

THE Blue Beret

February 1997





SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION



Support Services is a versatile civilian section which was created in October 1993 during the process of "civilianization" undertaken in UNFICYP upon the reorganization of the Force and the withdrawal of the long-established UK Support Regiment from UNFICYP. The logistics tasks previously performed by 118 military personnel of the Transport Squadron of the Royal Logistics Corps, the REME Workshop and the Royal Engineer Detachment were streamlined, placing an emphasis on maximum economy with minimum requirement of staff and resources while maintaining the necessary level of support. Commercial contracting of certain services were made where feasible, while the remaining tasks were assumed by the five international staff and 48 local staff of the Support Services Section.

The Section is headed by the Chief of Support Services, Mr Gordon McDougall, who coordinates and directs the work of the Transport Unit, the Generator Unit and the Services Workshop Unit. Collectively, the Units provide the Force with its transport and POL requirements, generator and electrical maintenance and buildings management services.

The Transport Unit, supervised by FSO Gilbert Akor, administers the daily control and maintenance of the UNFICYP and CMP hired vehicles as well as UN-owned and UNHCR vehicles operated by UNFICYP. The Unit provides the daily transport logistics services including water deliveries to the OPs in the Buffer Zone, sewage collection in OPs and camps inaccessible to local contractors, rations collection and delivery, in addition to carrying out VIP and general driving details and assisting UNHCR with humanitarian trips to the north. The Unit is also responsible for coordinating and maintaining POL, LPG gas and emergency fuel reserves in the Sectors and the delivery and holding of aviation fuel for the UN Flight. The staff of the Transport Unit also provide assistance in registration of duty-free private vehicles to entitled personnel.

Meeting the mission's generator needs is FSO Robert Harlan, Supervisor of the Generator Unit, assisted by his Foreman and other local mechanics. The Unit's staff can be seen regularly in the camps and OPs carrying out preventative maintenance and repair of the Force's generators. An upgrading programme is currently in process in which larger capacity generators will be deployed on the line, providing additional electrical power to meet the improved conditions at Camp Duke Leopold in Sector Four and in the various OP positions, particularly in ARGCON, Sector One. This compact



Members of Support Services Section

Unit also carries out repairs on old UN-vehicles acquired from the former Support Regiment, as well as repairs of cement mixers, strimmers and anything else that should run.

The extremely diverse Services Workshop Unit is managed by FSO Michael Clarke, who, together with his staff of electricians and tradesmen, perform a wide range of buildings maintenance tasks from electrical engineering to sign-painting. In addition to carrying out all electrical installations and maintenance/repairs of equipment in the UNPA, the Unit operates an on-going preventative maintenance and repair project for electrical and gas appliances and equipment at camps in the Sectors. This requires regular visits by the Services Workshop technicians to the Sectors and, with the cooperation of the Sectors' logistics personnel, has proved very successful. Also within the Workshop are the Carpentry, Painting and Upholstery Shops, staffed by skilled craftsmen who manufacture a variety of items. The Unit also carries out plumbing maintenance/repairs and oversees building projects within the UNPA.

The Support Services Section maintains daily liaison and cooperation with other civilian sections, CPLO Branch, Sector SLOs and MTOs on the various support tasks and projects, with the goal of providing good logistics support with limited resources. The offices of the CSS and Transport Unit are located on the corner of the Blue Beret Camp, just past St Barnabas Church. The door of the CSS is always open to any member of the Force who needs constructive advice and assistance. The Services Workshop and Generator Unit are still located in the defunct Jubilee Camp; however, a new Support Services Workshop complex is being constructed opposite the office of the CSS, and, when completed, will physically integrate in one location the three Support Services Units.

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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:

**THE AUSTCIVPOL
AND CANCON
MEDAL PARADE**

Photo by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

Yet another chapter is closing in UNFICYP's history. On Friday 28 February, Brigadier General Ahti Vartiainen, the tenth Force Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, handed over command of UNFICYP to Major General Evergisto Arturo De Vergara of Argentina.

Brigadier General Vartiainen arrived on the island in August 1994. During this time, he has led UNFICYP's soldiers through one of the most difficult periods since 1974. Among the personnel of the Force, he is known as a soldier's General and was always out in the Buffer Zone where the action was. Although popular with everyone in UNFICYP, it is the soldiers who will miss him most of all. His calmness and wry humour helped everybody to keep a sense of perspective, and was an invaluable asset during the many tense situations the mission has had to face during his term in office.

A keen sportsman and a true patriot of Finland, Brigadier General Vartiainen will return to his homeland to take up a new appointment in the Finnish Armed Forces General Headquarters.

On behalf of everyone in UNFICYP, we bid farewell to Brigadier General Vartiainen, who has served the United Nations so well during his tenure. We thank him for his good leadership, and wish him continued good health and happiness in the future.

