

The Blue Beret

November/December 2002



Season's Greetings
from UNFICYP



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Front Cover: Season's Greetings from UNFICYP

Editorial

On 13 December Cyprus was invited to join the European Union, preferably, but not conditionally, as a united island. The qualification is commentary enough that efforts to secure a settlement had failed in the waning hours of the EU Copenhagen summit despite an all-out diplomatic campaign spearheaded by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto.

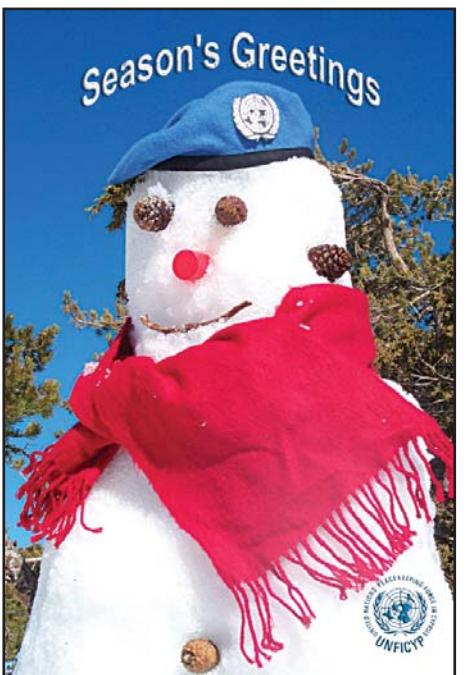
However, in issuing its invitation to join, the European Council welcomed the pledge of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to continue negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on the Secretary-General's revised proposals and to do so by 28 February.

The terms of a settlement will be incorporated in the Treaty of Accession, adapted, where appropriate, to the Turkish Cypriot situation. If there were no settlement, application of the acquis in the north would be suspended pending further decision.

Speaking in New York, the Secretary-General's Spokesman said it had not proved possible to achieve a comprehensive settlement in Copenhagen, even though the parties' positions had never been closer and agreement seemed possible up until the last minute.

The SG's revised 10 December proposal, he said, remains on the table. While it was "regrettable" that the current opportunity had been missed, both sides had expressed their willingness to continue negotiations. Therefore, there was an opportunity, particularly until 28 February, to resolve this problem and to achieve a comprehensive settlement, allowing a reunited Cyprus to accede to the EU.

Truly a thought to illuminate this holiday season as we extend *The Blue Beret's* greetings to our readers, their families and friends and our best wishes to all in the coming new year.



Lost Griffin Vulture Returned

A n endangered Griffon vulture was recently found exhausted and unable to fly in the Famagusta area by Turkish Cypriot bird watchers.

The eight-month old bird is one of 40 remaining Griffon vultures that are the largest resident species in Cyprus and are protected thanks to a Bi-Communal Development Programme project, funded by USAID and UNDP through UNOPS, and run by the Cyprus Association of Professional Foresters (CAPF).

The vulture was born in Episkopi, Limassol and was under observation by CAPF for two months before it abandoned its nest.

Although the vulture was tagged and a transmitter placed on it, CAPF lost track of it in mid-October. It was found weak and exhausted a month later by Turkish Cypriot conservationists in the Famagusta area.

The vulture was taken to a bird conservation centre located on Alevka Mountain where it was treated.

After recovering fully the bird was returned to the Greek Cypriot project coordinator from CAPF, so that it could be taken back to its original nesting and feeding ground located between the villages of Vretsia and Ayios Ioannis in the Troodos Mountains.

The Griffon vulture has a wing-span of about 2.5 m and a length of approximately one metre. It is a colonial species that forms small groups, which supports its foraging method. It nests on vertical and inaccessible cliffs, in small caves and on ledges.

The Griffon vulture reaches maturity at five to six years and has been recorded to live up to 40-50 years. It lays a single egg, which is incubated by both parents for



Conservationists at the checkpoint where the vulture was handed over

52-56 days. The vulture fledglings flee the nest after approximately 115 days, but are dependent on the adults for a further three to four months.

Griffon vultures are exclusively carrion feeders and their weight can reach 12 kg. By consuming carcasses, they reduce the likelihood of diseases and as a result contribute to a clean eco-system.

These vultures were abundant in the past but are now at risk of extinction in Cyprus. Humans have been blamed for the decline of the Griffon vulture population, however they are also the only hope for the protection of the remaining vultures and the survival of the species.

The Bi-communal Development Programme project is taking important steps to protect the Griffon Vulture population. The establishment of an integrated unit for the captive propagation of vultures and the protection of juvenile vultures, plus a range of conservation measures, are helping to prevent the Griffon Vulture from becoming extinct in Cyprus.

Kofi Annan Honoured

Secretary-General Kofi Annan recently received the highest honour granted by Ghana's Asante people in recognition of his service to humanity.

The Secretary-General was conferred the rare title of Busumuru, or son of the Golden Stool, by King Otumfuo Osei Tutu II at a gathering of tribal leaders in Ghana's second largest city, Kumasi.

The rank of Ashanti King makes him one of the most senior and powerful traditional rulers in his native Ghana.

"I and the entire Asante state have decided to add your name to the Busumuru title because of your selflessness and contributions to humanity and promotion of peace throughout the world", the king said as he placed a symbolic gold necklace around the SG's neck to the sound of traditional drumming.

The Secretary-General, who is a Ghanaian from the Fante tribe, is the first to be granted the title since the Asante kingdom was founded in 1680.

Accepting the award, he said: "I share this honour with all good people of the world".





**Ms. Louise Fréchette,
Deputy Secretary-General**

We meet at a tense and troubled moment in the world's affairs, and therefore in the history of our world organisation. The car bombing in Bali – which left two peacekeepers missing and three “civpol” officers seriously wounded – underscored both the degree to which the fight against terrorism has quickly become one of the main priorities of the United Nations, and the importance of international cooperation in that struggle.

If violence – and the possibility of violence – make up the foreground of this nervous moment, the background consists of the unremitting poverty and injustice that disfigure so many lives, and that are the focus of the lion's share of our organisation's day-to-day work.

Staff Day this year must also, then, be a time of contemplation – on our roles and responsibilities, and how we can better respond to perennial and emerging challenges. Any organisation, whether local or multilateral, whether focused on a single issue or on the human condition writ large, must deliver for its constituents. But the United Nations, as the repository for so much of humankind's hopes for a peaceful, equitable global order, has a special responsibility to be strong and effective, and to keep pace with the times.

Contrary to popular belief, change is nothing new for the United Nations. Since our very founding, we have been evolving, adapting to new challenges and adjusting to new realities. Recent years have been no exception, as staff have taken on wide-ranging new responsibilities, often at a moment's notice, in response to this or that crisis, and participated creatively in the effort to re-make the organisation from within. In short, change is our business. And so we must continue – not because we are being forced to do so from outside, but because of our own, internally driven, desire to devote our energies to the things that matter most to the world's people.

That sensibility lies at the heart of the report the Secretary-General submitted to the membership last month setting out a new agenda for further strengthening the United Nations. I met with many of you during the preparation of that report, and many of your comments and

This time, we are looking more closely at how the United Nations can act as a better employer – what it needs to do so that you can put your talents to the best possible use.

would like to do today is focus on what it says in the area of human resources aspects.

