

The Blue Beret

May 2004



Military Skills -
Maximum Effort



THE BLUE BERET

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SG's Peacekeeper's Day Message

Last year, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was inaugurated to commemorate more than half a century of dedication and sacrifice by peacekeepers serving under the UN's blue flag around the world to build confidence, reconcile warring parties and relieve suffering. Alas, the past 12 months have given us many more such sacrifices to mourn.

Every one of these sacrifices commands our deep respect. They should also inspire us. We must continue to strive, as those brave peacekeepers did, to make it possible for the community of nations to live in peace.

Today, more than 53,000 uniformed personnel and at least 11,000 civilian staff from 94 countries serve in 15 missions across the globe. Those numbers are likely to increase: the Security Council has just approved an operation for Burundi, and another is being planned for Sudan.

The growth in missions is a welcome sign that many countries are choosing a healthier path as they emerge from violent conflicts. But it places enormous strain on our existing resources. I urge Member States to provide the additional peacekeepers that will be needed, and the resources to go with them.

Peacekeeping has long since evolved beyond its traditional role as a monitor of ceasefires. Today, UN missions engage in such tasks as assisting political transitions, building institutions, fostering the spread of the rule of law, supporting economic reconstruction, supervising elections, disarming militias and former combatants, facilitating humanitarian aid programmes and re-settling refugees and displaced persons.

In Liberia and Sierra Leone, peacekeepers are disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former combatants from two brutal civil wars. In Timor-Leste, they are helping a fledgling nation take its first steps and build national institutions. In Western Sahara, they have helped organise the first contacts between some refugees and their families in nearly 30 years.

Peacekeeping missions can never end wars by themselves. But they do offer the best possible way of ensuring there is a sustainable peace. On the International Day for UN Peacekeepers, let us remember that the most expensive peacekeeping operation costs far less than the cheapest war. That is an investment well worth making.

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**Front Cover:
 Military Skills – Maximum Effort**

EU Accession Celebrations

Apart from our many Cypriot staff, others in the UNFICYP family had a special interest in the 1 May EU accession festivities that ran through the evening of 30 April in Nicosia – none more so than our Slovak, Hungarian (and Polish) colleagues, now among the enlarged EU's expanded citizenship.

A fully packed "Eleftheria" ("Freedom") Square, bedecked with all 25 EU member flags, was entertained by Anna Vissi, one of the island's most famous singers. As the midnight hour approached, the countdown began and the EU flag was slowly raised outside the Nicosia Town Hall. Exactly at midnight, the EU anthem – "Ode To Joy" – resounded in all its glory, followed by a fireworks display that would have inspired Beethoven to even greater heights of compositional genius.



Nicosia celebrates



From the left: The Slovak Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Ján Varso, WO3 Daniel Zelinsky (craftsman), MSgt. Miroslav Dulaj (violinist), H.E. Martin Vavra (Czech Ambassador)

Two contingent members represented the Slovak Republic at the Nicosia Conference Centre. One put on a display of Slovak craft products, while the other played a rousing medley of Slovak national music on his violin (see profiles on page 6).

At the invitation of the Cyprus Hungarian Friendship Club, Hungarian soldiers celebrated the EU enlargement at the Poseidonia Beach Hotel in Limassol. Addressing the special dinner, Hungarian Ambassador, Mr. János Kisfalvi, proclaimed accession day as a great event for both communities, noting there was much to be gained from EU membership. The dancing lasted into the small hours of the following morning.



Playing in the new Europe

Military Skills Challenge – May 2004

By Maj. Chris Frazer

Exercise Unifying Challenge, the Military Skills Competition, took place within the UNPA on 19 May 2004. Ten six-member teams from across UNFICYP took part in the exercise, which was won by the Mobile Force Reserve team led by Capt. Catherine Monk.

The exercise was designed to be both physically and mentally challenging. To ensure fairness and negate the need for significant training preparation, the exercise was redesigned to avoid, where possible, any repetition. Again the focus was on the practical application of military skills used on a routine basis by all contingents to operate successfully in the UNFICYP Mission.

Participating teams were Argentinian (South American) Contingent Teams 1 and 2; British Contingent Teams 1, 2 and 3 (HQ BRITCON); Slovakian Contingent Team 1; Hungarian Contingent Team 1; UNCIVPOL Team 1; and HQ UNFICYP Team 1.

Originally, the teams were required to march over uneven ground around an eight-mile circuit, completing tasks as they went, whilst carrying all their equipment, including weapon and helmet. For safety reasons, because of the unseasonably high temperatures, last minute changes had to be made, while ensuring the event remained realistic and challenging.

