

# Blue Beret

December 1996



## HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION

As we approach the last days of 1996 and nations celebrate the traditions of Christmas and the New Year, it is customary to reflect upon the events of the past year and establish our priorities for the New Year's challenges.

Despite the frustrations and setbacks, UNFICYP has steadily developed into a sturdy and effective force, pursuing the most noble mission of all - the mission of peace.

I know how difficult your task is, and it may sometimes appear

impossible to accomplish. However, no one can dispute that your presence brings hope and stability to the people of Cyprus. It is with this aim in mind that we carry out our day-to-day tasks in a united and selfless fashion with the manifest desire to work together in the hope that soon, a peaceful solution will be found to the conflict on this island.

It is therefore with gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank you all for your personal sacrifices which are recognized and appreciated.



I wish you and your families a safe and merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

WISHING YOU A HOLIDAY  
THAT'S FILLED WITH JOY AND CHEER  
AND HOPING THAT IT IS FOLLOWED  
BY AN EXTRA HAPPY YEAR  
FROM ALL IN UNFICYP

Ich wünsche allen Soldaten des österreichisch-ungarischen Bataillons, den Soldaten des HQ-Elements und allen Soldaten von UNFICYP sowie den Familienangehörigen ein Frohes Weihnachtsfest und viel Glück im Neuen Jahr.

### CO Sector Four

Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepeket és boldog, sikereken gazdag, békés új évet kívánunk a ciprusiaknak és az UNFICYP-ben szolgálóknak!

### CO HUNCON

Fearrann an fuireann Eireannach beannachtai na Nollaig agus gach dea guidhe don ath bhliain ar chuile baill den Forsa.

### Senior Irish Officer

FINCON toivottaa kaikille tukijoiheen ja yhteistyökumppaneilleen Rauhallista Joulua sekä erittäin hyvää ja antoisaa Uutta Vuotta.

### OC FINCON

La Paz y la Esperanza renacen en esta época tan especial en el mundo entero. Es mi deseo, y el de todo el Contingente Argentino que el Año Nuevo y la Navidad signifiquen para los integrantes de UNFICYP y sus lejanas familias, Prosperidad y Exito, bendiciendo la noble labor realizada en estas distantes y acogidas tierras.

Como representante das Forças Armadas do Brasil gostaria de desejar os melhores votos de um Feliz Natal e um próspero ano novo, com saúde e paz a todo pessoal de UNFICYP.

### CO ARGCON

The multi-national Military Police Element would like to wish all members of UNFICYP and their families a very safe and Merry Christmas.

### Force Provost Marshal

The Canadian Contingent wish all UNFICYP members and their

families sincere best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

### OC CANCON

The Commanding Officer and all ranks of Sector Two wish the Contingents and members of UNFICYP and their families a very merry and peaceful Christmas. May 1997 be truly a year of reconciliation and goodwill.

### CO Sector Two

Ba mhaith liom beannachtai na Nollag agus athbhliain shona a chur chuig gach duine o hEireann atá ag obair leis Naisuin Aontaithe anseo faoi lathair.

### CO IRCIVPOL

On behalf of the Australian Civilian Police Contingent, I would like to wish all our friends in UNFICYP a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Comd AUSTCIVPOL

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The Blue Beret is the journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

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

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### FRONT COVER:

## CHRISTMAS IN UNFICYP

BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL



The SRSG (left) and CM (second left) at their latest Press Conference

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Professor Han Sung-Joo, visited Cyprus on 10/11 December for his last fact-finding round. He had two meetings each with both Cypriot leaders in an attempt to identify areas for potential agreement to be taken up in direct talks between them in 1997. His visit marked the beginning of a stepped up effort to create an environment conducive for the resumption of direct talks to bring about a settlement of the Cyprus problem in 1997. Following his meetings, Professor Han said that he was more hopeful that direct talks would take place in 1997, even though this may not occur during the first few months.

No doubt UN operations in Cyprus are approaching a politically interesting and intense period. Let's move into the New Year with confidence and ready to face new tasks. We know we can do it!

Meanwhile, the Blue Beret wishes you and your loved ones  
all the very best over the festive season.  
May 1997 be a year of prosperity and success.

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# THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNPA

As time passes, it usually becomes more difficult to recall exactly what has happened and why. This is true of UNFICYP which has seen so many different national contingents and people come and go over its long history. It is difficult to retain a corporate knowledge which can be passed down to new members so that information is readily available to use when briefing or even trying to understand why things are done in a certain way.

and areas to the north, east and west of the enclave, including Kyrenia. Nicosia Airport, which the National Guard, together with the Greek army contingent stationed on the island under the Treaty of Alliance, had seized at the outset of the coup, was then Cyprus' only international airport and accordingly of importance to all parties, including UNFICYP.

During the night of 21 July, Greece, in reaction to Turkey's intervention, flew in some 200 commando troops and ammunition, medical and other supplies. Denial of the airport to Greek reinforcements therefore became a high Turkish military priority. Moreover, the airport dominates the approach from the west to the city of Nicosia, which could not be encircled from that flank without prior capture of the airport.

