

THE Blue Beret

July 1995



BEWARE OF FOREST FIRES!





FIRE ON THE KYRENIA MOUNTAIN RANGE



During the period 27-29 June 1995, a huge fire engulfed large areas of the northern slope of the Kyrenia mountain range. The fire appears to have started just east of Lapithos village, and ferocious westerly winds assisted in the spread of the fire in an easterly direction. It raged for three days, and was eventually extinguished just east of Buffavento.



Mr Gustave Feissel and Mr Rauf Denktash with local residents after the fire

Remarkably, despite the magnitude of the fire, there were no fatalities, and the number of houses destroyed did not exceed 25. The major casualty of the fire was the beautiful tract of forest on the northern slopes of the Kyrenia mountain range. Some 5,800 hectares of forest are reported to have been affected by the fire.

Singing in UNison!

On a happier note, this picture was taken by the Force Photographer of the birds who have nested just above the main entrance to the Headquarters building.

The office of the Blue Beret couldn't resist putting this one in, and the captions which came to mind were numerous! We decided that we would invite our readers to write in, and the one we liked best would receive a very special prize. Captions to be received by **Wednesday 23 August 1995.**



A British helicopter assisting in extinguishing the fire

The perseverance of hundreds of people who fought and assisted in containing the fire has to be commended. The United Nations Force in Cyprus was among them. The Permanent Force Reserve, AUSTCIVPOL, UN Flight and all Sectors were involved in the operation. UNFICYP also assisted through communication as well as by providing liaison between those at the scene and the Sovereign Base Area assets, including two RAF helicopters and several fire fighting ground teams.

The Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktash, invited UNFICYP's Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, to inspect the affected area to see first hand the situation on the ground.

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 7
JULY 1995

Published monthly by the Spokesman's Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 1642, Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: (02) 359550
Fax: 359753

Editorial Staff

Editor
Mr Waldemar Rokoszewski

Assistant Editor
Mrs Miriam Taylor

Photography
Force Photographer
Cpl Willie Quain
and Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector One	Lt (Navy) Alberto Von Wernich
Sector Two	Capt Gus Millar
Sector Four	Capt Siegfried Perr
AUSTCIVPOL	Pol Sgt Mark Bainbridge
IRCIPOPL	Insp John Daly
Perm FR	Capt Giles Woodbridge
MP Elm	Sgt Chris Leeson
Camp Command	C/S Paddy Coyle

The Blue Beret is the house 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. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications, except where acknowledgements are made to another copyright. No article or illustration may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

Printed in Cyprus by
Fri-El Press
13 King Paul Street
Parissinos, Nicosia
Tel: 350186

FRONT COVER:
THE FIRE ON THE
NORTHERN SLOPE OF
THE KYRENIA RANGE

BY COURTESY OF
KIBRIS NEWSPAPER

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

* With the coming of summer and the seasonal temperature rise, most of us will be regularly visiting the nearest pool or our favourite beach to cool down and relax. However, quite often, we forget that in conditions such as these, there are hidden dangers, both to ourselves and to the environment. The careless disposal of a cigarette or the lighting of a fire could result in huge fires, particularly when fanned by strong winds.

A few weeks ago, we were eye witnesses to a massive blaze which destroyed extensive areas of pine and cypress trees as well as olive and citrus groves on the slopes of the Kyrenia mountains. Disasters like these, apart from the economic and material loss, are of great cultural and aesthetic significance to the local communities and tourists alike. Protecting the environment from fires is an issue that each one of us needs to be constantly aware of, and it needs the collective attention of all parties in order to prevent their recurrence.

* It is a well known fact that the excessive consumption of alcohol based beverage as a relief from the heat is a tempting option - and one which should be strongly resisted. The importance of road safety and good driving practices during the summer, when hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the island and create extra congestion, cannot be overstressed.

CONTENTS

Fire on the Kyrenia Mountain Range/"Singing in UNison" . . .	2
Editorial/Contents	3
The UNCIVPOL Medal Parade/Peace-keeping and the Argentinian Armed Forces	4
United Nations Summer Night/British-Austrian Golf Venture . .	5
Here and There - Sector Two/News from IRCIVPOL	6
Sappers and Other Augmentees/Tree Planting in CDL V	7
Arrivals and Departures within HQ UNFICYP	8
Safe Driving in Cyprus	9
Argentina and Its Different Landscapes - Part Two	10/11
The Argentinian Medal Parade	12
The IRCON Medal Parade	13
Organizational Functions of the United Nations	14/15
The RLC Conductor	16



THE UNCIVPOL MEDAL PARADE



An UNCIVPOL Medal Parade, comprising Australian and Irish police officers, took place at 6.00 pm on 8 June 1995 at the Nicosia International Airport. The Parade was attended by the Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr John Sullivan, the Honorary Irish Consul, Mr Stephos Stephanou, the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, and the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, as well as friends and relatives of the medal recipients.