For competitors and staff, the day began early with registration, briefing and inspection. The independent umpires, designated by the contingents, conducted the inspection and afterwards, the teams were led to the Start Point.

At 0600 hours, 60 competitors set off in a tightly packed jostling start to the march. MFR completed the march in the best time of one hour, 28 minutes.

Next, the teams dispersed throughout the UNPA to complete the other events. A "Gun Run" required the teams to push an L200 Pick Up along a 300-metre course. MFR also won this event with a time of three minutes, 13 seconds.

Rules of Engagement and Equipment Recognition tested the participants' powers of observation, reaction, individual knowledge of their respective Rules of Engagement and their ability to recognise equipment types.

Navigation was next. Competitors were given a number of Map Reading questions, including distance judging and providing accurate grid references.

The competitors' shooting ability was tested at the Marksmanship Stand. Individuals were required to fire their weapons to achieve the smallest collection of shots, termed a "group". The smallest group was scored and counted toward overall competition scores.

Teams were then required to complete a "Snap Shoot", firing their weapons at short exposure targets from different firing positions.

Teams then moved on to the Communications Stand for a series of tests on communication.

With two stands left to go, the penultimate was the Incident Reaction Stand. This was a simulated accident near a mock minefield. The teams had to deal with the casualties created by the incident and effect a casualty eva-

tion using both helicopter and wheeled ambulance – under the watchful eyes of the Force Medical Officer, a member of the UN Flt and the Force Engineer.

The Senior Staff Group, who made a late-morning sortie over the course, was particularly impressed with the Hollywood movie authenticity of the staged accident, in particular the Oscar-worthy performance of the soldier playing the "victim" in the minefield.

Finally, teams centralised at EXCON, where, after a safety brief, they set off on the obstacle course, a back-breaking circuit made all the more difficult and muddy thanks to the rain which soaked spectators and competitors alike. The obstacle course was won by MFR in a time of nine minutes, 25 seconds, an impressive time achieved through a supreme effort epitomising every-thing that the exercise stands for.

The MFR always looked strong and were considered by many as favourites (having "home" advantage), but the remainder never lost heart and gave 100% at all times. The competition was very tight for second and third. The placings of the competition were:

MFR	–	First
BRITCON 1	–	Second
HQ UNFICYP	–	Third

All teams were impressive, but the most notable displays of courage and conviction came from the Hungarian team from Sector 4 and the two South American teams of Sector One. All battled hard and never gave up or lost their sense of humour. Special mention should be made of CESSAC's Debbie Boardman, who joined "Dad's Army" (the HQ UNFICYP team) and helped them to a respectable fourth place.

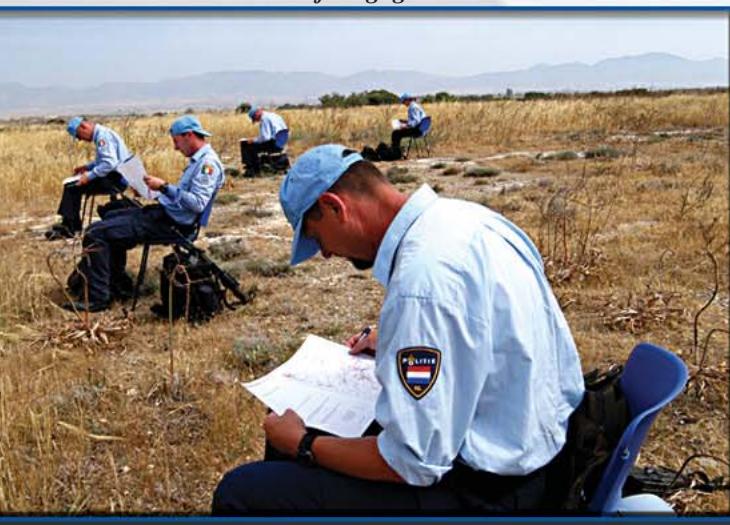
The Force Commander gave a short congratulatory speech before presenting the prizes to the teams. The prizes, which were kindly donated by SODEXHO, included: "Gerber" Tools for the winners, "Camelbacks" water carriers for those in second place and "Mini Maglite" torches for those placed third. In addition, framed certificates, signed by the Force Commander, were also awarded. The winners also received the UNFICYP Military Skills presentation piece, which will soon be adorned with a plaque commemorating their effort and achievement.

