

# THE Blue Beret

July 1997







## BI-COMMUNAL DARTS TOURNAMENT



On Sunday 29 June, the North Cyprus Darts Association hosted the Nicosia Darts Association in a bi-communal tournament held at Bellapais Abbey. Known as the "All Cyprus Return Darts Tournament", the event was facilitated by AUSTCIVPOL's Superintendent Ridley, with close co-operation and enthusiasm from members of both associations. It was billed as a return match, following the success of the inaugural tournament held in Nicosia in 1994.

Approximately 70 players competed from either side, with 133 Greek Cypriot competitors, families and supporters allowed to cross to the north for the day. The response from the Turkish Cypriots was equally enthusiastic.



Opening speeches by the organisers

with players lining up to demonstrate their skill and, hopefully, carry away a trophy. Their enthusiasm was evident in their reluctance to end the tournament, with matches continuing until late in the evening and finishing well behind schedule. Meanwhile, outside, entertainment continued with Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots joining together in a festive atmosphere. There was singing and dancing to the music of a live band, with others talking quietly in small groups. All expressed a desire to live side by side in peace.

Superintendent White was on hand to present the winners with their trophies before the event finally ended at 1:30 am. Prizes were shared by competitors from both sides.



.... others enjoy themselves in the Abbey grounds

Bellapais was an apt setting for this event. Its name derives from the French Abbaye de la Paix - *Abbey of Peace*. In the spirit of peace, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots joined together to share both a common interest and a desire to re-unite their country. Quoting American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, Superintendent White ended the event with an appropriate message:

*"The only reward of virtue is virtue,  
the only way to have a friend is to be one".*



Serious work goes on inside the Abbey while....

The tournament was opened by the Acting Commander of AUSTCIVPOL, Superintendent Peter White MBE. Formalities were followed by refreshments, traditional music and dancing in the grounds of the Abbey before participants were taken by bus to Kyrenia Harbour for lunch.

A return to the Abbey saw the tournament under way inside the former refectory. Competition was intense,



The picturesque Abbey of Peace - Bellapais

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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:

## PATROL BASE 25 IN SECTOR ONE

PHOTO BY WOIII RUBÉN ZABALA

# The Blue Beret



## EDITORIAL

Under the auspices of the Secretary-General Kofi Annan, on 9 July 1997, the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus met at Troutbeck, some 90 miles north of New York, to revive direct negotiations aimed at finding a lasting solution to their island's problem. It was their first face-to-face encounter in nearly three years, which marked the beginning of a process of negotiations to establish a new partnership between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Obviously, this was preceded by months of careful preparations carried out by the Chief of Mission and many parties supporting the Secretary-General in his good offices mission in Cyprus. The Secretary-General inaugurated the talks personally with an address which is published in this edition of your magazine. It was agreed, subject to confirmation, that both leaders meet again for face-to-face talks in Switzerland from 11 to 16 August.

The leaders also agreed to meet in Nicosia prior to their Switzerland round of talks to discuss various humanitarian questions, thus strengthening the positive atmosphere created at Troutbeck. Two such meetings have taken place in the Chief of Mission's residence in the UNPA, just before this edition of the Blue Beret was published.

The current UN sponsored effort cannot be over-estimated. The international community is sending the strongest possible signal to Cypriots on both sides: this time, through the negotiating process, the protracted Cyprus problem has to be resolved.

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## SECRETARY-GENERAL STATEMENT AT OPENING OF CYPRUS TALKS TROUTBECK, NEW YORK, 9 JULY 1997



*Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Welcome to these important talks.

This is a setting of great beauty and serenity. It is a place where, I am sure, cool minds and clear heads will prevail.

The generosity of the Government of Norway has made this meeting possible. On behalf of the United Nations, I express our deep gratitude to the Norwegians for this characteristic gesture in support of international peace and stability.

I invited the leaders of the Cypriot communities to meet here for face-to-face talks because I believe that a lasting peace in Cyprus is now within our grasp. Great responsibilities, therefore, rest on the shoulders of the distinguished leaders of the two Cypriot communities. I am very glad they have come. I bid them a warm welcome here today.

In preparing for this meeting, I was reminded that the very first intercommunal talks were held 29 years ago at the home of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cyprus. On the Greek Cypriot side, the talks were led by the President of the Cypriot House of

Representatives. On the Turkish Cypriot side, the talks were led by the President of the Turkish Cypriot Communal Chamber. Those are the same leaders who have joined us today.

This is a remarkable record. It is, in both cases, a record of a lifetime's work of service and leadership. Today, their knowledge of the situation is unrivalled. Their authority with their representative communities is undimmed. I believe that strong leaders make the best peacemakers. That thought strengthens my conviction that there are grounds for hope in the process that lies ahead.

*Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The search for a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem has dragged on for too long. For 33 years and four months, the United Nations has toiled, so far in vain, to bring about an agreed settlement. There have been dozens of Security Council resolutions. Four Secretaries-General have worked hard to implement the Council's mandate.

One wrote that this issue took up more of his time and attention than any other during his ten years in office. He called Cyprus the "orphan child of the United Nations".