The significance of the airport to UNFICYP was different. There were three UN camps located in the area: Blue Beret Camp (Force HQ, communications, the medical centre and the Canadian Contingent's logistics base), Camp UNFICYP (Force logistics and support units) and Gleneagles Camp, which was a contingency area. The loss of these camps

and their contents would have been a serious blow to the UN's status and would have had serious political ramifications. In addition, the Airport, which had only received minor damage during the first period of fighting, was essential for humani-



*Foxtrot Checkpoint*

Many of us now take for granted the existence of the numerous landmarks which surround us. There are so many stories that it is sometimes hard to separate facts from fiction. One place which is the focal point for all UN operations is the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA). To some, this is just an old place which includes a military base and the Nicosia International Airport, and is a temporary home and work place. To others, it is an important symbol of UN peace-keeping efforts.

On 15 July 1974, the National Guard, under the direction of Greek officers, staged a coup d'état against the Cyprus Government headed by President Makarios. On 20 July, the Turkish Government, invoking the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, launched an extensive military operation on the north coast of Cyprus which resulted eventually in the occupation of the main Turkish Cypriot enclave north of Nicosia



*The front entrance to Headquarters UNFICYP*

tarian relief operations and for UN reinforcements. It was therefore important to assert control over the Airport and its environs and to deny it to the opposing military forces. A battle for the Airport was seen as the first step in the breakdown of the precarious cease-fire, which was eventually arranged on 22 July, as called for by the Security Council. The maintenance of this cease-fire was the UN Secretary-General's first priority.

On 22 July, the Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, sent instructions emphasizing the need to consolidate the cease-fire and to interpose UN troops between the opposing forces. To achieve this aim, the Force Commander, General Prem Chand of India, decided that UNFICYP would take over the Airport and declare it a UN Protected Area and thus prevent further fighting in the area. The precedent for such an action was set during the UN mission in the Congo (now Zaire) in 1963. The Force Commander communicated to the Secretary-General his intention and was given immediate approval for this action. This information was then passed to local media and opposing forces. This was to be a temporary measure.

The local commanders of the opposing forces agreed to this action and UNFICYP quickly gained control at the Airport. One of the major problems then became protecting this area with little more than a token force. One of the important steps taken in this regard was to ensure that the force was

multi-national in composition so that its political strength outweighed its military weakness and presented a sufficient deterrent until reinforcements arrived.

The tenuous control over the Airport was strengthened not only by military forces, primarily British, but also the political pressure exerted by New York, Washington and London. This ensured that no serious attempt was made to remove UNFICYP from the UNPA by Turkish forces.

It was unusual for a UN peace-keeping force to take such unilateral action, however, it was deemed necessary. What was not anticipated was the reaction of the Turkish forces, which threatened to ignore the UN action and attempted to seize control of the Airport. This was averted, fortunately, and the UN's gamble was successful because of four factors; the determination of UNFICYP in the face of superior forces; the ability of UNFICYP to keep one step ahead as events unfolded; the international pressure exerted on Turkey; and the rapid response by the United Kingdom to provide military support to UNFICYP.

Taking control of the airport was to be a temporary measure; however, the United Nations has not been successful in re-opening the airport, despite many attempts, most recently in 1992/93 in the context of confidence building measures to improve the atmosphere for an overall settlement. Lack of consensus between the two communities

continues to be the main obstacle and, as a result, the airport remains unused, derelict and under UN control.

Notwithstanding the fate of the Nicosia International Airport, the declaration of the UNPA in 1974 is a noteworthy example of the way in which a UN peace-keeping force, supported by concerted, powerful, international, diplomatic pressures, can act decisively in an impartial way to prevent conflict. It continues to be a symbol of the importance of UN peace-keeping missions until such time as the two sides can reach a long-term solution to the Cyprus problem.



*Nicosia International Airport*

## UNFICYP BIDS FAREWELL



Victoria  
Barbado

Staff rotations and sudden re-assignments are an accepted reality of field life. Still, this reality does not make it any easier to say good bye to old colleagues and friends. In the coming weeks, UNFICYP will see a number of its civilian staff leaving the mission. In a farewell celebration held on 27 November 1996, the Chief of Mission paid tribute to the contribution the departing staff have made to the work of the mission.



Doreen  
Karamanoukian

Among those retiring is Ms Victoria Barbado, Personal Assistant to the Chief of Mission/DSRSG, who will be leaving the United Nations after nearly 28 years of service. During her distinguished career, Victoria served as Personal Assistant to the former Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar. She has twice served with UNFICYP, first from Apr 72 to Apr 74 and later returned to UNFICYP in 1981 where she has been assigned as PA to the Chief of Mission. Victoria will retire from the UN on 31 December 1996.



