

# THE Blue Beret

April 1991



## FORCE COMMANDER'S COMMENDATION

On Saturday 2 March 1991 at about 0300 hours, Corporal Cummings returned to his accommodation block in Jubilee Camp, United Nations Protected Area, Nicosia.

Upon entering his room, he discovered it to be full of smoke and a fire to be blazing fiercely in one corner. He immediately raised the alarm and awakened six colleagues in the adjoining rooms of the block and ensured that they evacuated the building.

Corporal King, one of those Corporal Cummings had wakened, returned to his room, which was engulfed in smoke and flames, in an attempt to save his belongings. He did not re-emerge. Corporal Cummings, with scant regard for his own personal safety, re-entered the blazing building and found Corporal King unconscious, having been overcome by smoke. He carried him to safety and gave exhaled air resuscitation. This was successful and Corporal King was soon breathing unaided.

Due to his prompt action and disregard for his own safety, Corporal Cummings may well have saved Corporal King's life. Pictured right is the Acting Force Commander, Brigadier Fredenslund, presenting the FC's commendation.



### VISIT OF DANISH CHIEF OF DEFENCE

The Danish Chief of Defence, General Jørgen Lyng, visited DANCON on 26 and 27 February 1991.



### IMPENDING ARRIVAL

Between 3-8 March 1991, the future Commander of the Danish Contingent, Lt Col D Banja (left) paid a short recce visit to DANCON. The change of command will take place on 4 May. On his departure, the current CO DANCON, Lt Col OABC Hansen, will take up the post of Chief of the Danish UN Department.



Pictured above is the winning entry to the Photographic Competition, submitted by Capt C Nilsson from the UNFICYP JOC who wins two rolls of colour film. The photo depicts a Cypriot shepherd just outside Rizokarpasso. Entries for next month's competition should be submitted to the MPIO's office by 15 May.

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

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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#### Front Cover

SWEDCIVPOL,  
UNFICYP  
by SSgt Kev Capon

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

The formal ending of the Gulf War has now taken place and hopefully a lasting and permanent peace will ensue. To assist the peace process and permit a swift restoration to normality, a new UN mission has been created. UNFICYP extends a sincere welcome to the newest member of the peace-keeping family, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission —UNIKOM which is now settling into its tasks on the borders of Iraq and Kuwait. It is a matter of pride that UNFICYP will be able to contribute to the formation of UNIKOM, and we wish the Austrian and Danish Contingent members of UNFICYP temporarily assigned to UNIKOM and their fellow soldiers from UNTSO, UNIFIL and UNDOF who will also serve there a safe and successful tour.

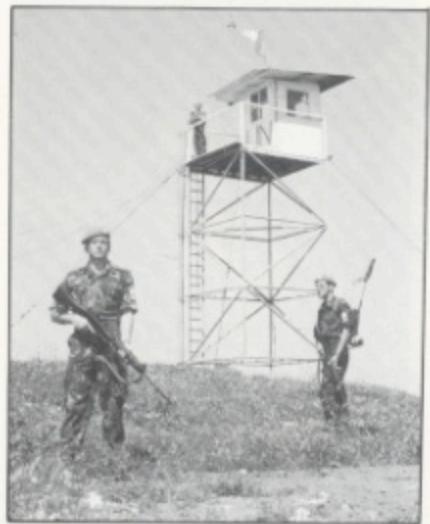
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## A TROOPER'S VIEW OF LIFE ON THE LINE

by Tpr Gaz Walton



OP B-33: (Left to Right) Lt Roger Martin and Cpl Derek Jones

My life presently exists and revolves around an Observation Post (OP) called Bravo 33, situated in the Buffer Zone. It is one of several OPs which are manned by Troopers, in our case under the guidance of 5 Corporals and Lance Corporals and our Troop Leader.

Is it as hard as people say being a Trooper? After all, we are the lowest rank there is in our Regiment. Well, the answer is no, or rather no, most of the time. When you sit down and think about it, there is nothing difficult about observing the area and reporting what happens. That's the easy part; the slightly harder aspect is when you are



OP B-33: (Left to Right) Lt Roger Martin and Cpl Wayne Slater

called upon to make your own decisions. Sometimes a Trooper may be in a situation where he needs to make a decision but is uncertain as to the correct course of action. This is why we have our LCpl's and Cpl's, who will give us the assistance and guidance we are looking for.

To give you more of an insight of our job at B-33, here is an account of a day in the life of Trooper.