*The opening of the Cyprus talks with the meeting between the Cypriot leaders, under the auspices of the United Nations, began on 9 July 1997 at the Troutbeck Conference Centre in Amonia, New York.*

*Shown above is a general view of the meeting: At the back table, Diego Cordovez (left), Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Secretary-General Kofi Annan (second from left), Kieran Prendergast (second from right), Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Gustave Feissel, UNFICYP's Chief of Mission (right).*

*At the left table is Glafcos Clerides (centre), leader of the Greek Cypriot community and at the right table, Rauf Denktaş (centre), leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.*



*Mr Glafcos Clerides, Leader of the Greek Cypriot Community (left), Mr Rauf Denktaş, Leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community (right) with Mr Gustave Feissel, Chief of Mission, at the talks held on 28 July 1997 in Nicosia on humanitarian issues*

A total of 13 Special Representatives have striven to help the parties resolve their differences.

But while the search for peace in Cyprus has not, so far, been successful, neither has it been entirely fruitless.

UNFICYP, originally set up for a period of three months, is still in existence. UNFICYP has held the line, worked to reduce tension, and has promoted intercommunal activities. The work of UNFICYP has been invaluable in reducing tension and containing the conflict. It has not

been cost-free. UNFICYP currently costs \$55m a year. 168 United Nations peace-keepers have paid the supreme price for peace on Cyprus.

In the seemingly endless talks, some fruitful elements emerged. There were important advances that clarified the issues and that provided a starting-point for our work today.

A further factor is that, today, international backing for a solution to the Cyprus issues is firmer than ever. The support of the Security Council has been unequivocal. This meeting itself - and the presence of special envoys from so many countries - is proof of the high priority the international community attaches to the search for a viable and comprehensive solution.

Let us, therefore, press forward, in a positive spirit, in search of our common goal, a viable and comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

This afternoon, Mr Diego Cordovez will share with you on my behalf a number of suggestions. They are intended to facilitate your work during these direct talks. I hope they will assist you in organizing your future endeavours.

If you agree with these suggestions, you will be sending a strong and unmistakable signal to the international community. You will be signalling your commitment and determination to reach a comprehensive settlement - for which the people of Cyprus have been waiting for too long.

For many years, you have engaged in discussions about the issues that you have identified as the most crucial. Those discussions were based on concepts and approaches that successive Secretaries-General put forward in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

Past efforts remain valuable and significant. That is because - as I said on assuming my present functions - the elements needed to work out a settlement are, as a result, at hand.

I strongly believe that what is needed now is to explore, without further delay, specific and concrete solutions to each of those issues, and to do so in their proper context. This can be achieved only if you begin consideration of the actual documents and legal instructions that will constitute the comprehensive settlement.

I therefore propose that you enter upon a process - let me repeat, a process - of negotiations, leading to the incremental construction of the juridical framework within which the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities will forge a new partnership.

I am convinced that if you do so, you will be able to promote an increasingly fruitful convergence of views and positions, in a process which will acquire its own momentum - and thus produce the kind of consensual trade-offs that a negotiation necessarily involves.

I am equally convinced that, as soon as the negotiation process is under way, you will find that it is the most practical way of formulating texts that are mutually acceptable, and for that reason effective and durable.

The fact that the process will be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations will add another dimension. It will ensure that the principles of the Charter will inspire all the good offices efforts of the Secretary-General; will guide your deliberations; and underlie all the understandings that you will reach.

My aim is not to have to report, yet again, to the Security Council about another opportunity missed. No one underestimates the immensity of the tasks before you. But the international community has repeatedly expressed its confidence in your ability to craft new constitutional and institutional structures - structures to allow the people of both Cypriot communities to live together in peace.

I share that hope, and that trust. For the negotiations to proceed in an atmosphere of mutual confidence, I believe that both sides should refrain from making any public statements. I trust, therefore, that our friends in the media will understand when I say that there will be no press statements or interviews until this round of negotiations is over.

*Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It would be untrue to say that the world is watching the events in Troutbeck this week. But there are many who recognize that the present situation in Cyprus offers no recipe for peace, security and healthy economic development in the future. On the contrary, young people on the island are growing up under an ever-present cloud of uncertainty and potential instability.

For their sake, this cannot continue. There is a sense of greater urgency, more of a consensus than ever that this dispute must be brought to an end.

The consequences of failure are likely to be more dire than at any time in recent decades.

By reaching agreement, the Cypriot communities will not only earn the respect and gratitude of the international community. They will also earn its profound relief at the removal of a potential flashpoint from international relations in the Eastern Mediterranean and, most important, provide a prosperous and peaceful future for all Cypriots.

Thank you.



## OPERATIONS BRANCH HEADQUARTERS, UNFICYP

The Operations Branch in any Military Headquarters is traditionally the lead and senior Branch, due to its pivotal role in dealing with the daily tactical situation.

