

# The Blue Beret

## November 2003



**Exercise  
Unifying  
Challenge**



Published monthly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 21642, Nicosia 1590, Cyprus.

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**Secretary-General's World AIDS Day Message (1 December 2003)**

Two years ago, the world's nations agreed that defeating HIV/AIDS would require commitment, resources and action. At the General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001, they adopted the Declaration of Commitment, a set of specific, time-bound targets for fighting the epidemic.

Today, we have the commitment. Our resources are increasing. But the action is still far short of what is needed. Significant new funding to fight the epidemic has been pledged, both by individual Governments and through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The vast majority of countries have in place broad national strategies to combat HIV/AIDS. A growing number of corporations are adopting policies on HIV/AIDS in the workplace. Increasingly, community and faith-based groups – which have often taken the lead in the fight against AIDS – are working as full partners with Governments and others in mounting a coordinated response.

But at the same time, the epidemic continues its lethal march around the world, with few signs of slowing down. In the course of the past year, every minute of every day, some 10 people were infected. In the hardest-hit regions, life expectancy is plummeting.

HIV/AIDS is spreading at an alarming rate among women, who now account for half of those infected worldwide. And the epidemic is expanding most rapidly in regions which had previously been largely spared – especially in Eastern Europe and across all of Asia, from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean.

We have failed to reach several of the Declaration's targets set for this year. Even more important, we are not on track to begin reducing the scale and impact of the epidemic by the target year of 2005. By then, we should have cut by a quarter the number of young people infected with HIV in the worst affected countries; we should have halved the rate at which infants become infected; and we should have comprehensive care programmes in place everywhere. At the current rate, we will not achieve any of those targets by 2005.

Clearly, we must work even harder to match our commitment with the necessary resources and action. We cannot claim that competing challenges are more important, or more urgent. We must keep AIDS at the top of our political and practical agenda.

That is why we must continue to speak up openly about AIDS.

No progress will be achieved by being timid, refusing to face unpleasant facts, or prejudging our fellow human beings – still less by stigmatizing people living with HIV/AIDS. Let no one imagine that we can protect ourselves by building barriers between "us" and "them". In the ruthless world of AIDS, there is no us and them. And in that world, silence is death.

# Where Silence is Death

The fight against HIV/AIDS requires commitment, political will and leadership at all levels. HIV/AIDS is a global crisis that despite recent advances in treatment still requires concerted and urgent action on a global scale. Ten people are infected every minute of every day, 95% of them in developing countries. AIDS is the number one killer of people in Africa and the number four killer worldwide.

Although Africa remains hardest hit, the epidemic is expanding most rapidly in regions previously relatively unscathed such as Eastern Europe and Russia and across all of Asia, from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean. The epidemic is spreading at an alarming rate among women, who now account for half of those infected across the globe.

In his World AIDS Day (1 December) message, the Secretary-General emphasizes that the international community needs to do much more to reach the targets agreed by the world's nations at the General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001, when they adopted the Declaration of Commitment. For example, a total of \$10 billion a year is needed by 2005 to stem the tide of AIDS in low- and middle-income countries.

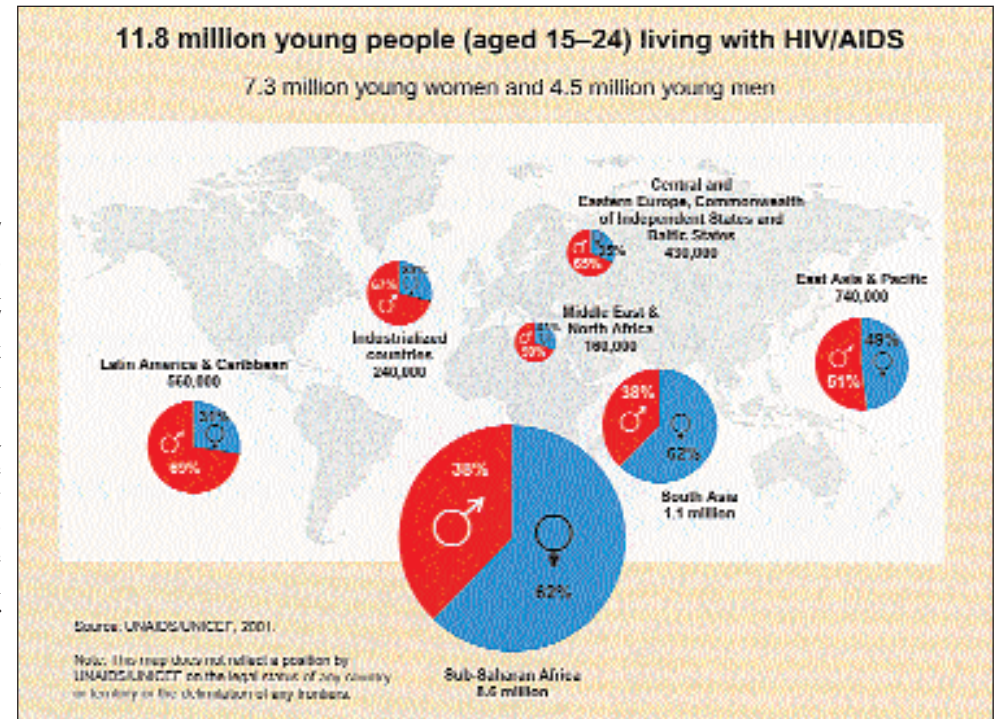
This year alone, efforts are being focused on the universal goal of providing three million more people in the developing countries access to anti-retroviral medication (ARVs) by 2005. It is estimated that only 1% of HIV-positive people in sub-Saharan Africa who require anti-retrovirals are receiving them. Major efforts are underway to reduce per patient costs of these therapies.

