

THE Blue Beret

April 1997



VISIT OF CHIEF, PMSS/FALD, TO UNFICYP

As part of a visit to a number of peace-keeping missions in the Middle East, Mr Luiz C da Costa, the Chief of the Personnel Management and Support Service, paid a familiarization visit to UNFICYP from 3 to 5 April 1997.

The Personnel Management and Support Service is attached to the Field Administration and Logistics Division within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations at New York Headquarters. As the Chief of PMSS/FALD, Mr da Costa is responsible for planning and meeting the staffing requirements of 26 peace-keeping missions and field operations with a cumulative strength of

over 10,000 international and local civilian personnel. PMSS/FALD plays a vital role in the successful functioning of field missions by providing the civilian staffing necessary to establish and maintain communications, transport, logistics and general administration in support of United Nations mandated objectives. PMSS is a multifarious operation, tasked with not only the responsibility for anticipating missions' staffing requirements, but for travel, personnel administration, policy review and coordination, training and mission orientation.

During his visit to UNFICYP, Mr da Costa met with senior officials of the Force, as well as



Mr da Costa (left) with Major Crawshaw on a Green Line tour

with local and international staff committees and the many civilian staff who keep the mission running. Mr da Costa also toured the Argentinian and British Sectors, and was provided with a brief view of the operational aspects of the mission.

This was Mr da Costa's first visit to Cyprus, and was a valuable opportunity to experience and see, first-hand, the realities and the challenges facing the mission.



Mr da Costa (centre) with local and international staff

FORCE COMMANDER PRESENTS LSGC MEDALS

70 years of exemplary service was rewarded recently when the Force Commander, Major General EA de Vergara, presented two British soldiers and two Greek Cypriot Fire Fighters with their Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) medals.

The recipients, WO2(RQMS) G Mazzone RLC and SSgt CR Nelson RE, received their award for 15 years of irreproachable

service with the British Army. Sub Officer M Hadjigeorgiou and Fire Fighter T Stylianou were commended for 20 years of irreproachable service, during which they were employed at first with the SBA Fire Service and then with the United Nations Fire Service.

The presentation took place at the WO's & Sgts' Mess in the UNPA, Nicosia.



Medal recipients with the FC (centre) and family members

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The Blue Beret is the 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, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

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FRONT COVER:

**SAVE
WATER!**

Photo by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The importance of natural resources, water being one of them, goes without saying. The water problem world-wide was discussed at the First World Water Forum held in Marrakech, Morocco, in March this year. The Conference was addressed by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan. We decided to publish this address in an attempt to emphasize the dimension of the problem on a worldwide scale, and to prove how many of the issues raised by him could actually be spotted in Cyprus.

"Water, water everywhere..." says one of the articles in this edition. In fact, just look around - the beautiful Mediterranean, the green, mountain areas, the well-watered gardens in your neighbourhood, or even just watching your neighbours cleaning their terraces or cars - water seems to be everywhere with a constant, unlimited supply. Then one day, you turn on the tap and alas, there is no water! The reality hits you hard - the truth is that this beautiful island of Aphrodite has a very limited water supply. In fact, it is a common denominator in almost the entire region. The Authorities are doing their utmost to supply you with this precious, life-giving resource. Quite often, people do not take the situation seriously enough, and this is a grave mistake.

It is for this reason that we have devoted so much space to water in this issue. Read the articles, think about them and set an example. We are guests on this island. In many ways, we contribute to the wellbeing of all Cypriots. Think twice before you turn a blind eye to water flowing down the drain for no reason whatsoever. The Force Engineer has come up with a lot of valuable advice - follow it, and always remember UNFICYP's Water Policy:

We Aim To Economise - Relentlessly!

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It is my great privilege to convey a message to the first World Water Forum, which coincides with the celebration of World Water Day. This initiative represents a significant contribution to the efforts of the international community to address one of the most urgent issues on the global agenda.

The water sources upon which human life depends are under increasing stress. Almost no country is spared the threat. Over the next 30 years, more than 60% of the world's population will face water-related problems.

One reason is ever-growing demand, particularly in developing countries. Anticipated world population growth from 5.5 billion to 8.5 billion by the year 2025 will generate an enormous increase in water consumption, beyond even the needs of the 1 billion people who now lack access to clean water and the 1.7 billion people currently without adequate sanitation. Moreover, for the first time, population is growing faster than are areas being brought under irrigation for agriculture.

A second problem is inadequate water management practices. Poor planning results in shortages, over exploitation and the degradation of groundwater resources, for example by salt-water intrusions in coastal aquifers. Large reservoirs of surface water, which are necessary to compensate for annual and seasonal variations of inflow, can be tainted by unsound industrial and agricultural practices upstream, and can also have a strong negative impact on local and downstream systems of the river basin in which they are situated.

Financial constraints are a third area of concern. The construction and maintenance of reservoirs and other water-related infrastructure is expensive. In 1990, it was estimated that full coverage of drinking water-supply needs would require an investment of \$50 billion per year world-wide until the year 2000. Member states and the donor community are far from meeting this challenge.

To reverse these troubling trends, new policies and strategies are being developed. Such strategies, to be effective, require a fusion of inter-related measures encompassing macro-economics, water information systems, legal and institutional arrangements and water demand management.

Any sound plan of action or decision-making regime must also include, as an essential component, consensus-building among water users - especially among users of transboundary water resources. Increasingly, dynamic planning within basin organizations and among riparian countries is being recognized as the most efficient means of responding to complex water resources issues. Users of the Nile's waters, for example, and of other international river basins and aquifers engage in constructive dialogue on a range of shared issues and needs.

But the complexity of water issues does not lend itself to management by central institutions alone. Much will depend on the creation of partnerships between water authorities at basin, district and municipal levels; between urban and rural communities; and between user groups and private servicing companies.

SECRETARY-GENERAL STATEMENT TO THE FIRST WORLD WATER FORUM MARRAKECH, MOROCCO, 22 MARCH 1997

Solving the problems of water allocation, distribution and sanitation will also require the strengthening of national capabilities in integrated water resources management while striking the right balance among the responsibilities of the public and private sectors, the input of civil society, and environmental protection. Pollution, which is growing at an alarming rate, must be discouraged through preventive measures, such as public campaigns and the identification of potential polluters. Monitoring networks should be established and maintained to provide all necessary information. The importance of flood prediction and protection cannot be over-emphasized.

It is relevant to recall on this occasion the main recommendations of the 1992 United Nations Conference on water and the environment, which gathered in Dublin, Ireland, more than 150 representatives of member states and world water specialists.

First, the management of water resources must reconcile socio-economic development, technical constraints and protection of eco-systems through a combined use of land and water following an analysis of all possible alternatives.

Second, the early involvement of users, planners and decision-makers in the planning and management process at the lowest possible level is a prerequisite for ensuring the sustainability of developments affecting water resources.

Third, women should play a central role in the management and protection of water resources.

Fourth, in all its uses, water is an economic good, with significant social value.

I assure you of the full support of the United Nations for these principles. The United Nations system has long been an advocate of sustainable water management practices and water resource protection. Its development projects, focusing on simple solutions, low-cost technologies and community participation have helped millions of people gain access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

Water issues will be on the agenda of next month's session of the commission on sustainable development and gain in June at the special session of the General Assembly "Rio Plus Five" being held to review progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. At both these gatherings, member states will be presented with a "comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world", undertaken by the United Nations system in cooperation with the Stockholm Environment Institute. The assessment constitutes a major contribution to our efforts to solve the complex issues surrounding integrated water resources management throughout the world. I urge you to give it your most serious attention.

To all of you here in Marrakech, I offer you my best wishes for a productive and successful outcome to your deliberations. The world's fragile and finite water resources - our common heritage - require our timely action, perseverance and commitment.

WATER IS PRICELESS - SAVE IT

by Major Hans Seer, Force Engineer



One of the Cyprus dams, full to the brim - the way we would always like to see them. And.....



... the desperate situation of today

"Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink..." This desperate saying could possibly have come from a shipwrecked sailor, floating on a tiny raft in the endless midst of the ocean. Although the island of Cyprus is a little larger than a liferaft, the scenario itself does not seem so far-fetched. Let us have a look at the facts.

Geological Retrospect

Situated in the north eastern part of the eastern Mediterranean Basin between 34°33' and 35°34' latitude and 32°16' and 34°37' longitude, Cyprus comprises a surface of 9,851 square kilometers, and is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia.

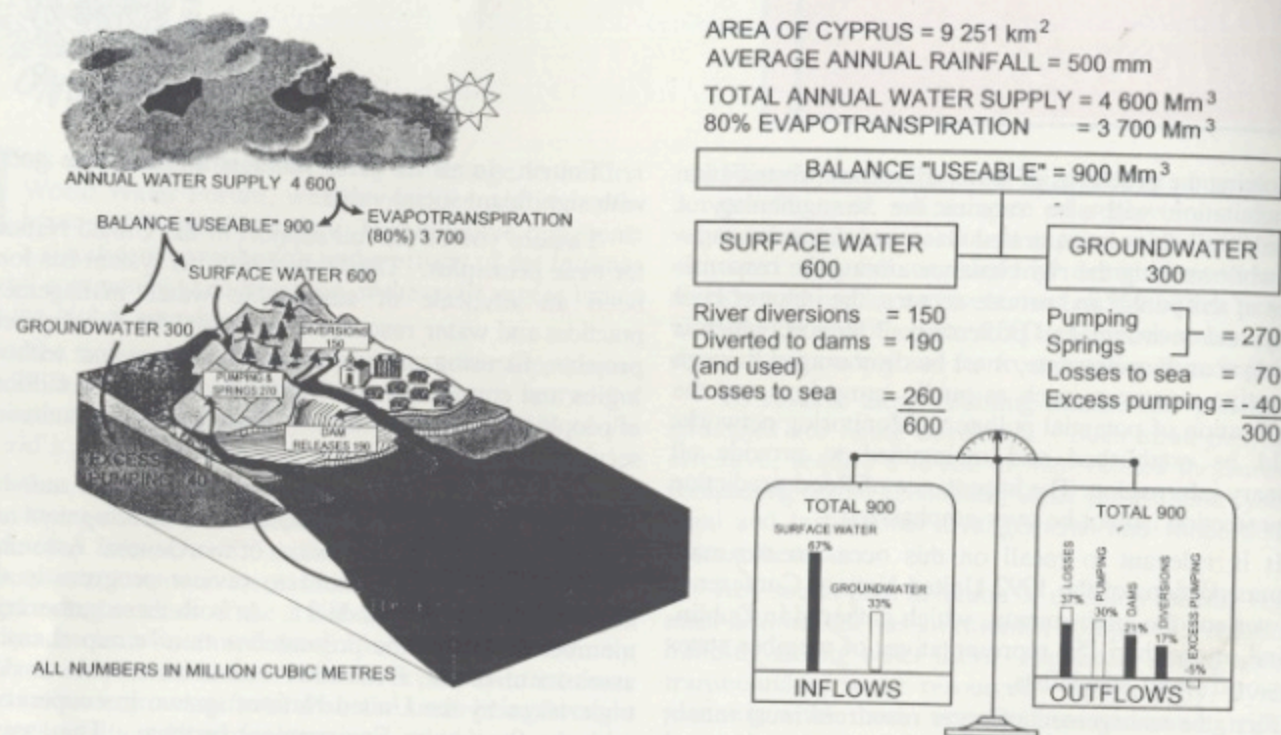
The island's beginnings can be traced back some 85 million years when the Troodos massif was formed, the core of which consists of mafic and ultramafic igneous rock, part of the oceanic lithosphere and upper mantle.

It is a dome-shaped and mainly infertile highland, forming the backbone of Cyprus and situated in the central/western part of the island. The ancient basaltic dome is surrounded by basaltic pillow lavas and metamorphic rocks, with a high and valuable mineral content which has been mined throughout the ages. It is a region of high relief, rising up to 1,951 metres in Mount Olympus.

Several of the larger rivers that flow from the Troodos mountains have dams situated in strategic locations so as to catch and collect the precious water that would otherwise flow into the sea.

The Kyrenia mountains were formed by plate tectonic movements at about the same time as the Alps. They consist of a succession of mainly sedimentary formations, ranging from Permian to middle Miocene in age. The oldest parts consist of large slices of harder, recrystallized limestones and dolomites (one of which is the St Hilarion formation) which is Permian to Middle Cretaceous in age.

WATER BALANCE FOR CYPRUS



At the time that the Kyrenia range was formed, the sea level rose, hence the Troodos and Kyrenia mountains faced each other as two separate islands for a long period. When the sea level again descended, the drained, flat land between the two mountain ranges, known as the Messaoria Plain, was formed. This central plain is in the "rain shadow" of the Kyrenia mountains, and has a low relief not exceeding 180 m near Nicosia.

In course of time, rubble, gravel and various sands carried by the rivers from the Troodos and Kyrenia ranges filled the lowest parts of the plain. Hence it contains large quantities of flysch-type sedimentary layers, which today work not only as a water reservoir, but also as an essential water filter. Excessive industrial exploitation of this natural resource causes an accelerated water flow of sea water into the aquifers under the inner parts of the island, which results in an increased proportion of salt contained within the underground water supply.

The coastlands of Cyprus can be seen as an appendix to the three geological main zones as described above. The soils are alluvial and most suitable

for agriculture. The intense Mediterranean climate of the island (hot, dry summers from June to September and rainy, changeable winters from November to March) creates large seasonal and daily differences in the coastal and inland temperatures. In addition, the considerable local thermic winds dry out the intensively used coastlands and plains. They undoubtedly play a key role in the island's water balance.

The Cyprus Climate

The average annual total rainfall increases from less than 450 millimetres in the south west, to some 1,100 millimetres in central Troodos. There is a steady decrease in rainfall from the north to the east to between 300 and 400 millimetres in the Messaoria plain and the flat, south eastern parts of the island.

The Kyrenia range, which extends some 100 miles from west to east, contributes a minor source with a rainfall of slightly less than 600 millimetres along its ridge at about 1,000 metres above sea level. Occasional rainfalls in the warm period do not contribute significantly to the water resources of the island. The water then

is rapidly absorbed by the heated soil, and soon evaporates in conditions of high temperature and low air humidity.

Considering the given facts, Cyprus depends largely on precipitations and, to a very minor extent, on underground waters. The yearly amount of "surface water" available from dams is variable, and oscillates between 182 millimetres (minimum of 1972/1973), and 759 millimetres (maximum of 1968/1969). The average annual rainfall for Cyprus is about 480 millimetres. Snow, that only falls regularly in the Troodos area, is a most valuable water source, since its melting process during a longer period guarantees a constant water flow to the reservoirs.

The Cyprus Water Policy

Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, it is the responsibility of the Water Development Department to plan, design and carry out "water projects". Despite the fact that governments come and go, the vital importance of development, exploitation and safeguarding of the island's water resources has always been a major concern.

Consequently, it is not surprising that of the latest five-year development plan, roughly £126 million has been allocated to water development projects. Since the formation of the Republic of Cyprus, the water storage capacity of the dams has increased from some 6 million cubic metres to 300 million cubic metres at present.

After the completion of numerous major water development projects, watering on a regular basis for large areas producing the whole range of "Cyprus fruits and vegetables" has become possible. The costs for the above mentioned projects were more than C£300 million, about one third of which was raised by long-term loans made available mainly by the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and others. The current on-going project involves the exploitation of the flow of the Karkotis river, which is expected to contribute

considerably to the country's overall water balance.

In the field of domestic water, there is a supply rate of almost 100%. When the Republic of Cyprus was formed, only 15% of the villages and the six towns were connected to the regular water distribution network.

A water desalination plant which has recently opened on the south-eastern coast of the island underlines a turning-point in the government's water policy. The proposed introduction of a second water supply system of non-potable water, mainly for agricultural purposes and possibly later for industrial appliances as well, will not only contribute to a less strained situation in the field of domestic water supply, but also alleviate the overall water situation on the island.

The island of Cyprus has sadly been divided since 1974. The existing, limited water distribution infrastruc-

ture provides for a certain amount of water flowing in both directions across the Buffer Zone. Successful and genuine cooperation of the water authorities on both sides in Cyprus of a 'quid pro quo' character, with UNFICYP playing its traditional liaison role, allows the distribution of the limited water supply to the entire Cyprus population in a proper and conscientious manner. However, even the greatest possible effort on both sides could not significantly improve the present water shortage situation.

No doubt there will be more and more projects aimed at enhancing the availability of water on the island, and both sides are envisaging a myriad of measures to this end. Strict water saving measures are traditionally imposed on consumers, especially during the hot and dry summer months. Thus, so much depends on the discipline, conscientiousness and restraint of everyone, including all members of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

UNFICYP'S WATER POLICY

As the rainfall during the last few years has been far below average, the island will be facing a severe water shortage during the upcoming hot summer months. In order to address the situation, and in order to contribute to a moderate water consumption rate, various steps have been taken by Pers/Logs Branch, HQ UNFICYP, in the scope of a campaign to achieve mental readiness for water saving. It is our declared aim that all personnel are aware of the need for a minimal personal water consumption as a matter of urgency. We are convinced that a total of efforts is the key to success and must be approached from different sides - the supplies stored, melioration of infrastructure, personal attention and last, but not least, "first-hand information".

In order to control water consumption in sanitary installations, flow through reductions and volume reducing devices for cisterns with automatic flushing have been made available for the Force. The Force Engineer has put special efforts into the identification and elimination of water leakage from ducting and storage systems throughout the Force. Limited use of washing machines and an increased use of the laundering facilities are also worth mentioning. It is no secret that the most

considerable water saving results can be achieved through the continuous assistance and awareness of all consumers. The following rules of responsible water usage should be constantly observed by everyone:

- No baths should be taken. Showers only, OR, save your bath water in a bucket and use it to clean the floors, flush the toilet, etc!!
- When showering, there is no need for a constant water flow. After having wet the hair and body, switch off the water. Switch on again after soaping is completed.
- When shaving or brushing teeth, again there is no need for a constant water flow. Switch the tap off!
- An enforced hose pipe ban.
- No washing cars, or at best, use a bucket and sponge.

Some of us may face different situations in our home country, where water may be in plentiful and endless supply. Nevertheless, considering the dams in Cyprus are filled to only 25% of the preceding year's water levels, constantly saving water is a priority and should become second nature to all members of UNFICYP.

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part VIII

PAFOS, on the westernmost coast of the island, has a great wealth of historical sites, legends and traditions. It is known for its magnificent landscapes and its varied flora and fauna. Its cultural treasures are almost unique, while its archaeological sites and historic monuments have been included in the World Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO since 1980.

Pafos was the name given to two distinct ancient cities, built at an interval of approximately one thousand years and at a distance of 16 km from each other.

♦ The original city of Pafos, later named Old Pafos (Greek: *Palaepafos*), is now partly covered by the modern village of Kouklia. It flourished from prehistoric times (15th century BC) to the end of the Middle Ages.

♦ New Pafos was built by Nikokles, the last King of Pafos, at the end of the 4th century BC. The ancient site of New Pafos is situated by the sea in an area known nowadays as Kato (Greek for 'lower') Pafos.

Both the Old and the New Pafos were cited, along with Salamis, by Pomponius Mela, a geographer of the first century AD, as the three most important cities of Cyprus.



The ruins at the Temple of Aphrodite at Palaepafos

The origin of the name Pafos is related to many ancient legends. One of them says that Pygmalion created a statue of a beautiful woman with whom he fell in love. Aphrodite, the goddess of love, taking pity on him, gave life to the statue and thus he was able to marry her. They had a daughter whom Pygmalion named Pafos, and gave her name to the town as well. This legend appears in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

OLD PAFOS

Old Pafos is situated on a rocky plateau about 16 km from New Pafos (Ktima) on the Pafos-Limassol road and 1.6 km inland on the left side of the road. A sign-post indicates the direction to Kouklia, the small village which now occupies the central part of the ancient city. It is historically characterized as the birthplace of Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love, who is said to have risen from the sea off the Pafos coast at Petra tou Romiou.

The name Kouklia appears to be the corruption of the Greek word *Kouvouklia* which basically means a covered sleeping area or an enclosure (from the Latin word *cubiculum*). The

The old city of Pafos has always been closely connected with the worship of Aphrodite. It is also the only Cypriot city mentioned by Homer in the *Iliad*. However, it is necessary to make a distinction between Old Pafos (from 1400 BC) and New Pafos (from 300 BC). In this edition, the *Blue Beret* covers the most important and ancient sacred precinct in Cyprus - Old Pafos.

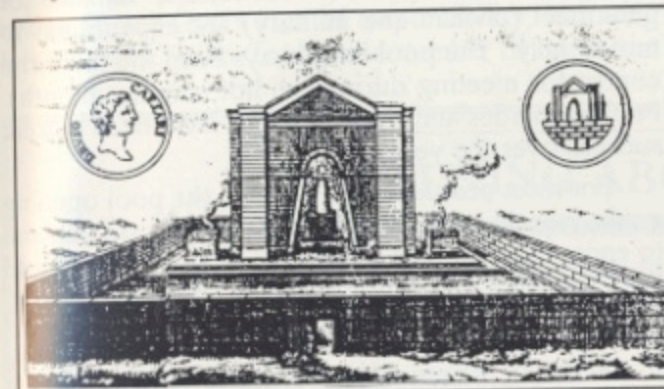
sleeping quarters of the Byzantine emperors were known by this name, and the bodyguards of the emperors were referred to as *kouvikoularioi*. Often, these bodyguards were repaid for their services by land. Most probably, the two Kouklia villages of Cyprus (the second one is in the district of Famagusta) were such land properties of the *kouvikoularioi*.

As mentioned earlier, the Palaepafos area was continuously inhabited from the 15th century BC until the end of the Middle Ages. During the Mycenaean migrations of the late 13th and 12th century BC, Achaean Greeks settled here.

This fact was proven quite recently. Whilst the land was being levelled for agricultural purposes due east of Kouklia, an important necropolis was unexpectedly discovered. A salvage expedition was conducted and the results were amazing. Tomb gifts were unearthed dating from the 11th century BC including pottery, bronze and iron weapons and vessels, gold ornaments and a bronze skewer with an inscription in the Cypriot syllabary - the earliest Greek inscription so far known in Cyprus. The rich remains are a very good indication of the wealth and prosperity of the city. However, apart from the tombs, not many architectural remains dating from that period have been found.

OLD PAFOS (PALAEPAFOS)

Old Pafos was famous for its Sanctuary of Aphrodite which attracted many pilgrims from Cyprus and abroad, since it was her most important shrine in ancient times. Homer, himself, qualifies the Goddess as Pafian. A likely founder of the Sanctuary seems to have been King Kinyras who developed religious rites adapted to the worship of Aphrodite. He was the first of a line of king-priests of Pafos. Certainly, later Pafian kings traced their ancestry to him. He was also mentioned in Homer's *Iliad* as a king of Cyprus at the time of the Trojan War.



An artist's impression of Aphrodite's Sanctuary

Pausanias, a 2nd century AD Greek writer who made a compilation of the topography, history, legends, monuments, etc of his time, including those of Cyprus, claims that King Agapenor of Tegea in Arcadia, who was returning home after the Trojan War, was driven by bad weather to the island, where he built the shrine to Aphrodite at Pafos.

The representations of the Temple of Aphrodite at Old Pafos on Roman coins, Roman seal stones and other items give an idea of its architectural plan in the Roman period. The huge and impressive ashlar blocks cannot possibly belong to the Roman

period, and suggest that there was not much change from the original pre-Roman Sanctuary. It is a temple of Eastern architecture with a large, walled courtyard which would have held the altar and benches for offerings. On each side of the central entrance there were large pillars with an emblem on the top like a capital, which resembled "horns of consecration" or a lotus flower.

The Roman ruins excavated in 1988 give an unclear picture of the architectural plan of the temple, which extended around four sides of a large courtyard. On the east side of the courtyard was a series of rooms, the centre one forming the main entrance to the courtyard. On the north and south sides were arcades. It appears that the sanctuary of the temple lay on the west side, which has not yet been excavated.

During the mediaeval period, the site of Old Pafos came to be known as the Royal Domain of the Lusignans. The Lusignans established their sugar refinery here. Part of it covered the temple site during the 15th and 16th centuries AD. An aqueduct carried water to this area and down to the coastal plain to the sugar mills.

Here they built an imposing manor house. They called it the *Château de Covocle*, or the



Royal Covocle. During the Turkish rule, the place became a *Çiftlik* (farm) of considerable size, and the manor house was used for living quarters, stores, etc. All that survives of the original Frankish structure is the stately Gothic hall in the east wing, with four bays distinguished by dramatic 13th century French-style arches.

The manor is now a museum, the prize display of which is the fertility stone of Aphrodite. Besides this, there are objects found in the area including terra-cotta figurines, weapons, jewellery and an epigraphical collection with fragments engraved in the still undeciphered Cypro-Minoan syllabic script. It also has two baths and a number of mosaics.



Statue of Aphrodite from Soli (now at the Cyprus Museum)



The Royal Manor at Palaepafos



THE UNPA SWIMMING POOL

by Capt Ronan McHugh

The UNPA Swimming Pool is the main physical training resource and welfare facility available to UNFICYP personnel and their families. The pool is especially popular between June and September when temperatures can reach 40 degrees Celsius. Jogging and other forms of training are not really practical or, indeed, advisable in this heat.

In 1995, the Swimming Pool was relaunched by the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, under a new management arrangement. Since then, it has been run by a committee chaired by the Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer, Lt Col Horatzuk. The committee is made up of representatives from units in the UNPA, the Essential Service Group (British Retained Site management), UNFICYP HQ specialist staff and civilian members representing staff and family interests.

The Swimming Pool committee oversees:

- Fund raising.
- Issue of membership cards and collection of subscriptions.
- Safety management, training and rostering of lifeguards.
- Maintenance of pool and poolside amenities.
- Procurement of pool accessories.

The list of priorities for pool use are as follows:

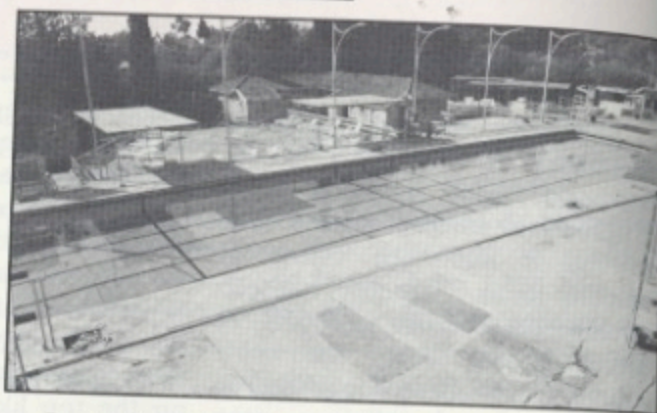
- Physical training (military and civilian staff members).
- Welfare (recreational own time use).
- Social (members and guests).

These priorities reflect the military requirements to provide facilities to ensure the physical fitness of personnel and maintain troop welfare and morale.

CENTRE OF TRAINING

Swimming and water training have featured prominently in the UNFICYP training calendar. In the past, the following are some of the activities/events which have been held in the pool:

- Supervised daily morning training sessions.
- Swimming competitions run by AUSCON.
- Military skills competition (swimming events) run by Camp Command.
- Military pentathlon (obstacle swim).
- Water polo.
- Sub aqua training.
- Life saving courses.
- Water safety classes.
- Dinghy survival training (helicopter crash procedure for UN Flight).



In addition to these training uses, UNFICYP members have organised:

- Swim schools for children (and adults).
- Charity sponsored swims.

FAMILY MEETING PLACE

Of course, the social side should not be forgotten. UNFICYP has always been a model of international integration. As part of this ethos, families of personnel (civilian and military) are encouraged to mix socially. The pool has always been the favourite centre for meeting during the hot summer months. Poolside parties and pool carnivals have been a great success over the years.

For most people on the UNPA, the pool opening symbolises the start of summer. To celebrate this and to encourage everyone to support the pool, a Grand Pool Opening Party took place on 16 April.

MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY

There is, of course, a lot more to opening the pool than simply organising a party. A lot of background work goes on during the winter months and in the weeks preceding the opening. Besides annual maintenance, there is an environmental clean-up and repainting of facilities.

Camp Command is the co-ordinating unit responsible for training lifeguards and poolside supervisors. Over the years, all units have cooperated in the task of ensuring everyone's safe enjoyment by providing volunteer water safety supervisors at the pool.

FINANCE

UNFICYP is very fortunate to have this excellent resource available in the UNPA. It is run on a voluntary basis for the good and enjoyment of all. **The water used to fill the pool is 100% recycled.** Waste water arising from the emptying of high level water storage tanks for scheduled cleaning and maintenance is filtered and run off into the UNPA pool. To remain economically viable, everything depends on your support and subscriptions. We hope to see you there soon.

VISIT OF ARGENTINIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE

On 24 and 25 March 1997, ARGCON was visited by Mr Jorge Dominguez, the Argentinian Minister of Defence. On his first visit to Cyprus, Mr Dominguez' intention was to meet and share some time with the Argentinian forces deployed with UNFICYP. He was accompanied by Major General Brinzoni, the Chief Operations Officer in the Argentinian Army General Staff responsible for peace-keeping operations.

On 24 March, Mr Dominguez and General Brinzoni were received by a Guard of Honour at HQ UNFICYP, and were met by the Force Commander, Major General EA de Vergara and the CO Sector One, Lt Col RJ Barni. After meeting Argentinian officers stationed in HQ UNFICYP, Mr Dominguez visited the Chief of Mission, following which he received a briefing by the Chief of Staff. He then visited UN Flight, and at 1000 hrs, he was taken by helicopter to San Martin Camp. There he inspected a guard of honour, and also visited all three camps under Sector One's area of responsibility, including Bravo and Charlie Coys and a number of important



Lt Col Barni (left) with Mr Dominguez (centre) and Lt Col Eggar

OPs. On his return to Nicosia, the Minister was taken on a Green Line Tour, escorted by CO Sector Two, Lt Col RNM Eggar, and a number of British officers.

Prior to his appointment as Minister of Defence, Mr Dominguez held the post of Mayor of Buenos Aires city.

TALKING ABOUT WATER...

The water shortage is a well known issue on the island of Cyprus. Water supply is one of the greatest problems in the western part of Sector One, and on several occasions, tanks of water have to be towed from Roca Camp to different OPs along the track.

On 15 February at 1030 hours, a serious problem arose. A truck towing a trailer carrying a water tank was on its way to OP 17 when the rain began. The rainwater affected the terrain so badly that the vehicles became firmly entrenched in the mud and then slowly, they started moving backwards. In order to avoid the worst, the driver applied the brakes and engaged the gears, and his co-driver quickly unhooked and released the trailer, which inevitably slipped over the side of the mountain, approximately 20 m down.

When the rain stopped, Support Coy organised a patrol in an attempt to recover the trailer and water tank. With a 70% incline, this was not an easy job, however after persevering for four hours, and using strategy more than force, they succeeded.



Sector One personnel hauling the trailer and water tank back up the mountainside by pulley

This just goes to show that whatever the nationality of a soldier may be, he must be accustomed to hard work and be able to deal with any situation as it arises.

Sector One continues to supply water to the western OPs in their area of responsibility.

32 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY, SECTOR TWO ROWATHON IN AID OF THE BI-COMMUNAL FUND

by Bdr Ian Griffin

Early in January 1997, Bdr Gary Keens and I were in the gym in the Ledra Palace Hotel. We are both regular users of the Concept Two rowing machines, and we decided to initiate a charity event using this equipment.

The idea of rowing around the coast of Cyprus in 24 hours sprung to mind - approximately 780 km. Obviously we couldn't cover the whole distance on our own, so it was necessary to enlist the help of others - but who? Surprisingly, 18 people volunteered in one way or another, and the CO, QM and Adjutant agreed to start off the rowing.

The whole event gradually began to take shape. Sponsorship forms were handed out and stag lists (rosters) were made. In addition, a letter was sent to Gatorade, a sports rehydration drinks company, in a (successful) attempt to obtain sponsorship for the proceedings.

Following a number of setbacks, the day finally arrived and an hour or so was spent setting everything up. Our fears of not having a sufficient number of rowers were quickly dispelled. At 0945 hrs, we were ready to go, and at 1000 hrs, the CO, QM and Adjutant set off on the first 30 minute stag. A blistering pace was set up, with 20 km being clocked up between the three of them.

The half way point was reached at 2000 hrs. By this time, there were quite a few tired people



The QM (Maj Naylor), Adjt (Capt Long) and CO Sector Two (Lt Col Eggar) start off the Rowathon

around - and there was a hard day's night ahead of us! The target of 780 km was reached at 0511 hrs - a time of 19 hrs 11 mins, but instead of stopping, we decided we would go for the 1,000 km mark, which would mean a lot of hard work until the end.

The Rowathon finished with 967.181 km completed, just short of the 1,000 km mark. Despite this, it was a resounding success with 14 ladies and 44 men taking part. I think that everyone enjoyed themselves, even though a few have vowed never to get on a rowing machine again.

Nearly £250 have been raised for the bi-communal fund.

CYPRUS ROAD RACE SERIES

Between 12 Feb and 26 Mar 97, 32 Regt RA entered teams into the Cyprus Road Race series, a 5-race series running over distances varying from 5 to 15 miles. It is a hard fought and physically demanding set of races with competitors from all Sectors of the UN and SBAs taking part. Sector Two teams (one male and one female) were made up from all elements of 32 Regt.

The men's team (pictured right) came first in the first race, covering a distance of over 8 miles in Dhekelia, and then managed to come second in the subsequent races. The ladies' team came a creditable third place over the whole series of races, achieving two team 2nd places and a 5th.

A good result for all team members taking part.



A WORD FROM AUSTCIVPOL

AUSTCIVPOL is the Australian Civilian Police Contingent deployed on the island as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. AUSTCIVPOL is comprised of 20 members, who are currently serving Police Officers within the Australian Federal Police Service (AFP).

With a workforce of 2,800 personnel, the AFP is the primary law enforcement agency through which the Commonwealth of Australia pursues its law enforcement interests. It is unique in Australian law enforcement in that its functions relate both to community policing and to investigations of offences against Commonwealth law which involve law enforcement in Australia and overseas and to the protection of high office holders, the safeguarding of witnesses and the provision of policing expertise to meet the Commonwealth's UN commitments and international law enforcement obligations.

The AFP has a head office in Canberra and regional offices in every Australian state and territory, including a community

policing structure which serves the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) under an arrangement with the ACT Government. It has liaison posts in 15 cities in 13 countries, a representative attached to Interpol in Lyons and provides members for the United Nations Peace-keeping Operation in Cyprus. Police services are also supplied for Commonwealth territories of Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Norfolk Island and Jervis Bay.



The function of AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus is to provide the UN Force Commander with a non-military option to be used in fulfilling the UNFICYP mission. AUSTCIVPOL is responsible for all reported or detected incidents involving citizens or their property in the UN Buffer Zone; Sectors One and Two and to provide an independent and neutral liaison point between the

Cypriot Police and Turkish Cypriot Police Element in those matters which cross community borders.

The level of policing experience within the current AUSTCIVPOL contingent ranges from 10 to 40 years with individual members having served with previous UN contingents in Somalia, Cambodia, Mozambique and Haiti.

While in Cyprus, AUSTCIVPOL members are unarmed and devoid of a power of arrest. This in itself is a major adjustment from the policing role in Australia, where all operational police are armed.

Instead, emphasis on policing the Buffer Zone in Cyprus is centred on negotiation and liaison. A recent incident within Sector One highlighted the capabilities of AUSTCIVPOL and the benefit of utilizing negotiation skills to avoid conflict. The incident started as a civilian breach of the Buffer Zone, which escalated into military involvement. However, the negotiations between AUSTCIVPOL, civilians and military personnel ensured a peaceful resolution to the situation. Who says the Aussies don't have a smooth tongue?!

Although only one of the members is fluent in a second language, genuine attempts at communicating result in some interesting and comical conversations. Some AUSTCIVPOL members are starting Spanish lessons with members of ARGCON to further enhance a good working relationship.

A combined balance of professionalism, genuine friendship and humour all contribute to the successful policing role of AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus.



NEW CO, UN FLIGHT

Lt Col Luis Longar was born in 1953 in the province of San Luis, central Argentina.

He joined the Air Force in 1973 and attended the Military Aviation School (EAM). He graduated four years later, gaining the rank of 2/Lt. In December 1977, he completed the Military Pilot's course, obtaining his "wings".

The following year, he was assigned to the VIIth Air Brigade where he took the Helicopter Pilot's Course (HPC). As a Lt, he worked as an HPC instructor and he also completed his first tour in the Antarctic.

In 1982, he participated in the South Atlantic Conflict and carried

out search and rescue missions, being the first to rescue a pilot during one of the night operations. He is also the Argentinian Air Force's pilot who completed most combat missions during the Conflict, 28 in total.

In 1987, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and was commissioned into the Reunion Air Force where he flew the Russian helicopter M1 25 HIND. In the same year, he became Chief of the 2nd Tactical Squadron.

In 1991, he was posted to the Armed Forces Antarctic Joint Staff as Chief of the Air Force Component.

From 1994 to 1996, he was

assigned to the Air Force HQ where he worked as chief of the International Agreement Division and Adviser in helicopter operations.

Lt Col Longar is married to Maria Cristina, and they have four daughters, Maria Cecilia (5), Maria Sofia (9), Maria Guadalupe (11) and Maria Lucila (14).

However, in his UN family, he has 19 sons - the members of UN FLIGHT VI.



THE NEW PILOTS OF UN FLIGHT DURING THE HANDOVER/TAKEOVER PERIOD AS SEEN BY...



The boss



The pilot

The passenger



The mechanic



The pilot's wife

**WELCOME ON BOARD!
UN FLIGHT VI**



The colleague

AUSCON'S FIELD POST OFFICE

On 1 November 1976, the Austrian Armed Forces and the Austrian postal authorities agreed to establish the Austrian Field Post Office. This service handles letters and parcels weighing up to 2 kg which are sent by air mail.



The Austrian Field Post Office, Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta

The average time of delivery is two to three days to Austria, and four to five days to European countries. Of course, a great deal depends on the flight schedules of Austrian Airlines, the Austrian national carrier.

The service is vital for soldiers to keep in communication with home. From September to December 1996, 5,000 kg of mail was handled and stamps totalling C£5,500 were sold.

In 1989, when the Nobel Prize for peace was awarded to United Nations personnel serving around the world, the Austrian postal authorities issued a commemorative stamp depicting this event.



I/Lt Bodner, Field Post Master (left) and Sgt Richter, Assistant Field Post Master

Currently, there are three field post offices in operation, i.e. UNFICYP, UNDOF (the Golan Heights) and AUSLOG/SFOR (Bosnia).

The Field Post Office also issues five aerograms per week to each serving Austrian soldier.

VISIT OF DR HENRY BERGER

On 13 March 1997, AUSCON was paid a short courtesy visit by Dr Henry Berger. Dr Berger was Adviser to the SRSG in Cyprus from 1978 to 1981. Then a citizen of the former German Democratic Republic, he was appointed for two reasons - first, his academic qualifications (economics and philosophy) and second, the former GDR had just become a member of the UN and was starting to participate in UN missions.

Although this was a personal visit to the island, Dr Berger met a number of the officers serving in Sector Four, since he had close ties with AUSCON during his tour of duty with UNFICYP.

Dr Berger briefed Sector Four personnel on the experience he gained whilst on the island, and expressed the sincere hope that a solution to the Cyprus problem will soon be found.



Maj Hammerschmid, Dr Berger, Mr Koall-Poppitz and Capt Korak

UNFICYP MINI RUGBY

For the past 12 months, mini rugby has been played and enjoyed by young boys who are dependants of members of UNFICYP. Within the last two months, the squad featured right has been depleted due to families returning to their home countries.

Nevertheless, sessions are held every Thursday at 15:30 hrs on the sports pitches in the UNPA. All are most welcome - open to any budding Will Carling between the ages of 9 and 16 years. Interested parties should register their boys with PROM on Ext 359412.



L-R: Mark O'Neill, Santiago and Manuel Rozas-Garay, Edward Rees, Killian Whelan, Adam O'Neill and Fernando Marin

UN OBSERVATION POST IN THE AUSTRIAN SECTOR

Photograph by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett

