

The Blue Beret

February 2003

Spring
Snow



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Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

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Editorial

The world watches Cyprus as February 28 fast approaches. As we go to press, the Secretary-General is here in the region, devoting the last week of the month to this final concerted push for a settlement.

Iraq, he says, may be on the horizon, but this is the week of Cyprus. It is the last best chance to bring an end to the divisions of 29 years. New thoughts, he says, will help us move forward, bridge the gaps and conclude an agreement. He comes with the hope that progress will be made. He comes ready to submit a new document, one that contains proposals both sides are familiar with from their lengthy discussions with Special Adviser de Soto.

Should the opportunity at hand be missed, it is not clear when it will reoccur and if it will be any time soon. Decision time has come. This is why the parties should sticks to the goal of reaching agreement on February 28, the SG says. "February 28 may slip a few days, but to go much beyond February 28 would doom the prospect of a united Cyprus signing the [EU] Treaty of Accession."

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Front Cover: Spring Snow
Back Cover: Fording The Winter Rains



Well Done, The Engineers

It's an annual problem in UNFICYP. During the rainy season, streams and rivers flow across parts of the patrol tracks, making some of them completely impassable. An enormous amount of damage is incurred on a regular basis, particularly in Sector 1's area of responsibility.

In order to meet operational requirements, Maj. Jenö Ladocsi, the Force Engineer, master-minded an engineering solution to solve these problems. The design involved galvanised gabion boxes and river stones for a custom-built structure. The aim was to:

- provide permanent access during flooding
- build at low cost
- use UNFICYP resources, and
- ensure a strong enough structure to withstand major damage

The first of these projects was undertaken on the Potamos River near OP 38 by the HQ Slovak engineers with the support of the Argentinian soldiers in Sector 1 (see *The Blue Beret*, September 2002). The project, which was officially opened by the Force Commander on 21 November 2002, was in three stages. The first involved laying the gabion boxes on the levelled river surface, and the second entailed raising the initial layer of boxes four metres higher to the level of the patrol track. The third was placing another layer a little upstream to slow down the flow of water and provide more stability. It was a hard, tedious job. The boxes had to be tightly packed by hand to fit snugly.

There have been many jokes made by those who find it amusing to think that anywhere in Cyprus could be flooded. However after 48 hours of tropical rainfall earlier this month, river levels rose island-wide. Luckily, the gabion structure proved strong enough to withstand major damage. So much so that the Force Commander made an inspection - as can be seen right. The crossing is now fully operational and provides permanent access across this river.

The Sector 4 engineers were not only busy in the western part of the island. They have spent the last few months constantly repairing crucial parts of the buffer zone in Sectors 2 and 4 as well. Regardless of weather conditions, they were out there re-surfacing tracks and repairing damaged drainage systems. It was a worthy challenge as they improved their skills, operating and driving heavy engineering equipment in difficult and hazardous working conditions.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the HQ and Sector 4 engineers, there were no accidents in the buffer zone during the winter season. This effort not only benefitted the soldiers on patrol, but the local farmers who also use these tracks.

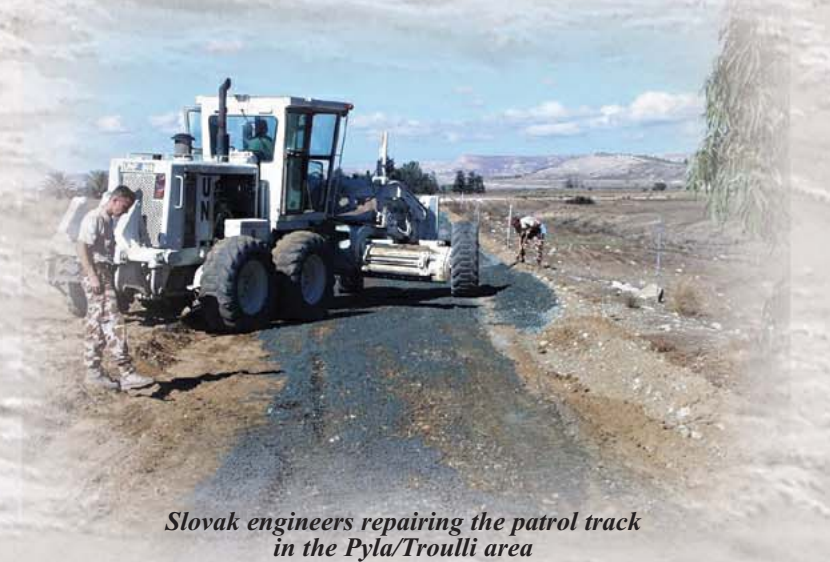
Well done everyone!



The Ladocsi Crossing



The Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, testing the patrol track!



Slovak engineers repairing the patrol track in the Pyla/Troulli area

White Powder Incident

The incident of a release of white powder in the offices of the SASG was fortunately nothing more than a harmless plant substance but it served to remind us that the threat of biological attack is not geographically restricted. There are a number of points that were raised by the incident which are important to learn.

The first thing to understand is that just because it is a white powder (in this case it was more grey than white) it is not necessarily Anthrax. Many people, particularly the press, called this incident a possible Anthrax attack. This can be dangerously misleading, since while Anthrax can be ruled out (or in) after one hour, it does not mean that the area is then safe.

It takes up to 24 hours to test for all biological agents, so an area cannot be declared safe until these tests are completed. This also means that following a release of powder, decontamination should always take place so that anyone potentially contaminated does not carry the substance or indeed the infection beyond the area of the incident to family, friends, colleagues or the wider community.

When faced with an incident, the immediate reaction of the person at the scene will determine how serious it is. The thing to remember at this stage is that the majority of biological agents take a significant amount of time to become lethal. Treatment is required within days, rather than hours or minutes, so there is plenty of time to treat anyone who is contaminated.