CONTENTS

Support Services Section	2
Editorial/Contents	3
United Nations Peace-Keeping Missions	4
Interview with Brigadier General ATP Vartiainen	5
UN Flight VI/New CO ARGCON	6
The Hum Branch, Sector One/Farewell & Welcome	7
A Brief Encounter with the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part VI - Kolossi Castle	8/9
Visit by Irish Minister for Justice, Nora Owen TD	10
IRCIVPOL - Guardians of the Peace	11
Sector Four News	12
The UNFICYP Art Group	13
18 (Quebec 1759) Bty RA/Bicommunal Children's Party	14
AUSTCIVPOL/CANCON Medal Parade/The QM's Dept	15
The PFR on Patrol	16

UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING MISSIONS

Peace-keeping was pioneered and developed by the United Nations as one of the means for maintaining international peace and security. Since 1948, over 750,000 military and civilian police personnel and thousands of other civilians have served in United Nations peace-keeping operations. And more than 1,450 have died while supervising peace agreements, monitoring cease-fires, patrolling demilitarized zones, creating buffers between opposing forces and defusing local conflicts that risk wider war. Most United Nations peace-keepers have been soldiers, volunteered by their Governments in national contingents to apply military discipline and training to the task of restoring and maintaining the peace. They received the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in 1988.



An Irish military policeman on patrol

Since cold war tensions have subsided, peace has been threatened by resurgent ethnic and nationalist conflicts in many regions. Consequently, United Nations peace-keeping operations have grown rapidly in number and complexity in recent years. While 13 operations were established in the first 40 years of United Nations peace-keeping, 28 new operations have been launched since 1988. At its peak in 1995, the total deployment of United Nations military and civilian personnel reached almost 70,000 from 77 countries. "Traditional" peace-keeping has given way to complex, integrated operations which require a combination of political, military and humanitarian action. Police officers, electoral observers, human rights monitors and other civilians have joined military personnel under the United Nations flag to help implement negotiated settlements of conflicts between previously hostile parties, encouraging former opponents to build a peaceful future together.



An Austrian soldier monitoring Sector Four's area of responsibility

As the world has increasingly turned to the United Nations to deal with the conflicts, the cost of United Nations peace-keeping has risen accordingly. The annual cost of all operations in 1995 amounted to approximately \$3 billion. This investment in peace-keeping must be seen in perspective, however. Global military expenditures at the beginning of the 1990s amounted to about \$1 trillion a year, or \$2 million per minute. In other words, preparing for war costs in just over a day what keeping the peace costs in a year. The real cost of peace-keeping must ultimately be measured against the cost of the alternative - war.

Peace-keeping operations are set up by the Security Council - the United Nations principal organ vested with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. These operations must have the consent of the host Governments, and usually of the other parties involved, and must not be used in any way to favour one party against another. The success of a peace-keeping operation also requires a clear and practicable mandate, the cooperation of the parties in implementing it, effective command at Headquarters and in the field, and adequate logistic and financial support.



Argentinians in Sector One

INTERVIEW

The UNFICYP Force Commander, Brigadier General Ahti Vartiainen, talks to the *Blue Beret* about his assignment with UNFICYP, his personal experiences and thoughts on the effectiveness and role of the force in Cyprus.



BB: Now that you are coming to the end of your assignment with UNFICYP, what kind of experiences have you had?

FC: During my tour, I have gained many experiences, some happy and others depressing. One of my first lessons was how difficult the English language really is! I came to realize that the more one learns, the more humble one becomes.

Cooperation between the various nationalities within UNFICYP is most astonishing. Everyone is motivated and the standard of military training and education is remarkable. Morale is high and military personnel are good-spirited.

As for my unpleasant experiences, I would mention the distinctly uncomfortable feeling of being aimed at by a loaded weapon. The unpredictability of such a situation, which I have been in on more than one occasion, will remain with me.

BB: Did you find that the role of the Force has changed at all during your tour of duty?

FC: Since my arrival in UNFICYP, the Force has changed considerably in its organisation. The changeover to civilian administration brought to light a few shortcomings. For instance, the budgeting exercise was a uniting factor in the Headquarters, and I found that the commitment of all personnel to this cause has been praiseworthy. This exercise has generated a number of guidelines which will undoubtedly enhance the long-term stability of the mission.

The use of troops and planning/training of mobile reserves is now done in a wider perspective. I firmly believe that any Headquarters should have only one objective: to meet the requirements of the troops quickly and with as much flexibility as possible.

BB: How do you consider UNFICYP can help the present situation in Cyprus?

FC: During my tour, the situation has been somewhat varied. It started with promising face-to-face discussions in October 1994, and reached a low point with the tragic events in Dherinia in August 1996. The political situation has fluctuated to such a degree that there is now a great reluctance on the part of both communities to meet half way.

I feel deeply that the only way for progress to be achieved is for both sides, in particular their leaders, to take a more reasonable and moderate outlook and display a willingness to compromise. Otherwise, the

mistrust which currently exists will deepen even more widely. What makes me especially worried is the lack of effort on the part of both communities to educate their children in common cultural and historical values which, in effect, reduces the chances of building a better understanding of each other in the future.

I believe that most of us within the Force see the bi-communal activities as a constructive and effective way of building up trust. The more both sides know about each other, the less is left to imagination. UNFICYP is in a position to offer a lot in this respect, with many interested organisations willing to sponsor such activities. However, if either side decides not to support such functions, it is unreasonable to expect UNFICYP to continue in its efforts. Most disappointing was the restriction imposed on children from the north to take part in a recent charity event organised by UNFICYP.

BB: What have been your most enjoyable and not so enjoyable moments?

FC: My most enjoyable moments were those spent with the troops and staff in the field. In fact, I do regret not having spent more time with the troops themselves. My excuse is that I did not want to interfere in the activities of their commanders. It is always easy to speak with hindsight, but I feel I am also guilty of not being tough enough on various occasions with both personnel in this Headquarters and with members of the opposing forces.

BB: What do you feel has been your personal contribution to UNFICYP?