The last round of reform focused heavily on recruitment, promotion, accountability, and mobility. This time, we are looking more closely at how the United

Staff Day Report: How The United Nations Can Act As A Better Employer

Nations can act as a better employer – what it needs to do so that you can put your talents to the best possible use.

One obvious step would be a more competitive system of pay and benefits. The report calls on the International Civil Service Commission, that has the authority in this area, to move faster in finalising its proposals in this regard.

The United Nations needs to treat staff not just as “workers”, but also as individuals with lives and responsibilities outside work. Some United Nations entities already allow such arrangements as part-time employment, flexible work schedules and the right to work away from the office.

work away from the office. Starting on 1 January, such working arrangements will be introduced in the Secretariat, subject, of course, to the work requirements of each individual office.

The Secretary-General's report looks at ways to facilitate mobility, so that it is easier for staff to move between functions, occupations, duty stations and even organisations. This is one of the core considerations in building the cadre of international civil servants needed for the organisation's global work. We will seek agreement between the Secretariat and other United Nations entities to make temporary or permanent transfers easier. We will seek to harmonize conditions between headquarters and the field. And we will work with Member States to loosen the current restrictions on spousal employment.

As you know, the United Nations has been in the forefront of raising global awareness of the AIDS epi-

emic, and in particular stressing the need for Governments and employers to address its effects in the workplace. We must practise what we preach. The report of the Secretary-General calls for a thorough review, to be completed by the end of this year, to ensure that our comprehensive policy on AIDS is implemented effectively in all its dimensions, in every one of our duty stations.

The internal justice system has become a matter of concern in recent years, and the report recommends a thorough review. At the same time, a new Ombudsman function has been added to complement that system. Ms. Patricia Durrant has now taken up her duties as Ombudsman. I am glad to announce that her office is now operational. The office's website – on both the Internet and Intranet – is now in place, and contains information on the Ombudsman's mandate, terms of reference and more.

The Ombudsman will be an open, readily available and confidential source of support to staff at all levels who need answers to questions or help in resolving problems and overcoming conflicts in the workplace. She will listen to staff members' concerns and help them to better understand their situation and evaluate their options. She will be impartial and objective, independent from all line and management structures, and report directly to the Secretary-General.

The hope is that the Ombudsman will not just help with individual cases, by nipping problems in the bud, but will, more generally, improve conflict management systems and promote a culture of conflict resolution. This is an important addition to the system of internal justice, and I hope you will make good use of it.

Finally, we need to do more to promote team spirit. In that regard, the situation of General Service staff bears special mention.

The Secretary-General very much regrets that the General Assembly has chosen to limit their possibilities for promotion to the Professional level, by mandating very restrictive annual quotas.

He has urged Member States to review this position so that our top performers have genuine prospects for advancement. He has suggested that, at a minimum, the annual quota of P-2 posts available for successful General Service examination candidates should be raised to 25 per cent.

We must also create a more structured programme for General Service staff first arriving for service with the organisation, and provide more assistance in planning and managing their careers. That is why, over the next year, we will develop an implementation plan that will encompass mobility, career planning and a comprehensive review of General Service functions, responsibilities and competencies.

Finally, in response to your call, and that of your representatives in particular, and in recognition of the fact that the contribution of all United Nations staff is important, regardless of whether they are General Service or Professional, the Secretary-General has decided that as of 1 January, all employees of the United Nations Secretariat will be referred to as “international civil servants”.

These are just some of the highlights of the report, which of course deals with the full range of our work. The impact of these changes will vary from department to department, and from person to person. But together, they add up to a very different way of doing business. Many jobs will change. Some actions will take effect immediately, while others will be implemented over time. The Secretary-General has asked managers to work closely with staff as this process continues. The next step will be to prepare a budget for the next biennium that will reflect new priorities and eliminate activities that are no longer relevant.

It is roughly one year since it was announced that the United Nations and Secretary-General were the winners of the Nobel Prize for Peace. As you know, the prize includes a substantial financial award. The Secretary-General is exploring the possibility of using those funds to establish a “United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Trust Fund”, for the education of children of staff members who have lost their lives in the line of duty. He is also looking into ways to secure additional monies for such a Fund.

Memories of fallen staff are always very near on Staff Day. I hope you will pause today to remember those brave colleagues, to recall what a privilege it is to work for this unique organisation and to re-dedicate yourselves to the great project of international cooperation for the common good.

**We need to do more to promote team spirit...
the situation of General Service staff bears special mention.**

United Nations Ombudsman, Assistant Secretary-General Patricia Durrant

The problems, concerns and possible conflicts of field staff will be a priority for Patricia Durrant as she begins her tenure in the newly-created office of United Nations Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's Office was created this year to help resolve work-related problems of UN employees outside of the formal conflict-resolution system. In an interview with *Staff Matters*, she said one of her main concerns will be the welfare of staff working in the field.

“Mission work is an important and rewarding experience and our field staff are a vital part of the United Nations,” she said. “But mission life is very different than at Headquarters and sometimes people find it more difficult to deal with work-related problems because they think there is nowhere for them to go.” She added that field staff may not know what options are open to them.

Inaugurated on Staff Day, 25 October, the Ombudsman's Office can consider issues of any nature relating to United Nations employment. This includes administration of benefits, conditions of employment and managerial practices as well as professional and staff relations. By its mandate, all correspondence or conversations with the Ombudsman are confidential. The Ombudsman's Office cannot be compelled by any UN official to reveal information about cases brought to it. When a

problem is brought to her, Durrant said the first step is to listen to the staff member and help the person evaluate the situation. She can then work with him or her to explore ways to resolve the problem. “Often the advice of an unbiased third party that knows the UN system well, is enough,” she added. “But the Ombudsman can intervene directly if the staff member believes it is necessary.”

If intervention is requested, Durrant can take a number of actions including discussing the problem with the employee's supervisor or the relevant UN office. Her appointment is at the Assistant Secretary-General level and she has direct access to all UN offices including the Secretary-General, if necessary.

How to Reach the Ombudsman:

E-mail: ombudsman@un.org
Tel: (917) 367-5731
Fax: (917) 367-4211
*Collect calls accepted
*Confidential voice mail
*Keep all correspondence brief
Confidential Mailing Address:
Office of the United Nations
Ombudsman
P.O. Box 4136
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
INTRANET:
intranet.un.org/ombudsman
INTERNET:
www.un.org/ombudsman



UNFICYP Responds To Blood Drive

Responding to a plea for blood donations by both sides on the island, UNFICYP recently held a drive where personnel both military and civilian donated blood.

UNFICYP personnel donated blood in the drive from the end of October to the end of November. The donors included 48 from Slovcon, nine from Huncon, one from the Irish military and one civilian, and 11 locally recruited staff.

Veteran donor Michael Moriarty, Chief, General Services, gave blood for the 112th time while Slovcon's Pte. Lubomir Bakalik and MSgt. Martin Hocko gave blood for the 87th and 81st times respectively. Recent innoculations restricted a number of contingents from participating in the drive.

The campaign itself was organised in twice weekly sessions so that donors had a choice to give blood either in the north where donations tend to decline during the Ramadan fasting period, or the south.

Cyprus is particularly dependent on blood donation because of its number of thalassaemic patients. There are about 790 thalassaemics on the island (630 in the south, 160 in the north) requiring regular blood transfusions.