Medals and numerals were presented by the Force Commander to 34 of the 35 Civilian Police members. This was the first time for many years that all UNFICYP Civilian Police had paraded at the one time.

It was a very successful occasion, assisted greatly by the excellent music provided by the Argentinian Task Force band. At the conclusion of the Parade, a helicopter flypast took place. A most enjoyable evening followed in the Australian Mess.



AUSTCIVPOL and IRCIVPOL

PEACE-KEEPING AND THE ARGENTINIAN ARMED FORCES

by Lt (Navy) AR von Wernich

The Argentinian Armed Forces have, for a long time, been actively engaged in peace-keeping missions. Since President Carlos Menem took office, the presence of Argentinian soldiers in conflict areas has increased considerably.

They have participated as observers in the Lebanon (1958), Cuba (1962) and the Middle East (1967). Then in 1970, they assisted in the conflict between El Salvador and Honduras, and recently in the Gulf War. At present, a combat engineers platoon from the Argentinian Army is posted to UNIKOM.



Currently, the Argentinian Republic is training personnel to carry out duties in Angola, Kuwait, Sahara, the Suez Canal, Cambodia, Peru, Ecuador, Cyprus and Yugoslavia.

With this in mind, and taking into consideration the special preparation required for peace-keeping missions, a training centre has been set up under the auspices of the United Nations which undertakes courses in physical training, general and intellectual enhancement and, of course, languages, in particular English which is most frequently used.



The United Nations Summer Night 1995



by Maj Andy Boyle

A musical extravaganza and grand raffle took place at the swimming pool in the UNPA Nicosia on Wednesday 7 June 1995, with the proceeds going to local charities both in the north and south of Cyprus.

The evening commenced with Col John Powell OBE, on behalf of the Chief of Mission, cutting a large cake depicting the United Nations badge, which was given to the children of the UN families.



The COS, cutting the cake with UN children

There followed numerous musical events, including Greek and

Cypriot dancing, Irish harp music and folk singing, an Austrian wedding dance, a Finnish folk dance and Argentinian military music. The evening finished with an Austrian "Umpa" Band, which really got the feet tapping and everyone dancing.



A local Cypriot dance group

In addition to the entertainment, there were stalls selling different national delicacies; the British Contingent ran a typical BBQ and a book stall, the Argentinians provided traditional "empanadas", the Austrian ladies supplied apple strudel and coffee, the Australians introduced the gathering to their locally made bread

and the Irish ran a very good and well stocked bar. It all went down extremely well!



The Argentinian military band

There was also a huge raffle with 66 prizes, including a Greek island cruise, weekends in several of Cyprus' best hotels and meals out at famous restaurants, to name but a few.

There were approximately 500 people at the event which was a great success. The evening accrued almost £3,000 which will go to good causes, thanks to the hard work of all concerned.

Well done!

BRITISH-AUSTRIAN GOLF VENTURE

In the heat of the Cyprus summer, there has been a lot of activity recently on the golf course. For the past two years, there has been a great deal of team spirit between the Austrian Contingent and the British Army based in Ayios Nicolaos, efforts which have resulted in a golf tournament on 10 June 1995, the second of its kind to take place. For the first 18 holes, the Brits played well, but at the "19th hole", as the Club House is affectionately known, it was the Austrians who excelled themselves and took the lead!



From the left: Trevor Trafford, Des Bridges and Steve Buck



From the left: Sgt C Aichmayr, Maj H Hufner and WO1 F Huss

28 players participated altogether, seven Austrians and the remainder British. The Austrian team was led by Maj Heinz Hufner who played very well, and who was in fact the driving force who motivated the Austrian Contingent in this sport.

At the end of the tournament, a barbecue took place, hosted by AUSCON, when the "AUSCON Show Express" put on a performance not to be forgotten - a perfect end to a perfect day.



Here and There - Sector Two



Top left: Farewell to the old, and hail to the new. The Humanitarian Cells during the handover.



Bottom left: Capt Dave Halpin, R&R Officer, receives his prize from the CO. Team members Majors Geoff Ravenhill and Chris Johnson look on, relieved that the Regimental Triathlon is over.

Above centre: Confidence training off the cliffs at Cape Greco during the recent lifeguard course, run at the UNPA.

Top right: During a visit by the Hum Cell, accompanied by the FC, WO2 Derek Gilbert chats with the village Muhktar through the interpreter.



NEWS FROM IRCIVPOL



On 18 June 1995, Ch Supt Sean Ginty retired from An Garda Siochana (the Irish Police Force).

