The main purpose of this research work is to unveil the facts and the ground realities pertaining to the role of Indian peacekeepers ever since 1947. This is done with a view that the future peacekeeping generations would benefit from the vast and varied experience of the Indian Army. It may well be seen by the world at large that India has always had unflinching commitment to the ideals and objectives of the United Nations and has indeed been instrumental in global peace and tranquility ever since its independence.

It is further pertinent to highlight that based on the national policy, Indian Army, has amply demonstrated its spirited participation in 43 out of 63 UN peacekeeping missions, which practically includes almost all the UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. **Inspite of many odds and major difficulties which come in their way, the Indian officers and men have in the past and even today are performing their duties with excellence, willingly and cheerfully unto their death.** This statement is supported by the fact that 123 Indian personnel have so far laid down their valuable lives i.e. the highest figure of casualties for any country engaged in UN peacekeeping missions in the world till date. These sacrifices have been made so as to safeguard the honour of ‘UN Flag’ and the ‘Blue Helmets’, which the citizens and soldiers of Indian Army always adore.

The scope of this research work has indeed been very challenging due to its vast arena which covers a period of almost six decades. Thus, in preparing the work, I have taken great care to treat each chapter with total clarity and supplemented it with facts and figures from maximum available primary as well as secondary sources. **Efforts have also been made by way of holding interviews and exchange of views through informal interactions for obtaining first hand information from a number of participants, who indeed co-operated willingly and shared their valuable experiences.** This has further supplemented in bringing out number of facts unexplored hither-to-fore.

It is indeed with joy and pride that I take pleasure in recording my heartfelt deep sense of gratitude to Dr. V. K. Dikshit, Head of the History Department, D.A.V. (P.G) College, Dehradun, under whose very dedicated supervision I am able to accomplish this research work. Needful to further state that Dr. Dikshit greatly encouraged and inspired me to undertake this challenging work and went out of his way to extend full co-operation during the entire course of my research work.

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To all my associates and colleagues, I am grateful.

Place : Dehradun

(Gurvinder Pal Singh)
Colonel

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