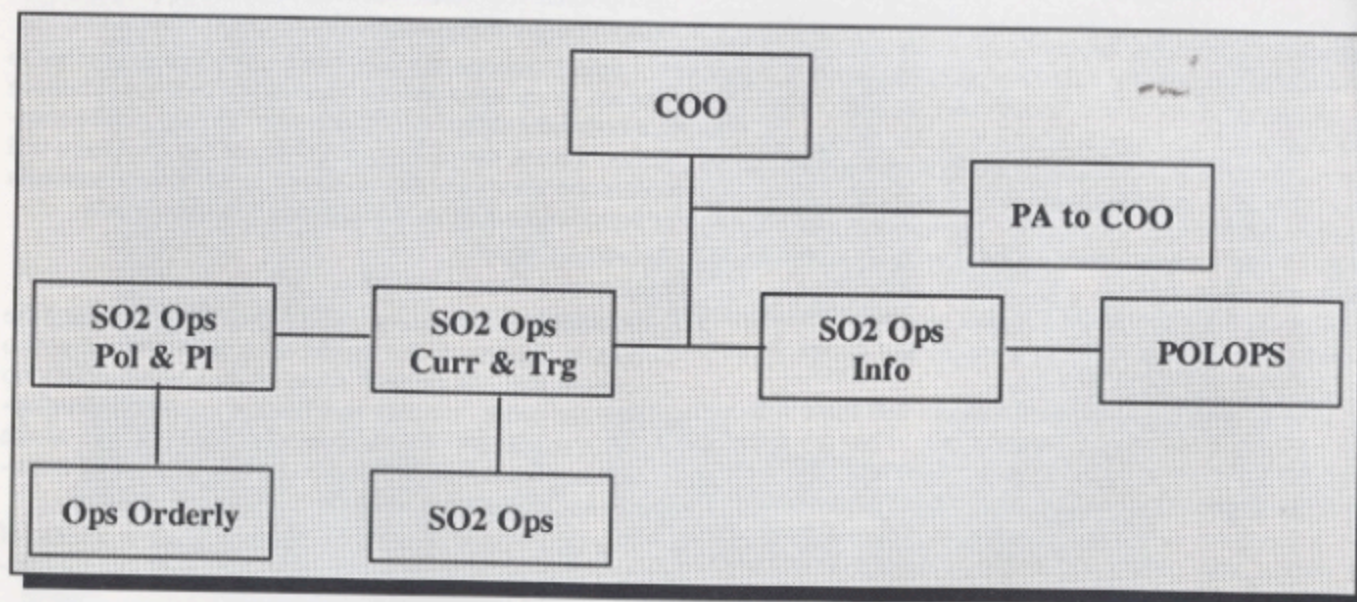
One of the three main branches within this Headquarters, Operations (Ops) Branch, is responsible for advising the senior political and military appointments on all matters concerning the operations and training policy for the Force. Its critical function is the preparation and dissemination of executive orders which commit UNFICYP to operations along the Buffer Zone, in addition to the Operational Instructions such as the Force Employment Book and Operational SOPs. The Joint Operations Centre (JOC) allows the HQ, through Ops Branch, to monitor the BZ and OPFOR (opposing forces) situation on a constant basis, through a robust communications system with the Sectors and other units.

The branch is broken down as shown in the line diagram below:

On various occasions, especially during crisis situations as has happened in the not so distant past, the branch was fully active, working around the clock in the Command Centre, giving valuable and timely advice as required. The Joint Operations Centre proved invaluable, ensuring that communications between the Headquarters and the Sectors remained fully operational.

Obviously, we must always be prepared to face the worst and be ready to react in such a manner as to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate. A certain degree of flexibility, coupled with alertness and readiness 24 hours a day, is a must.

Attached as part of Ops Branch is the Police Operations (POLOPs) Section, which consists of a senior officer from the UN Civilian Police (Australia). He must at all times be fully up-to-date with the military situation and remain abreast of the activities of both CYPOL and TCPE. One of his main functions is to liaise with UNCIVPOL,



At present the Branch consists of some eight different nationalities, with the newly arrived Lt Col Johann Trummer at the head of the branch as Chief Operations Officer (COO). Through the COS, he is directly responsible to the FC for the collection and collation of operational information and the timely issue of executive orders and instructions.

CYPOL, TCPE and the SBA Police on issues pertaining to the UN.

The branch is always available to offer help and advice so that the Sectors deploy soldiers and CIVPOL fully briefed and prepared. Our guiding principles are: economy of effort and concentration of force!

## INTERVIEW

*Lieutenant Colonel Nick Parker, the Chief Operations Officer in Headquarters UNFICYP, returned to Britain this month at the end of his tour. Lieutenant Colonel Parker served with UNFICYP from July 1995 to July 1997, and handed over to Austria's Lieutenant Colonel Johann Trummer. Here, he talks to The Blue Beret.*



**Q.** *At the end of your tour, what do you consider as the most important experience you have gained?*

**A.** This was my first experience of United Nations peace-keeping operations, which I have found occasionally to be frustrating, but always rewarding and interesting. Perhaps the most important experience I have gained on this tour was working with the other nationals of UN troop contributing countries.

**Q.** *What are the responsibilities of a Chief Operations Officer?*

**A.** The responsibilities include the coordination and fusion of all matters relating to and affecting the operational situation between the opposing forces in Cyprus. The importance of a complete understanding of the status quo cannot be over-stressed, as well as a firm understanding of the overall political climate. Patience, where necessary diplomacy, and a thorough knowledge of UNFICYP's mandate and mission are essential.

**Q.** *What are some of the important highlights of your tour?*

**A.** Clearly, the major civil disturbances and escalation of serious incidents between opposing forces during 1996, which led to a marked increase in tension on the island, have to be the most significant factor affecting my tour.

The associated increase in work, both within the Headquarters and throughout the Force, highlighted some operational deficiencies which have yet to be addressed. These include a helicopter capable of MEDEVAC and troop lift, and also armoured ambulances. I must say, though, that the way the Force performed during the latter part of 1996 and its ability to stop further escalation was a major success.

The personal highlights are the many friends from different nations my wife and I have made, and with whom we shall remain in contact in the future.