Early start? Well that really depends on whether you have been up for two or three hours, or are still rattling windows with your snoring! Whichever is the case, everyone is up and about by 0830 hrs. The night shift who are just coming off duty sort the block jobs out, and generally keep the hygiene standards remarkably high considering there are only two of them.

Three Troopers man the OP tower during the day, and they obviously have to be alert at all times. To ensure their alertness, a rota is made so that each man doesn't spend too long at any one time on the tower. His job is quite active, watching 4 or 5 patrol tracks, and the vehicles on them. He also observes and logs any changes to defensive positions, or any digging of trenches etc in the Buffer Zone.

He has to salute every UN vehicle that drives past, regardless of the type of vehicle or the rank of the occupants.

If someone visits the OP for the first time, he is greeted by the duty watchkeeper, and asked if he would like a formal brief. A formal brief is given on the tower by the duty Trooper and covers all aspects relating to the surrounding area. It has to be given orally, in a set format, and from memory. This is the time when the duty Trooper is beginning to get nervous. By the time a visitor gets his brief, the Trooper will have practised giving it to the map, the radio, the compass, and more than likely, to any birds that happen to fly past. It is moments like this that a Trooper

dreads, but really it boils down to one thing... confidence. A confident Trooper is a good Trooper, and you usually find, a happy one also.

As a change to duty on the tower we may go out patrolling the Buffer Zone. Each member of the patrol is briefed on the objectives of the patrol. Knowing these, he will not then see it as a pleasant ramble through the countryside, but will pay particular attention to any alterations of defensive positions. A patrol will also go out during the day and man



Tpr Gaz Walton

another OP which is otherwise unmanned. After manning this OP for a time, the patrol would then resume, possibly visiting the large area of citrus groves and checking the farming permits.

As a Trooper I can easily say that my short time with The Queen's Own Hussars has been most enjoyable. I am also very lucky, having come to a posting like this straight from basic training in England, especially as I know of members of the Regiment who have served for 12 years or more without doing a UN tour.

As my time goes by, I will learn more and grow in confidence, and will, after some hard work, hopefully be promoted to LCpl. However that's another life, and for now I'm going to enjoy a Trooper's way!



## SP REGT NEWS

With the Support Regiment and UNFICYP Military Skills competitions looming closer, it was decided that the first Dash inter-troop competition for 1991 should have suitable flavour. So on Friday 1st March, having just completed the 8 mile CFT, the troops entered two teams for a grenade throwing and assault course competition. Cpl Landry managed 32 points alone on the

grenade throwing — better than in some cases both teams from the other troops. All the teams put in a valiant attempt, however, Commcen 'A' had a clear 20 seconds on the assault course and managed to pip Radio 'A' as winners of the trophy.

Congratulations to the winning team: Cpl Hodds, LCpl Roberts, LCpl Bell, Sigs Skidmore, Toomes and Lean.

## HISTORY OF 15 SQUADRON ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT



Fuel wagon



Uggie wagon

Lt D R D Hopkins REME assumed the appointment 2IC/AO of the UNFICYP Wksp in mid January 1991. His main tasks include Workshop accounts and administration, as well as organising the Workshop adventure training and many sporting activities.

Lt Hopkins was commissioned in 1985. Whilst some of his interests such as cars and motorcycles have had to be put on hold whilst he is in Cyprus (economic constraints force him to drive a Lada Samara), Lt Hopkins is looking forward to adding to his offshore sailing experience, improving his dinghy crew skills and taking up Karting.



15 Squadron RCT assumed the role of the UN Transport Squadron from 60 Squadron RCT on the 11 January 1991. This is the third tour undertaken by the Squadron. What follows is a brief history of 15 Squadron RCT.

In January 1942, 15 Tank Transporter Company Royal Army Service Corps was to be found on active service in the Western Desert. After service in this theatre and Western Europe, the company was disbanded in Hamburg during 1948.

15 Motor Transport Company RASC was formed in York during 1951 and disbanded in 1961. In July 1962, 122 Company RASC (Tipper)



in Osnabruck, West Germany was redesignated 15 Company RASC (Tipper) and remained as such until January 1965.

In 1965 the company was re-roled in support of 1st Artillery Brigade and during this time was retitled 15 Squadron RCT. The Squadron remained in support of the Artillery until 1977.

In 1977 with the reorganisation of 1 (British) Corps, the Squadron was re-roled to support 5 Field Force.