One in seven Cypriots is a carrier of the thalassaemia trait, an hereditary blood disorder. Where couples are both carriers there is a one-in-four (25%) chance in each pregnancy of having a child with thalassaemia major; a one-in-two (50%) chance of having a child with thalassaemia trait. Chances are also one-in-four (25%) that the child will inherit a normal gene from both parents and so will be completely normal and thalassaemia free. These chances are the same in each pregnancy.

It is possible to test the foetus during pregnancy, to see if it has thalassaemia major through prenatal diagnosis.

According to WHO, the sickle cell diseases and the thalassaemias are the commonest monogenic diseases in the world and are imposing an increasing drain on health resources, particularly as countries go through demographic transition.



Maria and Kyriakos donating blood



A total of 280 blood donations!
From the left: Pte. Lubomir Bakalik, Mr. Michael Moriarty
and MSgt. Martin Hocko



The control and management of these disorders is now well established in some developed countries but thousands of children are dying from these conditions in poorer parts of the world, WHO reports.

Cyprus has been a pioneer in implementing a preventative programme and has managed to limit the number of new cases to one or two a year.

The Thalassaemia International Federation (T.I.F.) estimates that if the programme had not been implemented there would have been 60-70 new cases a year with 1 in 1000 people suffering from thalassaemia major requiring regular blood transfusions and costly drugs for removal of iron that accumulates in multi-transfused individuals. That figure would have risen dramatically to one in 138 people within 50 years requiring a 300-400% increase in blood requirements and a 600-700% increase in treatment costs.

Cyprus' success in controlling the disease to manageable levels and at the same time providing a high quality of life for people with thalassaemia is an example for other countries struggling with the disease.

The Thalassaemia International Federation (T.I.F.) was established in 1987, with headquarters in Nicosia. This international non-governmental organisation coordinates the various issues of thalassaemia associations worldwide. It is recognised by WHO. At present TIF encompasses more than 91 countries, with associations, scientists and individuals as members and maintains close and continuous collaboration with hospitals, scientists, drug companies, equipment suppliers and research centres throughout the world. The Nicosia headquarters houses an information centre consisting of publications, brochures, videos, slides and other information concerning thalassaemia and the Federation's member organisations. For further details:

www.thalassaemia.org.cy,
email_thalassaemia@cytanet.com.cy

SG's Message on World AIDS Day

The worldwide HIV epidemic has created a terrible burden for millions of individuals, families and communities around the world. Relieving it requires improved healthcare, better access to treatments, more vigorous prevention efforts, more effective social outreach, and support for those most vulnerable – particularly orphans.

But there is another terrible burden imposed by AIDS, which each and every one of us has the capacity to relieve: the burden of HIV-related stigma.

The impact of stigma can be as detrimental as the virus itself. The solitude and lack of support it imposes are deeply wounding to those who suffer it. It should also hurt every one of us, for it is an affront to our common humanity.

Some people with AIDS are being denied basic rights such as food or shelter, and dismissed from jobs they are perfectly fit to perform. They may be shunned by their community, or most tragic of all, by their own family.

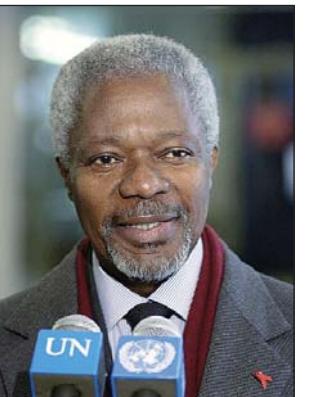
The fear of stigma leads to silence, and when it comes to fighting AIDS, silence is death. It suppresses public discussion about AIDS, and deters people from finding out whether they are infected. It can cause people – whether a mother breastfeeding her child or a sexual partner reluctant to disclose their HIV status – to risk transmitting HIV rather than attract suspicion that they might be infected.

But the walls of stigma and silence are weakening. There is evidence of progress on every continent. Leaders are speaking out at the highest level. The rights of people

living with HIV/AIDS are being defended through the courts. Standards are being set in the workplace. Schools, the media and youth education programmes are helping to create a generation better equipped to live in the world of AIDS. And last year, at a Special Session of the General Assembly, all the Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS which sent a clear message around the world. They pledged to enact or enforce legislation outlawing discrimination against people living with HIV and members of vulnerable groups.

But whatever laws and regulations are adopted, the most powerful weapons against stigma and silence are the voices of the world's people speaking up about AIDS. By adopting the slogan "Live and Let Live", this year's World AIDS Campaign challenges us to ensure that all people, with or without HIV, can realize their human rights and live in dignity. On this world AIDS Day, let us resolve to replace stigma with support, fear with hope, silence with solidarity. Let us act on the understanding that this work begins with each and every one of us.

Kofi A. Annan



Whoopi Goldberg joins Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette, Kami, the HIV+ muppet from Takalani Sesame, South Africa's production of Sesame Street and H.E. Mr. Jan Kavan from the Czech Republic, President of the 57th Session of the United Nations General Assembly to mark World AIDS Day at UN Headquarters, 1 December

UN/DPI Photo

New Arrivals in UNFICYP

Lt. Col. Jose Luis Martin graduated as a 2nd Lt. in the infantry in 1978.

Following several national postings, Lt. Col. Martín was promoted to the rank of major and sent to Venezuela for further military training.

At the rank of Lt. Col., he was posted to Bosnia-Herzegovina where he served in the HQ as a team leader dealing with displaced persons.

During 2001-2002, Lt. Col. Martín served as Commanding Officer of the 20th Mechanised Infantry Regiment "Cazadores de

CO Sector 1 Lt. Col. José Luis Martín



los Andes".

Lt. Col. Martín took over the post of CO Sector 1 on 27 August 2002.

Lt. Col. Martín has been decorated with the "General San Martín" and "Star of Carabobo" of the Venezuelan Army, and has received the NATO medal for services in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Lt. Col. Martín is a military parachutist.

He and his wife, Mrs. Doly Maria Mariotti, have two daughters, Maria Cecilia and Ana Ines.

Lt. Col. Hirka entered the Slovak Army as a student of the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas.

Following his graduation, he held various military appointments in the service of his country, ranging from Signals Platoon Leader to Chief of Staff of the Signals Regiment.

In 1998, Lt. Col. Hirka attended the Orientation Course for Staff Officers in the

CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Ivan Hirka



Netherlands and in 2001, he participated in the Information and Communication Systems' Management course. He works as the Deputy Commanding Officer of a Signals Regiment.

Lt. Col. Hirka and his wife Olga have two children, a son Martin and a daughter Martina.

His hobbies include gardening, swimming, cross-country running and surfing the web.

Lt. Col. Pavel Babjak, M.D has been appointed to the post of Chief Medical Officer.

This is his first international posting after having served in the Slovak military since 1978.

After graduating from Charles University in Prague in 1978, Lt. Col. Babjak took up a posting at the Military Hospital in Kosice of the then Czechoslovakia where he completed his post-graduate

Chief Medical Officer Lt. Col. Pavel Babjak



education in 1978.

He then served with the anti-aircraft brigade in Nitra as Chief Medical Officer from 1979-1983, followed by a stint as Senior Medical Officer at the Military High School in Nitra.

In 1993, he was appointed to the Air Force Hospital, Kosice in the Slovak Republic as Deputy of the Internal Department and Head of the Intensive Care Unit where he remained until 2002.