The exercise was a success, doing exactly what the title, Unifying Challenge, implies. The competition tested the mettle of entrants, requiring them to display the highest standards of teamwork and military tradition, symbolising all the good the United Nations stands for. The day ended with a party in the International Cafeteria with beverages kindly provided gratis through the generosity of Maj. Mike Waymouth and the MFR.

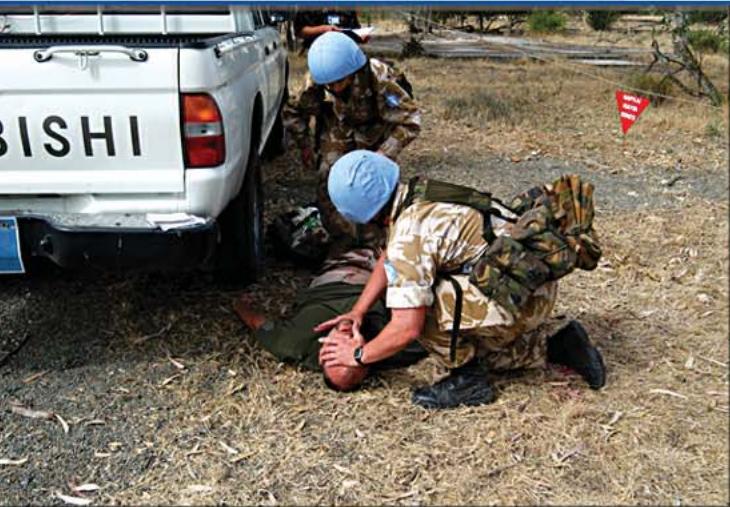
The day was a success, thanks to the hard work and application of teams and stand staff. The next Unifying Challenge is scheduled for late autumn after the next troop rotation, when perhaps, even the UN Flight will enter a team.



Rules of Engagement



Map Seating



Accident Reaction



"Dad's Army"

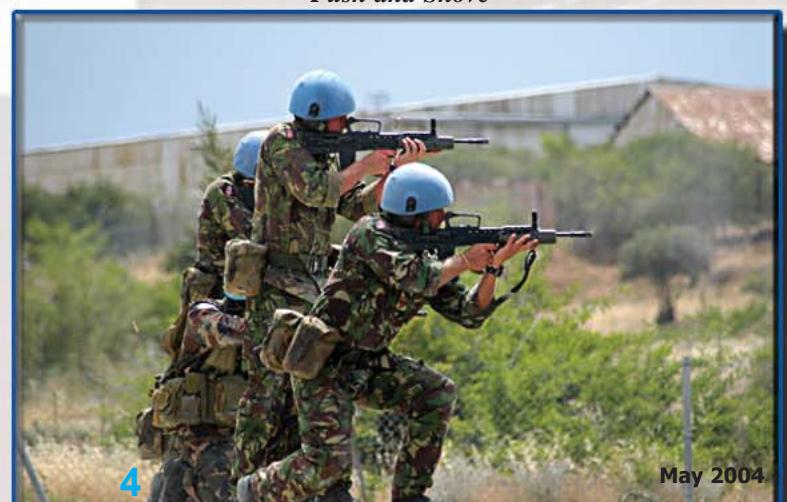
"Knees-up"



"Tyre-sum!"



Push and Shove



Snap Shoot



"Dad's Army"



Defenders of Peace and Protectors of Slovak Tradition

WO3 Daniel Zelinsky has been in the armed forces for 18 years. He is married and has two daughters (15 and 10 years old).

The Slovak peacekeeper is also a bona fide craftsman. He can use any available material for his creations. Zelinsky started woodcarving at the age of six. The quality of his wood statuettes is



Sgt. Miroslav Dulaj is another creative member of the Slovak Contingent. He is a folk musician and dancer.

At the age of 14, the current Logistics NCO of Sector 4 knew that he wanted to set off on a military path and joined the Military High School in Slovakia.

However precocious he was with his military skills, Miroslav was considered a late bloomer when it came to music. At 18, he began playing the violin, ignoring discouraging opinions and proving that it is never too late to take on a musical instrument.

Today, Miroslav can play the violin, the viola, contrabass, and a variety of pipes including the "Fujara" (the Slovak shepherd's long pipe), all without being able to read music. He even performed a pipe solo with the Fujara in front of an audience of over 5,000.

Miroslav is also a folk dancer and has performed with a regional Slovak folk group in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

such that during his first assignment in the service, Daniel's commanding officer gave him a small workshop to make souvenirs and official gifts used by his unit for presentations throughout Slovakia and abroad. His carvings have even been exported to the Netherlands and the USA.