Zenon  
Charalambous

Ms Doreen Karamanoukian, Personal Assistant to the Force Commander, will also be retiring at the end of December 1996. Doreen first joined the World Health Organization in Egypt and from 1975 worked at the United Nations Headquarters in the Office of Personnel Services, DIESA and the Centre on Transnational Corporations. She later served with UNTSO, Jerusalem and UNTSO, Damascus before joining UNFICYP in 1993.



Bambos  
Avraam

A number of other UNFICYP "veterans" will also soon retire. Mr Zenon Charalambous, driver to the Chief of Mission, has left us after some 32 years. Another of our well-known drivers, Mr Charalambous "Bambos" Avraam will also be retiring in January 1997, after loyally



Eleni  
Sparsi

serving UNFICYP for 32 years. Ms Eleni Sparsi, of Camp Command, will retire in November 1996 with 19 years of service, while Mr Andreas Eleftheriou will be leaving in December 1996 having served 30 years in the International Mess. In their time, these staff have witnessed first hand the numerous events which have changed the face of history and challenged the work of the mission. Tribute was paid to the staff members' dedication, loyalty and devotion to the goals and aims of the mission. They will continue to be part of the UNFICYP family long after their retirement. As a matter of interest, it was calculated that the personnel retiring will have served 150 years in total with the UN.

Ms Allyson MacCordy, Secretary to the Senior Adviser, will be leaving the United Nations and UNFICYP, having served from 1990 to 1994 at New York Headquarters and from 1994 to 1996 in UNFICYP. Ms MacCordy will be returning to her home country at the end of November 1996.

Ms Cecile Blanchet will be returning to her parent office at New York Headquarters after spending five years at UNFICYP. Ms Blanchet has served as Secretary to a succession of CAO's during her assignment. With her departure, much of the mission's "institutional memory" will be lost. Mr Jagjeet Singh, Supply Officer, will also be returning to his post at New York Headquarters.

Supervisor of the Support Services Transport Unit, FSO Phillip John, is preparing for a challenging assignment to UNOMIG, Georgia.

Congratulations are extended to our retiring staff, and we wish our staff departing on other assignments good luck in their future postings.



Andreas  
Eleftheriou



Allyson  
MacCordy



Cecile  
Blanchet



Jagjeet  
Singh



Phillip  
John

## INTERVIEW WITH MS VICTORIA BARBADO

Victoria Barbado is perhaps one of the longest-serving members of the UN Secretariat on the island. On the occasion of her departure, in a sincere and frank discussion with the Blue Beret staff, Victoria was kind enough to reveal her views in her normal outspoken manner!

**Q. What made you decide to seek employment with the UN?**

A. I was working for a branch of General Dynamics in Connecticut, and I thought it would be a change to work in a completely new field.

**Q. What did you like most about working for an international organisation?**

A. Mostly I liked the wider range of subjects to work with, the mixture of races, religions, mentalities...

**Q. Do you have any unforgettable experience(s) with your life at the UN, and with UNFICYP in particular?**

A. I had many unforgettable experiences when I was working for Mr Perez de Cuellar when he was Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs and in 1991 in the short stint I had in New York when he was Secretary-General, such as short missions to Pakistan and Afghanistan. Another was the mission in Thailand where, among other things, we travelled by helicopter to the Cambodian refugee camps. Then, in Namibia, I travelled around in small aeroplanes, collecting the registration boxes for the elections - very exciting for an office worker like myself. Another unforgettable experience was working for the President of the General Assembly where there were some interesting behind-the-scenes confrontations.

As for working in UNFICYP, the whole time has been unforgettable! The working atmosphere in the Headquarters has generally been good, although there have been a few "bumps along the road". Off

duty, I had many pleasant moments. The innumerable celebrations of National Days and Medal Parades, especially the wonderful settings for the Austrian and Argentinian parades, and the splendid shows put on by the British Contingent. There was also the (now defunct) DANCON March, a two-day walk which stretched over 52 km. Back in 1973 (my first March), I was the only woman to take part.

**Q. What has been your most exciting moment as PA to the Chief of Mission?**

A. It was attending the intercommunal talks in the early 1980s.

**Q. What are you going to miss most, now that you have retired?**

A. That's easy - getting up at 5:30 am, ha ha!

**Q. Having spent so many years on the island, did you ever consider learning the language?**

A. Yes, I have studied Greek and, in fact, I still am. It is a very interesting language where you can find the roots of many words used in the scientific field. I have also learned some Turkish. I love languages because they allow me to understand people better, the same as learning their music and dances and enjoying their food.

**Q. Do you have any private ambitions?**

A. Yes, I would like to study computer science and also beat the Austrians in the windsurfing championships!

**Q. Is there any message you would like to send to your friends and colleagues in UNFICYP?**

A. I would just like to say that I am retiring, but NOT leaving Cyprus. I wish everyone all the best in the future, and will definitely see them around.



## ZENON - THE LAST OF A GENERATION

Zenon Charalambous, who recently retired, was the longest serving member of UNFICYP, having taken up employment in March 1964.