**Q.** *What has been your biggest regret?*

**A.** My biggest regret has been my inability to travel to other United Nations peace-keeping missions to gain experience from their operations and, indeed, to go to Headquarters United Nations, New York to learn personally the requirements of that HQ.

On a private level, it has been my inability to explore all the many historical sites in this part of the eastern Mediterranean.

**Q.** *What is your opinion of UNFICYP and Cyprus in general?*

**A.** I believe, with limited resources and, to a certain extent, equipment and accommodation, UNFICYP fulfils its mandated tasks to the best of its ability, and that it has truly prevented a renewal of hostilities between the opposing forces.

I further believe that the current round of political talks have to be the way ahead, and it is encouraging that the leaders of both communities have agreed to meet again. Coupled with the on-going indirect military negotiations to reduce tension along the cease-fire lines, this has to paint an optimistic future for Cyprus which everyone must grasp and capitalize on.

**Q.** *What are your personal plans for the future?*

**A.** I am looking forward to my return to the UK to be with my family and relatives, and to my new appointment at the Armed Forces University in Shrivenham (situated close to Oxford).

**Q.** *Is there any special message you would like to convey to the members of UNFICYP?*

**A.** On a professional level, I would like to convey my thanks and appreciation to the Force for carrying out an outstanding task with a willing cheerfulness over the past two years. I would also like to wish everyone a safe and successful completion of their tour.



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

A century ago, the excavations that began at Enkomi were to reveal a most important port-city that developed into a rich regional centre of commerce and culture linking the East with the West during the Late Bronze Age. This period was considered by scholars as the most important one in the history of Cyprus: dramatic outside influences changed the character of the island, shifting it from the oriental sphere of influences to the Aegean cultural world.

And yet there is still more to be learnt. For decades now, scholars have been trying in vain to decipher a script that has been found written on scores of small finds, but mainly incised on clay tablets dating as far back as 1500 BC. Only when this is achieved will the world know what language was spoken in Cyprus before the arrival of the Mycenaeans and Achaeans. Until then, the mystery of the script will remain a challenge to linguists.

The archaeological site of Enkomi (known previously as Enkomi-Alasia) is situated to the west of the modern homonymous village and 3 km north-west of Salamis. It was the first and largest prehistoric city to be examined. Excavations were first undertaken by the British Museum Expedition in 1896. Due to its importance, many foreign missions were involved (two from Britain, one from Sweden and the longest one from France, with partial collaboration from the Department of Antiquities).

Enkomi is impressive by its dimensions, measuring as it does 400 m from N to S and 350 m from the W wall to the rock cliff on the E side. Its eventful history spans from the last years of the Middle Bronze Age (around 1700 BC) to the final years of the Late Bronze Age, when it was gradually abandoned by its inhabitants for Salamis. This may be attributed to the earthquake in c 1075 BC, or to the loss of its port, due to the silting up of the estuary that linked it to the sea.

The humble beginnings of the original farming community of Enkomi coincided with a troubled period in the Eastern Mediterranean, due to the incursions of the Hyksos (raiders from Syria and Palestine who invaded Egypt) which probably affected the eastern shores of Cyprus. This can be judged from the fortresses that were constructed and destroyed during the 16th century BC. One such fortification was excavated in the area near the North Gate of the walls at Enkomi. On its floor, traces were found of copper smelting, indicating that Enkomi was one of the Cypriot cities that became

prosperous by copper-trading. Copper ores were transported to Enkomi directly from the mines. They were refined and then exported in the form of ingots.

With the expulsion of the Hyksos from Egypt in around 1550 BC, a period of prosperity followed for Enkomi which proceeded to a vigorous trade with its eastern and western neighbours.

The Mycenaeans, who succeeded the Cretans as masters of the Aegean around 1400 BC, began to establish themselves in the commercial centres of the southern and eastern coasts of Cyprus from where they conducted their trade with the East. In addition, they imported many goods into Cyprus. The tombs of Enkomi, as well as those of Kition, are rich with Mycenaean works of art, mainly pottery, as well as other gifts like gold, ivory and scarabs (beetle-shaped gems) imported from Egypt, the Levant and the Aegean.

Close to the end of the 13th century and after a short abandonment, due to natural causes, Enkomi, along with other areas in Cyprus, received new settlers from the Peloponnese - the Achaeans. They brought with them their religion and language, contributed

to the development of metallurgy and seal-engraving and fortified the towns with cyclopean walls, ramparts and gates. They soon took political control and shifted Cyprus from the oriental sphere of influences to their own Aegean one.

Although the raids of the "Sea Peoples" (plunderers who came from the west, including the Aegean, to the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean) in the 12th century BC set in motion the decline of Enkomi, they did not prevent it from still enjoying an important role in the affairs of Cyprus, nor from continuing in its religious and commercial activities until its destruction by the earthquake.