Sean spent his last working year as Commander IRCIVPOL in Cyprus. Before coming to the island, he served for 37 years at various police stations throughout Ireland. His last assignment was as Ch Supt in County Donegal. His area of command bordered Northern Ireland, and he was involved in all areas of conflict that arose as a result of the recent troubled past in Ireland.

In many ways, Sean was most suitable to take on the job of Commander IRCIVPOL, since he was the perfect diplomat, his easy self-effacing style helping to diffuse many a difficult situation. Mr Ginty was extremely popular with both communities here in Pyla, as was evident by the wishes he received at the many social functions



held in his honour as his date of departure grew near. He holds the unique record of being the only member of the Irish Police Force to have retired while on foreign service. Best wishes to yourself, Sean, and to your good wife Mona. The rest is well deserved. Enjoy the fishing!

Sean has been replaced as Commander IRCIVPOL by Ch Supt Patrick Culhane, who hails from Dublin. He has spent most of his service in the detective branch, and has played a prominent part in the fight against terrorism. He also investigated several murders, and on one occasion, travelled to the Lebanon to pursue his enquiries.

Commander Culhane is married with four children. We wish him well in his new assignment.



SAPPERS AND OTHER AUGMENTEES



by LCpl D Fosbury

Along with 27 Marines from the Commando Logistics Regiment, a number of Sappers from 131 Commando Sqn RE, the Royal Marine Reserves and additional regular Marines from HMS Fearless, not to mention REME, AGC and RLC personnel, the Royal Engineers Detachment from 36 Engineer Regiment have been having a busy time while attached to 29 Commando Regiment RA, who are currently manning Sector Two of the Buffer Zone in Cyprus.



Capt Sinclair

The Detachment is based in the old gym in Wolseley Barracks, which is being converted into a

fully fitted Engineer Workshop, as time permits. The Detachment numbers 13, Capt Sinclair being the OIC, with Sgt Webber as 2IC and 11 tradesmen of different skills. There are two electricians, Cpl Harry Harris, keeping a watchful eye on Spr Chris Cowley who, along with plumbers Spr Derby Derbyshire and Spr Stu Pearson, are probably the busiest men in the Detachment. They are on a 24-hour call-out for emergencies, each working on a one week on, one week off basis, in addition to normal working hours. The other tradesmen include LCpl Andy Wheeler, the HVAC always in demand by those without air-conditioning, Spr Reg Utting and Spr Charlie Brown, the brickies, Spr Dennis Taylor, the painter and finisher, and Spr Gideon Tweedy, the plant operator who doubles as Det storeman. However, the real backbone of the operation comes in the form of the two carpenters, these being myself (LCpl Fosbury) and Spr Andy Moses, who actually gave up his own joinery firm in Darlington to join the Army - strange lad, eh?



Back row, from the left: Spr Utting, Spr Derbyshire, Sgt Webber, Spr Tweedy, LCpl Wheeler and Spr Taylor
Front row, from the left: LCpl Fosbury, Spr Moss, Spr Pearson and Spr Brown

Detachment tasks range from emergency restoration of electrical power or plumbing repairs in the troops houses and routine maintenance to refurbishing the swimming pool and improvements to other recreational facilities. Taskings have come in thick and fast so far, and it has been hard work keeping up with the number of jobs for the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. However, everyone agrees it is good to be away from Maidstone and practising our trades, so that we can have a good blowout at weekends!

One final point: there is one out-of-hours task with a priority above all others - the building of the Royal Engineers Bar! You can all look forward to the opening - everyone is welcome.

TREE PLANTING IN CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V

On 7 July, the Camp Commandant, Maj Trausnitz, and his crew planted many new trees in CDL V. During the hot season, these alders, fig trees, etc will provide the soldiers with much needed shade. In addition, the trees will, of course, improve the appearance of the Camp.

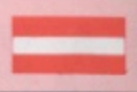
This goes to prove that the soldiers in green are green conscious!



L-R: MCpl T Nagy, SSgt G Feistritzer, LCpl R Wagner, WO2 G Btirger, WO1 H Schandl and Maj F Trausnitz



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES WITHIN HQ UNFICYP

New Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer, HQ UNFICYP
Lt Col Dr Viktor Horatzuk

Lt Col Dr Viktor Horatzuk was born in Vienna, Austria, on 26 April 1957. He started his military career in 1975 when he joined the Military Academy (Logistics Branch). From 1979 to 1982, he served in a Support Regiment, and in 1983, he undertook a special course for Academic Administrative Officers at the Defence Academy. Since 1984, he has been serving with the Ministry of Defence as Administrative and Personnel Officer.

In 1985, he graduated in Law, and in 1988, he obtained his Certificate in Accountancy.

Lt Col Horatzuk is not new to the United Nations. From 1990 to 1991, he served as LO TF in UNFICYP, and then in 1993, he undertook the Legal Adviser Course at UN HQ in New York.



