

THE Blue Beret

September 1997





IN MEMORIAM

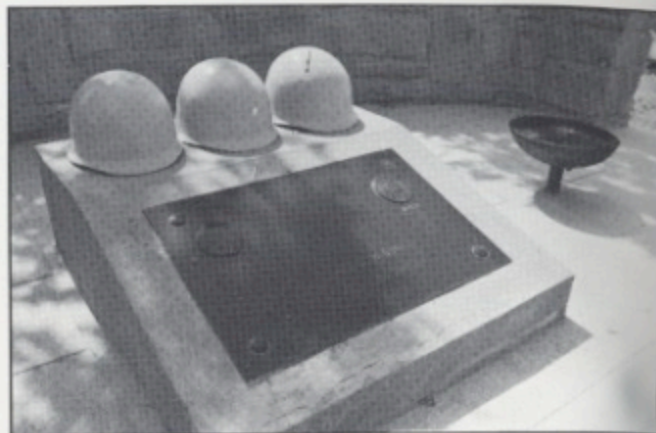


1/Lt Johann Izay, MSgt Paul Decombe, Cpl August Isak

On 14 August 1974 at 1055 hrs, Lt Izay received orders to attend negotiations between the two opposing parties to stop further conflict in his area of responsibility. At 1410 hrs, following the unsuccessful negotiations, Lt Izay, together with MSgt Decombe, Cpl Isak and L/Cpl Sattlecker, started on the road back to Lamaca in their vehicle. Their orders were to observe the opposing forces from a secure distance, and be ready to return to the negotiating table when ordered by HQ.

They were on open ground approximately 1 km from Goshi, when they were attacked by Turkish Forces fighter planes using 20 mm board cannons and napalm bombs. Running for cover, Lt Izay, MSgt Decombe and Cpl Isak headed for some nearby trees while L/Cpl Sattlecker took cover behind a rock. Suddenly, L/Cpl Sattlecker heard an explosion. Turning round, he found his comrades lying on the ground, burning from napalm. L/Cpl Sattlecker provided a full report of the incident to his superiors at UNFICYP HQ.

In accordance with UN rules, the vehicle the Austrian soldiers were travelling in was painted white with the UN crest on both doors. A UN flag measuring 3 ft x 5 ft was flying from the vehicle.



The dead are only they who are forgotten

All four soldiers wore blue helmets, clearly identifying them as members of UNFICYP.

Every year, the Austrian Contingent commemorates this tragic event at the Goshi Memorial, situated only a few metres from the original site, by a guard of honour and a wreath-laying ceremony.

HQ 1 Coy Athienou is named after Lt Izay, and the UN Medical Centre in Athienou was named after Cpl Isak.

KLEOPATRA RETURNS TO KYRENIA

Kleopatra, an elderly Greek Cypriot lady who lives in Kyrenia, had recently been ill and spent a short time in the Nicosia General Hospital. She was escorted by Sector Two personnel to and from the hospital in the southern part of Nicosia.



Kleopatra (second right) with Sgt Mike Hawthorn from AUSTCIVPOL (left), Ms Sarah Sharpe (second left) and WOII Taff Gill from Sector Two



Kleopatra (left) with her Turkish Cypriot friend

Kleopatra has always lived in the northern part of Cyprus, and has a very good Turkish Cypriot friend who regularly visits her (see above). Personnel from Sector Two and AUSTCIVPOL, together with Ms Sarah Sharpe from the HQ UNFICYP Humanitarian Branch, also visit them both weekly, and always find them in good spirits and very cheerful.

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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:

MEMORIAL SERVICE IN SECTOR FOUR

PHOTO BY
SGT CHRIS HOLZKNECHT

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

As we move away from the hot, Cyprus summer into the cooler months of autumn, one may say with relief that this year, the preventive diplomacy, the peace-keeping efforts by UNFICYP personnel, and the will and co-operation of both sides have helped to avoid a recurrence of the regretful, tragic incidents experienced on the island a year ago.

Efforts towards peace involve a variety of activities. Building up trust and confidence, through better knowledge and understanding of the other community, is one of the most important aspects of UNFICYP's daily functions on this divided island. You must have noticed that the United Nations, various embassies, and organizations and individuals from both sides across the divide, are actively engaged in sponsoring, supporting and arranging a growing number of bi-communal events, both in the Buffer Zone and outside. This enables Greek and Turkish Cypriots to meet each other, to talk and exchange opinions, and to avoid falling into the trap of hostile propaganda. Through such activities, the people of both communities of Cyprus show that the majority of Greek and Turkish Cypriots want to and can live together in a federal Cyprus. They thus help prepare the ground and facilitate peace-making efforts.

Virtually every month, The Blue Beret reflects one or more of these events, two of which are covered in this issue. More articles will be appearing in forthcoming editions. **Together** in peace and mutual respect is the word!

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AUSTCIVPOL'S BI-COMMUNAL BARBEQUE

On 3 August 1997, members of AUSTCIVPOL hosted a bi-communal barbeque for Australians of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot origin. The event, held at the Kangaroo Club, was attended by 31 Turkish Cypriots and 15 Greek Cypriots.

The function was attended by the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr John Sullivan, and High Commission staff.

