

The Blue Beret

March 2002



**Green on Blue –
St. Patrick's Day in UNFICYP**





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Editorial

March 8th, International Women's Day, serves both as tribute and reminder of the importance and the need to work for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Despite progress made in pursuing these goals over the last decades – and there have been many concrete achievements – there is no room for complacency. Just look to the TV screen and the recent images of the women of Afghanistan. A society's marginalized victims, they were condemned to an isolated non-existence in the name of a "protectionist patriarchy".

Redressing such wrong-headedness by enhancing the status of women and ensuring their rights is a task for us all. Reinforcing basic human rights and securing a better future for women is a daily challenge, one that should concern and engage each and every one of us. As such, it is as much a man's job as it is woman's work.

As can be seen opposite, UNFICYP's March calendar also celebrates a number of national days significant to the mission – Hungarian National Day, for example. Then, of course, there is St. Patrick's Day, that multinational celebration of Irishness that seems to have transcended national boundaries in a flourish of greenery.

**Front Cover:
Green on Blue - St Patrick's Day
Shamrock on a Blue Beret**
(Photo by MSgt. M. Zurbola)

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Sector 4 Celebrates Medal Parade and Hungarian National Day

March proved an auspicious month for the soldiers of Sector 4, as they held their Medal Parade on 14 March, and celebrated Hungarian National Day on 15 March.

The Medal Parade, held in Athienou, saw 52 Slovak and Hungarian peacekeepers receive their United Nations medals in the presence of the Ambassadors of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Hungary (H.E. Mr. Dusan Rozbora and his H.E. Mr. László Nikicser, respectively), colleagues and friends. The medals were presented by the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and – on behalf of the Chief of the Hungarian General Staff – Col. Miklós Schnell. Col Schnell led the six-member Hungarian Defence Forces delegation, which was in Cyprus on its regular yearly inspection of troops.

The Force Commander then addressed the troops, saying farewell to those Hungarian soldiers soon to leave Cyprus with their one-year mission accomplished successfully. The event ended with a dinner, where – among international foods – traditional Hungarian delicacies were served.



Hungarian women
medal recipients



Honoured guests, including the FC and CM, at the medal parade

The following day, the Hungarian Contingent celebrated its National Day. March 15 commemorates the outbreak of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence.

This was a crucial episode in Hungarian history, and the events that occurred between 1848 and 1849 remain a source of national pride to this day. On 15 March 1848, the young intelligentsia of Pest-Buda (Budapest), Hungary's effective capital, demanded consistent transformation of the country.

They managed without bloodshed to persuade Pest City Council and even the Lieutenantcy Council, the country's central administrative body, to join their demands. After several weeks of legislative work, a new state was founded. Executive power was invested in a government responsible to the legislature and independent from Vienna.

Once Hungary had declared full independence, the only way the conflict could end was in a total military victory for one side or the other. Outnumbered by two to one, the Hungarians were forced to surrender, attracting the strongest international sympathy at the time.

In Nicosia, the UNPA Hungarian Club held a party to recognise this special occasion. Approximately 200 UNFICYP members helped their Hungarian comrades celebrate, enjoying traditional Hungarian goulash. Back in Hungary, a new National Theatre – a 160-year-old idea becoming real – was inaugurated, and celebrations took place everywhere.

FC's Commendation Awarded to Hungarian Peacekeepers

Three Hungarian peacekeepers serving with Sector 4's 1st Coy have been awarded the Force Commander's commendation for their efforts to assist in a medical emergency on 18 February 2002.

That day, a woman in distress approached Camp St. István, seeking urgent medical assistance for her 15-year-old son, who was lying unconscious in her house nearby. MSgt. Éva Kálmán immediately attended the house, and rendered medical assistance until a local doctor arrived. She remained at the scene, helping the doctor until the patient was transported to hospital.

Meanwhile, Capt. Zsolt Soós, 2I/C 1st Coy, was attempting to contact Larnaca Hospital. When this was unsuccessful, he arranged for further attempts to be made through UNCIVPOL, and attended the scene of

the emergency to confer with the doctor. Because the boy needed to be transferred to hospital immediately, Capt. Soós made a UN ambulance vehicle available, ordered WO Sándor Nagy and MSgt. Kálmán to place the patient in the ambulance, and requested the local doctor to accompany the patient.

According to the Force Commander's citation, by demonstrating quick thinking, resolve and professionalism, the Hungarian soldiers upheld the qualities of a peacekeeper and ensured that the high standards of the UN in Cyprus were maintained.

UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, awarded the commendation to Capt. Soós, WO Nagy and MSgt. Kálmán in the presence of a Hungarian MOD delegation and their fellow comrades.

Working Towards

Facing the Vital Challenges Before Us

The Millennium Declaration has given us an overriding mission for the twenty-first century. As we pursue that agenda and work for freedom from fear, freedom from want, and protection of the resources of this planet, our guiding motto is clear: putting people at the centre of everything we do. Thus, we are resolved to work for gender equality and the empowerment of women as vital tools to combat poverty and disease, and to achieve development that is truly sustainable; equally, we are determined to build on the contribution of women in managing conflict and building peace.

S-G's IWD Message We can and should draw strength from the progress that has taken place in the past year.

