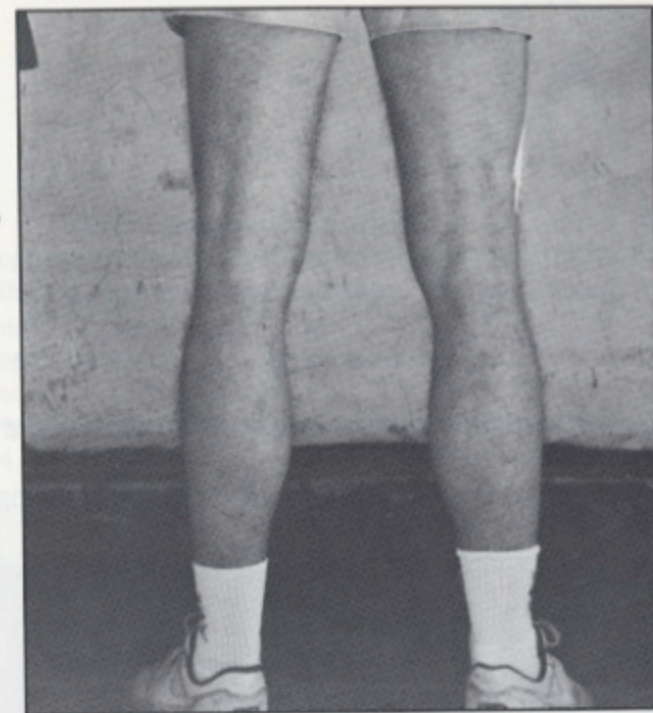
Legs 2

Face B



Face C

Legs 3



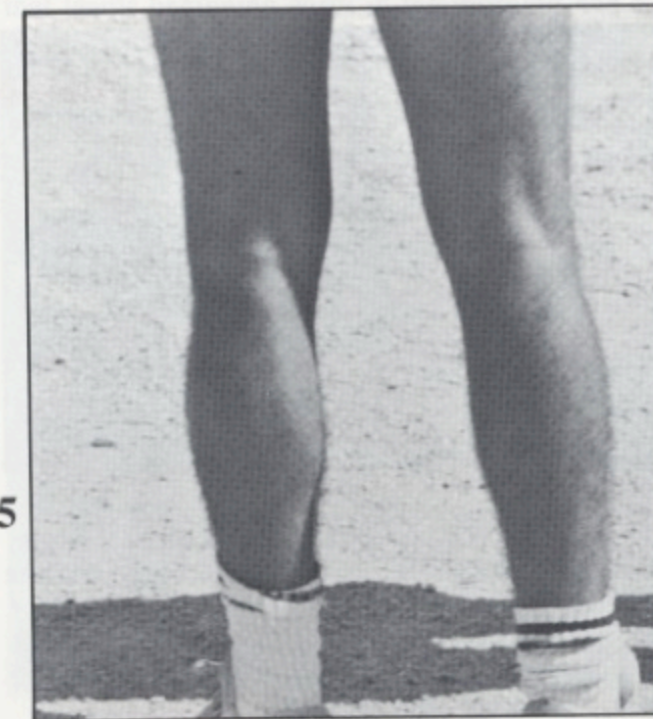
Legs 4

Face D



Face E

Legs 5





It was one of those days in Cyprus - blue skies, high temperatures and almost no wind. In other words, perfect conditions for the UNFICYP Military Skills Competition. Sectors One, Two and Four each provided three teams, HUNCON, competing for the first time, entered with one team and two teams represented the Permanent Force Reserve. All stands were set up in accordance with the UNFICYP Standing Operating Procedures.



A welcomed drink during the Forced March

The first stand was the Incident Obs Rep, a test of the daily workings of the Sectors wherein their skills on observation and reporting are examined.



The tunnel dig - an agonizing Oscar performance!

Then the Forced March started. The distance of 9.6 km was no problem, but entwined with the Obstacle Course made it much more difficult. Only one individual suffered heat exhaustion, but fortunately, with prompt action by the medical team, recovered very quickly.



This is too much like hard work!

Then came the Tunnel Dig. This is a tough, dirty job and certainly no fun in the heat, but all teams managed to negotiate the obstacle without great difficulty. It should be stated here that the point of the exercise was to dig under the obstacle, NOT move it!



The wall - part of the obstacle course



The hand grenade range

UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION - 8 MAY 1996



The multi-national B Team PFR. An Argentinian giving his British comrade a "leg up", with the Austrian at the top, ready to lend a hand!

All teams then exercised their arms by throwing hand grenades, under the supervision of AUSTCIVPOL. Each team was required to throw 10 grenades into a trench placed inside a 15 metre circle. Quite a few time penalties were lost here.



Marksmanship at its best!

It was then on to the final stand, the shooting competition (see above). Here, each team had 50 rounds of ammunition to fire at 20 balloons from 100 metres. The standard was very high, and this was probably the most successful part of the competition, as reflected in the results.