The key point to note by everyone is that containment of the incident to as few people as possible is important. This is achieved by leaving the package where it is (the more it is moved, the more likely that you and others are infected), closing windows and doors, turning off air conditioning and then alerting others to the danger without coming into physical contact with them. Tell them to

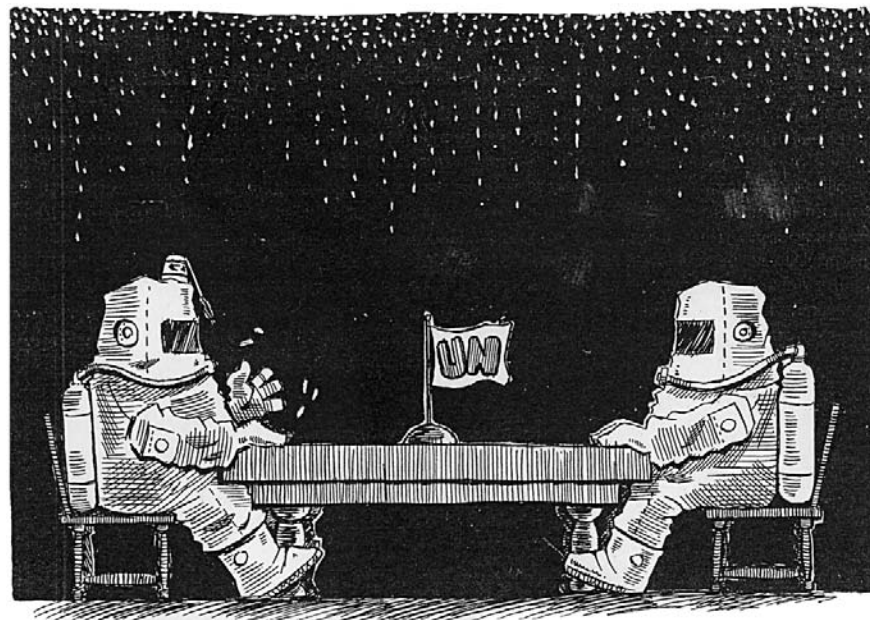
move out of the area and alert the JOC while you stay outside but very close to the contaminated room or building. The fewer people that need to be decontaminated, the quicker the real potential casualties can be treated.

Once the JOC is alerted it can take over the running of the incident. Any incident runs the same way, which from this point (confirmation and containment having been achieved) is clearing, cordoning and controlling the area. In this case, as already said, there will be a requirement for decontamination as you leave the area, but this is for your own safety as well as that of others.

So, the things that everyone should keep in mind are:

- Remain calm,
- Contain the incident,
- Alert the JOC.

If this is done, you will have ensured the incident is quick and easy to resolve and you may save your life and those of others.



Cartoon: Politis

RECOGNITION OF SUSPICIOUS MAIL

The sender of a postal device will take care to make its appearance as innocuous as possible. The envelope may be professionally embossed suggesting that it comes from a bona fide source; the recipient's address may also be printed or typed. As the first identification of a postal device is likely to depend totally on the recipient becoming suspicious when the mail is first examined, personnel should be alert to the following aspects which could indicate receipt of suspicious mail:

- *If point of origin gives cause for doubt.*
- *If the manuscript of the sender is unusual i.e.:*
 - *Handwritten or poorly typed addresses.*
 - *Incorrect titles.*
 - *Mis-spelling of common words.*
- *If there is excessive postage.*
- *If the balance of the package is uneven.*
- *If the package seems heavy for its size.*
- *If there is any springiness in the top, bottom or sides of a package or letter. (Do not bend excessively).*
- *If the package appears to contain powder.*
- *If wires protrude from it.*
- *If there is a hole (like a pin hole) in the package wrapping or envelope.*
- *If there are grease marks on the envelope or parcel wrapping.*
- *If the package is thought to contain a book, which is not expected.*
- *If the flap of an envelope is stuck down completely (usually there is an ungummed gap at each end of the gummed flap) or a package appears excessively well sealed.*

ANTHRAX FACTS

- *Anthrax is NOT contagious and humans are NOT highly susceptible.*
- *It takes at least 24 hours to develop the disease after contact. Therefore, you have time to seek medical assistance.*
- *Quick treatment is effective – Ciproflaxin and Doxycycline are recommended.*
- *The symptoms of Anthrax are the same as any other bacteriological disease e.g. flu (an increase in temperature, weakness or feeling tired). Anyone with these symptoms should visit the doctor. Although the likelihood is that it is simply the common flu, it is wise to err on the side of caution.*

G'Day

By Supt. M. Plim

January 26 is Australia's national day. It celebrates the outset of European settlement of Australia 26 January 1788. Since the 200th anniversary of Australia Day in 1988, Australians have taken far greater pride in celebrating their national day. January in Australia is the midst of summer and Australia Day celebrations take many forms – a picnic in the park, a day at the beach, a backyard BBQ, a day at the pub, or simply relaxing with family and friends. The UNFICYP Australia Day celebration was all of these and more.

Under the stewardship of Commander Bob Heggie, the Aussies got together and came up with something uniquely Australian – Foster's beer, meat pies and "two-up". On the day, the Australians welcomed members of UNFICYP including the Chief of Mission and Chief of Staff. The Aussies special guest was the Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, Frank Ingruber and his charming wife Marion.

Having decided that the meat pie was going to be the piece-de-resistance, the biggest problem was how to



Adam with the last of the meat pies

UN Radio Visits

By Judy Lessing, UN Radio, New York



Judy being briefed on the UNFICYP in-house journal, The Blue Beret



Australian High Commissioner Frank Ingruber playing "two up" with his wife Marion

come up with 300 meat pies that tasted pretty much like your average Aussie meat pie. The prospect of having a shipment of previously frozen Australia meat pies sitting on the tarmac in Dubai for two days was an option that was soon dismissed. However, the Aussies were rescued by a local pastry chef. Operating under a veil of secrecy, he made two test-batches of meat pies before the local product was pronounced good enough to be graced with an Aussie flag.

