

50 off 100 WOT! John the DJF...

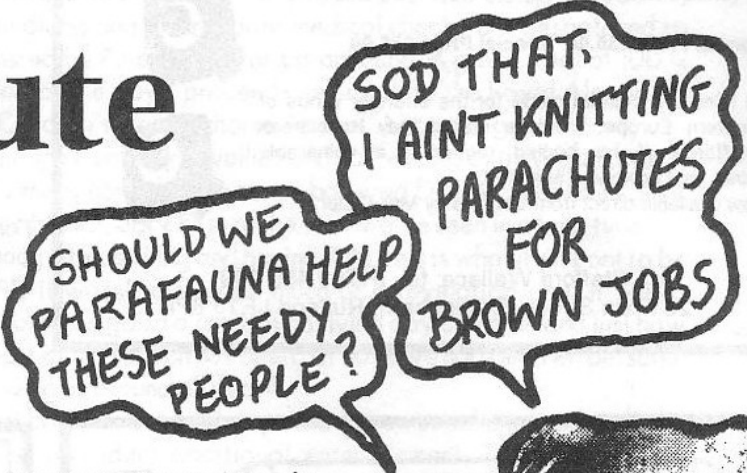
ROMAN GANDLE 50



THE JOURNAL OF THE BEARLY MADE IT SKYDIVE SQUAD, THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD OF PARACHUTING FAUNA AND THE U.K. TED DEVILS. POLITICALLY INCORRECT AND MINDLESS DRIVEL CONTENT REGULARLY EXCEEDS GOVT. SAFETY LIMITS, BUT WE DONT GIVE A TOSS.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE SILLY. TRA,LA,LA,LA,..LA,LA,LA...LAHHH! The silly season, you know, that time of the year when the papers and the odd Parafauna Journal are so str-apped for news, that they seize on any load of old Tosh, no matter how daft or silly it is.....You dont believe us ?.....Read on.....

Red Berets grounded by parachute shortage



THE Parachute Regiment has been forced to cancel exercises and training because it does not have enough parachutes.

by ANDREW GILLIGAN
Defence Correspondent

Army Para batallions, one of which, 10 Para, is facing disruption to its main exercise of the year. Senior regular officers, however, confirmed that the shortage was a problem across the Parachute Regiment.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman admitted last night that the recently privatised packing operation for the parachutes had "fallen behind", resulting in "shortages of availability" for several units.

Each time a parachute is opened for a jump, it must be repacked by specialists before it can be used again. Until three years ago this work was carried out by servicemen at Hullavington in Wiltshire, but it was then handed over to a private company, Irvin Aerospace, which also makes the parachutes.

Urgent discussions are underway to solve the problem, but the MoD insisted that the Paras could still meet all their operational commitments.

"Irvin's aren't employing enough people to pack the parachutes," another Para officer said. "They worked out the average demand and put their capacity on-line to meet that. But this year demand has been higher than the average."

One Para officer said: "At the moment we are getting roughly a third of what we should be getting. Basic parachute courses have had to be cancelled, a lot of units have lost their continuation parachute training and some are struggling to achieve their tactical training."

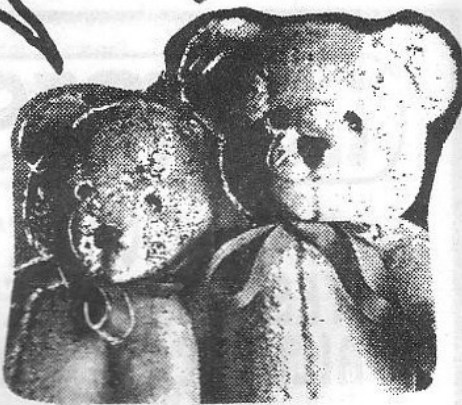
Irvin Aerospace, based in Letchworth, Herts, refused to comment, but an MoD spokesman said: "We are in discussion at the moment with the company over a series of 'get well' measures.

"Every airborne soldier is required to make four descents a year to remain current. But this year, some units will be lucky to get one."

Units are experiencing varying degrees of difficulty, with the worst problems found in the two Territorial

Brigade-level exercises, the largest regularly undertaken by the Paras, had all gone as planned and a jump into Albania last month during a Nato exercise had also taken place.

The three regular Para batallions are being forced to abandon many company-level exercises and so-called



"continuation training" — refresher jumps for individual soldiers. Some large exercises are also being scaled down.

"Some units have called off planned jumps for reasons best known to themselves," the ministry spokesman said. "There is an impression at unit level that it's because of the parachute shortage but that is not the case."

