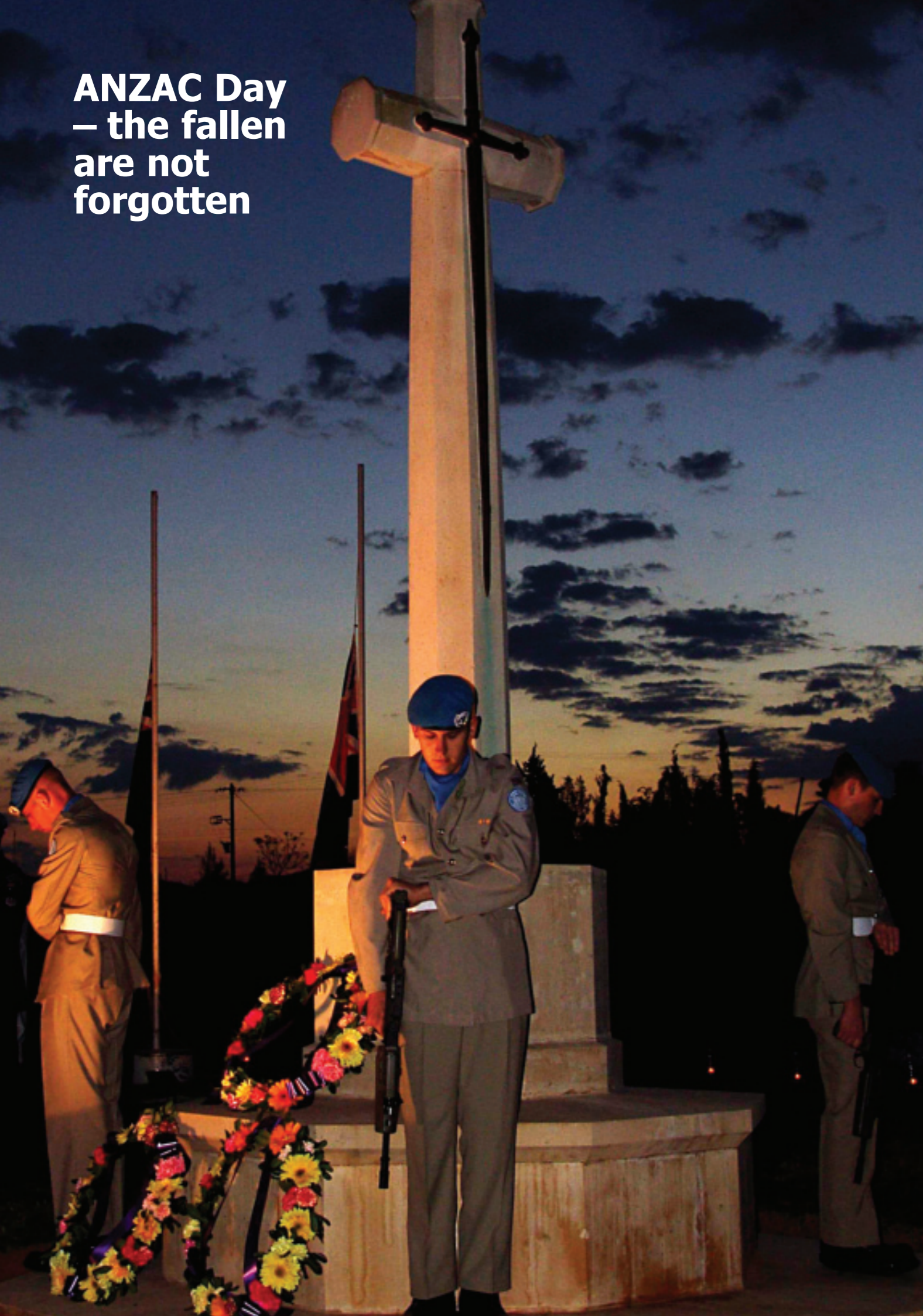


**ANZAC Day
– the fallen
are not
forgotten**



**The Blue Beret
May 2005**



**Irish military
bid farewell
to UNFICYP**

THE BLUE BERET

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International Day of UN Peacekeepers, 29 May, honours the sacrifice of UN peacekeepers from many lands who have laid down their lives in the service of peace. As the Secretary-General says, it is a day we rededicate ourselves to the noble calling of peacekeeping.

During 2004, 115 colleagues were killed in the service of peace and already in 2005, another 39 have made the ultimate sacrifice, including nine Bangladeshi soldiers brutally murdered in February in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the worst single attack on peacekeepers in over a decade. With sadness and pride, we pay tribute to each and every one of our fallen colleagues.

Today, more than 66,000 uniformed personnel and almost 15,000 civilians serve the cause of peace in 17 peacekeeping operations around the globe. More missions are currently deployed than ever before.

While successes in UN peacekeeping often do not receive the attention they deserve, failings are widely, and justifiably, publicized. Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by individuals serving in several missions have damaged lives, threatened security and tarnished the reputation of UN peacekeeping. The SG has proposed sweeping changes to prevent misconduct and enforce UN standards of conduct. Some important reforms have already been implemented, but more must follow, as the UN works to stamp out such abuse.