The new doctor in the Medical Centre is Maj. Sonia Edith Bogosevich.

Born in Cordova, central Argentina, Sonia qualified as a doctor in 1981 and specialised in internal medicine, haematology and bio-chemistry.

Sonia joined the Argentinian navy in 1982, and was based in Buenos Aires. Her first peacekeeping mission was in El Salvador from 1991 to 1992. This is her second tour with UNFICYP, the first being with Sector 1 in 1996/1997.

Sonia loves travelling. Her hobbies include running, and she

Senior Medical Officer Maj. Sonia Edith Bogosevich



enjoys dancing, especially Argentina's national dance, the tango.

Asked why she joined the navy, she replied: "For me, it offers security and also gives me the chance to travel. The navy has many bases around the country, and I like to work in difference environments. I much prefer this than to practise medicine privately."

What do you think of UNFICYP? "I think it's a great organisation, important for maintaining peace in the region and a wonderful experience for me in my profession."

We Will Remember Them

Wayne's Keep Cemetery is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery that has been the resting place for servicemen, dependants and civilians of many different nationalities for more than half a century. In this tranquil spot on Sunday 10 November, just over 300 people of mixed nationalities attended the British Contingent's Service of Remembrance.

The event is held every year to mark Armistice Day, and to commemorate all those who have fallen in battle since the First World War. During the service, national and association representatives laid 20 wreaths in memory of those who have given their lives. Those laying wreaths included H.E. Mr. Lyn Parker on behalf of the United Kingdom, Mr. Jan Johansson on behalf of all UNFICYP personnel, and Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

The simple but moving service, which included a two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m. (the first minute is a time for thanksgiving for those who survived, the second minute is to remember the fallen), was conducted by the Reverend K.J. Pillar CF. The Commander of the British Contingent, Col. Hamish Fletcher CBE, welcomed all invited guests to the Remembrance Service.

The Tryst was read by the RSM of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery WO1 A.J. Simpson. The lesson was read by the Commanding Officer 16th Regiment Royal Artillery Lt. Col. D.J. Scouller and the Act of Commitment was given by the Commander of the British Contingent, Col. Hamish Fletcher CBE.

The Band of the Royal Engineers provided the music to accompany the hymns, and the bugler who sounded "The Last Post" and "Reveille". The Piper, WO2 S. McCusker, was provided by 16th Regiment Royal Artillery.



The CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. D.J. Scouller, pays his respects at the wreath-laying ceremony

The Commander of the British Contingent would like to offer his gratitude to all those who made this event possible.

Finnish Independence Day Celebrated



*Members of the Finnish Contingent
From the left: Capt. Jussi Kanatoff, Maj. Veli-Jussi Hokkanen, Capt. Pekka Riekola*

The Finnish Contingent celebrated the 85th anniversary of Finland's Independence on 6 December 2002.

The ceremonies started at 8.00 a.m. with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Kykko monument, UNPA, which commemorates the over 10,000 Finnish peacekeepers who have served with UNFICYP between 1964 and 1977.

The more festive celebrations were held at the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia amidst distinguished guests and friends. Approximately 150 visitors had arrived to celebrate the occasion, and were introduced to such Finnish delicacies, such as reindeer meat, cold smoked salmon and Karelian rice pies. They were present when one-third of the contingent, namely Capt. Pekka Riekola (Camp Commandant), was presented with the UN medal by the Chief of Mission.

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part VIII

Kyrenia Castle and the Kyrenia Shipwreck

In the Blue Beret's eighth instalment in our cultural heritage series, we head to the town of Kyrenia. Here, to the east of the horseshoe-shaped old harbour, stands Kyrenia Castle. As one of the island's oldest remaining buildings, it was originally built in the Byzantine style. Having seen service over the years as a military fortress and a prison, it now houses several archaeological displays, including the Shipwreck Museum - home to one of the world's oldest ships.

Although the first time that we hear of Kyrenia Castle is 1191, in the days of Richard the Lionheart, the castle likely has its origins as the site of a Roman fort: excavations have dated some traces back to the 7th century BC. The Byzantines may have fortified the site to protect Kyrenia from the Arab raids that were common along this coast between the 7th and 10th centuries.

Several centuries later, when Richard defeated Isaac Comnenos, King of Cyprus, the castle surrendered to one of Richard's lieutenants, a French noble named Guy de Lusignan: two of the prisoners taken were in fact Isaac's wife and daughter. The Lusignan, or Frankish, period in Cyprus began when Richard sold the island to Guy de Lusignan in 1192, after a short period under the ownership of the Knights Templar. The Lusignans rebuilt and strengthened the castle in the Byzantine style between 1208 and 1211. In the ensuing centuries, the castle saw successful service as a military fortification, a prison, and a place of refuge during times of siege, although it did suffer during the Genoese raids of the late 14th century. After the Venetians came to power in 1489, they rebuilt the castle, reconstructing the west wall, adding massive towers with gun emplacements, and extending the walls of the castle around the church of St. George. The castle surrendered without resistance to the Ottomans in 1570.

What You'll See Today

The Byzantine forerunner of the castle was a much smaller structure, consisting of four towers arranged in a square, joined by curtain walls around a yard, with ancillary buildings erected against the walls. A moat protected the castle, while an arch separated its inner harbour from the main harbour. A sea gate in the north wall enabled the castle to be resupplied by ship when under siege.

The original drawbridge has been replaced by a more modern stone bridge that crosses the dry moat to the Venetian entrance. To the right of the entrance passage, which leads to the Lusignan gate, steps descend to the water gate. To the left, a passage leads back to a 12th-century Byzantine church. The remnants of opus sectile flooring and marble columns with early Byzantine capitals suggest that an early Christian basilica may have occupied this site. The church, named St. George of the Castle by the Crusader knights who used it as the castle chapel, stood outside the walls of the Byzantine castle, and was later integrated into the castle during the Venetian reconstruction.

From the entrance passage, a ramp can be seen, up which artillery was hauled to the northwest tower. This tower, added by the Venetians, protected the harbour and afforded a good view over both the harbour and the town. Next to the artillery ramp is the old Lusignan northwest tower. Looking down from above, the stonework reveals that the original Byzantine tower was round, and that the square shape is a Lusignan modification.

The 14th-century gatehouse is also a Lusignan replacement of an earlier Byzantine model. Above the gate are the Lusignan coats of arms, placed there in more recent times. The tomb of the Ottoman Sadik Pasha, the admiral to whom the Venetians surrendered the castle, stands in front of the Lusignan guard rooms.

Around the castle's large courtyard are additional towers, plus such features as dungeons and royal apartments. Large halls on the east wall of Kyrenia Castle now contain the Shipwreck Museum and a number of smaller archaeological displays.

The Kyrenia Shipwreck

In 389 BC, a large number of Aleppo pine trees were felled in Samos to build a small merchant ship, the timber sculpted into curves in the wood-hungry technique of the day. Once built, the ship measured 14.75 metres by 3.4 metres, and was put into service to carry up to 30 tonnes of cargo. It sailed the Eastern Mediterranean, carrying merchandise of oil, wine and other products from the Aegean islands, Cyprus and probably Palestine.