In Afghanistan, after years of conflict, hardship and human rights violations, hope has returned to women and girls who are yet again exercising their rights to education, work and an active role in society. At the United Nations, Security Council resolution 1325 of 2000 continues to inspire Member States to address women, peace and security on several fronts: to protect women from the impact of armed conflict, but also to strengthen their role in peace-building and reconstruction. In a growing number of countries, ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is ensuring the right of women to petition an international body when their rights are violated. And in the international community as a whole, there has been growing recognition of the importance of the advancement

of women in the fight against the AIDS epidemic, as reflected in the outcome of the General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

There will be several important opportunities for further progress in the weeks and months ahead. The International Conference on Finance for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development offer important opportunities to recognise the central role of women in achieving sustainable development in a globalizing world. The

Second World Assembly on Ageing will address the dramatic impact on women of global population ageing, and the need to ensure that all women can age with security and dignity. And the General Assembly's Special Session on Children is expected to set specific, time-bound targets for protecting and fulfilling the rights of all children and women.

On this International Women's Day, as we prepare for the vital challenges before us, let us all be mindful that the achievement of women's rights is not the responsibility of women alone – it is the responsibility of us all. Let us step up our efforts to create an environment where progress towards gender equality is not a daily struggle, but a natural part of all our actions. Let that resolve underpin all our work to translate the Millennium Declaration into reality.

UNCIVPOL Members Bring Australia and Ireland Closer Together

One of the advantages of working with UNCIVPOL, which draws its personnel from Ireland and Australia, is that it brings these two geographically-distant countries closer together in spirit.

For example, Elaine Ferguson, affectionately known to her colleagues as "Fergie", hails from Dublin, Ireland, and is currently a member of UNCIVPOL attached to Ledra Palace, Nicosia. At home, she has served since 1993 with An Garda Siochana, which translates from Gaelic as "Guardians of the Peace" or the good ol' Bobby. She works in mainstream policing and her duties include patrolling by car, motorcycle and on foot

(making the streets of Dublin safe, in other words!!).

UNCIVPOL member Ragini "Reg" Gaundar, meanwhile, is attached to Pyla station and calls Sydney, Australia, home. Back in the Land of Oz, Reg, who has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, has served with the Australian Federal Police since 1991. She has worked in various sections, including intelligence, fraud and drugs investigations.

Both Elaine and Reg speak of the challenges and rewards of the careers they've chosen, and of their work here in Cyprus. Elaine arrived in Cyprus in August 2001 and will serve here for 12 months, while Reg arrived in November 2001 for a six-month attachment. For Elaine, working with the UN is a nice change, since she works shifts at home, and the hours of work here are more regular. The biggest change for Reg is wearing a uniform here in Cyprus, as back home she has always worked in plain clothes.

Being so far from home brings both pros and cons, say the two police officers. Elaine misses her family and friends back home, but is comforted by their upcoming visits and also the great company of many new friends she has made on the island. Reg, whose family emigrated from Fiji to Australia when she was eight years old, is already looking forward to travelling around the world for six months when she finishes her island mission.



Elaine



Ragini



Ragini

Gender Equality

Women Today - Realities and Opportunities

International Women's Day was celebrated in the Ledra Palace Hotel with a bicultural gathering of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women (plus members of the male species), and personnel from UNFICYP, led by the Chief of Mission. Among the guests were Gonul Eronen, distinguished Turkish Cypriot jurist; Olga Demetriadis, active charity organisation leader and wife of the former Nicosia mayor, plus prominent economists, lawyers, academics, pro-rapprochement advocates, and others.

Featured speakers were Madeline Garlick (Civil Affairs Political Officer) and Laura Vaccari from the office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General. Representing the uniformed branch were UNCIVPOL's Sgt. Sandy Allan and Capt Louise Burt from Sector 2. While Sandy and Louise spoke about careers in male-dominated professions and Madeline highlighted the pernicious abuses of the "trafficking of women", we reproduce here some of Laura Vaccari's reflections and overview of International Women's Day.



Kofi Annan

Laura Vaccari

‘Women of Afghanistan’

In the past few months, all of us here have had an opportunity to view on TV haunting images from Afghanistan, including the ones showing what it was to be a woman there: no right to walk; no right to study; no right to work; no right to heal; no right to talk; no right to laugh. No right to be. This state of affairs has prevailed at different degrees for a number of years.

In addition to all these limitations, allegedly imposed by various regimes to "protect them", women and girls in Afghanistan have been and continue to be the victims of the most ruthless violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and slavery.

In this connection, as recently as two weeks ago, Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned in a report that the "current situation of change of power and instability [in Afghanistan] may lead to increased violence against women in an atmosphere of impunity". Much remains to be done. And it is our hope that the situation will improve as – sadly – in several cases it could hardly worsen.

IWD: Cause for Engagement

We now know that it takes time to change mentalities and practices, but it is possible. We are now at a stage that goes beyond awareness. And this day thus brings us a double message: a message on the need for engagement, and a message on the need for hope and celebration.

Working Together to Find Solutions

For the women working in Sector 4's Camp General Stefanik, in Famagusta, there are few problems that can't be solved by working together.

The seven women represent two countries – Hungary and Slovakia – and many rank levels, including both officers and NCOs. Their highest numbers are found in the Personnel branch, where three women are translating their considerable professional experience into daily success.