Australia has one of the largest Cypriot populations outside Cyprus, and all who attended have lived there at one time or another. Members of AUSTCIVPOL, whose duties include dealing with civilians within the Buffer Zone, are fortunate to have the confidence and respect of members of both communities.

Almost every Cypriot we deal with has some relative or friend in Australia and is only too happy to talk about their favourite "footy" team, their cousin in Melbourne or their own experiences in Australia. Very often, this provides an "ice breaker" when dealing with a situation where emotions run high.

For AUSTCIVPOL, the highlight of the evening was seeing young Greek and Turkish Cypriots, who had

never met anybody from the "other side", exchanging addresses and telephone numbers, promising to keep in touch by whatever means possible. Since that evening, several have written to each other through the mail exchange service provided at the Ledra Palace Checkpoint.

All who participated had an enjoyable evening, and when it was time to load up the buses and send everybody home, there were many requests for another function to be held in the not-too-distant future.



Cypriots enjoying themselves at the bi-communal barbeque

VISIT BY THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

On 6 and 7 September, the Premier of NSW, the Honourable Bob Carr, MP, visited Cyprus. New South Wales, the first state settled in Australia, is known as the Premier State.

Mr Carr's visit was at the invitation of the Cyprus House of Representatives, and included tours of the Green Line and the streets of old Nicosia. Meetings took place with the President of the House of Representatives, the Government Spokesman, the Mayor of Famagusta and the Mayor of Larnaka. He also visited the area of Dherynia.

Mr Carr met with members of AUSTCIVPOL when attending a briefing on the Contingent's role in UNFICYP. Following this, he and Contingent members travelled to the Troodos area for a lunch hosted by the Australian Cypriot Association.



Mr Carr (centre) in Platania with Cypriots from Australia

TRAINING IN SECTOR ONE

DEMONSTRATIONS

Every year, July and August are recognised as the hottest months, both weather-wise and also as regards demonstrations and celebrations. Most planned events are notified in advance through the network of the Humanitarian Branch, AUSTCIVPOL, Ops Branch and companies and personnel at the OPs who keep in touch with the people of the villages from both sides.

It is UNFICYP's responsibility to ensure the integrity of the Buffer Zone at all times. With this in mind, precautionary measures were taken to avoid a recurrence of last August's tragic events, and to ensure that the Force would be in complete control of any incident which may arise.

On 27 July, it was announced by the Philia Refugees Association that a petition would be presented to Sector One. Thus, personnel from Sector One, the Permanent Force Reserve, AUSTCIVPOL and CYPOL were deployed in the Peristerona River Bed area where the demonstrators approached and handed the petition to



The peaceful demonstrators from the Philia Refugee Association, after they had delivered the petition

Commander Sector One, requesting permission to cross the Buffer Zone towards Philia. The request was denied.

Fortunately, due to the diplomatic and professional methods used by Sector One personnel, the situation remained under control. However, this event was a real test of all the training undergone beforehand. Personnel were made aware of the situation at all times by the use of helicopter, vehicle and foot patrols, as well as a very efficient communications system. It showed the value of the training carried out in Buenos Aires, and was an education for all involved, as it highlighted many aspects of peace-keeping operations which are not encountered on a day-to-day basis.

Sector One personnel are confident that now their procedures are tested and successful, reserve platoons from the various camps within the Sector are ready to carry out their duties and assist in any mission, any place, any time.



Sector One personnel line up along the Buffer Zone

MEDEVAC TRAINING

On Monday 14 July 1997, the newcomers in ARGCON held their first training day in UNFICYP. The idea was to memorize and practise certain basic elements concerning air operations and medical evacuation.

Each camp took part individually, the first being

Admiral Brown Camp. The day started early in the morning at the helipad with a safety brief on action to be taken at the scene of a helicopter crash. Training took place on air operations and the characteristics of the Hughes 500 and its capabilities and limitations.



Basic MEDEVAC training

PERSONNEL & LOGISTICS

Personnel and Logistics support to UNFICYP is an essential element of successful peace-keeping. Since 1994 UNFICYP has not had a military logistic capability and responsibility has been handed over to the civilian administration.

The Personnel and Logistics branch is, however, the focal point through which personnel and logistics matters are coordinated and directed, being the interface between the Contingents and Units who have their own national regulations and the UN secretariat who are, inter alia, the provisioners of most of the

logistic support to the Force.

Whilst personnel, as its title implies, covers all aspects pertaining to Personnel, Logistics is the art of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of the Force. In simple terms, it is all those aspects of military operations which deal with supply and distribution of supplies, movement, maintenance and medical matters.

In practice, within UNFICYP, logistics also covers engineering support and personnel matters, including environmental health and hygiene.



The head of the branch is Lieutenant Colonel Jim Askew, a British logistician, who is known as the Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer (CPLO). He is the Force Commander's logistics and personnel adviser and is responsible for developing policy and plans for the branch. In addition, he acts as the main interface between the contingents and the civilian administration. Within his branch he has a number of staff officers.



His right-hand man is Commandant Mick Kavanagh from the Irish Army. As well as being the CPLO's deputy, he is the man who gives technical advice to the Sectors as well as coordinating much of the day-to-day logistic support with the civilian administration. Whether it be routine logistic support, vehicles or the provision of technical or general stores and equipment, he is the focal point.