In early 2000, a year's ARV therapy for one patient cost an estimated \$10,000-\$12,000. By the end of the year, it had dropped to \$500-800 and thanks to the recent involvement of generic pharmaceutical companies, WHO calculates per patient treatment in low-income countries is now below \$300 a year. A recent agreement between the Clinton Foundation and four generic pharmaceutical companies holds out hope that this can be lowered even further to as little as \$140 per year.

AIDS is a major impediment to development. It strikes young adults as they are poised to enter their most productive years, robs children of their parents, or forces them to drop out of school, leaving a generation without care or education, thereby making it more vulnerable to HIV. There are now more than 14 million AIDS orphans worldwide, and the number is growing.

AIDS is also a human rights crisis. Stigma and discrimination surrounding people living with HIV/AIDS creates barriers that undermine efforts to contain the epidemic.

As the Secretary-General says, we need to speak up – tear down the walls of silence, stigma and discrimination.



No progress will be achieved by being timid, refusing to face unpleasant facts, or prejudging our fellow human beings – still less by stigmatizing people living with HIV/AIDS. In the world of AIDS, silence is death.

Governments at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001 undertook to ensure that by 2005, at least 90% and, by 2010, at least 95% of young men and women aged 15-24 would have access to the information, education (including peer education and youth-specific HIV education), and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full partnership with youth, parents, families, educators and health-care providers.

## What will it take to help young people manage HIV/AIDS?

- A safe and nurturing environment;
- Universal basic education;
- Education and information on all health issues, including HIV/AIDS;
- Opportunities to build life skills;
- Protection against the exploitation and sexual abuse of young people;
- Practices supporting equal gender relations and roles;
- Youth/friendly reproductive health and sexually transmitted infection services (including low-cost or free condoms);
- Voluntary and confidential counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS;
- Services to prevent HIV infection among injecting drug users; and
- Care and support for young people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

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**Front Cover: Exercise Unifying Challenge**  
 (MSgt. Martin Mruz)

**Back Cover: Remembrance Sunday**  
 (Sgt. Sean Clayton)



# Visiting Argentina

The UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, accompanied by the Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer, Lt. Col. Chris Kilmister, and their wives, made an unprecedented visit to Argentina from 1 to 10 October 2003 at the invitation of the Chief of the Army General Staff, Maj. Gen. Roberto Fernando Bendini.

The purpose of the trip was to visit a number of Argentinian military institutions, to participate in staff talks and to see some of the nation which provides one of the largest of UNFICYP's contingents. Argentina is an enormous country, some 2,791,000 km<sup>2</sup>. If you were to put Argentina over a map of Europe, it would stretch from Moscow to Madrid. Argentina has only 36 million inhabitants, 50% living in and around the capital, Buenos Aires.

On the first morning, the FC and CPLO visited the Army General Staff building accompanied by Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti, former Commanding Officer of Sector 1 (October 2001-October 2002). The FC was welcomed by a very impressive honour guard from the senior infantry regiment, Regimiento De Infanteria 1 "Patricios". They met the Chief of the Army General Staff and a number of his senior staff and were given a presentation by the Operations Branch of the Army.

The party also visited the Peace Operations Joint Training Centre in Buenos Aires (CAECOPAZ). This organisation is unique in South America, as this is where all South American peacekeeping troops are trained. The Training Centre is commanded by Col. Jorge Hector López Parravicini, who also once served as Commanding Officer. It is a modern and impressive institution with a multinational training staff made up of South American, French, British and US instructors. All Sector 1 troops will have been trained at CAECOPAZ before deploying to Cyprus.

One highlight of the visit was a tour around the Military Academy on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. The party was met by an impressive honour guard and an outstanding marching display by a 40-piece band beneath an enormous Argentinian flag, which measured approximately 10 x 10 metres. Col. Cimmarusti's son, who is a cadet and a key member of the Academy's rugby team, explained to us a day in the life of a cadet during their four-year course. The Academy is steeped in history and every cadet's name is inscribed in the Hall of Honour.



The Force Commander, accompanied by Col. Cimmarusti and Lt. Col. Kilmister, inspects an honour guard from Regimiento De Infanteria 1 "Patricios"



The Force Commander on his inspection of the Military Mountain School

Another memorable visit was to San Carlos de Bariloche. Two-and-a-half hours flying time south of Buenos Aires, it is set amongst beautiful lakes, wooded hills and fast flowing rivers. It reminded the party of the most beautiful parts of Bavaria or Austria. San Carlos de Bariloche is famous for its skiing and also for its chocolate. The town has an all-pervading smell of chocolate! There was an opportunity to do some marvellous sight-seeing, taking in both the town and the impressive countryside. San Carlos de Bariloche is the home of the Military Mountain School, commanded by Col. Ruben Alcides Vago. The School runs summer and winter courses, which are extremely demanding, both physically and mentally.