Peacekeepers' Day is also an occasion to acknowledge the 103 Member States who contribute uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping.

UN peacekeepers work every day to give practical meaning to the words of the Charter "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". On this day, we honour all who have served, and serve today, in the front line.

Editorial

One Flag Less – End of an UNFICYP Era

The Irish Defence Forces ended 41 years of peacekeeping service in Cyprus on 24 May 2005 with a well attended sunset flag-lowering ceremony near the old International Airport in the UNPA. The brief but poignant ceremony concluded when Lt. Col. Paul Quirke, the last serving member of the Irish military contingent, presented the flag to Ireland's Ambassador to Cyprus, H.E. Mr. John Swift.

Lt. Col. Quirke's first exposure to peacekeeping service was as a young lieutenant in 1966 when he arrived in Cyprus with one of the very early rotations of Irish military personnel to serve with UNFICYP. One of his comrades in arms from that initial tour, Brig. Gen. Fred Swords of the Irish Defence Forces, travelled specially from Dublin to attend the ceremony, bringing the Irish military presence in UNFICYP to an end.

In his remarks, Lt. Col. Quirke remembered how he arrived on the island as a 21-year-old, landing at the International Airport, just across from the site of the closing ceremony, before deploying out to the west where he and his troops lived under canvas for the duration of that initial tour. In the days before internet and mobile phones, it was indeed a long way from Tipperary and home, he recalled.

Ambassador Swift and UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli each paid tribute to the Irish peacekeepers who had served the mission so well down the years.

After the singing of the Irish national anthem and salute, Lt. Col. Quirke stepped forward to lower the flag. Members of the Irish civilian police contingent joined in alongside to assist him while the island's Irish musical stalwart Dr. Irene Cotter played the harp and sang, with Indian civilian police member Insp. Krishna T.P. Balan accompanying her on the violin.

If many an eye glistened at the going down of the flag, there was applause and more tears when Lt. Col. Quirke subsequently presented his wife Noreen with a bouquet of flowers in thanks for her years of support at the family helm during his nine overseas peacekeeping stints.

From 1964 until 24 May 2005, 9,540 Irish peacekeepers have served with UNFICYP. Seven died while on service with the mission. Two, Maj. Gen. J. Quinn (1976-81) and Maj. Gen. M. Minehane (1992-94), have served as UNFICYP Force Commanders.

The Irish presence continues in UNFICYP with 18 members of the Irish Police (Garda Síochána) currently serving as members of the peacekeeping mission's civilian police component. There are also four Irish nationals on the mission's civilian staff.



Above: The lowering and folding of the flag before handover to the Irish Ambassador

Below: Lt. Col. Paul Quirke with his Irish police escort!



Left: Flowers and a hug!

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EU Visitors on the Green Line



European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn and, representing the EU Presidency, Nicolas Schmit, Luxembourg's Minister Delegate of Foreign Affairs, visited Cyprus 12-13 May.

In the course of their stay, they and their delegations stopped off at Ledra Palace Hotel, where Chief of Mission, SRSZ Zbigniew Wlosowicz, briefed them about UNFICYP's activities, prior to escorting them on a short tour of the Green Line.

While at Ledra, the visitors were also briefed on progress to date on the EU-funded PFF/UNDP demining project by Head of the EU Representation in Cyprus, Ambassador Adriaan van der Meer, with help from UNFICYP demining project manager Mick Raine.

Because of time constraints, Commissioner Rehn, Minister Schmit and their delegations had to curtail their Green Line tour to a hurried 30 minutes. Nonetheless, thanks to the adaptability of Sector 2's "Rapid Reaction Green Line Tour Force", they were able to experience first-hand the area designated for the Ledra crossing and to see for themselves the support structures (as in photo upper left) put in place to shore up several buildings otherwise in danger of collapse.



Chief of Mission with Commissioner Olli Rehn and Minister Schmit to his immediate right.



The Chief of Mission also took his distinguished guests to the rooftops so that they could get a bird's eye view of the Green Line and its surrounds in the old town of Nicosia.



Peacekeeping Tribute



On 13 May, Luxembourg's Minister Delegate of Foreign Affairs Nicolas Schmit was received with Honour Guard at UNFICYP headquarters before proceeding to the globe outside the MFR where he laid a wreath in memory of UNFICYP's fallen peacekeepers.

He is seen in the photo above with UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli. The Chief of Mission, plus senior UNFICYP officials and members of the Luxembourg delegation, also attended.

Bicommunal Information Centre Opens



The opening of a Bi-communal Information Centre took place on 13 May at the front of the Ledra Palace Hotel alongside the crossing. The event, hosted by US Ambassador H.E. Mr. Michael Klosson, marked the first time that Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot experts, working together under the auspices of the Nicosia Master Plan (NMP), have jointly planned and implemented such an ambitious project. The centre will also be co-managed by both communities.