Capt. Silvia Csontosova and MSgt. Alena Krajevicova, for example, have both served previously in foreign missions, including UNPROFOR and UNTAES respectively. UNFICYP is

WO2 Ildiko Feketene's first foreign mission, but, she hopes, not her last.

They're also able to draw on their work experience. Ildiko, from Hungary, is actually doing the same job as she would back home, as personnel NCO. However, her two Slovak colleagues are breaking new ground: Silvia is a personnel officer here in UNFICYP, but a logistics officer at home, while Alena is a clerk NCO in Famagusta, and a quartermaster NCO at home.

All three women say that the working environment is very good, and that they cooperate closely to maintain their high professional standards.



Ildiko between the two Slovaks, Silvia and Alena

St. Patrick's (24-Hour) Day!



Irish UNCIVPOL and Irish Army members of UNFICYP joined forces for St. Patrick's Day in organising a marathon celebration of Ireland's National Day. It began in the sweet aftermath of the mandatory morning downpour with the ceremonial blessing of the shamrock, traditional emblem of the green isle's patron saint, and reportedly reeled to a dancing conclusion in the wee hours next day.

The morning mass was celebrated by the well regarded Irish exile, Slovak padre Miloš Krchnavý, who to this day speaks with an Irish accent following his language training courses in Dublin. The mass in the Church of St. Barnabas was attended by the Irish Ambassador to Cyprus, H.E. John Swift, and Mrs. Swift, the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander, the Chief of Staff and a multitude of Irish led by Lt. Col. Murt Farragher and UNCIVPOL Commander, Chief Supt. Liam Quinn.

Among the honorary Irish for the day was UNCIVPOL's Australian Contingent. Under Commander Bob Heggie, the Aussies demonstrated their unfailing sense of



Riverdancers....



Irish Ambassador John Swift and UNCIVPOL Commander Liam Quinn present the Chief of Mission with shamrock

(Celtic) family ties by tending the pumps and dispensing draft and bottled hospitality throughout the day (and night) at UNCIVPOL House.

There was music in the church and there was music at the House, led by the musical virtuoso Dr. Irene Cotter on accordion and harp and the sweet-voiced Lorraine Melia. Riverdance was given a run for its money by a talented troupe of dancers, including Jessica Prendergast, Catherine Moore, Ellen O'Shea, Niamh Melia, and Laura and Stephanie Cotter. Soloists included dancers Sophie O'Connor and Kate O'Shea and musicians Louis Quinn, and Cormac and Sam O'Connor. Towering over all was tall bald balladeer Austro-Irishman WO2 Sebastian Wsseticzka on the guitar. Spokesperson Brian Kelly ran off at the mouth as usual, but this time, his words were provided by an array of Irish poets from whose works he read.



Padre Miloš Krchnavý with Lt. Col. Murt Farragher

Another distinguished Antipodean Hibernophile, Australian High Commissioner Frank Ingruber, arrived in time to share in the morning's entertainment. The festivities were helped considerably by a veritable Brazil of Irish coffees (10 litres of cream were beaten into frothy submission by strong Irish wrists), while smoked salmon went up (or down) in (what else?) smoke!

Most guests reassembled for round two of the celebrations that evening when the dancing was participatory and the craic was mighty! There were some new faces too, notably the British High Commissioner Lynn Parker and his wife. Major John Hunt, the debonair disc jockey of late night revelries, presided over the jigs and the reels until the last weary dancer headed home on (would you ever!) Green Monday!

BK

Wayne's Keep: Honouring Those Who Have Gone Before

Wayne's Keep is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery established during the Second World War for the burial of servicemen who died whilst on duty on Cyprus. The cemetery itself lies four kilometres west of Nicosia town centre inside the United Nations Buffer Zone.

Within the cemetery lie 409 Army, Navy and Royal Air Force personnel and 167 dependants and service-employed civilians. In addition, Wayne's Keep has three memorials: the first commemorates 58 Cypriots of the Cyprus Regiment; the second is dedicated to 73 soldiers of India; and the third is the Cross of Sacrifice common to all Commonwealth War Cemeteries around the world. Possibly the most surprising graves are those belonging to seven Germans, from a bomber crew that crashed on Cyprus during the Second World War.

Since 1974, the cemetery has been within the United Nations Buffer Zone. This has created a certain amount of difficulty for relatives and old comrades visiting those who lie in Wayne's Keep. However, good relations between the British High Commission and the United Nations ensure that all those who wish to visit the cemetery are helped in every way.

The Provost Sergeant, Sgt. Reynolds, is Sector 2's representative and host for all Wayne's Keep visitors. Although it is not yet holiday season, steady flows of visitors have come to pay their respects. The duty undertaken to host visitors is an enjoyable and rewarding experience, especially hearing firsthand accounts of the



recent military history of Cyprus from relatives and old comrades.

Wayne's Keep is probably unique in its geographical location and status, and it forms a peaceful and dignified resting place for those who have gone before us. The upkeep of the cemetery is undertaken by two local gardeners employed by the War Graves Commission and is under constant refurbishment, ensuring that the cemetery is befitting that of any War Grave.