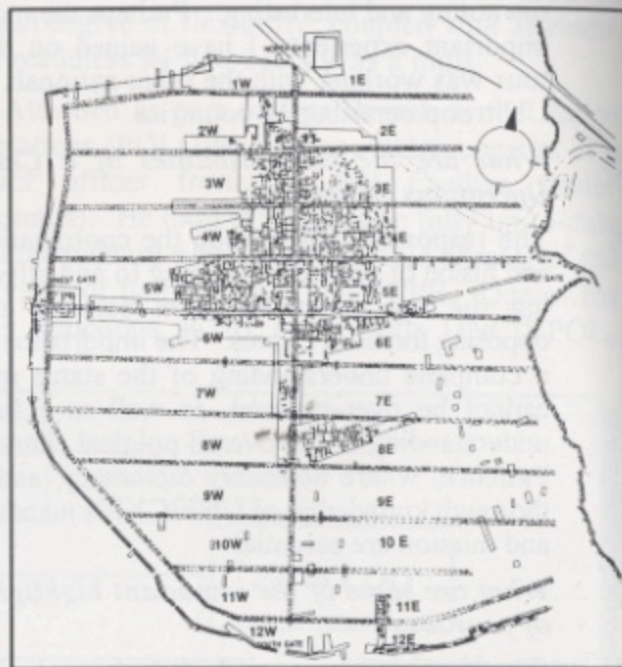


Diagram of the city of Enkomi

## ENKOMI

### DESCRIPTION

#### The Wall and the Gates

The Achaean cyclopean wall that surrounded the city has been uncovered along its entire length, thus determining the size of the city. This wall consisted at the base of two parallel rows of large stone slabs with rubble fill in between, while the upper part was built of mud bricks. A fortified gate is found in each of the N, E, S and W sides of the wall, and there is a tower near the North Gate.

The Town Plan that was introduced by the Achaeans is remarkable by its conception of 12 straight streets running from E to W and crossed perpendicularly by one street running N to S. The northern seven streets are regularly arranged at 32 m apart while those in the southern section of the



The "Ingot God"



The "Horned God"

town follow another pattern. There is a paved "public square" almost at the city centre where the fifth E-W road cuts the perpendicular at right angles.

Building 18, which lies in the 5th street, is the largest building of the new Achaean architectural style, and is considered to be the "megaron"

(Greek for palace) of one of their chieftains. It was built of ashlar (rectangular cut) blocks, some of them 3 m long and 1.4 m high, and was probably of eastern origin (they are also found at Ugarit, in Syria). The building faced south. Its windows were blocked up with stones after the destruction of this complex by the raids of the "Sea Peoples".

The Sanctuary of the "Horned God". On the north-west perpendicular street that lies between the third and fourth cross-streets is the sanctuary of the "Horned God", so called because of a bronze statuette of a young man (god) with horned head-

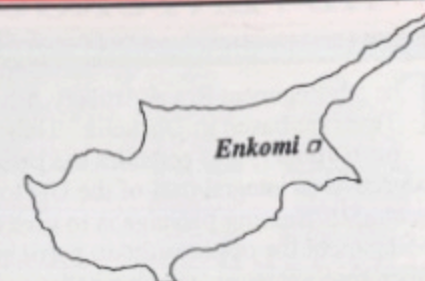


Opening of the tholos-shaped tomb

gear which was found there. This statuette, which measures 61 cm high, constitutes a fine example of Mycenaean art. It is now in the Cyprus Museum. The shrine itself consisted of a large rectangular hall of finely dressed ashlar masonry, divided by two large rectangular pillars and surrounded by subsidiary intercommunicating rooms.

The Shrine of the "Pillar". A second shrine is situated south of the fifth street on the SE of Building 18. Built of ashlar blocks, it consists of a porched main shrine, containing in its centre the base of a pedestal next to a well. Both the pillar and the water were considered very important in the Aegean religion.

The Shrine of the "Ingot God". A third shrine is situated between the fourth and fifth streets, E of the paved "public square". It consists of a rectan-



gular central hall (16 m by 10m), lined with benches to receive offerings, and adjoining secondary rooms. In the hall, a 35 cm high bronze statuette of a man, standing on a ingot base (the "Ingot God"), was discovered. This now stands in the Cyprus Museum.

Tombs. Among Enkomi's many tombs cut into the bedrock, all inside domestic yards, there are three east of the "Horned God" sanctuary. Two of them are rectangular with a stairway leading to the "stomion" (mouth) of the tomb. The third is oval (3.20 m by 2.50 m) and is tholos-shaped, with its lower part built of roughly shaped stones and its upper part of furnace-fired bricks. Dated to 1300 BC, it is unique in Cyprus.

Cypro-Minoan script. Among the rich finds of Enkomi, many clay tablets and other small objects have been found bearing characters in the Cypro-Minoan script. The script was



Cypro-Minoan script, as yet undeciphered thus named by the British archeologist Sir Arthur Evans because of its similarities with the Cretan-Minoan script found in his excavations in Crete. Both scripts are as yet undeciphered.

### ADVICE TO VISITORS

1. Excavated remains should be viewed from the borders of the various edges.
2. Do not walk too close to the edge.
3. Do not descend into the excavated sections.



Aerial view of the city of Enkomi



## UNITED NATIONS' ROULEMENT REGIMENT ADVENTUROUS TRAINING TEAM (UNRRATT)

The 5th Regiment Royal Artillery Adventurous Training Team are based in Dhekelia. They took over the task on 6 Jun 97, and consider the programme they have produced as an integral part of the UN tour. The aim of the adventurous training package is to give every soldier from the Regiment the opportunity to participate in a variety of challenging yet enjoyable adventurous training pursuits during their tour. Time permitting, the soldiers will also be able to gain qualifications. Adventurous training is recognised as military training, as participants are deemed to be on duty.