The Squadron returned to the United Kingdom in 1983 and became part of 2 Infantry Division Transport Regiment RCT.



A "knocker", the oldest vehicle in the Squadron

## UNFICYP SKIING COMPETITION



The DCOS, Col EN de-Broë Ferguson, hands over the winner's prize to Cpl Taibel



The winning team!



This event, which took place on 14 February 1991 in the Troodos mountains, saw one of the most outstanding results for the soldiers of Austrian Contingent so far. Five of them took part, with Cpl Taibel gaining first place. Second came MCpl Lackner, and third place was taken by Sgt Pichler, representing UN MP Coy. The Austrians did well in this competition — not only did they excel in the singles, but they also won the team competition. In second place was UN MP Coy, and third came BRITCON.



Doc on standby



Maybe next year....?

## AND STILL ON SKIING

What snow skiing the Troodos mountains provided was pounced upon with gusto, culminating in the UNFICYP Skiing Competition. This involved two runs down a giant slalom course and 54 competitors from all Sectors, including the Cyprus Ski Federation. The races began in earnest and it was soon evident that the Austrians were "in a class of their own" — a description normally reserved for the Blues and Royals! Although trying hard to regain this heading, no medals were collected, but an extremely enjoyable day was had by all. The photo shows the FSC Sqn "Ski Dudes" — LCpl Lickfold, LCoH Crocker, LCoH Smith, Tpr Habgood and Tpr Turner representing the Sqn at the UNFICYP Skiing Competition.



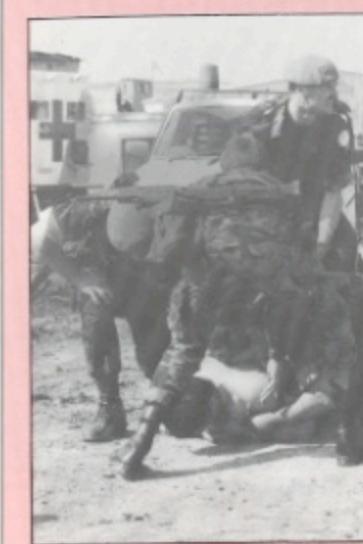
## CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING



With the Military Skills Competition looming, 5 Tp in Sector Four have taken up clay-pigeon shooting, and why not? The photo above shows Ct Boyd under instruction. On the left, Tpr Brown is shown taking on the world, whilst CoH Carney (standing with the ear defenders on) looks on.



## THE DISMOUNTED SIDE OF THE FSC SQN



As you all know, the FSC Sqn has to operate a Force Reserve in support of UNFICYP. There is normally an exercise once a month, the last one being held in Sector Four's area of responsibility. On the agenda was "Riot Control Practice", one of the functions of the Force Reserve. The photograph above shows CoH Gibbons, Sgt Wells, LCpl Hagen and Tpr Ellis demonstrating that sheer stubbornness will not be tolerated!



The hosting of the Signals Conference fell on the shoulders of the Sqn earlier on in the month. This gave us a fine opportunity to exhibit our ceremonial uniform as well as our communicative abilities! This outfit is worn by members of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment whilst on horseback (can you believe it?!) when they are on ceremonial duties in London. The Regiment consists of members of both the Blues and Royals, and our brother Regiment, the Life Guards. The photo above shows (left to right) Tpr Maskell, SQMC Carpenter, SCM Manning, CoH Simpson and Tpr Rushton after (very definitely!) the FSO Conference lunch, hosted by the FSC Sqn.

## POLO

The polo set up makes this sport accessible to many who have never hit a ball in their lives. Members of the Sqn grasped this opportunity with both hands and took on the polo team of the Queen's Own Hussars. After a closely contested 2-chukka match, the QOH 'carried the silver' home by winning 2-0.

The photo shows the FSC Sqn versus QOH with their representative flags flying. Left to right: Maj BWB White-Spunner, Capt M Goodman, Ct JP Barclay, Ct J Kent, Maj J Brook-Fox (umpire), Capt R Gourlay, Capt J Rogerson, Maj A Lodge and Capt N Thomas.

