

CU, FITZGERALD

TEASER

FITZGERALD, SYNC:

"Well, the first time I was in the Congo, that was last year. I spent seven months there and then when I came back, approximately the middle of May, there was another peace force coming out here, so I volunteered and we went out here in September. But I got married, of course, in the meantime, so it's a bit more difficult coming out to Cyprus than it was going to the Congo."

WIDE SHOT OF CAMP

NARRATOR:

Patrick Fitzgerald is 24 years old. He has been in the Irish Army for six years. The 41st Irish Battalion is part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

FITZGERALD

FITZGERALD, SYNC:

"Well, it's strenuous because the duties are more or less very heavy. Very often we are up in the mountains here and the conditions are a bit hard. But we adapt ourselves to it, and we get used to it after a while."

OVER MARCHING MEN

NARRATOR:

This film is about what it's like to serve in a U.N. army.

TITLES:

INTERNATIONAL ZONE WITH ALISTAIR COOKE
PRIVATE FITZGERALD, UN
THEME

NARRATOR:

AIRPLANE INTERIOR

The plane arrives at night. Somehow it's always at night. Airlifted from Dublin to a faraway island in the eastern Mediterranean where two communities are tearing each other apart. The Irish are here because the Security Council asked the U.N. Secretary-General to send a force to Cyprus; and because U Thant asked the government of Ireland to send a battalion as part of that force.

NICOSIA AIRPORT
SOLDIERS LEAVE PLANE

Only twice have Irish units left their country to serve overseas and both times for the United Nations. First in the Congo, now in Cyprus.

GARRY OWEN CAMP

Garry Owen Camp is at Lefka, in the north west part of the island. There's a lot of tension hereabouts and a lot of fighting, too. Lt. Col. P.J. Dempsey is back from a headquarters conference in Nicosia. He is the Commanding Officer.

DEMPSEY ARRIVES

DEMPSEY AND OFFICERS

DEMPSEY, SYNC:

"I would like to summarize the matters to which we must devote ourselves immediately. Many difficult internal problems are posed by the deployment of the battalion in this area. Every member of the battalion must show respect for lawful customs and traditions, and avoid any action that would be not consistent with a member of a peace-keeping mission. Here, then, are the requirements: to have all members of the unit understand the mission, and to comport themselves with restraint and decency in carrying it out. To be alert and firm without being arrogant or aggressive. To be sympathetic and cordial in our attitude, and remain detached and objective in our assessments. To be penetrating in observation and prompt and accurate in reporting, for we represent the eyes and the ears of the United Nations Organization in this area."

SERGEANT TO PATROL

SERGEANT, SYNC:

"You are the eyes and the ears of UNFICYP, who in turn pass on this information to New York. I don't have to stress how important your mission is.

"Now, NCO's get your men on to the trucks and we'll go out and see the cease-fire line right away."

AS THE PATROL LOADS

THE TRUCK

NARRATOR:

The cease-fire line is a tangle on the map, just as Lefka is an ethnic tangle of Greek and Turkish Cypriotes. This is a difficult area, with a black record of violence during all the recent history of Cyprus. The cease-fire has frozen a complicated situation. All the Irish can do is to see that it remains frozen. Until some enduring settlement makes a thaw possible without disaster.

ON IS OF SINGLE TRUCK

We are on patrol. We are going to live with Patrick Fitzgerald, his sergeant, and three comrades on an outpost hill some miles from the main battalion camp. A hill which commands several important approaches to Mansura village.

PATROL DISMOUNTS,

CLIMBS HILL

HANDOVER SEQUENCE,

AS PREVIOUS OUTPOST

IS RELIEVED

SYNC:

SERGEANT: "Well, anything strange, Ron?"

RON: "No."

SERGEANT: "Well, what's the situation like here?"

RON: "We are on the Turkish cease-fire line along here, which starts here, and runs along straight here and to the rock beyond us with all that white crest on it."

SERGEANT: "What about the ship?"

