

THE Blue Beret

June 1995



CULTURAL FESTIVAL "PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE"
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS





29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECTOR TWO

by Capt Gus Millar RA



XXIX

At midday on Thursday 8 June 1995, 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery took over Sector Two from the Queen's Royal Lancers. By the time this article is being read, the Regiment will have settled down and be firmly ensconced in its new peace-keeping role, and may even have come to terms with the temperatures around the island.



Fire Support Officers from five nations: UK, USA, Greece, Spain and Italy, and three arms: Navy, Army and Air Force

The Regiment is based primarily in Plymouth, south-west England. We also have outlying Batteries in Scotland, London and Dorset. We were reformed as a Commando Artillery Regiment, most recently in 1962 in answer to the need of the Royal Marines to have a dedicated and highly trained Artillery unit to support its many operations. That we have done, since then participating in every major conflict that the British Army

and 3 Commando Brigade have been involved in. Most recently, we have had troops in Cambodia, Kuwait and Bosnia.

The Regiment comprises one territorial and three regular Gun Batteries, armed with the 105mm light gun, a Headquarters Battery with Cymbeline Mortar Locating Radar and Regimental command posts, and finally a Forward Observation Battery, dedicated to naval gunfire control and direction.

The Regiment regularly exercises in widely varying climates, environments and countries and, last year in the month of November, we had parties training and deployed to Norway, Brunei, Oman, the South Atlantic and various parts of the United Kingdom at the same time. More recently, the Regiment has completed a two-month deployment and NATO exercise in Norway, and a month-long deployment and NATO exercise in the Mediterranean and Sardinia. On our return to the UK in the new year, we shall deploy once again to Norway and then on to America.

With such a busy itinerary, the officers and soldiers of the Regiment are looking forward to this roulement tour in Cyprus, both for the challenge it affords us all, and for the stability it will give us.

NEW CO, SECTOR TWO: LIEUTENANT COLONEL I R SINCLAIR RA

Lt Col Ian Sinclair joined the Army in 1974 and read Literae Humaniores at Oxford University as an Army Undergraduate. He graduated in 1978 and was posted to 27 Field Regiment RA in Germany, completing his first tour in Northern Ireland during this period. He joined 29 Cdo Regt RA in 1982, and served as a Forward Observation Officer with 79 Cdo Bty RA, winning the UKLF OP Competition in 1983 before taking up the appointment of Regimental Adjutant.

He returned to the Regiment in 1988 as Battery Commander 148 (FO) Cdo Bty RA for one year. During 1991, he attended the Army Command and Staff Course at Camberley and, on completion of this, was posted to Hong Kong as SO2 G2 (Int). In 1993, he returned to the UK to take up an appointment in

the Directorate of Land Warfare at HQ Doctrine and Training at Upavon, responsible for doctrine and force development for air-borne and special forces. He assumed command of 29 Cdo Regt RA in Jan 95 in Norway.

Lt Col Sinclair is married to Keely. They have two children, Caitlin, aged six, and Harry, aged three.



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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.

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FRONT COVER
UNITED NATIONS
COEXISTENCE FESTIVAL

BY CPL WILLIE QUAIN

The Blue Beret



EDITORIAL

The United Nations marks its fiftieth anniversary this year. In June 1945 at San Francisco, the Charter was signed by 51 States. In October of that year, the Charter having been ratified by a sufficient number of States, the world Organization opened its doors for business. The first meeting of the General Assembly took place in the following year at London. It was in 1951 that the familiar architecture of United Nations Headquarters rose to the Manhattan skyline. The rest is history.

But the United Nations is an Organization not only with a history - it also has a future. This we know because its products have an ever-growing list of customers and end-users. In the fields of peace and security, human rights, economic and social development and the promotion of international law, the many achievements of the United Nations in its first five decades need consolidation and enlargement. A debate is under way on how best this can be done.

The Secretary-General, while putting forward far-reaching ideas of his own, has underlined the key contributions - in terms of ideas as well as political and financial support - that are called for from Member States. But he has also stressed the contribution that concerned individuals and groups of persons can and should play. Each of us can find a way to contribute to the process of reflection.