Personnel and quartering matters are looked after by the branch's most recent arrival, Major Zoltan Horvath from Hungary. He is the CPLO's adviser on all personnel matters. Although many aspects are looked after at contingent level, he keeps his finger firmly on the pulse in respect of troop rotation, discipline, welfare and some aspects of quartering.



The Force Engineer, Major Hans Springer from Austria, is the Force Commander's engineering adviser, but he works for the CPLO on a day-to-day basis. He exercises technical control over all engineering resources allotted to UNFICYP, as well as liaising with a variety of Cyprus Government departments including the Public

Works Department, who carry out some maintenance work on camps and Observation Posts. Major Springer is ably assisted by Warrant Officer Two Herbert Mark, also from Austria, and three very able local staff.



Major Martin Enk, also from Austria, is the Force Medical Officer. His responsibilities are wide and varied, but his main task is the overall coordination and supervision of first and second line medical support, casualty evacuation and repatriation on medical grounds. His major project at present is the resurrection of a medical centre in the UNPA, which should be open by the end of the year.



Most of us will agree that an Army marches on its stomach, and UNFICYP is perhaps no exception. Captain Willie O'Connell from the Irish Army is the CPLO's catering adviser. He monitors the standard of catering and ration resupply within the Force, as well as making sure that all kitchens are well maintained. There seem to be few complaints over the quality of food, and perhaps this is testament to Willie's determination to get the very best produce out of our victualing contractors.



Captain Mark Brown from the British Army heads up the United Nations Military Police. As well as being the Force Commander's adviser on discipline and security, he also coordinates all Military Police activity for the Force. Prevention and the detection of crime, as well as maintaining effective liaison with all other police elements in Cyprus, keep him as busy as most.

The Force Ordnance Warrant Officer (FOWO) is Warrant Officer Class One Tony Smith from the British



that units are served with their requirements.



Effi Tsiamourou (left) and Elli Tambourla, both long-serving civilian members of UNFICYP

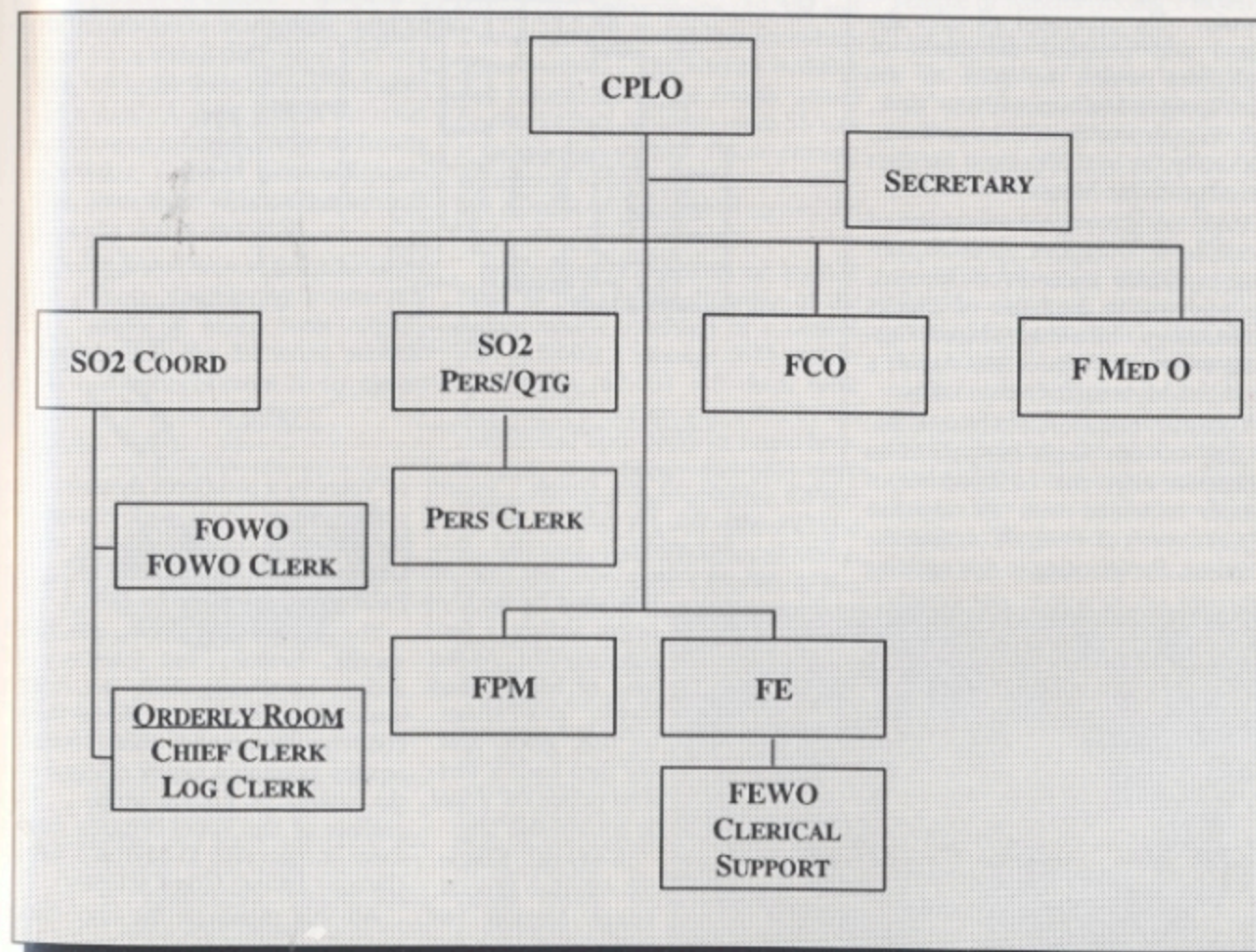
Army. He has a wide variety of responsibilities, but in essence, he provides advice on supply, accounting and availability of MT, accommodation, technical and defence stores. Indeed, he gets involved in much more besides, including processing requisitions and endeavouring to liaise with the civilian administration in order to ensure

