

one great lump of raw meat hanging out. I could see other large gashes over his legs and his trousers were blown away.

'The man was still conscious. Perhaps he could not hear due to the blast of the mine, but I'm sure he could see me.

'He tried to crawl across to me, holding his hand out, saying something incoherent. But I could see his eyes. They could tell a story. I'd never my whole life seen anything like it.

'I kept going and when I reached him he rolled from his side onto his back.

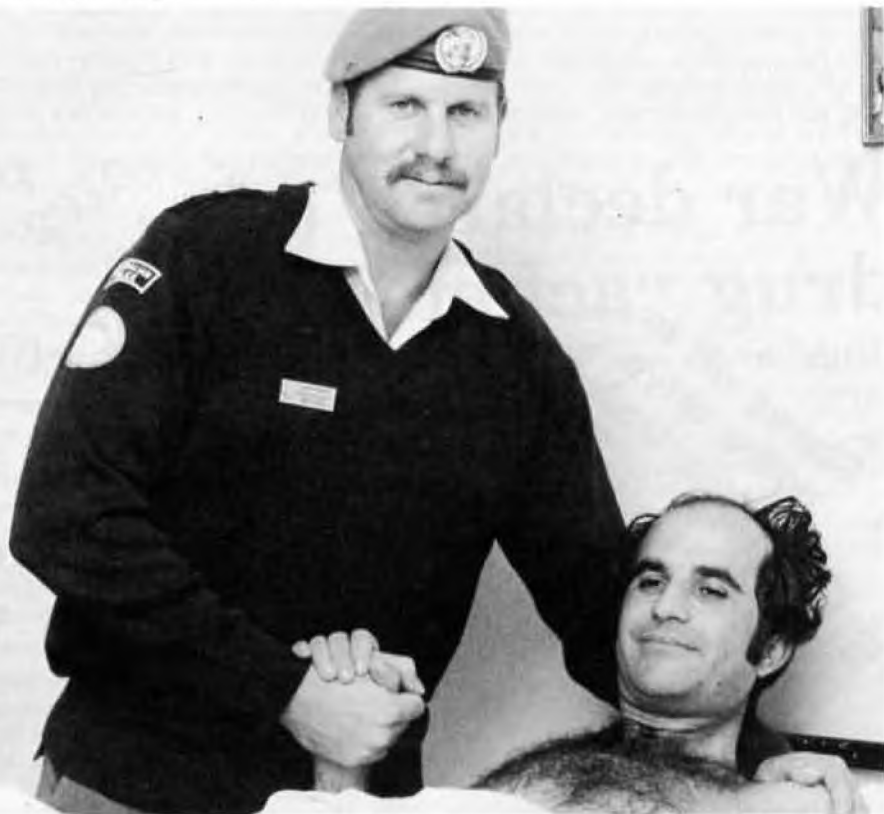
'I managed to get one arm under his

crutch and one under his head across the shoulders in a fireman's lift.

'He knew I had come for him but as it must have been very painful he was struggling.

'I got him over my shoulders and turning back trying to follow my footsteps, but even so, together we were almost 400 lb which would set off any mine if we were unlucky to step on one.

'The ground was hard and there were no tell-tale signs and I just had to take the chance. Also time was of such great importance that I had to take him out the short way — that is precisely the way you would expect the enemy to come in.'



When Thurgar got the wounded farmer to where he thought was safe, the U.N. economics officer, Captain Kevin Delaney of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) applied shell dressings on the man's wounds.

Exactly 15 minutes from the moment the tractor hit the mine, a U.N. helicopter had landed on the scene and Captain Delaney and Warrant Officer Jim McGowan, also of Lord Strathcona's Horse put the wounded farmer carefully on a stretcher and then into the helicopter.

Thurgar flew in the same helicopter 'to keep the stretcher steady'. They landed at Wolseley Barracks and thence by truck to hospital. The entire operation, from the moment of the mine explosion to the time the man was accepted at the hospital, had taken half an hour.

'It was a U.N. team effort that got him out, a combination of everybody', Thurgar said.

'When I got back to the Mess I was filthy. My shirt was torn and although I've had it washed again and again, the stains of blood, oil and grit are still visible. I think I'll send it back to headquarters in Canberra to see if I can get a new one', he said.

Back at the Nicosia hospital, farmer Seas said: 'A shirt? You tell him I'll give him my own life if necessary. There's no way of repaying him for what he did'.

Miss Grimwade and Thurgar have been to see him in hospital and Seas said: 'They came to see me and brought flowers but I was so excited I can't remember which one of the two had brought the flowers or whether I thanked them'.

Thurgar is presently serving a second term of duty with the Australian Police detachment of the U.N. peacekeeping force in the island.

He was last in Cyprus in 1977 — Cyprus Weekly.

## The Editor's

# VIEWPOINT

I mentioned in this column in the first edition of platypus that AFP offers many diverse and interesting career opportunities for members. In recent months a very important facet of the modern police role has been considerably broadened with the integration into AFP of the 'Narcs' — the members of the former Federal Bureau of Narcotics.

My personal view is that only good can come from this development; we as Members have gained new long-term career opportunities while, more importantly, the integration means that those former Narcotics agents now have a 'back-up' of an extra 2500 personnel to help them to combat the trafficking and distribution of illegal drugs.

The drugs problem is a frightening one. It is a problem that can only be solved by our entering a new era of police co-operation on State, national and international levels. I personally find it heartening that only a short time after the former Bureau was integrated into AFP, the Commissioners of all Australian police forces were meeting to plan concerted action against drugs and related crime.

I dare say there is a wide spectrum of views on specific

drug matters throughout the AFP. Some members may personally favour the so-called 'decriminalisation' of certain 'soft' drugs. My own view is that we take enough drugs as it is without legalising new ones. Why would it be desirable to further pollute our bodies with foreign substances? Do we not imperil our health to a great degree as it is by using (and abusing) the pleasures of nicotine and alcohol?

I do not wish to use the VIEWPOINT column as a pulpit, but my personal view is that apart from posing a general danger to our community, the drugs problem in Australia poses a specific threat to our young people and their chances for a happy, successful life. And it only follows that we must protect our children for are they not the leaders of tomorrow?

It is an unfortunate syndrome, but our children, often those in their teens, become victims of the drugs scene through 'peer group' pressures or, I suspect, often through the neglect, apathy or ignorance of parents. At the heart of the problem are the criminals who import and distribute drugs, motivated by the prospect of vast illicit profits.

As police, we have the unenviable task of enforcing the law against drugs. I believe that our chances of success in this area have been greatly enhanced in recent times. And we MUST succeed.