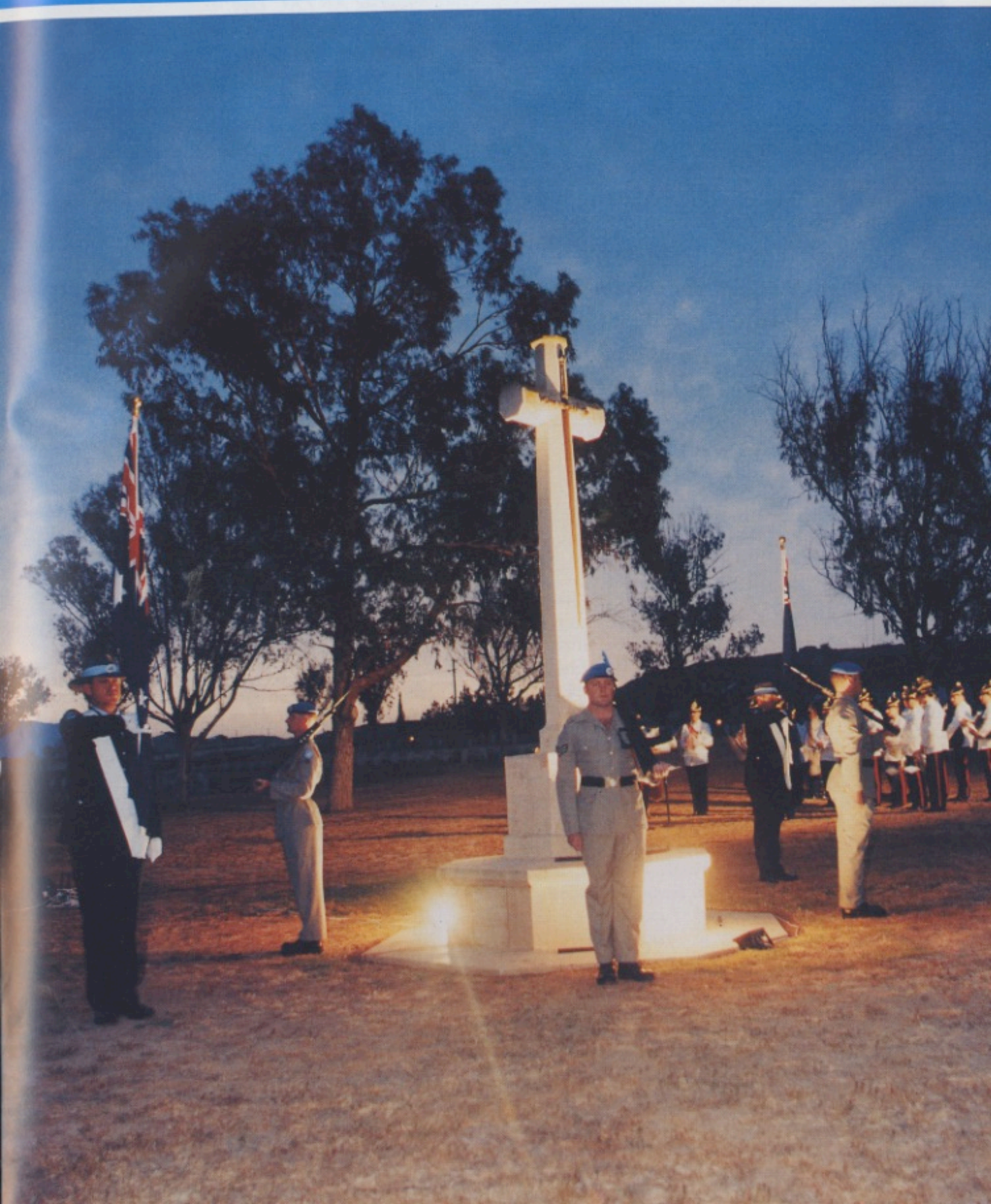


THE Blue Beret

April 1998



ANZAC DAY - WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM



The Dawn Service at Wayne's Keep Cemetery

At dawn on 25 April 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, better known as the ANZACs, together with the forces of other allied nations, landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey in an ambitious attempt to put Turkey out of the 1st World War and to secure the Dardanelles, a strategic water route connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. Of the 16,000 ANZACs put ashore that morning, 2,000 were to lose their lives before the end of the day. Before the ANZACs were able to withdraw some eight months later, a further 8,500 men had been killed and some 30,000 wounded. ANZAC Day is significant to Australians and New Zealanders, as it was the first time that Australians and New Zealanders had fought together as nations in their own right.

For Australians and New Zealanders, ANZAC Day has become the time where we pause to remember not only the ANZACs, but all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in war.

At dawn on 25 April 1998, more than 150 people from various nations gathered at the British War Cemetery, Nicosia, perhaps better known as

Wayne's Keep, for a Dawn Service to commemorate ANZAC Day.

Following the Dawn Service, guests were invited to attend a traditional "Gunfire Breakfast" consisting of stew, damper (a type of Australian campfire bread) and tea and coffee laced with the famous Australian Bundaberg Rum.

Later that day, the Kangaroo Club hosted further traditional activities, and many friends joined us for what has become a celebration of the ANZAC spirit. The activities included the playing of "Two Up", a gambling game which has become so synonymous with ANZAC Day, that legislation has been passed in Australia to make it legal on this one day of the year. At 1800 hours, the Australian and New Zealand flags were lowered as the "Last Post" was played.

AUSTCIVPOL is very grateful to the large number of people, without whose assistance and contribution, ANZAC Day 1998 in Cyprus would not have been the memorable occasion that it was.



The New Zealand flag being lowered by Sgts Simon Halford and Ron Weekes

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 4 APRIL 1998

Published monthly by the Spokesman's Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
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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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Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-El Press
13 King Paul Street
Parissinos, Nicosia
Tel: 350186

FRONT COVER:

ANZAC DAY 1998 THE DAWN SERVICE AT WAYNE'S KEEP CEMETERY

PHOTOGRAPH BY
CPL PAT O'MEARA

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

Experience has proven that the presence of the "blue berets" helps to maintain peace and security around the world. In Cyprus, the UN troops have been assigned the task of supervising the cease fire, maintaining surveillance over the Buffer Zone and promoting peace and tranquility on the island.

Members of UNFICYP have, over the years, voluntarily taken on a demanding and hazardous service in the cause of peace. The value of the work carried out by these officers, men and women cannot be stressed enough. The wide variety of tasks and the role carried out are difficult to define, yet the commitment and dedication shown by each individual member of the Force make them fully deserving of the recognition of service which the medal gives. On completion of 90 days' service, the UNFICYP medal is presented in recognition of the successful completion of a demanding, sensitive, complex and sometimes dangerous mission.

However, the greatest reward any committed peace-keeper could have is the personal satisfaction that, by participating in UNFICYP, they serve the wishes of the whole world for peace and security, and that they have played a part in bringing hope to the ordinary people of this troublesome island.

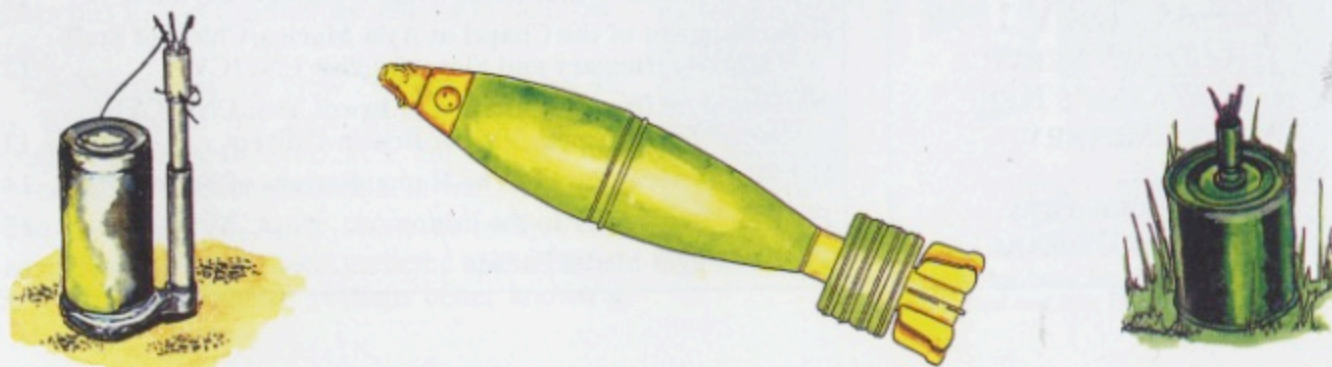
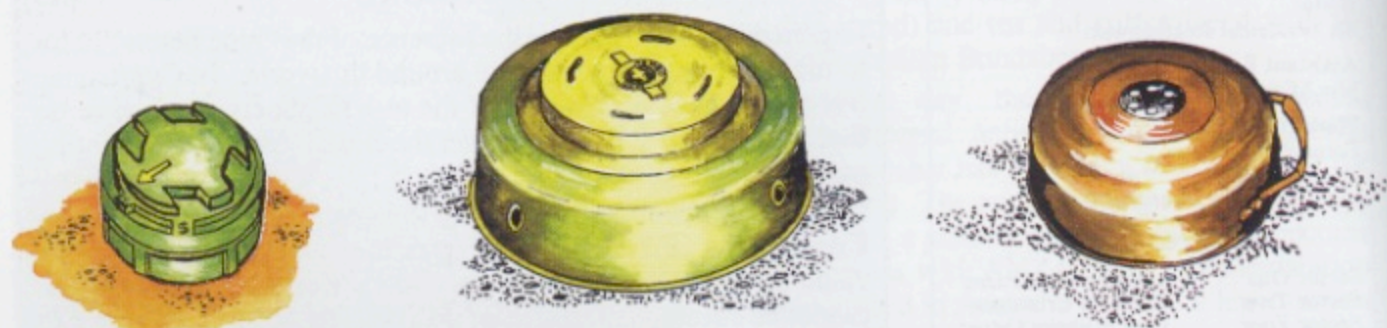
One could sum up the above from the saying by Confucius: "He who wishes to secure the good of others, has already secured his own."

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BEWARE

These could be found
in the Buffer Zone



Recognize any of this in the BZ? Then you are too close!

On the facing page are examples of munitions dropped, projected, thrown or placed during the fighting in 1974. Most were recovered or destroyed in the following years, although items do reappear, as is the case with the 2 inch mortar bomb found by Sector Four. Worst of all are the mines that remain buried, not all of which we know about; neither can we say with any confidence that mines are accurately marked.