After some fine beer and "those" meat pies, all attending settled in to play two-up. This is a betting game that is illegal to play in Australia, except in casinos and on Anzac Day, which is 25 April and the Australian equivalent of Remembrance Day. The game of two-up is played by throwing two or three coins into the air. Players bet against each as to how the coins will fall, heads or tails. As many of the AUSTCIVPOL guests saw on the day, it a quick way to win money and also a quick way to lose it.

Rumour has that the last guests were seen to leave the CIVPOL Club, in the early hours of the morning. All in all, a great day was had by AUSTCIVPOL and all their guests. The Aussies would like to thank IRCIVPOL, who staffed the bar, MFR who assisted with assets and decorations, and BRITCON for assistance with catering equipment.

No doubt 26 January 2004 will be another day to look forward to.

Just as being part of a peacekeeping mission is a wonderful way to discover a country, so a busman's holiday is the way to see more than regular visitors do. For my 10 days in Cyprus, I packed a mini disc recorder and microphone so I could bring material back to New York for UN Radio.

Thus equipped, I hunted for pigeons at the old airport, helped by WO1 Caleb Cooper: not enough birds to make a loud enough noise but we tried. Goat bells in the buffer zone near Athienou were more successful. Without UNFICYP's help, how else could I have stood on the observation post or explored the ruins of the village and discovered the goats? Or walked the length of the Green Line in Nicosia (no microphones and no cameras allowed) to experience the desolation 28 years of neglect has brought?

The story about the restoration work at Hala Sultan Tekke and Apostolos Andreas monastery, an interview with Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto, and an overall look at the work of the mission have also found their place on UN Radio's English daily programme, which we produce in New York.

UN Radio has almost no funds for field reports, so thank you, Brian Kelly and your staff for being so helpful and letting our listeners hear the sounds of Cyprus.

Nothing Left To Salvage

Sgt. Rachelle Heath arrived in Cyprus on 11 November as part of the 73rd Australian Contingent of UNCIVPOL. Stationed in Linou (Sector 1), Rachelle and her Irish colleague Garda Pat Gallagher are responsible for a number of tasks including track patrols, assisting Sector 1 with anti-hunting operations, coffee shop meetings (where Cypriots meet with UNFICYP personnel to obtain/update passes into the buffer zone for farming/working), and responding to Sector 1 requests for assistance when there are intrusions into the BZ.

Rachelle comes from Canberra and has been with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) since 1990. In 1998, she married Darren Rath, also a member of the AFP.

On 11 December, Darren (who has taken long service leave) joined Rachelle in Cyprus with their two children, Callam (4) and Ella (2), and the family set up home not far from Rachelle's station in the village of Kakopetria.

At midday on 18 January, Rachelle was told about the bush fires which were raging in New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory. Three hours later, she discovered that her house in Canberra had been completely destroyed by fire. The family had only been in the house for 18 months before leaving for Cyprus and had been very busy "making the house into their home". Rachelle's father is a builder and had helped a lot.

The AFP immediately arranged for Michelle to fly back to Australia to see if there was anything at all to salvage. She also had to deal with the building/insurance assessors and organise the demolition of what remained. Since 530 homes had been completely destroyed and hundreds of others damaged, the Australian Government had given grants of \$10,000 for uninsured and \$5,000 for insured properties.



Rachelle with Callam and Ella outside their flat in Kakopetria



It was a very busy week and Rachelle's mother flew up from Melbourne to help. Three AFP members had lost everything, so the AFP Association organised for stores to provide items at cost and helped them to find homes to rent. They also set up a fund for other AFP members who wished to donate money to their colleagues.

Back in Cyprus, Rachelle says: "We're amazed and very gratified at all the support we've received from colleagues and friends, both in Cyprus and back in Australia. Although we were pretty miserable for the first week or so, we are now over our initial shock and are planning our new home."

"We have lost so much but on the other hand, we're one of the lucky families. Being posted to Cyprus meant that we had brought some things of sentimental value with us. Our children are small and weren't physically affected by being dragged from flames, so they won't remember."

"Things I shall miss? All our books, my piano, heirlooms, paintings, photographs – I could go on and on. They were irreplaceable items. But I am really sorry about losing my Christening dress which I had passed onto Ella."

"We jokingly said to our house-sitters just before we left that if they ever had to leave in a hurry, to please take Darren's Mozambique journals (when he was with the UN in Mozambique in 1994), and a signed autobiography by Nelson Mandela. Although the power had gone off as the roof was caving in, incredibly enough, the house-sitters managed to grab the right books and escape. Trees had fallen over from the force of the wind and they had to drive through people's front yards and around fallen trees to escape from danger, but they managed. We were just glad they weren't injured, since four people were killed in Canberra and hundreds injured."

"The insurance will cover us to build the same single-storey house in the same location. And seeing as we shall start again from scratch, we intend to build a second floor."

Here on the other side of the world, keeping the peace in Cyprus, Rachelle considers herself lucky. **MP**



UN Flight Medal Parade

The UN Flight Medal Parade took place on 24 January. 15 UN medals and 10 numerals were presented to UN Flight personnel by the UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang.

At a time of year when the weather is unpredictable, the organisers decided to hold the event under cover, so

a hangar was set up to accommodate two helicopters, flags of UNFICYP contributing nations, the medal/numeral recipients and guests.

Following the presentation, everyone was invited to the UN Flight Club "Los Bandidos" for refreshments – typical Argentinian hospitality at its best.

New CO UN Flight, Lt. Col. Walter Fercher

Lt. Col. Walter Fercher, took over command of XIX UN Flt on 14 February.

In 1981, Lt. Col. Fercher graduated from the Argentinian Air Force Academy and was commissioned into the VII Air Brigade. Having qualified as a helicopter pilot, he completed two tours in Antarctica, as well as several tours in a forest fire fighting role and has also assisted communities in flooded areas all over Argentina. He

has also served as an instructor at the Air Force Academy.