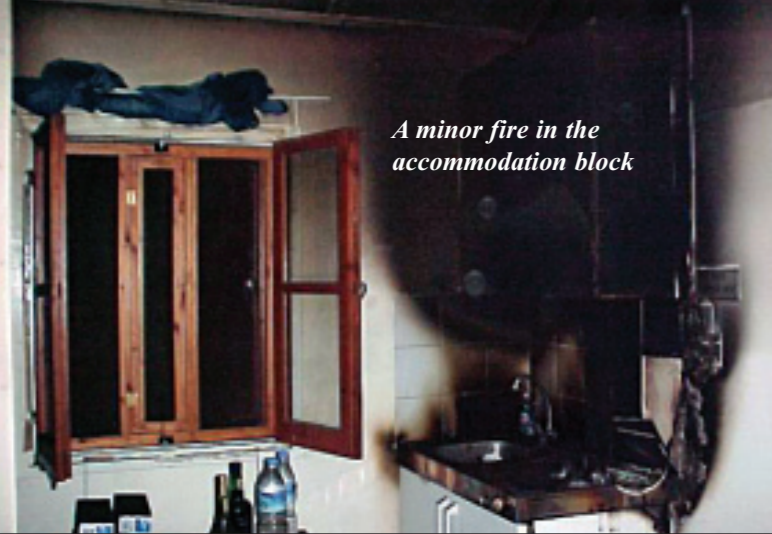
The aim of the Information Centre is to raise public awareness of the achievements of the NMP. For the past two decades, the NMP has served as a truly bi-communal framework that has guided the process of conservation and rehabilitation in the Walled City. This Information Centre in the heart of Nicosia will inform Cypriots on the overall role of the Nicosia Master Plan, and will hopefully encourage greater public engagement in the efforts for the development of the area.

UN Review Team visits UNFICYP



A review team from UN headquarters visited UNFICYP from 6 to 12 May to study the result of the mission's downsizing.

The four officials, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Acting Director, Europe and Latin America Divisions, Office of Operations, DPKO, Mr. Oseloka Obaze, DPA, Ms. Grethe Stornes, Civilian Police Division, DPKO, and Lt. Col. Michio Suda, Military Adviser's Office, DPKO, met with UNFICYP senior staff who accompanied them on a buffer zone inspection of Sectors 1, 2 and 4. Photos show them in Sector 1's stretch of the line on 7 May.



A minor fire in the accommodation block

FIRE! This is probably the most frightening alarm you could ever experience. Yet as we all know, the best way to ensure that you only hear this word during a drill is, of course, prevention.

On 5 May 2005, the UNFICYP Fire Crew had to deal with a fire emergency in one of the UNPA accommodation units. The fire was started by a short-circuited electric kettle which had not been turned off from the wall socket and had over-heated. A simple thing to overlook, yet this could have caused a catastrophe. As it happened, there was no casualty and damage to property was limited. Nevertheless, incidents like this should serve as a reminder to all UNFICYP personnel about the dangers of fire.

Action to take in case of fire:

In case of fire involving any electric equipment, the following steps should be taken.

- If safe to do so, cut off the main electric supply/switch.
- Call the fire crew on 22-61-4777 and evacuate the building.
- If it is safe to do so, fight the fire with carbon dioxide (CO₂), or dry powder fire extinguishers. Never use water or foam on live electrical fires.
- If there is a fuel leak, cover the area with foam/fire blanket. Care should be taken when electricity is involved (see a. above).
- If a fire does start, DO NOT move the equipment involved in the fire unless it is essential for safety reasons. Always wait for the investigation to be completed.

Last but not least, we should all remember that

ALL FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED.

For more information about fire safety, please read the UNFICYP Fire Standing Orders on L-drive-Library, or simply call the Fire HQ on Ext. 4453/4454.

Hazards – And How to Deal With Them

Be sure to check:

- * All your electrical appliances and fixtures at least once a month. Simple works services/repairs can prevent fires, saving lives and money.
- * Before leaving your place of work or accommodation that all lights, fires and cigarettes (in smoking areas) are extinguished and all non-essential electrical appliances are unplugged.
- * Your electric equipment is turned off from the electric supply (wall socket), especially air conditioners at this time of the year.

Summer fires and earthquake safety instructions have been sent to each sector, section and unit. Read them carefully.

- * Your area of responsibility to ensure that no combustible materials are left exposed to the elements.
- * Your fire/smoke alarms in all accommodation are fitted on to the ceiling with a cover. The working power of fire/smoke alarm sensors fitted on walls, behind ceiling fans or without a cover can be reduced by up to 50%.
- * There are no two-pin unearthed plugs in three-pin sockets. Ensure that two-pin plugs are used only with an adapter in three-pin wall sockets.



HQ senior staff being briefed on fire prevention by Senior Fire Officer Paul Nadeem

- * There are no extension leads of computer equipment on the floors or tables of offices or living accommodation. Works orders may be submitted to provide more wall sockets or to secure these extensions along the wall in order to avoid stepping on or tripping over, especially when cleaning the areas.
- * All fire safety posters are up-to-date with emergency telephone numbers: 22-61-4777.
- * Your main electric isolation switch is clearly visible on a white board with red letters.

And remember –

smoking is only permitted in designated areas.