The First Aid Stand was the next test to be tackled, where a number of casualties had to be diagnosed and treated on the spot, and then carried 200 metres on a stretcher at speed. Penalties were lost here for mistaken diagnosis and for dropping the casualty! Fortunately, there were no fatalities, and it was on to the next stand.

The best part of the competition was, of course, the prize giving. The final result shows that in third place came Sector Four's B team with a total time of 1 hr 17 mins 11 secs. In second place was Sector One's A team with a score of 1 hr, 13 mins, 33 secs. The winners were Sector Four's A team with a time of 1 hr, 4 mins, 53 secs.



The winning team - Sector 4A

All teams are congratulated on a fine performance under stressful conditions, i.e. the heat factor. However, it should be mentioned that teams beginning early in the morning had a distinct advantage over the teams starting later in the day. This matter is being addressed by the Chief Coordinator, SO2 Ops Current & Training.



Cooling off at the end of the Competition!



PROFILE OF NO 5 CAMP COMMAND



No 5 Camp Command arrived in Cyprus on 20 March 1996 for their six-month tour of duty. The new 14 members of No 5 group have a total of 60 tours with United Nations and 244 years of military service, so the handover from No 4 group went very smoothly as each man blended into the melting pot that is the United Nations.

RQMS Michael O'Shea is from No 2 Hospital Company -



Bricins Hospital, Dublin. Mick is 47 years old with 29 years of service in the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Brigid, and has carried out eight tours of duty with the United Nations. This is Mick's third tour in Cyprus.

C/S Anthony Conneely is from Headquarters Western



Command Reserve Forces in Galway. Tony is 40 years old with 20 years service with the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Mary and has carried out five tours of duty with the United Nations. Tony is one of the 42 Permanent Defence Force personnel who served in Goma Zaire during the Rwanda refugee crisis in 1994.

Sgt Patrick O'Driscoll is from 1st F.A.R. Ballincollig in Cork.



He is 44 years old with 23 years service with the Permanent Defence Forces. Patrick is married to Esther, and has carried out nine

tours of duty with the United Nations. He is a keen mountaineer and enjoys the great outdoors.

Sgt Martin Mahoney is from 10 Infantry Battalion Wexford. He 37



years of age with 18 years service with the Permanent Defence Forces. Martin is married to Esther, and has carried out five tours of duty with the United Nations. Martin is a bird breeder and also a competition judge.

Sgt Nigel Cadogan is from the Army School of Physical Culture in



the Curragh, Kildare. Nigel is 34 years of age with 16 years service with the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Tracy and has carried out four tours of duty with the United Nations. Nigel has represented the P.D.F. in the Cism World Championships on four occasions in Austria, Switzerland, Germany and at home.

Sgt John Gallagher is from Other



Ranks Company Ceant Bks, Curragh in Kildare. John is 44 years of age and has 16 years service with the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Florence and has carried out three tours of duty with the United Nations. John is a cricket enthusiast and a former all-army champion in the sport.

Sgt Robert Lipsett is from the Military College in the



Curragh, Kildare. He is 39 years of age with 20 years in the Permanent Defence Forces. Bobby is single and has carried out five tours of duty with the United Nations. Bobby is an enthusiastic 10K runner, who doesn't know how he got into photography!

Cpl Michael Walsh is from C.T.D Cathal



Brugha, Dublin. Mick is 31 years of age with 11 years service in the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Catherine and has carried out two tours of duty with the United Nations. Mick is an enthusiastic orienteer, and he is also a qualified soccer referee.

Cpl Dermot Scully is from Survey Company, C.O.E. in



Dublin. He is the youngest member of No 5 Component at the age of 27 with eight years service in the Permanent Defence Forces. He is single and on his second tour of duty with the United Nations. Dermot is a qualified cartographer and specializes in photogrammetry.

Cpl Richard Reid is from D/C.O.E. in the



Curragh, Kildare. Dick is 47 years of age with 20 years in the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Sheila and has carried out seven tours of duty with the United Nations. Dick is a qualified carpenter, and is still wondering how he got out here.....

Cpl James Hayden is from the A.D.M. Wing of the Air



Corps, Baldonnel. He is 38 years of age with 21 years service in Permanent Defence Forces. Jimmy is married to Elizabeth and is on his second tour of duty with the United Nations. He is a keen runner and the holder of command and all army medals.

Cpl Philip Coy is from C.C.S.& T. Coy, Curragh, Kildare.



Busty is 35 years of age with 18 years service in the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Carmel, and is on his second tour of duty with the United Nations. Busty holds seven all-army medals for badminton, and has completed the basic and advanced drivers' courses.

Cpl Patrick Agnew from 29 Infantry Battalion in Monaghan is 34 years



of age with 16 years service in the Permanent Defence Forces. He is married to Patricia and is on his fourth tour of duty with the United Nations. Patrick is a keen outdoor man, and has basic mountaineering and advanced rock climbing courses under his belt.