In about 288 BC, however, the ship ran aground near Cyprus, perhaps the result of a sea accident or an encounter with pirates (suggested by the fact that eight spearheads but no valuables were found aboard). Lying on the seabed, rolled over on her port side, the ship gathered silt from flash floods and a "mud blanket" built up rapidly around her. Oxygen and sea life were thus prevented from destroying her timber, although the wood did break down at a cellular level (becoming 75 per cent water and resembling soaked bread).

In November 1965, a Kyrenia sponge diver named Andreas Kariolou was diving near his home town at a depth of about 30 metres when a storm broke out. As he looked for his boat's anchor, he discovered a mound of some 80 amphorae. In the storm, however, he forgot to take bearings, and he made more than 1,000 dives before he found the site again in 1967.

Sadly, Kariolou lost his life at the age of 52 in an act of altruism. During a diving accident on a stormy day in 1977, he gave his air supply to a Canadian of UNFICYP. For his sacrifice, Canada posthumously awarded him the "Star of Courage" medal.

Work began in 1968 to research and raise the wreck under the auspices of the Cyprus Department of Antiquities. American marine archaeologist Michael L. Katzev led a team of experts and students from 12 countries, using a raft anchored over the marine site.

The team first cleaned up a thick layer of seaweed using a multi-holed pipe through which pressurized air was pumped to loosen the mud and make uprooting the roots easier. Then a large 30-metre-long plastic pipe vacuumed up the loose mud and deposited it elsewhere.

Following two years of careful digging, 70 per cent of the ship's hull appeared on the seabed, 22 centuries after it was buried. Because the ship could not be raised as a whole, five tonnes of wood pieces were lifted and washed free of salt and sand. The keel, stempost, planking, frames, lead sheathing and other parts of the ship were also recovered, providing important insight into a ship of the late Classical period. Every piece of wood was numbered and catalogued (photographed, measured and drawn).

Chemical restoration then followed, which was the responsibility of Mrs. Frances Talbot-Vassiliadou. The wood and other perishables were submerged into a wax-like compound called polyethylene glycol. Next, all treated material was stored in polythene bags to prevent it from cooling too quickly and thus breaking. This process lasted from six to 24 months, depending on the item's size, and restored the shape and strength of the wood as well as safeguarding it from shrinkage. Excess wax was then removed from the wood surface, revealing wood grain and axe markings. Once the wood was restored, the ship was reassembled, a task undertaken by Professor J. Richard Steffy, a special UNESCO envoy to the Department of Antiquities.

Almonds, originally stored aboard the ship in sacks and later deposited in the amphorae by octopuses, were likewise treated. An American lab in Philadelphia carbon-dated the almonds to 288 BC, while much of the wood was found to be 100 years older and partly replaced in antiquity.

The shipwreck finds included 404 amphorae – some marked with Greek letters – pottery from Palestine, 29 millstones used as ballast, and remnants of foodstuffs. These included 10,000 shelled almonds, 14,760 fig seeds, one garlic head and 18 olive stones. Pieces of lead, tools, seven copper coins from 316 to 294 BC, personal crockery for four people (the ship's captain and three crew) and a marble basin for sacrifices were also found.

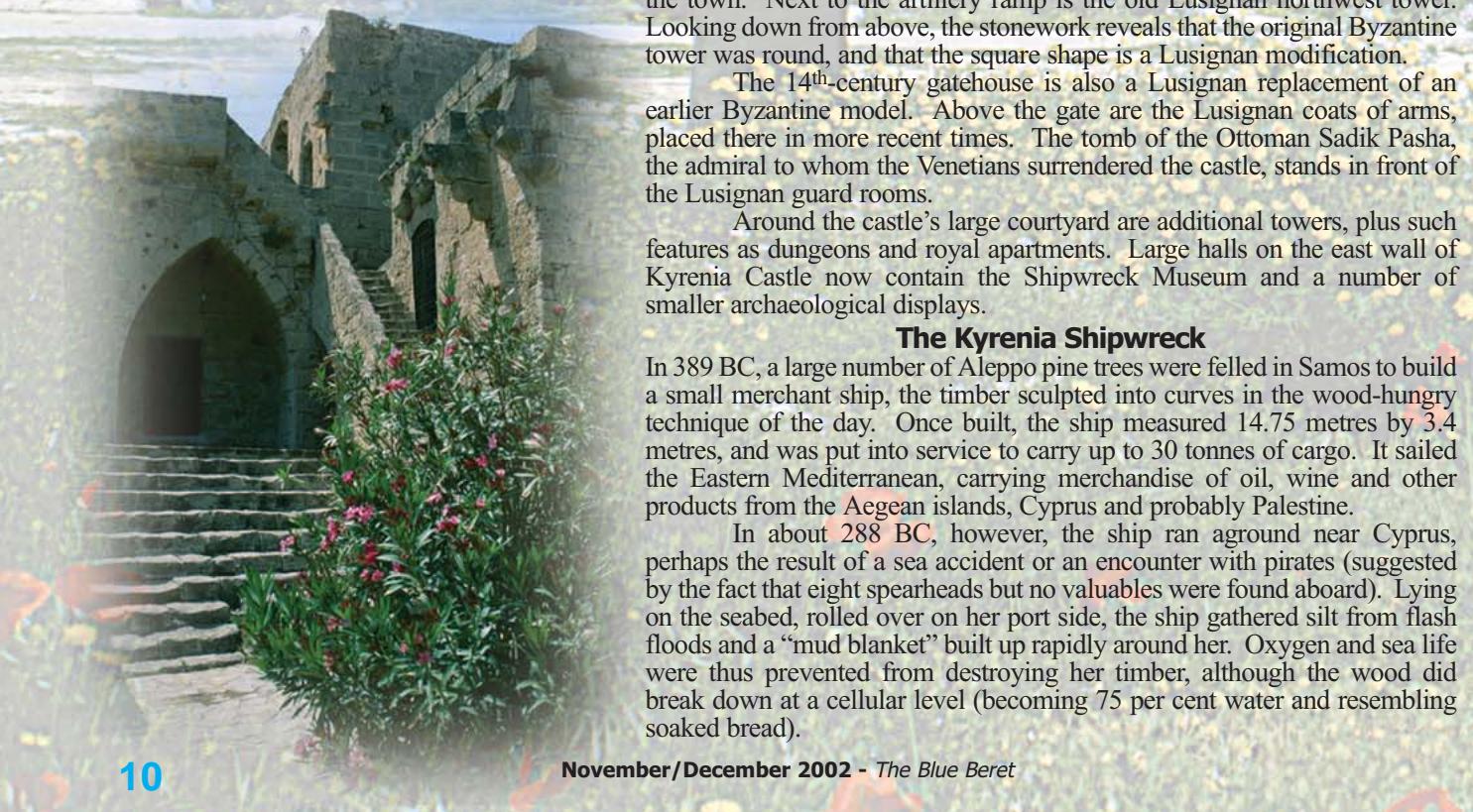
The ship and its cargo are now displayed in Kyrenia Castle, while a replica of the ship, the Kyrenia II, was constructed in Greece and later sailed between Cyprus and Piraeus in April 1987, to help research the way a 4th-century BC Greek ship would have worked.

The shipwreck's excavation was sponsored by the University Museum of Philadelphia, the conservation of the hull by Oberlin College of Ohio, and the final restoration and study by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A & M University.