Lt Col Horatzuk is married to Birgitt. They have two children, Alexander (4) and Katherina (2) with a third on the way.

His hobbies include horse riding, diving, sailing, tennis and playing the piano.

Farewells in the UN MP Element

C/S PJ O'Toole has spent 12 months with the MP Elm in the capacity of Crime Reader, responsible for the administrative side of all police work initiated by the duties. During his 'off duty' times, he has been involved in many fund-raising events for charity, and has been responsible for many enjoyable evenings spent in the MP lounge. His stories from the Lebanon will be missed!



Sgt Brian Smyth has been employed within the unit as a Shift Commander and was also a dedicated training officer, which involved instructing all new Argentinian members of the unit on the rules of a Military Policeman. Therefore, full credit must go to Brian for the easy integration of our Argentinian comrades within the unit.



Sgt Marios Rudolf was employed within the unit as a patrol member. It is believed that, due to the 'off duty' time he spent in the cinemas of Nicosia, his departure from the island will leave them in deficit! Last season, he led the unit soccer team to many 'near' victories.



Sgt Martin Proske shall be remembered as a jack-of-all-trades as, during the refurbishment of the new MP lounge, he used his skills as an engineer to lay the new floor and subsequently turned his hand to the entertainment side and often played the guitar on many social evenings. Whilst on duty, he built up a good rapport with many of the cabaret and bar owners, which has helped many UN soldiers when in trouble.

All four unit members will be missed for their own 'unique' contribution to the UN MP Elm.
Bon Voyage!

SAFE DRIVING IN CYPRUS
by the Force Provost Marshal

Since my last article, 14 members of UNFICYP have been involved in traffic accidents. Fortunately, nobody was killed, but a few suffered injuries. Once again, the big 'S' word, **speed**, was behind some of those accidents, even though in some instances the drivers were not breaking the speed limit. **Remember!** The posted speed signs are the maximum speeds you can travel on that part of the road, so if the road conditions are not good, you may have need to travel much slower than the posted limit.

Moving on, this issue I am going to give you a few tips on roundabouts. I feel this is an important topic when you consider that not all members of the Force have such road features in their native countries. A good few people loathe roundabouts and, in some instances, are in total fear of them. A lot of the apprehension experienced by drivers upon approaching a roundabout is due to them being unsure of what to do and who has right of way. These doubts alone can be the major contributory factor to traffic accidents at roundabouts.

So, why do we have roundabouts instead of ordinary junctions, or indeed traffic light assisted junctions? Well, the answer is that roundabouts are designed to assist traffic flow at junctions by allowing traffic to enter and leave by different roads with the minimum of inconvenience or danger. They are one-way systems in which traffic circulates in a clockwise direction, and vary in size and shape from a 'mini' sized roundabout to the large gyratory complex.

The general rule when negotiating a roundabout is to give way to the traffic from the immediate right, and to keep moving, if the way is clear.

With regard to the positioning of your vehicle, it is quite straightforward. If you are turning left (diagram A, top right), position your vehicle on the roundabout approach to the nearside and keep that position whilst going round the roundabout.

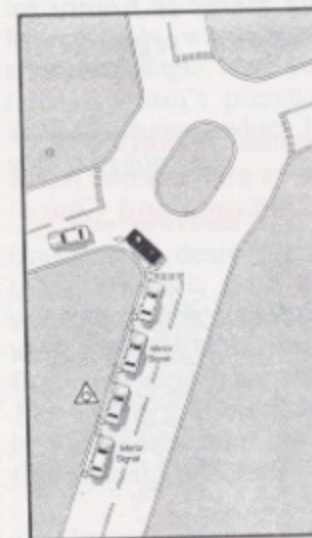


Diagram A

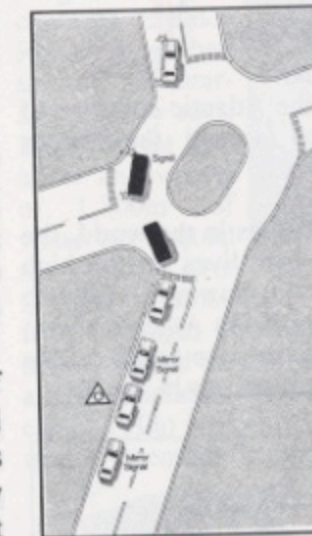


Diagram B

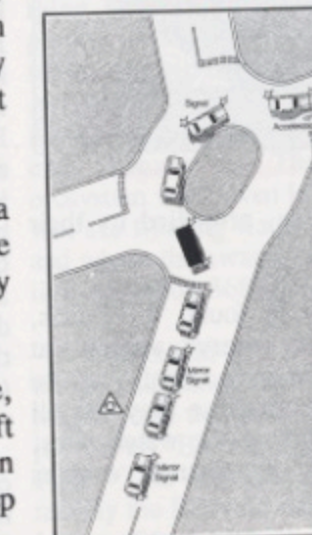


Diagram C

If you want to go straight ahead (diagram B, centre), position your vehicle on the approach to the nearside, unless conditions dictate otherwise. The chosen lane should be maintained whilst on the roundabout.