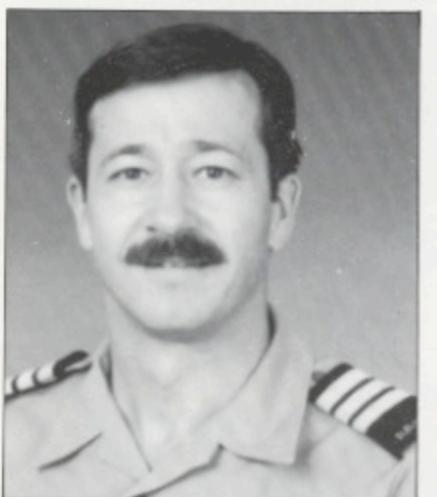


## DIVING

A number of soldiers from the FSC Sqn have taken full advantage of the wonderful chance to learn to dive in Cyprus. A very experienced instructor, offers PADI courses to UN personnel. So far, almost 20 people have passed and are now able to hire diving equipment and dive, within their limitations, around the world. As it is said, "diving is no problem here in Cyprus". The photo (left) shows Tpr Turner — "Whatever the surroundings, you are messing with the wrong guy".

## WHO'S NEW IN THE SECTOR THREE ZOO

by Captain S.G. Yuzwak



LCol R. Romses

1 PPCLI's CO is LCol Ray Romses, who also is double-hatted as Commander CANCON. His DCO is Maj Dave Pentney and his RSM CWO Ritchie. All three gentlemen bring the benefit of previous Cyprus tours to their jobs.

Our Operations Centre is headed by Maj Howard Michitsch who also runs Headquarters Company. This may



Maj D. Pentney

is Maj Barry Southern who has vowed to cover the UNBZ in paint. Rumour has it that it is to ensure that his Operations Officer can find his way in the dark. Last, but certainly shortest, is OC of Administration Company Maj Ernie Reumiller. Maj Reumiller is determined to run the entire company around



explain his somewhat haggard appearance. Somewhat less haggard but no less busy is the OC of City Company, Maj Joe Pollock. This man has been to Cyprus so many times that he has a permanent forwarding address. OC of Rural Company

Maj J. Pollock



the island — in flack jackets and wearing webbing. Only time will tell.

Yes, things are certainly moving quickly. For some over a month has passed while for others everything is still brand new. Regardless, the next few months should prove interesting, and I can guarantee you will hear more from 1PPCLI, "The Stampede Battalion".



Maj E. Reumiller

Although the Advance Party was lucky enough to have "all" its luggage inspected before crossing the pond, most of the arrivals were processed quickly and smoothly. In fact, in some cases, the arrival was so smooth that some people went straight from the aircraft, through the Arrival Assistance Group and on duty at the nearest OP! Welcome to Cyprus.

## 1 PPCLI TAKES OVER

by Lt Holden



The Guidon of 12e RBC is marched off parade

On Saturday 9 March 1991 12e RBC and 1 PPCLI paraded for the Sector Three Handover Ceremony. The event marked the official passing of responsibility and control to 1 PPCLI as the Canadian Contingent to the United Nations in Cyprus. On this day, the weather was bright with a brisk wind to show off the Colours.

The parade itself was very brief, starting with the forming up of 12e RBC under the command of LCol J.O.M. Maisonneuve. General Milner, the UNFICYP Force Commander, then gave a farewell/wel-

come speech. Finally LCol R.R. Romses marched on the Colours of the "First and Finest". It was over as quickly as it had begun.

"It was only a parade", you might say, and essentially you would be correct, but it was a much awaited parade. We had been waiting long enough to take over the reins of control so that we could put the familiar and comforting stamp of an Infantry unit back on the line. All that could be covered in preparation for the change had been done. Since the arrival of the advance party on



The FC, Maj Gen Milner, formally hands over the command of CANCON from LCol Maisonneuve to LCol Romses



The Colours of 1 PPCLI

22 Feb 91, a third of 12e RBC had had a "shadow" no matter how cloudy the day, as their counterparts followed them everywhere. Indeed they must have looked forward to the change-of-command with as much anticipation as us (though for a different reason).

As if by magic, the new presence on the line brought an increase of incidents, and now all are putting to daily use that which we had learned. It should be noted that the Battalion took command of a well organized Sector. This was a positive sign that 12e RBC had done a super job.

## 1 PPCLI REGIMENTAL DAY GOINGS ON

Traditionally celebrated every 17 Mar to honor the birthdate of our original Colonel-in-Chief, 1 PPCLI this year celebrated Regimental Day at Wolseley Barracks on Tuesday 19 Mar, so as not to disrupt Sunday routine.