CONTENTS

29 Commando Regiment RA/New CO Sector Two	2
Editorial/Contents	3
Lifeguard Course for UNPA Swimming Pool/Veterans Tennis Tournament/UNFICYP UFOs?	4
Official Opening of UNPA Pool/New Arrivals in the UNPA	5
The Queen's Royal Lancers leave UNFICYP/Fire Fighting Course - Camp Command	6
Safe Driving in Cyprus/Charity Sponsored Swim	7
The Battalion Admin Office	8
37th International Soldiers' Pilgrimage to Lourdes	9
Argentinian National Day: 25 May	10
Argentinian Navy Day: 17 May/Argentinian Air Ops Commander visits UNFICYP	11
Argentina and Its Different Landscapes - Part One	12/13
UNFICYP'S Contribution to the United Nations 50th Anniversary Celebrations	14/15
Argentina's Navy Day	16

Austrian
Swimming Badge

LIFEGUARD COURSE FOR UNPA SWIMMING POOL

Austrian Sports
Badge

For the first time, several of UNFICYP's Contingents including ARGCON, AUSCON, AUSTCIVPOL, BRITCON and IRCON took part in an AUSCON instructed Lifeguard Course which was held at the Nicosia Municipal Swimming Pool from 4 to 7 April 1995. The purpose of the course was to provide regular personnel for lifeguard duty at the UNPA swimming pool, which is open to members of UNFICYP and their families during the summer months. It is worth mentioning that this is the first time the Lifeguard Course included representation from Australia, an unusual fact, given that Australians are known as a swimming nation. Another first was a father and son who both completed swimming courses.

The four-day course was supervised by Capt Köstner, holder of the Austrian Instructor's Lifeguard Certificate, who put participants through rigorous training sessions of swimming, release and life-saving techniques. The Force Commander, Brig Gen Vartiainen, visited the Nicosia Municipal Swimming Pool and was given a demonstration by Capt Köstner and a volunteer from the trainees.



From left to right, standing: WO3 Torres, Cpl Twohig, Sgt Perry, Brig Gen Vartiainen, Sgt Kerr, Cpl Rasser, Miss Paulus and Sgt Watt.
Kneeling: Cpl Simmons, Pte Pacher, MSgt Eglhofer, LCpl Stanovnik and Capt Köstner

Members of the swimming course were also invited to compete for the award of the Austrian Sports Badge which is given to those who are successful in the shot put, long jump and timed 5 km run, sprint and 300 m swim at both basic and advanced levels.

Capt Köstner runs regular swimming and physical sports courses in the UNPA for all members of UNFICYP.

VETERANS TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Between 8-14 May 1995, the Cyprus Tennis Federation conducted its annual International Veterans Tennis Cup Tournament at the Field Club, Nicosia. The events included men's and ladies' singles and doubles in age groups from 35 years with five-year intervals to 60 years.



Dennis Sutton, receiving his plaque from the Club President, Mr Philios Christodoulou

Invitations were extended members of UNFICYP and also to local and overseas players from the former Yugoslavia, Russia, the UK, the USA, Greece and Malaysia. AUSTCIVPOL member Stn Sgt Dennis Sutton, based at Linou in Sector One, entered the men's 55s singles event and won. He found the whole competition very enjoyable, playing against people from so many different countries.

UNFICYP UFOs?

In the early twilight hours of dreamday, 31 April, a tiny UFO landed at Nicosia International Airport. Out came a likewise tiny alien, who blew himself up to half the size of an average-sized human being and declared the Airport re-opened for the sole use of all alien and other rational creatures. Unknown to the creature, a member of UNFICYP was in the vicinity and captured by photograph the bizarre image (see below).

After his speech, remarkable not least for its brevity, he shrunk himself, entered the plane and off he went, unreachable for further comment or clarification on the subject.

In the event that he returns and you see him, the alien's thighs are each bigger than his head...