Zenon started working in UNFICYP's Headquarters, which was then located in Wolseley Barracks. As a driver, he worked for many years with high-ranking UNFICYP officials, including Mr Remy Gorge, Mr James Holger and Mr Oscar Camilion. His latest position was as driver for Mr Gustave Feissel, the Chief of Mission.

Zenon was born in the village of Omodhos in the Limassol district. At 26, he married a girl from

Nicosia and so moved and settled in the capital.

Zenon is a kind of myth around Headquarters UNFICYP. His pleasant disposition and incorrigible smile will most certainly be missed.

We are all sorry to see Zenon leave, and we wish him every happiness in his retirement.



## A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part IV

The archeological site of ancient Curium is situated 16 km west of Limassol on a hilly area overlooking the bay of Episkopi. The area around Curium must have been inhabited during the 15<sup>th</sup> century BC when the Achaeans moved eastwards and established trading centres in Crete, Rhodes, Cyprus and the Asian and African coasts. Legend has it that Curium was founded by Greek immigrants from Argos in the Peloponnese in 1200 BC. Later, during Assyrian rule (8<sup>th</sup> century BC), it became one of the principal city kingdoms of Cyprus. Gradually, together with other kingdoms, it gained autonomy and around the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, it was issuing its own coinage.

The last king of Curium supported Alexander the Great by leading his fleet in the siege of Tyre in 332 BC. After the death of Alexander and the division of his empire, Cyprus came under the rule of the Ptolemies of Egypt. Under the Ptolemies and the Roman rule that followed, the city became a centre of commerce and culture and prospered, thanks to the relative stability and absence of wars during this period. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, Curium may have grown to 20,000 and covered four square miles. During the period between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> century AD, Curium suffered a series of earth-quakes and Arab raids,

and was eventually deserted.

The three principal areas of Curium are the Acropolis, the Stadium and the Temple of Apollo.

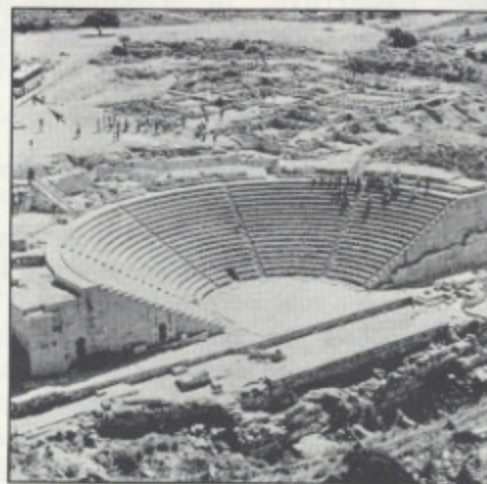
### The Acropolis

Ascending the steep road to the hill of Acropolis, on the left are the vertically cut sides of the cliff that provided the Acropolis with the same security as fortification. The important remains encountered in this area include the Theatre, the Annexe of Eustolius and the Baths.

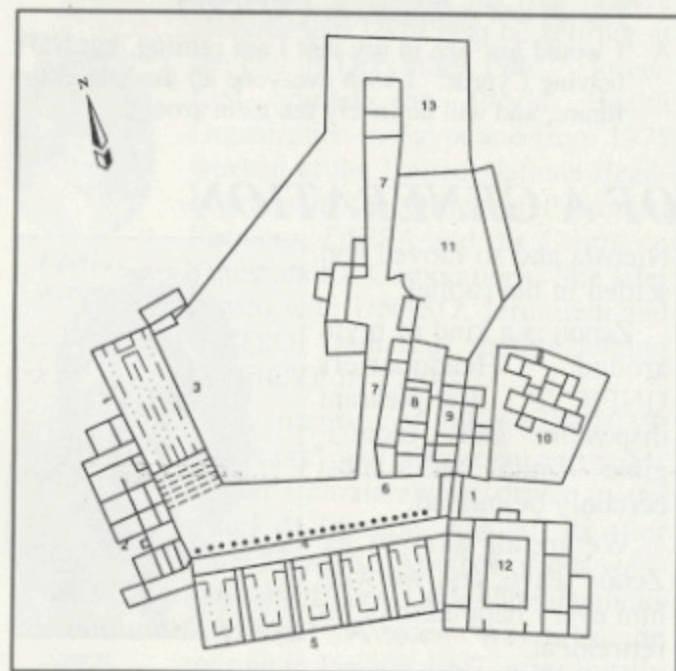
The *Theatre* was originally built most probably in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and was expanded and remodelled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, having a capacity of about 3,500 spectators. It was destroyed and finally abandoned in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Today, the Theatre has been reconstructed and is used for theatrical performances and other cultural events.

Higher on the slope to the east of the Theatre are the remains of the *House of Eustolius*, consisting of 30 rooms. It houses a bath complex dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. The floors of the porticoes are paved with beautiful mosaic compositions depicting fishes, birds and a partridge with Greek inscriptions.

