

THE Blue Beret

November/December 1997



SEASON'S GREETINGS BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION

The year 1997 is coming to a close, and we approach the very special period of Christmas and the advent of a New Year. This is a time for traditional celebrations and personal reflection.

Many of you will spend this special period away from home and your families, your loved ones and close friends. You will be busy: on observation posts, checkpoints, patrols, manning your duty stations.

Your decision to serve in Cyprus in the cause of peace deserves the highest respect and appreciation of the international community. Your daily effort and hard work at every post, be it military, administrative or political, makes me and our superiors proud of you.

So often you were confronted with difficult situations this year. Your friendliness, fairness and firmness presented vis-à-vis those you dealt with, your continued display of professionalism and commitment have enabled you to perform our mission to a high standard. You are to be complimented for passing such a difficult peace-keeping test in such a fine manner.

Efforts towards peace consist of various steps and activities. Building trust and confidence is one of the most important aspects of our daily activity on this divided island. Various organizations, agencies and individuals from both communities are actively

engaged in sponsoring, supporting and organizing hundreds of bi-communal events, whether in the Buffer Zone or on both sides. Such functions are crucial in creating a positive atmosphere, and bring out the desire of most Greek and Turkish Cypriots to live together under a bi-communal and bi-zonal federal roofing.

Above all, these activities prepare the ground and facilitate peace-making efforts. Despite the fact that this is not a traditional military activity, you were successfully involved, whether directly or indirectly, in all of them. Without your hard work and dedicated effort, these goals would have been much more difficult to achieve. Thank you for all you have done throughout the year.

May I wish every member of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus, their families and beloved, a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



This issue of the Blue Beret includes activities during the months of November and December 1997. This was unavoidable due to technical difficulties in the preparation of the November issue. Normal monthly publications will be resumed from January 1998.

CONTENTS

Season's Greetings by the Chief of Mission/Contents	2
Editorial	3
Special Advisor of the Secretary-General Visits Cyprus	4
Peace Festival at the Ledra Palace Hotel/A Bridge to Solve Humanitarian Matters	5
1st Royal Tank Regiment Deploy to Sector Two	6
New CO Sector Two/Charity Run in Cyprus	7
Lieutenant Amelia Baker, 5th Royal Tank Regiment	8
Humanitarian Activities	9
A Brief Encounter with the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus:	
Part XV - Soli Amphitheatre	10/11
New Arrivals in HQ UNFICYP	12
Retirements from UNFICYP	13
The UNFICYP Shooting Competition	14/15
The Argentinian Medal Parade	16
AUSCON Medal Parade in Famagusta	17
Hungary Increases Peace-Keeping Contingent in Cyprus/Uruguay Joins Sector One	18
Padre Richard Dunstan-Meadows, Chaplain to the Forces (CF)	19
A Flower Amongst the Thorns	20

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 11/12 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1997

Published monthly by the Spokesman's Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: 2 - 359550
Fax: 2 - 359752

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Cpl Pat O'Meara
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Nelson Sampieri
Sector Two	Capt S Keymer
Sector Four	Capt Wilhelm Ortner
HUNCON	Maj Dénes Fülöp
SLOCON	Capt Haut Boško
AUSTCIVPOL	Sgt Ron Presswell
IRCIPOLO	Insp Frank O'Brien
UN Flt	Capt Marcelo Wortley
PFR Coy	Capt Luis Giunti
MP Elm	SSgt Dale Roberts
Camp Command	Coy Sgt Tony Clare
Civilian Admin	Ms Mary Dellar

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. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy. The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications, except where acknowledgements are made to another copyright. No article or illustration may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-El Press
13 King Paul Street
Parissinos, Nicosia
Tel: 350186

FRONT COVER:

CHRISTMAS IN UNFICYP

PHOTO BY
CPL PAT O'MEARA

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The start of a new year is traditionally a time for a new beginning. It is the time when we evaluate what we have done during the past twelve months, the time when we set new goals and directions for ourselves.

Christmas is a magical time of the year for people of all ages, and in many countries around the world, it has developed into an explosion of colour, decorations, fairy tales and festivities. Although the commercialism of this holiday is frustrating to many, the celebrations give a warm glow. More importantly, Christmas is a time for family and friends.

On behalf of the editorial staff, I would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas. I hope that the holidays and New Year will be filled with joy, happiness and success.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FELIZ NAVIDAD Y PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO

FELIZ NATAL E BON ANO NOVO

*EIN FRIEDVOLLES WEIHNACHTSFEST
UND EIN GLÜCKLICHES NEUES JAHR*

KELLEMES KARÁCSONYI ÜNNEPEKET ÉS BOLDOG ÚJÉVET KIVÁNK

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE IN SREČNO NOVO LETO

NOLLAIG SHONA AGUS BLÁIN ÚR FAOI MHAISE DIABH GO LÉIR

HYVÄÄ JOULUA JA ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA



At this festive time of year, make sure you don't fall into the trap of excessive drinking, which may drive you to the casualty department!
REMEMBER - DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.

SPECIAL ADVISOR OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS CYPRUS

Mr Diego Cordovez, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, visited the island from 18 to 21 November. He arrived late in the evening of Tuesday, 18 November, met the leaders of the two communities the following day, and met the leaders of the political parties from both sides at a lunch hosted by the Chief of Mission at his residence. Mr Cordovez was briefed on the overall situation by the Chief of Mission and also gained a firsthand impression of UNFICYP from the Force Commander and Senior Officers, followed by a line tour of the Buffer Zone in the Old City of Nicosia. Before departing for Athens and Ankara on Friday, he gave a bi-communal press conference at the Ledra Palace Hotel. On his way back to New York where he briefed the Security-Council, Mr Cordovez met in Paris with the special Cyprus representatives and envoys appointed by a number of European Union countries.



Mr Cordovez at the bi-communal press conference



From the left: Mr Peter Schmitz, Mr Raymond Sommerey, Mr Diego Cordovez, Mr Gustave Feissel and Major General Evergisto de Vergara

The Secretary-General appointed Mr Cordovez effective 28 April 1997, following Mr Han Sung-Joo's decision not to continue in his position of Special Representative. In July and August, Mr Cordovez conducted the direct talks between Mr Clerides and Mr Denktash in Troutbeck (USA) and Glion-sur-Montreux (Switzerland).

