The Blue Beret
May 2003

Crossing the Divide
Giving Peace A Chance
May 29 has been designated the first International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers by the UN General Assembly in tribute to “to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations, as well as to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.”

The date marks the day in 1948 when the first UN peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) began operations with a group of unarmed military observers in Palestine.

As the Secretary-General said in a special broadcast message to peacekeepers around the world, the mission of UN peacekeeping remains vital. While “peacekeeping by itself cannot end a war ... it can prevent a recurrence of fighting. Above all, it gives space and time for conflict resolution. It gives peace a chance”.

Today, and as the Day itself was being observed around the world, peacekeepers fulfill roles as military observers, trainers and disarmament experts, civilian police, civil administrators, judges and prosecutors, economists, human rights and humanitarian workers.

Others perform the more traditional peacekeeping functions of monitoring ceasefires and buffer zones in 14 missions on three continents. UNFICYP, the UN’s third-oldest peacekeeping mission, is among these.

In the past 55 years, 1,819 United Nations peacekeepers – civilian and military – have died while on mission, 172 of them while serving with UNFICYP.

While most were the victims of accidents or illness, 583 were the casualties of hostile activities. All paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of peace.

On this special anniversary, we salute them.

As we go to press, some 242,000 Greek Cypriots have made the journey north while more than 158,000 Turkish Cypriots have travelled south.

To help ensure safe passage through the various crossing points in the buffer zone, UNFICYP was at full stretch from day one working closely with the relevant Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot authorities. Sector 2, with only 24 hours’ notice at the outset, was in the centre of things in devising the best strategy to get the people across quickly and safely as possible.

Troops from Sector 2 and MFR spent long, hot, dusty hours on duty, reassuring the waiting crowds, distributing water, and even erecting a shaded walkway on the stretch between the Ledra checkpoints to help the long queues cope with the unexpectedly warm weather.

Since then, three new crossing points have been established at Ayios Dometios/Metehan, Pergamos and the 2.5 Mile Gate.

Like their Sector 2 colleagues, UNFICYP’s engineers were quick off the mark to help ease the traffic congestion as new crossing arrangements meant that vehicles crossing in Nicosia would switch to Ayios Dometios/Metehan, Pergamos and the 2.5 Mile Gate.

Thousands of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, many visibly moved, began crossing from one side to the other of the divided island on 23 April, following the announced easing of restrictions by the Turkish side the day before. For many, it was a journey back to the homes they left in 1974. For all, it was a tentative step into the future.

Acting SRSG and UNFICYP Chief of Mission, Zbigniew Wlosowicz, welcomed the crossings while speaking with reporters in the buffer zone between the Ledra Checkpoints. “This is a very important day for Cyprus. For many years, Cypriots were not able to move freely throughout the island. We hope that it will be followed by more good things and that it will contribute to reconciliation”, he said.

Press reports indicated that some 2,900 Turkish Cypriots and 1,750 Greek Cypriots made the crossing between 9:00 am and midnight on the first day. As Cypriots went cautiously back to the future.

The initial trickle quickly became a flow, spurred on by the coincidental incidence of the Greek Orthodox Easter holiday weekend with some 18,000 people passing through the Ledra Palace crossing point in one day.
Two Sectors - One Aim
Douglas Campbell profiles Sectors 1 and 4

Men on the line
by fax, and if there is a threat to the status quo, we report it to HQ in Nicosia. Every soldier is able to solve problems and they are real professionals. I am very proud to serve my country in this international mission. It's a very important mission and I intend to continue the good relationships with Argentina, with the other South American countries and with Cyprus too. Capt. Claudio, a jungle specialist and instructor, is engaged to Viviane Melo and the couple are planning their wedding. Addressing his fellow South Americans, he laughs: Yes, you are all invited - if she's still waiting for me when I get home!

At Patrol Base 25 in Sector 1, high in the Troodos mountains, one mongrel dog lies sleeping in a makeshift gymnasium. He's blind, and the best snake-shooter in Sector 1. When we go out running, the dog goes out with us, but 25, who got his name from our patrol base, gives us early warning of snakes. He runs over to where the snake is and points it out to us so we know to keep away. He's really useful to have around.