An early *Christian basilica* is located further north, dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is one of the most spacious basilicas of ancient Cyprus. It served as the cathedral of the first bishops of the town. The visitor can see the granite columns, the narthex, an hexagonal pond, the baptistry in



The Theatre



1. Curium Gate
2. Paphos Gate
3. Northwest building
4. Colonnaded portico (stoa)
5. South building
6. Votive pit
7. Central paved street
8. Priest's residence
9. Treasury of the Sanctuary
10. Baths
11. Archaic precinct (temenos)
12. Palaestra
13. Temple of Apollo

## THE ANCIENT CITY OF CURIUM

the shape of a cross as well as other details of the basilica which was probably destroyed during the Arab raids of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Near the basilica is the *Roman Forum and the Nymphaeum*

These buildings include the water works, the main reservoir and the Roman Forum with the colonnaded stoa where the citizens used to meet. Further north is the *House of Gladiators*, which obtained its name from the mosaic composition representing gladiators fighting in pairs.

The building of the *Mosaic of Achilles* consists of an open courtyard with rooms on two sides and a portico at the north-east end. The floor of the portico is decorated with a fine mosaic composition depicting Achilles. This building, which also has other mosaic floors, dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and was probably used to receive official visitors.

### The Stadium

Leaving the area of the Acropolis and following the road westward is the Stadium, situated approximately 2 km from Curium. It has a U-shaped periphery with three entrances, and was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, during the Roman era. Only a few of the original seven rows of the stone seats accommodating 6,000 spectators remain. The dimensions of the stadium are 217 m x 17 m, which correspond to the normal dimensions of almost all Greco-Roman stadiums.

### The Sanctuary of Apollo

About 1 km further west from the site of the Stadium lies the *Temple of Apollo Hylates* (the God of Woodlands). Apparently, in the forests

which covered most of the area in ancient and medieval times, wild animals, including deer, used to live here.

According to archeological findings, the sanctuary of Apollo was the religious and political centre of Curium from the Archaic period (7<sup>th</sup> century BC).

The entire sanctuary area was surrounded by an enclosure wall with two main entrance gates (Curium and Paphos Gates). A visitor is well advised to start his exploration from the western door (Paphos Gate). On the left, broad steps lead to two narrow elongated chambers and on the right, five chambers separated by corridors are clearly visible. These rooms were used probably for visitors and the display of offerings.

At the end of the five rooms on the visitor's left, a narrow paved street leads to the Temple of Apollo. The Temple itself consisted of a portico with four columns and a main sanctuary of small size because the ceremonies took place in the open air where the altar (the place of sacrifice) stood. It is said that persons who dared to touch Apollo's holy altar were hurled into the sea from the white cliffs of Curium.

To the east (right) are the *House of the Priest*, the *Treasury* and the *archaic temenos* (sacred precinct). Outside the enclosure wall of the temenos lay the palaestra and the baths used by worshippers and visitors.

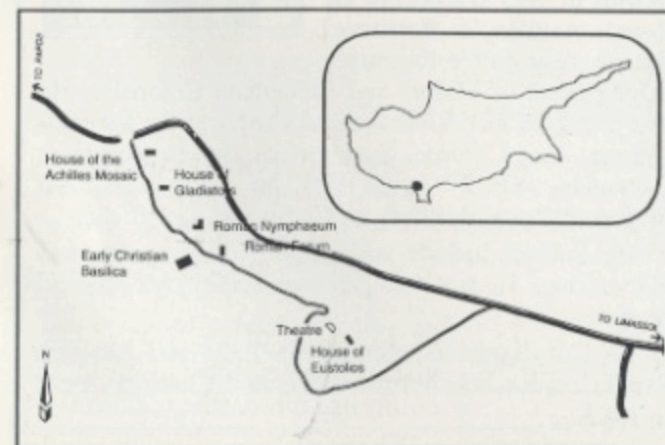
In the past, Curium, as a royal city, must have had all that made such cities imposing. Excavations carried out last century unearthed treasures of great importance. Several of these are now displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

Curium, with its beautiful location, is one of the most popular archeological sites in Cyprus.

Photos by courtesy of the Dept of Antiquities



Columns from the Apollo Hylates sanctuary





## 32ND REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY



XXXII

32nd Regiment Royal Artillery have just taken over from 39th Regiment Royal Artillery as the Sector Two Regiment. Commanded by Lt Col RNM Eggar RA, with WO1 (RSM) DS Lamb as the Regimental Sergeant Major, 32nd Regiment has come to Cyprus from Larkhill in Wiltshire, UK, its home since 1993.

32nd Regiment has four batteries: 18 (Quebec 1759) Battery and 74 Battery (The Battle Axe Company) are the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) batteries and are deployed on the line as Line Battery West and Line Battery East respectively. 22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery is the locating battery, which has soldiers deployed on the line and in RHQ for this operational tour in Cyprus. The remainder of the Battery has stayed in the UK, committed to other operational deployments and preparing to re-equip with a new remotely piloted vehicle. 46 (Talavera) Battery, the Headquarters Battery, is based at the Ledra Palace Hotel and is comprised of the Regimental Headquarters, JOC, Quartermaster's department, Workshop and Humanitarian Team. The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Workshop and the Royal Logistic Corps' Stores Troop complete the Regimental Order of Battle.