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) only presents a threat to the curious! The items on the facing page are intended to demonstrate the wide variety of potential UXO. Should you see something suspicious:

- ▶ Stay well clear of it!
- ▶ Mark the local area with mine tape. Do **NOT** attempt to mark the UXO item.
- ▶ If possible, remain in the area to brief and warn passing patrols.
- ▶ Contact the HQ UNFICYP JOC (flick to UHF channel 1) and give the following details:
 - ▶ Your call sign and exact location.
 - ▶ The general area of the UXO.
 - ▶ A brief description of the UXO from where you can safely see it. The following details will be useful:
 - ▶ Fins?
 - ▶ Colour and shape?
 - ▶ Grenade, rocket, mine, shell or bomb?

The only person *qualified* to safely approach and dispose of UXO is the **SBA Ammunition Technical Officer**. His support will be requested by the HQ UNFICYP JOC.

— REMEMBER - CURIOSITY KILLS! —

MORTAR FIND IN SECTOR FOUR

On 21 February 1998, a platoon from UN 121 discovered an interesting find about 2 metres from the patrol track north-west of Troulli. A rusty mortar was peacefully resting on firm ground, most probably washed out of the soil after some heavy rainfall. Immediately, the British Ammo Troop/General Supply Squadron in Akrotiri was called for the "detonation" on 25 February.

On the morning, high ranking officers from Sector Four headed from Camp Duke Leopold V towards Pyla, including the doctor and two stretcher-bearers. Following a meeting with the two-man team from the British Bases, the convoy arrived at the scene. The Ammo Troop, WO1 Henry and Cpl Simpson, carefully approached the mortar, watched by the rest of the convoy from a safe distance. On the spot, the Ammo Troop of the only EOD (Explosives Ordnance Demolition) team on the island, which is made up of eight persons, realized the harmlessness of an ordinary, rusty,

old British-made mortar, possibly left over from the days when British troops exercised in the area prior to 1974.

There was no detonation and no scoop or sensational photographs for our readers. Oh well, back to the day-to-day business.



WO1 Henry and Cpl Simpson checking the two-inch mortar

VISIT OF AUSTRIAN VICE-CHANCELLOR

On 15 and 16 April 1998, the Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Wolfgang Schüssel, visited Cyprus.

Austria is taking over the presidency of the European Union from Great Britain for the second half of 1998. In the course of preparation to face this great challenge, and in view of the EU role vis-à-vis the Cyprus problem, Dr Schüssel met with President G Clerides, as well as with the Turkish Cypriot leader, HE Mr R Denktash.

On 16 April, Dr Schüssel was welcomed to HQ UNFICYP by the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de



From the left (front row): Lt Col H Hufner, Dr W Schüssel, Lt Col J Egry, Dr H Sabaditsch, Lt Col J Trummer



The Vice-Chancellor (left) with the Chief of Mission Vergara. After inspecting a Guard of Honour, he met with the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, to exchange views on the Cyprus problem.

The Vice-Chancellor then visited the Austrian Contingent in Famagusta. He was met by the Chief Operations Officer, Lt Col J Trummer, as well as the CO Sector Four, Lt Col H Hufner, and received a briefing on the operational taskings of the Sector.

Before departing, Vice-Chancellor Schüssel presented Sector Four with a satellite dish as a gift from the Austrian Government to ensure first-class communications between the Sector and Austria.

THE UNFICYP ART GROUP

The UNFICYP Art Group has now completed its third year as a forum for introducing UNFICYP members and their dependants to painting landscapes in water colours. This free educational activity has brought many enthusiastic and committed students to a level from which they can confidently continue on to become accomplished artists. Michael McGinnis, a student from last year's group, was the class instructor.

Whereas there were 12 people in the initial 1995-96 group, 38 people joined the 1997-98 class and 23 remained throughout. In view of the increased enrolment, the group was split into a morning and an evening class, with students from most of the contingents. During the first three months, basic skills and techniques of drawing and painting were practised, and the students' work was as varied as their backgrounds. As they developed their abilities, they began to paint finished pictures and they continued with that work during the final weeks.

It has been rewarding to witness people develop their skills and begin to produce tasteful and enjoy-



The students' paintings on displays

able paintings. Again this year, the group held an exhibition to display their finished work at a conference room in the International Mess. The Force Commander opened the event, and the Chief of Mission was the principal guest. The ceremony took place on Wednesday 15 April, and the exhibition stayed open until Friday 18 April. At least one third of the paintings on show were purchased.

RING OUT THE OLD - BRING IN THE NEW

by Coy Sgt Tony Clare

One of the perks of being a soldier, and sometimes one of the drawbacks, is serving with the United Nations. If you ask any soldier to list five reasons as to why he/she joined the armed forces, I am sure that serving overseas would be in the top three. For most people, the motivation of travelling to a foreign country is twofold. Serving under the Blue Flag is financially rewarding, but more importantly, a soldier gains invaluable experience whilst in the 'Service of Peace'.

Although every nation has its own way of preparing its servicemen and women for the challenge of serving with a peace-keeping or peace enforcing mission, the first consideration is whether this person is willing to undertake the challenge. As important is whether this person is capable of the task. To allow for this assessment to be made, each unit travelling overseas undergoes increased training during the 'forming up' period which allows the contingent members to work closely together, some for the first time.

The priority here is to ensure the soldiers have the necessary training to carry out the mission. During this 'forming up', each soldier is both physically and mentally assessed to ensure that he/she can function in the role of 'peace-keeper' or 'peace enforcer'.

It is easy to understand the perception that serving overseas is a glamorous job when you look at the many holiday brochures that advertise these countries as rich in sandy beaches and five star hotels, but the reality can be the complete opposite. Each soldier, when faced with the opportunity to serve overseas, has to consider two very different aspects of this service, i.e. how will it enhance service prospects, and how will it affect family life.

Once the soldier has discussed with his/her family the pros and cons of this service and the pre-training is complete, it's time to undertake the enormous task of 'packing your kit'. What do I need to bring? Do I really need this extra pair of boots? How am I going to carry it all? Decisions, decisions. Finally, kit packed and checked in, it's time to depart for the mission area. With much sadness and shedding of tears, you depart on this new venture.

Once in the mission area, you are straight into the 'handover' from the unit you are going to replace. You're shown 101 things and taken to places with names you can't even read, never mind pronounce. It's safe to say that for the first week, you barely get



Camp Command personnel preparing to return to Ireland

time to bless yourself, let alone think how things are at home. Before you know it, you have completed two weeks, made some new friends, possibly enjoyed a social evening or two. Then it dawns on you: 'I haven't written home yet, time to put pen to paper; or maybe I'll phone, at least they will hear my voice, anyway I dislike writing.' Your tour of duty starts to move along and the next thing you think of is your R&R. 'Will I go home or will I bring my family out? What will I do for my 15 days?' It seems like a long time, but once you complete your first week of R&R, the second week just evaporates and 'hey presto', you're back on the line.

More duties, more patrols and all of a sudden, your Medal Parade has come and gone and you start thinking of going home. What presents will I get for the wife and kids, or the husband, boyfriend, girlfriend, the people who took care of the dog? How am I going to manage to pack all that kit back the way it was when I left home? It's time to make sure your handover notes are up to scratch - at least my replacement will know what to do when I leave!! I must visit the lads in the MFR before I go, AUST-CIVPOL too, not forgetting Camp Command, and the guys in Sectors One and Four. How am I going to fit all that in? We've met some really fine people and made some good friends, but have we contributed enough to achieving our mission, have we helped to resolve the problems in this troubled land, have we done all we possibly could? YES, we have; let's hope it's enough.

It's time to go home and let the new contingent do their very best to help resolve the situation. The best of luck and may peace come to this land soon.

Slán go foill.

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

The Monastery of the Virgin Mary at Kykkos is situated at a height of 1,200 m in the homonymous mountain of the Troodos massif. It was founded in the early years of the 12th century by the Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Comnenos (1088-1181) to house an icon of the Mother of God, painted by Saint Luke.

Although not the oldest (that honour belongs to the Stavrovouni Monastery), Kykkos is definitely the richest and most renowned monastic establishment in Cyprus. In the subsequent centuries of foreign occupation, the Monastery succeeded to subsist and to experience periods of richness, world-renowned fame and glory, as well as long years of destitution.

The Kykkos workshops have produced exquisite icons, religious ornaments and illuminated manuscripts. Many such objects are to be found in other Orthodox countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

During the Ottoman and British rules, Kykkos played an important educational role by operating a school within its walls. Following Cyprus' independence in 1960, the Monastery founded two secondary schools in Nicosia, and still continues to provide funds for cultural and welfare institutions. Recently, the Kykkos Research Centre with a Library in Nicosia, and a Museum as well as a Winery on the monasterial premises, have been established.

HISTORY

The Holy Royal Monastery of Panagia (which means the "all-holy one", i.e. the Mother of God) at Kykkos is administratively independent within the autocephalous Church of Cyprus.

There are a number of stories relating to its foundation, but basically the story is as follows. The Duke-Governor of Cyprus, Manuel Butumites, on a hunting day, met a hermit called Isaiah whom he ill-treated. The Duke then fell into a coma and dreamt that he was asked to return to Kykkos and make it up to Isaiah. In the meantime, Isaiah had a visitation by the Virgin Mary who told him to ask for her famous icon which had been painted by St Luke to be sent from Constantinople to the island.

Butumites considered that this request was impossible to satisfy and forgot about it.

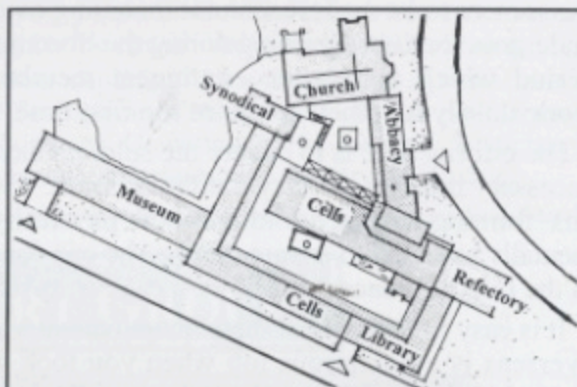
On his return to Constantinople, he learned that the Emperor's daughter was stricken with the same illness from which he had suffered. He informed the Emperor about his own tragedy, whereupon the Emperor sent for Isaiah who cured the Emperor's daughter by laying his hand on her. So Isaiah returned to Cyprus and started building the Monastery with funds from the Emperor and with the help of Constantinopolitan architects and artists.

