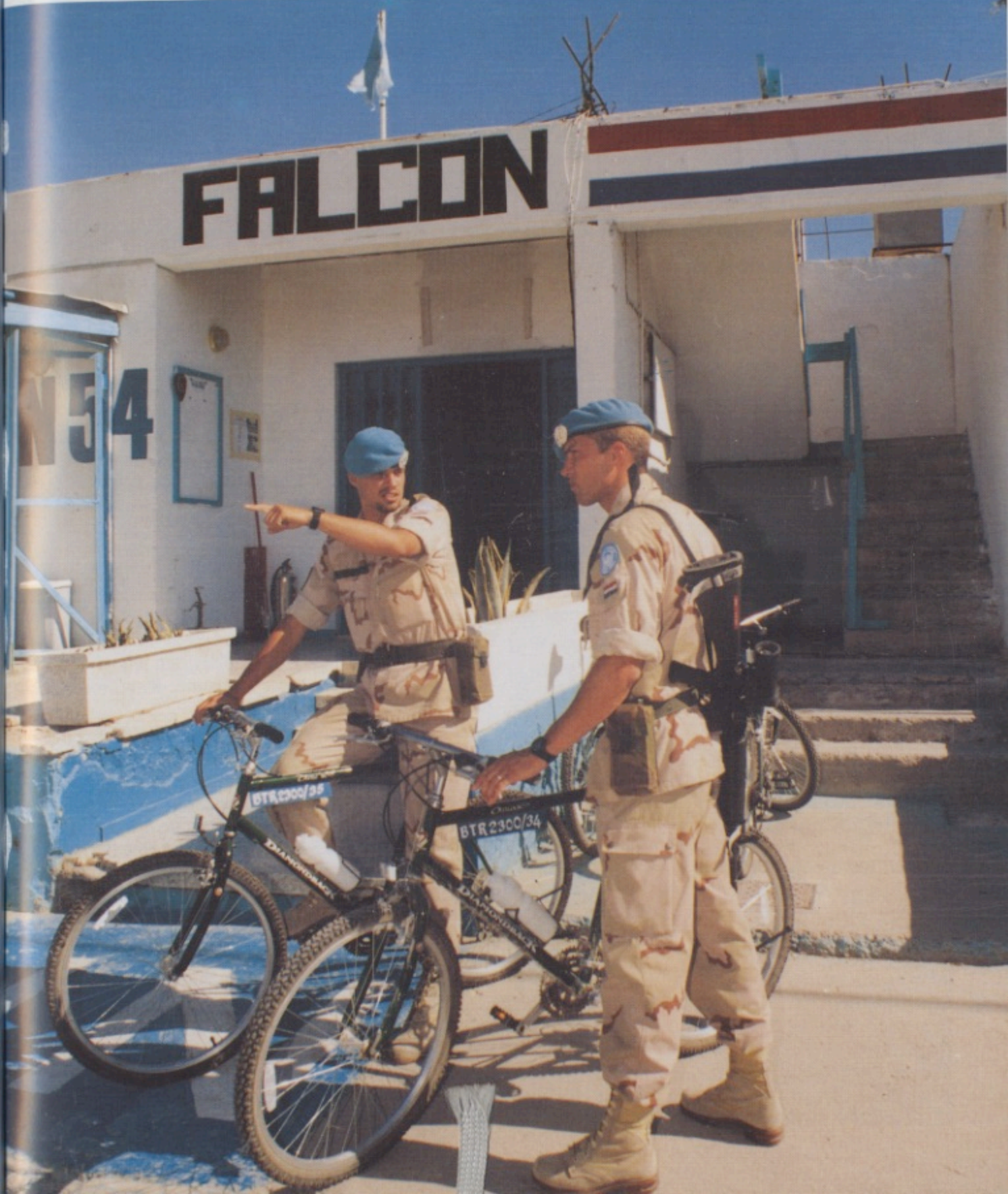


THE Blue Beret

June 1998





DUTCH KING'S COMPANY BECOMES PART OF THE UNFICYP FAMILY



On 9 June 1998, the remaining few of the 100 soldiers who joined the Netherlands detachment within UNFICYP's Sector Two set foot on the island for their six-month tour of duty with the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

For some, this is their first operational mission abroad, however most of the soldiers have served with the UN before. The unit itself, Alfa Company of the Regiment known as the Grenadiers and Foresters Guards (also called the King's Company), secured the Tuzla air base in 1994 during the Bosnia War. The Regiment is one of the three infantry regiments of 11 Airmobile Brigade. This brigade was founded in 1992 as the first part of a major reorganization of the Netherlands Army. Subsequently, it was also the first unit, starting off with the Alfa/King's Company, to be manned with exclusively volunteer soldiers.