Lastly, if you want to turn right (diagram C, bottom), position your vehicle on approach on the offside and keep this position whilst going around the roundabout. Remember, check your mirrors and blind spot before this position is adopted on the road and give the appropriate signals.

Diagrams A, B and C show these positions quite clearly, and also show you where to indicate. Follow these examples and you will not go far wrong.

Let us make the following month a safer one than the last.

Safe driving until next time!

The Editor would like to express his gratitude to the Force Provost Marshal for the time and trouble taken to provide all these useful tips to readers of the Blue Beret. Let us hope that everyone takes note!



In this issue, the Blue Beret is happy to report on the second three regions of Argentina, as follows:

4. South-east: Patagonia Atlantic
5. Central Region: Pampas and Buenos Aires
6. North-east: Mesopotamia and Chaco

4. THE PATAGONIAN ATLANTIC.

The Patagonian Atlantic, as the name suggests, is a region that stretches from the west to the Atlantic coast, ending abruptly with steep cliffs. The area is cold and desert-like, with winds reaching a velocity of 180 kph. In the valleys, which are protected from the winds, sheep rearing takes place. Spectacular marine mammals and water fowl, somewhere between reality and legend, are to be found along the Atlantic coastline of Patagonia, particularly in and around the Valdés Peninsula.

Sea elephants. The largest seals in the world, the sea elephants, spend most of their lives on the high seas, far from the coast. They do, however, establish colonies in some of the islands off the Atlantic shore, such as South Georgia. If this archipelago seems a little too far away, then you can also see them in Valdés.

Southern Whales.

Also on the Valdés Peninsula you can find one of the few places in the world where whales go to mate at the end of winter in the southern hemisphere. Their manoeuvres are an absolutely breathtaking display of grace and force, propelled by their powerful tails.



A Southern Whale

Seals. Seals are also to be found in Valdés, particularly at the Punta Píramide reserve, and also at Punta Loma, near to Puerto Madryn. Seals can be distinguished from sea elephants because they use all four limbs to propel themselves through the water. This, despite their apparently clumsy appearance, enables them to reach great speeds.

And the penguins. Although frequently thought of as polar inhabitants, these enchanting creatures are birds

that stopped flying and transformed their wings into fins, completing an evolutionary cycle in order to swim. They can be found in large numbers along the Patagonian coastline, where there are breeding colonies of the Magellan species on the San Lorenzo ranch (Valdés Peninsula), and especially at Punta Tombo (Chubut), where more than a million penguins can be found.

5. THE CENTRAL REGION: THE PAMPAS (LAND OF THE GAUCHOS) AND BUENOS AIRES.

This region has "a difficult landscape because apparently there is nothing, and it is nuances that count" said the novelist Ernesto Sabato, adding that "my great Argentinian nostalgia is for La Pampa". It is an immense land, almost impossible to take in.

What is La Pampa? La Pampa is a vast, grassy plain, rich in agriculture and livestock, principally cattle and sheep. It occupies a quarter of the country extending across various provinces, including that which bears its name. The march of time has been witness to the disappearance of most pumas, ostriches and deer and the introduction of herons and flamingos.

The Gaucho and the glory of a life of liberty.

"My glory is to live as free as a bird in the sky" goes the emblematic Argentinian poem "Martin Fierro" written by José Hernández. It is impossible to understand La Pampa without

first understanding this nomadic adventurer, this lover of liberty, excellent horseman and cowboy, this singer of melancholy and nostalgic songs. Obviously time has passed and the free gauchos of the plain have almost disappeared, but the gaucho still represents the spirit of the limitless land with his horse, his knife, his "bolas" (a type of lasso) and his guitar.

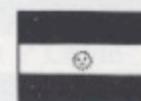
Ranches "Estancias". The places to visit are the country ranches of La Pampa, which are numerous throughout the region. A trip is also recommended to San Antonio de Areco (in the province of Buenos Aires), and a visit to the gaucho museum that bears his name.



La Pampa, land of the Gauchos



ARGENTINA AND ITS DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES - PART TWO



La Pampa, the Atlantic Coast. La Pampa sweeps down to the Atlantic Ocean to a series of resorts, dotted along the length of the coast in the province of Buenos Aires, between forests, sand dunes, beaches and lovely girls at San Clemente del Tuyú, San Bernardo, Mar de Ajó, Pinamar, Necochea, Mar del Plata (the most important touristic city on the coast which receives 2½ million tourists each summer) and many others.