RON: "This ship is a Turkish ship. It was wrecked in a storm. It happened to be wrecked on No-Man's-Land, which is the Greek cease-fire line. It starts where that ship is. There are no Greeks allowed on that ship whatsoever. Our job is to protect it."

SERGEANT: "Well, I'd say the ship now; is there anything else you'd like to tell me about?"

RON: "About this village here. This is known as Mansura Village."

SERGEANT: "Mansura."

RON: "Yes. Allow nobody to take any furniture or anything whatsoever away from these houses."

SERGEANT: "I see, yes, yes."

AS RELIEVED SOLDIERS MARCH

DOWN HILL

NARRATOR:

The hand-over is complete. The new men are in possession. The lucky ones head back to the main camp, and its relative comfort.

OVER LS OF TENT WITH FLAG

We have a moment to find out some more about Private Fitzgerald, UN.

INTERVIEW

SYNC:

LAUZUN: "Now, explain to me: why did you join the force?"

FITZGERALD: "Well, it's a good thing, and it's a good opportunity, for a young fellow to see and travel around a bit, and I've always wanted to travel. So this is the chance I had, so I decided to take it."

LAUZUN: "It's only for travelling?"

FITZGERALD: "Yes, mostly, experience, ..meeting different people."

LAUZUN: "What did you know about the situation in Cyprus before?"

FITZGERALD: "Well, only what I'd read in the papers: they'd had a lot of trouble here at one time or another; but I didn't give much thought to that when I was coming out here."

LAUZUN: "Do you feel like a soldier here?"

FITZGERALD: "We do, yes. I mean, our job, it's not very easy. And we're on the go, all the time, more or less."

LAUZUN: "Do you ever fight in Cyprus?"

FITZGERALD: "No, fortunately not, there has been no trouble since we came here and I hope it keeps up that way."

LAUZUN: "You've been in many parts of the island?"

FITZGERALD: "Yes, we were in Famagusta for a few weeks, about six weeks, then we moved up here to Kato Pyrgos, and it was a big difference coming from one to the other, because we were more used to the city life in Famagusta, but we are getting used to the mountains up here now."

LAUZUN: "Explain to us what you do over a day."

FITZGERALD: "Well, at the moment now we are on the post here for a fortnight. We stay up here at the post to observe all around the cease-fire line, to make sure that neither side crosses into the other. We go on duty two hours in the day, six hours off, and the time is pretty long drawing by, but we occupy ourselves with reading, writing and, if we have a game of cards, recreation; what we can do for ourselves. We make it up."

LAUZUN: "You write to your wife very often?"

FITZGERALD: "Every day. It was something I was used to because I used to do the same in the Congo. She looks forward to

getting letters at home, and I do the same here. She writes every day back to me."

LAUZUN: "You stay here for how long?"

FITZGERALD: "We stay here for two weeks and then we go back to our main camp in Kato Pyrgos."

LAUZUN: "I mean, in Cyprus?"

FITZGERALD: "Six months is our period of service so we should be going home around March, the end of March...April. If the mandate is extended, we don't know. We started September, so when we are finished we'll go home."

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS

SYNC:

SERGEANT: "O'Connor, you are going to patrol as far as the first bend. Turn right, down along by the bend into the valley."

"I hope the rain will hold off, lads."

"I certainly hope so."

NARRATOR:

They patrol the cease-fire lines. The rule is that Greeks stay in Greek areas, and Turks in the Turkish zones. Whenever this rule is broken, there can be trouble. Of

course, every now and again there have to be exceptions. Emergencies make exceptions.

SYNC:

OPERATOR WITH RADIO

"There are figures...five shepherds; I say, again, there are figures...five shepherds passing over; I say, again, passing over cease-fire line."

NARRATOR:

DOCTOR AND PATIENT

The Turkish shepherds have come to ask for help. They need a UN doctor. There's a man in the village with a broken leg.

SYNC:

IRISH DOCTOR: "Well, doctor, I think that this is a case of a fracture from here. Here, see!"

PATIENT: "Ah...ah!"