The skillful hands of this UNFICYP NCO are also capable of knitting sweaters, and making costumes for Slovakia's Carnival on Ice. Once, during night shift, Zelinsky knitted a sweater for his daughter.

Daniel has also tried to make lace. One of his favourite designs is a Norwegian rose incorporating 58 colours.

On completing his tour with UNFICYP, Daniel plans to resign from the armed forces and dedicate himself to restoring antiques in partner-



Plaques ordered by the Australian Police



Leather shoes and hat
Shepherd's dish

ship with the Dutch artist and carpenter Franc de Brouk in Borne, Holland.



MSgt. Miroslav Dulaj in his office (above) and playing Slovak national music at the Conference Culture Centre in Nicosia on 31 May

Dancing on Water



UNFICYP'S Dutch UNCIVPOL Contingent joined Cyprus's many Dutch residents in marking the anniversary of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands at a reception hosted by the Netherlands Ambassador to Cyprus, Jhr. Mr. M.E.C. Gevers, at the Laiki Sporting Club just outside Nicosia on 5 May.

Inspired by the club's magnificent swimming pool, the organisers of this year's celebration invited a top Dutch synchronized swimming team to put on a display for the appreciative guests. Nine young Dutch women defied the coolness of the evening to put on two 15-minute shows – "Synchro 2004: Looking Back and Ahead" – choreographed to popular and classical music.

It was appropriate that a team from the land renowned for keeping the sea at bay should show people from an island famous for its sea bays the art of dancing on water.

Four More "Muggings"



UN Flight Capts. Adrian Longo, Ruben Boschi, and Fabricio Tejeda of Argentina, along with UNCIVPOL's Supt. Sandy Allan of Australia, said "hasta luego" to their UNFICYP friends and colleagues. The cosy mug-out was held at the Officers' Mess on 23 May.

For Capt. Tejeda, his stay in Cyprus was an unforgettable experience. Capt. Longo expressed his gratitude for all the friendship, support, and co-operation he found while working at UNFICYP. Still, he is overjoyed to return to his wife and child. Capt. Boschi still can't believe he had to travel so far to learn the tango!

Sandy, who is sad to leave Cyprus, consoled herself by arranging trips to Hungary, Switzerland, Ireland, Belgium and UAE before returning to Australia. She delighted her fan club with an amusing farewell speech and gifts.

Kyriakos takes the Plunge!



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Wedding bells pealed out on Sunday 16 May when UNFICYP's most eligible bachelor, Kyriakos Michaelides from the EDP unit, married Joanna Demetriou at the church of Ayios Pavlos in Nicosia.

A wedding reception for well over 1,000 guests followed, lasting late into the night. The couple left soon after for a honeymoon in the Maldives islands.

UNFICYP wishes them a happy life together.

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus — Part XXIII

The Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Cultural Centre

Room 1: P. Georgiou

Inaugurated in 1982, the Cultural Centre of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation is adjacent to the Archbishop's Palace in Nicosia.

It comprises among other sections the Byzantine Museum, Art Galleries and a Library.

Room 1: 1 – Virgin and Child



Room 1: 7 – St. Nicholas



Room 1: 67 – Christ Pantocrator



The Byzantine Museum

The Byzantine Museum collections are housed in two large rooms on the elevated ground floor of the Cultural Centre, displaying icons and other religious artefacts in the Byzantine style.

Cyprus is one of the first countries where Christianity was established, by Saint Barnabas, a Jew from Salamis, in the year 45. The Cyprus Church gained its autocephaly (self-governance) from the Byzantine Emperor Zeno in the 5th century. When churches and monasteries were erected from the 4th century onwards, the faithful felt the need to have them decorated with mosaics, frescoes and icons representing stories from the lives of Christ, the Virgin Mary and saints. Icons (depictions of religious figures and symbols) must also have been created at the same time, but, painted on wood as they were, they perished faster. This explains why we have no icons that date from before the 8th century.

Minor changes in iconography occurred through the ages, due to influences from foreign rulers and from within the Byzantine Empire, as well as from expelled Christians coming out of nearby countries such as Syria, Palestine and Asia Minor (Turkey). Byzantine painters kept to the rules set down in old texts, which aimed at portraying the spirituality of the subjects on the icon, rather than faithfully representing their human aspects. This is why, for example, emphasis was given to "penetrating" eyes, austere faces and two-dimensional frontal figures.