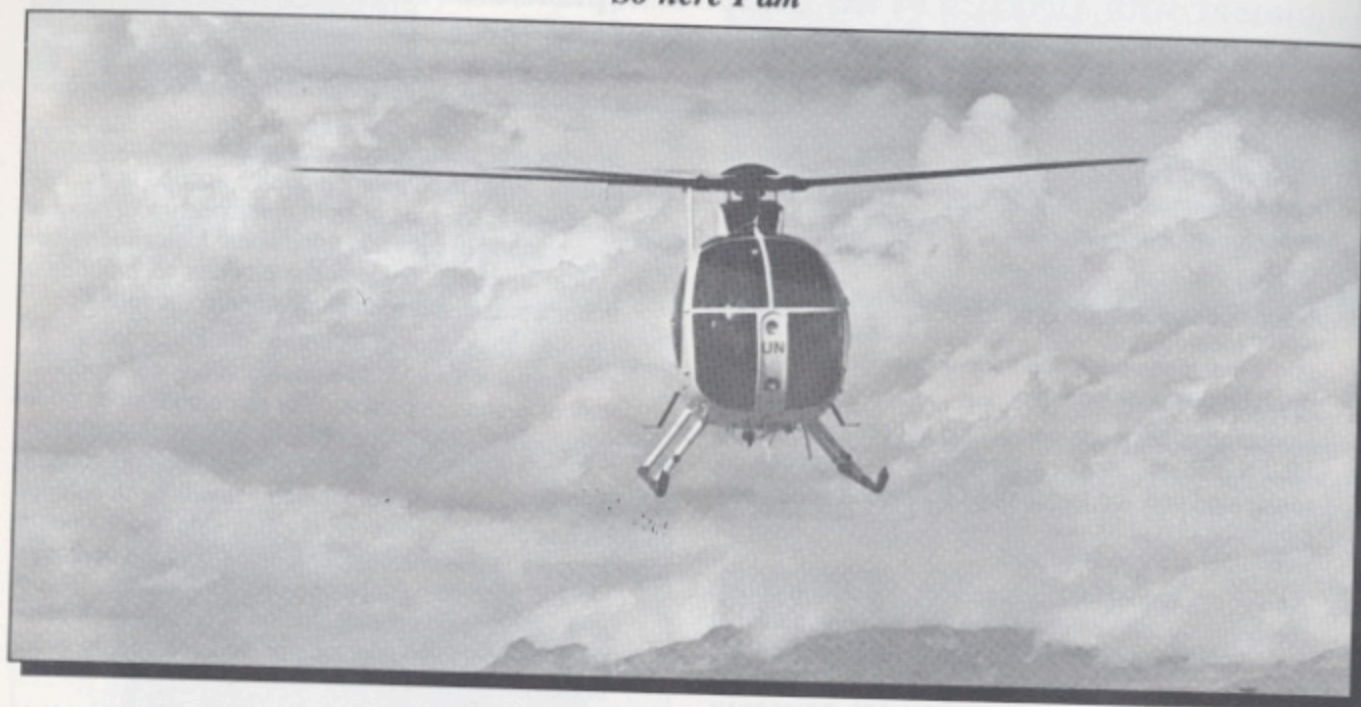
FC: I do not feel I am the best person to answer this question, since I believe others can evaluate the success of my tour better than I. However, even if only a few members of UNFICYP have the same feeling of satisfaction that I have for the actions performed during my tour of duty, then I consider that my mission in UNFICYP was accomplished successfully.

BB: Is there any message you wish to convey to the members of UNFICYP?

FC: Peace-keepers, you have given me an unforgettable tour of duty. Your performance has always been of the highest standard, and your open and friendly welcome has given me much joy and satisfaction. I would like to present my respectful regards also to your families and your support troops back home. I am going to miss you all.

UN FLIGHT VI

*My mother wanted me to have piano lessons
My father wanted me to go to Harvard
My teacher wanted me to become a lawyer
My wife wants me to stay at home
So here I am*



*Over the Cyprus' skies
IN THE SERVICE OF*

PEACE

NEW CO ARGCON LIEUTENANT COLONEL RAFAEL JOSÉ BARNI

Lt Col Rafael Barni was born in 1950 and joined the Argentinian Military Academy in 1967. He was commissioned as a 2/Lt in 1971 in the Infantry Branch, and was appointed as a Platoon Leader with the 22nd Mountain Infantry Regiment.

As a junior officer, he was posted to several infantry units, and he also held the post of instructor at the Argentinian Military Academy. Before being promoted to a Senior Officer, he attended the Command and Staff Course at the Army War School.

From 1989 to 1990, Lt Col Barni acted as Military Instructor at the Army War School. Following this, he took over as Commanding Officer of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

For the last two years, Lt Col Barni has been serving in the Army General Inspection as an Infantry Inspector. At the end of 1996, he was posted as CO of the 8th Argentinian Task Force in Cyprus.

Lt Col Barni is married to María Rosa. They have two daughters and one son, aged between 19 and 13 years.



THE HUMANITARIAN BRANCH IN SECTOR ONE

On 19 December, after several attempts during the year, the Humanitarian Branch in Sector One finally managed to put into practice an idea which they had been contemplating for quite a while. In an effort to prove that friendship has no frontiers, the team has been trying since the beginning of 1996 to obtain permission for a bicomunal get-together in Sector One.