Amphorae

The north-west tower



A well preserved section of the boat



UNCIVPOL Medal Parade

On 6 November, UNCIVPOL held their medal presentation at the International Mess, UNPA with 20 medal recipients and three numeral recipients, made up of six members of the 71st Australian Contingent, eight members of the 72nd Australian Contingent and eight members of the 10th Irish Contingent.

Commander Bob Heggie from the Australian Contingent together with Deputy Commander Basil Walsh from the Irish Contingent presided over the occasion. The presentation was attended by Assistant Commissioner of An Garda Siochana, Patrick O'Toole, and his wife. The medals were presented by Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz and the Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang.



The Chief of Mission shaking hands with Supt. Peter Williams



Lt. Gen. Hwang congratulating Sgt. Caroline Alde

The medal recipients were: Supt. Peter Williams, Sgt. Caroline Alde, Sgt. Jill Henry, Sgt. David Tink, Sgt. David Wilcox, Sgt. Bruce Nankervis, Sgt. Adrian Craft, Sgt. Nicole Goodwin, Sgt. Karen Kirkby, Sgt. Mark Lehmann, Sgt. Andrew Radcliffe, Sgt. Michael Redmann, Supt. Sean Corcoran, Insp. Chris Gordon, Sgt. John Foudy, Sgt. Sarah Hargadon, Sgt. Jas Murphy, Garda Mick Johnston, Garda Mark O'Connor and Garda Tommy Reilly. The three numeral recipients were Comd. Bob Heggie, Supt. Larry Andrews and Sgt. Ken Davis.

After the presentation the festivities began with food and drink galore, served at the International Mess by the Master Chef from Ledra and his team who had prepared a sumptuous meal. Music was provided by the Argentinian Band who gave great renditions of both Irish and Australian tunes.

Everyone then retired to the Civpol Club where they were entertained by Maj. D.J. John Hunt and a great night was had by all.



The Chief of Staff, British Forces Cyprus, Brig. D. E. Radcliffe OBE, officially opened the Dolphin Swimming Pool Cyber Café, during his visit to the British Contingent on Wednesday 20 November.

The Cyber Café offers both Internet facilities and worldwide telephone connection. This is a tremendous facility and is available to everyone serving with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. The opening hours are from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. daily (with no entry charge)!

Cyber Surfing Down By The Pool

Worldwide Telephone Connection Rates

Country	Cost Per Minute
Argentina	£0.23
Australia	£0.06
Ireland	£0.08
Austria	£0.06
Hungary	£0.09
Korea	£0.20
Canada	£0.03
Slovakia	£0.14
Finland	£0.14
USA	£0.03
UK	£0.06

Internet Charges

The cost of using the Internet is £1.35 per hour, with a minimum charge of £0.90 per usage.

Whilst you are on the Internet or on the telephone, you can order snacks from the Dolphin Restaurant. Takis will be delighted to serve you! The Restaurant opening hours are 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Bonfire Extravaganza

The annual Bonfire Extravaganza, organised by the UNPA Welfare Committee, took place this year on Tuesday 5 November. Originally organised to celebrate the British "Guy Fawkes" night, the event now includes Halloween celebrations.

The evening opened at 6.00 p.m. with food and drinks. For the younger visitors, the "HIVE hovel" was opened. Many wide-eyed children approached the "cave", set up by the Help and Information Voluntary Exchange, with entertainment including "bobbing the apple" and the lucky dip. The fancy dress competition was won by Sean Crawford.

Later in the evening, the Argentinian Contingent organised the BBQ which included tasty beef rolls. The Hungarians provided goulash, and the British supplied the drinks including "gluwein", a traditional Austrian Christmas speciality. Several other delicacies were also on offer.

At 7.35 p.m., the bonfire was lit by Mrs. Bo Whang, followed shortly by a spectacular fireworks display. This was followed by dancing to the disco sounds from "John the Prom".

The Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the event and made it such a success.

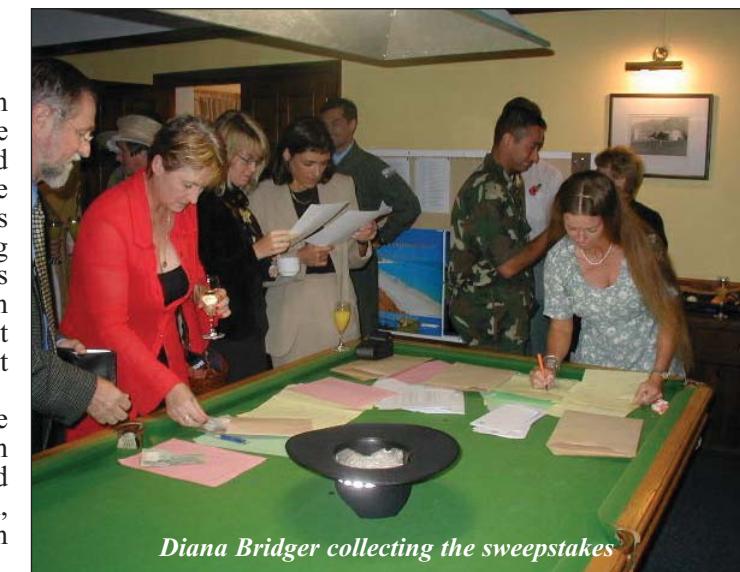
The committee: Lt. Col. C. Kilmister, Maj. J. Hunt, Maj. D. Kiss, Ms. A. Milne, WO2 G. Cowan, WO2 (BSM) Simmons, Lt. Col. Z. Verkerdi, 1/Lt. Pollacino, Sgt. G. Whitehall, Maj. J. Ladocsi, Sgt. M. Redman, WO2 T. King



The Melbourne Cup

As in previous years, UNCIVPOL once again celebrated the Melbourne Cup in style on the first Tuesday in November. The event started at 6.00 a.m. with champagne, followed by the sweepstakes on the Melbourne Cup. The race was watched in a slightly delayed telecast on the big screen in the International Bar, and this was followed by a hearty breakfast and the distribution of prizes to the successful punters and the best dressed woman and man – just the right way to start off the day!

Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz, Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, the Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Frank Ingruber, and the British Defence Adviser, Col. James Anderson, were among those enjoying the typically Australian hospitality.



Diana Bridger collecting the sweepstakes



First Peruvians in UNFICYP

Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto should feel a little more at home with two of his countrymen now posted to UNFICYP's Sector 1. Peru has sent two peacekeepers to join UNFICYP. They are Capt. Carlos del Camp, and WO2 Alex Carrasco.

Peru borders on five other South American countries: Ecuador and Venezuela to the north, Brazil and Bolivia to the south, and Chile and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Your best mate is the one
who won't buy you a drink if
you're driving this Christmas

There is no failsafe guide on how much you can drink and stay under the current limit. The amount and type of alcoholic drinks, and your weight, sex, age and metabolism will all play their part.

The quantity of alcohol in a half pint of beer is approximately the same as in a pub measure spirit or a pub measure of port/sherry or a small glass of wine. It's important to note that.

- Many beers and wines are stronger than average
- Drinks poured at home are usually more generous than pub measures
- Cocktails are especially potent; their high alcoholic content is often masked by the taste of fruit juice

AFTER DRINKING A HALF PINT OF ORDINARY STRAIGHT BEER

10 minutes: After just 10 minutes, 50% of the alcohol consumed will have been absorbed into the blood stream.

60 minutes: After one hour, all the alcohol will have been absorbed.

Absorption is accelerated still further when drinking on an empty stomach; long drinks made with mixers have a faster effect as they enter the bloodstream.

It is impossible to speed up alcohol elimination. Neither a shower, nor a cup of coffee, nor other ways of "sobering up" will help. It just takes time.

Many motorists believe they are safe to drive if they are below the current legal limit. They are wrong. Even one drink will have an effect on your driving ability and on your judgement – starting with your judgement about whether you should have another drink.

- You may not be able to judge your speed and distance accurately
- Your ability to react may be severely affected, which will increase your stopping distance
- Your judgement of risk may be affected and you may have a tendency to be over-confident and put yourself and others at risk

GETTING RID OF ALCOHOL

Midnight: At midnight, after an evening's drinking, there may be 200 mg/100 ml of alcohol in the blood-stream.

7.30 a.m.: On getting up, there are still 90 mg/100 ml of alcohol in your blood. You are still over the current limit and unfit to drive.

Midday: By lunchtime, elimination has continued to around 20 mg/100 ml of alcohol in your bloodstream, and your driving may still be impaired.

Think Before
You Drink!



Don't have too many.

Bethany, aged 10: Winner of the Drink-Drive Poster Campaign

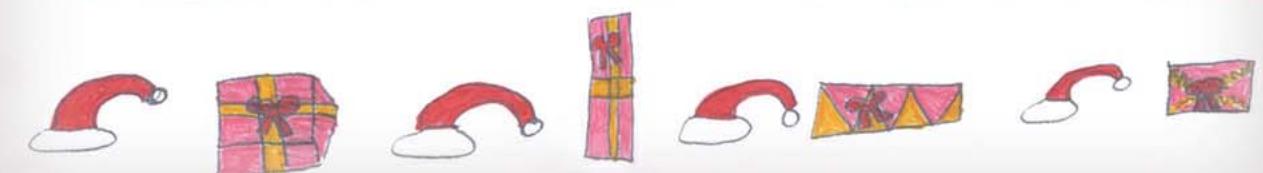
Don't Drink And Drive

By WO2 S.J. Bown

This is not exactly what I wanted for Christmas!



A drink and a drive can make everybody cry!



BY: Samantha Campbell age: 10

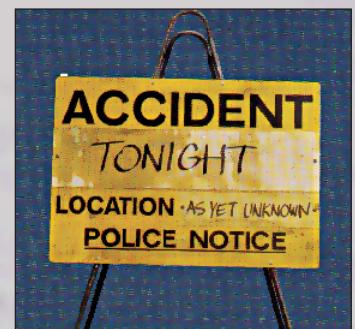
Santa's Little Helpers...

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| TEN | Santa's little helpers, driving along the line: one had a heavy foot, and then there were nine |
| | SPEED LIMITS ARE SET FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY |
| NINE | Santa's helpers, the hour was getting late: one dozed a moment, then there were eight |
| | A TIRED DRIVER IS A DANGEROUS DRIVER |
| EIGHT | Santa's helpers, and the evening seemed like heaven: one showed his driving skills, and then there were seven |
| | DRIVE SENSBLY AND SAFELY AT ALL TIMES - A CAR IS NO PLACE FOR A CLOWN |
| SEVEN | Santa's helpers, their lives full of kicks: one bought a bottle, and then there were six |
| | PETROL AND ALCOHOL ARE A DEADLY MIX - DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE |
| SIX | Santa's helpers, impatient to arrive: one jumped the traffic lights and then there were five |
| | DON'T GAMBLE YEARS OF YOUR LIFE - TO SAVE A FEW SECONDS |
| FIVE | Santa's helpers, touring near the coast: one viewed the scenery, then there were four |
| | CAREFUL DRIVING DEMANDS ALERTNESS AT ALL TIMES |
| FOUR | Santa's helpers happy as could be: one overtook upon a hill and then there were three |
| | NEVER OVERTAKE ANOTHER VEHICLE - WHEN YOUR VISION IS OBSCURED |
| THREE | Santa's helpers were busy, it is true: one neglected car repairs, and then there were two |
| | FOR SAFETY'S SAKE - ALWAYS KEEP YOUR CAR IN TOP CONDITION |
| TWO | Santa's helpers and the day was nearly done: one didn't dim his lights and then there was one |
| | SLOW DOWN FOR DUSK AND DAWN - ADJUST YOUR DRIVING TO EXISTING CONDITIONS |
| ONE | Santa's little helper is still alive today: by following the SAFETY RULES he hopes to stay that way |

There is no excuse for anyone to drink and drive

Alcohol can have a devastating effect on your driving ability. It is the biggest single factor in road deaths. One in six people killed on the roads worldwide die in drink-drive-related accidents. Alcohol adversely affects decision-making, self-criticism, balance, co-ordination, sight, touch, hearing and judgement.

Please be aware of the following alcohol limits whilst driving in Cyprus:
 UN Vehicles Nil Alcohol
 Civilian Vehicles 39 mg
 Sovereign Base Areas 37 mg
 Northern Cyprus 24 mg
**IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE
IF YOU DRIVE, DON'T DRINK
IT'S THAT SIMPLE**



November/December 2002 - The Blue Beret

A Peacekeeper's Best Friend

By Sgt. Maj. Miguel Angel Gonzales

Pets on the line are the best friend and permanent companion of the peacekeepers. This article aims at honouring all the noble dogs that keep the peacekeepers company 24 hours a day at various Observation Posts and Patrol Bases, along the buffer zone.

Here we have chosen a few of these noble animals fondly known to be "man's best friend". They may not be pedigrees, but they are worth their weight in gold.

These pets' first steps on the line start in their early months of life, when soldiers adopt them, give them a name, feed and teach them the various tasks including ground patrol (on foot and by vehicle), observation, gym, play and rest.

During the day the dogs accompany the men patrolling their designated areas, on foot or by vehicle. Alert at all times they give early warning when there is imminent danger, for example if they detect the presence of the dangerous snake "Libetina". Their vigil continues throughout the night warning soldiers when something strange is afoot or somebody is approaching the Observation Post or Patrol Base.



These pets are however also a source of light relief with their comic antics that the men always remember. For instance, entering the opposing forces' positions and being saluted by them, playing with a ball, barking when they want to go on a vehicle patrol, asking for water or knocking the back glass window of the truck when they want to stop for something.

Like their human masters, pets also have off days when depression sets in. Nobody knows how to explain this but we all notice when our pets are depressed. They sleep too much, refuse to go out on patrol, don't play as usual, and look bored and sad.

But the saddest moment between pets and those of us serving with UNFICYP is at the end of the tour when the time comes to part. Somehow they know we have to return to our own countries, and for this reason, all soldiers do their best to hand over our dogs to the incoming unit.

The men of some posts remember their pets as follows:

"Carucha", pet of OP 42, is in his third year of service. Carucha is just like a human being, and his reactions are incredible. He is not a pedigree dog, yet he is well known in Mammaria and around the area 70. He walks the whole line, sometimes visiting both opposing forces, but always returns to his post.



Chavo on observation duties

Sometimes Carucha falls in love and disappears for days. We can tell this because after his love affair, Carucha returns thin and tired! He does funny things too, like when we took him on a vehicle patrol to OP 40 and forgot him there. Carucha walked all the way back to OP 42 and as he arrived, we were just about to go jogging. So he came too, and when we started exercising on our return, Carucha lay in on the ground with his feet in the air making us all laugh. He is so cute.

Then there is "Chavo", also a senior peacekeeper's pet from OP 40. He has been serving with this OP for about four years. Chavo is a very special dog, much loved because he accompanies us on any task, day or night. He is a 24-hour-a-day friend. He knows the foot patrol inside out and shows us the way. When we were newly arrived he helped us to follow the correct path. One day we understood that we were going the wrong way because Chavo stopped and stared at us refusing to continue. What's more, he has warned us about a dangerous (Libetina) snake lurking in the undergrowth.

Chavo does funny things too. He only shakes hands with people he knows, and when he is thirsty, he limps along like he is in pain – and he recovers as soon as he gets his water! Chavo also likes riding at the back of the truck.

And when he needs to do what a dog needs to do, he knocks on the back of the windows with his paws.



OP 35 has new arrivals – "Kyros" (right) and "Estefano"

Thank-You Party

Sixty volunteers of the UN Day converged for a drink and a bite of pizza on 8 November at the UNPA Officers' Mess. The volunteers included both those from the north like former UNFICYP staffer Beraat and those who had no association with UNFICYP from both sides of the Green Line.

There were volunteers from the north and volunteers from the south. Former UNFICYP staffer Beraat Mustafaoglu was a welcome sight, as were the beautifully clad group of Indian mothers who contributed so much on the day and graced the party in a rainbow of saris. Organisers noticed an overwhelming majority preferring diet Pepsi, even as the party hardened folks went for beers! All seemed to relish the pizzas which had even veggie toppings, thoughtfully for the vegetarians!

In a brief speech the Chief of Mission thanked all for making UN Day 2002 a record event.



The Chief of Mission thanks the volunteers for their help and dedication

The Karpas Run



Slovcon members hand out the supplies

The weekly convoy of four white UN trucks, loaded with food, medical supplies and equipment, water and gas cylinders, sets out every Wednesday from Nicosia heading north east to the Karpas peninsula. The convoy's task is to deliver humanitarian aid to the Greek Cypriots living in the peninsula's seven mixed villages.

The trucks with Slovcon crews come from Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta and the liaison post in Leonarisso. They work closely with the Sector's Civil Affairs Team. The Wednesday run makes for a long and tiring day. But for the Slovcon soldiers, the reward that refreshes is the friendly smile and the wave of the hand that greets them each time.

New Military Adviser at DPKO

Newly appointed Lt. Gen. Patrick Cammaert comes to UN Headquarters in New York as the new Military Adviser at DPKO. He arrives from Ethiopia and Eritrea where he recently served as Force Commander of UNMEE.

Before that, he served as Commander of the Forward Headquarters on Mount Igman of the multinational Brigade of the Rapid Reaction Forces of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995.

Lt. Gen. Cammaert joined the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (RNLMC) in 1968. From 1979 to 1981, he served as an exchange officer in the United Kingdom with the Royal Marines. He subse-

quently served in a series of posts in Scotland, Aruba, and The Hague, until taking up his first United Nations assignment in 1992 as Commander of the First Dutch Marine Battalion with the United Nations Transitional Administration in Cambodia.

He later served as Commander of the Forward Headquarters on Mount Igman of the multinational Brigade of the Rapid Reaction Forces of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995.

Prior to his appointment to SHIRBRIG, Lt. Gen. Cammaert, who is married with one son and a daughter, served as Chief of Staff of the RNLC.



Visitors to UNFICYP



The Force Commander with the Korean delegation

A number of special guests were received at UNFICYP headquarters during November/December.



Brig. Radcliffe inspecting the guard of honour

Caption Competition



- When the s...t hits the fan!
- Flying Haggis!
- Bird's Nest Swoop!
- A bird never flew on one fan

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

20 January 2003



Ms. Beth Jones on a Green Line tour

on 21 November. They were greeted by the Force Commander and, after inspecting a guard of honour, met with the Chief of Mission.



H.E. Mr. Ján Vársó

On 11 December, the Slovak Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Ján Vársó, arrived for his first official visit to HQ UNFICYP. He was met by the Force Commander, and after inspecting a guard of honour, he met with the Chief of Mission.

A Korean delegation, led by the Special Envoy of the Korean President Dr. Chang-hyun Cho, arrived

Anyone for Golf?

By Maj. John Hunt

Sunday 27 October saw the Ladies Open take place in Nicosia. The Ladies Open, hosted by the United Nations Golf Club, was sponsored for the third year running by Scottish Widows International.

Forty-eight ladies entered the competition representing golf clubs from Episkopi, Akrotiri, the Princess Mary's Hospital Dhekelia, and the UN. It was a glorious day with the first competitors teeing off at 7.30 am and the last at 12.30 p.m.

The men helped out throughout the day, manning the "halfway house" where competitors could purchase refreshments. They also acted as caddies and spotters for those ladies who hit their balls into the rough ground.

The last ladies arrived at the 19th hole (the water-hole) at around 5.15 p.m. The score cards were then scrutinised and the results announced, with prizes for the best gross score and the best net score.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Club</u>
<i>Gross Score</i>	<i>1st</i>	R. Steele	76
	<i>2nd</i>	V. Simpson	Dhekelia
	<i>3rd</i>	J. Leigh	Dhekelia
<i>Net Score</i>	<i>1st</i>	C. Hammond	Episkopi
	<i>2nd</i>	R. Anderson	UNG C
	<i>3rd</i>	S. Robson	Dhekelia



From the left: Rosie Anderson, Randy Steele and Richard Whitaker

The gross winner, Randy Steele of the Joint Services Golf Club (Dhekelia), also set a new course record with her fantastic score of 76, beating her previous course record of 81. Second net was the UNGC Captain, Rosie Anderson, with a net score of 64. She was leader in the clubhouse from start to finish and was only pipped to the post by Chris Hammond from Joint Services Golf Club (Episkopi) with a net score of 63 who was last out. Chris has only recently been awarded her 36 handicap, but I am sure that it will not remain at 36 for much longer.

In-Line Hockey

By 1/Lt. Laco Regenda

On 13 December, two teams of Slovak soldiers based in Camp General Stefanik, Famagusta, challenged each other to what turned out to be a very exciting and entertaining hockey match.

The event attracted young men and women from all over Famagusta, mostly from the Eastern Mediterranean University. Although it was a friendly game, what mattered most were – of course – the goals. The team members all played like champions, but the stars of the day were Vapno, Terazky and Spacek. The final score was 9:9.

The event was such a success that the M.E.U. students have challenged Sector 4 to an international match which will probably take place towards the end of this year. Everyone is invited.



Sport

Aphrodite "Half Marathon"



On Sunday 24 November, 30 runners from Sector 1 participated in the traditional Cyprus Aphrodite Half Marathon. This event is organised once a year by the Cyprus health runners' club, and it is supported by the Cyprus Sports Organisation.

Runners from Germany, Greece, Hungary and Jordan as well as from Cyprus participated in this 21-km event. There was also a Fun Run of 5 kms without any age or time limit. During both races, refreshments were offered at four different stations.

At the end of both races, runners and spectators gathered together for a drink and a chat and enjoyed some traditional Cypriot music and dance.

All runners received T-shirts, medals and certificates.

Fireworks Display at the UNPA