The Monastery, originally built of wood, was accidentally burnt in 1365 by a farmer and reconstructed, again with timber, on the orders of the Frankish king, Peter I. The funds were provided by his wife, Queen Eleonora, at her request, as the Kykkos Virgin was also worshipped by

the Latins. The Monastery was burnt again in 1541 during the Venetian period (1489-1570/1). The third construction was with local stone so that the subsequent two fires (in 1751 and 1813) were not so disastrous.

Under the Ottomans, the Monastery attracted many foreign visitors who, in their references to Kykkos, mentioned the existence of up to 400 monks.

A property list compiled in 1879 by the British Administration in Cyprus shows in the Monastery's ownership 13 dependencies, 10 churches, 11 water mills, 11 olive mills, 5 wine presses, 70 shops in Nicosia and Larnaca, thousands of hectares of land and orchards, etc. In the Monastery lived 74 monks, 198 workers and seven orphaned children.



Plan of the Monastery



THE KYKKOS MONASTERY

DESCRIPTION

THE CHURCH

The Church is a domed basilica with three aisles. The nave was dedicated to the Virgin Mary with the right aisle to All Souls and the left to the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. The screen which separates the sanctuary from the aisles dates back to the 18th century and bears icons from the 17th-18th centuries. The icon of the Virgin painted by St Luke is the third on the left of the central door. The entire church has recently been decorated with mosaics and frescoes.

THE MUSEUM

The Museum is a state-of-the-art building constructed and furnished with luxury materials such as granite and walnut, as the

Kykkos' present Abbot, Nikephoros, and the fathers wished to offer pilgrims and other visitors a small example of the prestige and brilliance of Byzantium.

The granite floor of the entrance hall has an octagonal decoration in the centre inscribing a bee - the emblem of the Kykkos Abbots from the 18th century - symbolizing toil and order. Around the bee are the consonants in the Abbot's name in Greek and the date of the Museum's construction, 1995.

The Museum has four exhibition rooms (1-4) containing archaeological, historical and religious items from the Bronze Age to the mid-20th century, as well as a shop (5).

Room 1. This room contains antiquities mainly from the Cypriot Bronze Age until the end of the Roman period (2300 BC to 330/95 AD), as well as pottery from Greece and Italy (Magna Graecia). One can distinguish the Attic Black Figure vase of the slaying of the Minotaur by Theseus in the presence of the goddess Athena and Ariadne.

Room 2. Here, various Byzantine and later works of art from the 4th century to the mid-20th century are on display. The early Christian col-

lection consists of mainly bronze items such as lamps, crosses, censers, chandeliers and lamp stands. There is also a series of gilt silver religious utensils; a number of hanging lamps from the Middle East showing the influence of Greek Orthodox tradition, western Baroque and Islam; silver, gilt and wooden reliquaries, mostly in the form of books, whose covers hold inside cases with bones of saints and a cross.

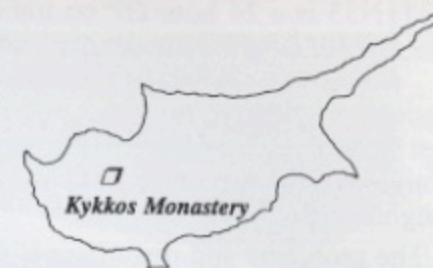
One interesting object is a 1576 silver gilt repoussé cover of the Holy Icon of the Virgin Mary with the Baby Jesus. Another item is an 1807 church-shaped hexagonal gilt ciborium, richly ornated with corals and pearls. On its sides are Christ at the table of the Last Supper, the Virgin Mary and the Apostles.



Silver cover of the Virgin Mary by Toumazos (1576)

Among the crosses is an intricately carved wooden cross with scenes from the Old and New Testaments. A large collection of post-Byzantine embroidered church textiles, like altar cloths, icon covers, habits of the entire echelon of the clergy, etc. are on display in two showcases. The special esteem held by sailors for the Virgin Mary is exhibited in a third showcase.

In the apse of this large room is an early Christian marble Holy Table. On the wall hang a 13th century icon of the Virgin Mary and eight 17th century icons of the Apostles on either side. Below these are eight marble reliefs.

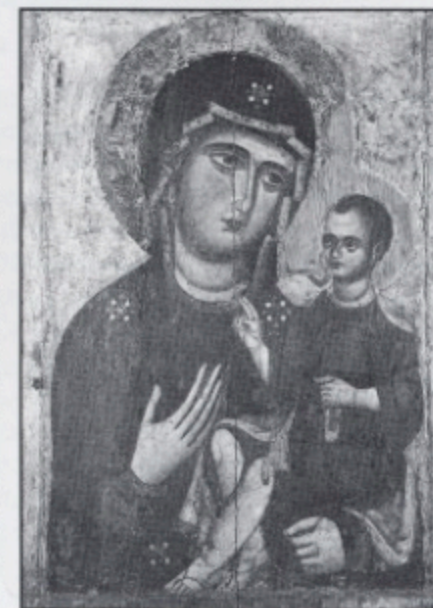


Room 3. This is an octagonal room with a dome bearing a fresco of Christ Pantocrator (Almighty). The granite floor is inlaid with a peacock, the symbol of paradise.

Housed in this room are frescoes rescued from a church at Kellia Village in the Larnaca District, a number of icons and pieces of church furniture. Some of the icons are the work of a famous Cretan painter, Ioannis Cornaros, who lived in the Monastery at the end of the 18th/beginning of the 19th century.