Of particular note was the use of the most modern technology combined with technology dating back to the time of Alexander the Great (mountain mules!). The school has 60 mules for training purposes. They come in all sizes, depending on the use to which they are put. One mule can carry a complete 82 mm mortar, three can carry a 120 mm mortar and it takes 12 to carry a 105 mm artillery piece. Even with the advent of helicopters, mules are still the most efficient way of moving equipment, ammunition and weapons systems in the high altitudes and hazardous terrain that the mountain troops operate in.

The UNFICYP guests did not miss out on the traditional warm hospitality of the Argentinians. The party was beautifully looked after throughout its stay. On one occasion, we attended a tango club, the "Esqunia Carlos Gardel", where we witnessed a fantastic performance of tango dancing and traditional songs.

During the visit, the FC had the opportunity to talk to the press. He spoke to journalists from the military newspaper *Soldados* and also with the most popular newspaper in South America *El Clarin*. The FC stated that he was extremely proud to have soldiers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay under his command. Truly the united states of South America working for the United Nations! He also praised the Argentinian Armed Forces representation to UNFICYP by all three services – Army, Navy (the Marine Company) and the Air Force (UN Flight). ARGCON celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Over 5,700 soldiers have represented Argentina in UNFICYP. This is a remarkable achievement, demonstrating Argentina's continued commitment to peacekeeping. CK

# Incoming – 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt Royal Horse Artillery

3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery will take over Sector 2 from 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery in December.

The Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Nick Ashmore, is currently based in Hohne in Northern Germany as part of 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, "The Desert Rats". As such, all ranks of 3 RHA have the honour to wear the distinctive desert rat badge as part of their uniform.

The Regiment has a proud history, its batteries having existed since the Napoleonic Wars, where they served with distinction among the newly raised RHA Regiments. The modern Regiment was formed in Cairo on 2 August 1938 and served throughout the western desert campaign of 1939-1943 and the European campaign of 1944-1945, supporting 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division.

Now, the Regiment has three gun batteries [C Battery, D Battery and J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery], each equipped with six AS90 155mm Howitzers, a headquarters battery [M (Headquarters) Battery] and the Regimental workshop manned by specialists from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

This has been a busy year for 3 RHA, as the Regiment took part in the liberation of Iraq, deploying to Kuwait in February 2003 and entering Iraq on 22 March. The Regiment was warned for operations in the Gulf on 20 January 2003, with its ranks swelling from 470 personnel to some 1,000 strong with a total of 32 AS90. 3 RHA was to fire its first rounds exactly two months later on 20 March. Seventeen days of combat operations followed, during which the Regiment fired 9,513 rounds. Battery Commanders and Forward Observation Officers used artillery, aviation and air in the close battle in support of their respective Battle Groups in 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. As the only guaranteed fire support available to the Brigade, the guns of the Regiment played a key part in the liberation of Basrah, Iraq's second city, helping to create the conditions that allowed the Battle Groups to enter the city on 6 April 2003.

The subsequent stabilisation operation was equally demanding, as the Regiment found itself in the infantry role in its own area of operations within seven days of the



cessation of hostilities. Patrolling patterns, on foot and in Landrovers, were soon established, with the soldiers quickly getting to grips with the requirements of such operations amongst a local population, in temperatures that reached 49°C by mid-June. Soldiers of the Regiment took to the many waterways around Basrah in boats provided by the Royal Engineers, to interdict copper, oil and other smuggling. While C and D Batteries returned to Germany at the end of May, J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery remained in Iraq until early July, where they continued to make a major contribution to a return to normality for the Iraqi people.

The deployment to Cyprus will bring back some happy memories for some serving members of the Regiment, 22 of whom deployed to Cyprus on peacekeeping duties with 3 RHA back in 1988. "I enjoyed my time in Cyprus when I was there before with the Regiment, and I am looking forward to getting back for what promises to be a rewarding and enjoyable six months", said WO2 Jimmy Foalle, who last deployed to Cyprus as a Gunner 15 years ago.

Although it has had only five months back at home since returning from Iraq, the Regiment is looking forward to its time in Cyprus and the challenges and opportunities it will present.

## Sector 2 CO: Lt. Col. N. D. Ashmore, OBE, RHA

Lt. Col. Nick Ashmore was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1984.

His first tour was with 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Osnabruck. He returned to the UK in 1988 in the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment in the airmobile role. During his time with 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment, he completed a six-month tour in Northern Ireland as a Watchkeeper in 39 Brigade. He was then posted to the Honourable Artillery Company in the City of London as Adjutant for two years, prior to attending Division 3 of the Army Command and Staff Course at Camberley in 1993. After Staff College he spent two years working as a programmer and briefer for the Adjutant General in MOD Main Building and subsequently in Upavon.

In March 1996 he took over command of D Battery in 3 RHA, which he commanded until November 1998. This period included an operational tour in Northern Ireland and the Regiment's Arms Plot to Hohne. From December 1998 until March 2001, he was an SO1 in the Directorate of Defence Policy (subsequently re-titled the Directorate of Policy Planning) in MOD Main Building. Prior to assuming command of 3 RHA in December 2001, he spent five months in Bosnia as Military Assistant to the Deputy Commander Operations (DCOMOPS) in HQ SFOR. In recognition of the Regiment's service in Iraq, Lt. Col. Ashmore was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in



the recent operational awards list, following Op TELIC.

Lt. Col. Ashmore is married to Pippa and they have three children, Harry (1995), Poppy (1998) and Kitty (2003). He maintains a keen interest in mountaineering and rugby, with aspirations for the occasional foray from the bench in the latter sport.