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE UNPA SWIMMING POOL

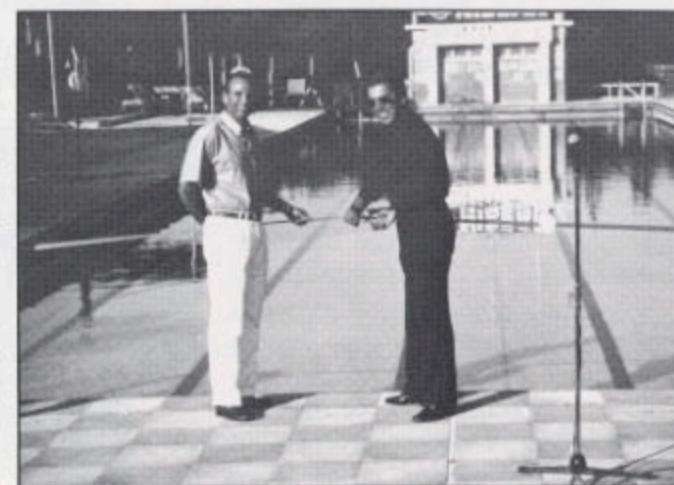


A much anticipated event, the opening of the UNPA swimming pool, was held on Saturday 22 April at 1700 hrs.

A delicious BBQ, washed down with "soft" drinks, were just some of the ingredients which helped to make this an evening to remember.

A large gathering of military and civilian personnel were present for the Chief of Mission's opening address. Mr Feissel was loud in his praise of the efforts of all those who had worked so hard to raise much needed funds so that this opening could be realised. Mr Feissel also expressed his deep appreciation of the work carried out in the previous weeks to make the pool area so neat and attractive.

In conclusion of the opening ceremony the evening began to "swing", aided by "The Viking Warrior Disk Jockey" and his backing music. An invitation to Capt John Maughan to "walk on water" was graciously refused, and on that upbeat note, the evening continued.



Mr Feissel and Lt Col Ferrer during the opening ceremony

NEW ARRIVALS IN THE UNPA

Happy events took place within a matter of days recently at HQ UNFICYP. The Blue Beret would like to announce "When Harry met Hannah!"

Hannah Rebecca, born on 27 April, is the beautiful daughter of Shona and Michael Samaras. Born in the Hippocrateon Clinic, Nicosia, she weighed in at 3.5 kilos. Shona is well known to all of us up here in HQ UNFICYP, as she is employed by the UNCMP. Her smiling face has been missed for the last few months, however, happily Shona will be returning to work, once Hannah settles down.



From the left: Claire, Harry, Hannah and Shona

Harry Thomas David, born on 11 May, is the handsome son of Claire and Griff Griffith. Harry was born in TPMH, Akrotiri, and weighed in at 3.86 kilos. Both Claire and Griff are well known to all of us up here in the Headquarters: Claire first worked at St Michael's Primary School until its closure in July 1994, and then she moved to the YMCA bookshop until the birth of Harry - and the place isn't the same without her! However, we still see the proud father around, since he holds the post of Chief Clerk, HQ BRITCON.



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS LEAVE UNFICYP

The Queen's Royal Lancers, the outgoing UNFICYP Sector Two unit, has just returned to base in Osnabrück after six months keeping the peace along the busiest stretch of the Buffer Zone.

The Regiment has worked extremely hard for much of the tour and all ranks have benefited from serving in a novel environment, wearing the blue beret of the UN peace-keeper. Initially, time was spent getting to grips with a job a million miles removed from the role of a Germany-based Armoured Regiment. OP briefs were mastered with much stamping of feet (especially by the attached Coldstream Guards!), and Headquarters Squadron officers and senior ranks learnt the more interesting tales of the old Green Line inside the Walled City for the never-ending stream of line tours.

The highlights of the six-month tour have been numerous and varied. Several of note spring to mind: the winning of the football competition in



the face of strong opposition from ARGCON and AUSCON; the Aliwal Revue, one of the Regiment's annual events but this year with a decided UN flavour; the Medal Parade and the frantic attempts to (successfully) master rifle drills; the Bobby Davro Show in the Ledra Palace Hotel; the Buffer Zone Cycle - an epic 221 km in 15 hours, 40 minutes by Majors Roberts and Nixon-Eckersall. Plenty of other events also took place which will make the tour in Cyprus even more memorable.

The Queen's Royal Lancers are now settling back in their 50 Challenger tanks and enjoying cool nights. However, they will undoubtedly look back on a fascinating six months spent on the line, with fond memories of the many friends they made in UNFICYP.

Top: The Aliwal Revue - an old Buffer
Centre: The Lancer Band at the BRITCON
Medal Parade
Bottom: Bobby Davro

FIRE FIGHTING COURSE - CAMP COMMAND

Camp Command is responsible for Fire Fighting/Fire Prevention within the UNPA. New arrivals to the Perm FR and Camp Command are required to be able to fight any type of fire. In order to maintain an acceptable number of fire fighters within the UNPA, Camp Command conducts Fire Fighting/Fire Prevention Courses at various times throughout the year.