LOCAL DOCTOR: "Yes, doctor, I think it's quite obviously a fracture of the lower end of the tibia."

IRISH DOCTOR: "Yes, I think so, too."

LOCAL DOCTOR: "Yes, it is."

LOCAL DOCTOR: "Do you want me to prepare a landing place for a helicopter?"

IRISH DOCTOR: "Yes, I would be glad if you would."

LOCAL DOCTOR: "Well, which place would you prefer?"

IRISH DOCTOR: "Well, at the back of the school; I think there would be suitable."

LOCAL DOCTOR: "That's right, it will be very nice for it."

HELICOPTER ARRIVES
PATIENT ABOARD

SOUND

HELICOPTER TAKE-OFF

NARRATOR:

"Private Fitzgerald, UN", a story of Irish soldiers in Cyprus, will resume in a moment.

M I D D L E B R E A K

STREET DEMONSTRATION

NARRATOR:

There has been tension and violence between Turk and Greek in Cyprus for decades. Here in Nicosia during the Christmas of 1963 civil war again spilled out into the streets.

FIGHTING

DEATH

Terror was met by counter-terror. No one was safe.

RUINS

For a long time Nicosia was a city of death; of armed patrols and shattered buildings.

DESERTED STREETS

FITZGERALD AND OTHERS

Now, with United Nations forces keeping the peace, a nervous calm has returned to the capital of Cyprus. To Patrick Fitzgerald, on a 48-hour leave pass, it is high living after the lonely mountain patrols. His companions, a Danish UN soldier and a Swedish one, show him the ropes.

DOWN THE STEPS

RESTAURANT

The city is rich in small restaurants and bistros; and because this is the Eastern Mediterranean, lamb on a skewer - shishkebab - is a natural thing to order.

MEAL AT TABLE

SYNC:

DANE: "Try this, it's very good..."

FITZGERALD: "I've never tried this one before..."

SWEDE: "Try it, it's quite good..."

FITZGERALD: "It should be different, anyway..."

DANE: "Don't eat it as a sandwich!"

FITZGERALD: "How do you hold it on?...Well, it's
different, that's for sure..."

SWEDE: "It's very good."

DANE: "Try this one..."

FITZGERALD: "What's that?"

DANE: "Heaven only knows what the thing is..."

FITZGERALD: "...You know I don't drink that much; you
know that..."

NARRATOR:

CU OF POTATO, CUT TO
PEELING POTATOES IN CAMP

But leave always goes by so quickly. Soon
it's back to camp, and back to spuds.

SPORTS

Even at camp there are off duty hours,
and the Irish are pretty good at organizing
their outdoor recreation.

SWIMMING, VOLLEYBALL
MORTAR DRILL

SYNC.

NARRATOR:

Zero nine thirty: mortar drill.

GROUP WITH TREE

They haven't fired a shot in anger yet and
they're hoping not to have to. But soldiers
have to keep sharp; and keeping sharp means
training.

COMMANDS, PRACTISE SHOT

NARRATOR:

Mortar drill...machine gun drill...weapons
inspection...guard duty...outpost duty...
patrolling. And always the additional

requirements for a soldier of the UN:
tact, patience and persuasion.

INTERVIEW WITH
FITZGERALD

SYNC:

LAUZUN: "If there is another mission after, will you volunteer?"

FITZGERALD: "Well, I couldn't answer that yet, until I get home, and if my wife decides she'll let me go away, then I would."

LAUZUN: "You want to be a soldier for a career?"

FITZGERALD: "Oh, yes. I would stay all the time in the army."

LAUZUN: "Do you think you could be a peace-keeping soldier for a career?"

FITZGERALD: "Yes, I would like it very much, the travelling around. I hope that when the staff of the Permanent U.N. Force comes into being, so, if I'm lucky enough, I'll volunteer for it."

GROUP OF SOLDIERS IN
TENT

NARRATOR:
For the rest, it's "hurry-up-and-wait", the alternation of tension and tedium which always goes with being a soldier.

Cards, or chess, or checkers, or a magazine, or James Bond, or Sean O'Casey, or a letter home.