My Beloved Buenos Aires. Built along the Río de la Plata, the most elegant city in South America is a bustling capital by day, ablaze with entertainment by night. Theatres and museums, vast parks and avenues, hotels, restaurants and shops. It is a modern and dynamic city that rubs shoulders with old-fashioned cafes and nostalgic tango-bars. Founded on two separate occasions in the 16th century, Buenos Aires saw many changes before becoming the capital of the Viceroyship of La Plata and, after 1810, of the Republic.

Architecture. History is reflected in its buildings, which reveal the various stages in the life of the city: El Cabildo, the Cathedral, Government House, La Manzana de las Luces, the Anchorena Palace, and its various monuments, such as Pyramid and the statue of San Martín, examples of "Art Nouveau" in the Avenida de Mayo, the enchantment of la Boca (the old immigrant quarter), the noble character of La Recoleta or the elegant silhouettes of the Kavanagh and Le Parc (respectively the oldest and newest skyscrapers of Buenos Aires).

Culture. Buenos Aires has always been considered one of the most culturally creative cities of the southern hemisphere. There are museums of almost every imaginable type: fine arts, decorative arts, oriental, Iberoamerican, modern, lyric, Spanish, Argentinian folklore and the life of the Gauchos, natural sciences, Antarctic life. Its theatres are internationally renowned, from the venerable Liceo to the mythical Colón or the Cervantes and the Caminito Plastic Arts Fair in Boca.

The Tango. Born, so they say, in the bars of the poor quarters, it was looked down upon by high society until it became fashionable in Europe during the Great War. It then returned in triumph and became a symbol of the city, reaching its peak with Enrique Santos Discépolo and Carlos Gardel. This popular music can be enjoyed in any of the cafe-bars or "tanguerías".

6. THE NORTH-EAST REGION - MESOPOTAMIA AND CHACO.

Mesopotamia, where nature bursts forth in an impressive

backdrop - one of the great wonders of the world, the Iguazú Falls, whose waters nourish the beauty of an untouched jungle. Here you find a natural setting where traces of man's presence are found in the ruins of ancient missions which bring the traveller face to face with a bygone era.

The province of Misiones. Here you find untamed nature, dense forests of guatambu, black lapacho, cedar, araucaria from Paraná and an exotic fauna of which the jaguar stands out, but which also includes up to 50 species of ophideans. This province takes its name from the settlements established by the Jesuits in the 17th century to protect the indigenous inhabitants. The best conserved ruins are those of San Ignacio Miní, La Candelaria and Loreto.

Iguazú, the great waters of the Guaraní. "Poor Niagara!" ex-

claimed Eleanor Roosevelt when she saw the cataracts (so they say). 275 different falls allow an average of 1,300m³ of water per second to pass over Iguazú, falling from a height of 230ft. A National Park has been created around the cataracts, with 2,000 species of birds and innumerable animal and insect species. Here you can find Hito in Puerto Iguazú, where the three frontiers meet (Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil).



The Iguazú Falls

Get to know Argentina's very own Mesopotamia. You have probably heard of the marshlands, the low-lying swamp country where all varieties of aquatic plants flourish? You can discover them all in this region, located between the Paraná and Uruguay rivers. A visit to the Palmar National Park near Colón City is not to be missed, with palm trees up to 65 ft tall and eight centuries old. The Iberá marshlands is a complex ecosystem with seven lagoons and fifty pools where you will see floating water hyacinths and giant water lilies, and where the swamp deer, the wolf and the river wolf live alongside 368 species of birds.

The region of **Chaco** is explained in its name. The direct translation from the Indians means "earth of jungle", and that is exactly what it is. The name of the jungle is "El Impenetrable", and is now a National Park. This region is crossed by two important rivers, namely the Bermejo and the Pilcomayo, a challenge for lovers of trail blazing.

Welcome to Argentina!





THE ARGENTINIAN MEDAL PARADE

by Lt (Navy)
AR von Wernich

On 10 July 1995 at 1830 hrs, after five months of intensive work in the western sector of the Buffer Zone, the Argentinian Medal Parade was held in Gen San Martin Camp where 256 Argentinian soldiers received their UN medal "In the service of peace".

Father Vincente Maia
blessing the UN medals

Members of the Argentinian Contingent formed up before the Force Commander, Brig Gen Ahti Vartiainen, and Commander ARGCON, Lt Col Hernan Garay. Following the inspection of the troops and the singing of the Argentinian National Anthem, Father Vicente Maia blessed the UN medals which were then presented by Brig Gen Vartiainen, the Chief of Staff, Col J Powell OBE, Lt Col Hernan Garay, the 2ic ARGCON, Lt Col D Damo, CO UN Flt, Lt Col J Brower de Koning, the SHO, Maj R Alvarez Lopez and Maj J Pessini Carbo. As is traditional in Argentina, the National Flag and the Standard of the Contingent were honoured.