L-R: Capt John Maughan, Comdt Eamon Lynch, Sub Offr Michael Hadjigeorgiou, C/S Paddy Coyle, Sgt Tommy Owens, Sgt Brendan Halligan and Fm Qadir Nadeem

The Chief Instructor for these courses is Michael Hadjigeorgiou, a highly qualified Fire Officer with 40 years' experience. He is assisted by Fireman Qadir

Nadeem. These Fire Fighting/Prevention Courses not only acquaint UN personnel with the skills of fire fighting, they also help to make personnel more conscious of the dangers of fire, especially those who arrive from countries where the climate is not conducive to outbreaks of fire. With the advent of summer in Cyprus and the subsequent dangers of fire, it is imperative that all UN personnel are made aware of the threat to life and property, a threat which in many instances can be easily avoided.

A recent survey conducted by the staff of Fire HQ revealed an alarming ignorance of the significance of the figures 777. 75% of personnel were unaware that **777 is the Fire Emergency telephone number.** Please keep this number in mind. It may save YOUR life. For further information, contact the Fire HQ, Ext 453/454.



SAFE DRIVING IN CYPRUS

by the Force Provost Marshal



As stated in last month's Blue Beret, hereunder are some tips for getting right turns right!

One of the most difficult and potentially dangerous manoeuvres is a right turn at crossroads, due to the fact that other road users may be entering the junction from any direction.

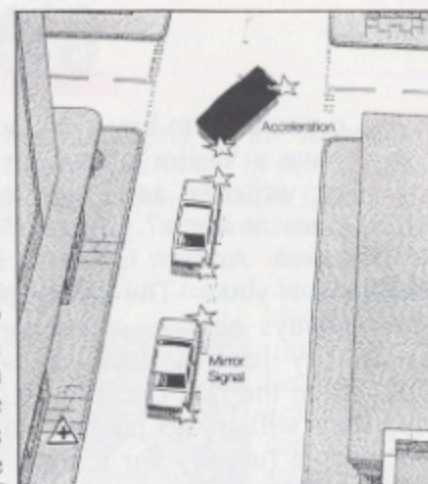
When making this manoeuvre, the ideal position for your vehicle is just left of the centre of the road, or in the lane designated for traffic turning right. If, when approaching the crossroads, you are travelling on the near side of your lane, it will be necessary to move out to adopt the correct road positioning. This manoeuvre should be done in plenty of time, taking into consideration the position and approach of other road users.

If you are travelling along a route not familiar to you, advance warning regarding the junction is given to you in the form of road signs (direction or warning) and road markings. As with any manoeuvre, mirrors should be checked and indicators showing your intention to move to the right used. Remember that, depending on the type of vehicle you are driving, it is a good idea to have a quick glance over your right shoulder to make sure that there are no vehicles, especially mopeds, in your mirror blind spots.

With the vehicle approaching the crossroads in the correct position, it will normally be necessary for the driver to reduce speed in order to make the turn safely. Obviously, the speed at which the turn is made is governed by the type of vehicle you are driving and if there are any other road users at the junction. You should be driving at a speed that you can safely bring the vehicle to a stop, should other road users unexpectedly appear, or if you believe that you cannot safely make the turn due to oncoming traffic. If you are driving a heavy/long vehicle, remember you are going to take more time to clear the junction than if you are driving a saloon car.

Before making the turn, make sure that the road you are turning into is not blocked, or that pedestrians are about to cross: it may mean that you will have to wait just a little longer before executing your manoeuvre.

In positioning your vehicle in the centre of the road with your indicators showing that you are making a right turn, you have made it quite clear to other road users what you intend to do. In this way, with the exception of some of the very narrow roads that you find in the rural areas of Cyprus, you are allowing vehicles to pass along your left side, so preventing a potential traffic jam whilst making your turn.



Traffic accidents usually occur at crossroads due to a number of reasons:

- Approaching the junction too quickly, and therefore being unable to react in time to other road users.
- Incorrect road positioning; stopping too far to the left or right causing other road users to collide with the front or rear of your vehicle.
- Making the right turn when oncoming traffic is approaching the junction and being unable to execute the turn in time.
- Making the right turn without checking the road you are driving into, colliding with other vehicles or - worse - pedestrians.