Many times, it seemed that they were on the verge of failure, however they did not give up. Backed by the civilian employees from both sides of the Buffer Zone, they continued in their attempts to organise this event until finally, authority was granted. The get-together took place at Admiral Brown Camp in the former "Box Factory", a site chosen because of its neutral position in the Buffer Zone. It was coordinated by the Humanitarian Branch of Sector One, and attended by United Nations civilian employees from north and south Cyprus who themselves organised the event.

The Humanitarian Branch was delighted to be able to host a function which enabled old friends to



*Members of the Humanitarian Team with
civilian employees from both sides of the dividing line*

reunite, some of them having been separated for the last 22 years. Many have actually been working together, but only through telephone contact.

Events like this are the best reward for the personnel of any humanitarian team, all of whom work to contribute to the peace and happiness of the people on this island.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME



All the very best - and welcome!

Perseverance pays off in the end. The Humanitarian Branch of Sector One, during 1996, painstakingly put all their efforts into gaining the trust of the farmers from several villages who have land situated inside the Buffer Zone.

During the periodic coffeeshop meetings, members of the Humanitarian Branch met up

with inhabitants of a number of villages in the Kokkinotrimithia area. This ranged from as far away as Pano and Kato Pyrgos in the eastern part of the Sector, passing through Mammari, Dhenia, Akaki, Peristerona and Astromeritis.

Imagine their surprise then, when a number of farmers from Peristerona organised a dinner to bid farewell to the outgoing members of Argentinian Task Force 7, and to welcome the new Contingent. The event was attended by high ranking police officers and, of course, the farmers and workers from the village and surrounding areas. During the evening, a number of speeches were made from both Cypriots and UN members, which highlighted the cooperation and understanding that are shown every day.

The Cypriots living near Sector One's area of control understand and acknowledge the responsibilities and obligations which are a necessary part of their UN duties, and it is comforting for the Humanitarian Branch of Sector One to know how much they are appreciated.

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

Situated 11.2 km west of Limassol there stands the magnificent Gothic Castle of Kolossi. The location was known by this name at the time of Richard the Lionheart's occupation of Cyprus in 1191. It was here that Isaac Comnenos had his camp, which Richard captured, but Kolossi was not then described as a castle. The Order of St John of Jerusalem (or Knights Hospitaller) was granted Kolossi by King Hugh I in 1210, when a castle was doubtlessly erected, if none already existed. The property had belonged to one Garinus de Colos, whom King Hugh compensated. The Hospitallers had previously been established temporarily in the castles of the island to assist in maintaining the newly instituted Latin authority, while Aimery, the first Lusignan king, was absent in Palestine.

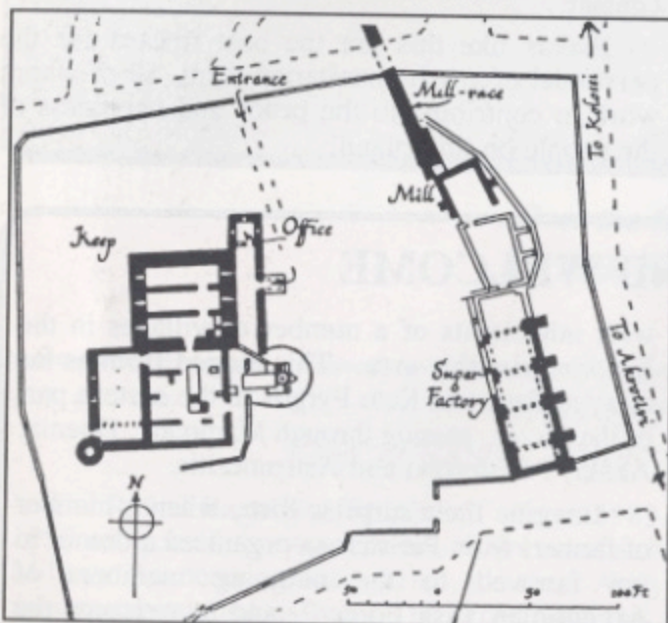


Diagram of Kolossi Castle and surrounding area

Kolossi appears to have fallen into the possession of the Templars for a brief period, prior to the measures taken against them in 1308, on the instructions of the Pope; for the castle and estate of Kolossi are included in the list of properties confiscated from the Templars on the abolition of their Order, and handed to the Hospitallers. The Templar occupation of Kolossi may have taken place in 1306 when Amaury, Lord of Tyre, aided by the Grand Master of the Temple, usurped the kingdom from his brother Henry II, whom the Hospitallers supported. In 1310, the Hospitallers transferred their headquarters to Rhodes, retaining a Commandery in Cyprus with its seat at Kolossi. The status of Kolossi

as headquarters of the Commandery was confirmed in a ruling of the Chapter of the Hospital dated 1380.

The Commandery of Kolossi was renowned as the richest possession of the Knights. It derived its wealth from the many vineyards in the villages it held, whose best wine, *Commanderia*, is still named after it, and from its sugar-cane plantations, watered from the neighbouring river Kouris. The Genoese expeditions of 1373 (when the castle was successfully defended) and 1402 and the Mameluke raids of 1425 and 1426 must have caused serious set-backs to this prosperity; nor can the buildings of the Commandery have remained untouched, though it is claimed the castle was never taken. Indeed, the damage caused in these years seems to have necessitated a general rebuilding, for in its present form, the Castle of Kolossi dates only from the mid 15th century.