Byzantine painting is divided into five time periods: the Early Byzantine period (4th century-649, although almost nothing remains of this time); the period of Arab raids (649-965); the Middle Byzantine period (965-1191); the Frankish period (1192-1489) and Venetian period (1489-1571); and the Ottoman period (1571-1878).

Room 1

The oldest icon that survived on the island is displayed here: the "Virgin and Child" (No. 1), painted with the encaustic method (colours mixed with melted wax). It belonged to the Phaneromeni Church of the Virgin in Nicosia. Near it, the "Enthroned Virgin and Child" (No. 6), is a 13th-century icon from the Saint Kassianos Church in Nicosia that was donated by the Carmelite monks who are seen on the left-hand side of her throne. On either side of the Virgin are small scenes with subject matter drawn from Catholicism and bearing Latin inscriptions.

"Saint Nicholas tis Steysis" (of the Roof) from Kakopetria (No. 7) is another icon in the same style and probably a work by the same artist. The difference is that in the Saint Nicholas icon, the small scenes figuring on the sides are in the Orthodox tradition and the inscriptions are in Greek. This shows that there could be mutual respect between Orthodox and Catholics.

Room 2

In the second room, seven 6th-century mosaics from the Virgin Kanakaria church at Lythrangomi and 36 fragments of 15th-century frescoes from the Christ Antifonitis monastery at Kalogera show an impressive beauty, and an excellent craftsmanship that is indicative of very high levels of artistic mastery. They have an unusual story to tell, in that they had been sold abroad, but were repatriated after a successful court trial.

A semi-circular showcase in this three-part room exhibits chalices, salvers, bibles, flabella, encrusted orbs and sceptres, richly embroidered vestments and other items representative of the Cypriot minor arts.

Also encountered here are more icons and a number of royal or sanctuary doors – the painted doors that are fixed on the Iconostasis (the icon screen that separates the nave of the church from the holy of holies).

Room 2: Virgin Kanakaria mosaics



Art Galleries

The Art Galleries consist of four rooms containing, respectively: Cypriot paintings (20th century); Greek paintings (19th and 20th centuries); Western-European paintings (15th to 19th centuries); and artefacts from Greece in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Room 1 - Cypriot Paintings of the 20th Century

Exhibited on the first floor of the gallery, Cypriot paintings in oil, watercolour, acrylic and other materials reflect various artistic currents from the naive to the abstract. This is quite understandable, as the 20th century saw many changes in style. Furthermore, a lack of art schools on the island obliged future artists to study abroad, thus involving themselves in experiences and traditions from all over the world. Their participation in international exhibitions gave their art appreciation and acclaim.

This room seems to travel back in time, to the old, blissful, quiet but hard times on the island. Beautiful landscapes and seascapes, pastoral scenes, and scenes of everyday rural activities – of earning a living or dancing at a village wedding – all help to depict what life was like then.

Of a more serious mood are some works of the second half of the century, which reflect the troubled events that occurred in Cyprus during this time.

Paintings by prominent artists such as Adamantios Diamantis, Telemachos Kanthos, Paul Georgiou, Michael Kashialos, Lefteris Economou, Stass Paraskos, Yorgos Skotinos, Loizos Sergiou, and by a plethora of younger-generation artists, enrich this gallery.

Room 2 - Greek Paintings of the 19th and 20th Centuries

The room of Greek paintings, which is on the second floor of the Gallery (above the previous room), is currently closed. When it is open, however, it shows the evolution of Greek artistic creation from the inception of the modern Greek state in 1830 to the present day.

Room 3 - Western-European Paintings of the 15th to 19th Centuries

Paintings depicting biblical and mythological themes, portraits, and scenes from the Greek War of Independence constituted the private collection of H.B. Archbishop Makarios III, acquired in 1963 and now found on the first floor of the gallery.

Five centuries of European paintings from the Late Renaissance to the Romantic period are represented by works from mainly the French and the Italian school, mostly painted by followers of several masters. Particularly interesting are the works that are registered by masters such as Sebastiano del Piombo, Francisco Vanni, Claude Lorrain, Tintoretto, Nicolas Poussin, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingre, Theodore Gericault and Eugene Delacroix.

Room 4 - Greece in the 19th and 20th Centuries

This room of the second floor (above the room of Western-European paintings) displays maps, engravings and works by artists from France, Italy, Spain, England, Austria, Germany, Holland and Switzerland who were romantically inspired by the Greeks fighting for their independence from the Ottoman Empire as well as by the beauty of Greek antiquity and mythology.