Room 4 is a small room with showcases containing parchments and other manuscripts, books and documents of religious interest.

The Monastery is visited by about 60,000 people annually. On the four occasions the feast of the Virgin Mary is celebrated in the Orthodox Church, especially on 15 August and 8 September (her birthday), Kykkos is inundated with pilgrims, some of whom stay at the guest houses.



Icon of the Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus (13th century)

KINGSTON TROOP BEFRIENDS BUFFER ZONE RESIDENTS

UN53 is a 24 hour OP on top of an apartment building within the Buffer Zone in Sector Two West. It is owned and occupied by Mr George Assiotis, an elderly blind man, and his wife. On the first floor live George's tenants, Anton and Helena Housepian, an Armenian couple, with their young daughter Athy.

The problems and disturbances of a 24 hour OP on your roof are obvious, and since the handover in December 97, Kingston Troop has looked at and implemented a number of measures to reduce the impact of the OP overhead for the residents of UN53. These simple, mainly noise-reducing measures have been an unqualified success, and George has been delighted with 1 RTR. He has asked if we can stay on in June!

Allied to this has been a "good neighbour" scheme which has made life at UN53 more pleasant for both



UN OP 53

the soldiers and the residents. Kingston Troop has been able to help out with gardening and essential maintenance to the building, and in return, the residents have hosted numerous social occasions, most recently a barbecue for half the troop. UN53's location and the potential problems posed by it are classic examples of the variety of challenges that the soldiers on the line face every day. Our successful hearts and minds campaign has proved an indirect and rewarding solution which has required the commitment of even the most junior of Kingston Troop.

The focus is now very much on the successful handover of these good relations to the Dutch platoon who arrive in June, and initiatives are being taken by the UN in order to ensure the continued happiness of the extended Kingston "family".



The UN53 extended family

'SMALL WORLD'

Mr Michael Smyth, the Irish Minister for Defence, and Lt Gen MacMahon, COS Irish Army, visited Sector Two on Saturday 14 March 1998. In conjunction with his visit, Mr Smyth was asked to present an "At Your Level" award to Cpl Mary Gilbride. This type of award was instituted by the Commanding Officer of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment for initiative at his/her level.

Cpl Gilbride, a clerk with the Mobile Force Reserve, ran in the Episkopi half marathon and raised over £120 for the 4-Point Challenge Charity Fund, which in itself aims to raise £20,000 for charities in both north and south Cyprus. Cpl Gilbride is not a natural athlete, and worked exceptionally hard to ensure that her fitness was up to the required standard to complete this gruelling distance. The presentation by Mr Smyth was made doubly poignant by the fact that both Cpl Gilbride's mother and Mr Smyth lived in the same village in Ireland. Congratulations Cpl Gilbride.



MADAM SPEAKER'S VISIT TO THE WILD WEST

by Maj I C Laver RTR

As part of a whole day's programme with 1 Royal Tank Regiment, Madam Speaker, the Rt Hon Bettie Boothroyd MP, visited Sector Two 'the Wild' West on Sunday 22 March. To host such a popular and widely respected figure as the Speaker of the House of Commons always promised to make the flying visit to Bengal Troop in A Squadron's (known as Sector Two West for the Cyprus Tour) westernmost area of responsibility particularly memorable for all involved. From the outset, Ms Boothroyd's charm and genuine interest in the soldiers' routine was obvious to everyone.

On her arrival, courtesy of the Argentinian pilots of the UN Flight (ARGAIR), Madam Speaker was treated to a *tour de force* Tower Brief and ground orientation from Tpr Carr, the youngest member of the Squadron. The orientation to the Buffer Zone was well received since, although a regular visitor to Cyprus, Ms Boothroyd had never previously visited troops on the Green Line.

The living accommodation for Bengal Troop at UN OP45, despite commendable improvements to conditions carried out by the occupants, remains



Madam Speaker on a Green Line tour with the British High Commissioner (left) and CO Sector Two (right)



Madam Speaker receives a Tower Brief from Tpr Carr with OC A Squadron looking on

spartan and cramped. Ms Boothroyd was suitably impressed by the results so far of the various projects to improve the situation, but nonetheless was struck by the limited space within the two-man rooms. She did feel a goal for egalitarianism had been scored with the Troop Leader and Troop Sergeant having to share a room of the same size as everyone else's.

Madam Speaker, her visit nearly over, was able to meet two members of A Squadron who hail from the West Midlands, Sgt Brookes (Mojave Troop) and Tpr Hipkiss (Bengal Troop). The latter is one of two Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomen reinforcing us for the tour and actually lives in Ms Boothroyd's West Bromwich West constituency, so they were able to enter a healthy debate concerning regional developments.

Before departing Bengal Troop, Madam Speaker was kind enough to say how much she had enjoyed the visit and the opportunity to meet the troop. As her helicopter lifted off, it was evident that this was clearly reciprocated.

NEW COMMANDER FINCON

On 27 March 1998, Major Jouko Seitakari handed over the post of CO FINCON to Major Reima Luiro.

Major Luiro joined the Finnish Military Academy in 1982, and since then, he has held the post of 2i/c TeleCoy,



Instructor at the Reserve NCO School and CSO, UN Training Centre.

Major Luiro will be accompanied later by his wife, Eija Marja, their daughter, Silja Maria, (1990) and son, Kimmo Waltteri (1993).

REFURBISHMENT OF THE CHAPEL AT AYIA MARINA

At a distance of about 1 km from the east coast of the island lies the small twin-chapel of Ayia Marina, picturesquely located within the Buffer Zone on the Dherinia Line. The northern part of the church was the first to be built in the 12th century. It is single-naved with a dome. Later on, a northex (porch) was added in the west. The four windows of the dome and the one of the apse, as well as the blind windows within the church, are arched oblongs. In the 14th century, a southern chapel was added, and not long after, a narthex was also built on. Looking back into the history of this place of worship, it was ascertained that because of the different constructions, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholics were permitted to celebrate mass together.



The twin-chapel of Ayia Marina

Sector Four to celebrate services such as weddings and christenings in an atmosphere with a very different background. Every year on 17 July, residents from the village of Dherinia are allowed to celebrate the name day of Ayia (Saint) Marina.

Through the initiatives of the Dherinia municipality, refurbishment was carried out on this chapel and was completed on 2 January 1998. The excellent relationship which exists between the representatives of this municipality and the UN soldiers of Sector Four was plainly evident when, on 14 March 1998, approximately 200 people, including Austrian soldiers and inhabitants of Dherinia village, celebrated mass together. The service, conducted by two Greek Orthodox priests and the Austrian padre, Father Kern, was a reminder to everyone of the historical roots of this house of God.



Two Greek Orthodox priests with Father Kern (centre)

CHIEFS OF STAFF (AUSTRIA, HUNGARY AND SLOVENIA) ON A VISIT TO UNFICYP/AUSCON

Between 1-2 April 1998, the Chiefs of Staff of the three nations which contribute to Sector Four, ie Gen Karl Majcen (Austria), Gen Ferenc Vegh (Hungary) and Gen Albin Gutman (Slovenia), visited Cyprus on a joint visit to UNFICYP and AUSCON. They had meetings with the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, and with the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara.

This was the first joint visit of the three generals, who were given an in-depth briefing on the tasks of Sector Four. They departed most impressed with the work of their soldiers on the line, and congratulated the multi-national sector on their achievements so far.



Front row, from the left: Lt Col Hufler, Gen Gutman, Gen Majcen, Gen Vegh and Lt Col Trummer

AMBASSADORS FROM ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL VISIT SECTOR ONE

At the invitation of Sector One, the Argentinian Ambassador, Mr Vicente Espeche Gil, and the Military Attaché, Col Nestor Perez Vovard, both based in Israel, paid an official visit to ARGCON on Friday 27 February 1998.

They were briefed on the activities and duties of Sector One, as well as the general situation within ARGCON since the arrival of Task Force 10. They then visited UN22, where they learned first-hand about life in an Observation Post.

Their visit ended with a lunch at the Officers' Mess in San Martin Camp.



The Argentinian Ambassador (left) and Military Attaché (right) arrive at UN22

The following Sunday, 1 March 1998, the Brazilian Ambassador based in Israel, Mr Pedro Pablo Pinto, also visited the installations of San Martin Camp and one of the OPs in Sector One. He naturally took a special interest in the two Brazilian members currently serving with ARGCON.

The Ambassador inspected a parade of all personnel within San Martin Camp, after which he attended a briefing and a short tour of Sector One's area of responsibility. At the end of his visit, he thanked all those involved for making his trip a most informative and memorable one.



The Brazilian Ambassador at UN22 with members of ARGCON

SECTOR ONE RECEIVES VISIT OF BRITISH OFFICERS

The CO Sector Two, Lt Col D Eccles, accompanied by his DCO, Maj T Mason and a group of officers, were received at San Martin Camp by CO Sector One, Lt Col J Lopez Parravicini, and a number of officers from the Camp staff.

The visit started with a briefing on the operational aspects within the Sector, which they found particularly interesting. Even though UNFICYP's mission is common to all Sectors/Units within the Force, nonetheless the features of the terrain under the sector's control and the national procedures which dictate the military method of approach to each individual incident invariably differ.

The British officers were then conducted to UN22 where they were briefed about life on an observation post where Argentinian personnel spend 20 consecutive days on duty. The party carried on to inspect the rifle range in the Marathasa Valley.

A typical Argentinian lunch was then served, and personnel from Sectors One and Two took the opportunity to discuss the many different aspects of their performance and life in Cyprus.

The visit ended with CO Sector Two presenting ARGCON with a picture of the famous first tank combat during WWI.

COs Sectors One and Two shaking hands



UN FLIGHT MEDAL PARADE

The UN Flight Medal Parade, comprising pilots, technicians and mechanics from ARGAIR, took place at 18:30 pm on 24 April 1998 at San Martin Camp. The presentations were made by the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara.



The medal/numeral recipients, marching on to the parade square

As a general rule, UN Flight hold their Medal Parades together with the Argentinian Contingent. However on this occasion, the 10 Officers and NCOs of ARGAIR held their own special event, due to the fact that these personnel will return to Argentina during the second week of May 1998.

The event ended with the medal/numeral recipients, as well as their family and friends, attending a buffet in the Officers' Mess where traditional Argentinian delicacies were offered and a good time was had by all.



The Force Commander addressing the parade

THE HUMANITARIANS OF SECTOR ONE

The Humanitarian Branch of Sector One consists of two Officers and one NCO stationed at San Martin Camp in Skouriotissa. Though small by comparison, this group is involved in a variety of tasks, ranging from routine office work and patrolling, to a multitude of humanitarian duties which can vary from day to day. However, one of their most important tasks is to provide support to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in the north and south respectively. Sector One operates regular Long Southwind Patrols (LSWP) to the Turkish Cypriot community scattered throughout the south, in particular, in the Limassol and Paphos areas, and also encourages economic development in the Buffer Zone.

The Assistant Humanitarian Officer, Capt Marcelo Manzo, who hails from Montevideo in Uruguay and is currently serving with ARGCON, considers the local coffee shop meetings one of the highlights of the job. Apart from coming into contact with a variety of people from different backgrounds and customs, he has also been able to improve his language skills in English. At these meetings, when more than 10 Cyprus coffees a day are drunk, Farming Permits are issued for farmers and their workers in the BZ.

As mentioned above, Sector One liaises with the Turkish Cypriot community in the south, and the UNFICYP Liaison Office in Limassol (UNLOL) provides a focal point for visits by individuals or groups. Since its opening in 1996, attendance has been low and the reasons cited are anxiety at being spotted there and possibly the preference of meeting at coffee shops and homes. To ensure that their circumstances are



monitored, these groups of Turkish Cypriots residing in the south receive additional assistance in terms of medical care, housing, food, money and family contact, through the visits of the LSWP.

Wol Luengo, who joined the navy at 17, is another 'Humanitarian' who finds the job both challenging and important.

The Sector Humanitarian Officer, (SHO), Lt Cmdr Juan Lucena, was stationed at the Naval Academy in Rio Santiago, before being posted to Cyprus. He realised how different his duties would be and willingly took up the challenge. One of the many important activities that he is responsible for is to encourage economic development in the BZ, to ensure that applicants comply with UNFICYP conditions within his area of responsibility, and that landowners are permitted to farm in the BZ.

PIT YOUR WITS

Well done readers! Several answers were received to March's "Pit Your Wits" and the lucky winner out of the hat was Shona McCracken from the CMP. Give us a ring, Shona.

Who will have his/her portrait taken next month?

Answers to the puzzles below should reach the Editor's Office by Monday 25 May 1998.

- 1 202, 122, 232, 425, 262, 728, ---, ---.
 - ▶ What are the next two numbers in this sequence?
 - ▶ Welches sind die nächsten zwei Zahlen in der Reihe?
 - ▶ ¿Cuales son los dos números que siguen en esta secuencia?
 - ▶ Mi a következő két szám ebben a számsorban?
- 2 A man is driving a car with his father as a passenger. All of a sudden, they have a terrible accident. The father dies instantly and his severely injured son is rushed to hospital. On seeing the patient, the surgeon

says: "I cannot operate on this person; he is my son"! Explain.

- ▶ Un hombre está conduciendo un automóvil con su padre como pasajero. De repente, sufren un terrible accidente. El padre muere instantáneamente y su hijo, herido severamente es llevado urgente al hospital. Al ver al paciente, el cirujano dice: "Yo no puedo operar a esta persona; él es mi hijo!" Explica.
- ▶ Ein Mann lenkt ein Auto mit seinem Vater als Passagier. Plötzlich haben sie einen schrecklichen Unfall. Der Vater stirbt sofort, der schwerverletzte Sohn wird ins Krankenhaus gebracht. Als der Chirurg den Patienten sieht, sagt er: "Ich kann diesen Mann nicht operieren, er ist mein Sohn!" Wie ist das möglich?
- ▶ Egy fiatalember személygépkocsin utazik az édesapjával. Útközben tragikus baleset éri őket. Az apa azonnal meghal, súlyosan sérült fiát kórházba szállítják. Meglátva a sebesültet, a sebészorvos így szól: "Én nem operálhatom meg ezt a személyt, mert ő az én fiam!" Mi a magyarázat?

The answers to February's Pit Your Wits are as follows:

1. King of Spades, Queen of Spades, Queen of Hearts
2. He's a dwarf. He cannot reach the button for the 26th floor, but when it is raining, he uses his umbrella to press it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - FURTHER IMPRESSIONS

Veni, vidi, visa! I came, I saw and I went shopping - at least that's how my other half explained it at the end of her stay in Cyprus.

She had a great holiday but we had a bit of difficulty after she arrived at the airport as she couldn't get through the checkpoint. But no problem; I had the Pajero with me and I know the BZ pretty good now so we got through OK in the end. It was quite easy getting her back; I just slipped one of the checkpoint guys a 20 pound note and that avoided any problem. Anyway, she's gone back to England now and only another eight weeks till the end of the tour. There's still plenty to be done.

We had a great time travelling all over Cyprus and when we reached Pyla, we decided to spend a few days there instead of Ayia Napper. Difficult to get a sunbed there

anyway, but it wasn't any easier in Pyla. There are about 30 beds in the local camp but they were being used all the time. Still, the lads in the Camp were good to us, plenty of brattie and chips, and we couldn't get enough of that Gold Fasel. Potent stuff - and the locals love it.

The Irish Police were good as well. Must be difficult to patrol the area with only two people around. I managed to give my girl a few cross country driving lessons in the Pajero. She really got the hang of it.

When we left the village, we'd made so many friends that lots of the local kids turned up with their flags to wave 'goodbye' to us. Brilliant! Now that I'm on my own again, time to concentrate on the last two months. I'm going to force myself to stay in from now on and to save some money.

THE UN FLIGHT MEDAL PARADE