The present keep is attributed to the Grand Commander Louis de Magnac, who held the fief (land held by feudal tenure) from about 1450. The coat-of-arms on the east wall of the castle, set below the royal quarters of Jerusalem, Lusignan, Cyprus and Armenia, is believed to be his. Flanking these are the arms of two Grand Masters of Rhodes associated with the work: Jean de Lastic (from 1427) and Jacques de Milli (1454-1461).

Louis de Magnac was succeeded at Kolossi by an Englishman, John Langstrother, in 1468. On his appointment, the revenue payable by the Grand Commandery of Cyprus to the Treasury in Rhodes was fixed at 4,000 ducats. 20 years later, when Giorgio Cornaro, brother of Queen Catherine, persuaded her to abdicate in favour of the Venetian Republic, he was rewarded by the grant of the 14 villages which then formed the Commandery of Cyprus and yielded an annual income of 8,000 ducats. The Kolossi estates were confiscated on the Turkish conquest of the island in 1570, but the titular rank of Grand Commander of Cyprus remained in the Cornaro family until its extinction in 1799. By this time, the Kolossi sugar factory had been put out of business by the rise of the West Indian sugar industry.

DESCRIPTION

The outer wall enclosing the keep seems to have been only partly constructed, but the outer entrance through its east section exists; it was formerly closed by a drawbridge. On the main wall of this side is the marble panel bearing the coats-of-arms already mentioned. South of the entrance, the outer wall

KOLOSSI CASTLE

formerly encircled a massive well-head with a semicircular tower, of which only the foundation survives. This well-head is one of the few remaining features of the pre-15th century castle. It was flanked by steps which evidently ran on up to an entrance of the former castle. The entrance to the present keep is by a similar staircase (reconstructed in 1933), starting with an inner gate in the wall enclosing a yard on the south side.

Louis de Magnac's keep is a three-storey square building with walls 3 metres thick, made of hewn limestone, and surmounted by a crenellated terrace. The ground level is occupied by three storage vaults, originally reached only by a trap door from the floor above. Beneath two of them are rock-cut cisterns. The original entrance is on the south side on the first floor level, protected by a drawbridge and covered by



Kolossi Castle

a machicolation (an opening between supporting corbels for dropping stones, etc. on assailants) high above it, at the level of the battlements. Two chambers with pointed vaults occupy the first floor from the south-east corner, and the kitchen with its large fireplace, reached by two doors in the dividing wall. On the wall between the entrance and the doorway leading to the staircase is a painting of the Crucifixion and, below it, the arms believed to be those of the builder of the castle. The upper storey likewise comprises two lofty vaulted chambers, set east-west, at right-angles to the axis of those below; a spacious anti-chamber and the apartment of the Grand Commander. Both these have large fireplaces, in the latter case ornamented in the fashion adopted

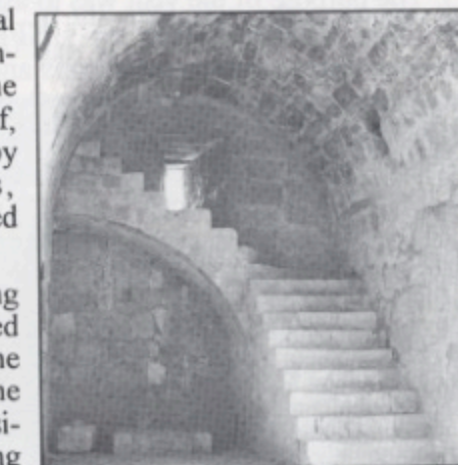
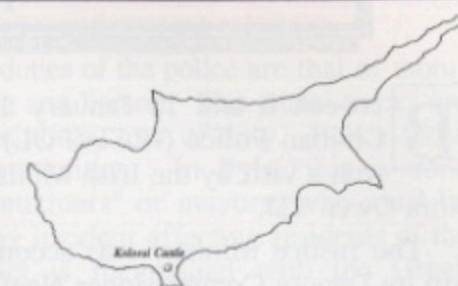
in the buildings of the Knights in Rhodes. Four windows light each chamber, all of them furnished with side seats in the thickness of the massive walls. The Grand Commander's apartment is provided with a privy in the north wall. It seems probable that all four main chambers of the castle were subdivided by a wooden floor carried on beams at the springing of the vaults. The garrets thus provided were lit by the windows set high in the end walls.

The spiral staircase continues to the terrace roof, surrounded by battlements, largely restored in 1933.

Descending to the walled yard to the south of the keep, the visitor, by passing under the drawbridge, reaches an area now roofless which formerly accommodated cells, stables or stores and beyond it a postern gate. Beside the gate are the remains of a circular tower on the angle of the building.

East of the castle stands a large, vaulted building which evidently housed the sugar factory. As old as, if not older than, the present keep, it was repaired in Turkish times under Murad Pasha in 1591, possibly to make good the damage done in the earthquakes of 1567 and 1568 in which Limassol suffered very severely. North of this building, the massive medieval aqueduct, which still conveys water from the bed of the Kouris to irrigate the lands around the castle, ends in a steep mill race. Below it stand the ruins of the mill, by which the giant nether-stone has lain disused for many years.

The association of the Order of St John with the island's history was renewed in 1926, when a branch of the St John's Ambulance Brigade began its activities in first-aid, home nursing and child care. In 1975, the St John Council was registered as a charitable institution.



VISIT BY IRISH MINISTER FOR JUSTICE NORA OWEN TD

Between 8 and 12 January 1997, the Irish Civilian Police (IRCIVPOL) was honoured with a visit by the Irish Minister for Justice, Nora Owen TD.

