The Blue Beret

June 1995

29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery assumes responsibility for Sector Two

by Capt Gus Millar RA

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.

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 Humaneiores 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 UKLP 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 airborne 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 United Nations Organisation 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 Organisation 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 Organisation 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.

The Blue Beret

by CPL Willie Quain

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL COEXISTENCE FESTIVAL

1995 - 50 YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

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by Capt Gus Millar RA

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

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Argentina and Its Different Landscapes - Part One

UNFICYP’s Contribution to the United Nations 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Argentina’s Navy Day
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. The first was a father and son who both completed swimming courses.

The four-day course was supervised by Capt Kostner, 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 Vartianian, visited the Nicosia Municipal Swimming Pool and was given a demonstration by Capt Kostner and a volunteer from the trainees.

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

UNFICYP UFOs?

In the early twilight hours of dreamland, 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 much bigger than his head...!

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

A large gathering of military and civilian personnel were present for the Chief of Mission 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.

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

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

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Hannah Rebecca, born on 27 April, is the beautiful daughter of Shona and Michael Samaras.

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In the Hippocrates Clinic, Nicosia, she weighed in at 3.5 kilos. Shona is well known to all of us here in HQ UNFICYP, as she is employed by the UNCMIC. Her smiling face has been missed for the last few months, however, happily Shona will be returning to work, once Hannah settles down.

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

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 Osnabruck 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 roles 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 Alliwal 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 Lefdra 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.

FIRE FIGHTING COURSE - CAMP COMMAND

Camp Command is responsible for Fire Fighting/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/Prevention Courses at various times throughout the year.

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 teach the 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 in which 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

As stated in last month’s Blue Beret, here 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, 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 with care, 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 left 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 at which 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.

CHARITY SPONSORED SWIM

On Fri 2 June 1995, a sponsored swim, organised by Coy Sgt Phil O'Toole of the UN MP Eim and 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.

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

June 1995

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!).

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.

WO2 Gerhard Maier

WO1 Werner Schalko

Now WO1 Werner Schalko, the Personnel SNCO and also the 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.

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 bodybuilder!

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

Cpl Elmar Stern

Number Two in the office is WO1 Günter Nimmerfall, the Personnel SNCO and also the 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.

WO1 Günter Nimmerfall

At the inaugural service, held for Austrian soldiers from the home country and abroad on Friday 15 May, the man who took part paid tribute to those who are on duty in the final frontier of the process - the church. The service of peace throughout the world.

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

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 file of brotherhood, which crossed all language barriers, then followed.

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 flown 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 “Pax Christi”.

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

A group from AUSCON UNFICYP personnel took part in the 37th Pilgrimage 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 Militärratskurat Gerhard Hatmann, 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.

A group from AUSCON UNFICYP in front of the Basilica Rosaire

As the last rays of the sun started to fall on the fields, the Austrian soldiers were invited to take part in the procession through the town, armed with an “Aten” trust. The Saturday programme included more services and celebrations, as well as an impressive torch ceremony with a procession through the town.

in the tent camp with Polish comrades

A group from AUSCON UNFICYP in front of the Basilica Rosaire

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The first ever participation of the AUSCON UNFICYP group received with great enthusiasm and much interest.

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.

From 25 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 neighboring 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, ARCGON 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 of 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 successfully defeated Spanish troops in San Lorenzo in 1813, he was appointed Argentinian Northern Army Commander in 1814. 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 Maipú in 1818 and Peru's struggle for freedom in 1820.

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

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 Argentine Indian tribes and introducing European civilization. In 1879, he was 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, ARCGON 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 16.4 km between OPs 40 and 32, a gruelling three hours of forced march at an average speed of 5.5 kph. On arrival at OP 32, Brig Gen Vartiaiine addressed guests after taking the salute on parade.

In typical Argentinian fashion, members of ARCGON 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 Brown was born in Foxford, Lieutenant Colonel and Chief of the Argentinian County Galway in Ireland on 22 June 1777, and was renowned for his participation in the Argentinian war of independence.

Admiral Brown took part in the defeat of the Spanish Navy at Rio de la Plata River in 1814, following which he was appointed Commandant in Buenos Aires on 3 March 1857.

ARGENTINIAN AIR OPERATIONS COMMANDER VISITS UN FLIGHT

On 25 May 1995, the Argentine Air Operations Commander, Brig Gen D. Alberto Vianna, paid a visit to UN Flight, together with his assistant, Major Busillo. 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 UNPFICYP.

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.

At his visit to UNPFICYP, Brig Gen Vianna paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, who took the 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 "puebres", ancient indigenous fortifications. Here, you can also find the hot natural springs at Reyes and enjoy yourself at the Humahuaca camp, originated by the Indians and continued in Spanish tradition, and visit numerous architectural sites.

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 called Punta de Cardones from Puente del Inca, and where vicuñas (a close relative of the llama) run free.

In the valleys of the Calchaqui (the Calchaqui 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 Echeandia 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, Aladine'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 decedonsaurians, 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).

### 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 come to attempt a climb of the north face. If you are going to try, choose at least the lower part, up the valley, which is next to 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 Vallejitos, in the shadow of Aconcagua peak, where 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 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.

### 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 Argentine National Parks and runs from the Andean massif to the Patagonian plateau, with mountain steeps over which conquerors (South American forests) circle forests of cypress trees where pumas prow 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 the Araucaria 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 meridional 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 Lícar, 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 mountains 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 Yamanas 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.

By Lt (Navy) Alberto R von Wernich
ARGENTINA'S NAVY DAY IS CELEBRATED IN SECTOR ONE