Particularly interesting are numerous paintings by the French artist Pierre Boniote, depicting people in national costumes, dancing or otherwise engaged in everyday life in front of ruined antiquities.

A number of old maps of Greece, Cyprus and other Mediterranean countries – plus engravings showing scenes from Greek political life, portraits of royalty and other eminent personalities, and historical monuments – are also exhibited here.



Room 1: 119 – A. Diamantis



Room 1: 77 – T. Kanthos



Room 4: P. Bolirote



Room 3: 105 – Th. Gericault



Sector 2 Medal Parade

By Capt. David Penniall



The Sector 2 medal parade was held on 6 May at Ledra Palace. Members of 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery were presented with their UN medals by the Force Commander, the British High Commissioner and the Chief of Staff, UNFICYP.

Several days were spent rehearsing for the parade which featured the music of the Band of the Queen's Division.

A reception hosted by the Commander of the British contingent, Col. I.R. Sinclair, CBE, was held after the parade and culminated with a display by the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

National Army Days



Nicosia House, the home of Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli and his wife, Nelida Ethel Scarone Di Leone, and their son Pablo, was the venue for Uruguayan Army Day celebrations on 18 May.

Guests were warmly welcomed to a cocktail party which included traditional delicacies and a variety of Uruguayan wines.

Later in the evening, an Argentinian musician entertained the audience with traditional and international songs on his saxophone, whilst guests were served three different types of cake – decorated with the Uruguayan and UNFICYP flags and the map of Cyprus.

Left: The Force Commander checking on the sweets for his guests

HUNCON celebrated Hungarian Armed Forces Day on 21 May. In honour of the occasion, the Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary, H.E. Mr. János Kisfalvi, and the Defence, Military and Air Attaché, Lt. Col. József Bagi, hosted a reception at the Embassy.

70 guests were present, including official dignitaries and 25 Hungarian soldiers from Sector 4. Ambassador Kisfalvi thanked the Hungarian soldiers for their devotion to duty, and expressed his appreciation for the excellent manner in which they have carried out their tasks for UNFICYP.

Hungarian refreshments were then served including delicacies such as pork stew and stuffed cabbage, prepared by HUNCON's Athienou chefs MSgt. Sándor Tóth and SSgt Gábor Turcsik, as well as the renowned Hungarian wine, Bull's Blood.



From the left: CO HUNCON, Lt. Col. Ferenc Korom, Lt. Szilvia Vizhanyo, SSgt. Nikoletta Molnar, the Hungarian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. János Kisfalvi, and the Defence, Military and Air Attaché, Lt. Col. József Bagi

Four-Contingent UNCIVPOL Medal Parade



The 40th UNCIVPOL medal parade was held on 31 May. Since UNCIVPOL has been associated with the peacekeeping effort from day one, the medal parade also marked the 40th anniversary of its contribution to the maintenance of law and order on the island. Through the years, UNCIVPOL's presence has helped infuse confidence during turbulent periods. UNCIVPOL's tasks may have changed in the course of time, but the thrust of its work – humanitarian assistance and police liaison – continues to help both communities.

Led by UNCIVPOL Commander John McLoughlin some 31 police officers from Australia, India, Ireland and the Netherlands received their medals from UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli in front of an audience of colleagues and family members and high level representatives from Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and Slovakia. Representing the Dutch Police Forces were Brigadier Jan Wolf and Commissioner Roelof Faber.

In his remarks, the Chief of Mission noted that the opening of the crossings last year added significantly to UNFICYP's responsibilities and the UNCIVPOL's workload. This was why UNCIVPOL had been expanded with the addition of Indian and Dutch police. This four-contingent medal parade was a welcome reminder of the diversity that makes the United Nations a cherished and unique institution, he said. He was happy to see that after many arduous practice sessions, the day's medal recipients, resplendent in uniform, were also uniformly in step.

What the Chief of Mission didn't know was that the parade organisers, aware that the day had a double significance, had also rehearsed with the Argentinian Band a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to You", in honour of his birthday.

Medal recipients and birthday celebrant were congratulated alike by the large turnout at the reception afterwards. From salad to curry, the varied buffet was truly international and internationally appreciated. One highlight was the seal-like display of how to consume Dutch herring (see picture right), put on by an obliging senior visiting Dutch police official.



Celebrating Argentine Navy Day



Early morning, on May 14th, Camp "Admiral Brown", (Argentine Navy Marines Base) received the CO ARGCON, Lt. Col. Gustavo Jorge Luis Motta, UNCIVPOL officers and personnel from the different countries working in Sector 1, to commemorate the Argentine Navy Day.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the troops to Lt. Col. Motta, CO Sector 1, accompanied by Lt. Cdr. Héctor Gerardo Gamba, the Senior Navy officer in Cyprus.

Lt. Fernando Perez Kühn then gave a speech stressing the significance of May 14th, 1814, a day that marked the victory of the young Argentine Navy over the Spanish fleet based in Montevideo, then a Spanish fortress designed to contain the efforts of the South American countries in their struggle for independence.

In addition to describing the actual battle, Lt. Kühn also spoke of the significant contribution it made to the revolutionary cause. He also pointed out how "the Navy today honours its heroes, whose acts have become a beacon marking the style and attitude required to face the uncertain challenges of the future".

"The Argentine Navy, since the early days of our nation, is profoundly committed for the freedom and sovereign dignity of the people", he concluded.

After the Chaplain said a prayer, Lt. Col. Motta noted how "for more than 10 years, 14,000 km away from our country, the Navy has brought professionalism and dedication to this Task Force of people from different forces, different countries, and different cultures, all working together for the peace in Cyprus".

A traditional breakfast was served after the ceremony.

Doing Honour

Australian Federal Police Assistant Commissioner Shane Castles was among a party of CIVPOL and official guests at a ceremony at the Memorial Cairn to Sgt. Ian Donald Ward (AUSTCIVPOL). Sgt. Ward died near the location on the Lefka Road in Sector 1 on 12 November 1974 when his vehicle hit an anti-tank mine while he was transferring a group of Turkish Cypriots to a safe area.

The 13 May memorial service also remembered the other two Australian police officers killed in Cyprus – Insp. Patrick Mark Hackett who died in a motor vehicle accident on 29 August 1971, and Sgt. Lewelyn John Thomas who died in a motor vehicle accident on 26 July 1969.

The service was attended by the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, the Commanding Officer Sector 1, Lt. Col. Gustavo Motta, Australian High Commissioner Garth Hunt and members of the 77th, 78th and 79th AUSTCIVPOL contingents and their families.

The Australian High Commissioner, Force Commander and Assistant Commissioner Castles laid wreaths.

Following the memorial service, members returned to the Blue Beret Camp at UNFICYP HQ for a light lunch.



BRITCON Padre Lee Gandhiya conducting the service

During lunch, Sgt. Jennifer Graham and Sgt. Stuart Burrows were presented with the Australian Government award, the Police Overseas Service Medal (POSM), by A/C Castles. Sgt. Ian Hudson was presented with the Cyprus clasp to the POSM.

A commemorative dinner followed that evening at a Nicosia restaurant. Official guests included the AHC, UNFICYP Chief Admin Officer Frank Clancy, Spokesman Brian Kelly, and Force Provost Marshal Maj. Mick Bottomley.

ANZAC Day 2004

ANZAC is the acronym for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the formation created in December 1914 by grouping the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force stationed in Egypt under the command of Lieutenant-General William Birdwood.

At dawn on 25 April 1915, the ANZACs and their allies, British, French and Russian, landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey in a bid to secure the sea-lanes between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea – and force Turkey out of the war.

Thousands of Australian and New Zealand men died in the hours and days that followed the landing at the beach, eventually renamed Anzac Cove by Turkey on Anzac Day, 1985, the 70th Anniversary of the landing.

The tradition of an ANZAC Day dawn service was launched in 1923 to commemorate and acknowledge the sacrifices made by Australians and New Zealanders during times of war. In addition to being about the spirit of ANZAC, we also pause to recall the deeds, and honour the memory of people of all nations, who gave their lives in the pursuit of the freedom we enjoy today.

This year, as dawn broke on 25 April, the Australian Police component of UNCIVPOL maintained the commemorative tradition with a dawn service at Wayne's Keep Cemetery, Nicosia.

AUSTCIVPOL family members and a New Zealander participated. In reading "In Flanders Fields", Kevin Small (15 years of age) reminded us that many of those who died were not much older than him. In reading "Binyon's Lines", Katharine Robinson (10 years of age) reminded us that the "ultimate sacrifice" ensured freedom and a better life for our children, and that if the young do not remember the past, they are destined to repeat it. The laying of a bouquet of flowers by Bridget Robinson (six years of age) reminded us that the innocent too are casualties of war.

Readings by Sgt. Linda Nixon (ANZAC Dedication), Supt. Sandy Allan (Kemal Ataturk's dedication to the Mothers of the Fallen), and Supt. Ronald "Robbie" Robinson (Anzac Story) ensured a solemnity worthy of any dawn service.