# Exercise Unifying Challenge



*Into the pits*



*Shakes and ladders*



*A-maizing grace*



*My watch says it's time for a break!*



*On target*



*From the left: Cpl. Krisztián Gazsó, LBdr. Danny Holt, Sgt. Carl Williams, LBdr. Michele McGettigan, Capt. Stanislav Pigula – team commander, and LBdr. Tony Hancock*



*Logging in*



*Vaulting ambition*



*Emergency service*



*Tyre-some*

This autumn the biannual UNFICYP Military Skills Competition took on a new title and became Exercise Unifying Challenge, with a scenario requiring participating teams to react to a "situation" that had deteriorated to alarming levels and become extremely volatile. Each team of six members, one of whom was female, was required to patrol the area of the UNPA on foot and to meet any challenges they encountered at the various stands along the route.

Starting at half hour intervals and following an initial kit inspection, weigh in and briefing, each team was set an Observation and Memory test before being bundled into the back of a truck and driven off to an unknown drop-off point. Once their location had been established with conventional map reading methods, teams began their march, which required navigation and to be completed within a specific time.

After what seemed like a very long way, with kit becoming heavier with every step, each team came across a vehicle accident scenario where the ASO and FMO marked each team's reaction to this incident. The MFR soldiers who played the injured occupants should definitely consider a career in acting!

The Comms Skills stand was next, followed by Marksmanship. The penultimate stand before returning to the Observation and Memory test was the Assault Course. Here each team was required to carry a heavy, two-metre log, under or over the course obstacles. Stamina after the 12 km march, together with upper body strength, were obvious assets. Cheers of encouragement from supporters seemed to help too!

Exercise Unifying Challenge was worthily won by the multinational Mobile Force Reserve Team. **DB**



*Kneeling, nothing but kneeling*



*£5 for the one who finds my contact lens*



*Out of the woods*

# The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus — Part XVIII

## Elegance and Symmetry: The Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque

Lala Mustafa  
Pasha Mosque

*The most outstanding and well-preserved Gothic monument within the old walled seaport town of Famagusta in eastern Cyprus is its 14<sup>th</sup>-century Latin cathedral. Originally dedicated to Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of the town, this was the church where the kings of Cyprus were consecrated as kings of Jerusalem.*

*After the Ottomans took Famagusta in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the church became a mosque. Christian symbols were replaced by a minaret, mirhap (prayer niche) and other Muslim features, and the mosque was given the name of "Holy Wisdom of God".*

*Much later, its name was changed once more. It is now known as the Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, in memory of the commander-in-chief of the Ottoman troops who conquered the island in 1570 and 1571.*

The see of the Famagusta Latin Bishopic was founded in 1211, almost 20 years after the beginning of the Lusignan period in Cyprus. The small church that was constructed soon after that date must have been very humble, as there is no record of it in the accounts of contemporary travellers.

For decades, there was little need for a grander building. This changed, however, with the fall of Acre (in Syria) in 1291. After the Kingdom of Jerusalem was bestowed in 1269 upon King Hugh III of Cyprus, the kings of Cyprus would first receive the crown of the island at the Saint Sophia Cathedral in Nicosia, and would then cross over to Acre in Syria to be crowned kings of Jerusalem.

After Acre's fall, and until the death of James the Bastard in 1473, they instead were obliged to receive the crown at Famagusta, as this was the city nearest the Syrian coast. Acre's fall also prompted an influx of Christians from Syria to Cyprus. Most of the noblemen settled in Nicosia, while the merchants went to Famagusta. These traders (Greeks, Syrians, Jews, Italians, Provençals and Armenians) were so active that the port of Famagusta became the richest in the eastern Mediterranean.

Thus, in 1298, it was decided to rebuild the church in Famagusta on a grander scale in order to meet the needs of the increased Catholic population and to create an appropriate setting for the crowning of the kings of Cyprus as kings of Jerusalem. The Genoese Acts of Famagusta indicate that by 1300, the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas was already under construction, and by 1326 – the year of its consecration – it was complete, with a design that echoed that of the cathedral at Rheims in France.

During the Genoese rule of Famagusta (1373 to 1464), the cathedral was left without any funds. In 1464, however, James the Bastard regained the city. In 1472, when he married the beautiful Catherine Cornaro, goddaughter of the Venetian senator, the couple celebrated their marriage in the cathedral, which by then had recovered its old prosperity and glory. Catherine was Queen of Cyprus from 1474 until 1489, when she had to relinquish her kingdom to Venice. She bade farewell to her people from the cathedral's balcony.

The loss of Venice to the Ottomans ended the history of the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, but not the history of the building itself. In its transformation into a mosque, all decoration that showed human figures had to be removed: wall frescoes were whitewashed, and much of the stained glass was replaced with intricate brickwork tracery. Even today, however, the building's original architecture remains clearly visible in its Gothic arches, windows and flying buttresses.

### What You'll See Today

At 180 feet long and 75 feet wide, the cathedral was not a large example of its kind, but it was an artful one. The processional entrance to the cathedral was through the three portals (doorways) of the western façade, which is undoubtedly the most beautiful part of the building. The designer of this façade created a compact front of a pure, exact symmetry, with the midpoint passing through the mullion of the central portal (which is slightly wider than the two side portals).