Argentinian children with the blue
and white balloons

The ceremony continued with the lowering of the flags at sunset, followed by the military march past. The choir from Sector One, consisting of 30 officers and NCOs, sang Argentinian military songs, accompanied by the band which was conducted by WO2 C Sosaya. During this part of the ceremony, a group of Argentinian children released a number of blue and white balloons. It is important to note that the date of 10 July was chosen specifically because on 9 July, the whole of Argentina celebrates the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of our Republic.

The FC pinning the UN
medal on the Argentinian
flagThe UN medal is proudly worn
by WO2 Guevara

After the ceremony, a buffet was provided for all guests in the Officers' and NCOs' Messes where typical Argentinian food was offered.

Then on 13 July, a similar ceremony was held in Gen Rocas Camp for personnel who could not attend the Medal Parade on 10 July.



The Argentinian band

A view of Gen San Martin Camp with
ARGCON's soldiers on parade

THE IRCON MEDAL PARADE

by Coy Sgt P Coyle

On 6 July 1995, 25 members of the Irish Contingent were presented with UNFICYP medals/numerals by the Force Commander, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, in the presence of Mr G Feissel, Chief of Mission.

The FC presenting the UN medal to the
OC Camp Command, Comdt E Lynch

Special mention was made of both RSM J McDonagh and Coy Sgt P Coyle, who had served with UNFICYP in 1964 and 1970 respectively.



The Force Commander addressing the Parade

Following the presentation of medals and numerals, the parade was dismissed. The large attendance was then treated to a sample of Irish culture in the form of song and dance. It was a special delight to listen to Dr Irene Cotter, whose singing added a unique dimension to the celebration.



Staff from the International Mess

Officer Commanding IRCON, Comdt E Lynch, was complimented by the Force Commander on the standard of the parade. Ireland's contribution to UNFICYP, which commenced in April 1964, was lauded, as indeed was her contribution to many other peace-keeping operations throughout the world.

The UNFICYP Force Photographer, Cpl
Willie Quain, being presented with his
UN medal by the FC

IRCON on parade

A sumptuous meal was provided by the staff of the International Mess and, following this, the Hibernian Club provided the entertainment which lasted long into the night.

Sgt Joe Dempsey's daughter, Sharon,
performing traditional Irish dancing with
other entertainers in the background



ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

by Mrs Milam Taylor

The first Article of the United Nations Charter outlines the purposes of the Organization, declaring that the primary objective of the United Nations Organization is the maintenance of international peace and security. The Organization is also dedicated to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self determination of peoples, to co-operate internationally for the promotion of the economic and social development, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to serve as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends. Briefly, the UN role may be classified in the following basic functions:

- Maintenance of International Peace and Security
- Disarmament
- Economic and Social Cooperation
- Human Rights
- Development of International Law

Maintenance of International Peace and Security

From its early days, the United Nations realized that it is only under peace conditions that economic, social, cultural or humanitarian problems can be solved. Throughout its history, the United Nations has often been called upon to prevent a dangerous situation from escalating into war, to persuade opposing parties to use the conference table rather than weapons, and to help restore peace when conflicts occur.

The primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is placed on the Security Council. The Security Council is mandated to call on the parties to settle their disputes by peaceful means, to recommend appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment and, in addition, to recommend actual terms of a settlement. The action of the Security Council in this context is limited to making recommendations; essentially, the peaceful settlement of international disputes must be achieved by the parties themselves, acting on a voluntary basis to carry out the decisions of the Council in accordance with the Charter.

One of the ways in which the United Nations helps maintain international peace and security is through peace-keeping operations. These operations are established by the Security Council and are directed by the Secretary-General. They must have the consent of the host governments, and usually also of the other parties involved.

United Nations peace-keeping operations have traditionally fallen into two broad categories: observer missions, which consist largely of officers who are almost invariably unarmed; and peace-keeping forces, which consist of lightly armed infantry units, with the

necessary logistic support elements. These categories, however, are not mutually exclusive. Observer missions are sometimes reinforced by infantry and/or logistic units, usually for a specific purpose and a brief period of time. Peace-keeping forces are often assisted in their work by unarmed military observers. And many recent peace-keeping operations have large civilian components, which carry out essential political, humanitarian and administrative functions.

Assured and adequate financing for peace-keeping operations is vital. In the case of UNFICYP, the costs of the Force are met by the Governments providing the military contingents and by voluntary contributions received for this purpose by the United Nations.

Disarmament

Disarmament and arms control are important items on the United Nations agenda. The Charter gives the Security Council responsibility for formulating proposals for the regulation of armaments. The General Assembly is empowered to consider "principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments" and to make "recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both".