Liquified Petroleum Gas – LPG

April 8th was a busy day for the Fire Crew at HQ UNFICYP. The Engineering Section/Fire HQ received an emergency call from UNFICYP's Engineering Section regarding an incident involving the delivery of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). A delivery truck had been travelling along the Nicosia Airport runway when one of the gas bottles loaded accidentally fell to the ground, breaking all connections and causing a massive gas leak in the area. The Fire Crew was immediately called to the scene. It was one of the most hazardous tasks for the Fire Crew to bring under control with lives at risk. It took just over two hours to declare the area safe again.

Incidents like this serve as an example to us all to be aware of potential hazards of LPG. LPG is used in our everyday life for lighting stoves and barbecues. LPG-fuelled small space heaters are also widely used during winter months.

**Remember:
Treat LPG
with respect!**

LPG belongs to the Aliphatic Hydro-carbon chemical family. Gas will leak from any joint or connection that is not properly

sealed. Since LPG is stored in two phases, liquid and gaseous, there is potential for either a liquid leak or a gas leak. In its pure form, both are colourless and odourless. However, to help identify a gas leakage, an odour has been added to the gas so that any inadvertent release or a significant volume will be noticeable.

When a liquid LPG leak occurs, the release will be seen as a patch of ice around the area of the leak, or as a jet of white liquid. This white appearance is due to the cooling effect created by the rapid expansion of the LPG liquid into a gas. The condensing atmospheric moisture makes the leak visible. Since LPG is stored under pressure it is heavier than air so, should any significant leak occur, gravity will draw

the gas downward, leaving it to accumulate in the low-lying areas such as depressions in the ground, in drains or pits.

It is therefore extremely important that the properties and safe handling of LPG are understood and applied in domestic and commercial/industrial situations. You can use LPG safely if you apply simple safety rules:

- Choose an LPG supplier who can provide you with well-maintained LPG cylinders, and after-sales support.
- Always close the cylinder or tank valves after use.
- Use a child-safe regulator on the LPG cylinder for domestic use.
- Always use LPG appliances and other gas equipment that meet EU safety standards.
- Always use LPG rubber tubes that have an ISI mark.
- Never check for gas leaks using a lit match. Always use a solution of soapy water and look for bubbles coming from around valves and pipe joints. These bubbles indicate a gas leak.
- Replace the LPG cylinder hose on a regular basis (recommended every two years), and immediately replace worn or damaged hoses with a new hose and clamps.
- Stand the cylinder upright and make sure that any hose connection between the cylinder and the appliance does not come into contact with or near the gas burner.

What to do if you smell or find a gas leak:

- Turn off the gas supply valve from the cylinder/tank.
- If safe, turn off the appliance.
- If safe, turn off or remove any other source of ignition.
- Ventilate the room by opening doors and windows.
- Leave the house or apartment, and advise your neighbours.
- Call the Fire Service 22-61-4777 (UN), 199/112 (South), 199 (North).

HAZMAT Training

From 18-22 April, the UNPA was the setting for a week of intensive hazardous materials response training, provided by the staff of United Nations Monitoring Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). Two top experts, Harald Marhold and Peter Mohr, arrived on island to introduce UN staff to the complex and dangerous world of hazardous materials. UNFICYP was fortunate to have received permission from Mr. Demetrius Perricos, the Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, to include some of our staff on this specialized training. Staff from General Services (Angela Aloneftou from R&I), UNCIVPOL (Niamh Brennan and Dennis Sweeney), MFR (LBdr. Paul Fry), FMPU (WO2 Jon Moss) and Fire Officer (Paul Qadir Nadeem) joined UNMOVIC staff (Stjephan Kovacevic and Anastasi George Strouthou) for a week of theoretical and practical training, culminating in a simulated Hazmat accident.

UNFICYP had a suspicious mail incident when the Good Offices were in operation in 2003, a time when anthrax attacks were in the news. Since that incident, appropriate plans have been put in place to deal with this type of threat. Now UNMOVIC expertise provided the students with an extraordinary opportunity to learn new skills from the experts, whose knowledge and experiences made the training interesting and lively.

After several days of lessons and practical training, course participants became very adept at donning individual protective equipment. Whether assigned to reconnaissance teams, rescue teams, sampling teams or decontamination teams, all players learned the importance of teamwork and communication in potentially lethal environments. From an UNFICYP perspective, we were able to test the response mechanism initiated by the Joint Operations Centre; check the framework of "Confirm, Cordon, Clear and Control" in practice; MFR's speed of

deployment in establishing a cordon; the handover to FMPU of the "crime scene"; and in course, the initial response, survey, sampling and decontamination drills completed by the students on course. Some lessons were learned, and further needs identified in both training and equipment holdings that will provide all UN staff here in Cyprus with an enhanced response capability to these types of threats.

On behalf of all the students, we would like to thank UNMOVIC and Mr. Ted Lowndes for facilitating this training and for allowing UNFICYP staff to participate in the course. Special thanks are offered to Harald and Peter for sharing their experiences with us and making this training interesting and challenging. With the skills sets learned during this training, we are now better able to understand and react to the threats poised to UN staff from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

UNFICYP staff undergo rigorous theoretical and practical training

RW



Angela Aloneftou, R & I, and Dennis Sweeney, UNCIVPOL, examining possible hazardous material

**“At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We shall remember them”**

The other day, someone asked me: “Why do you Australians get up before dawn to commemorate a battle that went horribly wrong – where a battle was lost and so many died?” I replied, “It’s something we Australians and New Zealanders have been doing since the end of WW1, and I have been doing it just about all my adult life – to remember the heroic effort of our soldiers on that fateful April day.