If all road users were just a little more considerate to each other, there would be far fewer traffic jams and, ultimately, road accidents. Remember - when driving a UNF plated vehicle you are on show, so let us set a good example. After all, we are only visitors here.

Safe driving until my next article.

CHARITY SPONSORED SWIM

On Fri 2 June 1995, a sponsored swim, organised by Coy Sgt PJ O'Toole of the UN MP Elm and Sgt J Doran from Camp Command took place at the UNPA swimming pool. Support for the swim was very encouraging with several swimmers, namely Susan Brennan, Sgt Chris Leeson and Capt Köstner, clocking up an incredibly high number of lengths.

The proceeds from the event were donated to worthwhile charities on both sides of the Green Line.





THE BATTALION ADMIN OFFICE The Heart and Brain of the Battalion



by Sgt Günter Nimmerfall



Do you want to buy a car, extend your tour, have a Visitor's Pass for your girlfriend or write an aerogramme to your loved ones at home? You do? No problem - the Battalion Admin Office will make it all possible for you. The good-spirited team are almost always able to cover your needs, even though they have a great many administrative tasks. If, on the rare occasion, it is impossible to help, they will try to put you in touch with the right people (usually for a small donation to the coffee fund!).



WO2 Gerhard Maier

Now let's introduce the team. To start with there is WO2 Gerhard Maier, Commander of the crew. Not only does he make a good impression in the "IAN-BG 95" (light Ayia Napa Best Gear 95), but he is also a bit of a showman in UN-greens. This is overshadowed by his ability to answer almost any request of the Battalion Admin Office successfully.



Sgt Günter Nimmerfall

Number Two in the office is WO1 Werner Schalko, the Personnel SNCO and also the



WO1 Werner Schalko

Sgt Günter Nimmerfall not only makes the best coffee in the Battalion, but is also responsible for the distribution of duty documents and their registration. He is also responsible for the PC tasking within the office. Sgt Nimmerfall is a highly qualified member of the team, and his speciality is to deal with queries and complaints coming through the office - possibly something to do with the fact that he is a martial arts expert and body builder!

Cpl Elmar Stern is also a computer expert and helps keep the calm within the office. Whenever chaos, stress or quarrels arise, he is the one to stabilize the situation and constantly



Cpl Elmar Stern

radiates relaxation and peace. Unkind rumours indicate that his inner peace is the result of regular night-time activities in Ayia Napa.

AUSCON tennis champion. Showing no sign of tiredness, he is always willing to produce a new ID card or Visitor's Permit, as well as playing a game of tennis or cracking a joke at any time. It is only during rotation time that he sometimes loses his sense of humour.



37TH INTERNATIONAL SOLDIERS' PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 18-22 MAY 1995



by MilOKur Hatzmann



A group of AUSCON UNFICYP personnel took part in the 37th Pèlerinage Militaire International (PMI) which this year was given the very appropriate title "Trust in Peace". Altogether, 30,000 soldiers from 29 nations attended. The biggest international military meeting was dedicated to all soldiers on duty in peace-keeping missions. The first time since the foundation of this pilgrimage in 1958, a delegation of eight Austrian UN soldiers from AUSCON UNFICYP, under the guidance of Militäroberkurat Gerhard Hatzmann, attended the meeting in the Pyrenian town of Lourdes. The soldiers were permitted to leave their mission in Cyprus for the duration of this event.



In the tent camp with Polish comrades

At the inaugural service, held for Austrian soldiers from the home country and abroad on Friday 15 May, the men who took part paid tribute to those who are on duty in the service of peace throughout the world. Militärgeneralvikar Monsignore Rudolf Schütz explained the peace-keeping and peace-making elements of this important and sensitive task amidst a war-torn world endangered by conflict, misery and distress. On the occasion of 50 years of the United Nations and 50 years of peace in Austria, MilOKur Hatzmann summoned all listeners "to exchange hostility for unity". He added: "the pursuit for peace in the world is, at the same time, service for our home country, Austria. Comradeship and loyalty are values we can never do without".



Holy Mass in the tent camp: Swiss on the right, Austrians on the left

One of the first highlights of the international meeting was the opening ceremony in the basilica of Pope Pius X. All flag bearers marched on and filed past the United Nations flag. A show then took place which included a display of pictures, short speeches, music and dance, all with regard to the theme "fidelité".