Cpl Martin Kelly from 2 Fd. Arty. Regt, Mckee Bks, Dublin.



Tosh is 34 years old with eight years service in the P.D.F. He is married to Elizabeth and is on his second tour of duty with the United Nations. Tosh holds an award for the Society for Protection of Life from Fire from the London Institute, and also an all-Ireland gold medal for rowing.

THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

On 27 April, the UNFICYP Shooting Competition took place at the UNPA ranges. There were three disciplines - the pistol, rifle and falling plates, with seven teams taking part.

Shooting from a distance of 25 yards in the pistol match, Sector Four came out top in both the team and individual events, and were the overall winning team in the combined pistol and rifle matches.



The winning teams of the three individual competitions



The Force Commander, shooting on behalf of the HQ team

Camp Command won the team and individual events in the rifle competition, a decidedly historic victory since the last time the Irish won this competition was in 1971!

The last event was the Falling Plates, a test of team marksmanship which was finally won by Sector Two, after a very closely fought final match with Camp Command.



DIVING COURSE - SECTOR ONE



During the month of April, a diving course took place in Protaras for personnel of Sector One.

It was an Instructors Course, conducted by the Transdivers Club with the support of Lt (Navy) Miguel Llorens and 1/Lt Jorge Varela who assisted in the practices and final examinations.

The course took place over two consecutive weekends: at first, classes were formed and participants were examined on what they had learned. Videos were shown, followed by corresponding practices in the pool, under the direction of the diving course instructors.

During the second weekend, the final test took place in the pool, followed by the move to open waters! This is where the first (easy) dive took place at a depth of 6m, gradually leading to more difficult and complex dives up to a depth of 18m.

There were 20 students in all who completed both the physical and intellectual sections of the



Participants of the diving course

course. Even though it was hard work, the weekends in the "submarine world" passed in an atmosphere of genuine companionship, and all participants left with the distinct feeling that they had achieved something worthwhile.



FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN SAN MARTIN AND ROCA CAMPS



Recently, a friendly match took place between the officers of San Martin and Roca Camps in an effort to bring together the personnel in these locations.

The match started at 1530 hours. At first, the team from Roca Camp were on the attack, but the excellent defence from San Martin team players stopped the goals. However by half time, Roca Camp had managed to open the score in their favour.

During the interval, some were disappointed at the half-time score and others, of course,



The team from Gen San Martin Camp



The team from Gen Roca Camp

were elated. None of the team members were despondent, however, and all returned to the field to battle out the second half.

It was evident here that technical superiority and better ball control was executed by the San Martin team, who finally managed to equalize. Not long after Lt Correias, in a brilliant move, upped the score to 2:1.

It was a most entertaining match, enjoyed by all team members and spectators alike, and certainly helped to develop a good rapport between the members of these two Argentinian Camps.



GENERAL ZABALA VISITS UNFICYP



Between 15 to 17 May, Argentina's Army representative in New York, Gen Carlos Zabala, carried out a visit to the Argentinian troops currently serving in UNFICYP. The purpose of this visit was to meet the Argentinian soldiers in UN missions around the world, including Yugoslavia, Kuwait, Haiti, etc.

The visit consisted of a line tour to all the OPs along the line, the three camps (Gen San Martin, Gen Roca and Adm Brown) and the Kokkina Base. In each location, Gen Zabala met with the Camp Commanders and the personnel on duty and enquired after their welfare. On 16 May, a dinner was held in Gen Zabala's honour at Gen San Martin Camp, attended by many officers and representatives of the Headquarters and Sector One staff - an occasion enjoyed by all.



Gen Zabala at Gen San Martin Camp

BROTHERS IN UNFICYP

Sometimes destiny provides us with unique coincidences. This is certainly so in the case of the Garcia brothers. These two Engineer Officers were independently selected from the Argentinian Army, and were posted to Cyprus to serve simultaneously with UNFICYP. Both of them have previous experience with United Nations missions.

The elder, Alejandro, is a Captain and served in the Western Sahara (MINURSO) during 1994/95 as a Military Observer. He worked for the Chief Operations Officer as a Military Information Officer (MIO) in MINURSO HQ. During the last eight months of the mission, he was appointed ADC to the Force Commander. Whilst in Cyprus, he is the Adjutant to Commander Sector One. His permanent post in Argentina is at the Peace-Keeping Centre for the Blue Beret (CAECOPAZ) in Buenos Aires, where he is an instructor. Alex also has a PhD in accountancy which he obtained from the Argentinian Litoral National University in 1992.

Fernando, a 1st Lieutenant, has served two six-month tours with UNPROFOR. The first was taken up exclusively with engineer duties, but during his second tour, he worked in the JOC. The Argentinian Army HQ has currently



Alejandro (left) with Fernando

appointed him 2ic of an Engineer Platoon in UNFICYP.

Fernando is in Cyprus with his wife, Iris, and their three-year-old daughter, Maria Montserrat.

UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