Last but not least is the multi-national array of clerical support which ably assists the branch (see right). Warrant Officer Manfred Wimmer from Austria heads the team, assisted by Staff Sergeant Edgardo Gago from Argentina and Sergeant Dermot Higgins from the Irish Army.



From the left: WO Wimmer, Sgt Higgins and SSgt Gago

The message that the Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer wishes to convey to all members of UNFICYP, whether civilian or military, is that the branch is here to help. No problem is too big or too trivial for the branch to turn its attention to.



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

Vouni is the only palace of the classical period in Cyprus to have been fully excavated so far. Its uniqueness is further enhanced by the magnificent view it affords its visitors from atop the rocky plateau it is built on. The green of the pine-forested rolling hills and the maritime plain that surrounds it mingles well with the blue of the northern coastline.

Viewed from below, Vouni Palace looks like a fortress, surrounded as it is by a defensive wall. It was built at about the time of the unsuccessful revolt of the Cypriots against the Persians in 499/8 BC. Not only did it have a beautiful view, but it also had modern amenities, for example hot and cold water and sauna baths. The Palace was destroyed by fire in 380 BC.

HISTORY

Vouni (Greek for "hill") is situated 7 km west of Soli. Archaeological ruins were found here in 1876 by Cesnola, an Italian-born American general of the Civil War who served in Cyprus as Consul of the USA and Russia. He excavated all over the island and amassed thousands of antiquities which he sold to the Metropolitan Museum of New York, that was purpose-built to house them. Naturally, he was appointed the first Director of this Museum.

Until the thorough excavations of Vouni by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition in 1928/9 under Prof Gjerstad, considered to be the father of Cypriot archaeology, historians shared Cesnola's view that Vouni was Aepia, a mythical Mycenaean/Achaean city.

Gjerstad, however, established that Vouni was not Aepia but part of an unknown city, the construction of which coincided with the abortive Cypriot revolt of 499/8 BC against the Persians. Participating in this uprising

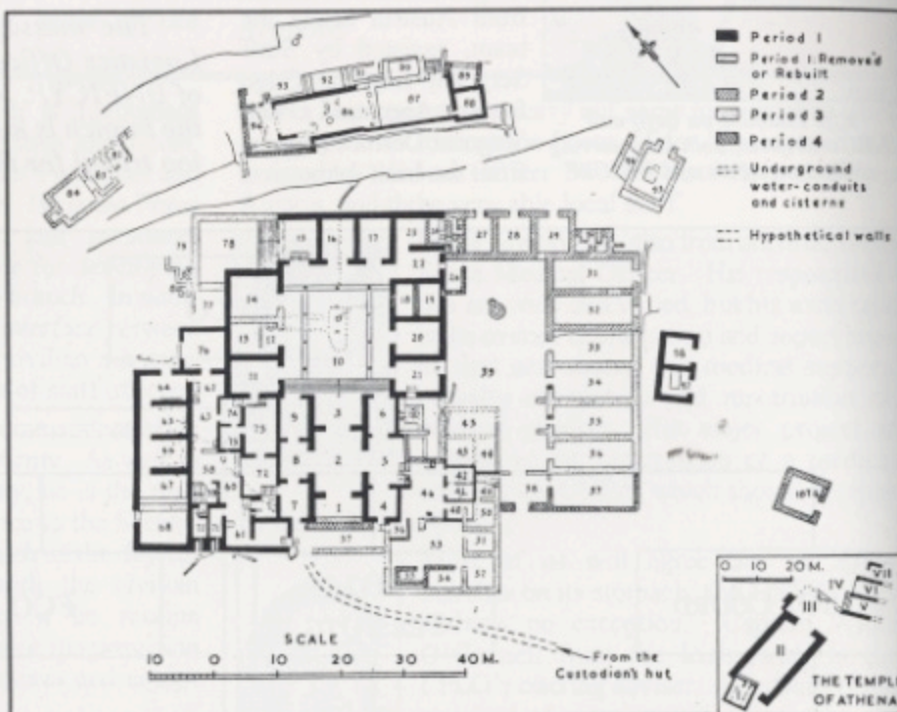
were almost all the Greek Cypriot kings and the Phoenician ruler of Kition. According to Gjerstad, this was not an ethnic war but one of liberation by the Cypriots against a foreign overlord. As the king of Marion had turned pro-Persian, he was given Soli. He then built a fortified palace on Vouni to control this city.