Paying Tribute To Our Dead



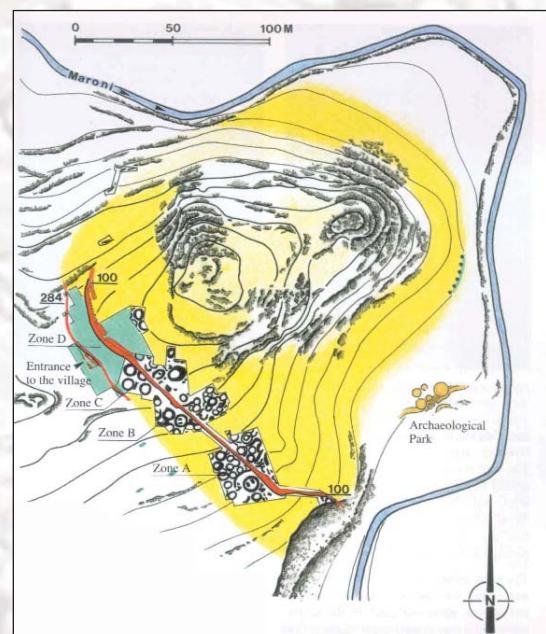
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The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part I

The Early Years -- The Neolithic Settlement of Khirokitia

Following on from our February issue's introduction to the cultural periods of the island's history, we begin our visits to key historic sites in Cyprus with Khirokitia.

Nine centuries ago, this Stone Age village thrived near the present-day A1 about 45 minutes south of Nicosia. Today, archaeological excavations bring this ancient settlement to light.



Contour map showing the village spreading around the hill

Khirokitia foundations



On a spring day in Cyprus nine thousand years ago, a man may have paused as he climbed the dozen or so steps cut into the stone wall that protected his hillside village. Above him, today's grassy slopes and rocky outcrops would have been more densely overgrown, as the Troodos Mountains beyond would have been, and the twin peaks of the hill would have risen higher into a warm, blue sky.

This man would hear no traffic noise from the nearby motorway, nor would he see the roads, restaurants or other modern-day amenities that we can see. But if he looked toward the coast, he would likely have shared our view of the Mediterranean, about six kilometres away.

If he had walked through the village and up to the hill's peaks, he would have seen how the village spread over the lower slopes of the hill, encircled by the narrow Maroni River to the north and the east, by the hill itself, and by the wall that stretched between the two.

Today, we call his settlement Khirokitia, one of some 20 aceramic Neolithic sites on the island of Cyprus, and recognised as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site (aceramic means that pottery technology was not yet known; Neolithic means "new stone"). Discovered in 1934, the site has revealed several villages built almost on top of each other on the hillside. And although successive archaeological excavations have raised many questions, they have also revealed a great deal about the people who once lived here.

The village was likely founded by settlers from the Levant, for example, and may have had trading links with neighbouring countries: research has uncovered raw materials on the site, including haematite and blades of obsidian, and the appearance of animals such as fallow deer, that hadn't been found in Cyprus previously.

Our Neolithic man would have looked over a village of small, flat-roofed, circular houses nestled cheek-by-jowl, their walls barely high enough to allow a person to stand upright. A house with a living space of between 14 and 25 metres (about the size of one to two spaces in a car park) would have been enough for two or three people, and at its most prosperous, the village may have been home to 2,000 people.

Local materials were used in construction, with the walls of limestone, river stones, pise or mud-brick (in which a mix of earth and straw was dried in the sunlight to create firm bricks). Roofs were likely flat wooden frames lined with plants, probably reeds, covered with layers of pise and earth.

Inside the houses, which are known as "tholos", walls boasted a coating of whitish plaster. Few of the houses had windows, but some still show the remnants of red ochre wall paintings. Floors were covered with a layer of plaster, sometimes renewed up to ten times. Low walls defined living and working areas, while bowls, basins and hearths indicated cooking areas.

With the weather much as it is today, the villagers cultivated wheat and barley, which they harvested using flint sickles hafted in wood or bone. They also collected fruit from wild trees, including pistachios, figs, olives and plums. Meat from fallow deer, sheep, goats and pigs was provided by hunting and stock breeding, while wool was used to weave clothes. They used chert, flint, limestone, diabase and animal bones to manufacture tools with which to harvest grain, cut reeds, work wood (to strip bark and saw), scrape fresh skins, sew, and to make baskets and nets.

The people themselves were short – on average, 1.61 m for men, slightly shorter for women. Infant mortality was high, and the majority of adults died between 25 and 40.

While no religious shrines have been identified, burial customs are well known. The dead were usually buried inside the houses: placed in shallow pits in a foetal position, the deceased were then covered with a layer of mud, which made up part of the floor. Grave goods such as jewellery and stone vessels often accompanied women: one middle-aged woman was found wearing a necklace of carnelian, with her pelvis and legs placed on two broken andesite vessels. Male burials more frequently featured a large stone placed over the deceased, perhaps to prevent the spirit from returning to haunt the living.

As with all other aceramic sites, civilisation in Khirokitia came to an end suddenly, creating an enduring mystery. Not until 1,500 years later did a new – this time ceramic – culture appear.