SYNC:

SOLDIER: "Ah, Paddy, you're not writing again, are you?"

FITZGERALD:

"Somebody has to do it,

'My darling Marjorie,

HAND WRITES LETTER

"This is my daily letter, hoping you are well, and to say how very much I love and miss you. I received your welcome letter this morning and, as usual, you have brought happiness to my lonely self. I will be going to the Holy Land, so I'm looking forward to having a good time. We've had a bit of bad weather for the past few days and it's pouring rain here but it must be just as bad at home. Before I close this letter, my darling, remember I love you with all my heart, and am only living for the day when I will hold you in my arms again.

'Goodnight, my darling, and God bless you, always.

Your ever-loving husband,

Paddy"

FITZGERALD AND SOLDIERS:

FITZGERALD:

"I'm going to the Holy Land, next week; it's real cheap."

SOLDIER:

"You want to make sure and keep a couple of English pounds from Beirut on the way back."

FITZGERALD: "How many days were you in Beirut?"

SOLDIER: "Well, we went on a Monday and came back on that Friday morning."

FITZGERALD: "I'll be going there myself in about two weeks time, so you can help me out by telling me the best places to see around there, you know."

SOLDIER: "Certainly, we'll all help you out."

FITZGERALD: "I'll be back here, Sunday."

SOLDIER: "Back here Sunday. You'll arrive back in Beirut, say, around 12 o'clock on Friday. You leave 6 o'clock Sunday evening. You'll have plenty of time for shopping, plenty of time for sightseeing, and that. Every place you go in Jerusalem, itself, is very nice."

NARRATOR:
Jerusalem ...

SCENE WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTOGRAPHER, SYNC:

"Okay, Irish! Please look this way. Those people in the back; those people in the front, please sit down. Little bit back, little bit back, please. Yes, yes. Everyone in the picture, except me, please.

"We have cheese, we have whisky!

"Okay!

"One...two...six hundred..."

TAKES GROUP PICTURE

CLICKS

AS GROUP BREAKS UP

PHOTOGRAPHER, SYNC (cont'd)

"By the way, Irish, print your picture in the Christmas card. Print your greeting in English. Your picture will come inside the card. It's one for 10 shillings, six for five shillings. Everybody one; with the picture: six for five shillings."

SCENE WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

WIDE SHOT, JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is just a short skip across the water from Cyprus, and a visit to the Holy City is -- for a religious Irish country boy -- something to be remembered all his life.

NUN GUIDES GROUP

NUN EXPLAINS

SYNC:

"Look there: you see here the whole panorama of Jerusalem at our feet. If you look at that side, you have Israel. And you go right across there. The most important thing for the moment is that church. From there on the Friday morning, Our Lord was brought here to this actual place where we are now. We are on the foundations of the Praetorium. And it was here, underneath this house, on the pavement, that He was judged.

NUN IN CRYPT

"Behind the altar is the continuation of the arch which you saw in the street called the 'Arch of the Ecce Homo'. It goes down

about ten feet and stands on the continuation of the Roman pavement, which you are going to see presently. When they built the church, they made a crypt beneath the high altar, beneath the sanctuary, and discovered that the arch is standing on Roman pavement. They realized Christ had been standing on that pavement, that he had passed over those stones, so they took the stones up from between the feet of the arch, and the altar you see is made of those stones."

WIDE ZOOM OF CYPRUS COAST

SUNDAY MASS SCENE

CAMP FIRE SCENE

ESTABLISHED

They bring the memory of it back to Cyprus, and it's still with them on Sunday morning.

SYNC, MUSIC

NARRATOR:

Patrick Fitzgerald, Private, 41st Irish Battalion, U.N. Forces in Cyprus, stands for all the men who wear the military uniforms of their own countries but who serve -- or have served -- the cause of the United Nations. Not only in Cyprus, but in Greece, Indonesia, Palestine, Kashmir, Lebanon, the Congo, West Irian and Yemen.

TITLES

MUSIC TO END