In 449 BC, Kimon, the Athenian general, seized Marion and replaced its king and maybe also the ruler

of Vouni by a pro-Greek dynasty. The new owner of Vouni made changes to the Palace in order to align it with a Greek megaron. In 380 BC, the Palace was destroyed by fire.

The excavations have unearthed statues, bronzes and jewellery of artistic excellence. Hill, the British historian, wrote that the Vouni "kore" (Grecian statue of a young female) has the grace of a Greek original and the charm of French gothic. The realism of the Vouni bronzes makes them comparable to Myron's works (famous ancient Greek sculptor).

All this manifests the importance and refined lifestyle of a Cypriot king in the classical period.



Aerial view of Vouni Palace

VOUNI PALACE

DESCRIPTION

The diagram of the architectural remains of the Palace, the Temple of Athena and the adjoining shrines shows distinctly the four different phases of construction.

THE PALACE

During the first period, the entrance of the Palace faced south-west and led to the *State Apartment* rooms which were arranged in the tripartite Cypriot style of oriental roots. They had a central part which consisted of the entrance hall (1) leading to the main room (2) and another hall (3) and two sets of lateral rooms grouped together (4, 5, 6) and (7, 8, 9). In the third period, the entrance to the Palace (1) was blocked and the central part was transformed into a megaron opening onto a large court (10), as in the Mycenaean palaces of Greece. From hall 3, one descended by seven wide steps to court 10 of which the central part was open, while the three colonnaded sides had a roof. A great part of the court was covered by a cistern for collecting rain-water. Cisterns were indispensable, since there were neither springs nor wells in this rocky hill.

Concentrated around this court were the *Private Apartments* (rooms 11-21), some of which were slightly rearranged in the following periods. The mud-bricks of room 20 are almost identical to those of today.



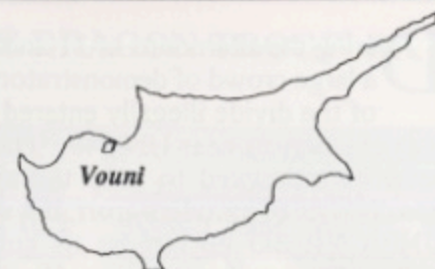
Bronze statue of two lions devouring a bull (length: 23.5 cm, Cyprus Museum)

North-east of the private apartments were the *bathrooms* consisting of a "caldarium" [hot water bath] (22) and a "frigidarium" [cold water bath] (23). Later, a "sudatorium" [sauna bath] (24-25) and a new furnace (26) were constructed.

In the second period, three storerooms (27-29) and two latrines were added, the stone slabs of which can still be seen in room 30. Rooms 31-37 were storerooms built in the second and third periods. The doorway of room 32 was blocked in the third period and was entered from the upper storey by a ladder. A vestibule (38) linked storeroom 37 to the service court (39) by a bottle-shaped cistern. The *kitchen quarters* consisted originally of six small rooms (40-45), flanked by a kitchen court (46). In the second period, a staircase leading to the state apartments from the kitchen court was re-arranged, while the kitchen court was divided by a wall into two halves (46-47). In the third period, a wooden staircase leading to the upper storeys of the palace (48) was added. The famous treasure of Vouni was found in this part of the Palace (47). New rooms (49-52) and a new kitchen court (53) were subsequently added. The kitchen building was completed in the fourth period (rooms 54-56), of which room 55 was a washing room with floors sloping westwards to an outlet where a drainage channel in the rockbed carried the water away from the Palace.

A corridor (57) linked the kitchen court to the *south-west wing* of the Palace which consisted of a central part (58-60), a passage (61) and an open ramp (62-63). All these were deprived of a roof, as suggested by the cisterns and open conduits found here. Several storerooms (64-68) were entered by doorways in rooms 64 and 68. On the rock floor of rooms 65 and 66 are rows of conical holes which formed the supports for holding jars with a pointed base. In the first building period, the upper storey of the Palace covered only these storerooms.

Rooms 69-71 had cemented floors and walls and were used as bathrooms. Rooms 72-75 were living quarters and were linked to the central part of the Palace by means of staircases. Vestibule 76 led outside to the north corner of the Palace. In the third period, a larger corner vestibule (78) was constructed which, along with a ramp (77), formed the *main gate* of the



Palace which led to room 15. Three small rectangular enclosures outside the entrance (79-81) probably contained altars.

ADJOINING SHRINES AND TEMENOS

Close to the Palace are the architectural remains of: Shrine A (rooms 82-85), Temenos [sanctuary] (rooms 86-94), Shrine B (rooms 95-96), Shrine C (rooms 97-98) and an irregular unit of rooms of unknown purpose (not shown in the diagram), Shrine D (room 107) and at the very top of the hill the Temple of Athena (rooms I to VII).

THE TEMPLE OF ATHENA

The Temple of Athena is situated at the very top of the hill towards the south end of the plateau. It consists of a first court (IV) and a second court (III), which was a forecourt to the large rectangular enclosure (II). The holes on the rock surface of this forecourt served as bases for securing statues. Outside the east entrance of the enclosure was a semi-circular altar to the goddess. Later, a communicating tripartite room (I) was added, on the floor of which some bronzes were found, including the small statue of a cow and the two lions compositions. Rooms V-VII are treasuries where offerings to the goddess were deposited.

The visit completed, one cannot but admire the choice of the site which combines beauty with defensibility.