LT Hugo Daniel Yamanishi, whose father's family emigrated from Japan to Paraguay, adds: This is our little home up here. We have the gym where we work out and we rotate every 10 days so it's quite relaxing, but we still have our job to do and go out on patrol. It does get quite busy sometimes.

Argentinian Marines Capt. Gabriel Marin, 31, is a company commander based in a former box factory closer to the British sector. A single man and native of Rosario, Argentina's second-largest city, he has travelled, having visited many countries while training as a naval officer in a tall ship. His area of responsibility includes Mamma Mia village, a community of 1,500 Greek Cypriots in the buffer zone. Says Capt. Marin, who enjoys social activities and quizzes: We're right next to the British sector, and sometimes we combine our patrols or start and finish in each other's areas. It's very good teamwork. I got to Cyprus two weeks ago, but I was here a few years back when I was second-in-command of an area. Now I'm the commander of two areas so I'm growing - just getting older!
Baghdad to Larnaca (and back...)

Sonja Dumont of the United Nations Office of The Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq (UNOHCRI) was evacuated to Larnaca, Cyprus, along with more than 100 UN colleagues on 18 March, during the transition to war in Iraq.

Preparations were being made as the Blue Beret went to press to assess security on the ground before staff could return to Iraq and help the people who are so desperately in need of food, water, medicines and other essentials under a coordinated distribution system.

Ms. Dumont, 34, an information officer, is a Canadian national from Montreal. Her husband, Michel, is chief of operations for the UNOPS Mine Action Programme. Since leaving Iraq, they had been renting accommodation in Larnaca until it was deemed safe to return. The Adonis and Flamingo hotels in Larnaca are being used as a temporary base for UN staff.

Ms. Dumont gave the Blue Beret this personal perspective on the situation. I’ve been in Iraq for two years with the office and I was stationed in Erbil in the north of the country, where the Kurdish majority live. Staff working on the Oil-for-Food programme had an observational mandate in the centre and south, while in the north the nine UN agencies were implementing the programme.

I arrived here in Larnaca with the first group of inspectors to be evacuated. We were just five from the humanitarian agencies and the rest were inspectors. The bulk of our humanitarian workers left on the third flight with the Coordinator, Mr. Lopez da Silva. He was the last one to leave. We had 3,400 national staff left behind and our thoughts were with them as the situation evolved.

We watched the pictures on the TV like everyone else and we got more and more concerned as we saw events in the field and the chaos. The whole population of Iraq were a part of us; a part of our lives. Talk to anyone here and they will tell you the same thing: they are eager to go back. We are starting now to get more contact with our national staff, but the information is scattered. In the north, the situation is less intense.

Security staff have been assessing the overall situation in the north and have agreed to the return of the first UN inter-agency team, depending on a safe passage. There is an ongoing dialogue but at the same time, things are still happening on the ground. We have 200 people working here in the coordination office in the Adonis and Flamingo hotels. We had to take out furniture and organise computers, but the procurement system kicked in. We have four or five people working in one office but it is a little more organised now. We are coordinating with regional centres and groups in Jordan, Turkey, Syria and other regional centres.

We know what we are doing, the preparation has taken place and we are ready. We want to be impartial and fair in the distribution of aid. You cannot deliver when there is chaos and lawlessness, looting and hospitals being ransacked. The Geneva Convention is clear on this.

[Editor’s Note: Since giving this interview, Ms. Dumont has returned to Iraq.] CD

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UNFICYP Wedding

Sgt. Lee Crawford tied the knot on Friday 11 April when he married Sarah Hunt in Paphos. Lee, who is on a 2% year posting with Ops Branch at HQ UNFICYP, arrived from Abingdon last October. Sarah, who comes from Bedford, was working for Lloyds TSB before arriving in Cyprus early in April.

For the occasion, Lee wore his blues (No. 1 dress) and Sarah looked lovely in a long ivory wedding gown. The couple were wed in St. George’s Chapel located in the grounds of the St. George’s Hotel in Paphos. They chose Paphos because their first proper home will be in Cyprus, and it seemed the nicest place to wed. Lee says: We chose Cyprus because we come from different parts of the UK and it was one way for all our family and friends to get together for the wedding and enjoy a little holiday as well. For the ceremony, about 15 members from both sides of the family flew out from the UK and from UNFICYP. The honeymoon was spent in Rome and Paphos.