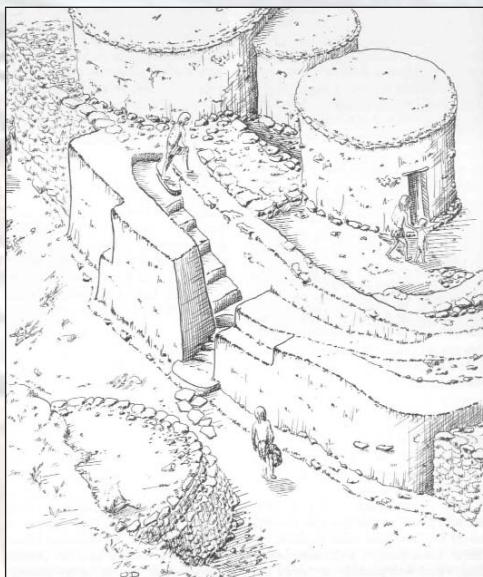
As you enter the site today, archaeologists have recreated several buildings and part of the stone wall near the Maroni River, to show what the houses would have looked like. A stony path then leads up the hillside to the foundations of the stone wall and some houses. (Because the village eventually spread to west of the wall, the wall foundation looks as though it runs through the middle of the houses, and in fact archaeologists first thought it was a road: its complex construction, however, indicates both skill and cooperative work on the part of its builders.)

As you climb, the site looks at first as though it's just a huge scattering of stones, but circular patterns become quickly apparent, and signs in several places help to interpret the key buildings. And, of course, it also helps if you see not just with modern eyes, but also – with a healthy dose of imagination – with those of the Neolithic men and women who lived here once, in 7,000 B.C.

Getting There:

Drive south on the A1 from Nicosia towards Limassol, and follow the signs for Khirokitia: turn right after you leave the motorway, following the road and turning right into a parking area. Admission is 75 cents, and the site is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (7:30 pm in summer). Toilets are available near the ticket office. Lower pathways and reconstructions are reasonably pushchair-friendly, but the path up onto the hillside – while not overly long – is not. Expect to pass a leisurely hour here.

Maps reproduced from "Khirokitia, A Neolithic Site" (Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation/Department of Antiquities)



Original appearance of the wall around the village and several houses

Khirokitia beehives



Sector One Medal Parade Features Military Skills Display

By Capt. Del Castillo
and WO3 Roque Retamar

Sector 1's Medal Parade, held on 28 February at San Martín Camp, offered spectators a military skills display and the traditional hospitality of South America. Following the Argentinian national anthem and the blessing of the medals by Padre Castellanos, approximately 250 soldiers from the Argentinian Task Force 18 received their UN medal. As Sector 1 is a joint military organisation, peacekeepers from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay were also among the medal recipients.

Medals were presented by the Force Commander, the Argentinian Ambassador (who is based in Tel Aviv and accredited to Cyprus), the Senior Adviser, the Chief Administrative Officer, the Chief of Staff, the Chief of Civil Affairs and Commander UNCIVPOL.

A display of military skills, performed by a squad of



personnel from the Army and Navy, followed the medal presentation. The Force Commander also addressed the parade, with troops carrying out a march past accompanied by the band of Sector 1 under the baton of WO1 Ruben Zaccino.

An evening reception celebrated the event, with an Argentinian barbecue and several national delicacies. The band provided background music, with a display on stage of traditional dances, including the Chamame, Zamba, Malambo and Chacarera. When the night was in full swing, "Ricky" (Cpl. Peñaloza, a marine from Camp Brown) sang, delighting the audience.

A complementary presentation of medals was held at Roca Camp on 8 March. We'd like to thank all of our guests for coming: the success of the event was due to your company at the ceremony and the reception.

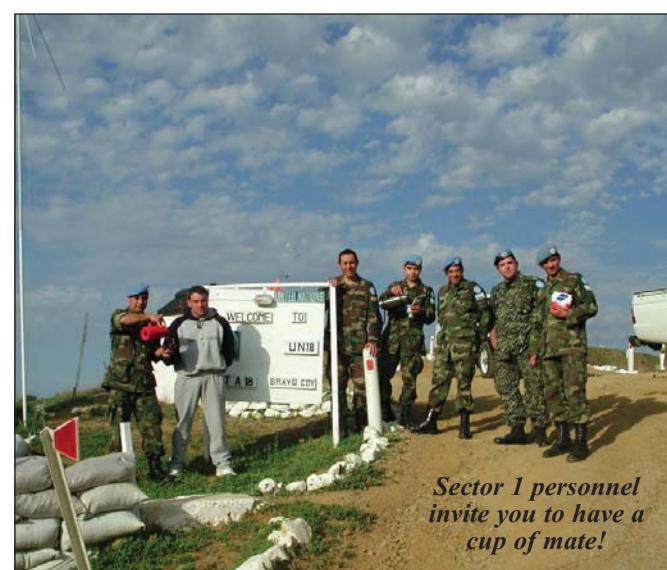
South American Culture

Drinking Mate (and that means imbibing, mate!)

Yerba Mate is the product formed exclusively from the leaves of *Ilex Paraguariensis*, dried, slightly toasted, broken or pulverised. The plant itself is generally a small bush, characterised by its light ash-coloured stem, many branches and shiny leaves. The flowers have white petals and its fruit is reddish and bulbous. The yerba tree is found mostly in central South America (Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay) and is characteristic of a temperate climate.