A group from AUSCON UNFICYP in front of the Basilica Rosaire

The international service on Sunday commenced with a "star march", where all nations, starting from different locations, met at the Esplanade. Together with many thousands of male and female soldiers and 15 bishops from all over the world, the Dean of the Roman Cardinals' Collegium, Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, celebrated the impressive service. On Sunday afternoon, the international finale followed the theme "God's spirit brings peace and hope to the world". A large fête of brotherhood, which crossed all language barriers, then followed.



Opening Ceremony of the Austrian soldiers in the Basilica Superieur with wind quartet from Upper Austria in the background

The first ever participation of the AUSCON UNFICYP group was received with great enthusiasm and much interest. On behalf of the Austrian Minister of Defence, Brigadier Fritz Sonntagbauer expressed to all those in attendance special thanks for their participation at the PMI. Moreover, he thanked them for their active service in keeping peace in the world.



ARGENTINIAN NATIONAL DAY: 25 MAY



by Lt (Navy) Alberto R von Wernich

On 25 May, the Argentinians of Sector One celebrated the 185th anniversary of their independence. In order to appreciate the importance of this event in the modern history of Argentina, one must go back to the year 1810.



Military Parade for National Day in Gen Roca Camp



New plaque of Gen San Martin Camp

Four days later, on 29 May 1810, the new Government established the National Army with the aim of defending and consolidating the security and freedom of the new State.

The Declaration of Independence spread to other neighbouring countries, such as Chile and Peru, inspired by Gen San Martin who led the struggle for Latin American independence from Spanish rule.

In memory of those who fought and sacrificed their lives for the freedom of Argentina, ARGCON decided to rename Skouriotissa Camp "Gen San Martin Camp" and Viking Camp "Gen Roca Camp".

Below is a brief account of the lives and contributions to South America of these two great Generals.

GEN DON JOSÉ DE SAN MARTIN

Gen San Martin was born in Argentina on 25 February 1778, and is remembered for his struggle against the Spanish rule in the cause for the freedom and independence of Argentina. Some of his achievements included the creation in 1812 of the "Granaderos a Caballo Regiment", now known as the Presidential Escort Regiment.

After he successfully defeated Spanish troops in San Lorenzo in 1813, he was appointed Argentinian Northern Army Commander in 1814.

GEN JULIO A ROCA

Gen Roca was born on 17 July 1843 and fought in the Argentinian National Reorganization between 1850-1879. His most important achievements were during the desert campaign, originated with the aim of conquering the Argentinian Indian tribes and introducing European civilization. In 1879, he was

During the years between 1815-1817, Gen San Martin continued his quests for the freedom and liberation of South America. He crossed the Andes and assisted Chile to gain independence from Spain. His name is also related to a number of victories including the defeat of the Spanish at the battle of Chacabuco in 1817, the battle of Maipo in 1818 and Peru's struggle for freedom in 1820.

Gen San Martin died in Boulogne sur Mer in France on 17 August 1850.

designated Commander of the desert expedition which conquered Patagonia.

Gen Roca ruled as President of Argentina during the years 1880-1886 and 1898-1904.

He died in 1904 in Buenos Aires.



ARGENTINIAN NAVY DAY: 17 MAY



by Lt (Navy) Alberto R von Wernich

On 17 May, ARGCON celebrated the Argentinian Navy Day at the Box Factory, Headquarters of the Argentine Navy Marine Corps located in "Charlie Coy". In honour of this occasion, the Camp was renamed "Admiral Guillermo Brown" after one of the most revered heroes of the Argentinian Navy.

The activities for the day started at 0800 hours with the Force Commander, CO Sector One and officers and WOs of the Argentinian Navy Marine Corps on an APC patrol between OPs 40 and 42.

Then at 0900 hours, a foot patrol was conducted over a distance of 16.4k between OPs 40 and 32, a gruelling three hours of forced march at an average speed of 5.5kph. On arrival at OP 32, Brig Gen Vartiainen addressed guests after taking the salute on parade.



The renaming of "Admiral Guillermo Brown Camp"

In typical Argentinian fashion, members of ARGCON and their guests were invited to share in an Argentinian "asado" (a barbecue) in the pleasant surroundings of Admiral Guillermo Brown Camp. During lunch, commemorative gifts were presented to guests in honour of this special occasion.