Bronze statue of a cow (length: 19cm, Cyprus Museum)

HELL'S GATE

During the afternoons of 11 and 14 August 1996, a large crowd of demonstrators from both sides of the divide illegally entered the UNBZ in the area of Dherynia near UN 143. The Blue Helmets in between attempted to keep the agitated and emotionally excited intruders apart, but with little success. UNFICYP did its utmost to limit the casualties, however during the outbreak of hostilities, two Greek Cypriots were killed and two UN soldiers were wounded from gunshots.

It is UNFICYP policy to take effective and forceful measures to guarantee the security of the Buffer Zone at all times. During August, the CO of Sector Four took steps to ensure that everything possible was being done to prevent any outbreak of violence in his area of responsibility. He ordered the Austrian Engineer Platoon, under the command of 1/Lt I Merkus, to conduct an intense, obstacle-building programme with the intention of keeping the demonstrators physically apart, if they again managed to violate the UNBZ.

The main element of the project was to construct a unique barrier - one which would be very difficult to penetrate. A trench was dug, along which fences, Spanish Riders and other obstacles have been positioned. Within the fence, a barrier, known as Hell's Gate, was meticulously planned and constructed. It is a sign to everyone that the UN does not only intend to fulfil its mandate: it also intends to do everything possible to prevent clashes which could result in violence and death.



Hell's Gate

Hundreds of UN soldiers deployed along the line, hoping that both sides would keep calm and not attempt to enter the UNBZ with the intention of using force. This year, it was clear to everyone that UNFICYP had put even greater effort into reducing the threat of bodily harm.

Fortunately, the precautionary measures taken were not necessary, as both sides remained peaceful. However, Hell's Gate will remain in place in order to prevent any further disturbances which may arise. To UN soldiers, it is a reassurance that everything is being done for the safety of everyone - UN soldiers and demonstrators alike.

NEW COMIRCON

Comdt Mick Kavanagh took over the appointment of SO2 COORD Pers/Logs on his arrival in Cyprus in April of this year. With the departure of Lt Col P O'Callaghan in July, he also assumed the position of COMIRCON.

Comdt Mick Kavanagh was born in Dublin in 1945 and was educated in Coláiste Mhuire, Dublin. He joined the Irish Defence Force in 1964 as a cadet, and was commissioned into the Infantry Corps in 1966. As a Lieutenant, he served in the General Training Depot and in the Army Apprentice School, training army recruits and apprentices. On promotion to the rank of Captain in 1973, he served as Company Commander Recruit Coy, GTD and as Adjutant/Logistics Officer in the Military College.

Comdt Kavanagh graduated from the Command and Staff College in 1979. In 1980, he was promoted to the rank of Commandant. Among the appointments he held

were: Company Commander B Coy 3 Infantry Battalion, Coy Commander B Coy 6 Infantry Battalion, manpower Officer HQ Curragh Command and Ops/Int Staff HQ Curragh Command.

Comdt Kavanagh has served overseas in UNFICYP with 12th Infantry Group in 1969 as a platoon commander, and with 49th Infantry Battalion UNIFIL as Battalion Adjutant.

His hobbies include Gaelic football, soccer, rugby, golf and walking. He is a keen gardener and enjoys Irish music.

Comdt Kavanagh is married to Maura and they have three children: Helen, Declan and Aoife.



SPORTS PAGE ... SPORTS PAGE ... SPORTS PAGE ... SPORTS

FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN P BATTERY (THE DRAGON TROOP) RA AND 1/50 KTKA

On 28 July 1997, a football match was played in the UNPA between P Battery (The Dragon Troop) RA and 1/50 KTKA. 1/50 had an early score, which, despite ferocious attempts and two penalty misses by the Dragons, proved to be the only goal of the game.

After the match, the teams and spectators retired to the Kangaroo Club, kindly loaned by AUSTCIVPOL, for a BBQ. This proved to be a splendid social occasion at which 'The Dragons' were able to host their guests and meet the families of 1/50 KTKA.

CO Sector Two presenting a plaque to CO 1/50 KTKA following the match



From the left: Maj A Hammerschmid (DCO) with the winning team: WO1 G Friedl, Sgt M Zauner, WO1 P Leuker Moser, MSgt D Kunz, WO1 F Rieder and Branch Head Soccer Section (ASC), WO1 G Maier

AUSTRIAN SPORTS CLUB - SECTOR FOUR

The highlight of 8 August 1997 in Sector Four was the second mini-soccer hard court tournament organised by AUSCON's Sports Club (ASC) for the soldiers in Camp Duke Leopold V.

13 teams consisting of five players each, including two Hungarian teams, entered the competition, supported by about 150 enthusiastic spectators. The winners were a team from HQ Coy, and the best HUNCON team came in third.

For the soldiers of Sector Four, the ASC currently offers about 15 different activities in which to participate including golf, combat-shooting, mountain biking, watersports, athletics, parachuting, diving, touring, tennis, soccer, motorsports, electronic data processing, self-defence training, fishing and basketball. Funding is provided by club members.

The next major event will be the traditional Famagusta Old City Run, planned for 25 October 1997.

10th ANNIVERSARY - AGROS RUN



Runners from UNFICYP get ready for the race

On 31 August 1997, 30 members from Sector Two competed in the 7 km Agros Run. It was a warm summer's day, and the competitors who have been on the island for some months now were well acclimatised to the

heat. However, despite three months of training on the plains of Nicosia, the runners were in for a shock on the hills of Agros.

The race started at 11:30 am with the first 2 km being downhill. The depressing factor was the knowledge that this was also to be the last 2 km - however in the opposite direction! The front runners set a blistering pace and the field quickly spread down the hill and into the village. Water stops every 2 km provided a welcome break. After 16 minutes, the leaders approached the final 2 km and the finish line at the Roden Hotel which stood out at the top of the hill. A daunting sight.

All Sector Two personnel put in a very good performance, in particular Gnr Taylor of K Bty and also Capt Catherine Mavin, who was the first female home and who led many men up the final hill! The village and hills of Agros will live in the memories of 5 Regt RA for many years to come.

PFR WELCOMES THE TACTICA APC

In the last week of July, the new APC Platoon of the PFR received its first five "TACTICA" APCs, and at the end of September it will receive four more.

The APC Platoon consists of 20 Argentinian soldiers who have attended a driving and maintenance course for one week at UN 32 in Admiral Brown Camp.

The TACTICA 4 x 4 patrol vehicle is a four-wheel drive armoured personnel carrier (APC), designed for police, internal security and certain military taskings. It has the following characteristics and specifications:

Crew	: 2 + 8
Configuration	: 4 x 4
Weight - Combat	: 8000 kg
- Unladen	: 7000 kg
Length	: 5.6 m

Width	: 2.2 m
Height	: 2.35 m
Ground Clearance	: 0.30 m (axles)
Track	: 1.96 m
Max Road Speed	: 120 kph
Engines	: Mercedes Benz 5.961
Brakes	: Full air, twin system

The vehicle works permanently in four-wheel drive with the driving torque split $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ rear. In normal high range, the vehicle will drive and perform in a conventional manner and can reach speeds of up to 120 kph.

The PFR APC Platoon will be tasked for patrols in all Sectors and during demonstrations where unauthorised civilians threaten to enter the Buffer Zone. On 10 August 1997, the PFR was deployed to UN 142 for a possible demonstration in Dherynia.

Two weeks of intensive crowd control training has been carried out with AUSTCIV-POL, using the TACTICA APCs as if in real life situations. Various formations were practised, such as the line and wedge, and orders were received and relayed over the radios.

With the TACTICA APCs, UNFICYP now has a strong, capable, mobile force which will greatly assist it in its peace-keeping mission in Cyprus.

The PFR is to be augmented by 21 additional British and nine Hungarian soldiers. Thus, it will become a fully integrated international force, who look forward to working with the TACTICA in all Sectors.



View of the new TACTICA APCs arriving in Sector One

VISIT OF ARGENTINIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

At the end of July, the Argentinian Air Force Chief of Staff, General Ruben Mario Montenegro, visited his men posted to UN Flight.

He also had the opportunity to visit Camp Gen San Martin in Sector One, and to gain firsthand knowledge of ARGCON operations within UNFICYP.

Argentinian Air Force Chief of Staff meeting UN Flight personnel



JOINT OPERATIONS IN CYPRUS

It was recently decided that the boundary between Sectors One and Two was not marked clearly enough. In this regard, several meetings took place involving the Company Commanders of Sectors One and Two and their specialized staff. The task of marking the boundary fell to the Marines Company of Sector One who man UN 42 (the easternmost OP in the Argentinian area of responsibility) and the men of P Battery from UN 45 (the westernmost OP in the British area of responsibility).

Many barrels were aligned along the boundary, and 5 September saw an early start for the soldiers at these OPs. Although in place, the barrels were not painted in UN colours, therefore the second phase of this combined effort was put into action.

This was not the first joint operation between Sectors One and Two, neither will it be the last. Once more, it proved that different languages are not an obstacle for good relations, friendship and hard



Argentinian and British soldiers - jointly at work

work for the soldiers of both Sectors.

The activity ended that evening with a joint BBQ at UN 45 - the best joint operation of the day!

UNFICYP RECEIVES REINFORCEMENTS

On Sunday 20 July 1997, the additional Sector Four Force Reserve Platoon arrived in Cyprus. They will be stationed at UN 139 and UN 135, and their main task is to monitor the Corridor Road area closely, as well as conducting Long Range Patrols in Sector Four's area of responsibility. They will be a quick reaction unit dealing with whatever incidents occur, thereby enabling Sector Four to maintain a considerable number of troops in the Buffer Zone to protect its integrity.

Following the briefing and adjustment phase, they quickly picked up the details of the job. Four members of the Platoon have previously served with UNFICYP and assisted greatly in speeding up the settling-in process.

The Platoon's OC is Maj Robert Kaltenberger. A Technical Engineering Officer by trade, he

is also a trained and certified mountaineer, currently holding the second highest alpine qualification attainable in the Austrian Armed Forces. In addition, he is qualified to participate in helicopter rescue teams, and is also a trained gunsmith. Commissioned as a Lt in 1991, his current appointment is OC of a Support/Transport Coy.

Maj Kaltenberger's hobbies include motor-biking, competitive air rifle shooting and mountaineering.

He is married to Rosa, and they have two sons and two daughters.



