

EIRWEN HARBOTTLE

(15 February 1921 – 6 February 2022)



Eirwen Harbottle – *Conceptualiser, miracle-worker and prime mover of Peace Child*

Eirwen was born and brought up in Cyprus. During World War II she worked first for A force in M19 in Cyprus. Together with her first husband, Tony Simonds, she started a flower farm in the Kyrenia mountains, where she was also a florist, dressmaker, broadcaster and actress.

She met her second husband, Brigadier Michael Harbottle, Chief of Staff for the UN Peace-keeping force in Cyprus. Nobel Peace Laureates, Fenner Brockway and Philip Noel Baker asked them to establish the World Disarmament Campaign. In 1981, she persuaded them and the Royal Albert Hall to book the final night of Disarmament Week for an unwritten children's musical, Peace Child - a Celebration for Peace. They then later founded the Centre for International Peace-building. Both organisations were focussed on helping the UN deliver constructive peace-making, peace-building and peace-keeping.

She worked for the Kurdish government in exile in London and was a lifelong supporter of Refugees having been one herself in South Africa during the 2nd World War. She spent many years working with Vietnamese Refugees. She also encouraged Kew Gardens to set up a project to send unwanted seeds to schools all over the world so that they could grow them, then monitor and exchange information on their progress – thus promoting international understanding amongst young people.

In later life, her two priorities were what role the military could play in all this and how young people could make a difference in our world.

MICHAEL HARBOTTLE

(7 February 1917 – 30 April 1997)



Brigadier Michael Harbottle OBE - Political & Strategic midwife to Peace Child

Brigadier Michael Harbottle OBE was a distinguished soldier, writer and broadcaster. Following his time as Chief of Staff to the UN peacekeeping operation in Cyprus, he devoted the remainder of his life in retirement to teaching the interrelating skills of peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding. He became Vice President of the International Peace Academy which worked closely with the UN and drew on a worldwide network of statesmen and scholars.

He wrote several books among them, *The Blue Berets*, *The Thin Blue Line*, the *Peacekeeper's Handbook* and *What is Proper Soldiering* based on his experiences. The latter became required reading at all the staff colleges in this country. He was a founder member of Generals for Peace in 1981 when east-west relations were at their lowest ebb. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he transformed Generals for Peace and Disarmament into a world – wide consultative association with former senior officers in national armed forces from all over the world. He believed that future security lay not with the UN Security Council which was often so ineffective but with regional and sub-regional arrangements working under the terms of the UN Charter.

He was also General – Secretary of the World Disarmament Campaign. Together with Eirwen he created the Centre for International Peace Building. He was considered one of the greatest peacekeeping experts of his time