Mate tea is prepared in a small gourd called the "mate", and is drunk using a small metallic tube (straw), usually made of silver, called a "bombilla", whose ball-shaped bottom functions as a sieve. The powdered mate tea is placed in the mate to fill half of it loosely, and a small amount of water at room temperature is added to wet the powdered tea. The bombilla is placed till it touches the bottom of the mate, and hot, nearly boiling, water is added. The liquid is sucked so as not to move the powder too much, to avoid clogging the sieve's holes. After all the liquid has been drunk, a fresh supply of hot water is poured into the mate, and this is repeated until the tea no longer has the desired taste.

This preparation is called the "bitter mate" or "Cimarron" or natural. If sugar is added, it is called "sweet mate". If cold water is added, it is called "Terere" (a Guarani Indian name from Paraguay) and is a very



Visits North and South

The Turkish Cypriot member of the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) organised a trip to the Karpas for his Greek Cypriot colleagues in early March. The first stop of the day was to admire the collection of icons displayed in the Ayios Varnavas Monastery, the most important sanctuary for the Orthodox Church in Cyprus. A pleasant drive followed, which brought the group to the Apostolos Andreas Monastery, one of UNOPS' most important current works of restoration on the island. After a delicious fish meze, the group made a last stop in Famagusta to attend the opening of an art exhibition to celebrate International Women's Day. All told, it was a day worth framing.



Taking a break near the Hala Sultan Tekke in Larnaca



Visiting Ayios Varnavas Monastery

This year's excursion reciprocated an invitation extended by the Greek Cypriot side on 2 May 2001, when the group visited the Hala Sultan Tekke, another important UNOPS project in Larnaca. The outing was capped by an elegant lunch served on the terrace of the Four Lanterns Hotel. That turned out to be a happy surprise for Tugrul and Zerrin Hilmi Berkay, who had celebrated their wedding in this hotel some 45 years ago. On the way back to Nicosia there was a final stop in Dhali where tea, cakes and traditional sweets were served in the unique and cosy house of Xenophon Kallis, the assistant of the Greek Cypriot member of the CMP.

Tennis Everyone!

Extensive upgrading of the two tennis courts located in the UNPA near the International Cafeteria took place during February/early March 2002. Fifteen Slovak and Hungarian force engineers devoted much of their personal time and energy to the refurbishment, which included refencing the whole area, the repair and painting of all poles, the construction of a shaded seating area, and a new floodlight system – great for playing tennis in the hot months when it cools down in the evenings.

The project was first started in early February by two British privates from the MFR, Gnr. Back and Gnr. Starharn, but it soon became clear that considerable engineer support was also required. With funding from the UNFICYP Welfare Committee and led by Maj. Jen Ladocsi, the Force Engineer, the CPLO oversaw the whole project. Integrated Support Services provided electrical support, and members of the MFR also helped clear the area prior to and after the works.

The courts are available to all UNFICYP personnel,



The official opening ceremony

civilian, military and police alike. They can be booked, free of charge, through the MFR (Ext 4470) any time.

On 14 March, Maj. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, the Force Commander, officially opened the courts.

Row, Row, Row, Your Boat... For Charity

By WO2 P. Foulds

Being a part of the Sector Civil Affairs Team (SCAT), one of our tasks is to co-ordinate fund-raising events for charities in the north and south of Cyprus and in the United Kingdom.

Whilst on a rowing machine in the Ledra Palace Hotel (LPH) gymnasium, I thought it would be a good idea to row the equivalent in distance from Nicosia to Larkhill.

After working out how long it would take a team of eight people to row this distance we would have been rowing until June 2002!!

Therefore, it was decided that we should row 550 km, which is the distance from North East Cyprus to South West Cyprus and back again. This would take up to 24 hours to complete, averaging 1 km in 4.30 minutes.

A team of eight was mustered, all team members went into a training regime and all were quite optimistic. However with two days to go before the event started, three participants had to pull out due to other commitments, then there were five.

On the day of the event I had worked out a rowing roster. Every rower had one hour on the machine and three hours off, but with the team now short, there were four legs which needed to be filled. Ledra Palace personnel came up trumps. There were no end of volunteers to sit on a rowing machine for an hour at a time. However, when they finished they had a few choice words for me.

The challenge began at 10 am on Saturday, 9 February. The Adjutant and myself started off the rowing. The first hour went well. We had managed to do more kms than I had planned, which was a bonus. Once all the team had completed their first hour's rowing they all felt fairly good. This mood was to change once

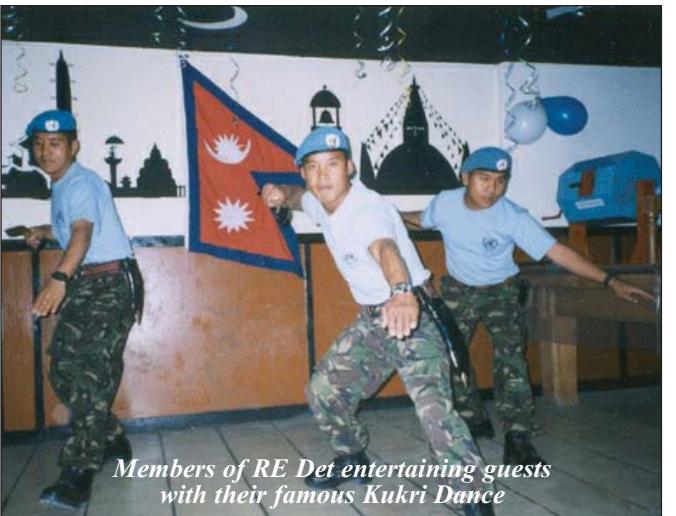


The Pahar Trust Charity in Cyprus

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers currently serving as Sector 2's Royal Engineer Detachment honoured their homeland of Nepal on 18 February 2002 (Nepal's National Democracy Day) with a fund-raising charity event for the Pahar Trust.