The Justice Minister was accompanied on the trip by Deputy Commissioner Noel Conroy of An Garda Síochana (Irish Police Force), Mr Patrick Folan, Principal Officer with the Department of Justice, Chief Superintendent Brian Garvey, Mr John O'Dwyer and Ms Linda O'Shea Farnen. The host for her visit was Commander IRCIVPOL, Chief Superintendent L Quinn.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the role of the Irish Civilian Police on UNFICYP duty, to examine their working conditions and to be briefed on the international situation in Cyprus. She was, in reality, on a "line tour", having visited the Irish Civilian Police Contingent on UN duty in war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The Minister with members of IRCON

During the visit to UNPA, the Justice Minister called on the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, and the Force Commander, Brigadier General Ahti Vartiainen. On arrival at the Headquarters, she inspected an honour guard and was briefed on UNFICYP by the Chief of Staff, Colonel RI Talbot. She also made an office call on the Chief Administrative Officer, Mrs Shirley Baptiste.

While at the UNPA, Mrs Owen was delighted to meet members of IRCON. She accepted a presentation from Captain Ronan McHugh to commemorate the visit. This was particularly nostalgic as Mrs Owen is the grand-niece of Michael Collins, the first Chief of Staff of the Irish Army. While meeting IRCON personnel in the "Hib



The Minister with members of IRCIVPOL

Club", she was shown a photograph of the young Michael Collins on display.

The wives and children of IRCIVPOL members were introduced to Mrs Owen and were delighted with the photo opportunity afforded to them.

During her stay, the Minister visited the Green Line and was briefed by Lieutenant Colonel Bob Eggar, Commanding Officer Sector Two.

IRCIVPOL stations at Athienou, Pyla and Famagusta were inspected by the Minister. She met each of the 15-member contingent. The ministerial party was enthralled by the helicopter flight over the Buffer Zone and were impressed by the flying of Flight Lieutenant Gamarra of UN Flight. At Camp Pyla, the visitors were briefed by 1st Lieutenant Albert Stuhler of the Austrian Contingent and were given an in-depth insight into the activities of the Pyla Platoon. On the police side, she was briefed by Chief Superintendent Quinn and given a tour of the village. While in Camp Duke Leopold V in Sector Four, the Minister was hosted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel W Wildberger.

Prior to her departure, the Minister hosted a dinner for the UN dignitaries and IRCIVPOL. She presented each of the Irish Police with a Kilkenny marble present to commemorate her visit. She praised the work of UNFICYP, and thanked everyone for the hospitality and courtesy afforded her during her visit.

Commander IRCIVPOL wishes to thank all Contingents for the excellent work performed and services rendered during the visit.

IRCIVPOL - GUARDIANS OF THE PEACE

IRCIVPOL, the Irish Civilian Police, contingent consists of 15 personnel. Along with AUSTCIVPOL's contingent of 20, they make up the civilian police attached to UNFICYP. The members of IRCIVPOL are part of "An Garda Síochana", Ireland's national police force. An Garda Síochana means "Guardian of the Peace". It is a force of approximately 11,000 which is unarmed, except for the detective branch of 1,000 who work in plain clothes and carry firearms. The first Commissioner of the Force, Michael Staines, said "it will not be by force of arms or numbers, but by the moral authority of the people" that the force would succeed. The same principle applies today, especially on UN service.

The Contingent is based at Pyla, Athienou, Famagusta and Nicosia. Pyla is the HQ and home to eight of the police officers under the command of Chief Superintendent Liam Quinn. Three officers are attached to Athienou, three to Famagusta and one Inspector based with the Humanitarian Branch in the UNPA. The main role of IRCIVPOL is to act in aid of UNFICYP's military wing which in Sector Four is AUSCON. This is a reverse of our police role in Ireland. On UN duty, we do not have a power of arrest and do not "enforce the law without fear, favour, malice or ill-will". We are observers with the moral authority of the UN behind us.

An Garda Síochana came to the UN in April 1989. A detachment of Gardai, men and women, under Chief Superintendent Noel Anderson, served under the Blue Flag in Namibia with UNTAG. Their work consisted in part in supervising and monitoring the work of the local police force. They ensured that law and order was maintained, and that human rights and fundamental freedoms were observed and protected. They supervised prisons and places of detention. They acted as monitors and ensured that elections were fair and democratic.

In all, over 300 men and women of An Garda Síochana have served in 16 missions. Service included Namibia, Angola, Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mozambique, Somalia, El Salvador, Western Sahara and Eastern Slavonia. At present, the government authorizes 61 personnel on overseas duty. The force began serving with Cyprus in 1993, and is proud to be part of the 600,000 people

involved with past and present missions.

The normal duties of the police are that of monitoring, reporting and liaison. The patrol tracks are checked on each daily tour of duty. Police liaise with both communities. In Pyla, this is done through the "mukhtars" or mayors, who must be consulted on any incident affecting residents of the village. Contact is maintained with the Greek Cypriot Police (CYPOL) and the Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE). They may enter the village, but must be unarmed and in plain clothes.

On a community level, Commander Quinn has involved the contingent in various projects to bring the community together and ensure trust of the UN in a secure and safe environment. AUSCON's Pyla Platoon assists in all activities and ensures the safety of the village.