We are looking at various responses to get back onto a normal footing, such as recruitment of more packers and extra overtime. We hope to have the problems resolved before Christmas."

The MoD insisted that any shortages were "not critical" and that operational capability had not been affected.

But one Para officer said: "If I had mucked up like this, I would have been severely reprimanded. There has been a lot of shrugging of shoulders. No one has said that you have got to get this sorted out."

The shortages began to be felt in the spring, when demand for parachute training increases because of improving weather conditions.

The problem has been exacerbated by the withdrawal from service of the Army's old "PX" parachute in favour of the "LLP" or low-level parachute. Until last year, units without enough LLPs could practice on the PX, but that option is no longer available to them.

IF YOU THOUGHT THAT THE PARACUTICALLY CHALLENGED PARATROOPS PIECE WAS EXTREMELY SILLY, WAIT, IT GETS WORSE AND EVEN SILLIER, COP THESE PIECES BELOW.....

BALLOONACY

By ROBIN PERRIE

RESCUERS raced to save a "parachutist" blown out to sea and found...a giant Mickey Mouse balloon.

The £40,000 operation was launched after a passer-by mistook the 4ft 6in inflatable for a skydiver in trouble.

In fact, the balloon belonged to Jennifer Brown, six - who lost it when a gust of wind blew it out of her house in Sunderland. Two helicopters, two lifeboats and two passing ships joined the search

£40,000 to rescue a toy

and found the helium-filled balloon four miles out to sea.

By chance, one lifeboatman was a family friend and recognised the toy as Jennifer's.

Jennifer said: "I said a prayer and Mickey came back! I gave him a hug. Now Mam has tied him to my bed for safety."



Safe... Mickey with Jennifer

O.K. So the world is, as always going raving barmy, but this Balloonacy bit reminds us of what happened a few years back, when some publicly minded citizens, alright, Macrame Knitting, woolly brained Idiots at a fly in got it into their addled pates that some Dropniks were actually dropping real live Hume Toddlers from Kites by Parachute

Talk about putt-

TERROR OF DANGLING PARA GIRL

A GIRL parascender was left dangling 100ft above the sea after the speedboat towing her suddenly capsized and sank.

The woman - who cannot swim - used her parachute and the strong winds to keep herself above the waves until she was rescued by a lifeboat.

Her harness was still attached to the boat as it sank, and a lifeboat spokesman said: "She was very lucky."

"The water was shallow so she wasn't dragged under when the boat sank."

The speedboat driver - taking part in a charity event - was helped to safety by a beach life-guard in Clacton, Essex.

ing Two and Two together and getting Fortythree, wer'nt in it. These Dummies had to have the whole thing explained to them in great detail before they were convinced that the friendly local Dropniks were not indulging in something very nefarious.

The Bottom line of all this though, as usual, some silly sod throws a wobbly, and Bobs Yer Uncle, the Great British Taxpayer has to pick up the Tab. But, I hear you say "Better safe than Sorry" Yes, but apart from putting the Rescuers lives at risk un-neccesarily, the prospect of a Forty Grand Tab, could inject a modicum of common sense, Know what I mean Harry?.

The Dangling Para Girl can thank her lucky stars that her Tow Boat didn't go down in deeper water, though it must have been funny to see her apparently attached to sod all. Havig seen the odd Parafauna splash into the 'Oggin, its amazing just how non buoyant a chute, some plush and the odd bit of kapok can be. Yes, we know that Humes are mainly waterproof, otherwise they'd have holes in their Big toes to let the water drain out, but even so, being attached to a boat thats heading for Davy Joneses Locker, whilst being wrapped in a Ripstop Shroud, aint nobodies idea of fun.

The piece about Gyles (nobody has sillier sweaters than me) Brandreth's Teddy Bear Museum is, on the face of it only slightly silly. However we are disturbed to see that Tony (I'm ashole lucky) Bullimore, after his previous narrow escape, which ended with the Drowning of one of our Bret-heren (BOO,HISS) fully intends to take another hapless Ted

along as a Mascot. Lets hope that this Ted does'nt suffer the same fate as the other one. Hang about, the end bit about Brandreth being strapped to the Bow of the boat instead of the Ted, hmmm, hows about Bullimore being strapped to the Bow along with "silly Sweaters" and let the Ted sail the Boat, could do no worse, YOO WOT!

Not sure if the Hume dressed as a Ted, Piloting a Hot Air Balloon is a first, Bearing in mind that we beieve your erstwhile founder Fredbear was the first Teddy to succesfully jump (thrown actually) by Parachute from a Hot Air Balloon way back

in Nineteen Eightyfreezing stiff.