“ANZAC” stands for Australian & New Zealand Army Corps and as we – the Australians and New Zealanders – were allied with the British at the outbreak of WW1. On the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey, 90 years ago in 1915, we fought alongside each other against the Turks, putting up one hell of a bloody fight. It was at dawn on 25 April that the ANZACs hit the beaches of Gallipoli. So like they did then, we get up before dawn to remember those who died serving our countries.

During the ANZAC service, a verse called Binyon’s Lines is read out. The last few lines of the verse are telling, “At the going down of the sun, And in the morning, we shall remember them.” And that’s precisely what this dawn ceremony is all about.

Remembering all who died fighting battles in wars in far away places was on my mind as I stood with my head bowed in “Wayne’s Keep” cemetery near Nicosia, Cyprus, on this Monday morning, 25 April 2005 at 5.15 am.

When we arrived at “Wayne’s Keep” at 5:00 am, we were greeted by two stately swordsmen from the First Regiment Royal Horse Artillery who flanked the gates to the cemetery. One hundred and fifty candles lit the way to the seating by the lectern. The only sounds were those of the dawn chorus and the soft music played by the band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons quintet.

The morning was slightly cool, with a gentle breeze blowing across the fields, promising a warm day ahead. We received representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Ireland and, of course, UNFICYP, bringing the size of the gathering to around 140 persons.

AUSCIVPOL Stn. Sgt. Graham Leary led the service as the master of ceremonies. Sgt. Leary, Australian Civpol Contingent Commander, is a veteran of three years UN service in Cyprus, with UNCIVPOL Deputy Commander Trevor Clarke.

Four troopers from First Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, under the command of their drill sergeant, formed the Catafalque (honour guard) around the Cross of Remembrance with the reverse rifles drill done with precision and perfection.

BRITCON Padre Lee Gandiya conducted a brief and moving service. Several guests joined him at the lectern,

including Deputy Commander Trevor Clarke, Sgt. Carolyn McPherson, Miss Claire Meadowcroft, Sgt. Christopher Woods and Sgt. Nathan Renwick. Each in turn recited poetry and prayers for the fallen.

As the Lord’s Prayer was recited, the Australian High Commissioner Mr. Garth Hunt along with the New Zealand Honorary Consul Mr. Tony Christodoulou laid a wreath. Wreaths were also placed by the British High Commissioner, Mr. Lyn Parker, and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNFICYP Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and by UNFICYP Acting Force Commander Lt. Col. G. Vignolo and UNCIVPOL Deputy Commander Trevor Clarke.

Bouquets of flowers were placed by the graves of the four fallen Australians and the lone New Zealander interned at Wayne’s Keep. The flower bearers were Mrs. Daphne Joblin, Mrs. Jan Selby, Mrs. Jan Clarke and Ms. Bernadette Flynn.

A Hussars and Light Dragoons bugler played The “Last Post” and Reveille and a piper from The First Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers played “Flowers of the Forest” as dawn broke and daylight came streaming across the cemetery. Now, for the first time, we could fully appreciate the care and dedication of the Wayne’s Keep groundskeepers, as the flowers and shrubs planted were in immaculate order.

The ANZAC service may have finished but there was more to come as guests headed to the UNFICYP International Cafeteria for breakfast. Coffee and tea were on hand, and a traditional splash of Bundy rum was added to a few cups.

The CIVPOL Club later hosted a “Two Up” game with bets placed on the outcome of two pennies being tossed in the air in the hope that a combination of heads or tails, odds or evens would play out. Morning morphed into the lunch hour, when a BBQ feast was served up with refreshments.

I’m sure all who attended would agree that it was a memorable day, a success directly attributable to those who helped organise the occasion.

I’m also sure that although spirits were high, the significance of this ANZAC day was not lost on a single participant, “...as we remembered them”.

Sgt. Charlie Kascan

MOLO Graduates!

For those in the know, congratulations! For all those still uninitiated, the Military Observer and Liaison Officer (MOLO) concept is an evolving one, the vision of which sees close cooperation, liaison and communication with the OPFORs at a new (regimental) level. Ultimately OPFORs will grow accustomed to the ever-present MOLOs, and it is hoped the higher level of communication and mediation will contribute greatly towards a solution to the Cyprus problem.

The recent MOLO course, held at St Michael's School, UNPA, is now a distant memory. The days spent orienteering around UNPA, navigating the busy streets of Nicosia and on the cross-country driving circuit are a thing of the past as we thrust on with "real world" issues. The 16 students all "graduated" from the course with a great sense of achievement. The course is intensive; 10 days of mixed theory and practical lessons focusing on meeting and negotiation techniques, patrol skills and production of supporting paperwork. The course finished with a three-day demanding exercise drawing all of the lessons together. However, the MOLO course is about much more than developing these essential skills.



MOLO graduates!

In addition, the course, tutored by senior UNFICYP personnel (both military and civilian), delivered an insight into Cyprus, the OPFORs and the MOLO role within it. Maj. Chris Frazer, KOSB and WO2 Elliott shaped, moulded and delivered a thoughtful and insightful course that provoked much interesting debate and topical discussion. It gave us all a great sense of purpose.