ADMIRAL GUILLERMO BROWN

Admiral Brown was born in Foxford, Lieutenant Colonel and Chief of the Argentinian County Galway in Ireland on 22 June 1777, and Navy in 1815. Then between 1815-1818, he was renowned for his participation in the fought in the struggle against Spanish rule in Argentinian war of independence. Chile, Peru and Ecuador, and later in 1825 against the Brazilian empire.

Admiral Brown took part in the defeat of the Spanish Navy at Rio de la Plata River in 1814, following which he was appointed

Admiral Brown died in Buenos Aires on 3 March 1857.

ARGENTINIAN AIR OPERATIONS COMMANDER VISITS UN FLIGHT

On 25 May 1995, the Argentinian Air Operations Commander, Brig Gen D visit to UNFICYP, Brig Alberto Vianna, paid a visit to UN Flight, together with his assistant, Major Bustillo. This was a familiarization visit which gave an opportunity to the visitors to get acquainted with the UN Flight activities and their supporting role to UNFICYP.

The occasion coincided with the National Day of Argentina, and therefore, UN Flight held a military parade in the presence of Brig Gen Vianna and visiting officials. The salute was taken by the Air Operations Commander, following which OC UN Flight invited everyone to breakfast.

During his visit to UNFICYP, Brig Gen Vianna paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, who took the



Brig Vianna salutes the National Flag

opportunity of expressing his appreciation for the excellent work carried out by UN Flight.

Brig Gen Vianna was then invited to a traditional Cypriot lunch in Larnaca. He departed on 26 May for Spain.



There is a country in the world that has tropics and ice flows, plains and mountains. A country of extremes, where the whole of nature is yours to explore. The Blue Beret will take you there in a two-part article, especially prepared for its readers.

In order to explain a little more fully about the wonderful country of Argentina, I shall try to make it easy for you and split the map of this huge country into the following six different regions, each one with its own characteristics. The first three are covered in this issue:

1. **North-west:** Puna
2. **Central Andes:** Region of Cuyo
3. **South-west:** Patagonian Andes

1. **THE NORTH-WEST REGION - PUNA**, the place where South America touches the sky. The main characteristic of this region is a high plateau, surrounded by very dry, high peaks and dry salt lakes. This area was once a part of the ancient Inca Empire. The following gives a brief description of the north-west region.



Firstly, the **Humahuaca Gorge**, one of the National Parks in the north-west area. Around the outskirts of San Salvador de Jujuy there is a spot where vegetation gives way to buttes and you can still find a few "pucarás", ancient indigenous fortifications. Here, you can also find the hot natural springs at Reyes and enjoy yourself at the Humahuaca carnival, originated by the Indians and continued in Spanish tradition, and visit numerous architectural sites.



Pucará de Tikara

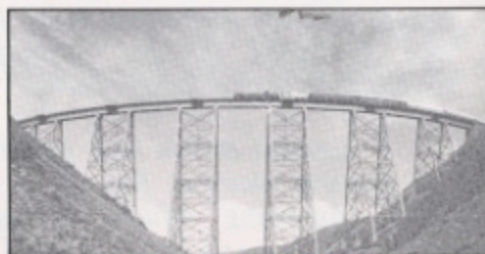
Then there is the **Cardones National Park**. Everyone must have heard of, or seen pictures of the "cardon", a giant cactus that grows at an altitude of between 6,500-11,000 ft, the fruit of which fed the indigenous populations a long time ago. The wood, obtained from the body of the cactus, can also be used for

carpentry and building works. Its abundance in the area is such that it has given its name to the National Park which is next to Salta City, and where vicuñas (a close relative of the llama) run free.

In the **Valleys of the Calchaquí** (the Calchaquí were Indian warriors), we can find the city of Salta, which is the capital of the province. This place and Los Cardones, Las Conchas Gorge, the Escoipe Gorge and the Enchanted Valley, all have the same characteristics. We can admire the footprints of prehistoric animals and pre-Hispanic Indian pictographs, and also the white snow-covered peak of Cachi (almost 21,000 ft).