However, be that as it may a Teddy Balloon Pilot is only ever so slightly silly, especially as it was in connection with trying to raise some much needed funds for a very worthy cause. All together now, AAAAAHHH! Gordon Bennett.....

■ BALLOON pilot Barry Newman took to the air dressed as a teddy bear to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign. He was promoting the Flying Teddy Bears which were being sold at Northampton's Balloon festival. To get further details of Cancer Research Campaign activities on 01582 764832.

GYLES BRANDRETH'S Teddy Bear Museum celebrates its 10th anniversary this month with the star of the party being Tony Blair's teddy, Lynton. Other bears include those belonging to Dame Barbara Cartland, Prince Philip and Neil Kinnock. But Lynton's position as star attraction looks threatened.

For he has just been joined by Horatio. This bear is to be the new mascot for Tony Bullimore, the yachtsman who, despite failing to sail around the world, is to have another go. "Horatio will stay with us until his attempt to become the first single-paved round the world yacht's bear." I am told by an ever-amusing Brandreth. "His predecessor sadly drowned during the attempt last year."

Some observers are suggesting that Brandreth be the mascot and strapped to the bow. This is unkind.

AH SO! TEDDI-BEA MANIA HITS JAPAN, AND HOW, REALLY BIGTIME

The Teddi Bea or Teddy Bear only hit Japan about 10 years ago, and funny enough, at first it wasn't overly popular. Up until about 6 years ago, the best selling soft cuddlies were Dogs, Pandas and Bunnies.

As the first Teds to go on sale in Japan were relatively expensive, there was perhaps very little interest in them from the general public. However this all changed when an an, a magazine aimed at young women ran a feature which portrayed Teddy Bears as a wait for it, Stylish Interior decoration. When a popular Female Japanese singer was heard to declare that she loved Teddies, the popularity of our furry friends suddenly went ballistic.

In the last few years, specialist Teddy Bear shops have been springing up all over the country, and even large department store are holding Teddy fairs, which feature Teds and all the related merchandise that goes with them. Believe it or not, there are already 8 Museums in Japan, devoted to vintage, rare and designer Bears

The Japan Teddy Bear Association has 3,500 members and each year when the JTBA holds its annual convention, it has to contend with an event that just keeps getting more popular and even bigger, The convention in common with most others features private collections of Bears as well as commercial sales of Bears and merchandise. The first Two Day gathering five years ago attracted 4,000 people and brought in revenue of 15,000,000 Yen, this years Two Day Thrash attracted 20,000 visitors and produced a revenue of 100,000,000 Yen.

To illustrate just how popular collector Bears are becoming, last year a limited edition Nagano Bear by Steiff, to commemorate the Winter Olympics and priced at about £180 was sold out long before the 2,500 Bears ever hit the market. As everywhere else Bear aficionados range from those who specialise in rare or Antique Bears, through those who chase Designer Bears to those, like most of us, who buy the Mass produced Bears

Though the general economy in Japan has seen a recent downturn, this seems not to be the case where Bears are concerned. Bears and related merchandise sales are actually booming, not least amongst the Designer Bear Mos, who continue to snap up the latest limited editions by designers from around the World. This in turn has led to an upsurge in homeproduced Bear designers, so much so in fact that recently a book was published

entitled 100 Japanese Teddy Bear designers. Nationwide, says a JTBA spokesman, there are many Bear designers, not all making a full time living but the number of ordinary people who are having a go at making their own Bears is vast as not everyone can afford to purchase some of the higher priced Teds.

Any number of do it yourself Books and Kits are available to satisfy this amazing mania for our favorite friend, the one and only TEDDI BEA.

Theodore Edward O'Hows Yer Farva, the Broth of a ParaTed from New Jersey, who tipped us off about the current Bear mania sweeping Japan says he doesn't know if there are any Para Fauna from the Land of the Rising Sun, but he hopes they'll stuff the Jolly old rag, stick one on, and WATCH THE SUCKER FLY

To which we can only add AMEN to that and no jokes about Pissed as a Pudding KAMI KAZI Parafauna, YOO WOT



RAF saves para-glider up a tree

AN RAF helicopter last night rescued a para-glider pilot who had crash-landed in a 70ft tree. Police and firemen were unable earlier to reach the flier, who was stuck in a tree canopy at Selsley, near Stroud, Glos. The helicopter from RAF Chivenor, Devon, lowered its winchman,

Mick Crawford, 200ft to the flier, Andy Lee, 33, who was unhurt. After cutting the pilot's lines, the winchman brought him safely to the ground. Once on the ground, Mr Lee, of Hatherley, Cheltenham, Glos, headed for the nearest pub. "After that, I

need a pint and I've promised to buy one for the RAF winchman," he said. "The flight went fine until I was caught by a gust of wind coming down. It blew me into the tree-top and I couldn't move. It hasn't put me off para-gliding. I shall be up again next week."