Mr Cordovez was the Foreign Minister of Ecuador from 1988 to 1992. A staff member of the United Nations Secretariat for 25 years, from 1981 to 1988, he served as Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs. In that capacity, he conducted the negotiations which culminated in the 1988 Geneva accords leading to the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

At his press conference, Mr Cordovez emphasized that the Secretary-General personally attached great importance to bringing about a solution to the Cyprus problem, and had called on the two leaders to start a sustained process of negotiations immediately after the elections in February 1998. Mr Cordovez noted that the international community was currently concerned about Cyprus to a degree which had no precedent.

Mr Cordovez said that he would return in early March 1998 to discuss ways of undertaking a continuing, sustained process of negotiations.

PEACE FESTIVAL AT THE LEDRA PALACE HOTEL 29 NOVEMBER 1997

Under the title "Festival for Peace", 19 Greek Cypriot and 13 Turkish Cypriot organizations held their first bi-communal event on Saturday 29 November between 2:00 and 6:00 pm at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Various organizations on both sides took part including youth groups, political parties, trade unions and a number of peace movements.

Entertainment was provided by groups from the two communities, and the atmosphere was very congenial. Approximately 1,900 people of all ages mingled easily, enjoying each other's company and the refreshments offered by the organizers.

Previously, on 26 November, the coordinating committee held a press conference where a joint declaration for peace was read to the press. Following the Peace Festival, the organizers declared their intention to create a permanent coordinating committee to promote common goals through a series of joint meetings.

Appeals from the Peace Declaration include the following: "We, the representatives of the undersigned Greek and Turkish Cypriot organizations, are aware of the need for peace in Cyprus more than ever. We are also aware that peace cannot be achieved by waiting.... That is why we have



Folk dances by Cypriot children entertain the crowds

decided on our own initiative to join our forces for a common struggle.... We call upon our people to leave aside all prejudices and join the struggle for peace.... By the common events we are organizing, we once more want to underline the necessity for peace, the capability of Cypriots to solve their own problems and the need to build a common homeland.... We appeal to all those who are willing to help; support us in our efforts to get rid of all obstacles affecting our right to meet freely as Greek and Turkish Cypriots."

A BRIDGE TO SOLVE HUMANITARIAN MATTERS

Recently, the Humanitarian Branch of Sector One hosted approximately 20 guests at a meeting in San Martin Camp. Present were the Greek Cypriot mukhtars, police authorities and translators from a number of villages in the south of the island which border on Sector One's area of responsibility.

Matters relating to the Buffer Zone such as constructions, farming permits, fire control, obstacles, use of the patrol track, night activities, garbage, hunting, demonstrations and cemeteries were on the agenda for discussion.

Sector One was represented by the Commanding Officer, 2IC, Ops Officer, Ops Info Officer and the three members of the Humanitarian Branch. The Sector was delighted to be able to host a function which enabled different aspects of the same problem to be surfaced and resolved. Credit must go to the Humanitarian Branch, who were entirely responsible



Participants of the meeting in San Martin Camp

for the success of the event.

The bridge is now so strong that it can be crossed by anyone.

1ST ROYAL TANK REGIMENT DEPLOY TO SECTOR TWO

The 1st Royal Tank Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel David Eccles, has deployed from its home in Germany to take over from 5th Regiment Royal Artillery as the Sector Two Regiment. The Regiment, which is the direct descendant of the first tank unit deployed during World War One, was last in Cyprus in 1991. For some soldiers, it is their third time serving as part of UNFICYP.

1 RTR have just completed a busy training year with their Challenger 1 Tanks, exercising in Poland, Canada and Bavaria, prior to extensive training for the specialized role they are currently fulfilling. Since the 1993 amalgamation of 1 RTR and 4 RTR, they have been based in Tidworth, south-west England, and Paderborn in Northern Germany. They have deployed independent Squadrons to America and Northern Ireland and carried out armoured battlegroup training in Canada twice.

The Regiment has four Sabre (fighting) Squadrons and a Headquarters Squadron. The Sabre Squadrons take their letters from the numbers of the old Regiments now represented by 1 RTR. Thus 1st, 4th, 7th and 8th RTR are represented as A, D, G, and H Squadrons. Enlarged versions of A and G Squadrons have deployed as Sector Two (West) and Sector Two (East) respectively, with the majority of our PFR commitment coming from D Squadron. Headquarters and logistic support is provided by HQ Squadron.

The Royal Tank Regiment is directly descended from the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps whose soldiers crewed the first tanks. They became the Tank Corps in October 1916, and in 1923, with the grant of a Royal Charter, the Royal Tank Corps. Tanks first saw action at Flers during the battle of the Somme, though the first time tanks were used in any numbers was a year later at Cambrai. Both the First and the Second Royal Tank Regiment celebrate Cambrai Day, and 1997 is the 80th anniversary of the battle. The Tank Corps fought extensively throughout the rest of the war, both on the western front and at Gaza with Allenby. The Regiment gained battle honours which include Messines 1917, Bapaume, St Quentin and Villers - Brettonneaux.

WW2 saw 24 Regiments of the Royal Tank Regiment represented in every major theatre. The 1st, 4th, 7th and 8th RTRs fought together throughout the North African Campaign, specifically at Tobruk and it is

for this reason that Tobruk is the primary battle honour of the Regiment. Other battle honours gained during WW2 include the Arras Counter Attack, Italy and Northern Europe. The Royal Armoured Corps won two Victoria Crosses during the war, both of which were won by Royal Tank Regiment personnel.

After WW2, the Royal Tank Regiment was reduced to eight regular Regiments. A Squadron of 7 RTR was despatched to the Korean Peninsula under the auspices of the United Nations during the Korean War, and they were soon joined by 1 RTR in its entirety. 1 RTR saw action virtually every day of their year-long deployment, and were awarded Korea as a battle honour. The post-war period saw 1 RTR based in either UK or with the British Army of the Rhine. 4 RTR were stationed in South Yemen and the Far East (Sarawak, Singapore, Brunei and Seremban) and were first stationed in Cyprus during the '50s. They have been regular visitors since.