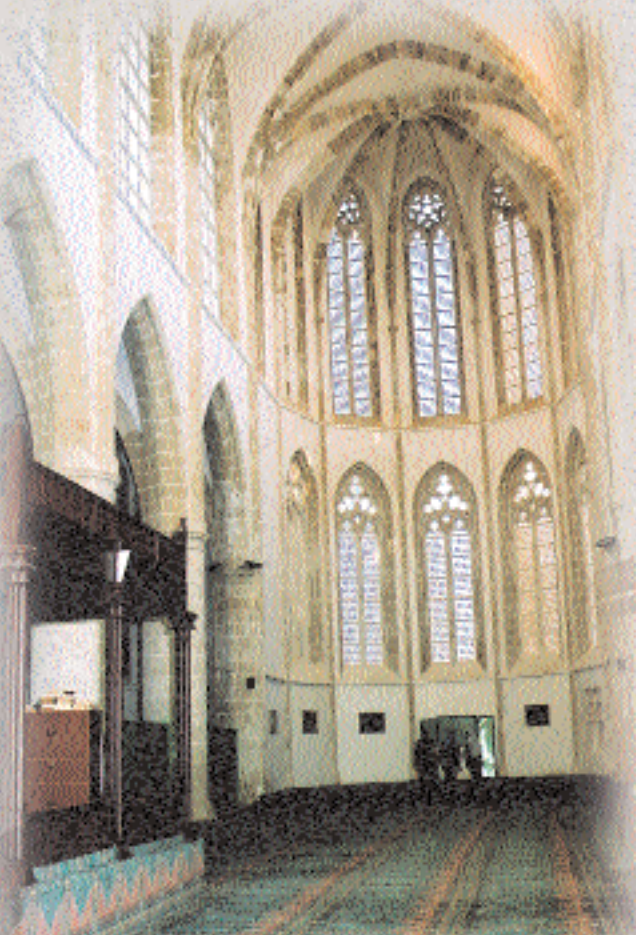
Identical two-storied bell towers were built on each corner of the western façade, with turrets that housed the bells. The squatness and weightiness of the first storey of these towers was modified with trefoiled lancet windows on three sides. Similarly, arches decorate the faces of the two octagonal staircase towers – constructed externally beside the portals – that provide access to the bell towers. Originally, both staircase towers were topped by an octagonal pinnacle: the northern one has since been elevated to form a minaret.

The tympana (triangular decorative structures over the portals) and the pediments of the three western portals are decorated with beautiful open tracery. However, the glory of this façade is the rose window high above the central portal. It consists of a nine-petalled rose that is supported on three double-light trefoiled windows. Just below this window, a balustraded balcony on the first storey connects the bell towers. This balcony is where the kings (and Queen Catherine Cornaro) saluted the crowds. Indeed, at the end of her reign, Catherine embarked for Venice from the port just a few metres away, while the royal standard of the Lusignans was being replaced by the flag of San Marco of Venice.

The building's interior features a nave with seven bays that terminates in a polygonal apse. The nave is flanked by two simple aisles that also terminate in similar, but smaller, apses. Some time after the cathedral's construction, four chapels were built: two on both sides of the aisles located at the fifth and seventh bays. The northern and southern portals, meanwhile, were constructed on the fourth bay.

There is no transept, no ambulatory and no triforium (gallery). An outside ledge running around the building provides access to the upper level. The circular, undecorated piers (similar to columns) on either side of the nave support arcades, or series of arches, that help support the roof. Viewed from the inside, the whole vaulted structure gives the impression of a building constructed in a style of elegant and vigorous simplicity.

This is partly due to the ingenious use of natural light. The architect's design brought light into the nave through the clerestory's large lancet windows, which reach above the height of the aisles, and through two windows on every side of the apses and the choir. The clerestory windows consist of four trefoiled lights surmounted by a quatrefoil, which itself is supported by two smaller quatrefoils, thus forming a play of verticals, horizontals and curves. The result is a balanced visual harmony. At the same time, however, the architect also recognised the need to support the building's structure: he achieved this through an array of gabled buttresses that flank each clerestory window on the exterior of the building. The visual harmony and elegance of the cathedral's design, therefore, is matched at every turn by structural soundness.





The icing on the cake!

## Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines!

By Lt. Col. J. Lambezat

On 21 October, UN Flight completed 10,000 flying hours in the service of peace using helicopters of the Argentinian Air Force (FAA).

The first Argentinian Air Force contingent arrived on the island in September 1994 and since then, it has carried out its mission without incidents or air accidents.

The sole passenger on this commemorative flight was UNFICYP Chief of Staff Col. Ian Sinclair, with Lt. Martin Romero Molina as pilot and mechanic SSgt. Jorge Marini. All told, UN Flight (ARGAIR) has carried 28,475 passengers.

As is customary, UN Flight held a simple but moving ceremony, presenting the crew with diplomas to honour this milestone event. UN Flight comrades offered their warm congratulations.

"This ceremony was very significant for us," said Lt. Col. Juan Lambezat, OC UN Flight. "It is the culmination of effort, not only of all ARGAIR contingents and the unconditional technical support of our people, but also of the combined effort of all members of UNFICYP who provide us constantly with the necessary support we need to carry out our UN mission. We would like to

thank the MFR personnel, always attentive to security, the fire-fighting team who are always present when we take off and land, and also to all those 'who make us feel at home, even though we are at work'.

"UN Flight has already achieved 10,000 flying hours, but the whole of UNFICYP must be congratulated on this splendid result. We applaud everybody in this peacekeeping team."

At a ceremony on 13 November, UN Flt held a Medal Parade where seven UN Flight members were decorated by the Force Commander with the United Nations peacekeeping medal, whilst nine members received their numerals.

Gen. Ernesto José Prior, Chief of Operations of the Joint Staff in Argentina, accompanied by Gen. Carlos Alberto Moreno, Air Operations

Commander, and Col. Horacio Giagischia, Helicopter Air Force Base Commander arrived from Argentina specifically for the occasion. Gen Prior presented the Chief of Mission and other senior staff with a specially designed plate (see below) commemorating the achievement of 10,000 hours incident-free flying.

After the presentations, a reception was held in the hangar with all guests being invited to enjoy refreshments in the typical warm and friendly Argentinian fashion.



UN Flight members awaiting medal presentation



Gen. Ernesto José Prior inspecting the guard of honour

## ASG Lute's Visit

Assistant Secretary-General Jane Holl Lute was met by the Chief of Mission and escorted to an Honour Guard inspection before attending a senior staff briefing at UNFICYP Headquarters on 16 November 2003.

Ms. Lute was appointed ASG of the Office of Mission Support (OMS), DPKO,



On the Green Line tour

on 1 August 2003, and whilst attending the UN system talks on Iraq in Nicosia, used the opportunity to visit UNFICYP Headquarters and familiarise herself with the mission.

Ms. Lute attended a meeting with administration led by Mr. Jan E. Johansson, Chief Administrative Officer, before setting off on a Green Line Tour with the Chief of Mission, Chief of Staff, Senior Adviser, CAO and CO Sector 2.



ASG Jane Holl Lute (centre) with from left: Philip Davies, Jan Johansson, Joel Cohen, Charles Mix, Thomas Grasberger, Gianni Longo and Sonia Dohman

## "We Did It Our Way"

By Comdr. Geoff Hazel

A song by Frank Sinatra, "I did it my way", springs to mind when we think back on the UNCIVPOL Medal Parade held in the UN Flight hangar on 3 November. It was a medal parade with a difference.

Firstly, the area of the parade was devoid of personnel when the Chief of Mission and Force Commander arrived. They tell me that the General had a rather quizzical look on his face as he entered. After the welcoming speech by the Master of Ceremonies, there was a short period of almost absolute silence, a silence that was soon shattered by the wailing of sirens. When the first siren sounded, the Argentinian Band joined in. Then the purr of finely turned motors was heard and the

medal recipients came into sight in CIVPOL vehicles with blue lights flashing, sirens sounding and even a coat hanger swinging in the window of one vehicle.

After the first drive past, the vehicles came back again in formation and parked across the entrance to hangar. The personnel dismounted and marched into position for the continuation of the medal ceremony in a more orthodox format. Medals and numbers were presented to the members of the 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Australian Contingents and the 11<sup>th</sup> Irish Contingent.

Before the ceremony we had been challenged as to whether we would be trying to hold the shortest parade ever. Our answer was always that we were looking to see if we could hold a ceremony with a difference and one that people would remember. The parade was definitely not the shortest, but then it was not too long either.

The same cannot be said for the reception. With liquid refreshment from the homes of the medal recipients, no one there will forget those Irish coffees, and fine food provided by Sector 2. Everyone was enjoying themselves so much that the reception went just a little – two hours – over the planned time.

To everyone who helped make it such a great day – the Argentinian Band, the Sector 2 Master Chef and his helpers, UN Flight and guests – a very big thank you.



UNCIVPOL UN medal recipients give the salute

# Bonfire Extravaganza

On 5 November, the annual Bonfire Extravaganza took place on the UNPA. The event was organised by the UN Welfare Committee, to celebrate the British Bonfire Night which also included Halloween Celebrations, with all proceeds going to the UN Community Fund.

The evening began at 6.00 pm with the food and drink stalls and HIVE Tent open for all to enjoy. The HIVE entertained the children with "bobbing the apple", "Dunkin Doughnuts" as well as judging the children's fancy dress which was won by Linnea Malmstrom (best dressed girl) and Luciano Tumino (best dressed boy). The HIVE also ran a "lucky dip" draw as well as selling toffee apples, lumi-lights, sparklers and very welcoming cups of hot tea and coffee.

UN Flight ran the BBQ producing delicious burgers, hotdogs and excellent beef rolls, and they were very ably supported by the Hungarian Contingent providing their mouthwatering Hungarian Goulash, rounded off by the British Contingent who ran the drinks tent which included an outstanding Gluwein. There were also local stalls of hot popcorn, candy floss, plus Cypriot sweet delicacies of locoumathes and siamishi.

The bonfire was lit at 7.30 pm, followed shortly afterwards by a spectacular firework display, after which there were childrens musical games, followed by disco music and more Gluwein, which went down a treat.

The committee would like to thank everyone who supported the event, in which over 400 people passed through the gates. The committee would also like to say thank you to everyone who assisted in the setting up and running the event which made the evening such a success.

*Maj. Nick Ravenhill*

# Army Learning Centre – Education for All

In conjunction with an educational organisation in the United Kingdom, the British Army has developed its own network of IT-based learning centres. These have been installed wherever British personnel are based. Cyprus is no exception and two Army Learning Centres have been installed in Nicosia, one in Wolseley Barracks and the other in the UNPA library. Each Centre has a number of computer workstations with Internet connection.

On 9 October, UNFICYP COS, Col. Ian Sinclair, who is also the Commander of the British Contingent, officially opened the Wolseley Barracks Centre. A small



*Chief of Staff Col. Ian Sinclair receiving personal tuition from Andi (left) and Sarah*

ceremony took place where he was given an overview of packages available and met those personnel who play a part in the management and supervision of the package.

Together with the Centres, two "navigators" – Mrs. Sarah Crawford and Mrs. Andi Thompson – have been recruited to introduce, enroll and assist personnel who want to complete one of the many educational courses available via the Internet. The ladies have split their time between the two Centres, providing a total of 40 hours' supervision. There is a whole range of courses, ranging from English language to setting up your own business to a cross-section of IT courses. Most are free, some fee-based.

These facilities are not only available to the British Contingent and their families. All international military personnel serving in UNFICYP and their families may use the Army Learning Centre on the UNPA. In most cases, for non-BRITCON, there will be a charge for the courses, but at a much reduced rate, compared to what is available commercially.

The opening hours for both Centres are published routinely in Sector 2 and with HQ BRITCON, but the best way to find out about what is available is to either ring the library on: 22359317 or stop by and have a chat with either Sarah or Andi.

You can contact either navigator as follows:

**Sarah Crawford: 99967095**

**Andi Thompson: 99461386**

# Mug Out for Departing Friends

Of eight departing members of UNFICYP, seven were "mugged out" on 14 November in the UNPA Officers' Club, having reached the end of their tour. UNFICYP wishes them good health and good luck in their future careers.

*From the left: Supt. Geoff Hobart, Maj. Hewlan Morgan, Lt. Paul Ganuszko, I/Lt. Mariano Quintana, Capt. Mario Corbalan, Capt. Alejandro Vera, Ms. Madeline Garlick*



# Lt. Gen. Dewan Prem Chand

India's Lieutenant General Dewan Prem Chand, who died in India on 3 November 2003 aged 87, was a key figure in the history of this peacekeeping mission.

He commanded UNFICYP between 1969 and 1976. It was Gen. Prem Chand who declared the Nicosia Airport a UN protected area to prevent it from falling into the hands of any of the antagonists.

This was not his only service under the UN flag. He had served previously in the Congo at the time of the Katanga province breakaway in 1962. For that,

he was awarded one of India's highest awards, the Indian Distinguished Service Medal (VSM). After his stint in Cyprus, Chand was recalled from retirement in 1977 to act as the SG's personal observer in the former Rhodesia during the talks to end Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence.

In 1989, at the age of 72, Chand answered the UN's call once more, this time to serve as commander of UNTAG, the UN transitional assistance group for Namibia.



# Pilgrimage to Gallipoli

By Diana Bridger

In early September, AUSTCIVPOL members Supt. Geoff Hobart and Sgts. James Miller, Ian Quirk and Pete Withers accompanied by the Commander UNCIVPOL's PA, Diana Bridger, went on a Battlefield Tour of the ANZAC area of Gallipoli travelling from Istanbul via Beirut. The tour was a pilgrimage for the Australians.

After a five-hour coach journey, the group picked up a very informative local guide in Eceabat on the Gallipoli peninsula. The first stop after driving past the original intended landing area at Brighton Beach was the modern day ANZAC memorial area. Rising behind this are the famous Sphinx Hill and Plugge's Plateau. The idea of climbing either is formidable even today, let alone carrying heavy packs in the face of the decimating ongoing attack which the ANZACs suffered on the original landing day – 25 April 1915.

The tour group walked along the beach from Hell's Spit to the cemetery at ANZAC Cove where Attaturk's famous message to the mothers of the fallen stands in huge letters on a gigantic stone block. From there, they were driven up the ridge to the Australian memorial and cemetery at Lone Pine, where a tree, seeded from a cone of the original pine, stands over the graves.

Johnson's Jolly was the next stop, where the opposing trenches are only a few metres apart. Here, homemade jam-tin grenades were often thrown back and forth several times before exploding. Looking down from Monash and Shrapnel Gullies brought home the harshness of the local countryside. Then it was on past Quinn's Post, the Nek and Baby 700 (which changed hands five times on the first day of fighting) up to Chunuk Bair, where the memorial to the fallen New Zealanders and one to Ataturk stand proudly atop the hill. Once again, the surrounding network of trenches tells what fierce fighting once took place here.

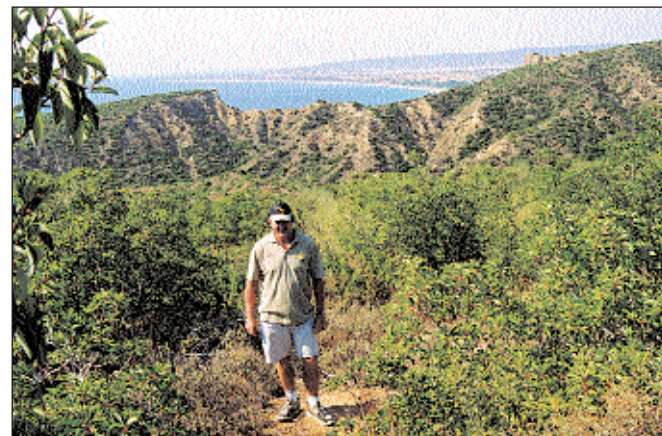
Down the hill the memorial to the 130,000 Turks killed from the gallant 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment proudly stands next to a frieze of Attaturk pointing towards the enemy and stating to his men: "I do not order you to fight. I order you to die."

Although the guided tour took up only an afternoon, and the Helles front and Suvla Bay areas were not visited, the significance of the huge loss of life in such a small area on the Gallipoli battlefields certainly had an emotional and nostalgic impact on each of the group and indeed every other person on the tour. By the end of 1915, in only eight months of battle, the Australians had lost over 8,000 men, the New Zealanders more than 2,000, the French 11,000 and the British 23,000 killed.



The team at the ANZAC Memorial

Next day, while Diana delved into classical ancient history on a tour to Troy, the guys were up at 4.30 am for a dawn return visit to the Gallipoli battlefield areas. From the hotel in Cannakale, they caught the first ferry back across the Narrows at 5.00 am and headed for ANZAC Cove. Here in the darkness, waiting for dawn the shoreline hills did not look too bad, but as the first daylight appeared on the surrounding hills, it revealed to them the formidably horrendous terrain – this stuck home as it was just as the first ANZACs would have themselves witnessed and realised then that they were in for a whole world of trouble that day.



Sgt. Pete Withers with views across Shrapnel and Monash Gullies

The group split up with Pete taking the tougher route up Walker's Ridge on the left hand side of the Sphinx and round onto Plugge's Plateau before heading for Quinn's Post and back down through Monash and Shrapnel Gullies. Geoff, Ian and James headed directly for Plugge's Plateau and descended back via the same famous gullies. Meeting back at ANZAC Cove they all headed up towards their pick up point at Lone Pine via Shell Green, where the famous cricket match caught on camera in 1915 took place.

The ANZAC Gallipoli battlefields have etched themselves into the minds of all five. Had the area not been declared a National Park, the natural beauty of the location is such that a holiday resort would probably now stand there. Thus the historic significance of the area remains much as it was at the time of the campaign and today thankfully remains tranquil and serene. Its peacefulness now belies the horrors that took place there 88 years ago. It is a deeply moving place that provides reflection for all visitors whichever side their ancestors may have fought on. May all the fallen rest in peace and their memory live forever. LEST WE FORGET.

Left: The team at the Australian Memorial at Lone Pine



November 2003 - The Blue Beret

# Cyprus - Remembrance Sunday, 9 November 2003

Yesterday was Remembrance Sunday, the closest thing I have to religion. It's not about the religion itself, though; Christianity, in this case, is simply a tool to propagate the memories. People died, and they shouldn't have had to. A lot of people died who shouldn't have had to. We have a duty to avoid repeating the mistakes that resulted in so many stupid deaths. And for that, as much as for them, we remember.

Yesterday, I attended a service in the War Cemetery at Wayne's Keep. Wreaths were laid, 20 in total. One each by representatives of the 15 different nations present – Britain, the U.S.A., Germany, Finland, Austria, the Republic of Korea, Ireland, Greece, India, Slovakia, Argentina, Belgium, Australia, Poland and the Netherlands.

And, because it was a British ceremony in a British cemetery (with a Zimbabwean priest, and a Korean general, in an island between the Turkish and Greek spheres of influences) there were three wreaths from



the British military, one each from the Royal British Legion, the RAF Association and the Royal Navy Association. And there was one from the United Nations, which was placed first.

Last of all, there was one placed for the Cyprus Regiment, which fought with Britain in the Second World War. Two old, old men walked up to place it together, one from the Turkish north and one from the Greek south. This year, it's 58 years since their war ended. This year, it's exactly half that time since this island was divided.

And afterwards, I walked among the graves awhile. I read the names, one by one. I have a tendency to count obsessively and unconsciously; I always know how many times I've chewed a mouthful of food, how many steps I've taken, how many words I've spoken. It's times like today which are probably the only times I don't count. Because with the graves, I can never count past one.

I read the names one at a time, and it occurred to me today that it really couldn't be any other way. I didn't know any of the people whose graves I read. They all died long before I was born; their names meant – they mean – nothing to me. But one day soon, almost certainly within my lifetime, there probably won't be a single person on the planet to whom they do mean anything. And we will still have to remember.

As I was walking, I heard a friendly, happy voice call out, "There you are, Jock". I turned, and saw an old man coming towards me through the graves, wearing on his face a smile of recognition, as if he was greeting an old and dear friend. For a moment, I thought he had confused me with someone else. Then I realised he was smiling at the headstone beside me.

William Anderson  
Nicosia, 10 November 2003

# Those Who Gave Their Lives For Peace

Two memorials dedicated to United Nations staff killed in the course of their duties were unveiled in New York and Geneva last month. At UN headquarters in New York, the Secretary-General paid tribute to fallen colleagues during the ceremonial unveiling of a memorial on 21 October. The memorial is located in a wooded section of the garden area to the north of the public entry to the General Assembly building.

Funded from the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize award to the United Nations peacekeeping forces, the memorial has as its centrepiece a wall of crystal glass. Inscribed on it in the six official languages of the Organisation are the



Secretary-General Kofi Annan (right) at the unveiling of staff memorial

words, "Remember here those who gave their lives for peace".

Sadly, not long after, the SG was once again denouncing the killing of yet another staff member – that of Ms. Bettina Goislar, an international staff member of the UNHCR, murdered in the city of Ghazni in southern Afghanistan. A national staff member was wounded in the attack.



# Remembrance Sunday