La Luna Valley. Gigantic canyons and gorges, worn down by the winds, form a landscape that is reminiscent of the surface of the moon. To the capricious shapes of the rocks, similar to a parrot, Aladdin's lamp or even a submarine must be added the important fossil beds containing the remains of prehistoric animals, among which can be found the decinodontesaurius, a little more than six feet high and an ancestor of the mammal.

Another characteristic of the area is the **"Railway to the clouds"**. Does the prospect of climbing almost 10,000 ft in just under 125 miles appeal to you? Then catch "the railway to the clouds", as it is known, from Salta which will take you across the breathtaking viaduct of La Polvorilla (13,870 ft).



Railway to the Clouds

2. **CENTRAL ANDES - THE REGION OF CUYO.** This area has high mountains with deep valleys that run through the chain of mountains, and a very dry area with snow falling twice a year.

We find here **El Aconcagua**. Dominating the region of Cuyo from almost 23,000 ft, Aconcagua stands proudly as the highest peak in the Americas. It has a curiously snow-free summit, due to the action of the white wind which blows so hard that it doesn't allow snow to settle. It is the destination for climbers and mountaineers from all over the world, who generally



ARGENTINA AND ITS DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES - PART ONE

come to attempt a climb of the north face. If you are going to try, choose at least the lower part, up the valley of Los Horcones from Puente del Inca - the Bridge of the Incas, a natural bridge of rocks.

Then there is skiing at **Los Penitentes and Las Leñas**. It was in Vallecitos, in the shadow of Aconcagua peak, where for the first time people skied in Argentina as long ago as 1947. The ski station of Los Penitentes, in the heart of the Andes, is the most northerly in the country and the one in the valley of Las Leñas, in Mendoza, is the most important in South America. In summer, trail blazing is recommended, and in the Larga lakes and in Valle Hermoso you can go rafting, canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing.



Cordillera de los Andes

3. **THE SOUTH-WEST: THE PATAGONIAN ANDES.** From the Andes to Tierra del Fuego island (far south), there is a complete world in which you will find forests, lakes and glaciers in a series of landscapes, full of contrast but always attractive. Here you will find opportunities to contemplate the beauty of nature, to practise sport or just to enjoy your leisure.



The **Nahuel Huapi National Park** is the largest of the Argentinian National Parks and runs from the Andean massif to the Patagonian plateau, with mountain steep slopes over which condors (South American vultures) circle, forests of cypress trees where pumas prowl and mountain goats climb, and where the rivers are well stocked with perch and creole trout. The lakes are navigable; you can get to Victoria island, visit



Nahuel Huapi National Park

the Arrayanes forest and the Alberos waterfall, and take part in trail blazing, camping, rafting and trekking - the bravest can even attempt the climb of the Tronador peak (almost 18,227 ft).

San Carlos de Bariloche. On the meridian shore of the Nahuel Huapi lake and, consequently within the National Park itself, this place is one of the most attractive tourist centres. It is the home of many important scientific and cultural activities, a departure point for local tours, adventure holidays and winter sports with an extensive range of hotel accommodation.

The Route of the Seven Lakes. A route from Nahuel Huapi lake to el Lácar, which, despite its name, brings you into contact with eight different lakes, runs from San Martín de Los Andes and Bariloche. Here there are high peaks, almost always snow-covered, gigantic trees and numerous mountain streams, ideal for hunting and fishing in the Lanín National Park and for skiing in Cerro Chapelco.

The Petrified Forests. Of all the extensive fossil beds that can be found in Argentina, the National Reserve of the Petrified Forest is particularly impressive. It is situated on a top of what, millions of years ago, was a forest of Araucarias. Today it is a ghostly landscape, almost unique in the world, conserving as it does the remains of the trees in the place where they were found.

The distant southern island of "Tierra del Fuego". In the eastern part of this great island (belonging to Argentina), you will find Ushuaia, the most southerly city in the world, where they never have electrical storms and where the days are exceedingly long in summer and exceedingly short in winter. The Tierra del Fuego National Park begins just outside the city, where you can find the few remaining Yámanas Indians and six different species of sub-antarctic timber.

The Argentinian Antarctic. Argentina has more Antarctic bases than any other country, 17 in all, and has been the pioneer in developing tourism to these remote and isolated lands. Since the first crossing, in 1933, many visitors have arrived from Ushuaia, and even from Buenos Aires.



The Argentinian Antarctic



ARGENTINA'S NAVY DAY IS CELEBRATED IN SECTOR ONE