Since this major reorganization, national service in The Netherlands ceased to exist. The soldiers of this brigade are considered to be the fittest of the Netherlands Army, and discipline is said to be higher than anywhere else in the forces. Physically, their tasks in Cyprus will not be as demanding as their work as infantrymen, although patrolling on foot and bicycle in the summer will doubtless make up for this.



Major Jos Reijnhout

The senior national officer of the contingent, Major Jos Reijnhout, looks positively towards serving with UNFICYP. "I hope and expect that we shall be integrated within the UNFICYP family soon, and that we shall contribute to a stable situation on this beautiful but sadly divided island. The Dutch soldiers have been most fastidious in their preparations to work together with 19 Regiment Royal Artillery. I am not exaggerating when I state that the integration within 'the 19th' is already complete. That is logical. Professional soldiers communicate at the same level about the same

subjects: their goals and missions. And these are clear! Our goal is to win the hearts and minds of both the opposing forces, our mission is to serve the peace in Cyprus. We intend to achieve this by acting in a firm, fair and friendly manner."



Captain Harm van der Have

Captain Harm van der Have, the ever-smiling officer commanding of King's Company, is proud to introduce his company to his blue beret colleagues. "Yes, the King's Company is a unit I am proud to be the commander of", he says. "The name 'King's Company' has an historical background. Whenever a future Dutch King joined the army, he started off as a platoon commander within the Alfa Company of the 11th Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. Since we've had three Queens in succession reigning over The Netherlands, it has been a long time since we've had royal blood within our Regiment. And I personally am sorry that Prince Willem Alexander, our future King, joined the Navy instead of the Army!"

Major Reijnhout and his men are well aware of the opportunities serving with a multinational organization has to offer. "My grenadiers and I are looking forward to meeting colleagues from other countries, and to learn how they deal with our common challenges. In particular, the Dutch troop participating in the Mobile Force Reserve will have the opportunity to work in a deeply integrated multinational force. However, I am sure that the Dutch soldiers in Liri Troop and Falcon Troop will also make good contacts, not only with their comrades in arms, but also with both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parties. After all, these are the people we are working for. Dutchmen are traditionally used to communicating with other nationalities and have, over the years, developed good negotiating skills. I hope these skills will assist us in fulfilling our mission in Cyprus."

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The Blue Beret is the journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

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FRONT COVER:

DUTCH SOLDIERS ON PATROL

PHOTOGRAPH BY
CPL PAT O'MEARA

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The numerical strength and national composition of UNFICYP has varied over the years since the inception of the Force from 6,411 all ranks in 1964 down to below 1,000 in 1993, stretching the Force beyond its limits and endangering UNFICYP's fulfilment of the mandate. Shortly afterwards, the Force's numerical strength reached a level slightly above 1,200 all ranks, and has remained stable since then. The national composition of the Force has differed during these years as well. Some time ago we bade farewell to New Zealanders, Swedes and Danes, and more recently we welcomed Argentinians, Hungarians and Slovenians. This month, yet another national flag was raised with the arrival of the Dutch officers and soldiers, and in this edition, The Blue Beret introduces the new Unit (see opposite). Their professionalism, discipline and thorough knowledge of English has already been recognized and appreciated by us all. Good luck and keep up the good work!

Arrivals are always pleasant, and departures rather sad. This is the nature of every UN peace-keeping or observer mission around the world. It is with this feeling of sadness that we bid farewell to the outgoing Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, who retired at the end of June. We hope that readers will find his last interview with The Blue Beret both interesting and informative. All the best to you both, Gus and Sharon, wherever you are and whatever you do!