The Australian High Commissioner, the New Zealand Honorary Consul, the British High Commissioner, the



UNFICYP Chief of Mission and Force Commander and the AUSTCIVPOL Commander laid wreaths on the cenotaph. Bouquets of flowers were laid on the graves of Australians and New Zealanders interned in the cemetery by Mrs. Rose Clarkson, Mrs. Jan Clarke, Mrs. Lena McLoughlin and Sgt. Jennifer Graham – a humbling reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We are grateful to all those who helped us make ANZAC Day a memorable one. In particular, the officers and soldiers of the Royal Horse Artillery at Ypenburg Sector 2 West, the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Band, UN Communications and Mrs. Rose Clarkson who provided the best Anzac biscuits ever for the gunfire breakfast, which followed the service back at the International Cafeteria.



Traditional ANZAC day game of "Two-Up"



Sally Kyriakides

On Saturday 22 May, we learned, with deep regret and sadness, that our friend and former colleague Sally Kyriakides has passed away.

Sally availed of early retirement from United Nations, due to ill health, on 31 March 2004.

Sally was one of those persons who was respected by all. She maintained excellent relations with those she came in contact with. Sally was a person who always looked to the good points of people and had the pleasant knack of ignoring their "other" points. Always pleasant and

cheerful, she carried those attributes into each office as she discussed business matters.

Sally's love of animals made her legendary. Her daily arrival was announced by the gathering of cats outside her office building, knowing that when her vehicle arrived (and they knew it by the purr of its engine!), breakfast would be served.

Sally has departed but she will always be remembered and missed by those who had the privilege of knowing and working with her.

Our sympathy is extended to her husband George and son Alexis.

Visit of Force Commander to Sector 1

4-5 May 2004



The Force Commander, Maj Gen Hebert Figoli, arrived at Camp San Martin's heliport on 4 May for a two-day visit to Sector 1. The aim of his visit was to share a complete day with the multi-national forces composing ARGCON, and observe their day-to-day duties.

During his visit, the Force Commander was accompanied by the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Frank Clancy, and the Military Assistant to Force Commander, Comdt. Terence Canton. Lt. Col. Gustavo Jorge Luis Motta, Commanding Officer of ARGCON, welcomed the group.

After the parade in his honour, the Force Commander was flown to OP 02, at Kokkina pocket, and later to OP 08, where he was given briefings of each area and the work carried out in both locations.

He also took the opportunity to pay a visit to Kato Pyrgos town and its inhabitants.

Gen. Figoli then visited Camp "Roca" and participated in different training activities, including cartography and MEDEVAC exercises.

Back in Camp San Martin, during the afternoon he participated in a soccer game, before becoming the first swimmer of the season to use the Camp's pool!

In the evening, he partook of a typical Argentinian barbecue and later on the birthday celebration of a Paraguayan NCO, an event "spiced" with South American music played by members of the band.

The following morning, he joined the daily flag ceremony. Afterwards, he participated in a driving test and crowd control exercise executed by members of Bravo Coy.

Maj. Gen. Figoli then paid a visit to Camp "Admiral Brown", where he was briefed before inspecting the Astromeritis crossing point. Back at the Camp, he observed another crowd control exercise, in this case involving use of the MFR's Tactica vehicles.

During his visit, the Force Commander not only "enjoyed" the daily routine at the different camps and OPs, but he also had a first-hand impression of the common work done by members of the seven nations forming part of the ARGCON.

At the end of his visit, Maj. Gen. Figoli addressed the soldiers, stating his appreciation of the smooth integration achieved at every level, and recognising "the daily effort towards serving peace in Cyprus".

Magnificent Machines



UNFICYP's Maj. Ludovit Gallik was in Akrotiri to watch the Red Arrows Air Display this month. As an ex-fighter pilot with 12 years experience in the Slovak Air Force, he gave the **Blue Beret** this insight into what makes the show so special.

"First of all, it was very professional work. The audience is not aware of all the conditions that have to be considered. Wind direction and speed, the sun's position, and the pilot's personal condition are among the many elements that can affect the performance.

"The pilots have to make small but vital decisions on how to continue in order to meet the highest level of performance every time. If the execution of manoeuvres is not precise

enough, it has to be corrected within a short period of time. Any mistake can be life-threatening for the pilot and for the public watching below. Precision is vital from take-off to landing."



The same weekend, our tireless Force Photographer was off to the races, this time getting himself a good position to record a stage of the Cyprus Rally.

Military Skills - Maximum Effort