The couple have known each other for two and a half years, and Lee has been away for over half that time on operational tours in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Cyprus. Sarah’s father was in the forces too, so she knows what life will be like married to a soldier. Sarah says: It was a wonderful day. We are very lucky to be starting our married life in Cyprus.

A Special Day in Varisha

As 28 April dawned, the focus of attention was the day’s event in the village of Varisha, some 800 metres southeast of OP 11. Soldiers from ATF 21 had been appointed to mount the escort several days earlier and now everything was ready. All that was required was for the officer in charge to give marching orders to the convoy of five vehicles waiting to leave San Martin Camp.

After an hour-and-a-half on a hard, zigzagging road, the Agios Georgios church tower bell boomed 800 metres above the beautiful old mountain village in the buffer zone. Greek Cypriots have been coming here on pilgrimage from Limassol since 1999.

At about 08:00 hours, the first buses started to arrive, escorted by UN vehicles from the temporary checkpoint 1,000 metres away from the church. It was a poignant moment when the pilgrims caught their first glimpse of their former home.

For those of us privileged to be there, it was gratifying and rewarding to be present at that moment in the service of the people, in the service of UNFICYP.
Kantara Castle is located on one of the last peaks at the eastern end of the Kyrenia Mountains, at a height of 630 metres. Its name probably comes from an Arabic word, qantara, meaning “bridge” or “arch”, which may have originated with Arab invaders or perhaps the Maronites from Lebanon who are said to have had settlements in this part of the island.

Indeed, the castle’s setting resembles an arch, and it commands a breathtaking view of the Mediterranean Sea, the eastern reaches of the Mesaoria Plain, and the Karpaz Peninsula extending like a finger, pointing to the northeast. It’s widely believed that the castle was built in Byzantine times, 200 years before Richard the Lionheart took possession of Cyprus in 1191. In the 10th century, Kantara would have served as an observation post, keeping watch over the movements of the Seljuk Turks from the opposite coast.

Some historians dispute this, however, dating the castle’s origins to the first years of the Lusignan (Frankish) rule, around 1192, when Kantara begins to appear in the written records of that time. What is certain is that the Lusignan kings improved Kantara, recognising that the steep cliffs around it offered a natural protection from attack, and that its lofty position afforded views of any enemy approaching from either sea or land.

One story from this period comes from a witness of the third crusade, saying that after the Battle of Tremithousa, Duke Isaac Commenos, chased by Richard the Lionheart, found refuge at the castle. After Kyrenia Castle, on the northern coast, surrendered to Guy de Lusignan (Richard’s representative), Isaac left Kantara, and surrendered himself to the Lusignans. In this chronicle, the castle is mentioned as Candasia or Candaria.

During the Lusignan period, at the beginning of the Lombardic War, supporters of the German Emperor Frederick II managed to capture Kantara. After Frederick’s troops were defeated by Regent John d’Ibelin’s army at the Battle of Nicosia on 14 July 1229, one of the leaders – Gauvain de Cheminchy – took refuge at Kantara. D’Ibelin’s army besieged the castle under the leadership of Anseau de Briv, but the thick walls and strategic position proved a difficult challenge. Only after de Cheminchy’s death did the castle surrender, in the summer of 1230 – although it changed hands back to Frederick’s supporters, and back again to d’Ibelin, several years later.

The castle’s key place in history continues in later centuries. During the Genoese occupation of Famagusta, which lasted almost a century (1374 to 1464), the castle of Kantara appears to have served as a strategic position for the Lusignans to defend against the Genoese attacks inland, remaining in the hands of the supporters of King Peter II. This era saw Kantara once again providing safe refuge, this time for the Regent John of Antioch, when he was smuggled out of the Famagusta prison to which the Genoese had sent him, and brought to Kantara. In 1391, James I (Peter II’s uncle and successor) reinforced Kantara by adding its outer wall.

During the early Venetian period (1489 to 1571), the castle was guarded by a company of Italian soldiers detached from the garrison of Famagusta. After 1523, however, hampered by a lack of manpower to guard the castle, Italian engineers judged Kantara to be of no further use, and it was partially dismantled and abandoned to the elements.