CONTENTS

Dutch King's Company Becomes Part of the UNFICYP Family	2
Editorial/Contents	3
Interview with Mr Gustave Feissel	4/5
19 Regt RA Deploy to Sector Two	6
New CO Sector Two/ Bosnia UNMOs Work Together in Sector Two	7
A Brief Encounter with the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part XXI - The Monastery at Ayia Napa	8/9
Canadian Soldier Remembered/MA to FC	10
Change of CHO/New CHO/New OC UN Flt	11
Training in Sector Four/The Austrian Sports Club (ASC) ...	12
The AUSCON-Hilton/ Tasks of the Engineer Platoon in Sector Four	13
Medal Awards in Sector One/ Uniform of 1 st Infantry Regiment "Patricios"	14
Pit Your Wits/UNPA Charity Swimming Gala Night	15
Departure of Mr Gustave Feissel	16

INTERVIEW

MR GUSTAVE FEISSEL, the Chief of Mission of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus since 1993, talks to THE BLUE BERET in an exclusive interview about his assignment in Cyprus.



Q. Tell us about your career with the United Nations.

A. I joined the United Nations in 1963 as I was completing my doctoral studies in political science. Given my interest in international relations, the United Nations was an obvious direction for me to take. I was recruited by the United Nations in October 1963 at the entry level for professionals, and eventually, over the 35 years that I have been with the United Nations, I rose to the level of Assistant Secretary-General. During this time, I had been fortunate to have been selected for a number of key positions that exposed me to both political and economic problems of a global dimension. For the first 20 years of my career with the United Nations, I was intimately involved in economic development issues and, since 1984, I have been involved in preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and peace-keeping activities.

Q. What was your first important assignment?

A. My first important assignment came in 1969, when I became the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary-General in charge of the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The Under Secretary-General had under him a department of over 1,000 staff and I was in charge of his Office. The department covered a wide range of economic and social sectors such as development policies, natural resources and

energy, science and technology, habitat and population. In 1972, I was given the additional responsibility of project manager of a major exercise on the impact of multinational corporations on development which launched the involvement of the UN in the important area of transnational corporations and foreign investment, and which led to the establishment of the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations in 1975, which I joined at its inception as an Associate Director.

Another major assignment in my career came in 1984 when I was asked by Sir Bryan Urquhart to join the Department of Special Political Affairs as one of the Directors. That Department comprised a very small number of staff who worked directly with the Secretary-General on peace-making and peace-keeping. This is where my exposure to Cyprus began.

Q. What do you think is the future for peace-keeping operations?

A. The United Nations is uniquely placed to deal with peace-keeping matters. Unlike national governments, it has no self interests and thus is well placed to be perceived as impartial in dealing with conflicts. Of course, one must remember that the United Nations is first and foremost a collection of states, and therefore, its effectiveness depends to an important extent on the support and commitment of member states.

Q. What you consider is the perception of local people regarding UNFICYP's presence in Cyprus?

A. While many people in Cyprus may be disappointed that the United Nations has not yet succeeded in helping the two communities resolve the Cyprus problem, I believe that most recognize that the United Nations activities in Cyprus have been carried out in a fair manner. They appreciate the dedication with which the military and civilian staff have carried out their functions in Cyprus over these many years.

Q. What do you think are the qualities that make a good mediator in a dispute such as in the case of Cyprus?

A. In considering the attributes of a good UN mediator, one must keep in mind both the strength and limitations of the United Nations. As I mentioned earlier, a unique strength of the United Nations is that it has no vested interest. Its sole purpose is to serve, to assist parties to a conflict in overcoming their differences. This is a most unique attribute which should not be underestimated.

On the other hand, the United Nations does not possess some of the features which are associated with states, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council. A successful mediator must have the full confidence of both parties. Therefore, he must be totally honest, deal with both sides in exactly the same manner, be even-handed. This, of course, does not mean that he should not be critical of the positions of one side or the other when cooperation is not forthcoming in the manner that it is deemed necessary. My experience has shown that even if one is sometimes critical of the positions of one side or the other, if one is perceived to be honest and even-handed, one gains the respect of both sides and one can deal with them in an effective manner.

I am proud that after having been involved with the Cyprus problem for 14 years, I have gained and maintained the confidence of the two leaders and their communities.

Q. How would you describe your contribution to the efforts of a peace settlement in Cyprus?

A. Even though the Cyprus problem has not yet been resolved, one should not underestimate the significant contribution made by the United Nations. During the 34 years that the UN has been here, they have played a significant part, both in maintaining a peace-keeping operation as well as in assisting the two sides to deal with their differences. While a settlement has not yet

been achieved, the peace-keeping operation in Cyprus has been very effective in, so to speak, keeping the lid on the problem and providing the time to interested parties to work on a settlement.