The only two female members of IRCIVPOL: Sgt Lorraine Stack (left) and Pol Offr Eileen Daly

The main issues in Pyla are unemployment and future developments. The village, with a population of 1,200 consisting of 800 Greek Cypriots and 400 Turkish Cypriots, has a high rate of unemployment among the Turkish Cypriot community. This is especially so since August 1996. Business in the local shops and restaurants is very poor. Following a number of high-powered delegations during the year, it is hoped that new economic developments and atmosphere can be created to improve business and employment.

The people of Pyla are very friendly, open and law-abiding. Serious crime is virtually unknown. The Irish Police Contingent who live in the village take part in all aspects of village life and aim to bring a sense of normality to the village.



CHANGE OF COMMAND IN SECTOR FOUR

In a ceremony on Saturday 25 January, the Commanding Officer of the Austrian Battalion, Lt Col Wolfgang Wildberger, came to the end of his assignment after a 15-month tour with UNFICYP. He handed over command of Sector Four to Lt Col Robert Prader.

In his farewell speech, Lt Col Wildberger told his soldiers that he was very proud to have had the privilege of commanding this battalion, which gave its very best in the most violent clashes on the island for the last twenty years.

In a special Medal Parade, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, the Force Commander, presented UN medals to those soldiers who have completed 90 days' service with UNFICYP.

The new Commander Sector Four, Lt Col Prader, in his inaugural speech, stated that the mission of Sector Four is clear, and that it is his



From the left: Lt Col Prader, Brig Gen Vartiainen and Lt Col Wildberger

intention to carry out these tasks to the best of his ability. Following the ceremony, the battalion was invited to lunch, with musical entertainment provided by the AUSCON band.

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER SECTOR FOUR

Lt Col Robert Prader was born on 22 August 1960 in Innsbruck (Tyrol). After finishing his secondary education in 1979, he joined the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt and was commissioned to an Alpine Battalion in 1983. At the beginning of his military career, he served as a platoon leader and as Coy Commander of a weapons coy.

From 1988 to 1991, he attended the General Staff Course. For the

next five years he was posted as a tactical instructor to the Austrian Defence Academy in Vienna and as Senior Logistics Officer of an Infantry Brigade, followed by an appointment as Chief of Staff of an Infantry Brigade. From 1995 to 1996, he attended the French General Staff Course.

Lt Col Prader is married to Ruth. They have two children: Noella-Verena, aged 9, and Benjamin, aged



6. Lt Col Prader enjoys skiing and he is well experienced in alpinism.

THE DRIVING SECTION OF SECTOR FOUR

The driving section in Sector Four is headed by the Motor Transport Officer with three NCOs and 19 drivers under his command. Sector Four is provided with a fleet of 67, including nine different types of vehicle. The largest number of 4-wheel drive vehicles is of Austrian origin - the PUCH-G, the STEYR 12 M 18 trucks as well as three ÖAF water supply trucks.

Most of the drivers are militiamen who go through rigorous training before they are posted abroad. After familiarizing themselves with all the rules related to their task, they have to pass advanced training on the job which enables them to drive in a safe and defensive manner.

During 1996, Sector Four totalled a mileage of almost 2 million km with only 29 minor accidents. This works out to an average of one accident every 70,000 km - not bad by any standards!



Members of the Transport Section in Camp Duke Leopold V

THE UNFICYP ART GROUP

The UNFICYP Art Group was formed in November 1995 by Lt Col Syd Carr with the aim of introducing members of UNFICYP and their dependants to painting landscapes in watercolours. Of the initial group of 12, only two had painted before. This meant concentrating at first on teaching the basic skills and techniques of drawing and the use of watercolours. Each session was built around new techniques that were used to produce a painting by the close of session. Sunday morning field trips were taken to Karmi in the north and Fikardhou in the south to gain experience in sketching and painting outside.



Some of the members of the present UNFICYP Art Group

Chief of Mission invited as the principal guest. Over 100 people from the various Branches, Sections and Units of the Force attended the opening and enjoyed the paintings.

After the excitement of the event and a final celebration, the group disbanded for the summer, many returning to their home countries at the end of their tour of duty with UNFICYP.

The current multi-national group of 18 was formed in October 1996 and are currently working hard towards the next exhibition, planned to open on **Friday 21 March 1997**. The standard of work being produced this year is excellent, with some new members displaying real talent. We have participants from almost all contingents, so ensure you put a note in your diary to attend the opening and enjoy viewing what promises to be an excellent collection of paintings of Cyprus and your home countries.



The village of Lazania (near Makheras Monastery)

As the budding artists progressed and work improved, it was decided to hold an exhibition to allow the group to display their work and perhaps sell a few. This took place on 22 March 1996, and was opened by the Force Commander with the



Farm in winter - Essex, England



Kyrenia

All paintings by courtesy of Lt Col Syd Carr

18 (QUEBEC 1759) BATTERY, ROYAL ARTILLERY

After a hectic start to their six-month tour, things seem to be calming down a little for 18 Battery as they adjust to their new incarnation in Cyprus as Line Battery West (LBW), Sector Two. Through the first three months of their tour, the majority of incidents along the length of the Buffer Zone were centred around LBW's area; most notably the Ayios Dhometios and Ayios Pavlos shootings, which received widespread coverage in the Cyprus press. Such incidents put the Battery under the microscope island-wide, leading the Battery Commander, Major Chris Wood, to comment: "It was truly a case of in at the deep end for the Battery; due to the professionalism and sheer hard work of the men, we have been able to show the opposing forces that we mean business. The result has been a significant decrease in violations."