However, above all else, as the MOLO Mission prescribes, the MOLO concept relies upon the development of trusted relationships. This was reflected throughout the course. It was achieved directly with the OPFORs who attended the course on a rotational basis (a brilliant and highly beneficial idea); and indirectly within the Sectors, with Argentinians, British, Croatians, Hungarians and Slovaks joining forces to drive the MOLO concept forward.

Naturally, no course is perfect and requests have been made for such things as language training (Turkish and Greek) and tips on interview techniques. The incorporation can only improve an already successful course. The MOLOs produced by the course are potent "weapons". Sectors are advised to use them wisely!



Presentation of diplomas

Keep those Mosquitoes at Bay!

The Cyprus Anti-Malaria Control Programme is a bilateral agreement between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot health services to prevent the onset of malaria by spraying known mosquito breeding sites with insecticides over the whole island. There has been no malaria in Cyprus for over 50 years. Nevertheless there is a thriving mosquito population, particularly in areas rich in under and overgrowth. Within the buffer zone, there are 32 known mosquito breeding areas.

The Project Coordinator for the programme is Force Hygiene Officer Maj. Zsolt Fejes. He serves as the point of contact and liaison officer between the two health services and UNFICYP. In accordance with the Programme, treatment is carried out every two weeks by Greek and Turkish Cypriot civilian workers who are escorted on each occasion by UN patrols. The spraying and water treatment started in March 2005 and is scheduled to finish in December.

Although harmless most of the time, mosquito bites can be very uncomfortable causing itchiness and inflammation, and can sometimes become infected. Young children especially should be protected by the numerous

insect repellent sprays and creams available on the market. If out-of-doors at night, long sleeves should be worn, and netting over the bed also goes a long way to ensure a mosquito bite-free sleep.



UN patrols wait patiently while insecticides are scattered in the damp, humid undergrowth of the buffer zone.

Wayne's Keep Cemetery – 50 Years On

The 1st Battalion the South Staffordshire Regiment first served in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles in 1955, losing four soldiers in the first year of deployment.

This year was the 50th anniversary of the Regiment's first tour in Cyprus. To mark this event, 120 ex-servicemen and women, accompanied by family members, arrived on island for a commemoration service held on 3 April at Wayne's Keep Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. The four soldiers, Pte. S. Ingram, Pte. K. Hewitt, Pte. W. Asprey and Pte. R. Banks, are among 813 servicemen, women and civilians buried here.

Due to bad weather, the first half of the service was held inside St. Columba's Church. For the Last Post, the group moved to the cemetery and wreaths were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice by the Chairman of the Staffordshire Regiment Association, Mr. A.J. Bolas, the British Defence Attaché, Col. Tom Fitzallan-Howard, and CO Sector 2, Lt.

Col. Julian Free, 26 Regiment RA. Group members then laid wreaths on the individual graves of their fallen family members and comrades.

The bugler who played the Last Post was himself on duty with the Regiment in 1955, and brought with him the very same instrument he used when comrades were buried within Wayne's Keep cemetery during his tour.

After the wreath-laying, the group were hosted at the Ledra Palace for tea by the Sergeants' Mess. A fitting end to a memorable occasion.



50 years on – bugler and men stand to attention

Fine Fare and Equestrian Flair

The Commanding Officer, Officers and Warrant Officers of Sector 2 welcomed over 200 guests to the Sector 2 Cocktail Party on 10 May. For the first time, the traditional reception, marking the arrival of a new Regiment to the Sector, was held in the new Officers' Mess at the Ledra Palace Hotel.

As was only to be expected from the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, there was a touch of equestrian flair to the occasion. Arriving guests were greeted by gunners on horseback (photo left), before being escorted along metres of red carpet to the new Mess area where they were royally wined, dined and treated to a musical medley by members of the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons (photo right).



Sector 2 sergeants getting ready.....



..... for their guests

Visitors to Sector 1

Sector 1 as ever remains a popular stop-off for visiting senior officers from South America. The trend continued in April and May, with visits to the Sector by top naval and air force officers from Argentina and Chile.



Admiral Jorge Godoy, Argentinian Naval Chief of Staff, took the opportunity to pay a two-day visit to UNFICYP during an official tour of Europe.

The visit started on 24 April when Adm. Godoy arrived at Patrol Base 32. Later that day, Admiral Godoy presided over a parade at Camp San Martín, where he met with Argentinian troops, in particular navy personnel. The next day, Admiral Godoy visited HQ UNFICYP where he paid a courtesy call on Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz. He was then escorted on a heli tour of Sector 1.

At the end of his visit to Cyprus, Admiral Godoy departed for Rome, resuming his official visit.



Brigadier Wolfram Celedón Mecketh, Chilean Air Force, paid a brief visit to Cyprus on 10 May. On arrival at HQ UNFICYP, he inspected the Guard of Honour and then paid courtesy calls on Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli.

Accompanied by CO Sector 1 Lt. Col. Federico Sidders, Brig. Gen. Celedón, who also holds the post of Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Chile, visited Camp San Martín. There he met with Chilean personnel serving with Sector 1. He ended his tour with a visit to Patrol Base 18.



Brigadier Normando Costantino (Air Force), Director of Operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Argentina, arrived for an official visit to UNFICYP from 23 to 24 May.

Following an inspection of a Guard of Honour, Brig. Costantino met with the Force Commander, OC and 2IC MFR, CO UN Flight, and CO Sector 1. Later that day, Brig. Costantino attended a reception given by the Force Commander, met with Argentinian personnel working at HQ UNFICYP and the MFR and visited UN Flight.

On 24 May, Brig. Costantino travelled to Camp San Martín to meet his fellow countrymen in Sector 1.

Trevor Clarke – Movie Star!

It was a sad day for UNCIVPOL when we bade farewell to Trevor Clarke, seen here with his wife Jan (left) and UNCIVPOL Commander Carla Van Maris at the mug-out held in his honour on 29 April.

Trevor returns to Australia on retirement after over 30 years with the police service, having served the last 15 months with UNFICYP. Trevor served with the mission on two previous occasions.

His humour and wit will be sorely missed. Both were in evidence during the mug-out showing of an uproarious spoof documentary-style video compiled by Master Director Insp. Satwinder Lally showing highlights of Trevor's latest and last UNFICYP tour. Lally's loving profile showed Trevor in various guises (including a blue turban), a tribute to the cosmopolitan Aussie's cultural adaptability.

Trevor and Jan plan to tour Australia prior to settling in New South Wales. Trevor was presented with a Cypriot silver salver complete with moufflon engraving, a shining reminder of the island he loves.



Wedding Belle at the UNPA

After their first date 18 months ago, Sgt. Raymond Howe of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Tracey Blow, both from Sydney, decided to tie the knot on the island of Aphrodite. The two Australians chose Cyprus as an ideal and memorable wedding location that makes for a romantic story to tell friends and family ever after.

The couple met through mutual friends in the medical professional – Tracey is a nurse, and Raymond was a podiatrist before he had a “brainstorm” and joined the police force six years ago.

The wedding bells rang out on 25 May at the Town Hall in Nicosia. Then the couple had a marriage blessing in St. Columba's Church in the UNPA, conducted by Padre Lee Gandiya. A dinner, held in the evening for the newlyweds, was attended by many UNCIVPOL colleagues.

Back in Sydney, Raymond works in the intelligence stream within the AFP. Here in UNFICYP, he is one of the three-man UNCIVPOL team at the Famagusta Station, carrying out police liaison duties in the Karpas area.

The newlyweds had already enjoyed a pre-wedding honeymoon in Italy. Three days after their marriage, Tracey flew back to Sydney. Raymond will join her at the end of his tour in late summer 2005.



Sector 4 News



On 20 April, a group of Swedish veterans were welcomed at the main gate of Camp General Štefánik by Sector 4's Chief of Logistics Branch, Maj. Jozef Ševčík, and other Sector officers.

The visitors were given an operational brief by Maj. Ševčík and Capt. Révayova, providing the group with basic information on the living and working conditions of the Sector 4 soldiers. After answering questions about the camp's history, Maj. Ševčík conducted the group on a tour around the camp.



On 15 April, CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko, presented the Slovak Republic Defence Minister's peacekeeping service medals to soldiers who had served in Cyprus for six months and more. Numerals were presented to contingent members with more than 12 months' service on the island.

Return to Varisha

When the buffer zone was established in 1974, several areas had to be evacuated. One of these areas was the village of Varisha, 14 km from Camp San Martín in Sector 1.

Varisha is also the site of a small church consecrated to Saint George



(Agios Giorgios). It lies 200 metres to the south of the village. This is the destination of an annual pilgrimage to commemorate the saint's day.

Years ago, a security operation had to be mounted each year to control access into the BZ and avoid possible incidents. Nowadays, there is more stability in the area and as a consequence, the annual petition for pilgrims to attend a mass on 23 April at Varisha's Church is granted. Ensuring that the pilgrimage occurs without incident involves mounting a major support operation.

A large number of Sector 1 personnel took



part in this exercise with backup from UNCIVPOL, UN Flt and the MFR. The first pilgrims arrived at the southern limit checkpoint at 7.00 am. A total of 160 men, women and children finally made the pilgrimage. Among those present was Varisha's former priest, now aged 90.

After a very emotional and spiritually uplifting service, the pilgrims returned quietly to their homes.

SCAT Fund-Raising Event

Around 50 girls and their leaders from the Episkopi District had a wonderful time recently, thanks to a day especially organised for them by WO2 Micky Gibb of the UNFICYP Civil Affairs Office at headquarters.

Lifeguards kept some of the girls entertained with races and games in the pool whilst another group went out to a nearby field to play games. These were organised by one of the soldiers who happens to be a scout leader in the UK. Yet a third older group of Guides, accompanied their District Commissioner, Karen Pointen, across to the Fulbright Centre to sell toys at a Toy Fair. This proved to be a very popular event, if quite challenging in terms of money and language transactions. Not only were there people from both sides of the crossing point, but there was a fair mixture of tourists as well! After a while, the groups swapped over and took turns sampling a very tasty lunch at the poolside kiosk.