Q. What changes marked your five-year assignment in Cyprus?

A. The fact that over the five years that I've been here we have not succeeded in resolving the Cyprus problem is, of course, disappointing. The passage of time makes things more difficult. This underlines the need for all concerned to redouble their efforts and to work more urgently than ever to overcome their differences and achieve an overall settlement, which I remain convinced is possible.

It is wrong to think that there is a status quo in Cyprus. The situation is continuously changing. There is, thus, the risk that sooner than later, the Cyprus problem can reach a point of no return.

The recent experience in Northern Ireland, I believe, provides a good example of what must happen in Cyprus. Just as in Northern Ireland, the two communities in Cyprus must realize that the only way a settlement can be reached is through compromise, through give-and-take. If one or the other side insists that its position is the only way an agreement can be reached, obviously this will preclude progress. Furthermore, we have seen in Northern Ireland that their equivalent of the parent countries, that is the UK and the Republic of Ireland, became actively involved in support of a moderate approach, in support of compromise and give-and-take. This has yet to happen in Cyprus. It is indispensable that Turkey and Greece become actively involved in promoting a settlement through compromise and give-and-take. If these two elements come about in Cyprus, that is to say a willingness by the parties on the island to compromise and give-and-take, and the active support of that approach by Turkey and Greece, a solution will come to Cyprus very quickly.

Q. Is there a message you wish to convey to the members of UNFICYP?

A. My message to both the military and civilian staff of UNFICYP is that it has been a rare privilege for me to have been the first Chief of Mission of the UN Operation in Cyprus. In that capacity, I have come to appreciate very much the dedication of the military and civilian staff and their devotion to the goals of the United Nations in Cyprus. I want to thank them for all the support they have given me for a job well done, and I wish them all the very best in the future.

19TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY DEPLOY TO SECTOR TWO

19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Highland Gunners), under Lieutenant Colonel Mike Relph, has deployed from its home in Colchester to take over from 1st Royal Tank Regiment as the Sector Two Regiment.



A Steyr and gun of the Regiment underslung beneath a Chinook helicopter in their airmobile role

19th Regiment Royal Artillery has completed a busy training year as part of 24 Airmob Bde and the Multinational Division (Central) with their Light Guns being exercised in the UK, USA and Australia. Currently, there are members of the Regiment on operations in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Georgia and, of course, Cyprus.

The Regiment has three Gun Batteries and one HQ Battery being in seniority, 19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783), 28/143 (Tombs Troop), 25/170 (Imjin), 13 (Martinique 1809). They have deployed to Line Battery West, the Mobile Force Reserve and Line Battery East respectively, with 13(HQ) Bty providing the Headquarters and Logistic support.

The Regiment has been reinforced by 97 soldiers from the Royal Netherlands Army, Grenadier Guards. The men, from King's Company, will be totally integrated with their British counterparts, and will make Sector Two truly multinational.

The Regiment came into existence in 1947 during post-war reorganisation of the Army.

Since then, the Regiment has had its batteries deployed on operations in Korea, Aden, Northern Ireland and Belize, and most recently in Bosnia. The Regiment has also served in Austria, Hong Kong and Germany.

The Regiment's equipment during this time has been varied. It was initially equipped with 5.5" Howitzers that were eventually replaced by 25 pounders. During the Korean War, however, 25 Bty were also equipped with 4.2" Mortars and operated this weapon with distinction during the conflict.

In the 1960's, the 105mm Pack Howitzer was introduced, and this versatile gun was used extensively in Aden and for the Regiment's role with the AMF(L) in Norway. In more recent times, the Regiment has been equipped with the Abbot 105mm self propelled gun for its role in what was BAOR, the 155mm towed FH 70 and is today equipped with the 105mm Light Gun. This is the "Little Brother" of current British Artillery pieces, but its effectiveness and reliability are well proven.

The Regiment is today part of 24 Airmobile Brigade and NATO's Multinational Division (Central). As the only British airmobile artillery, its primary function is to provide support to the Brigade's airmobile battle groups, but its flexibility and unique utility on the modern battlefield means that it could be called upon to support any of the national contingents in the division.