The team consists of the following personnel and activities:

Capt Bannister MBE	- OC
WO2 Bragg	- 2IC, Chief Instructor
Sgt Barnes	- Windsurfing Instructor
Sgt Heyes	- Climbing Instructor
Sgt Nettelfield	- Safety Boat
Bdr Woods	- Kayak Instructor
LBdr Pearn	- Sub-Aqua Diver Instructor
LBdr Robson	- Kayak-Rock Climbing Instructor



Members of the Adventurous Training Team in Dhekelia

We aim to provide all British troops visiting us with demanding and rewarding training in a relaxed atmosphere and to add to their quality of life and fitness during the tour.

### A GUNNER'S VIEW

by Gunner Ian Harlen

When the news broke about the Regiment going to Cyprus, everyone was enthusiastic - we had all heard about the last tour. Training took place from 11 Apr to 9 May 97 with a difficult but effective programme. We carried out Basic Fitness Tests, Combat Fitness Tests and a lot of running every day. There was so much to learn during the training: the OPs' brief, the two cease fire lines, points of interest, the political situation and exactly what would be expected of us.

The Regiment flew with Romanian Airways, firstly to Romania and then on to Cyprus. It only took eight hours, but it seemed like an eternity. It was 0300 hours when we landed, so we did not see much of the island on the way to the Ledra Palace Hotel.

That same day we arrived, we were on duty in the towers - this is where our tour really began. As with all newly arrived Regiments, there have been plenty of jobs to do in taking over Sector Two, and we have all worked hard to repaint and tidy up the Troop locations. The training helped with the day-to-day duties, but it certainly didn't prepare us for the heat - that will take some getting used to.

UN 51 is now my place of work for the next six months. The opposing forces often over-man their positions and throw stones at each other. They have tried to pull the wool over our eyes because we are new - this is sometimes a little difficult to deal with, but we are getting used to it.



Gunner Ian Harlen

UN 51 will also be my home for the next six months. The accommodation is about what I expected, and I spend most of my admin time in the gym or running. The food is good (or at least, that's what SSgt Pridden told me to say!). Hygiene is very important, due to the heat and the close living quarters, and this has taken some getting used to.

From the first few weeks I have spent here, I foresee a hard but enjoyable tour - and a good start to my career in Line Battery West.

## WHO ARE THESE MEN WHO LEAP FROM PLANES?

If you have ever been involved with Sector Two Engineers, you may have wondered why the man who has come round to fix your plumbing has a pair of wings on his arm. The Sector Two Engineer Detachment has been drawn from 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers. '9 Squadron' provide combat engineer support to 5 Airborne Brigade. The primary role of the plumber who is repairing your ballcock is actually leaping out of Hercules in support of the Parachute Regiment.

A question we are often asked (normally by an officer who has just lost all power to his wine cooler), is what do the Engineers do all day? As we explain, if it's too hot at the beach, we will be by the pool, and if you can't find us there, then we will be in the bar.

Unfortunately this is not actually the case, and the Engineer Detachment is one of the busiest jobs on the Line. The Engineer Detachment provides support to the whole of Sector Two, and with seven Troop houses, 40 OPs and hundreds of BZ lights to maintain, it is a large task. In addition, we provide 24-hour emergency engineer cover for the Line, and find ourselves involved with numerous small projects. The Detachment itself has just 11 tradesmen, with two plumbers, two electricians, three bricklayers, three carpenters and one heating, ventilation



From the left: Spr Paul Eveligh, Spr Dave Burton and Spr Jan Dikes pour a concrete pad at Ortona

and air conditioning fitter. With this variety of skills, we like to feel that very few tasks are beyond us.

Of course, there are some advantages to being in the Engineer Detachment. We are always the most popular men on camp, particularly when someone finds they have no water, power or barbecue. With so many accomplished tradesmen, we also have by far the best bar and barbecue in Cyprus!

### THE DUKES ARE COMING

There is an old King's Division song, normally associated with copious amounts of ale, called "The Dukes Are Coming" (up the Hill). The Dukes have certainly arrived in Cyprus with a vengeance. The last time the Battalion served in Cyprus for the UN was in 1975, and a photo in our Regimental magazine of a Dukes' soldier patrolling with a Sten sub-machine gun gave us an idea of how it used to be. 22 years later, members of a composite Platoon attached to K (Hondeghe) Battery are back in Cyprus, carrying out a very similar task.

5 Regt RA have been superb in their handling of the Dukes' Platoon - the opening words from BC K Battery being "Why couldn't you get here last week, we needed you for the rugby!!". This became the benchmark of their treatment for us, fully integrating us into everything, even down to the stretcher race in the first couple of weeks during pre-deployment training. The approach of 5 Regt RA has been very thorough and, more than that, very professional. Due to this, the Platoon is looking forward to a very successful tour, with hopefully some adventurous training as a break from the norm.

The peace-keeping role is very different for over 80% of the Platoon who have only recently returned from three years as the Northern Ireland reserve battalion, Blackpool in Lancashire. For many of the



Soldiers attached to 5th Regt from 1 DWR outside Ortona

Platoon, it is just another six months tagging on, only this time the views are different, the temperature warmer and the time off slightly more relaxed. At the end of the day, I am sure that Ayia Napa is the Blackpool of Cyprus.

Having been told they were coming to Cyprus, the Platoon were expecting something out of the holiday brochures, so Ortona House was not quite what they thought their home would be for the next six months. Basic, run down, and falling to pieces sprang to mind. Here was also something that had obviously not changed in the past 22 years - the accommodation.