The original bodies of the United Nations in the field of disarmament were the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments, which were set up by the Security Council in 1946 and 1947 respectively. They called for immediate plans to ensure that atomic energy would be used only for peaceful purposes, and that armaments and armed forces would be generally regulated and reduced under an international system of control and inspection.

Since the late 1980s, fundamental changes on the international scene, particularly as regards Europe and the relationship between the major powers, have increasingly influenced the consideration of arms limitation, disarmament and security issues.

The successful conclusion and implementation of the United States and former USSR treaty on the elimination of their intermediate- and shorter-range missiles represented a milestone in the quest for nuclear disarmament. The conclusion of their Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in July 1991 and subsequent announcements of even further reductions will result in the most drastic cuts in nuclear weapons since the beginning of the nuclear age. Since then, the regional and subsequent dimensions of army limitations and disarmament have gained importance worldwide.

To this day, the United Nations is the only universal organization that offers a possibility of viewing the issues of war, peace and security from a global perspective.

Economic and Social Development

The United Nations devotes the largest portion of its budget and personnel to promoting progress in the socio-economic field. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretariat and the specialised agencies are the organs primarily responsible for action in this field. An important part of this aspect of UN activity consists of research, publication of reports and rendering technical assistance to governments. The United Nations has no authority to legislate or to enforce measures of economic and social cooperation; it can only make recommendations which the member governments may or may not follow.

In the 1960s, the emphasis was placed on a unified approach to economic and social planning to promote balanced and sound development.

In the 1970s, this approach was carried further through a unified effort to development, analyses and planning.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the emphasis has shifted to more market-oriented approaches to economic and social development, without ignoring the important role of the state in improving human conditions.

Strengthening the relationship between economic growth and human welfare has become the principal theme of development for the 1990s through both national efforts and a supportive international economic environment. The United Nations family is committed to a global effort for economic and social development of developing countries through programmes ranging from technical co-operation to surveys and studies and to the convening of international conferences and from comprehensive development planning to special projects in individual fields such as trade, industry and agriculture.

Human Rights

The General Assembly in 1948 adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Articles 1 and 2 of the Declaration state that all individuals are born free and equal and are entitled to the rights and freedoms set forth in its Articles without discrimination of any kind.

Following adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, work began on the drafting of two International Covenants on Human Rights - one on economic, social and cultural rights and the other on civil and political rights - to put into binding legal form the rights proclaimed in the Declaration.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the latter Covenant were adopted unanimously by the General

Assembly on 16 December 1966. These instruments, along with the Declaration itself and a second Optional Protocol adopted in 1989, make up what is now widely known as the International Bill of Human Rights.

The Human Rights Committee receives and considers communications from individuals who claim that their human rights, being those rights protected by the Covenant, have been violated by a State party. Several countries have changed their laws as a result of decisions taken by the Committee. Recently, the Committee has instituted a mechanism whereby it seeks to monitor more closely whether States parties have given effect to its final decisions.

Each year, the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, 10 December, is observed internationally as Human Rights Day.

Development of International Law

In November 1947, the General Assembly established the International Law Commission in order to study and make recommendations on the progressive development and codification of international laws.

Another important decision of the United Nations in the pursuit for peaceful settlement of international disputes was the inauguration of the International Court of Justice in 1946. The Court examines cases submitted by states and covers a wide range of topics.

The Commission, which meets annually, is composed of 34 Members who are elected by the General Assembly for five-year terms and who serve in their individual capacity, not as representatives of their Governments.

Most of the Commission's work involves the preparation of drafts on topics of international law. Some topics are chosen by the Commission and others referred to it by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council. When the Commission completes draft articles on a particular topic, the General Assembly usually convenes an international conference of plenipotentiaries to incorporate the draft articles into a convention which is then opened to States to become parties.

The current work of the Commission includes the codification and progressive development of the law of State responsibility; the law of the non-navigational uses of international water courses; international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law; relations between States and international organizations; and the draft Code of Crimes and against the Peace and Security of Mankind.



THE RLC CONDUCTOR

Photograph by
Cpl Willie Quain



The history of the Conductor dates back to 1327 during the reign of Edward III.

By Royal Warrant of 11 January 1879, a class of Warrant Officer was constituted to be Conductors of Supplies and Conductors of Stores. This position was to be inferior to that of all commissioned officers but superior to that of all non-commissioned officers.

In the Army Service Corps, the title of Conductor of Supplies was abolished in 1892 and replaced by

Staff Sergeant Major 1st class. However, the Army Ordnance Corps kept the Conductor's title, as did the Royal Logistics Corps on amalgamation in 1992.

WO1 Dawn Parkin BEM was recently awarded the appointment of Conductor. This appointment is the Senior Warrant Officer's rank in the British Army, and it is the very first time that it has been awarded to a female.

Congratulations Dawn!