On promotion to the rank of major, he was appointed CO of the 2nd Air Squadron. As a staff officer, Lt. Col. Fercher worked in the Air Force General Staff in civilian personnel administration.

He is married to Elena Maria and they have two children, Juan and Carolina. His interests include shooting training, tennis and history.



Lt. Col. Guillermo Lozada (left) handing over to Lt. Col. Fercher



Warrant Officer Class I Caleb Cooper, currently serving as the UNFICYP Visits Coordinator in the Public Information Office, was presented with his UN medal by the Force Commander on 31 January 2003.

Elaine with Caleb (left) Juraj (right) with Lt. Col Babjak

On 4 February, SSgt. Juraj Cséfalvay, the UNFICYP Force Photographer, was decorated with the Slovak medal (second grade) for service with peacekeeping missions. It was awarded by Lt. Col. Pavol Babjak on behalf of the Slovak Ministry of Defence.

This is Juraj's second tour with UNFICYP. The first was as Civil Affairs Team NCO in Sector 4 where he served from May 2001 to May 2002.

Back in Slovakia, Juraj is a squad commander for aircraft maintenance in the Slovak Air Force.

Medal Awards

Caleb has been a member of the Irish Naval Service for the past 37 years. He has previously served with UNIFIL (Naqoura, Lebanon) where he held the post of Camp Sergeant Major.

Caleb is accompanied by his wife Elaine (pictured left).



The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part X

Soli - City Kingdom

As The Blue Beret continues exploring the cultural heritage of Cyprus, we highlight the ancient city-kingdom of Soli.

From its position on the northern flank of a low hill overlooking the bay of Morphou, it was the centre of administration for an area that extended over the foothills of the Troodos Mountains. These mountains provided the kingdom with timber, and with copper from the Foukassa (Skouriotissa) mines. Today, the name of the Solea Valley in the Troodos still recalls the city's influence.

Soli's origins have rather legendary – and possibly doubtful – stories. One, recorded by the Greek writer Strabo, attributes the city's establishment to the Athenians Phalerus and Akamas (for whom Cape Akamas was named), and describes it as having a harbour, a river and a temple of Aphrodite and Isis. Another story, this time recorded by Plutarch, claims that Soli was named after the Athenian lawmaker and philosopher Solon. As the story goes, Solon visited King Philokypros of Aepia (an unidentified city near Soli) around 580 BC, and advised him to move his city to another site. The Cypriot king was persuaded, and evidently named the new city after his guest.

Despite the legends, it's certain that Soli was inhabited from the time of the Achaean-Greek settlers in the 12th and 11th centuries BC (the Late Bronze Age) until the late middle ages. Architectural evidence dates to all the intervening periods, and shows that Soli was a prosperous city despite occasional conflict. In fact, early mentions of Soli include a list of enemy towns in the time of the Egyptian Ramses III, and an Assyrian tribute list in 700 BC.

In 499/8 BC, the kings of Cyprus (with the exception of Amathus) rose up against their Persian overlords at the instigation of King Onesilus of Salamis and King Aristokypros of Soli. Both kings perished, and the revolution failed.

The Athenian general Kimon made another unsuccessful attempt to free Cyprus 50 years later. It wasn't until 333 BC that Alexander the Great liberated Soli and, indeed, the rest of the island.

During the last years of the 4th century BC, Soli ceased to be a kingdom and adopted more democratic institutions, including a boule (a council) and a demos (a popular assembly). It remained an important centre, particularly thanks to the flourishing copper trade. During the Roman period, in 56/57, Saint Mark the Evangelist ordained the first Bishop of Soli, Saint Auxibius, who later built a magnificent basilica.

Its coastal position made Soli vulnerable to the Arab raids that took place in this part of the world in the 7th to 10th centuries, however, and the city gradually declined. By the late middle ages, it was abandoned by its citizens, who dispersed into the neighbouring area – which to this day is known as the Solea region or valley.

Soli has revealed that, along with the predominantly Greek orientations of the city, influences also came from the Persian overlords who dominated the island from time to time, and from foreign commercial activities. A number of statues, including those of Aphrodite, Socrates and Alexander the Great were unearthed, while tomb finds included ceramics, gold, silver, ivory, seals, coins and jewellery.

What You'll See Today

Most of the remains of Soli date to the Roman period, including a theatre, a nymphaeum (fountain) and market place. Other remains include burial sites, and two superimposed Byzantine basilicas.

Theatre

The theatre overlooking the coastal plain was built at the end of the 2nd century AD, destroyed by earthquake in the mid 4th century, and restored to its current form in 1961-64. With a diameter of 52 metres and seating for approximately 3,500, it is smaller than the theatres of Salamis and Kourion (Curium). The seats were cut into the rock of the hillside, and faced with hewn limestone. The semi-circular orchestra had a diameter of 17 metres, which you entered through a parados (sideway) on either side. Only the substructure of the scaena (stage) remains; the rest of the stage has been restored.

The Agora and Porticoed Street

The lower part of Soli has revealed the remains of the Roman agora (market place) and a porticoed street (along which a series of pillars supported a roof) with shops. The sheer size of the street marks it as remarkable: it measures 4.75 metres wide, with pavements of about 4.5 metres in the north and 3.6 metres in the south. Archaeologists consider it one of the largest streets of the Roman Orient.

The Nymphaeum

This building, dedicated to the nymphs (semi-divine maidens of the sea or woods), dates to the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd century AD. Although only one third of it has been excavated, the richly decorated remains scattered around it have enabled archaeologists to form an idea of the whole monument, on the basis of symmetrical design. It was supported by a wall in the south of the agora, and was U-shaped. A central cistern was placed inside the U, and smaller lateral cisterns on either side (only one of which has been identified so far). The cisterns were sided with columns bearing capitals with floral motives, while lion's heads served as fountains.