50 issues... ITS DISGRACEFUL, IT OUGHT NOT TO BE ALLOWED.

So there we all were at good old Dieppe being Battered and Blasted and every so often I heard "Bazzers got something for you" Well, for those of you who did not get to Dieppe, you were lucky in respect of the fact that due entirely to the Weather, the 10th Biennial was a bit of a washout. However the weekend did have its highspots, one of which was the small ceremony laid on by a few of you Crazy Sods out there to mark the 50th issue of Roman Candle.

The Card was great, the 50 candle was greater, the even larger Candle and Holder was magnificent, but truly amazing was the Class II Explosive Device Roman Candle. O.K. we wont go into the sordid details of how this Bomb was smuggled out of England and into France, as we have no wish to cause a Diplomatic Incident suffice it to say that if the perpetrators of the smuggling had been caught, they would have still been in the Slammer.

The Explosive device was enormous, mouth wateringly so, not yer average high street firework, and we had to think long and hard as to where we could let it off as we had no wish to take out half of Dieppe. As it was we set it off on Le Lawn, strapped to a crowd barrier as we had no desire to dig a hole 2ft deep as suggested in the instructions. Holy Cow, what a show, a positive barrage of screaming whistles erupted from the device, all jolly civilised on the whole as there was no thunderous final detonation, just as well really as that could have had all the Windows out along the front. So its thanks to Simon, Bazzar and Janet, Jerry and Carolyn and every other unknown heroic Crazy Sod who was involved with the Explosive device, most of all the biggest thanks must go to Electric Arthur who actually procured it, hey Arf, dont you need a permit to buy things like that ?

So there you go, Seventeen Years of pure unadulterated mindless Drivel. And even allowing for the near three year no show, 50 issues is something to look back on if not with pride, then with no little sense of achievement, or maybe amazement. Sodding Hell, who'd have thought that a piece of crap that was started and still continues a something of a running gag would have staggered to 50 issues. I've said it before and I'll say it again, its thanks to all you Crazy Sods out there around the World that we've got to our 50th edition. I'll even go so far as to thank all of you out there who think Roman Candle is a disgrace to Kiting, and ought not to be allowed. Remember it was your whinging that spurred us ever onwards, and our only regret is that we still have'nt got around to having R.C. printed on unbleached and politically correctly perforated paper, all together now Ahhhhhh!

Has anything changed regarding Parafauna **HEDONISTS** who are also cast in the role of **CARROTS** in the thrall of the **EASTER BUNNY**, you know the number, whilst hordes of **EURO SLEAZE** Bears look on in amazement. Its very easy to blame the Bloody **PENGUINS** and others of that ilk, who although they are still nursing terrible hangovers and still smelling of **HEMORRHOID** ointment, are, nethertheless coping gamely with they mad haporth lighting technician **FHB**, who is, as ever still swinging his Red wine bottle, whilst endeavoring to cut the heads off assorted **THESPS** as the stage door is being assaulted by the **SOUTH COAST SLAPPER**, who swears (dont she ever) that the **FROTH OFF THE BEER** saga was all a dreadful mistake. **DRUNKEN DAVE** however will have none of it as he was arrested for being drunk and disorderly in a Brighton Telephone Box whilst attempting to down a crate of **KESTRAL LAGER** and read the **NAUGHTY BUSINESS CARDS** therein.

If you can understand any of the above, you're a better dropnik than I am Gunga Din, after all its just a cheap attempt to skim, what is it?, oh, yeah, the more lurid editions of this diatribe.

Be that as it may, we're always game for a laugh, after all that what we've been up to for the last seventeen years. That and precious little else, but then the majority of you knew that all along. Pity is, some Sad sods out there tend to take it all serious like, but then those of that ilk would find something to moan about if these pages were totally blank.

So, as ever its the usual to the Teddytorial c/o the Boring Old Fart. 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx UB7.7TY. U.K. and who knows maybe we can huff and puff this load of Mindless Drivel to another 50 issues. Once again thanks to all you Crazy Sods out there, you know who you are, keep the Crap coming.. cheers.....

Theres no bussiness like Parafauna business, like no business...