## SKYBOUND

**M**aj Werner Kroess is currently serving as OC HQ Company in Sector Four. Amongst the many responsibilities assigned to him, he makes sure that the Battalion HQ in Camp Duke Leopold V is well maintained. One of his many tasks is to ensure that all proper UN markings are in place.

Occasionally, the need arises to replace the wind-torn UN flag from the top of the communications aerial mast, which flies at a height of approximately 150 ft. Maj Kroess, who is an experienced and certified mountaineer, always undertakes this risky task himself, defying height, high speed winds and, due to its construction and height, quite a shaky aerial mast.

### About Maj Kroess

Maj Kroess was drafted into the army in 1982, following which he attended the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt from 1983 to 1986 where he trained as an Infantry Officer.



Commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1986, he was posted to an Infantry Regiment in Vorarlberg in the very west of Austria. There he served in

various posts from Platoon Leader, Training Officer, Coy 2IC and then OC of an Infantry Coy. In 1996, Maj Kroess underwent extensive NBC (Nuclear, Biological & Chemical) warfare training. In Austria, he is currently the OC of the HQ Coy of the Military Regional Command Vorarlberg.

In 1993, Maj Kroess served for one year with the Austrian Battalion on the Golan Heights as the OC of 1st Coy (Mountain Coy). He was posted there not only because of his military qualifications, but because the post holder has to be a trained and certified mountaineer. Maj Kroess currently holds the second highest alpine qualification attainable in the Austrian Armed Forces.

Maj Werner Kroess is married to Margit, and they have four children, his youngest son being only one month old.

## THE AUSTRIAN WAR MUSEUM LOOKS AT CYPRUS

**I**n Vienna, the Austrian MOD operates a War Museum which attempts to provide a realistic insight into the historical development on the battlefields around the world over the last few centuries.

The latest project is on Austria's UN involvement. With this in mind, an exhibition is planned to take place in the museum during the spring of 1998, and will be dedicated to the thousands of Austrian soldiers who have served in UN missions around the globe. The exhibition will include the rebuilding of a UN OP in the vicinity of the museum and a display of the day-to-day life of UNFICYP personnel.

To assist in this assignment, a board of famous artists and art teachers selected a group of artists to participate in the project. Their task was to gather their impressions of Austrian participation within UNFICYP, the results of which will be exhibited in the form of paintings, sculptures, etc. and will put on view the artists' perceptions of the existing situation.

The team were all very impressed with the island, and were equally distressed by the current circumstances regarding the military and political situation in Cyprus. They were taken on a Green Line tour and also took the opportunity to visit Austrian soldiers deployed on the line. They departed, confident that they had seen clearly



The team of artists, from left to right: Capt Andreas Steiger (Liaison Officer), Eva Afuhs, Gerhard Hermanky, Elisabeth Melkonyan, Harald Birkhuber and Ursula Witzany

what the tasks of UN personnel are. The professionalism displayed by soldiers standing between two armed forces showed them how important the role of the UN is as an organisation, especially in these days of ever-increasing conflicts around the world.

The artists left the island with the sincere wish that a solution will soon be found for the two communities living on this "jewel in the Mediterranean".

## AUSCON SPRING MEDAL PARADE

**O**n 14 May, the Austrian/Hungarian Battalion held a medal parade for the soldiers who are currently serving with UNFICYP.

The venue this time was the Larnaca sea front. The Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, and the CO AUSCON, Lt Col V Horatczuk, welcomed a group of highly distinguished guests to witness this special occasion, as well as to render their appreciation for the dedicated service of these soldiers. Due to the setting for this occasion, a large number of Cypriots and tourists also attended the ceremony, which was



The standards are marched on: Austria (left), UN (centre) and Hungary (right)



Members of the Austrian Battalion awaiting presentation of their medals on the Larnaca sea front

purposely opened to the public to show UNFICYP's presence and close relationship with the people living on the island. The soldiers of Sector Four, commanded by the CO, Lt Col R Prader, provided an excellent display of UN troops with a very professional demonstration of discipline and training. The musical setting was provided by the *Jugendkapelle Mooskirchen* - Mooskirchen being a village in the south east of Austria. The band consisted



"Blessing of the medals" by Austrian Padre Franz Goldenits with WO1 Poppe (left) and WO1 Leukmoser (centre)

of ambitious, non-professional musicians. Conductor Harald Lederer brought out the best in the 51 dedicated young men and women who have won many national and international competitions, due to their talent and professionalism.

Following the medal presentation, a reception took place at the Larnaca Town Hall. Music from the superb band delighted the audience with a widespread arrangement linking the classical

period to modern times, and guests were able to enjoy brezels and beer as well as the famous "Sacher Torte"



The "Jugendkapelle Mooskirchen" Band

and coffee. The event was well received by everyone, and gave a large number of UN personnel the opportunity to meet in a very pleasant environment.

UNFICYP salutes those soldiers who have worked hard to gain their UN medal. However, a thought should go to those who usually stay in the background, but without whose support no such event could be successfully executed.



From the left: CO British Sector (Lt Col R Eggar), Force Commander, CO Austrian Sector (Lt Col R Prader) and CO Argentinian Sector (Lt Col R Barni)



## NEW CO UN FLIGHT, LT COL MARIO GOMEZ

Lt Col Gomez was born in 1951 in the province of Mendoza, central west Argentina.