Basilica A

Excavations have shown that two basilicas, or churches, were built on a terrace 20 metres above sea level, on a site used earlier during the Hellenistic and Roman eras. Basilica A was built in the 4th and 5th centuries AD in the style prevalent at the time of Constantine the Great, and is the oldest basilica in Cyprus. Measuring 45.5 metres by 22.5 metres, it demonstrated the importance of the Soli bishopric at this time.

The design included one central nave, with two inner and outer aisles on either side. The floor was covered with panel mosaics, a study of which shows that they were executed in three stages. Their designs are mostly geometrical with some animal decorations, including dolphins and a beautiful white swan. This basilica was probably destroyed by the earthquake of 526; however, its ruins include portions of the apse's semi-circle of seats for the clergy during services.

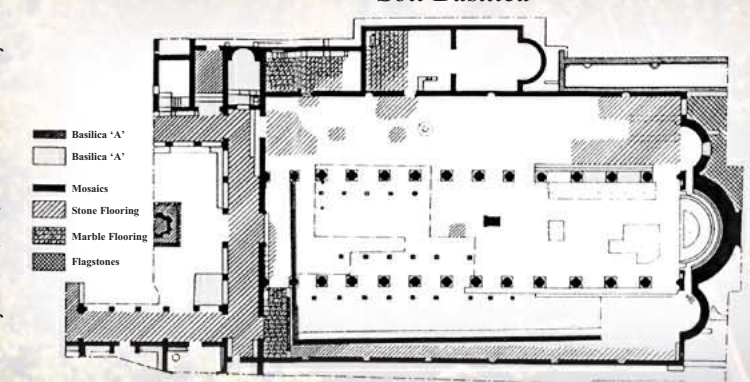
Basilica B

This church was built over the ruins of Basilica A, and was dated to the 6th century on the basis of its architectural plan, the style of flagstones, and its decoration. It measures 47.7 metres by 31.4 metres, and probably features the widest nave in Cyprus. Two lateral aisles end in the east in three protruding apses. In the west is a quadrangular atrium. The aisles were each separated by two arcaded colonnades of 14 irregularly-spaced columns. It's thought that the basilica was abandoned in the 7th or 8th centuries. An additional, smaller church appears to have been built in the eastern section of the basilica in the 12th century.

Temples

The five temples date from 250 BC to the beginning of the 4th century AD, and were dedicated to Aphrodite, Cybele, Isis (twice) and Serapis. Despite the fact that excavations have not been completed, it has been possible for archaeologists to gain insight into the great wealth and culture of Soli. Some of the limestone and bronze statues found at the site compare well with the best of Grecian and Roman masterpieces. This includes the statue of Aphrodite, dating to the 1st century BC and currently in the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia. In the "Cyrene" style, Aphrodite looks slightly to the left, her hair in braids that drape over her shoulders. Note that the temples were reburied by archaeologists, so little of them is visible today.

Soli Basilica



Soli Amphitheatre

The Green Line Tour

By Capt. Ali Simmons

The area of the buffer zone that runs through the Old City area is commonly known as the Green Line. The reason it picked up this title dates back to December 1963, when a British Commander, General Young of the Strategic Reserve, deployed onto the island to try and keep the two rioting sides apart.

During lengthy negotiations, General Young drew a line across a map of Nicosia with a green chinagraph pencil; hence the well-known name the "Green Line". Therefore, we can see that this term only relates to the Old City of Nicosia as it was in 1963, and not the buffer zone across the whole island.

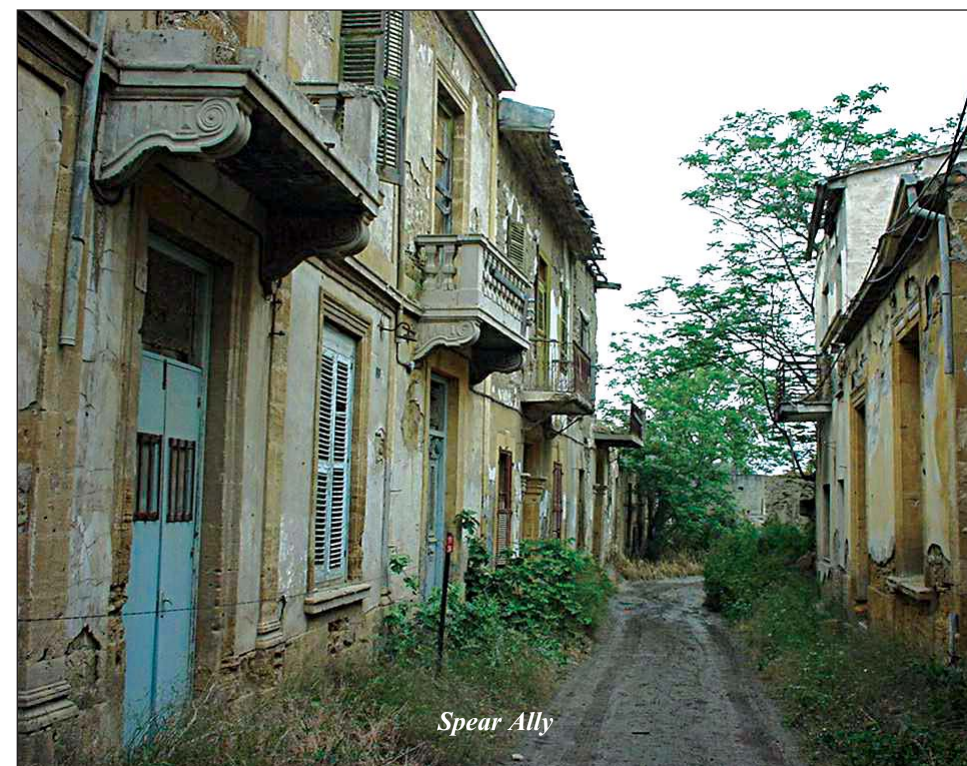


Betty's Bridge

have identified the worst buildings for immediate attention, which is currently ongoing.