The inter-company sporting events consisted of tug-o-war and broom-i-loo, a Regimental sport that combines the best (or worst, depending on your point of view) elements of broomball, field hockey, hurling, rugby and Australian Rules Football.

The Adm Company tug-o-war team was nothing short of awesome, going undefeated in the preliminaries and making very short work of Rural Company in the finals. They took full advantage of the "no weight limit" rule and while some grumblings about illegal substance use were heard from the losers, it was evident that the winners simply had better technique — and more body mass.

The broom-i-loo competition

was very spirited and highly competitive, with all teams relatively evenly matched. The finals pitted City and Rural companies against one another and City Company, looking fresh despite having played a semi-final match just minutes prior, finessed their way to a 3-0 victory.

The day's sporting activities culminated with the much anticipated (by everyone except the competitors) Officers — Senior NCOs broom-i-loo match. The Senior NCOs were seeking a measure of revenge after having lost the hockey challenge earlier



Lt Nelson & MCpl Jordon of HQ Coy, pulling as hard as they can in the inter-coy tug-o-war match

in the season, while the Officers were looking for a victory to ensure a clean sweep of the year's challenges. The Senior NCOs jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead, but the Officers proved to have too much skill, hustle and good looks (which is the key, because it's not whether you win or lose, but how good you look playing the game). They stormed back with 4 unanswered goals and won the match 4-2, occasionally employing the "more is better" strategy and sending all their players onto the floor at the same time. The Senior NCOs of course, answered with their own show of force, the result being short periods of total pandemonium and chaos, until the referees were able to restore order and reinflate the ball. No blood was shed (well hardly), bones broken or limbs lost and the general consensus among the competitors was that it is a good thing the match is only played once a year, as the other 364 days are required for recovery.



Regimental Day inter-coy Broom-i-loo Champions, City Coy

At the closing ceremonies, the winners were applauded, the losers consoled and the CO and RSM presented each other with the appropriate halves of the horse. The remark was made that it really is better to give than

to receive.

Regimental Day concluded with a mixed dining-in at the Officer's Mess, the highlight of which was a typically spectacular performance by the 1 PPCLI Drum Line. Capt Annis was declared King of the Leg Wrestlers (both left and right legs) and the DCO kept his end of the deal by shaving off his moustache the next morning. The CO seemed genuinely surprised that the DCO could even remember having struck a deal, but a commitment is a commitment and he saw his part through to the end.

The high and tight flattop haircut looks surprisingly good

on him, bring back memories of Ranger courses gone by. Stay tuned to see if the PMC really does go to jail rather than shave his moustache off.

Most looked surprisingly fresh for morning prayers, considering they were operating on about 3 hours sleep. The exception was the Ops O, who required 3 wake up calls and the fire alarm siren cranked up in his room in order to make it on time. He stated that he felt horrible, which was good, because no one should look that bad and not feel it.

Regimental Day was declared a success by all those involved, but again, it's a good thing that it only happens once a year...

## SWEDCON MEDAL PARADE



On 23 January 1991, the SWEDCIVPOL Medal Parade was held in the Sun Hall Hotel, Larnaca. About 100 guests were invited to this function. Commander SWEDCIVPOL, Ch Supt Håkan Thelin, made a speech and the Force Commander then expressed his gratitude for the way in which SWEDCIVPOL has completed its tasks within UNFICYP. Maj Gen Milner presented the following members with their medals, shown on the left:

Top, left to right: Insp Lars Wallberg, Insp Lars Juneklint, Insp Anders Fockman, Insp Björn Astell.

Bottom, left to right: Ch Insp Thomas Fasth, Insp Christer Tholinsson, Insp Ulf Nord, Ch Insp Ulf Sjöberg.

Then, on 31 January, following the SWEDCON January Briefing, Ch Supt Håkan Thelin presented UNFICYP numbers to 10 Officers serving with SWEDCON/SWEDCIVPOL over and above their first tour of duty.

## CAPTIONS COMPETITION

If you can think of an appropriate caption for this month's competition, please send it in to the MPIO's office, HQ UNFICYP by Wednesday 15 May.



This month's caption competition was won by an anonymous bidder who submitted the entry above.



## AUSTRALIAN MEDAL PARADE



FC with Stn Sgt Steve Bullock



Sgt Brendon Stone with his wife Sue, and children Alex and Jessica



FC with Sgt John Druhan



Cpl Jim West and Sgt Cristine Schmidt



Supt and Mrs Roy Yeeles

On 8th February 1991, the 33rd Contingent of Australian Civilian Police assembled at the BBC Officers' Mess to receive their UN medal for service in Cyprus.