Challenger tanks of the Royal Tank Regiment exercise in Poland

The 1st and 4th Royal Tank Regiments amalgamated at Tidworth on the 3 August 1993. The new Regiment was called the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and became part of 1st Mechanised Brigade. In 1996, the Regiment converted from being the last Chieftain tank regiment to being fully equipped with Challenger 1. Shortly after this, the Regiment moved to Paderborn to become part of 20 Armoured Brigade. As part of 20 Brigade, 1 RTR have been in an ideal position to take advantage of the new training areas opening up in the east and have trained in Poland twice this year. The Regiment are used to being battlegrouped with other army units, but the deployment to Cyprus has seen an unprecedented influx of personnel from all over the British army, especially our sister Regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps, including logistics staff, chefs and our own detachment of Royal Engineers.

The recruiting areas of the Regiment are centred on Merseyside and Glasgow, the former recruiting areas of 1 and 4 RTRs. The Scottish connection manifests itself most strongly in the Regiment's popular and respected Pipe Band and the wearing of the Regimental tartan, the Hunting Rose of Kilravock, by officers on formal occasions. The Regiment's distinguishing feature is the Red Lanyard, worn since 1941 by all ranks of 1 RTR. All ranks sport the brown, red, and green colours of the Royal Tank Regiment, representing the mud of Flanders, blood and the green fields beyond, on their shoulder boards.



A Piper of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment

NEW CO COMMANDING OFFICER SECTOR TWO LIEUTENANT COLONEL D C ECCLES, CO 1 RTR

Lieutenant Colonel David Eccles was born in October 1957 and educated at Abingdon School and Reading University where he read International Politics. He was commissioned from the Royal Military Sandhurst in 1979 and posted to the Fourth Royal Tank Regiment (4 RTR).

As a junior officer, he spent the next 10 years at Regimental Duty in Munster, Tidworth and Osnabrück, culminating in his appointment as Adjutant, followed by a year as a Sabre Squadron Leader. In 1988, he attended Division II of the Army Staff course before going to Camberley the following year. After Staff College, he served as Chief of Staff 11 Armoured Brigade in Minden and then returned to his Regiment as a Squadron leader and subsequently Second in Command.

Lieutenant Colonel Eccles has recently been a member of the Directing Staff at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. He assumed command of the First Royal Tank Regiment on 20 October 1997.

He is a keen sportsman and plays rugby regularly for the Regimental team, as well as enjoying long distance running, skiing and tennis. He is married to Fiona, a nurse and midwife, and they have a daughter of 11 years and a son of 9 years, both of whom are at Preparatory School.



CHARITY RUN IN CYPRUS

by LBdr Thompson, 5 Regt RA

On the afternoon of 15 September 1997, I received a phone call from the Barclays Bank Offshore Banking Unit located in Nicosia, inviting members of 5 Regiment Royal Artillery to participate in a local charity run being held on Saturday 20 September. The event involved four teams of five runners who would run in relays from the harbour town of Limassol to the city of Nicosia, a distance of approximately 110 kms. 5 Regiment managed to put two teams in.

At 1000 hrs the race began. Pericles Demeetriou, a Cypriot running club, supplied the other two teams and a runner from each team embarked on the long trek back to Nicosia. To begin with, we decided to run 30 minute legs, although some confusion on the route meant that the first runners ran for their allotted time and had to wait for 30 minutes for the bus to arrive.

Apparently, before the race, the comment had been made by the Cypriot team, "Can the British Army keep up?". This caused a chuckle, as we more than held our own! By 1700 hrs, we were 10 kms away from Nicosia. The aim was to finish the run as a group at Eleftheria Square in Nicosia, where we were joined by 12 cyclists who had set off from Paphos that morning in aid of the same charity.

Running up to the main square, it became apparent that the whole affair was on a much grander scale than we originally thought. Brass bands, television cameras, the President's wife and the British High Commissioner were all there to greet us.

We finished in 8 hours, 14 minutes, and the Regiment is proud to have contributed to a total of over £26,000.00. The money was donated to one particular local charity called "ELPIDA", the English translation being "HOPE", which was set up to help children suffering from leukaemia and cancer.



Members of 5 Regt RA proudly displaying their plaques

LIEUTENANT AMELIA BAKER, 5TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

An Army officer from Yorkshire has become the first woman to command a troop of soldiers on patrol in Cyprus as part of the United Nations peace-keeping force. She is Lieutenant Amelia Baker, who in December 1997 ends her six-month tour serving with the 5th Regiment Royal Artillery.

The 24-year-old has an immense amount of responsibility. First and foremost, she commands the 25 soldiers in her troop, and this is not a matter of simple routine. Her deployment with the UN means that she has an operational command in a country divided by bitter conflict - one that might flare up with little warning.



Liaising with her opposite number from the Hungarian Army

Along the Buffer Zone's "Green Line", east of the divided city of Nicosia, is the area patrolled by Lt Baker and her troop. She was asked how she found being the first woman on patrol? "My own soldiers have no problem with it, they're used to women officers. However, the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots had quite a shock at first. When they found out that I worked in the same way as the other Troop Commanders, they seemed to accept it and we have no problems."

Each day, information is passed down the chain of command. These briefings, nicknamed 'morning prayers', are where Lt Baker learns of developments in the political and military status quo. After briefing her troop, she sets about the day's patrolling or attends meetings which deal with disputes that may have arisen between the opposing forces.

Patrols can either be on foot or in the familiar white Landrover with UN markings. As she moves down the line, the tension is apparent. Driving past minefields that have been there since 1974, troops can be clearly seen on either side of the cease-fire line. Positioned behind sandbag walls or in bunkers, they watch over the Buffer Zone, wary of any incursion.

The Troop is based in Liri Camp on the outskirts of Nicosia and accommodation is spartan, but like many of their predecessors, they have tried to make themselves comfortable. An old fish pond has been drained, repainted UN blue and now serves as a swimming pool. Albeit very small, it's easily covered by a lilo and only waist deep, it does provide some relief from the energy sapping summer heat and temperatures that can exceed 38 degrees centigrade.