The Pahar Trust was the brainchild of Mr. Tom Langridge, who on retirement as Warrant Officer Class Two from the Corps of the Royal Engineers, was asked to help repair the Pokhari Thok village school in the Pahar (mountainous) region of West Nepal in 1988. The school building was in such a poor state that the only viable solution was to knock it down and rebuild it.

Thus, with an Ex Queen's Gurkha Engineers Clerk of Works providing technical advice, and the village providing the manpower, the first of the Trust's projects began. The Trust raised just over £12,000 and built a new primary school for 200 children. To date, some 5,000 children from West Nepal have benefitted from the 14 schools built by the Trust. Tom, whose vision includes spreading the Trust's work to East Nepal in the near future, was awarded the MBE in 2000 for his service to the Pahar Trust.



Members of RE Det entertaining guests with their famous Kukri Dance

The fund-raising evening, held at the Kukri Bar in Wolseley Barracks, started with the traditional Aludam (curried potatoes). Following a raffle draw and the famous Kukri Dance, the main meal featured Gurkha curry, of course. The Detachment wishes to thank all the donors for a highly successful evening, which raised £600 for the Pahar Trust.

Sector 2 Goes to the Dogs - With Prizes!

On 9 February, Sector 2 held a dog show at Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia with the four-legged competitors being drawn from the troop houses along the Buffer Zone. There were seven entries, ranging from a boxer called "Buster" to a poodle called "Pooh".

Each troop house has a dog, so there is currently a minimum of eight dogs along the BZ in Sector 2 (some troop houses have decided to accept the responsibility of two or three dogs). The dogs have been located in their particular troop houses for anything between one month and a few years. The soldiers agree to pay for the feed and veterinary bills upon handover, and have the responsibility of ensuring that yearly vaccinations are kept up to date. The dogs, meanwhile, keep wild dogs away from the troop houses and provide canine companionship for the soldiers.

The dog show provided an opportunity for each dog to receive a full health and inoculation check from the doctor, plus of course, the chance to compete in various show categories. These included "sit and stay", "fancy dress", "waggiest tail" and "healthiest dog". The QM, Capt. N. Ashford, organised the event and was the Chief Judge, aided by Capt. L.S. Burt and Capt. A. Bill RAMC.

CTC pet food suppliers kindly donated the prizes, and



Many of you know CANCON (short for Canadian Contingent), the shaggy white dog that Capt. J.J. Simon adopted from the Nicosia Dog Shelter while he was serving with UNFICYP. The two were inseparable, and CANCON quickly became a familiar sight on the UNPA.

The Blue Beret is happy to report that CANCON recently travelled to her new home – a very cold Canada.



each dog trotted away with a rosette, a bag of dog food and chews. The supreme champion, "Pooh" from Liri Troop, was awarded the "S2 Champion Dog Trophy 02". Handler Bdr. Henshaw is planning on taking him back to the UK upon completion of the tour, at which time a replacement will be found from the Nicosia Dog Shelter.

The dogs, handlers and spectators all agreed that Sector 2's first Dog Show was a great success. It is hoped that the future URR in Sector 2 will continue with the event.

One Man and His Dog

Despite the change in temperature, she has found happiness in a snowy winter wonderland.

Although CANCON will certainly be missed here, there are still many more dogs of all shapes and sizes at the Nicosia Dog Shelter ready to be adopted. Please contact Sharon on 22-359010 or 99-868512 if you have any questions or if you would like to visit the dogs – with no obligation.

Spire FM Broadcasts Live from 32nd Regt RA Gp

Between 11 and 16 February 2002, the listeners of Spire FM radio in and around Salisbury in England, were treated to breakfast radio from Cyprus. The station regularly carries in-depth news features on issues affecting British Forces on active service or training on Salisbury Plain, and over the past four years has also visited and reported from many of the countries to which British troops have been deployed, including Bosnia and Kosovo.

In keeping with this focus, Spire FM sent their breakfast team – Matt and H – out to Cyprus to visit 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery Group. Each morning between 6.00 am and 9.00 am (UK time), Matt and H hosted the breakfast show live from Nicosia. Programming from the island included Valentine's Day, when Matt spoke to soldiers and officers, and sent messages of "love" to their wives and partners back home.

"It was without doubt our most challenging live outside broadcast ever," says station manager Ceri Hurford-Jones. "The support and organisation of the visit was handled superbly by 32 Regt RA Group liaison officers, and as a result, we were able to ensure the news team had a constant stream of editorial content and audio to complement the programming throughout the week."



The local military Peugeot dealers, Rangers of Durrington, sponsored the event and provided four stunning flower bouquets for the army wives who visited the radio station at its Salisbury home on Valentine's Day. Spire FM, which commands a large and loyal audience, including many in the military community, is now running a competition that will provide the winners with an all-expenses-paid visit to Le Meridien Spa and Resort in Limassol.