The reason behind the day was to say a big thank you to Guides, Brownies and Rainbows in both ESBA and WSBA for the toys they donated to charity at the New Year. The money raised at the Fair will be paid into UN funds and added to the sum of £1,000 which was donated last year by The Open Arms TPMH Cancer Patients Support Group. When enough money has been raised, it will be used purchase a minibus which will be leased to Cypriot cancer charities.

The first beneficiary will be "Help Those With Cancer", a cancer support group in northern Cyprus. The charity is in dire need of transport to ferry patients back and forth to oncology units in the south. The UN plans to buy the vehicle and be responsible for its maintenance.



As well as thanking the girls for their efforts, WO Gibb thanked Open Arms for the seed money to help start up the fund.

Francesca Pearson was there to receive a plaque from Mrs. Rassi Kocaismail of the "Help Those With Cancer Charity". SSgt. Lee Crawford came along to present a cheque in aid of "Help Those With Cancer" and to Rosie Charalambous from "Cans for Kids". This money was raised when he ran the buffer zone earlier this year.

Mrs. Norma Kinnear, Commissioner for Girl guiding Cyprus, was full of praise for the effort put in by Micky Gibb and his team of volunteers. Every eventuality was covered from first aid, drinking water (laid on at every point) and prizes and treats for the girls. All were delighted to receive blue UN hats as they left at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day. The adults accompanying them had a pretty good time too!

Seven New Members from India Join UNCIVPOL



Dep. Supt. Mahabir Prasad

Dep. Supt. Mahabir Prasad, who holds a BA degree, joined the Indian police service in 1972, working all over the country. In 1996-97, he served in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNMIBH) on a 15-month tour, and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 1997.

Dep. Supt. Mahabir, who joined UNFICYP in April 2005 for a one-year tour, is now attached to Dhenia sub station (Sector 1). His unit is responsible for patrolling the buffer zone, attending coffee shop meetings and assisting the demining operations in the area.



Dep. Supt. Mohammed Basheer

Dep. Supt. Mohammed Basheer has BA and LLB degrees. He joined the Indian police service in 1980 and worked in the CID in various departments. In 1999, he served a one-year tour in (UNMIK) Kosovo, and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 2000.

Dep. Supt. Basheer currently holds the position of Station Commander, UNCIVPOL Famagusta (Sector 4). Together with two Australian sergeants, he regularly participates in the weekly North Wind Patrol, as well as house visits and delivery of pensions to Greek Cypriot villages in the north, and hospital visits to enquire about the welfare of hospitalized Greek Cypriots.



Dep. Supt. Babu Kochukunju

Dep. Supt. Babu Kochukunju, MSc, joined the Indian police force in 1986, working initially in the Central Bureau of Investigation. During his service, he was mainly concerned with fraud, narcotics and anti-corruption cases. He was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent in 2003.

Dep. Supt. Kochukunju joined UNFICYP in February 2005 on a one-year tour, and holds the post of Civil Affairs Police Liaison Officer (CAPLO) at HQ UNFICYP. He is responsible for all liaison between Civil Affairs and the north/south police forces, liaison of hospital and prison visits, and on occasion participates in bicomunal events at the Ledra Palace.



Insp. Inamdar Murtuza

Insp. Inamdar Murtuza holds a law degree from Mumbai University. He joined the Indian police force in 1977 and has worked around the country in traffic control, the CID and crime prevention.

Insp. Murtuza joined UNFICYP in April 2005 on a one-year tour, and is posted to the Ledra Palace (Sector 2), where he is mainly concerned with patrolling the buffer zone, handling of buffer zone intruders, escort of prisoners' relatives and medevacs/casevacs.



Insp. Vijay Kumar Lalkota

Insp. Vijay Kumar Lalkota holds a BA and LLB degrees. He joined the police service in 1989, working in law and order, special branch and state intelligence departments. He was promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1984.

This is his first UN mission, having joined UNFICYP in February 2005 for a 12-month tour. He is attached to the Ledra Palace station where he deals with patrolling the buffer zone, escorting prisoners' relatives and medevacs/casevacs.



Insp. Dilip Dudhane

Insp. Dilip Dudhane, who holds a BA degree, joined the Indian police force in 1974, dealing first in traffic and crowd control, and Human Rights Commission matters. He was promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1989.

This is Insp. Dudhane's first UN mission. He has been posted to UNCIVPOL's Athienou police station (Sector 4). His team is responsible for patrolling the buffer zone, dealing with intruders/incursions into the buffer zone and monitoring farmers' passes in the buffer zone.



Insp. Sharma Sushma

Insp. Sharma Sushma, who holds BA and LLB degrees, joined the Indian police force in 1983 and worked initially in the CID and security. She was promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1993.

Insp. Sushma was the first Indian policewoman to serve in Bosnia-Herzegovina during 1996-97, where she completed a 15-month tour. She is also the first Indian policewoman to join UNFICYP. She arrived in April 2005 for a 12-month tour, and has been posted to the Ledra Palace Hotel, where her unit is responsible for patrolling the buffer zone, escorting prisoners' relatives across the buffer zone and medevacs/casevacs.