Air conditioning is a luxury that will probably never find its way onto the line, and so sport is best left until after sunset or before sunrise. Amelia prefers to run the Troop's physical training in the evening: "I find early starts pretty hard work, the alarm goes off at half six and I struggle out of bed at seven. By evening we're all a little more lively, and then we either go for a run or workout in the multi-gym."

Although Amelia seems well suited to being the first woman to do this particular job, what do the soldiers think? Gunner Nick Claydon (23) from Barnsley says:

"Miss Baker makes a good boss, and certainly we have no problem with her being a woman." Asked whether she had a nickname, he replied: "Ma'am," but then with a smile continued, "She's also known as angry or scary spice - you should see the way she deals with anyone breaking the rules!"



Lt Amelia Baker out on a vehicle patrol, monitoring the opposing forces

Amelia was educated at Manchester University and joined the Army in April 1996. She was commissioned at Sandhurst and, after learning gunnery at Larkhill, was posted to 5th Regiment who were then based in Catterick.

Once her UN tour is over, her next ambition is to serve as a Forward Observation Officer in a mechanised artillery regiment. At present, this position is not open to women in the Army, but who knows, perhaps this will change - and Amelia will lead the field again.

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

EXCHANGE VISITS

Under the direction of the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, the UNFICYP Humanitarian Branch cooperates with high level authorities on each side of the dividing line in the coordination of 'exchange' visits, south to north and vice-versa. Two such exchanges have occurred since August on a scale not seen since 1974, enabling Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to visit places which, hitherto, have been inaccessible to them on a daily basis.

On 8 August 1997, 386 Turkish Cypriots were permitted to visit the War Memorial in Kokkina Village in order to remember and pay respects to those who fell during the 1964 troubles. Exactly one week later, 674 Greek Cypriots travelled by bus to the tip of the Karpas peninsula to pay homage in the monastery of Apostolos Andreas. Family members of UN civilian employees were included in the group.



Turkish Cypriots on their pilgrimage to Kokkina

Following these successful initiatives, two further visits were organised, the first taking place on 8 November 1997 when 273 Turkish Cypriot students went to Kokkina. The reciprocal event, on 30 November, saw 1,225 Greek Cypriots, again including UN civilian family members, make another journey to their monastery.

Each of these events occurred with minimum fuss and without interference as people moved through check-points, boarded buses, crossed terrain and trod ground which most had not seen for 23 years. Though in themselves large undertakings, the response of the people to these events makes the organisation thoroughly worthwhile. Their enormous success and popularity, in the midst of so much pessimism over the situation in Cyprus, illustrate the paramount importance of the UNFICYP humanitarian effort to the people of this island, whose voice is so often unheard but whose will could yet win the day.



Greek Cypriots visiting Apostolos Andreas monastery

GENERAL HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

The above events and many more daily occurrences constitute a busy humanitarian year and are an important part of the UNFICYP mandate. The list below shows the routine daily, weekly and monthly events that have occurred since 1 January 1997 and which form a key part of the HQ and sector humanitarian support to Cypriots all over the island, especially the minorities.

Bi-communal events carry obvious humanitarian undertones, and many take the form of meetings or conferences at the Ledra Palace Hotel, between groups from both sides, dealing with communal interaction on scores of matters.

Long Southwind Patrols (Sector One):	10	Money runs (IRCIVPOL):	24
Long Northwind Patrols (Sector Two):	23	MEDEVACs:	17
Short Northwind Patrols (Sector Two):	22	Temporary transfers:	642
Long Northwind Patrols (Sector Four):	44	Transport of deceased:	3
Extra Northwind Patrols (Sector Four):	44	Prison visits:	20
Southwind Patrols (Sector Four):	10	Pilgrimages:	5 (2 = N, 3 = S)
Limassol Liaison Office manned (all):	80	Bi-communal events :	265

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

The ancient city-kingdom of Soli is situated deep in the bay of Morphou on the north-west coast of Cyprus. It covers the northern scarp of a hillock of some 70 metres in height and extends downwards just a few metres from the seashore. East of Soli is the Xeros river whereas on the west is the Kambos river at the delta of which were found the port installations of Soli.

There are many legends which relate to the foundation of Soli. One, recorded by the Greek writer Strabo, attributes the city's establishment to the Athenians Phalerus and Akamas. The latter was the son of King Theseus (Cape Akamas was

named after him). Another legend, which is recorded by Plutarch, claims that Soli was named after the Athenian lawmaker and philosopher Solon. In 560 BC, Solon visited King Philokypros of Aepia (an as yet unidentified city near Soli) and advised his host to remove his city to another site. The Cypriot king was persuaded and named the new city after his guest. We know now that the city of Soli cannot have been named after Solon.

The administration of Soli extended over the foothills of Troodos that provided the kingdom with timber and copper from the Foukassa (Skouriotissa) mines.

HISTORY

The site of Soli was excavated in 1927-1931 by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition who unearthed the theatre, five temples, the port, part of the city wall and hundreds of tombs. In 1965, the French-Canadian University of Laval, Quebec, continued the research until 1974 when they had to stop because of the events which took place in Cyprus that year. Excavations are, therefore, not conclusive. They discovered the two superimposed basilicas, part of the Roman nymphaeum, Agora and porticoed street with shops, a royal palace, private houses, workshops and tombs. A number of statues, including those of Aphrodite, Socrates and Alexander the Great, were also unearthed. Tomb finds included ceramics, gold, silver, ivory, seals, coins, jewellery, etc.

The vestiges that have been found indicate that Soli was inhabited from the time of the Achaean-Greek settlers in the 12th/11th centuries BC until the late middle ages. Architectural remains found were dated to all the intervening periods, and show that Soli was a prosperous city, despite the occasional overlord.

In 499/498 BC, all the kings of Cyprus, with the exception of Amathus, revolted against their Persian overlords at the instigation of Kings Onesilus and Aristokypros of Salamis and Soli respectively, both of whom perished. The revolt was unsuccessful.