The new Platoon reports to the Commanding Officer, Sector Four

VISIT OF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS TO IRCON UNFICYP

The Director of Operations of the Irish Defence Forces, Colonel Carl Dodd, paid an official visit to IRCON UNFICYP from 12-14 August 1997.

It was a nostalgic return to Cyprus for Colonel Dodd which evoked many fond memories of his previous service on the island. He recalled in particular celebrating his 21st birthday at Famagusta when serving as a Lieutenant with 40 Infantry Battalion in 1964. He later completed a tour as Ops Officer (Capt) with the 19 Infantry Group at Zygi in 1970/71. The highlight of his service with UNFICYP, however, was a one-year posting as a Commandant to SO1 Ops Branch, HQ UNFICYP in 1984/85.



Col Dodd being briefed in Sector Two

In terms of troop commitment to UN peace-keeping missions, Ireland ranks in the top ten of contributing countries. Currently, the Irish Defence Forces are involved in 17 missions worldwide. As Director of Operations, Colonel Dodd visits missions endeavouring to identify suitable appointments which the Irish Defence Forces may be interested in applying to fill. He is responsible for anticipating the staffing of missions to which the Irish Defence Forces have a commitment, subject to mandate renewal, on an ongoing basis. He remarked that visits such as this were an invaluable aid to formulating predeployment training. He said that having seen the troops on the ground, he was in a better position to identify the type of qualifications required for service in the Area of Operations and criteria governing selection which would be applied to personnel on future rotations.

During his visit, Colonel Dodd was escorted by the Senior Irish Officer, Comdt M Kavanagh. On arrival at Blue Beret Camp on 12 August 97, he was accorded a quarter guard commanded by Sgt J de Lacy. He then proceeded to HQ UNFICYP where he met with senior officials and received a very courteous welcome from the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara. He was given a very comprehensive briefing on the current situation by the Chief of Staff, Colonel RI Talbot.

Later, Colonel Dodd was welcomed at the Hibernia Club for morning coffee, where he briefed the personnel



Col Dodd takes the salute from the quarter guard

of IRCON on the latest overseas mission in which Irish troops have been deployed - SFOR in Bosnia. Afterwards, the Colonel was briefed on the role and duties of Camp Command by OC Camp Command, Comdt Pat Hayes. He then visited all locations within Camp Command's AOR, meeting all the NCOs in charge of locations. He received the now famous brief on the 1974 invasion from Camp Command's resident expert, RSM E Keenan, himself a veteran of UNFICYP, currently sporting numeral number 7 on his medal ribbon, before retiring to the International Cafeteria for lunch. Later that evening, the Colonel attended a BBQ at the Hibernia Club where he accepted a presentation on behalf of IRCON UNFICYP from the SIO.

One of the highlights of the three-day visit took place on 13 August, when the Colonel was given a Green Line Tour conducted by the CO of 5 Regt RA, Lieutenant Colonel D Potts MBE. The party visited troop houses along the line, and received full Ops briefings at HQ and Battery levels from Troop and Battery Commanders in the British Sector. Colonel Dodd commented that a very satisfying aspect of the tour was the mutual exchange of views on operational and peace-keeping matters between himself and the Commanders along the line.



Col Dodd on a tour of the Nicosia International Airport

IRCON MEDAL PARADE

The IRCON Medal Parade took place on 8 August 1997 in the grounds of the International Cafeteria, UNPA. On a pleasant balmy evening, some 300 guests gathered to witness the undernamed personnel being presented with their UNFICYP medal by the Force Commander, Maj Gen EA de Vergara, in the presence of the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel.

During the ceremony, the haunting sound of the melodious airs, played so evocatively on the traditional Irish harp by Dr Irene Cotter, generated a distinctively Irish atmosphere evoking thoughts of "The Emerald Isle" for many present.

In his address, the Force Commander, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the UN, thanked the medal recipients for their devotion to duty and for their contribution to peace on the island of Cyprus.



The CM, Mr Gustave Feissel, arriving for the ceremony

The parade concluded with the rendering of the Irish national anthem, note perfect, by the Argentinian Band on their first assignment since their recent arrival in Cyprus.

As soon as the medal recipients had marched off, the guests were treated to a delightful musical programme performed by Dr Irene Cotter, Sgt Mick Flynn and IRCIVPOL Piper Sgt Johnny Burke.

Later, a sumptuous buffet, presented by the staff of the International Cafeteria, was enjoyed by all. Everybody then retired to the Hibernia Club, staffed on the night by our friends in AUSTCIVPOL, where the celebrations lasted long into the night.

IRCON wishes to thank all those who contributed in making this a most memorable day.

COMDT GEORGE KERTON			
C/S DAVID GALVIN	SGT TOMAS CAULFIELD		
SGT MAURICE NEWPORT	SGT JIM AHERNE		
SGT JOHN DELACY	SGT MICK FLYNN		
SGT CHRIS MOLLOY	CPL HENRY WHITSTON		
CPL GREGG BROWNE	CPL MICK HICKEY		
CPL JOSEPH O'DONNELL	CPL ANTO KELLY		
CPL THOMAS FRIARY	CPL SEAMUS PURCELL		



Comdt Kerton handing the parade over to the Force Commander



The medal recipients

IRCON MEDAL PARADE



Photograph by Sgt R Lipsett