32 Regiment Royal Artillery was raised as VII Medium Brigade Royal Artillery on 1 April 1927, when it consisted of four batteries, including 25 Medium Battery (The Battle Axe Company), equipped with 60

Pounders and 6" Howitzers. The Brigade was renamed 7 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery and saw service in India, Palestine and Egypt. During the Second World War, the Regiment fought in Greece, Crete, North Africa, Sicily, Normandy and North West Europe.

The Regiment was renumbered 32 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery on 1 April 1947 when 25/26 Battery became 74 Battery (The Battle Axe Company). 46 (Talavera) Battery was part of the Regiment from 1958 until 1981 and returned in 1994. 18 (Quebec 1759) Battery joined the Regiment in 1985 from 5 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery. 22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery became part of 32 Regiment in 1994, after the disbandment of 94 Locating Regiment Royal Artillery.

32nd Regiment spent eight years in Dortmund, Germany, from 1985 to 1993 and then moved to its present location at Larkhill. It has completed seven operational tours in Northern Ireland, the most recent in 1988 and 1994. In 1990, following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, the Regiment deployed to Saudi Arabia on Operation GRANBY where, equipped with M110 8" guns, it fired the first rounds of the ground offensive. By 1993, the Regiment had converted to the Multiple Launch Rocket System, one of a new range of improved artillery weapon systems.

The Regiment's present role is as one of HQ Land Command's ARRC assigned Depth Fire Regiments.

### LT COL RNM EGGAR RA, CO 32ND REGT RA

Lt Col Bob Eggar was born in Fareham in March 1955. He was educated at Wellington College, Oxford, and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1977.

As a junior officer, he served as a Gun Position Officer and Troop Commander with 2nd Regiment Royal Artillery in Dortmund, Germany and Larkhill, England. He then attended the Gunnery Staff Course at the Royal School of Artillery also in Larkhill, where he remained as an instructor for the following two years. As a Captain, he moved to 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Hohn, Germany, serving in B Battery and the Chestnut Troop as a Forward Observation Officer and Battery Captain. In 1986, he attended Division II of the Army Staff Course at Shrivenham, before spending a year at the Staff College, Camberley.

His next posting was as a Weapons Staff Officer in the Ministry of Defence, London, where he was responsible for Royal Artillery Surveillance and Target Acquisition Systems. In 1990 he returned to Dortmund to assume command of 74 Battery (The Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery and took the Battery on

Operation GRANBY a year later, when 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery deployed to the Gulf War. After Battery Command, he became the Staff Officer responsible for Depth Fire Operations in the 1st Artillery Brigade before moving in 1993 to a post in the Royal Artillery's Personnel Branch, responsible for career management of Majors and Lieutenant Colonels. He was promoted in 1993 and posted as MA to the Director General Land Force Systems in the Procurement Executive. On 27 April 1995, he returned to 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery as Commanding Officer.

His hobbies include sailing, golf, motorcycling and hill walking. He is a keen gardener and enjoys classical music.

Lt Col Eggar is married to Judy and has two daughters; Rachel, born in 1981, and Charlotte, born in 1983.



## CAMP COMMAND STORES

Camp Command stores are located in Blue Beret Camp for easy access to all who need them. The staff of five are all Irish, and have over 70 years' military experience between them. This experience has been gained from both national and UN missions such as UNIFIL, UNISOM and UNFICYP during the 1960s.



Cpl Alec Melvin,  
Transport NCO



Cpl Dessie Farrell,  
Laundry NCO

The stores staff are guided by RQMS Mick O'Shea who uses his vast experience and knowledge of Quartermaster (Q) matters to great effect. He is responsible for all items which pass through the stores on a daily basis. Using his invaluable experience, he keeps the OC Camp Command informed of what items are available, and the OC then decides who is to receive the goods so that they can be put to their greatest use.

We also have four Corporals who each have a specific job to do within the stores. Cpl Gerard O'Brien is the Ordnance NCO with the added responsibility of Q administration within the office and is the general assistant to the RQMS. Cpl Alec Melvin, who hails from the west of

Ireland, is our Transport NCO along with issuing gas heaters and gas refills for the cold, wet, winter days. Cpl Barry Sheerin, the Accommodation and Repairs NCO, is the youngest member of the staff and the one you want to see if your room needs a new facelift. Cpl Dessie Farrell, our Laundry NCO, is a face very familiar to all of you



Cpl Gerard O'Brien,  
Ordnance NCO

As we say, if you don't ask for it, you won't get it, so come along and pay us a visit, whether it's for laundry, auto maint, gas or anything else you may need.