The Regiment actively cultivates its Scottish links manifest in its well respected "Red Hackle Band" and the wearing of the Regimental Tartan, the Robertson Hunting Tartan by the Regimental officers on formal occasions. The Regiment actively recruits in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and is rightly proud to be known as the Highland Gunners.



A gun of the Regiment firing during Operation Deliberate Force in Bosnia in 1995

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER SECTOR TWO LIEUTENANT COLONEL M D RELPH MBE RA - CO 19 REGT RA

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Relph was born in May 1957.

He joined the Army in 1979, after a career in banking and the Territorial Army, and was posted to 45 Field Regt Royal Artillery. He returned to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and was subsequently commis-



sioned into the Royal Artillery to start his Regular Army career as a Field Gunner with 49 Fd Regt RA in Germany. After a brief period within HQ UK Land Forces, he was selected to attend the Staff College at Camberley. He served as Deputy

Chief of Staff within HQ 24 Airmob Bde and remained in the airmobile role to command a Light Gun battery in 19 Regt RA, serving on exercises in UK, Canada and Belize.

Lieutenant Colonel Relph has most recently been employed in MOD UK as MA to the Surgeon General. He returned to 19 Regiment Royal Artillery (The Highland Gunners) to assume command on 14 October 1996.

He enjoys outdoor pursuits, specifically orienteering and rambling, and is a very keen runner. He is married to Pat, who works in higher education, and they have two daughters, Victoria (13) and Georgina (10).

BOSNIA UNMOs WORK TOGETHER IN SECTOR TWO

Two former UNPROFOR United Nations Military Observers, UNMOs, both of whom served in the Eastern enclaves in Bosnia during the winter of 1994-95, are now working together again in UNFICYP with BRITCON in Sector Two.

Major Jos Reijnhout, 44, of the Dutch 11th Airmobile Infantry Battalion, Garde Grenadiers, now the Dutch Executive Officer (XO), was the UNMO Team Leader in the mountainous Bosnian Enclave of Zepa from Aug 94 to Feb 95. Major Gary Donaldson, 40, now Second in Command of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery, was the UNMO Team Leader in the Enclave of Srebrenica from Sep 94 to Mar 95. Although the two officers never met during their time with UNPROFOR, their shared experiences have provided them with a mutual understanding of UN operations even in the most extreme situations.

For Major Donaldson, married with two small children and based in Colchester, this present tour of duty in Cyprus allows him a further opportunity to work with Dutch soldiers. DUTCHBAT were the UNPROFOR battalion in Srebrenica and, as part of this deployment, there are 97 men from the Netherlands Garde Grenadiers serving in BRITCON. He says: "I worked extensively with the Dutch 12th Airmobile Battalion, the Garde Jagers, in Bosnia and found them to be excellent soldiers who were very well led. The Bosnian Enclaves, the 'UN Safe Areas', were exceptional places and all those who served in them have a common bond forged in difficult and dangerous circumstances".

Major Reijnhout, who is married with four daughters and lives on a farm at Nijeveen in the North of Holland, agrees. "I know you should never compare one UN mission with another, but former experience still gives you advantage. In Bosnia, I used to work with several British UNMOs in sector Sarajevo, reliable officers who were always prepared to pick up their share of the sometimes heavy load."

The Bosnian experience is also shared by some of the older soldiers, NCOs and officers both British and Dutch. 19th Regiment Royal Artillery, deployed their guns onto Mt Igman in 1995 and helped UNPROFOR to break the siege of Sarajevo. A 'King's Company' of Garde Grenadiers served with UNPROFOR at Tuzla Airbase and Sedrenic. Individuals of 19 Regt RA and A 'Kings Company' have also subsequently served with IFOR and SFOR.



Maj Reijnhout (left) and Maj Donaldson

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

Situated on a scarp in the right arm of the bay between Cape Pyla and Cape Greco in south-eastern Cyprus is Ayia Napa. In recent years, this village has replaced Famagusta as the island's most popular summer destination.

Next to the central square in the old part of the village lies a rather Italian Renaissance-style Monastery. Its cloistered walls form an irregular quadrangle "fortress" that protected the Church of Our Lady of Ayia Napa from pirates. The Church was built to honour an icon which was discovered here in a grotto amidst a thickly wooded glen during the 11th century.

The secluded gardens and fountains of this monastic establishment offer the weary tourist a cool, green and peaceful haven amidst the noisy tavernas, cafeterias and shops of the resort.

The Church was built in the 14th century in the Frankish period of Cyprus (1192 to 1489), while the Monastery is dated to the 15th century. Evidence shows that it was refurbished in 1530 during the Venetian period (1489-1570/1).

Abandoned early in the last century, the Monastery was reconstructed in the 1960s, and is now used by the delegates of the Conferences of the World Council of Churches.

HISTORY

The origins of the Church of Our Lady of Ayia (Saint) Napa (wooded glen) were lost in the passing of time. The earliest documentation on it are two references by a Cypriot chronicler, *Leontios Machaeras*, dated 1366 and 1373. This information is corroborated by archeology. As for the Monastery, it appears on Venetian maps and other post-Frankish documents. In addition, there are also two legends on Ayia Napa's foundation.

Thus we learn that in the 11th century AD, a hunter, looking for his errant dog in the then wooded valley where the Monastery now stands, discovered his animal in a grotto. When he entered it, he was affronted with a floodlight which surrounded an icon of the Virgin Mary. The icon had probably been hidden there by some faithful who wanted to protect it from the hands of the Iconoclasts.

It is an historical fact that during the 8th and 9th centuries, the world of the Byzantine empire was shaken by the iconoclastic controversy whereby a "war" was declared on the icons by their enemies in a bid to destroy the belief held by the peasantry that icons were miracle-workers. Many an important icon was then destroyed, especially in major cities of Byzantium, thus depriving Byzantine art of some of its most exquisite examples. As Cyprus was at some distance from the Metropolis, Constantinople, the

Cypriot icons were more or less spared.

A second legend relates how the Monastery was refurbished in 1500 AD by a noble Venetian lady from Famagusta, who took refuge here from her family's pressure on her to marry a nobleman. She probably built the two-storey house by the northern entrance and the domed fountain in the centre of the courtyard.

Some very interesting reading on Ayia Napa is provided by *Pietro della Valle*, who stayed at the Monastery for four days in September 1625. He wrote about his experiences at this "place noted for its sacred character and natural beauty" which was run by nuns. He says that "the rooms were full of people, men and women, Greek Christians with a few Turks among them, all playing, dancing, drinking, amusing themselves, and we amused ourselves likewise".

Another interesting piece of information by him is that his friends ate "beccafichi," (blackcaps and other warblers), or "sylvia atricapilla" in Latin, known in Greek as "ambelouliou". The method

by which these birds were captured was by use of nets or sticks covered with glue from a tree known in Latin as "*cordia myxa*". It was in use from ancient times through the Venetian period until recently, when it was made illegal by the Cyprus Government. These "beccafichi" continued to be exported to Venice as delicacies, even after their loss of Cyprus.

During its long history, Ayia Napa served the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, both as a Monastery and as a Nunnery. It was abandoned early in the 19th century for unknown reasons, and its vast land properties were hired out to farmers, who came to settle in the area and enlarged the homonymous fishing village, turned nowadays into a thriving summer resort.



The Church of Our Lady of Ayia Napa

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF AYIA NAPA

DESCRIPTION

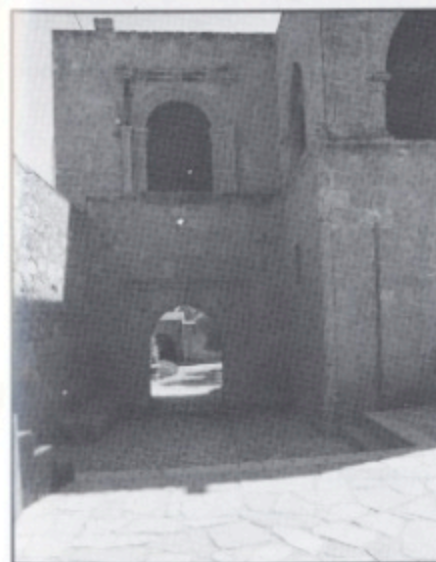
The Church is situated on the north-western side of the perimeter of the Monastery. It is close to the rock which was partly cut into in order to contain it.

Over the southern entrance door is a rather beautiful fanlight rose window - reminiscent of Byzantium - which lights up the split-level nave. The barrel-shaped roof, the western wall and the part of the northern wall above the two open arched doorways, which lead to the subterranean end of the Church, are not plastered, thereby allowing the regularly-shaped blocks to be seen.