Another unsuccessful attempt to free Cyprus was undertaken by the Athenian general Kimon

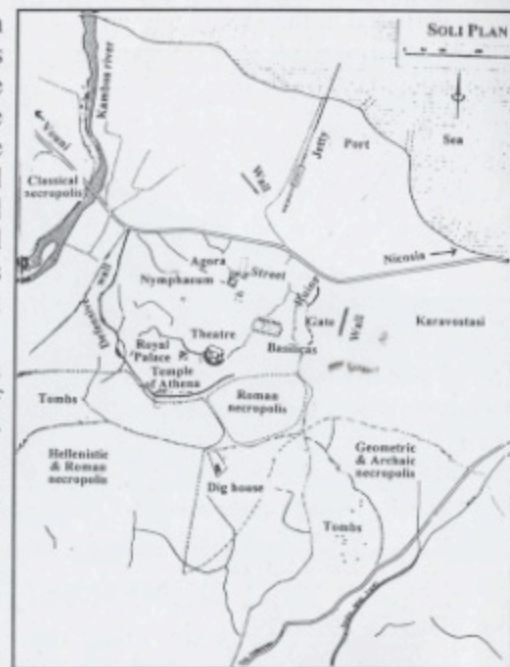
in 449 BC, so it was not until 333 BC that Soli and the rest of Cyprus were liberated by Alexander the Great.

During the last years of the 4th century BC, Soli ceased to be a kingdom and adopted more democratic institu-

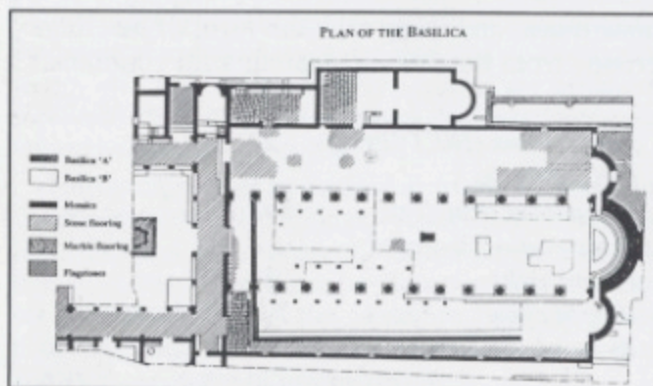
tions like a *boule* (a council) and a *demos* (a popular assembly).

The first Bishop of Soli, Saint Auxibius, was ordained by Saint Mark the Evangelist in 56/57. Auxibius built a magnificent basilica before he died in 107.

The Arab raids (7th-10th century AD) caused the gradual decline and fall of Soli which, by the late middle ages, was abandoned by its citizens who dispersed into the neighbouring area, known today as the Solia region or valley.



Plan of Soli



Soli Basilica

SOLI AMPHITHEATRE

DESCRIPTION

Theatre

The theatre was constructed at the end of the 2nd century AD and destroyed by earthquake in the mid 4th century. With a diameter of 52 m, it is smaller than the theatres of Salamis and Kourion (Curium). The seats were cut into the rock of the hillside and revetted with hewn limestones. The semi-circular orchestra had a diameter of 17 m, and was entered through a parados (sideway) on either side. The scaena (stage) of the theatre was a rectangle of 36.15 m by 13.20 m of which only the substructure remains. The Department of Antiquities restored it to its present form in 1961-1964.

The Agora and the Porticoed Street

Remains of the Roman Agora and a Porticoed Street with shops were found in the lower part of Soli. This is indeed a remarkable street by its sheer size as it measures 4.75 m wide with pavements of about 4.5 m in the north and 3.6 m in the south. Archaeologists considered it one of the largest streets of the Roman Orient.

The Nymphaeum

The Nymphaeum, a building dedicated to the nymphs, dates to the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd century AD. Although only one third of it has been excavated, the richly decorated architectural remains found scattered around it have enabled archaeologists to form an idea of the whole monument on the basis of symmetrical design. It was supported by a wall in the south of the Agora

and was a U-shaped building. Inside the U was a central cistern whereas on either side of the U there was a smaller lateral cistern. Only one of these has been identified so far. The cisterns were sided with columns bearing capitals with floral motives. Heads of lions served as fountains.

Basilicas 'A' and 'B'

The excavations have shown that there were two superimposed basilicas 'A' and 'B' on a terrace 20m above sea level. The side had been used earlier during the Hellenistic and Roman times.



Basilica B

Basilica B was constructed on the ruins of Basilica A and was dated by its excavators to the 6th century on the basis of its architectural plan, the style of the flagstones and the decoration. It measures 47.70 m by 31.40 m and has a nave of 10.60 m (probably the widest in Cyprus) and two lateral aisles of 8.50 m, ending in the east in three protruding apses. In the west is a quadrangular atrium. The aisles were separated by two arcaded colonnades of 14 columns each. The spacing between the columns was irregular. The date of the abandonment of the basilica was estimated to be in about the 7th/8th centuries.

Temples

The five temples date from 250 BC to the beginning of the 4th century AD. They were dedicated to Aphrodite, Cybele, Isis (2) and Serapis.

Despite the fact that excavations have not been completed, it has been possible for archaeologists to gain an insight into the great wealth and culture of Soli. Some of the limestone and bronze statues found at the site compare well with the best of Grecian and Roman masterpieces.

It is apparent that, despite the predominant Greek orientations of Soli, there have also been influences, not only from the eastern overlords who dominated the island from time to time, but also from foreign commercial activities.



Bust of Alexander the Great

Basilica A

Basilica A was built in the 4th/5th centuries in the style prevalent at the time of Constantine the Great. It measured 45.5 m x 22.5 m. It is the oldest basilica in Cyprus and shows the importance of Soli Bishopric at the time.

It has a central nave 6.75 m wide with two inner and two outer aisles of 4 m and 4.5 m respectively. The floor was covered with panel mosaics, a study of which shows that they were executed in three stages. Their designs are mostly geometrical with some animal decorations. This basilica was probably destroyed by the earthquake of 526.



Aerial view of Soli Amphitheatre



Statue of Aphrodite

NEW ARRIVALS IN HQ UNFICYP

NEW UNFICYP CHIEF OF STAFF: COLONEL CMB COATS, LATE RA

Colonel Christopher Coats was commissioned into the Royal Artillery from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in December 1969.

He has served in the British Army of the Rhine, Southern Germany and the United Kingdom, exercised in Cyprus and trained extensively on the northern and southern flanks of NATO with 3 Commando Brigade and the Allied Command Europe Force (Land), specializing in Winter Warfare and Amphibious Operations.