I AM JUST AWAY – with my newspaper – FOR A BRIEF MOMENT?!

By Charlotte Mortensen

In a previous piece in *The Blue Beret* I commented on the confusion that can arise with the use of the English language, especially here in UNFICYP, where for so many of us, English is not our first language. I have made some further observations since, and I would like to share with you some of my research findings.

Let's just consider this for a second – ALL of us (even the most feminine and dainty) have to use the W.C. once in a while, but have you noticed how many ways there are to mention the obviously unmentionable?

Discreet, perhaps, but utterly confusing is the phrase: I'm in the bathroom – often used by Americans or American-speaking people. However, most foreigners not familiar with this version get very confused and wonder: "Does she REALLY have to take a bath NOW?"

Also discreet and intentionally disarming is: I'm in the restroom – however, it is not much better and no clearer in indicating intent. I have

overheard a non-English speaker say: "I could actually also do with a rest – where is that restroom?"

Perhaps the most polite and non-offensive version is: I have to wash my hands. Now, that's neat, but it may lead you to think that anyone using this phrase gets dirty hands all the time, which brings up the question – HOW do they get so dirty?

Then we move on to the British themselves and they are NOT very discreet about most things, so here's their version: I'm in the loo – there! Pretty straightforward, UNLESS, of course, you, like me, had NO IDEA what the loo was – WHERE did this strange and non-descriptive word derive from, I wonder?

Believe it or not, the Hungarians are even more straightforward – and maybe in this context that's a virtue – they simply go use the toilet... Now, there's no confusing that one, right? What can be said about this version is that sometimes I would really rather not know!

In any case, we all use different descriptions and words for exactly



the same thing – isn't that great? We learn every day being surrounded by so many people using the English language in various ways. I for one take great pleasure in observing these differences.

Let me end off by saying that, obviously, none of the above versions is more correct than any other. They are only different, just like we are!

Caption Competition



Last month's caption competition entries were fewer in number, but nonetheless just as witty. Would the winner like to come and collect his prize?

The photo below is a John Travolta look-alike which should gather in some comment, especially from those of you who like to keep fit??



Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

19 April

- I promise I will never drink again!
- Pale Ale
- **We're on a 2-can-rule and the cat gets a bucket-load (Winner: Sgt T. Jay, JOC Sec 2).**
- Cat of nine pails!
- Cat-a-tonic!
- Cataholic
- Drowning the blues...

Paphos Half Marathon

Sunday 3 March 2002 started very early for the 11 personnel from Sector 2 who entered the Paphos Half Marathon. The day started at 5.00 am and with



International Police Club Pool Competition



Lefkosa Rapid Chess Tournament

March 2 saw the Pasydy building in Nicosia turned into a top-flight rapid chess tournament, with 26 players from Russia, Greece, the Republic of Cyprus, and representing Sector 1 – Argentina's WO3 Roque Retamar.

WO3 Retamar played through to 8th place, losing only two games, drawing one and winning all the rest. He noted that the tournament was an excellent opportunity to match the best chess players on the island, and that he is looking forward to another chance to perform even better.

Congratulations WO3 Retamar!!



little enthusiasm, but spirits lifted on arrival in Paphos, with blue skies and gathering crowds.

We paid our entry fees, received our T-shirts, then joined the aerobic warm-up. With the British soldiers leading from the front enthusiastically, although without a great deal of coordination, our efforts even received a special mention from the aerobics instructor!

The race itself stretched 21 km over undulating terrain, and attracted 200 runners, with an additional 200 running the 10 km race, and another 100 running the full marathon. The UN was also represented by members of Sector 1. Nine out of the 11 Sector 2 personnel achieved personal bests, but then again it was their first half marathon!

Overall, our personnel found the event fantastic and well organised, with an amazing atmosphere. Everybody enjoyed it, and in our eyes, we were all winners because we "gave it a go".

Sport

On Saturday 16 February, a breed of up-and-coming international pool players gathered at the FMPU International Police Club. The competition ran on a knock-out basis over three hours, with players from all contingents present. The event was kindly sponsored by Carlsberg Cyprus and Manhattan Bar, Nicosia, and organised by SSgt. Dave Taylor RMP(SIB).

The event was brought to a nail biting final between Stathis Efstathiou (CGS Travel Unit) and Sgt. Gabriel Uno (MFR). Stathis lifted the coveted first place, with Gabriel as runner-up. Third place went to LCpl. Kare Rai (RE Det) and fourth to SSgt. Andy Bishop (FMPU SIS). Congratulations to all!



Liri Run

An inter-troop cross country race was held on 10 February in Liri Tp's AOR. It was a friendly competition, which gave competitors the chance to familiarise themselves with the area. All sub-sectors managed to enter the event despite heavy operational commitments, and the MFR entered runners representing Sectors 1 and 4, adding a multinational component to the race.

On the day, the Gurkha "Himalayan Boys" won the race comfortably. Liri Tp came second with RHQ finishing joint third with the MFR Team 3. Special thanks must go to Bdr. Henshaw for her excellent organisation of the event.



**International
Women's
Day**

Women's Day in UNFICYP



8 March 2002