A set of steps behind these open doorways leads down to the subterranean part of the Church, i.e. the original grotto where the wonder-working icon of the Virgin Mary was found.

This icon, now covered by a relief-decorated bronze cover, is a 1962 donation by a family from Famagusta. It hangs on the wall on the right of the screen which is in front of the apse. The irregular roof of the grotto is plastered throughout. Natural light is provided by means of a beehive-type of roof window.

In the northernmost end of the grotto is a tap from which holy source water is provided to the faithful. A staircase leads up to a third door.



The northern entrance

Parallel to the upper part of the Church is the Catholic chapel which is entered by way of arched openings on the eastern wall of the nave. The walls of the chapel bear signs of fresco paintings. Some crowned heads can be discerned. The roof is barrel-shaped and is reinforced by columns attached to the walls. An oblong window is found on the southern wall.

In addition to the screen in the grotto, icons are also found in other parts of the Church, especially along the western wall of the nave.

ENTRANCES

The main entrance of the Monastery lies on the southern side. It consists of three rooms which form arcaded patios looking towards the courtyard. The roof of these rooms is semi-circular going from east to west. The western room of this entrance connects through a door to a neighbouring oblong room. The masonry is solid but deprived of any decoration.

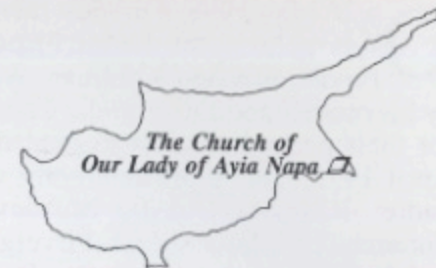
Unlike the southern entrance, the northern entrance, and particularly the adjacent two-storey house, is more elaborately decorated. The windows have purely Renaissance elements which have partly disappeared during the course of this century. The upper front room facing outwards is fronted by a covered arcaded verandah. As for the gateway itself, it is decorated with effaced escutcheons on either side of the rectangular frame above it.

A small covered fountain with a white marble boar's head is found inside, close to the gate.

THE DOMED FOUNTAIN-HOUSE



Domed fountain



This is situated in the centre of the courtyard inside the Monastery walls. It consists of an octagonal fountain basin decorated with large garlands. Above each garland there are reliefs depicting different items which in clockwise order are: vase with flowers, female head with side-extended hairstyle, flowers, crowned bearded head, blank, animals (probably a lion devouring a deer), flowers, female head. Some spaces beneath the joints of the garlands are decorated with angels or cupids.

The fountain, probably also erected by the same Venetian lady who refurbished the Monastery - if we accept that the heads on the fountain are those of her parents and herself - is housed in an open, arcaded, domed building with inside parapets providing seats.

LARGE CISTERN WITH OVERHANGING SYCAMORE TREE



Giant sycamore in front of southern gate

A large cistern outside the southern gate is overshadowed by one of the most ancient massive trees of Cyprus. It is a "*ficus sycomorus*" mulberry fig-tree, commonly known as a sycamore tree, and is a native of Ethiopia. It was planted here 700 years ago, during the Frankish period (1192-1489).

CANADIAN SOLDIER REMEMBERED



On 26 May 1998, a modest memorial ceremony was held at the Ledra Palace in honour of Private Stephen Kohlman. A wreath was laid by his mother and father at the Canadian monument for their peace-keeper who died in Cyprus on 11 April 1975. The short ceremony was attended by Padre Richard Dunstan-Meadows, the Force Commander, Major-General Evergisto de Vergara, and the Military Assistant to the Force Commander, Captain Eric Pellicano. Headquarters Sector Two provided an excellent guard of honour, and a piper performed a very touching lament in his honour.

Private Kohlman served with the First Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment, deployed in Sector Three. On the night of 8 April 1975, he was returning from Louroujina Camp to his section



Mr and Mrs Kohlman shaking hands with the Force Commander and Capt Eric Pellicano of the Canadian Forces

observation post at Pyroi. While negotiating a turn at an intersection, the jeep he was travelling in struck a pothole and he was thrown out the back. He suffered a fractured skull, and lapsed into unconsciousness. He was evacuated to the British Medical Hospital in Dhekelia to undergo surgery. Sadly, 19-year-old Stephen never regained consciousness and he died in his sleep.

