

AFP contingent at UN Day wreath-laying

A small contingent of Eastern Region AFP officers joined other police veterans of the Cyprus UN peace-keeping Forces for the 1983 annual United Nations Day wreath-laying ceremony in Sydney.

The formal observance ceremony and traditional march through Martin Place to the Cenotaph was held under the auspices of the UN Association of Australia, and commemorates the vital role played by peace-keeping forces throughout the world.

The six-man AFP contingent, with State Police veterans, represented the 600-plus Australian officers who have served in Cyprus since 1964.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of the NSW and Federal Governments, the

Armed Forces, the Consular Corps, Returned Services League, Police, and the UN Association of Australia.

Right: Acting Assistant Commissioner Ray McCabe, officer-in-command Eastern Region, presents a wreath on behalf of the AFP at the United Nations Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in Sydney.

Below: Proud veterans of Australia's peace-keeping forces in Cyprus march along Pitt Street, Sydney, on the way to the Cenotaph. A six-man AFP contingent took part in the march.

Police and services in parade

Members of the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police, Australian Army and RAAF who have served with the United Nations forces in Kashmir, Korea, the Middle East and Cyprus, combined for the 1983 United Nations Day parade in Canberra on 26 October.

A special ceremony was held at the Australian War Memorial.

It was the AFP in Canberra which inaugurated United Nations Day in the ACT to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the 'Service of Peace'.

It was the fourth time the march has been held—this time organised by the United Nations Association (ACT) branch.

A number of those who took part later joined AFP representatives at a formal dinner at the AFP Academy, Barton.



A palace life for our man in Vienna

If an AFP officer could choose an ideal location for investigations he might well come up with a peaceful spot among breathtaking snow-capped mountains and very friendly people.

Throw in a lake, a comfortable old palace, excellent (if slightly different) food, and as many varieties of beer as you can count on both hands, and you have the scene that confronted Perth's acting Detective Sergeant Peter White on a recent assignment.

He was sent to Austria during September to interview an international financier formerly based in Australia.

Peter knew the complex, long-running case well. He and Detective Sergeant Doug Veitch—now in Special Investigations Unit, Perth—had been in on it at the start four years ago.

The financier had requested an interview with the AFP in relation to activities in which he had been involved in Australia.

He declined use of the Australian Embassy in Vienna and showed an apparent wry sense of humour by choosing instead a small village in the Alps near Salzburg. Its name: Bad Aussee! (which actually translates roughly as 'spa near the water').

Peter was met at Vienna airport by a Melbourne Age reporter, who had also been working on the case for some time, and picked up by the financier for the mystery five-hour drive to the mountains.

'I didn't know where I was going', Peter recalled. It was his first visit to



Detective Sergeant Peter White outside his temporary lodging at Vienna, Schlosshotel Martinschloss, a former castle once home of the Von Trapp family.



The alpine village of Bad Aussee, where Detective Sergeant Peter White interviewed the financier with its spectacular mountain backdrop.

Europe. 'The country was absolutely beautiful. Snow had fallen just before I arrived, and it looked marvellous. The setting sun turned the snow pink. I've never seen anything like it.'

The interview sessions began on a Sunday, and for two days took up some 20 hours, not finishing until 8pm. On the third day the financier was told by the reporter that the story of his meeting with the AFP had broken, and in Peter's words, the financier 'just upped and left'.

In that time Peter had taped 20 hours of conversation, but he reckons he had 'at least another three days of talking left—probably four'.

However, Peter had no choice but to leave the idyllic setting and return to Vienna. There he found an earlier flight home was unavailable so he was found accommodation in a converted palace, once home of the famous Von Trapp family on whom the classic film *The Sound of Music* was based.

Once again, his stay was but a brief one. Duty called him back to Australia where the investigations are continuing.