RQMS Mick O'Shea

who use our laundry system. When not involved with the linen, he has been given the job of Auto Maintenance.

The stores are there for the benefit of all and the staff are willing to help in any way they can.



Cpl Barry Sheerin,  
checking the inventory

### MESSAGE FROM THE FORCE PROVOST MARSHAL THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK BEFORE YOU DRIVE

Metal gauges into soft tissue, crushing and parting it like a hot knife through butter. Bones break and shatter, causing more injury. Unable to absorb the force, the body's vital organs succumb to the external pressure. Life is extinct.

This is not intended to shock, it just happens to be the truth. Each year the Police issue the same warnings. We have already had one fatality caused by drinking

and driving this year - let's not have any more. That one was one too many. Drinking and driving don't mix. The UN MP Element will be operating extra patrols over the festive season.

At a time when everyone wishes for the best during the festive season, please pay this a thought - if not for yourselves, then for those around you.

**DON'T BE A STATISTIC NEXT YEAR.**

## THE ARGCON MEDAL PARADES

**O**n 11 and 13 December 1996, two medal parades took place in Sector One's area of responsibility. After five months in the service of peace, members of the Argentinian Task Force 7 received medals for their commendable work in Cyprus.

The first medal parade was held in Gen San Martin Camp, Skouriotissa, and the second one took place inside the famous ruins of Soli. The two ceremonies had similar programmes, and fortunately the weather was favourable on both occasions, breaking an otherwise rainy week.

The FC expressed his gratitude to the troops for their peace-keeping efforts, and expressed the wish that they would offer their services yet again to UN missions. He wished them all a safe journey home to their families, and ended his speech by wishing them a Merry Christmas a Happy New Year in the Spanish language.

Led by the Argentinian band, the troops then marched off with four of them wearing traditional Argentinian uniforms. During the march, two UN helicopters overflew the crowd. The ceremony was followed by a display of traditional Argentinian dances.



CO Sector One and the FC inspect the troops

First was the arrival and the introduction of the troops to Commander Sector One, followed by the arrival of the Force Commander, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, who inspected the parade and gave the salute. Following the Argentinian and Brazilian national anthems, the medals were presented by the FC, the COS, Col I Talbot, the Argentinian Military Attaché based in Israel, Col A Olivera, CO UN Flight, Lt Col G Pavlovic, the CO Sector One, Lt Col G Calvi, the CHO, Lt Col J Tisi Baña, and the 2IC Sector One, Maj E Canaves.



ARGCON's band leads on the troops

The festivities finally finished with an Argentinian lunch which was offered to the visitors, officers and troops.



Traditional Argentinian uniforms



The folk dancers of ARGCON 7

## JUST ENGINEERS

**O**ne of the many responsibilities of the Sector One Engineers is that of maintaining and improving the Observation Posts within the Sector One area of responsibility.

Among the various projects which were approved for 1996 was the remodelling of UN 09. We set about this task knowing from the very beginning that it wouldn't be an easy one. We had, however, to take into consideration the dangerous conditions of this establishment and the fact that UN soldiers were required to perform their duties from this location.



The view from the top of OP 09

Today, it is true to say that the OP is almost finished. It now consists of two rooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and dining room, a spacious briefing/sitting room, brand new plumbing with hot and cold water connected to solar heaters and a new electrical installation.

We cannot close here without thanking the Force Engineer and his selected staff for their help and support, together with personnel from the Transport Section of Support Services who provided invaluable assistance in transporting the materials.

There are many who did not believe that this project was in fact possible. The mistake they made here was that they failed to take into consideration the spirit of those in the Engineering Section and their unfailing willingness and dedication to their taskings. In spite of all the difficulties and inconveniences, these qualities helped the men to persevere in their efforts to complete their duties as UN soldiers, thus ensuring the well-being of those who work in UN 09.



The old OP - just a pile of rubble

the memory of the old OP, which was made of wood and metal sheeting, is left.

Credit must be given to those who put all their efforts towards completing this task, since they had to endure all kinds of weather, as well as the difficulty of transporting the necessary materials - an uphill road of at least 10°. There were approximately 1,000 cement blocks, 60 bags of cement, 50 bags of lime, 35m³ of sand, 100m² of mosaic tiles and many other materials which had to be carried uphill by foot.

The term "remodelling" does not really describe all that had to be done! We would prefer to call it a complete reconstruction of the building since only



## RADAR TRAP

**O**wing to the recent, unauthorised, air incursion in the UN Buffer Zone, Sgt Cooke and Sgt Brown, UN MP Element, have been testing a new radar gun on the airport stretch of the UNPA.

Difficulty has arisen, however, in trying to hand over citations to the pilots involved....

# FINNISH INDEPENDENCE

Finland gained her independence on 6 December 1917. That very date was preceded by a history which gave the Finns their rich cultural heritage and national identity.

In the year 1155, Finland was incorporated into the kingdom of Sweden. The border between Finland and Russia was changed five times in constant wars. Finally, Sweden lost her eastern province as a consequence of the Russo-Swedish war in 1809. In spite of the exhausting wars, firm foundations for an independent judiciary, public services and political system were laid.