He has completed operational tours in Northern Ireland, Belize, Bosnia and the Republic of Georgia.

Following tours in Field Artillery and the Royal Artillery's Training Regiment, he joined 29 Commando Regiment in 1976. His regimental appointments have included Gun Position Officer, Forward Observation Officer and Adjutant. He was appointed to command 79 (Kirkee) Commando Battery in 1985 and 94 Regiment in 1991, where he held the appoint-

ment of Commander Force Artillery, Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land).

He was promoted to Colonel in February 1995 and was the Deputy Chief Military Observer and Chief of Staff of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia from Feb to Aug 1995.

Before assuming his appointment as the UNFICYP Chief of Staff on 19 November 1997, he was Colonel Recruiting Policy in Headquarters Adjutant General (Personnel and Training Command).

Col Coats is married to Susie and they have a son and a daughter. He and his family participate in a wide range of sports, and his own interests include offshore sailing, windsurfing, tennis, riding, mountain walking and ski touring.



NEW LIAISON OFFICER TO THE NATIONAL GUARD: COMDT RAY QUINN

Comdt Ray Quinn recently took over the appointment of Liaison Officer to the National Guard. Born in Ireland in 1949, he was educated by the Irish Christian Brothers and later studied Arabic at University College Dublin. He is currently taking a degree course at the National College of Industrial Relations, Dublin.

Comdt Quinn was commissioned into the Artillery Corps in 1969. As a Lt and Capt, he served in the 4th and 6th Field Artillery Regts and as an instructor in the Artillery School. He qualified as an instructor in gunnery at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, UK in 1976-77. Graduating from the Command Staff College in 1981, he later served there as an instructor. His recent appointments were SO, Directorate of Operations, responsible for coordination of military and police joint operations, and acting CO 1st Air Defence Regiment.

Comdt Quinn served previously in UNFICYP (1971) as a Gun Position Officer, Heavy Mortar Troop. Other overseas appointments were SO Hum in UNIFIL HQ (1980) and Ops Officer Irishbatt (1992-93). In 1988-90 he was a member of UNTSO where he served on both sides of the Golan Heights, and was also LO (BUNMO) to the Austrian Battalion. He was SO Ops at UNTSO HQ with responsibility for Beirut (1989-90).

Comdt Quinn's main hobby is scuba-diving. He is also a reluctant gardener. He is widowed, and is accompanied by his two youngest children, David and Lisa. His eldest daughter, Nicole, will join the family later.



NEW FORCE PHOTOGRAPHER: CPL PAT O'MEARA

On 15 October 1997, Cpl Pat O'Meara took over the position of the UNFICYP Force Photographer. Born in Tipperary, his home town is now Trim in County Meath.

Pat has served nine years in the Irish Army Air Corps. Normally stationed at Baldonnel in Dublin, he carries out photography on mari-

time fishery protection. Pat has been on one other UN posting with 78 Irishbatt, UNIFIL (Oct 95-Apr 96).

Apart from photography, Pat's hobbies include all kinds of sport, and he has run in four marathons. He also likes music, and is currently a member of the Trim Choral Group.



RETIREMENTS FROM UNFICYP

IBRAHIM HASHMET

On 30 August 1997, for Support Regiment Ibrahim Hashmet, a REME Workshop until Turkish Cypriot from the 1986.

On that year, he was promoted to the position of Foreman in the R E M E Inspections Dept, and later on, in R E M E Workshops.

With the formation of Support Command Workshop, Dhekelia, British Bases. In 1966, after his transfer to UNFICYP, he worked the formation of Support Services Section, Ibrahim continued to work as the Foreman in the Generator's Unit.



FIREMAN MIKE

Michael Georgiou, a Greek Cypriot from came to work for the UN Paleometochko, joined in Nicosia where his the RAF in 1953 and was first employed as a general fitter. Whilst in the workshops, he occasionally observed the RAF fire crews undergoing techniques and drills. Michael retired on 31 October 1997, and intends to spend his leisure time gardening and singing in his local choir.



ELLI TAMBOURLA

Elli Tambourla is a UNFICYP as Secretary Greek Cypriot who was to the CPLO. Elli born in Kyrenia, brought remained in the same up in Nicosia and spent the first years of her married life in Famagusta. Elli started work with the British Bases, Dhekelia, in April 1955.

In 1971, she resigned retirement travelling to in order to raise her family. Then in 1975, she again started working in Personnel & Logistics Branch of HQ



KYRIAKOS CHRISTODOULOU

Kyriakos Christodoulou this HQ and, when he comes from Skylloura in retires at the end of the Nicosia District. He January 1998, he intends started work for the United Nations in 1975 as a sanitary labourer in the Quartermaster's Section, HQ UNFICYP. Following the establishment of Camp Command in 1995, Kyriakos continued his employment as a general labourer. Kyriakos is a well-known handyman around



to look for odd jobs until he gets "too old to work any more". He will also spend more time with his two children and three grandchildren.

His wife, Paraskevou, is also employed in the HQ, and will continue to support Kyriakos until it is her turn to retire in 10 years time.

UNFICYP WISHES IBRAHIM, MICHAEL, ELLI AND KYRIAKOS
EVERY HAPPINESS IN THEIR RETIREMENT

THE UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

The morning was warm, the sun was bright and the atmosphere was tense. It was Tuesday 11 November, another day in the history of UNFICYP's Shooting Competition. The teams assembled on the pistol and 200m ranges for 0730 hrs, and the first shot was fired at 0800 hrs.

On the pistol range, nine teams were competing for the honours. Midway through the competition, Sector Four's 'A' team notched up an impressive score, followed immediately by their 'B' team. However, the HQ UNFICYP team were to shoot last, and as the officials went forward to check the HQ UNFICYP targets, it was apparent that the scores were extremely close.



Camp Command's winning team in the rifle and falling plates competitions



Soldiers in action during the falling plates competition

When the final tally was made, there were only five points separating the top three teams. HQ UNFICYP emerged victorious with 286 points, Sector Four's 'A' team came second with a score of 284 and, in third place were Sector Four's 'B' team with 281 points. The individual prize went to SSgt Santa, Sector Four 'A' with 86 points.

Once the pistol competition was completed, the competitors made their way to the 200m range. The rifle competition commenced with Camp Command, the new guys on the island, opening the proceedings. As the scores were marked up, it became apparent that the Irish were 'on form' and set one of the highest scores on record at 248 points.

The challenge was mounted by Sector Four, whose 'A' team came in second with 210 points, followed by their 'B' team with 200 points. The individual prize was won by Coy Sgt Tony Clare of Camp Command, with a remarkable score of 78 points. Cpl Sas of Sector Four 'B' was second with 71 points, and Gnr Parkes of Sector Two 'A' took third place with 65 points.

The penultimate competition was the Support Weapons Shoot which was contested by five teams. This generated some pace and excitement, compared to the pistol and rifle which are mainly static competitions. Opening the shoot were the PFR Light Support Weapons (LSW) team against the Sector Four 'A' General Purpose



Cpl Harrigan keeping the scores



Sector Two handing out ammunition during the shooting competition

Machine Gun (GPMG) team. The PFR finally emerged as winners with 142 points. Sector Four 'A' came second with 124 points, followed by Sector Four 'B' with 101 points.

Last, but not least, came the Falling Plates competition, an event which always injects speed and an abundance of adrenaline, both of which were required as the competition rules were amended once again. This time, the teams had to carry 35lb back-

packs, had to be in the 'prone' position and, on the whistle blast, had to run 50m 'up' to the firing point.

Having witnessed Camp Command's impressive rifle shoot, it would have taken a brave person to bet against them. The starting official's whistle sounded and the two finalists (Camp Command and Sector Four 'A') put everything they had into the last run. Camp Command won in an excellent time of 25 seconds, which



Sector Four's 'A' team

could not have been achieved without the infectious enthusiasm of RSM Peter Ruane.

With the shooting over, OC Camp Command, Comdt Michael Delaney, formed a parade and handed over to the Chief of Staff, Col Ian Talbot. Before presenting the prizes, Col Talbot expressed his thanks to Camp Command who put a lot of effort into organizing the competition, along with the other contingents who supplied the officials and other back-up services which are essential to the success of such an



Checking the 35lb back packs

event. Col Talbot also commented on the professionalism and enthusiasm shown by all competitors alike, in particular Sector Four who, once again, won the combined weapons trophy and Camp Command, who, for such a small unit (17 all ranks), achieved a remarkable feat by taking the rifle team, rifle individual and falling plates trophies.

Now that the dust has settled and the weapons are cleaned, it is time to reflect on the prizes that 'got away' and to think ahead to the next shooting competition.

THE ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE

November 19 1997 was the date set for the Medal Parade of the ninth Argentinian Contingent in Cyprus. Located in San Martin Camp, the Headquarters of the Argentinian Task Force was bedecked with flowers and the flags of all UNFICYP troop-contributing nations. However on the day, the skies opened and the rain came down, but that did not prevent many friends, both military and civilian, from attending this very important ceremony where the soldiers of Sector One were presented with their United Nations medal, granted to all those who complete a minimum of 90 days' service with UNFICYP.



The Force Commander inspecting the parade on the rain-drenched parade square in San Martin Camp



The Force Commander being presented with his UN medal by Commander Sector One



One of Sector One's doctors, Lt Maria Gabriela Gigena, receiving her medal from the Chief of Staff

The Force Commander, Maj Gen Evergisto Arturo de Vergara, the Chief of Staff, Col Christopher Coats, and Commander Sector One, Lt Col Rafael Barni, presented the medals. The Force Commander congratulated all recipients for their hard work and devotion to duty, and wished them a safe journey back to

their loved ones in Argentina. He also thanked all guests who attended this impressive Medal Parade, and who did not allow the rain to dampen the enthusiasm of those for whom this ceremony was a significant moment in their lives.

One notable moment during the Parade was when the Force Commander himself received his UN medal, presented to him by Commander Sector One.

Following the parade, a reception took place where everyone was invited to typical Argentinian delicacies of "locro" and "empanadas".

Then on 21 November, a second Argentinian Medal Parade took place at Soli, where the remaining members of Sector One received their medals. It is traditional for ARGCON to hold two Medal Parades at the end of each rotation, as in this way, the Sector finds the opportunity to invite members of the National Guard and Turkish Forces to join in the celebrations and share with both sides this very profound and meaningful occasion.



Soldiers of Sector One on parade in Soli Amphitheatre

AUSCON MEDAL PARADE IN FAMAGUSTA

On 5 November 1997, 93 members of AUSCON (Austrians, Hungarians and Slovenians) gathered together in the ancient amphitheatre of Salamis to receive their UN medal "in the service of peace". This was the first medal parade attended by the Slovenians since they joined AUSCON in October 1997, and so made the occasion even more special.



The blessing of the UN medals

This was really a very worthy and beautiful place to celebrate such an event, which took place just after sunset. Torchlights illuminated the glorious amphitheatre, and in this way, one could easily envisage how grand Salamis must have been in its day.



The trumpeter of the Styrian Military Band

The ceremony was also very impressive with the outgoing Chief of Staff, Col Ian Talbot, and the Contingent Commander of Sector Four, Lt Col Robert Prader, presenting the medals. On this occasion, the Austrian organizers were able to engage the Band of the Royal Lancers, currently stationed in Episkopi, ESBA.



The national flags of Hungary, Slovenia and Austria and the United Nations flag on parade

In addition, a trumpeter of the Styrian Military Band and a group of singers from Spittal/drau in Carinthia also contributed to the musical. The audience liked the international music and a highlight of the music performance was the so called "Zapfenstreich" (the last post), a trumpet solo, announcing in former times the sign for the recruits to show up in the barracks before midnight.

1/Lt Rebtsch, Duty Officer Sector Four, received a special commendation by Maj Gen E de Vergara, the Force Commander. Earlier in the year, he saved the life of a Turkish Cypriot, who might otherwise have drowned in the heavy swell at the beach in Salamis.

After the medal parade, a reception was held in the attractively decorated Othello Tower, a part of the Venetian Walls of Famagusta.



The British Band of the Royal Lancers

HUNGARY INCREASES PEACE-KEEPING CONTINGENT IN CYPRUS

In the past, a number of Hungarian officers and police have been posted as military observers to United Nations missions in Far East Asia (Vietnam and Cambodia) and in the Middle East (Iraq). Then, following the break of the Warsaw Pact, the Hungarian Government took the opportunity to outline an independent conception of the country's policy. This policy dictates that the Hungarian nation wishes to live in harmony with its neighbouring countries and to contribute to world peace. In practice, this contribution started with the posting of military observers to Africa (Mozambique and Angola), and to the Middle East (Kuwait).

The first Hungarian soldiers (a platoon strength) joined the Austrian Battalion in November 1995, when they took over responsibility of 1 Platoon, 1 Coy. They have, of course, gained a lot of experience since their arrival, and this year, the decision was taken to increase the Hungarian strength from 39 personnel to company level (105).

The selection of personnel started in June 1997 on a voluntary basis with a number of officers taking part in an international peace-keeping course.



Guard of Honour in Camp Izay

The first rotation took place on 24 September 1997, when the Hungarian Company took over 1 Coy's area of responsibility, located at Camp Izay, Athienou.

Hungary is proud to participate in this multinational battalion of Austrian, Hungarian and Slovenian peace-keepers.

URUGUAY JOINS SECTOR ONE

The Army of Uruguay has long participated in peace-keeping missions, demonstrating a profound belief in human rights and a peaceful solution to controversies. Since 1935, it has been participating in a group called the Military Neutral Commission, created in an attempt to end the armed conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay.

With the creation of the United Nations, Uruguay contributes by sending members of its force to more remote parts of the earth, with units currently in Cambodia, Mozambique and Angola.

At the invitation of Argentina, three Uruguayans (two officers and one staff sergeant) joined ARGCON and have been with the Sector since July 1997. Of the three, only Capt Fernando Gonzalez has previous experience in peace-keeping missions, having served in ONUMOZ in 1994.

Uruguay is proud to participate in UNFICYP, and sincerely believes that not only will this action



From the left: SSgt Del Pino, Capt Gonzalez and Lt Urquiza in San Martin Camp

secure and solidify the fraternity which exists between Argentina and Uruguay, but will serve to help UNFICYP's aim of creating a lasting peace on the island.

PADRE RICHARD DUNSTAN-MEADOWS, CHAPLAIN TO THE FORCES (CF)

Padre Richard Dunstan-Meadows was born in 1963 in a village not far from Canterbury in Kent.

Based at Headquarters BRITCON, Padre Richard arrived on the island in June 1997 for a two-year tour of duty, and is the resident Padre for the British Contingent serving with UNFICYP.



Q. What were your first aspirations?

A. My first love in life was, in fact, music. From a very young age, I realised that I was pulled towards the world of religious music. In my early teens, I took up the French Horn and piano.

Q. What were your ambitions for the future?

A. I left home at the age of 17 whilst still at school, and went to work as a waiter in an Italian restaurant! I studied by day and worked by night, but for a number of reasons, I did not pass my exams well enough to enter the university of my choice and study art.

Q. When did you become a Christian?

A. As a young boy, my parents separated and I felt that something was seriously missing from my life. When I took the job in the Italian restaurant, it so happened that my parish church was situated right opposite. I think that possibly the church music and worship attracted me to becoming a Christian. I was baptised and confirmed a few months later.

Q. How did the military world come into your life?

A. Immediately after I left school, I applied to the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers who invited me for an interview. My main ambition at this stage in my life was to join the regimental band, but unfortunately, they already had a French Horn player! So, I enlisted as a trooper on the understanding that once a place opened for me, I would be absorbed into the band.

Q. How and when did you decide to enter the Church?

A. Only five weeks after I first enlisted, I felt that my future was not in the army, but in the priesthood. So, I took a weekend's leave and went to visit my parish priest to seek his advice. Surprised as he was that I had joined the army, he advised me that my three-year initial contract would be a good test of my vocation. So, I finished the normal basic training and trade training and spent three years with the army as a gunner, tank driver, radio operator and missile controller, which I enjoyed immensely.

I left the army in 1986 and trained for the ministry at Chichester Theological College, at the same time reading for a degree in theology at Southampton University, which I passed with honours. During this

three-year training period, I was sent to various pastoral parishes including a four-month stint at the high-security prison of Wormwood Scrubs. The life of a theology student is centred around daily worship, intense study and the church, and it is only in the last few months that we learn whether or not we have been recommended to be ordained.

Q. Where was your first parish?

A. In 1990, I first served as a deacon in a seaside resort of 22,000 people. I was priested the following year by John Waine (*not* Wayne), Bishop of Chelmsford. During this time, I attended a service where Bishop Waine licensed a local vicar - called Gordon Bennett! I served three happy years in this busy parish, but I found that I was conducting on average five funerals a week...

Q. How did the army return to your life?

A. In my second parish (where there were fewer funerals), I became involved with the Territorial Army, and coincidentally, I was also offered a parish of my own. The time had come for me to decide whether I would stay in parish ministry, or branch out of the mainstream Church into a sector ministry, for instance a hospital, prison or the forces. After the experience of one member of my congregation dying during a funeral, I decided it was time to make a break and spend time in a more youthful environment.

Q. Are there any other members of your family in the church?

A. None. My nearest connection is an uncle, who is a church organist. He also happens to be an undertaker, and was once booked for speeding in the hearse - after the funeral, fortunately. On my posting to Northern Ireland, I discovered that a local Presbyterian Minister was my cousin!

Q. How do you see your ministry today?

A. Being a padre continues to be a challenging and rewarding experience, and my ministry has been enriched by the opportunity of working and living in the military environment. The army is very much a family to me, as indeed the Church has been, and it is a privilege to serve with the family of nations here in UNFICYP.

A FLOWER AMONGST THE THORNS



During Task Force 9's tour of duty with UNFICYP, an inter-sector photographic competition was held, whereby personnel were invited to enter a photograph in relation to their operational activities. The picture had to be taken some time between the beginning and end of their tour.

This photograph, by Lt Fernando Llensa from Bravo Coy, Sector One, was the outright winner. It was taken in the village of Agios Georgios, situated just on the border of the United Nations Buffer Zone in Sector One's area of responsibility.