He joined the Air Force in 1969 and attended the military aviation school (EAM), graduating four years later as a 2/Lt. In 1974, he completed the military pilot's course. The following year, he completed the combat pilot course at IV Air Brigade, and in 1976 he held the position of a Flight Instructor in airplanes.

In 1977, he completed his last course on helicopter flights. He was then posted to VII Air Brigade as an instructor of both airplanes and helicopters.

In 1987 he was promoted to the rank of major and completed the Staff Officer's training course. During the same year, he worked as Chief of Personnel.

Lt Col Gomez has flown more than 400 hours with helicopters in nine summer manoeuvres and over 8,000 hours in different kinds of aircraft. He is married to Clara, and they have two daughters.



## CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES



Gordon McDougall (centre, with glass) at his farewell party

Mr Gordon McDougall, Chief of Support Services (CSS), left UNFICYP on 15 May 1997 after completing a four-year tour of duty in Cyprus. Mr McDougall was the first staff member to hold the position of Chief Support Services in UNFICYP.

Mr McDougall was instrumental in the formation of the Support Services Section, which was created in 1993 in response to the withdrawal of the UK Support Regiment. The Section took over responsibility for the provision of transport, generator, and buildings maintenance services for the mission. Under his direction, the Support Services Section has become a well-established and important element of the civilian administration. Mr McDougall has now taken up a new assignment at New York Headquarters in the Logistics and Communications Service of FALD.

His friends and colleagues in UNFICYP joined together to say farewell, and to wish him and his family success and happiness in their new assignment.

## 9TH INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ROAD RACE

The 9th International Olympic Road Race was held on 28 June 1997 at the Makarios Stadium, Nicosia, organised by the Cyprus Olympic Committee. The event is sponsored annually by the International Olympic Committee and consists of a 10 km and a 4 km road race, both starting and finishing inside the Stadium. In the true spirit of the Olympic movement, the event is open to all ages and standards of runner: male, female and those with special needs.

WO2 (SMS) Rees organised the team for 5th Regt RA. The response was very good, and a team of over 30 runners of varying standards took part. The ages ran from teenagers to veterans - those over 40 years.

At 1830 hrs on the evening of the race, the temperature was still in the mid 30s. However, this proved little of a deterrent, with some participants achieving excellent times. First UN runner past the finishing post was a very young Sapper Dilkes, closely followed by a fairly old Major Thorpe.

Despite the heat and humidity, the Regiment put up an impressive performance with most runners well within



Some of the runners, raring to go!

the hour mark. Commemorative certificates and T-shirts were presented to all those who completed the 10 km race.

Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, making new friends and a positive impression on the local sporting community.

## "THE WALL" THAT UNITES

Following a lot of hard work and the dedication of a small group, bi-communal ideas and dreams came true again at the Ledra Palace Hotel during the hot and busy week of 7 - 12 July. Starting off on 7 and 8 July, and the brainchild of Nicos Anastasiou from Larnaca, a stalwart member of bi-communal groups, a group of teenagers met in the very first "Youth Encounters for Peace", a two-day seminar.

The idea was to get them together to explore their sameness as well as their differences, and to introduce them to the idea of conflict resolution. It was a great success - they had fun together, learned a lot about each other and faced up to the realities of the "Cyprus problem" - and - in the end, asked for more!

The evening of the 8th was something of a triumph for more than the co-creators of the Cypriot film "Our Wall" when it was shown on the terrace of the Ledra Palace Hotel. Panicos Chrysanthou, a Greek Cypriot and Niyazi Kızılyürek, a Turkish Cypriot, had produced the film in 1990 and shown it worldwide, including United Nations Headquarters



The co-creators of "Our Wall" - Niyazi Kızılyürek (left) and Panicos Chrysanthou

New York. They received the Ipekci Award in Istanbul in June - but the film had never been shown to a bi-communal audience here in Cyprus.

At last, their dream was realized when some 150 people came together on a balmy Mediterranean night to watch, discuss and enjoy. Congratulations!

## DANCING TO THE SAME TUNE

The week ended on a somewhat lighter and upbeat note with a gathering of regular bi-communal-meeting-goers at a disco party on the terrace. Despite the sad and unsurmountable problems of some Turkish Cypriots unable to pass through the checkpoint, others enjoyed soft drinks arranged by 5 Regiment Royal Artillery, sandwiches by Panayiotis from the Junior Ranks Club and danced the night away to great music supplied by disc-jockeys Eva Hadjinicola and Louisa Anastasiou.



The youth of Cyprus - from both communities

It was a relaxed gathering and a true reward for the hard and unappreciated work which goes on behind the scenes. To those who were disappointed we say - watch out, look forward - more are planned!

UNFICYP has always promoted, sponsored and assisted in bringing people together bicommunally, and this is very much in line with the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Security Council. To assist and coordinate these events, a special office was established with UNFICYP last year.

We are not short of ideas, far from it - but, if YOU have an idea or a dream and we can help - give us a call on either 359552 or 2285816 and let's work on it together!



A Greek Cypriot girl and her Turkish Cypriot partner, enjoying themselves at the disco party



## UNDERSLUNG LOAD



Since April 1997, the logistics support of each UNFICYP OP has been secured in the event that a vehicle cannot reach its destined OP. UN Flight capabilities have now been increased to include underslung load operations. This means that in a maximum of 40 minutes, a load of 1,000 kg/2,000 lbs can be carried from Nicosia to the furthest OPs on the island (Kokkina in Sector One and UN 146 in Sector Four).