The site of an ancient monastery dedicated to the Kattariotissa Virgin lies a short distance from the castle. In the 13th century, the monastery was the Orthodox Church’s centre of resistance to the Latin clergy.

**Nearby**

The Blue Beret
On top of a hill, in the middle of the buffer zone, south east of Camp Saint Istvan in Athienou, there is a small isolated patrol base called the Hard Rock Cafe. Where that nickname derives from no one knows! Maybe it’s because it is situated on a hard rock? Or maybe it’s because its inhabitants have made it into a nice, cozy cafe, always ready to offer a visitor a cup of coffee and engaging small talk.

Six men live there side by side, day in, day out. They patrol, they observe, they are standby in the 2nd Platoon 1st Coy area of responsibility, and when that is done, they hang out together, as a close family, working, resting, eating, and often making jokes with each other. As SSgt. Tamás Csentes, PB leader, says: There is a very strong bond between us!

When the soldiers are not out patrolling, they are busy with their hobby - collecting old motor vehicles in the buffer zone. They have jokingly named their base as the heaviest base in 1st Coy. It’s also one of the more pleasant ones, with a year-round breeze, even during the hottest months, giving PB 114 another nickname: Base of the Everlasting Wind.

There is one member of the team not yet mentioned. Burkus, the watch dog, is responsible for guarding and securing the area. She is the oldest member of the PB, and is always there to greet and bid farewell during rotations.

Yes, life in PB 114 is not all that bad!

During April and early May 2003, the new crossing points opened along the BZ led to a significantly increased workload for UNFICYP. Ledra- and Pyla-based UNCIVPOL members were especially hard-pressed. So it was with regret and after much deliberation that Ch. Supt. Basil Walsh, Commander UNCIVPOL, decided that the UNCIVPOL Medal Parade had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, it was also decided that if operational priorities permitted, a less formal Medal Presentation would take place.

On 8 May, available UNCIVPOL members and their families, assembled outside UNFICYP HQ, where the Chief of Mission presented UN medals and numerals to 15 AUSTCIVPOL and 11 IRCIVPOL members. All were disappointed that the Medal Parade had to be cancelled, but felt, under the circumstances, that the Medal Presentation was an appropriate substitution. Others welcomed the large turnout of spouses, partners, and young children, saying that the historic circumstances on the island made the presentation perhaps even more memorable.

When in Italy last year, I purchased a painting from a little gallery in Florence. When I got it home I took it to a gallery downtown and asked the owner what she thought of it. She said: The good news is it’s a genuine Pandino, from his Venice period. I was ecstatic. The bad news is that Pandino was a plumber. But as the old cliché goes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and beauty, style, class and a whole lot more were in abundant display on 14 May at St. Michael’s School UNPA when the students of the UN art workshop exhibited their creations for all to see.

Many were showing their work for the first time and all must be congratulated for the quality and diversity of painting on display. Works ranged from horses in oils, to lilies in pastels, charcoal drawings of churches, old men looking pasty in pastels, frogs climbing trees, apples, flowers and abstract shapes and colours. Picasso would have been proud of them.

The evening started with a reception hosted by Marian Ingruber, tutor and mentor, who guided the students through months of hard work from furrowed brow frustration to raptures of delight on being told when shyly showing their work to a loved one: It’s fantastic, get it framed and hang it on the wall! Oh the joy when it all comes together.

The very large attendance included the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang. The Irish Ambassador, Mr. John Swift, was also present to support his wife, Jean, who was one of the exhibitors.

The very appreciative students presented Marian with a bouquet of flowers. In return, she thanked all for attending and, in particular, John and Sheila Hunt for their support in helping to keep the art classes thriving within the UNPA.

Anyone interested in participating in the Art workshop can contact Marian at 99-584104.
F
ollowing UNFICYP's air crash exercise which took place in the UNPA on 7 March this year, Sector 4 decided to hold a similar exercise in the AOR of 1st Coy close to PB 101. The event was planned and coordinated by the Ops Asst. and Air Liaison Officer, Maj. Endor Hegedus, to test the ability of Sector 4 personnel in an air crash situation.

The scenario was as follows: a helicopter crash occurred in the vicinity of PB 101. This was immediately reported to the JOC, and the local medical and fire teams were called to the scene. Simultaneously, members of PB 101 began fighting the fire.

Meanwhile an Incident Control Point (ICP) had been set up and the area secured by two checkpoints.

The trapped crew were gradually eased out of the helicopter and first aid was provided.

The fire team brought the area under control, and the Sector 4 Medical Officer and his team attended the injured. The casualties were evacuated from the crash scene by a Bell 212 UN Flight helicopter and by ambulance.

Although this exercise may sound easy and straightforward, it definitely isn't! It is vital that such training takes place, ideally on a regular basis.

This exercise provided an excellent opportunity for all personnel involved to experience an emergency situation and learn how to deal with it accordingly.

Green Line – Virtual Reality

I hear the British High Commission I would be happy to give the kids a talk about the Green line and the history of Cyprus. So here I was on 7 March, welcoming a group of 15 eight-year-olds from Highgate Primary School at the gates of Sector 2 HQ at Wolseley Barracks, and wondering what I had let myself in for!

After they had settled down in the briefing room I launched headlong into my tried and trusted presentation on the history of Cyprus and a short chronology of the war in 1974, though slightly simplified, (mainly for my benefit!!). I sensed that the attention span of a group of pre-teens might not last as long as my usual presentation demanded and quickly switched to my electronic version of the Green Line Virtual Reality Tour.

The photographs of the old streets and lanes of the Green Line, seemed to raise their interest level to a point where there was a great deal of audience participation, especially when it came to the minefields within the old city.

After the presentation, we all marched smartly over to Ledra Palace Hotel (LPH) in military fashion, climbed the four long flights of stairs and eventually came out into the sunshine on the roof of LPH. This was the closest they would come to actually seeing the situation at first hand, and the questions came thick and fast. All the kids seemed to enjoy the unusual school trip departing Sector 2 with waves and very smart salutes!
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the Finnish Contingent is one of the oldest in UNFICYP. Over 10,000 Finns have served with the Force since the mission was set up in 1964. Currently there are three Finns based in the UNPA.

Maj. Jussi Hokkanen, the outgoing LO TF, who has been with UNFICYP for the last year, is now saying goodbye and handing over to Lt. Col. John Laukka. John comes from his posting as CO of the Hame Cavalry Battalion in the Hame Regiment in Lahti in south Finland (a town famous for skiing and winter competitions). John has been with the Finnish Army since 1974. He joined as a conscript, attended the officers cadet school and became a lieutenant in 1978. John has previous service with the UN, serving as a Military Observer with UNTSO in OUGD (Damascus) from 1995-96. John’s wife Ritva joined him in Cyprus on 16 April and will stay for the whole year. Tony and Jani, their twin sons (21), are currently conscripts and will come for holidays. John says: I’m looking forward to working with all the people in UNFICYP. I think I am the luckiest Finn to have been selected to replace Jussi. There are many people who would have liked this post, but, as they say in Finland, I won the lottery.

Jussi says: I’ve had a great time with UNFICYP, and I hope John gets the same support and encouragement I received during my tour. I wish all the best to UNFICYP and my colleagues.

Pekka Riekko, the Camp Commandant, is the second Finn in UNFICYP and is well-known to everyone. Pekka enlisted in 1977 as a conscript and has been in the army since then. He arrives from the Personnel Office of Western Command Headquarters in Heinola in the south of Finland. Pekka is responsible for 1,220 officers (nomination, promotions, salaries, task demands, retirement, etc) and the Camp Command has had to deal with all the flooding and concurrent problems in the UNPA. I’m now waiting for the summer season to arrive so that I can have a taste of nice, hot weather.

The third member of the Finnish Contingent is Capt. Marko I. lieteri, the UNFICYP Force Signals Officer. Marko comes to UNFICYP from Kainu Brigade in northern Finland where he served as Staff Officer of the Signal Battalion.

Marko works with the Sector Signals Officers who channel signal requests through him. He is directly responsible to the Chief Operations Officer and the Chief of the Electronic Services.


Marko attended a UN staff officers course (UNSOC II) in Sweden last year. He enjoyed the course and found it very instructive. But this is Marko’s first UN mission and he has already found out that every mission works in its own way. The UN system took some getting used to, but now I feel quite comfortable. The UNFICYP team is great and it has a good atmosphere.

Only a few decades ago, when midwives and hospitals were rare in Finland, babies were born in saunas. There was plenty of hot water available and the bench was a good place to lie down on and give birth.

During wartime, the Finns built saunas for their soldiers in the front line of battle to keep their morale high. And when the army retreated, it not only carried its dead back with it but its saunas as well.

In even earlier times, when Finnish settlers moved into new territory, the first thing they built was not a cabin for themselves and their families but a sauna, and they lived in it until a real home was erected. Saunas were also used for brewing beer, curing and smoking meat, washing clothes and laying out the dead.

Today, however, it is the therapeutic effects of saunas that are capitalized on in spas the world over. Stepping into a steam room with a temperature of 100 degrees Celsius (the boiling point of water) to perspire for 15 minutes seems almost masochistic to somebody who hasn’t tried it, but those who have insist it has a wonderful therapeutic effect. Your skin feels fresh after a sauna and for days afterwards it feels as soft as a baby’s, one Scandinavian woman said.

Then there is the social side of it: it’s great once you get over the fact that everyone sitting around you is naked, you can relax and enjoy yourself. Wives tend to use it as a therapeutic time for themselves to socialize with their girlfriends and catch up on the latest news.

On the other hand, men in Scandinavian countries, and especially in Finland, use it as an informal business meeting area where deals can be clinched.

Newly arrived Lt. Col. John Laukka says he would like to bring a flavour of Finland to UNFICYP. The last thing I did before leaving Finland and the first thing I did when I arrived in Cyprus was to have a sauna. It’s the perfect place to relax and discuss business!
ANZAC Day - The Dawn Service

Each year on 25 April, Australians and New Zealanders pause to remember their countrymen and women who have fought in all wars and conflicts. They honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in battle, and they honour the memory of those who served. Although Australia and New Zealand also recognize 11 November, Remembrance Day, for many Australians and New Zealanders ANZAC Day is one of their days of greatest respect.

In 1914, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was formed, quickly becoming more familiarly known as the ANZACs. Their first taste of battle was the landing at Gallipoli in Turkey in the dawn hours of 25 April 1915. The difficult terrain and strong defensive positions of the enemy saw the ANZACs suffer terrible losses. In eight months of fighting, the ANZACs were able to advance little more than one kilometre.

The ANZACs continued to serve with distinction in the 1914-1918 war and during those years, almost one in five young ANZAC men and women died in the service of their country. Over 78,000 ANZACs died in battle during World War I.

The ANZAC tradition has continued and Australian and New Zealand defence forces have served in World War II, Korea, Malaya/Indonesia, Vietnam, and the 1991 and 2003 conflicts in the Gulf region.

The meaning of ANZAC to many Australians and New Zealanders was probably best described in December 1997, when the then Governor-General of Australia, Sir William Deane, gave the eulogy at the State funeral of Ted Mathews, whose death marked the passing of the last Australian ANZAC to have landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

Sir William said of ANZAC:

"It is about the spirit, the depth, the meaning, the very essence of our nation. And it is about sadness and grief for young lives cut short and dreams left unfulfilled. And the horror and carnage of war.

ANZAC is also about courage, and endurance, and duty, and mateship, and good humour, and the survival of a sense of self-worth; the sum of those human and national values which our pioneers found in the raw bush of a new world and tested in the old world for the first time at Gallipoli."

In Cyprus this year, AUSTRVICPOL, their families and invited guests, came together in darkness at 5:00 am at Wayne’s Keep Cemetery in Sector 2 West. The light drizzling rain, although uncomfortable, was a reminder of the harsh conditions that the ANZACs struggled with 88 years before.

In the gathering light of dawn, BRITCON Padre, Rev. Lee Gandy, conducted a moving service. There is no doubt that this service was watched from nearby posts by TF members. They may not have been aware of the words of Kemal Ataturk, etched in stone on the ANZAC Memorial at Gallipoli:

To mothers who have sent their sons to war from distant lands:
Shed no tears. Your sons are now in our hearts.
Calm and serene, they will sleep in repose and tranquility.
In losing their lives on our soil,
They have become our sons as well.