Although the Australian Federal Police, from which the contingent is drawn, is a disciplined body with a traditional uniform policing component, a fair proportion of the members are plain clothes investigators and drill is not their strong suit. For that reason, and because of the indoor setting, a simple march-on, march-off format was adopted.

The Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr R Stevens, was present to observe the Force Commander present medals to the 13 recipients, one of the largest parades for some years.

During a speech following the presentation, Major General Milner drew parallels between the traditional role of civilian police and some aspects of the UN mission in Cyprus. He also referred to the operational contribution being made by two female members of the contingent.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at the Officers' Mess with celebrations continuing later at the AUSTCIVPOL Mess. During the evening, music was provided by the band of the Queen's Own Hussars under WO Ian Stewart.

The 33rd AUSTCIVPOL Contingent on parade was conscious and proud of the fact that they were the latest of an unbroken Australian Civilian Policing contribution to UNFICYP stretching back to 1964.



FC with Stn Sgt Liz Harrison



FC with Stn Sgt Amos Mackay





## en passant...



### SERGEANT MARGARET MACKIE

Sergeant Margaret Mackie enlisted into the Army in 1971. On completion of basic training she was posted to Mill Hill, London, to carry on her trade training with the Postal Courier and Communications branch of the Royal Engineers.

In August 1978, wedding bells rang and LCpl Mackie married, left the Army, and moved to Bunde with her new husband, a private from 33 Squadron RAOC with 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt RCT.

In late 1979 she joined the Cameronian Scottish Rifles Army Cadet Force as a 2Lt, the regular counterpart of which her Grandfather, a Captain, had served with during WW1. Here she stayed until 1983.

In 1985 Private Mackie joined the Territorial Army serving with 222 Squadron, 154 Regiment RCT(V) and transferred to 279 MC Squadron RCT(V) in 1989. In 1990 while assisting the records office at HQ RCT TA at Grantham with the 'S' type engagements for the UNFICYP Tpt Sqn, Sergeant Mackie took the opportunity and enlisted herself and found herself serving with the same Regiment her husband had once served with.

Sergeant Mackie has one son, Kelvin, aged 16.

If you have any information you would like to see published in this section please telephone extension 2235 by 14 May 1991.

## MOTORING - THERE IS NO RUSH...

In the UK over 250,000 drivers are breath tested each year but now the Police in some areas intend to test drivers involved in ANY motoring offence, this figure could double. To beat the breath test — Don't drink and drive.

### DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Now that the sun is shining and people are starting to take trips out for the day sightseeing etc, the temptation to have maybe just one alcoholic drink is very great. Maybe you fancy just a couple of glasses of your favourite wine to accompany your meal? Well before you do, just look a bit further. If a standard drink is measured as a 1/2 pint of ordinary strength beer (and you know how they vary on and around the island), the following drinks at the standard measure equate to one standard drink:

1/3 pint of strong or export beer

1 glass of table wine

1 glass of sherry

1 single whiskey

3 standard drinks can register as "Over the Limit". To beat the breath test — *don't drink and drive*.

### DEFENSIVE DRIVING IN CYPRUS

The defensive driver is not necessarily a slow driver, except when the conditions demand. He is a skilled driver as well as a good driver. No matter what the conditions, whether it be the road, vehicle

or other people's behaviour, his powers of concentration and observation enable him to ensure that no action on his part will contribute in any degree to the development of an accident situation.

Listed below are some of the special hazards to watch for when driving in Cyprus and the remedies to be taken to avoid accidents:

### SPECIAL HAZARDS - Watch for:

- Doors opening in your path
- Turning without signalling
- Unexpected stopping
- Reversing without looking
- Driving in the middle of the road — even on bends
- Excessive speed
- Pedestrians lingering in your path
- Animals
- Dazzle at night

**THE ANSWER** is care, courtesy and consideration. Avoid accidents by:

- Allowing more time for your journeys
- Refusing to be irritated by the faults of others
- Using your horn whenever necessary
- Checking and double checking for danger
- Staying well behind vehicles in front
- Expecting surprises
- Slowing right down whenever there might be danger
- Using the rough verges if the tarmac is narrow, but slow down.

**DON'T COMPETE - DRIVE DEFENSIVELY AND SURVIVE**

**...ENJOY CYPRUS!**

15 Sqn RCT