A memorial service was held for Private Kohlman at the Paphos Gate Church which was attended by soldiers and officers from the Canadian Contingent. The memorial erected at the Ledra Palace bears the following inscription:

In Memory of Pte Kohlman S.J.

1 RCR

Who died in the Service of Peace

11 Apr 75



The memorial at the Ledra Palace

MILITARY ASSISTANT TO FORCE COMMANDER

On 5 February 1998, Commandant George Kerton handed over the post of MA to FC to Captain Eric Pellicano.

Captain Pellicano joined the Canadian Forces in 1988 as an infantryman and was commissioned from the ranks in 1994. He served as a mechanized infantry platoon commander in the Former Yugoslavia in 1996. He has held other posts such as



Combat Shooting Team Captain, Biathlon Team Captain, Sniper Course Officer and Battalion Training Officer. He is a military parachutist and has attended the Jamaica Junior Command and Staff College.

Captain Pellicano is accompanied by his wife, Angela. An avid outdoorsman, he takes part in most sports, and is enjoying his year-long tour in Cyprus.

CHANGE OF CHIEF HUMANITARIAN OFFICER

It was with some sadness that we bade farewell to Lt Col Jorge Tisi Baña, who left his post as CHO and departed to Argentina on 9 July after a successful two-year tour with UNFICYP. He has filled this most important and sensitive of posts during a period when, particularly over the last 12 months, the situation in Cyprus has been such that humanitarian matters have not always received the priority they deserve, and have been correspondingly more difficult to tackle than is usually the case.

Lt Col Tisi Baña was well-known, within UNFICYP and without, as a very kind, patient and dedicated man whose determination to help improve the lives of Cypriots, across the island, has

been relentless. He has worked tirelessly, day and night, to secure the very best deal for those disadvantaged members of Cypriot society who look to UNFICYP for help. In this task, his full blooded commitment and unique personal touch will be sorely missed by many, not only staff and colleagues in the Force, but also by the two key high level Cypriot humanitarian representatives, Dr Takis Christopoulos and Mr Asim Altioik. He leaves with their immense gratitude and with all our good wishes to he, Marcela and the family, for the future.

His successor, Lt Col Eduardo Cundins, joins us from Buenos Aires and will also occupy the Chief Humanitarian Officer's post for two years.



Lt Col Tisi Baña (left) handing over to Lt Col Cundins in HQ UNFICYP's Humanitarian Branch

NEW CHIEF HUMANITARIAN OFFICER

Lt Col Eduardo Horacio Cundins was born in Buenos Aires on 23 September 1954.

Between 1968 and 1971, Lt Col Cundins attended the Military High School (Liceo). He later joined the Military Academy, and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant (Cavalry) with honours. He was subsequently posted to the 1st Tank Regiment, NCO School, Female Professional Corps School and the Military Academy. In 1989, he graduated from the Command and Staff College as a General Staff Officer. As such, he served with the VIII Mountain Brigade, 2ic 6th Cavalry Regiment (School Regiment) and was ultimately posted as an Instructor at the Command and Staff College.

His other appointments included a one-year commission with the Naval Academy, where he served on the frigate "Libertad" in 1976. Between 1991 and 1992

he served as a UN Observer with MINURSO in the Western Sahara, and finally as Battalion Commander for the Peace-keeping Operations '97 exercise in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has since been awarded with decorations from Chile, Colombia, Brazil and Spain.

In 1980, Lt Col Cundins married Marisa, a PR consultant, and they have three boys: Martin (16), Frederico (14), and the baby (and "boss") of the family, Tomas (2½).

His favourite sports are skiing and polo.



NEW OC UN FLIGHT

On 11 May 1998, Maj Victor Nuñez handed over the post of OC UN Flight to Maj Alejandro Vergara.

Maj Vergara joined the Military Air Force Academy in 1978, and since then, he has held the post of academic instructor in the Air Force Academy. He has also taken part in several courses, including overflights of the jungle (Brazil), the Sea Survivor's



course (Argentina), Public Relations, International Human Rights and others. He has been honoured with three national decorations.

Maj Vergara and his wife Silvia Mabel Amato have three daughters: Maria de la Paz (13), Maria Laura (10) and Maria Cecilia (8). His wife will join him later in his tour.