

WITH THE AFP CONTINGENT IN CYPRUS

Life with UN force is a varied one

A tour of duty on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus is an experience that most who have shared it would not have missed.

On parade . . .



• This year, for the first time, three AFP members paraded with UN military police to receive their UN medals from UN Commander Major-General Greindl. Senior Sergeant Frank Priest, above, gets his medal.



• Station Sergeant Ken Baker receives his UN medal.



• Senior Sergeant George Switalski waits to be presented with his medal.

So far, 21 contingents from Australian police forces have helped keep the peace between Greek and Turkish residents there under the United Nations flag.

The now small UNCIVPOL force is all that remains of a once-large adjunct to the UN military forces of the divided island.

Then, Australia, Austria, Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden supplied police officers for the peace-keeping role. Now, only Australia and Sweden maintain the commitment.

The task for members today is a continual patrolling of the demilitarised zone separating Greek and Turkish-held areas and watching out for breaches of the peace.

Much social work also is involved, escorting people across the zone so that they can get to medical services and for other needs.

But it's not all work. Over the years successive contingents have worked hard to make their island life more comfortable. Working parties spend a lot of time improving the HQ station and their living accommodation.

Sport is a must, both for recreation and as a morale-booster.

Pictures on this page, which feature members of the 20th contingent, show how they cope with their unusual life.



• AFP cricketing members decided to create their own ashes for competition by selected contingents. AUSTCIVPOL won the first series. Above: The Broken Wicket Trophy is selected for incineration.

. . . At play

• Below: Contingent Commander Mr Don Morrison prepares the old trophy.

• Bottom: Watched by members of the contingent, and guests, the ashes are created.



. . . At work

• Senior Sergeant George Switalski, Senior Sergeant Tim Fisher, Station Sergeant Gary Brown and Senior Sergeants Brent Aldridge and Trevor Sharp restyle the barbeque areas at HQ Station.