Lt Bolam explaining the Buffer Zone to Lt Gen Wallace, Chief of Joint Operations, Permanent Joint HQ in Northwood, UK

The section of the Green Line that Major Wood and his men are responsible for stretches from the boundary with the Argentinian Contingent in the west to the Ledra Palace Hotel in the east. It is subdivided into three individual troop areas: Bengal, Kingston and Mojave, and provides a wide variety of



Robin Cook, MP, pops in for a quick cuppa

testing conditions for 'the men of the 18th'. Bengal in the west is very open and rural, and the main problems stem from civilians unwittingly entering the Buffer Zone.

In stark contrast, the Mojave area in the east borders the very centre of Nicosia, with the opposing forces often less than 50 metres apart. The area has proved to be the source of some tension, and more restraint from both sides is eagerly awaited by this hard-working troop.

Despite a demanding workload, 18 Battery managed to have an enjoyable if hectic Christmas and New Year, despite being the first Christmas away from home for some of the younger soldiers.

The Battery fully expects the remainder of the tour to be both challenging and busy, and remains firmly committed to maintaining the high standards set thus far. The Battery Sergeant Major, Chris Challinor, is hopeful that within this context: "... the men are able to participate fully in the many sporting, social and adventurous training activities both the United Nations and the Regiment provide. In doing so, it is hoped that their time in Cyprus is as rewarding and enjoyable as possible".

BI-COMMUNAL CHILDREN'S PARTY

Back in October and November 1996, the children of Larkhill County Primary School collected and handed to the Humanitarian Cell of Sector Two a large quantity of toys which they wish to donate to under-privileged and needy children here in Cyprus.

As a result, it has been decided to hold a bi-communal children's party at the Ledra Palace, where 50 children from both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities will be invited. It is intended to entertain the children with a Dance Troupe, face painting, cartoon videos and the children themselves are going to sing.

In order to make this event a success, local companies have kindly made generous donations, and we look forward to planning a date in the very near future.



The Humanitarian Cell of Sector Two. From the left: Sgt Fozzard, SSgt Neil, the SHO Capt Newton, Hum WO2 (BSM) Marsh and Sgt Webb

AUSTCIVPOL AND CANCON MEDAL PARADE

On 13 February 1997, a medal parade was held for the members of the Australian Civilian Police and the Canadian Contingent. This event was unique as it was the first combined medal parade to involve these two contingents, and was also the last medal parade of Brigadier General ATP Vartiainen, the Force Commander.

The parade was attended by the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr John Sullivan, and other official guests as well as personal guests of each member. Sergeants Peter Schiller, Brendan Slape and Tony Crowe were unable to attend, as they were required to return to Australia prior to the parade.

The parade was officiated by Capt Tony Whelan of the Irish Contingent who was the master of ceremonies. One of the highlights of the parade was a fly past performed by members of UN Flight whilst carrying the flags of both Australia and Canada (see front cover).



From the left: Commander AUSTCIVPOL, the Force Commander and the Australian High Commissioner

On completion of the medal parade, members and guests gathered at the Kangaroo Club for refreshments.

THE QM'S DEPT

by Bdr Nicola Gould

The Quartermaster's Department may not sound a very glamorous place to work. In fact, when I phoned my grandmother and tried to explain what it is I do all day, all she could remember was what she had seen on the Pathe News reels during the Second World War - soldiers in Nissen huts, counting blankets. She had visions of me doing the same. Well, we still have Nissen huts in which to put the stores, but that's where the similarity ends!

The Quartermaster is responsible for the 14 chefs and all that they produce, the MT section with its detachment of drivers and vehicles, the REME LAD section of eight mechanics and fixers, and the six storemen, such as myself, who work within the QM's department itself.

Never having been to Cyprus before, and also never having worked in the QM's department, I didn't know what to expect. My first week here was very hurried as I had to take over the UN account, which meant checking all UN owned equipment from one end of Sector Two to the other. As with any new unit, we did a lot of re-arranging once 39 Regt RA left so that we had all the various departments and stores laid out just as we wanted them. As the QM's department is the link between

the Regiment and the UN on the logistics side, we have had to meet many new faces and learn how the UN operates. There are Shaffy and Phivos at the Support Services Workshop who repair our furniture, heaters and other electrical items, and Rick and Doros at the UN Warehouse who issue all UN provided stores and equipment. Everybody we have dealings with has made us very welcome and is always willing to assist.

Work is only one third of the day, and there is plenty to do with the other two thirds. I have joined a local gym and go there regularly to train with a few friends. I have spent a weekend sailing at the Regiment's Adventure Training Centre at Dhekelia, and I have represented the Regiment at Cross Country (never again, though - too many hills!). I have even taken up orienteering, which, to my surprise, I quite enjoy. My next goal is to cycle up to the Troodos mountains, but that will be when the weather is a little warmer.

Of course, there have been plenty of opportunities to sample the night life and local cuisine. With only three months left of my tour, I wonder if I shall have time to do all the things I want to - but I shall try.



Cpl Wood and



Bdr Keens, hard at work

THE PFR ON PATROL



Pictured above are British soldiers from the Permanent Force Reserve beside the UN patrol track in the Nicosia area. The date is 4 February 1997; the activity is routine.

What is strange about it is the fact that they are patrolling in the snow. Unprecedented snowfall hit many parts of Cyprus, with some areas seeing snow for the first time in 40 years.

Photo by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett