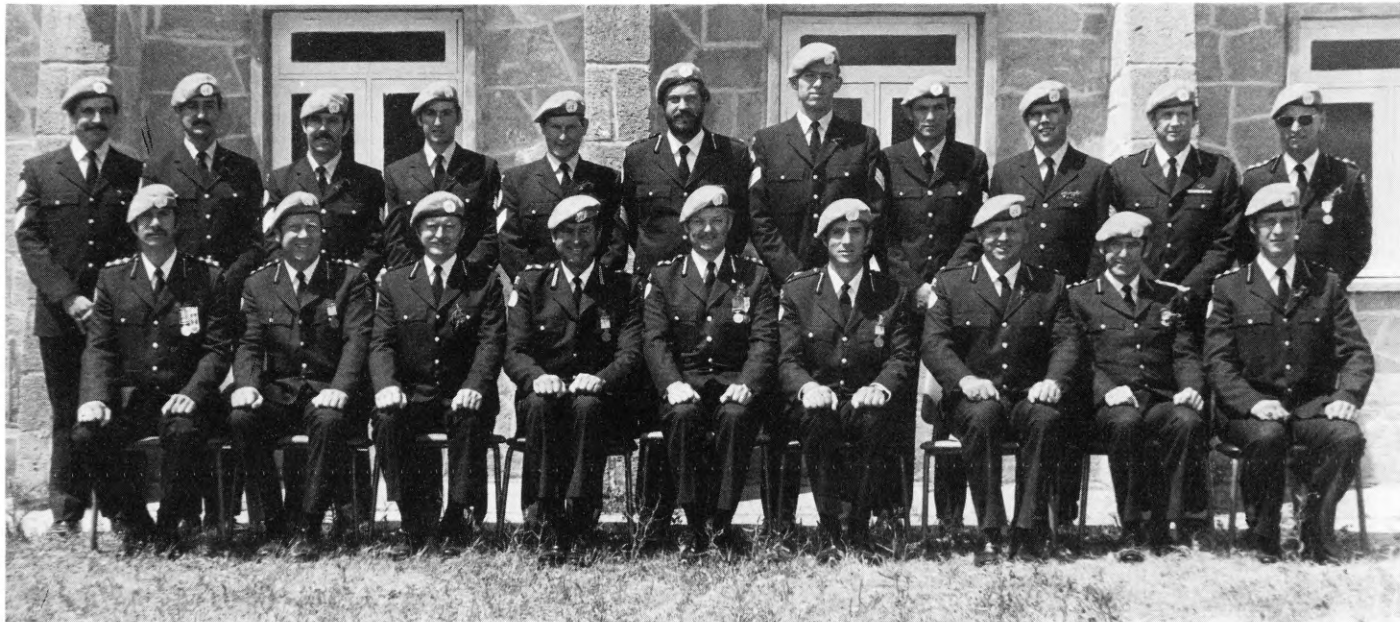


“UNIT FEATURE — AUSTCIVPOL”

ARTICLE BY CEDRIC MERCER

PICTURES BY PETE STATHAM

THE EDITOR GRATEFULLY THANKS *THE BLUE BERET* FOR ITS KIND PERMISSION TO REPRINT THIS ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN FULL.



Members of the 17th. Australian Police Contingent in Cyprus pictured outside St. Columba's Church in Blue Beret Camp on April 25 1980 after the Anzac Day Commemoration service. Back Row (left to right): S/Sgt. M. DaRe, Sgts. R. Davey, R. Gawne, G. Noble, K. Moulds, C/Insp. R. McLeod, Sgts. R. Smeltink, C. Lines, P. Turner, C/Insp. B. Graham and Insp. M. Geale; front row (left to right): Inspectors D. Barnby, G. Shinnick, C/Insp. R. Wregg, D/Commander N. Hinchley, Commander R. Allatson, C/Inspectors J. Royle and P. Wise and Inspectors R. Smith and J. Davidson.

Background:

In 1964, shortly after the formation of UNFICYP, the United Nations decided, for the first time, to incorporate civilian police into one of its military forces. Five member nations — Australia, Austria, Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden — agreed to supply police officers. This inclusion of civilian police in a peace-keeping operation remains unique to this day.

The reason for including civilian police in the Force was that very early on it had been established that in Cyprus serious inter-communal incidents could arise over minor problems at village level.

Furthermore, it was obvious that there was a real need for a very close liaison between UNFICYP and the Cypriot law enforcement agencies and individual Cypriots at grass roots level if inter-communal problems arising from non-military

activities were to be dealt with promptly and efficiently.

The introduction of the United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) achieved this aim by quickly establishing a good rapport with their professional colleagues in the Cypriot police force, both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and also gaining the confidence and trust of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities as a whole.

The Australian Government, in 1964, responded to the request of the United Nations by supplying 40 police officers. They formed a composite Australian Civilian Police Contingent (AUSTCIVPOL) and were representative police officers from all Australian state police departments and the Commonwealth Police Force. Since that time over 500 Australian policemen, all volunteers, have served in UNFICYP and in most zones and sectors of the Force.

Between 1965 and 1975 AUSTCIVPOL was principally represented in the southern and western districts of Cyprus. The Headquarters was at Limassol and units operated from stations at Ayios Theodoros, Paphos and Polis. With the re-organization of the Force, after the events of 1974, AUSTCIVPOL was reduced to a strength of 20 police officers in Sector 2 where it remains to this day. A sub-station was established at Xeros in Sector 1 in 1975 but was closed in 1977.

ROLE

Most members of UNFICYP think that because AUSTCIVPOL are police officers they are there in Cyprus to police the members of the Force. Nothing could be further from the truth. They have no jurisdiction over the military members of the Force; this is entirely the responsibility of the Military Police Company.

Although working without accepted police powers, AUSTCIVPOL

are able to operate very ably and efficiently in support of the military units of the Force and as liaison officers with the Cypriot Police (CYPOL) and the Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE).

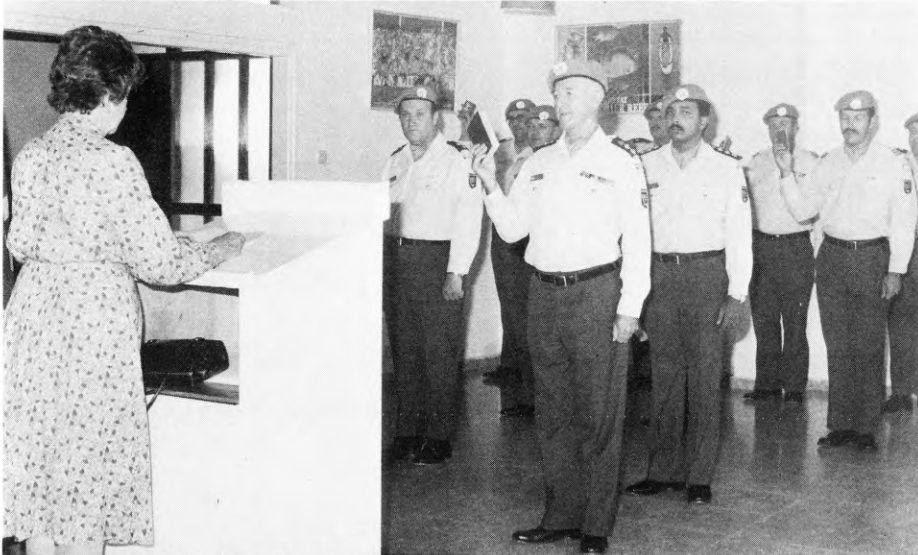
Despite the great distances between Australia and Cyprus all police officers quite naturally "speak their own language", therefore the members of AUSTCIVPOL have, through the years, built up extremely good working relationships with all the local police officers with whom they have worked.

breaches of Buffer Zone agreements by farmers and shepherds; investigating unauthorised vehicles in the Buffer Zone; the rounding up and returning of livestock that stray across the permitted boundaries in the Zone; the processing of application for transit passes for Sectors 2 & 4. This by no means is a comprehensive list but it does give some idea of the variety of work that is undertaken, much of it outside the role of a normal civilian law enforcement agency.

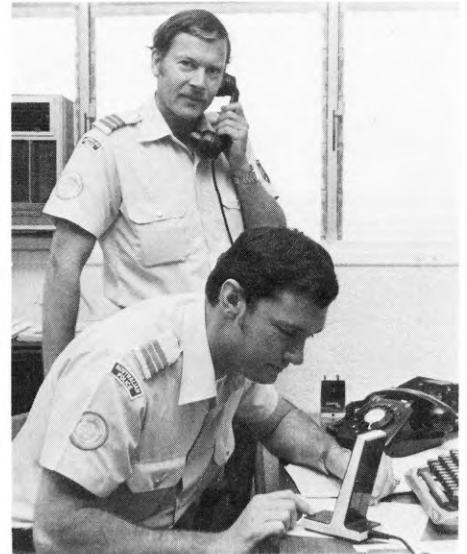
To apply their professional skill effectively, members of AUSTCIVPOL have to bear in mind at all times the aims of the UNFICYP mission, acquire and maintain an in-depth knowledge of the Sectors within which they operate, and remain impartial in their dealings with both Cypriot communities.

Although they work long and irregular hours, remaining on call

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The Australian High Commissioner swearing in the members of the 16th Contingent as part of the newly formed Australian Federal Police.



Sgt. K. Davis is manning the radio at HQ AUSTCIVPOL requesting information required by Sgt. P. Rofe who is standing behind him.

Because they have no formal powers AUSTCIVPOL seeks to achieve the aim of the UNFICYP mission by mediation, constraint, the exercise of tact, diplomacy and prompt and accurate reporting.

The operational functions of AUSTCIVPOL are mainly patrols in the Buffer Zone, investigating non-military breaches of the Status Quo agreement and obtaining information of humanitarian and economic problems.

In the main, inquiries and investigations are not initiated by AUSTCIVPOL; requests for such work come usually from within the force.

From time to time the Cypriot government authorities and Cypriot citizens request information from, or make complaints to AUSTCIVPOL; these matters are looked into and the findings are reported back through the Police Operations Officer (POLOPS) at HQ UNFICYP.

The actual tasks are many and varied including investigating fires in the buffer Zone, generally grass fires, some of which involve damage to private property; following up



Maronites living in villages on North Nicosia pass through Ledra checkpoint to visit relatives in South Nicosia.

Front left: Chief Inspector D. Haynes, former O.I.C. Austcivpol Ledra Palace; rear left: S/Sgt. M. DaRe; rear middle (with beard): Chief Inspector R. McLeod; rear right: Present O.I.C. Ledra Palace, Chief Inspector R. Wregg. Also pictured are members of the Turkish Cypriot Police Element.

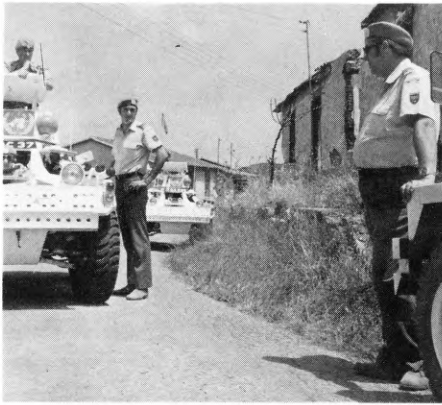
AUSTCIVPOL members stationed at Ledra Palace in Sector 4 assist with humanitarian tasks at this checkpoint almost daily.

twenty-four hours a day, they still manage to visit the many places of interest on this beautiful island and also entertain their many friends throughout the Force and among the local communities.

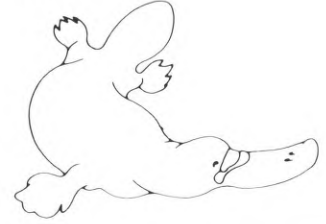
In Cyprus AUSTCIVPOL are unarmed and they find that this fact enables them to venture into avenues of inquiry that otherwise might well be closed to them.

This factor together with good liaison and friendly contact are positive features directly related to the continued success in 'peace-keeping' achieved by that body of

volunteers known as the 'Skippies' — the men from AUSTCIVPOL.



In the course of maintaining vigilance within the UN Buffer Zone members of AUSTCIVPOL regularly become involved with other elements of the force. In the picture the members of AUSTCIVPOL meet up with a patrol from the Force Reserve.



AIRPORT IRONMEN NOT SO RUSTY



Members of the A.F.P. Perimeter Running Club Team (Eastern Division) entered a team of 12 runners on the recent City to Surf run in Sydney and all members completed the 14.4 kms course in good time.

The Club, formed earlier this year, has its headquarters at Sydney Airport.

The Club's first President, Chief Inspector John Burrows, said: "Membership to the Perimeter Running Club is achieved by running around the perimeter of Sydney Airport, a distance of 9 miles (14.4 kms) and this must be completed in less than 75 minutes. We train regularly and are now in serious training for the first Sydney Marathon to be held in 1981.

Pictured: Standing (l-r) John Burrows, Ken Curnow, Kim Sorenson, Bryan Chapman, Steve Apps, Mick Banach; front (l-r) Chris Payne, Frank Vlasich, George Lambidis, Scott Work, Greg Burgess and Chris Payne Jr.



OBITUARY

Leonard Wilfred Powley

Members of the Australian Federal Police, A.C.T. region were deeply saddened recently by the death of former A.C.T. Police Commissioner, Leonard Wilfred Powley.

Mr Powley joined the former A.C.T. Police Force as a Constable in 1939 and rose through the ranks to become Commissioner.

After nearly 40 years as a policeman in the A.C.T., he retired in June 1966.

He was a keen football fan and was an active member of the Eastlakes Football Club for many years.

Mr Powley was accorded a full Police funeral which was attended by Sir Colin Woods, senior Police officers and many of Mr Powley's former A.C.T. colleagues.