As I walk through the Old City, what strikes me most is the feeling of sadness, the feeling of time standing still. In the tranquility, I can hear normal life carrying on, on either side of the buffer zone, cars driving past, mechanical tools working in workshops, people greeting each other in the morning, much like it would have been prior to 1964. Now the only things that you can hear in that hidden nature reserve are cats, chickens and UN patrols.

I have learnt a lot about the history of Cyprus, the stories behind the Green Line Tour and the views of both sides, but what will stay with me longest after I leave is the sadness of the quiet lanes in the Old City area.



Spear Ally

Today, the Green Line is a quiet area of land between the two opposing forces cease fire lines. Each side has many observation posts throughout the whole area, although not all of them are manned: indeed, the eastern side of the City area, from Ayios Kassianos, (Beaver Lodge) is completely unmanned due to a 1989 un-manning agreement that remains to this day. The western edge of the unmanned area is the end of Konstantinou Drive (Spear Ally), which is the narrowest point, at 3.3 metres, of the buffer zone across the whole island.

Areas within the Old City are becoming extremely dilapidated, with many of the old buildings crumbling down. In fact, in the two months that I have been here conducting the Green Line tour, we have had numerous buildings collapse, the last near Betty's Bridge, and usually after a prolonged period of heavy rain. The situation has got to a point where City Troop engineers



Yellow Car

Officers' Club Dinner Night

The Officers' Club held a Dinner Night on 13 February.

The Force Commander, Lt Gen Jin Ha Hwang, Sector Commanding Officers, Contingents Commanders and the military members of the Officers' Club spent a delightful evening in a very friendly atmosphere. The Force Commander took this opportunity to praise everyone for their hard work and good efforts within UNFICYP, and encouraged everyone to continue in the professional manner they have shown so far.

The Officers' Club would like to thank Sector 2 for their support and contributions towards this event.



Officers' Club Winter Ball

The Officers' Club winter ball was once again an opportunity for UNFICYP personnel to let down their hair.

Held at the Navarino Restaurant on 24 January, the event was a sellout with the entire restaurant booked solid for a theme evening devoted to "The Bold and The Beautiful", and bold and beautiful were the outfits on display.



Included in the entertainment programme was a disco running throughout the evening and a magician. But the highlight of the event was the four belly dancers who got everyone going with their swinging hips. Even Brian Kelly, the UNFICYP Spokesperson, who won first prize in the raffle (a cruise for two to Lebanon, courtesy of prize sponsors Chronos Travel) couldn't resist demonstrating his eastern dancing talents.

Thanks once again go to Diana Bridger for all the effort she put into making this evening a great success.

Dr. Jong Wook Lee, New WHO Director

The Force Commander, Lt. Jin Ha Hwang, is not the only distinguished Korean in the United Nations. Dr. Jong Wook Lee was recently nominated by the World Health Organisation's Executive board to become Director General.

Dr. Lee, who will succeed Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, has been leading the

UN health agency's Stop TB Programme.

Dr. Lee holds an M.D. from Seoul National University and a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Hawaii.

Prior to his work on TB, Dr. Lee headed the WHO Global Programme for Vaccines and Immunisations. He has served 19 years with WHO.



YPENBURG UN 51

By Sgt. M.A. Roberts

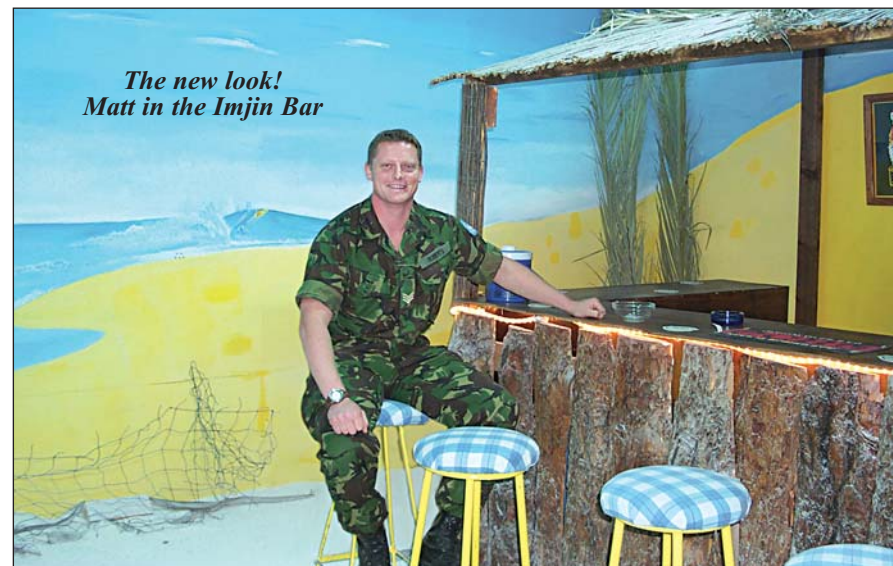
On 22 January 2003, Sector 2 West had their inspection by the UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang. During his inspection he was asked if he would do the honour of opening the newly refurbished bar, aptly named the Imjin Bar.

25/170 Battery Royal Artillery is currently in command of Sector 2 West and has a battle honour that is linked with Korea and the River of Imjin. In 1951, 29 Infantry Brigade was deployed on the River Imjin and within each of the forward Battalions a troop was attached from 170 Battery. C Troop was deployed in support of 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, and it was with this Battalion that the Troop fought so gallantly during the battle near to the village of Solmari. For this action, C Troop received the Presidential Citation from the President of the United States. In 1954, the Battery was granted the honorary title "Imjin" by Her Majesty the Queen for its participation in the Battle of Imjin River.

From that day on, all members of the Battery have worn the Citation ribbon. What with the Battery having its historical link with Imjin,

and Imjin being the birth place of the Force Commander, who better to do the honours in the name of the "village by the river" and the battles fought there!

The bar itself was refurbished on a beach surfing theme. The idea came from Sgt. "Matt" Roberts, who has a passion for the beach and surfing. The walls are decorated by Matt's artworks. He received a helping hand from all ranks at UN OP 51 in the refurbishment, which



involved re-building the bar and shovelling sand through the window for the floor. In true tradition of the new Imjin bar, the Force Commander was invited to sign the Surf Board after having a drink... Of course, only a soft drink as he was on an inspection!!

The Force Commander was invited around Ypenburg to view some of the other projects undertaken by personnel deployed at HQ S2W. He then continued his inspection along the rest of S2W and was given an operational brief by the troop commanders, followed by tower briefs from soldiers of 25/170 Battery.

Again the Force Commander was able to see all the projects at the troop locations that have taken place since the Battery assumed command of S2W. The Battery Commander also presented the Force Commander with a framed picture of the Imjin Tiger and Battle Citation whilst he was at UN 58 Rorke's Drift for lunch, savouring the legendary food of UN OP 51's own chef, Cpl. Halliday. Also, Bdr. Cole was presented with a Force Commander's Commendation for his efforts and hard work at Ypenburg.

Ypenburg Revisited

Ypenburg recently saw the visit of a former Dutch soldier posted there in 2000.

Cpl. Jeroen Blom, who served from May to December 2000, recently visited Cyprus accompanied by two Dutch journalists who were preparing a report on the Dutch Contingent's



stint with UNFICYP at Ypenburg. There were approximately 100 Dutch soldiers of the 11 Pantser Luchtdoel Artillery Battery stationed in Sector 2 West at Ypenburg.

One of the cook's assistants recognised Jeroen from a distance and greeted him warmly. Commenting on his tour in Cyprus, Jeroen said: "I have good memories of nice times in Cyprus. It's as if I never left".

Pyla's Corcoran



After heading UNCIVPOL in the mixed buffer zone village of Pyla between February 2002-February 2003, Supt. Sean Corcoran is heading back home.

Supt. Corcoran saw some tense moments in the village during his term. The Turkish Cypriot authorities had desired a road to link Pyla to Arsos in the north. UNFICYP had declined permission on security grounds. Consequently, Turkish Cypriots staged a number of peaceful demonstrations.

The developments, however, had the potential of testing the good relations between the two communities in the village. UNFICYP had an interest in keeping the calm and stability of the village. Supt. Corcoran maintained the CIVPOL tradition of keeping strong relations with both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot village leaders which certainly helped to achieve this objective. Supt. Corcoran constructively engaged the sides and won their cooperation. He concurrently ensured that information reached the UNFICYP Headquarters in a timely manner, which invariably enabled the UNFICYP leadership to respond to the fast developing situation on the ground.

We wish him and his family the best.

Flag and Anthem Competition

Some 1,600 designs for a new Cyprus flag and 80 compositions for an anthem were registered by the UN at its Nicosia headquarters in Cyprus following the 17.00 hours, 17 February deadline for submission of entries in a worldwide competition.

UNFICYP Spokesman Brian Kelly said the organisers were gratified and overwhelmed by the response. Most contestants submitted multiple entries, many from schools, as might be expected, but also from individuals and, interestingly, from commercial graphic design firms. Standards were very high, very professional.

The team logging the entries worked until 3.30 am in the morning following the close of the competition. They returned the next day and worked until midnight and again the following day, cataloguing submissions from some 15 countries.

Anthem compositions were submitted as scores or sheet music. Some were accompanied by tape and CD recordings. Many of these were renditions by full orchestra. Although one entrant's composition was

played on the harmonica.

Among the flags was one design submitted by the proud Greek Cypriot father and Turkish Cypriot mother of a talented three-year-old. Perhaps this represented the furthest one could go in fulfilling the competition organisers' announcement that special consideration would be given to collaborative creativity involving the two communities.

Entries in the competition were sent from Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, of course, and from as far afield as Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US. Others came from the UK, Spain, Belgium and Norway.

Those who want to hear soundbites and/or see an exhibit of the design entries will have to remain patient. The UN facilitated the process based on the leaders' agreement that there should be a contest. The leaders are to appoint representatives to two judging panels. These will review the entries and make recommendations to the leaders regarding the winning selections.

Blood Drive

UNFICYP is continuing in its efforts to support blood donations on the island.

Every Thursday and Friday, a bus takes donors to the hospitals in north and south Nicosia, where the procedure is expected to last about two hours (travel time included).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Force Medical Assistant, SSgt. M. Dzurik (2286-4536) or the Force Medical Officer, Dr. P. Babjak (2286-4597).



CHARITY AUCTION

A charity auction will be held at the International Police Club, UNPA, on Sunday 5 April 2003

Proceeds will go to children's charities, north and south

All donations – money/items/services – will be gratefully accepted

For more information, please contact SSgt. David Bates, FMPU, at 22-864629

Visitors to UNFICYP

There were a number of visitors to UNFICYP this month from several countries.



Brig. B. Brealey with the CM

Brig. B. Brealey, Commander Royal Artillery 3 (UK) Division arrived in Cyprus on 5 February and started his visit by calling on troop houses and OPs in Sector 2. At UNFICYP HQ on 6 February, he was greeted by Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher and following an inspection of an Honour Guard, he met with Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz. His visit was rounded off with an overflight of the BZ.

H.E. Mr. Janos Kisfalvi, the Hungarian Ambassador to Cyprus whose country provides a significant number



H.E. Mr. Janos Kisfalvi



Mr. John Swift, the Irish Amabassador (left) and Mr. Michael McDowell (centre) with the CM

of peacekeepers to UNFICYP, paid a courtesy call to the HQ on 18 February. Greeted by the Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang on arrival, he was asked to inspect an Honour Guard before proceeding to meet with the CM.

Mr. Michael McDowell, the Irish Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, who was on an official visit to Cyprus, stopped at UNFICYP HQ on 21 February. He met with the FC, CM and Ch. Supt. Basil Walsh, Commander UNCIVPOL.



The Japanese delegation with the FC

Two Japanese police officials made a fact-finding visit to UNFICYP on 24 February where they had the opportunity to exchange views with the Force Commander and Commander UNCIVPOL at HQ UNFICYP.

Star Jumps in the UNPA



The sound of pounding feet and loud music has been heard coming from the area of St. Michael's School, UNPA, every Tuesday between 6.00-7.00 pm. It's all due to an aerobics class, taken by the Company Sergeant Major WO2 Jaqui Collins of the Force Military Police Unit.

The classes cater for all UNFICYP personnel – male, female, soldiers, dependants, civilians, police, etc. There is no charge for the class, however Jaqui requests that a donation of £1 be handed in which will be given to cancer research on completion of her six-month tour in May 2003.

Jaqui qualified as an aerobics instructor in 1997 whilst serving in Northern Ireland, and since then, she has taken classes in Donnington, Hohne, Sennelager and Bosnia.

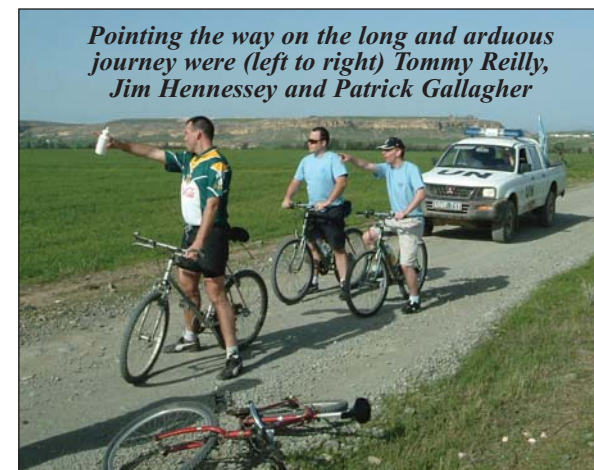
Jaqui shows how it's done

Trans-Buffer Zone Bikeway

Over two gruelling days (31 January and 1 February), members of UNCIVPOL organised and took part in a bicycle ride across the buffer zone.

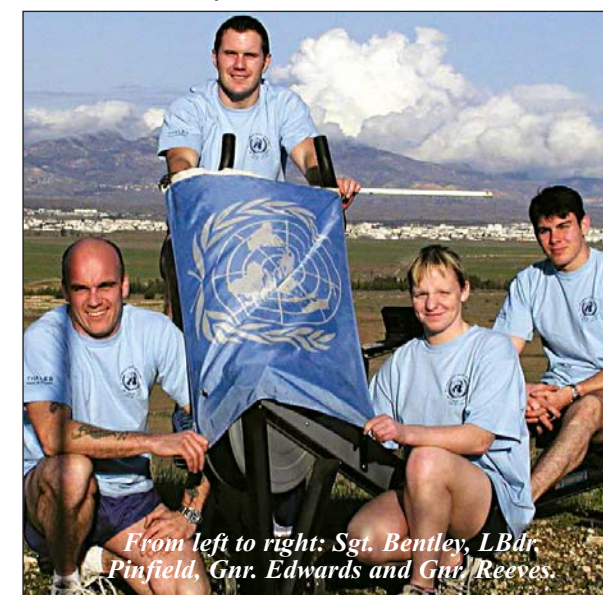
Anyone who has served on this mission will realise that this was a very difficult and arduous cycle, even for the fittest members. The terrain is rough with a lot of testing hills to climb. The buffer zone is 180 km long from coast to coast, that is from Kokkina on the western coast to Pyla in the east. It varies from four metres in width in and around Nicosia to seven kilometres in width near Atheinou.

The cycle ride, which was unique because it has not been done before, was the brainchild of Sgt. Liam Hogan who is presently stationed at Pyla. All proceeds raised during this event went to the victims of the Bali terrorist attack.



Sector 2 Triathlon

By WO2 Les Leithes



From left to right: Sgt. Bentley, LBdr. Pinfield, Gnr. Edwards and Gnr. Reeves.

Every soldier deployed on operational tours wants to go back to the UK a better person, be it either through study and self education or simply just to lose a few kilos and be a little fitter than before.

To get fit, lose weight and raise money for charity is even better! However, because the first half of this tour has seen more rain than even Cypriots can recall, the idea of an indoor triathlon was spawned by WO2 (BSM) Leithes and LBdr. Pinfield from 31/HQ Battery.

The intention was to cover 3,232 km, the distance between 47 RA's present home in Wolseley Barracks, Sector 2, and their home in the UK, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, just off the coast of Portsmouth. Three teams of eight volunteers rotated, with each team in one-hour shifts using static machines to run, cycle or row over a 24-hour period.

Endurance was severely tested, but a steady check on dehydration and boost of carbohydrates kept the volunteers energy and enthusiasm up.

The final amount raised is expected to reach £1,000, which will be donated to charities north and south. The gauntlet is now laid. Can anyone beat 3,232 km in 15 hours, 42 seconds?

Sector 2 Orienteering Competition

On 24 January, Sector 2 held its Sector Orienteering Competition at the UNPA. Taking part were the seven troop houses within the buffer zone, the sub-sector headquarters, the three platoons of the Mobile Force Reserve and departments at the Sector Headquarters in Nicosia. Also invited were competitors from the Eastern and Western Sovereign Base Areas, making a total of 120 runners competing over three different courses of varying lengths and difficulty.

Prize giving took place at midday with the Com-manding Officer Sector 2, Lt. Col. R. P. M. Weighill RA, presenting prizes to the winners.

Team Competition (C Course – 4.0 km)

1 st	Liri Troop	256.53 mins
2 nd	Ortona Troop	272.21 mins
3 rd	LPH	285.25 mins

Individual Competition (B Course – 6.5 km)

1 st	Gnr. Jones	Falcon Tp	51.43 mins
2 nd	Cfn. Hunter	LPH	51.53 mins
3 rd	Sgt. Gaskell	LPH	52.46 mins





**Fording The
Winter Rains**