In October/November 1917, the turmoil in Russia led to a revolution. Finland took the opportunity and unilaterally declared independence and managed to consolidate it in favour of the government after a short but fierce civil war against the "Reds"; Russian communist backed troops.

For Finland, World War II broke out on 30 November 1939 when Soviet troops crossed the border lines and Soviet aircraft bombed several cities in Finland. During that "Winter War", which lasted 105 days from 30 November 1939 to 13 March 1940, Finland prevented Soviet troops from entering the country, although Finland was forced to cede large areas in the eastern parts of the country.

Finland entered a new war, known as "The Continuation War", with the Soviet Union in 1941 as a result of Germany's attack on the Soviet Union. Peace was made in 1944 when Finland had to cede more land in north-eastern Lapland. Finland was compelled to forcibly expel the German troops from Lapland and thus found themselves at war with Germany during 1944-45.

Finland is one of the two European countries which fought in World War II which was not



WO1 P Räikkönen, Brig Gen A Vartiainen and Maj J Jaakkola pay tribute to former Finnish peace-keepers

conquered by the enemy, the other being the United Kingdom.

After the war the country was ravaged, with 100,000 men dead and 400,000 refugees from the ceded areas to be settled. There were heavy reparations to be paid to Soviet Union. Finland paid them off in less than ten years, which actually triggered off modern Finnish industry.

Finland became a member of the United Nations in 1955. The following year the first Finnish peace-keeping force - a company of over 200 men - was posted to Sinai. Since that time Finland has been involved in almost all UN peace-keeping operations either by contributing forces or military observers. Today some 1,050 Finns serve under the Blue Flag, and the total number of Finnish soldiers who have been in the service of peace has reached 32,000. Out of those, about 10,000 have served in Cyprus since 1964.

On Friday 6 December 1996, the celebration of the 79th Anniversary of the Independence of Finland took place.

In the morning a small but distinguished group gathered for a wreath-laying ceremony at Kykko Camp, UNPA. During 1964-1977, Kykko Camp was the base camp of FINBATT UNFICYP, where a monument to former Finnish peace-keepers now lies.

After the wreath-laying ceremony, a Medal Presentation took place where UN medals and silver numerals were presented to the FC, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, Maj J Jaakkola and WO1 P Räikkönen by Mr Demosthenis Severis, Consul General of Finland.

In the evening a reception was held at the Officers' Mess, UNPA, where more than 200 guests enjoyed the company and traditional Finnish refreshments.



Brig Gen Vartiainen greets the Chief of Mission and Mrs Feissel at the reception

## PEACE PROCESSION IN THE BUFFER ZONE

The biggest and most important procession in Argentina takes place every October, starting in Buenos Aires. Thousands of pilgrims travel from there to Lujan, a journey of almost 100 km where the divine statue of the Virgin Mary stands. There, pilgrims pray to the statue for a miracle or simply offer thanks to the Virgin Mary.



The statue of the Virgin Mary on the last two miles of the procession

As we all know, there are many ways to work in the cause of peace. This year, Father Perrupato, the Roman Catholic priest in Sector One, organised a procession between 5 to 8 December. It started at St Barnabas Church in the UNPA and ended at Kokkina Camp, with members of Sector One carrying a replica of the statue of the Virgin Mary of Lujan along approximately 80 km of the Buffer Zone in Sector One's area of responsibility.

The journey was not without its moments. The first day it rained continually, and there were many parts of the track which were difficult to cross. However the emotional welcome of those personnel in the various OPs along the way is very hard to describe. It was one special way in which those who follow the Roman Catholic faith can demonstrate their sincere wish for a settlement to the Cyprus problem.

This was the very reason for the procession - to pray for peace for the two communities in Cyprus. The Argentinian Contingent hope that 1997 will see an answer to their prayers.

## THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

The UNFICYP Shooting Competition took place in the UNPA ranges on 21 November 1996. There were three disciplines: the pistol, rifle and falling plates competitions, with seven teams entering for the first two matches and twelve teams registering for the falling plates.

The overall team prize in the rifle competition went to Sector Four (AUSCON) with a very good display of teamwork. The individual event was also won by AUSCON's Cpl Settar. For the very first time, AUSTCIVPOL entered a team in the shooting competition, and it is to their great credit



The winning team from Sector Four with the FC



The FC congratulating the AUSTCIVPOL team

that with no practice whatsoever, and using unfamiliar Austrian weapons, the team came first in the pistol match. In the falling plates competition, Sector Four's B Team and Camp Command were running neck and neck, and in an exciting run-up, Camp Command finally came out the winners, knocking down all plates in 26 seconds. This was the first time in a number of years that steel standing plates were used, and it proved a great success in what was definitely the most exciting event of the day, enjoyed by firers and spectators alike.

## ARGAIR ON A MEDEVAC



Photograph by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett