COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 22nd

The Queen this morning arrived at Bristol Filton Airfield and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, drove to Beachley Barracks, Chepstow, and was received by the Colonel (Major General Morgan Llewellyn.)

The 1st Battalion, on parade, received The Queen with a Royal Salute, after which Her Majesty inspected the parade and presented a new Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour.

After the presentation The Queen was graciously pleased to address the parade, and the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Jonathon Riley) replied.

Her Majesty later met past and present members of the Regiment and their families, and honoured the Colonel with her presence at Luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, today attended Receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, this afternoon gave a Luncheon and chaired a Meeting of the Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening gave a Reception for Voluntary Services Overseas at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 22nd

The Prince Edward this evening attended the Sports Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1.

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
May 22nd

The Princess Royal, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, this morning attended a business session of the General Assembly.

Her Royal Highness later visited the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

The Princess Royal this afternoon gave a Luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Her Royal Highness, on behalf of The Queen, later held an Investiture at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Princess Royal this evening held a Dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 22nd

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Centrepoint, this morning received Mr Victor Adebowale (Chief Executive).

YORK HOUSE
May 22nd

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the new Residential House at St Piers School, St Piers Lane, Lingfield, Surrey and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 22nd

Princess Alexandra today visited Rochdale and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness visited the Floyd Unit of the Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, and later visited Spotland County Primary School, Edmund Street, Rochdale.

Princess Alexandra, Patron of Anchor Trust, subsequently opened the Pendleton Croft retirement housing scheme at Hind Hill Street, Heywood, Rochdale.

Princess Margaret, President, the Friends of the Elderly and Gentlefolk's Help, will visit Redcot, the Society's Home in Haslemere, Surrey, on May 30.

Mr John Doyle has been elected President of the Royal Watercolour Society in succession to Dr Richard Seddon who has retired.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Sir Kenneth Allen, Chairman, W.H. Allen, Sons and Co, 1955-70, is 89; **Sir Hugh Casson**, President of the Royal Academy, 1976-84, 86; **Mr Artie Shaw**, band leader, 86; **Sir David Barran**, Chairman, Midland Bank, 1980-82, 84; **Sir Samuel Curran**, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde, 1964-80, 84; **Mr Marius Goring**, actor, 84; **Mr Denis Compton**, former England cricketer, 78; **Mr Humphrey Lyttelton**, jazz musician, 75; **Mr Michael McCrum**, Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 1980-94, 72; **Mr Nigel Davenport**, actor, 68; **Sir John Lyons**, Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 64; **Dr Walter Eltis**, Chief Economic Adviser to the President of the Board of Trade, 1992-95, 63; **Miss Joan Collins**, actress, 63; **Lord Grenfell** 61; **Mrs J.J.d'A. Campbell**, Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, 61; **the Very Rev John Drury**, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, 60; **Mr Peter Preston**, Editorial Director, Guardian Media Group, 58; **Mr John Newcombe**, three-times Wimbledon Men's Singles champion, 52; **Mr Anatoly Karpov**, chess player, 45; and **Mr Graeme Hick**, England cricketer, 30.

Today is the anniversary of the Battle of Ramillies in 1706.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr J.H.S. Maclean and Miss C.G.M. Myddelton

The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the Reverend Kenneth and Mrs Maclean, of Bicton, Shropshire, and Claerwen, daughter of Mr Hugh Myddelton and the Hon Mrs Sarah Myddelton, of London.

Dr P.J. O'Brien and Miss R.A. Woodhouse

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Dr and Mrs D. O'Brien, of Reigate, Surrey, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Woodhouse, of Claverdon, Warwickshire.

Mr J.D. Fergusson and Miss M.M.C. Parham

The engagement is announced between James, son of Dr Patrick Fergusson, of London, and of the late Mrs Fergusson, and Magdalen, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Parham, of Ladymead, South Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr S. Jeffrey and Miss E.J. Lowe

The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr J. Jeffrey, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Mrs R. Sullivan, of Crowborough, Sussex, and Eleanor Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Lowe, of Brenchley, Kent.

Mr N.D. Roulier and Miss G.H. Doyle

The engagement is announced between Nicolas, son of Mr and Mrs C.A. Roulier, of Chobham, Surrey, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.J. Doyle, of Knebworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.F. Renty and Miss F.M. Milton

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Renty, of Truro, Cornwall, and Felicity, daughter of Mrs Robert Milton, of Buckland, Surrey.

Mr B.C. Jacobs and Miss S.L. Gunston

The engagement is announced between Blair Clive, only son of Mr Clive Jacobs, of Cranborne, Dorset, and Mrs Rita Sullivan, of Windsor, Berkshire, and Stella Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Stefan Gunston, of Ealing, west London.

Mr A.D. MacLellan and Mrs A.G. Morrison

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs Donald MacLellan, of Symington, Ayrshire, and Dominique, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Martens, of The Haven, West Sussex.

Mr M.J.A. Stafferton and Miss R.L. Ellis

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Stafferton, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Rosalind, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Ellis, of Leatherhead, Surrey.

Mr J.R. Hull and Miss S.E.J. Dawson

The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Barry Hull, of Newmarket, Suffolk, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex Dawson, of Ealing, London.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr Tom Clark

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Tom Clark was held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2. The Rev Neil Turton officiated. Mr Christopher Clark (son) and Mrs Judy Hollidge (daughter) gave readings and Mr Fritz Peter read a prayer. Mr Jonathan Perry and Mr John Callender paid tribute to Mr Clark. Among those present were:

Mrs Clark (widow), Mr Nigel Clark (son), Mr Tim Hollidge (son-in-law), Mrs Christopher Clark (daughter-in-law); Mr Ron Young, representatives of Barclays Bank Group, Lease Europe, Eurofinas, the Financial and Leasing Association, Relate, Hindhead Golf Club and Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, together with other friends.

LUNCHEONS

Her Majesty's Government

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens, SW1, in honour of Mr Habib ben Yahia, Tunisian Foreign Minister.

Her Majesty's Government

Mr Jeremy Hanley, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of Mr Faisal Husseini, Chief Palestinian representative in Jerusalem and Head of the Palestinian Negotiating Team for the Multilateral Track of the Peace Process.

DINNERS

Lord High Commissioner

The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Princess Royal, held a dinner last night at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The guests were:

Vice-Adml Sir James and the Hon Lady Weatherall, Prof Sir Stewart and Lady Sutherland, Mr and Mrs Chris Andrews, Mr and Mrs Gilbert Archer, Mr Alexander Bruce, Dr John Caldwell, Mrs Erica Downie, Prof and Mrs Derek Ellwood, the Rev Thomas and Mrs McWilliam, Dr A.W. Pike, Mr and Mrs Mark Pyper, Mr and Mrs David Prichard and Prof and Mrs Andrew Rutherford.

The Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent

The Hon William Waldegrave, MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was guest of honour at a dinner of the Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent held last night at Trinity House, Tower Hill. Mr Rupert Hambro presided.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held by the Foundation for Science and Technology last night at the Royal Society. Dr Craig Baker, Mr John Newing, Chief Constable, Derbyshire Constabulary, Mr Andrew Foster, Controller, Audit Commission, and Mr Jonathan Bamford, Assistant Data Protection Registrar, spoke on "Information Technology: The Police and Society".

SERVICE DINNER

The Royal Irish Regiment

Col J.D. Sankey, Regimental Colonel, The Royal Irish Regiment, presided at a Colonel in Chief's Dining Club dinner held last night in Portadown.

RECEPTION

National Liberal Club

Sir Russell Johnston, MP, unveiled a portrait by Mr Anthony Oakshett of Sir David Steel, MP, at a reception held by the National Liberal Club last night at the Club.

FLT LT PETER PHILLIPS

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Flt Lt Peter Phillips, former display and test pilot, will be held at St Michael, Cornhill, EC3, on Thursday, June 20, at noon.

COOPERS' COMPANY

The Coopers' Company has elected the following officers with effect from June 18:

Master, Mr J.B. Holden; Upper Warden, Mr D. Barker; and Under Warden, Mr G.C. Sutton.

TWYFORD SCHOOL

The Governors of Twyford School, Winchester, have appointed Mr Philip Fawkes, at present Headmaster of Lathallan Preparatory School, Angus, as Headmaster to succeed Mr Richard Gould, who is retiring. The appointment will take effect from January 1997.

ALLHALLOWS COLLEGE

The Board of Directors of Allhallows College, Lyme Regis, Dorset, confirm the appointment of Mr K.R. Moore as Headmaster of the College with effect from May 1, 1996.

HAILEYBURY

Haileybury has made the following awards:

ACADEMIC

Major Scholarships: A.S. Clipper, St Martin's, Northwood; A.J.T. Pilgrim, Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone. **Scholarships:** A.R. Coward, Thorpe House School, Gerrards Cross; W.D.J. Henderson, Aldwickbury School, Wheathampstead; A. Rowland, Keble School, Winchmore Hill. **The Russell Dore Scholarship:** R.N.R. Hunt, St Faith's School, Cambridge. **All Rounder Scholarships:** J.R.A. Collier, Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone; J.P. Cusack, St Edmunds College, Ware; A.C.E. Hawkins, Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone; C.A. Moss, Duncombe School, Hertford, and Haileybury Lower School; A.I.C. Neale, Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone; R.M. Randall, Westminster Abbey Choir School; J.J.W. Sheridan, Old Buckenham Hall School, Ipswich; R.J. Stirling, Lochinver House School, Potters Bar; J.M. Walker, Keble School, Winchmore Hill; G.F.T. Warren, Holmwood House School, Colchester. **Sixth Form Major Academic Scholarship:** N.S. Best, Roundwood Park School, Harpenden. **Sixth Form Academic Scholarships:** Hannah L. Gordon, St Albans High School for Girls; Petrova Y.W. Ings, St Nicholas School, Old Harlow; Maliha Kamal, City of London School for Girls; R.R.C. Payne, Dartford Grammar School; Clare J. Tregoning, Berkhamsted School for Girls. **Sixth Form All Rounder Scholarships:** Libby A.B. Burley, Sutton High School; Kirsty A. Dottridge, Uplands Community College, Wadhurst; R.D. Gissane, Beaumont School, St Albans; Claire N.C. Maller, St Albans High School for Girls. **Lower School Scholarship:** R.A. Nash, Tower JMI School, Ware.

MUSIC

Major Scholarship: A.J. Rowland, Keble School, Winchmore Hill. **Scholarship:** A.S. Clipper, St Martin's School, Northwood. **Sixth Form Music Scholarship:** E. Louise McIntyre, St Margaret's School, Hampstead.

ART

Major Scholarships: D.J. Roche, Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone; N.A. Woodward, Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone. **Sixth Form Art Scholarship:** Annwen G. Joffe, The King's School, Ely.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL

The following awards have been made at Sherborne School:

Scholarships: N.G. Foster (Top), Woodcote House; R.P.J. Merricks (Ross Wallace), Vinehall; A.J.L. Harris, Boundary Oak; J.C. Kierstead, Sherborne Preparatory School; R.M. Willington, Sherborne Preparatory School. **Exhibitions:** D.W.M Bridger, Mount House; R.B.C. Dickens, Cumnor House; J.W. Fairlie, The Pilgrims' and Sherborne School; H.W. Farris, The Downs, Wraxall; J.F. Helliar, Sherborne Preparatory School; H.T. Mitchell, Port Regis; T.O.P. Nutley, King's School Bruton Junior School; R.G.S. Lane, Norman Court; T.C.B. Williams (Raban), Forres Sandle Manor; H.J. Poraj-Wilczynski, Sherborne Preparatory School Exhibition. **Jeremy Irons:** T.C. Ackroyd, Ballard Lake; D.W.M. Bridger, Mount House; C.P.W. Gammell, Vinehall; A.J.L. Harris, Boundary Oak; H.T. Mitchell, Port Regis. **Art Exhibitions:** W.E.Hogg, Monkton Combe Junior School; W.B.C. Mackrell, St Anthony's, Hampstead; F.H. Toogood, Norman Court. **Sixth Form Scholarship:** D.W.P. Cooper (Crawhall-Wilson), Aberaeron Comprehensive, Dyfed. **Music Scholarships:** E.J. Ball, Sherborne Preparatory School; J.S. Dudbridge, Exeter Cathedral School; T.A. Vale, Wells Cathedral School; C.F. Verney, King's School Bruton Junior School; A.L. Westwood, St John's College School, Cambridge.

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Shrewsbury School announces the following Awards for 1996:

Butler Scholarships: D.W. Mott (Kingsland Grange), C. Neubauer (Kingsland Grange), A.J.M. Newman (Prestfelde). **Kennedy Scholarships:** D. Bessant (Prestfelde), J.A. Fermont (Lockers Park), R. Forrest (Bilton Grange), W.G.F. Krupski (Yarlet School), M.B. Whitworth (Packwood Haugh). **Moss Scholarships:** S.A.W. Black (Abberley Hall), N.R. Haddaway (Kingsland Grange). **Alington Exhibitions:** E.G. Batllé (Yarlet School), N.P. Beazley (Polwhele House), J.C.P. Dennis (Packwood Haugh), S.P. Hunka (Arnold Lodge School), P.W.C. Nichols (The Ryleys), D.M. Rowley (Prestfelde), P.J.M. Smith (Lichfield Cathedral School). **Art Scholarship:** E.G. Batllé (Yarlet School). **Music Scholarships:** P.J.M. Smith (Lichfield Cathedral School), J.A.R. Walton (Lichfield Cathedral School), A.J.M. Newman (Prestfelde), S.J. Hudson (Wells Cathedral School), T.J. Buxton (St Gerard's School Trust, Bangor). **Sixth Form Scholarships:** A.F. Bell (Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury), T.J. Buxton (St Gerard's School Trust, Bangor).

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Tonbridge School has awarded the following Scholarships for 1996:

Academic Scholarships: (in order of merit) 1 Richard Owen (Vinehall), 2 Zhern Majoe (Holmewood House), 3 Thomas Latter (Holmewood House), 4 Andrew Rowson (Hilden Grange), 5 Stuart Cook (The New Beacon), 6 Alastair Jamieson (The New Beacon), 7 Matthew Train (Holmewood House), 8 Jamie McKerchar (Aberdour), 9 Paul Chishick (Vinehall), 10 Daniel Stevens (Holmewood House), 11 Hugo Bush (Aldro), 12 Daniel Caines (The New Beacon), 13 James Barnard (Yardley Court), 14 Thomas Lawes (Holmewood House), 15 William Walter (The New Beacon), 16 Owain Shave (Feltonfleet), 17 Ben Sheffield (St Bede's), 18 Jonathan Hollis (Papplewick), 19 David Anderson (Bickley Park), 20 Rhys Evans (Downsend), 21 Christopher Ho (Bickley Park), 22 Nicholas Winder (Eylesden Court), 23 William Sullivan (The New Beacon).

WINCHESTER COLLEGE

Winchester College announces the 1996 Roll of Scholars and Exhibitioners as follows:

Scholarships: 1 Thomas William Brown, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester; 2 (Exhibition) George Benet Bradt, St Paul's Preparatory School, London, SW13; 3 William Arthur Llewelyn Jessop, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester; 4 Paul Thomas Tregear, Milbourne Lodge School, Esher; 5 Charles Andrew Collicutt, West Hill Park School, Titchfield; 6 (Exhibition) Adam Paul Gamsa, Winchester College and Durlston Court, Barton-on-Sea; 7 Nicholas Libert Oury, Rokeby School, Kingston-upon-Thames; 8 Oliver George William Bainbridge, St Hugh's School, Faringdon, Oxon; 9 (Exhibition) Donald Man Lap Tse, Winchester College and La Salle College, Hong Kong; 10 Eugenio-Maria Donadoni, Eagle House School, Sandhurst; 11 Tobias William Stock, The Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone; 12 George Alexander Chilton Howe, Cumnor House School, Danehill, Sussex; 13 David Trevor Jones, Yateley Manor Preparatory School, Camberley; 14 Frank Gareth Gordon Miles, Hordle House School, Milford-on-Sea; 15 Thomas William Gatehouse Faulkner, Dulwich College Preparatory School, SE21; 16 Samuel John Pople, The Burgate School, Fordingbridge; 17 James Lee Kyenson Fletcher, West Hill Park School, Titchfield; 18 Alastair James Bulger, Westbourne House School, Shopwyke, Sussex; 19 (Exhibition) Alastair Lionel George Tolley, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester.

Numbers 2, 6, 9 and 19 placed Exhibition first in their order of preference.

THE OXFORD AND COUNTY BUSINESS (SECRETARIAL) COLLEGE

The Oxford and County Business (Secretarial) College will be holding a Diamond Jubilee reunion in Oxford on Saturday, Oct 19, 1996. Former students and teachers who would like to attend and/or join our alumni network please contact Mrs Rosemary Waterhouse on tel: 01865 310100.

OBITUARIES

John Baines

JOHN "JACK" BAINES, who has died aged 57, was an outstanding RAF Mountain Rescue team leader.

Mountain rescue is gruelling and sometimes distressing work. The RAF MR team claims to be the only mountain emergency service that turns out in all weathers. Each leader — a flight sergeant or sergeant — is in charge of a team of all ranks from wing commander to aircraftman. From 1963 to 1978 Baines was one of the service's best team leaders.

During the run-up to the service's withdrawal from Hong Kong in the 1960s Baines led RAF Kai Tak mountain rescue team. The civilian authorities wanted mountain rescue to continue, and the task was given to the Civil Aid Services, originally formed to organise air raid precautions during the Second World War.

Baines oversaw the handover and then, on detachment, led the training of the CAS personnel by the RAF. The connection has continued to this year, but is now likely to cease.

Baines: a natural leader of mountain rescue teams

John Baines was born in 1938 at Preston and went to the Grammar School there. By the time he joined the RAF at 18, he had already climbed in the Lake District, exploring the Langdales.

He later claimed that he joined the RAF specifically to become part of its celebrated Mountain Rescue Service. But initially he was kept well away from the hills, and one of his early postings was to Germany. Undeterred, he joined local climbers in the evenings, and scaled the faces of a nearby quarry.

He was posted back to Britain, and after a time in Suffolk was sent to RAF Kinloss and Leuchars, both of which have mountain rescue teams. He was involved with some major search-and-rescue operations, but one of the most interesting incidents was when he was sent on to the moors near Ardgay, leading a party to investigate a strange device which a shepherd had described.

Cynics were inclined to blame the man's account on an overdose of the local malt, though others had a theory that it was a crashed Wellington bomber from the war.

To everyone's astonishment, the object turned out to be a Soviet Sputnik that had come to grief.

Mountain rescue apart, Baines had a full mountaineering career. While at Kai Tak, for instance, he went to New Guinea with Dick Isherwood to climb a new route on Carstenz Pyramid.

After retiring from the RAF in 1978, Baines opened a mountaineering bookshop in North Wales.

He also helped to found a mountaineering publishing house, the Ernest Press, which won the Boardman Taskor Award for mountaineering literature in successive years.

He was apppointed BEM in 1979, for services to mountain rescue. He was a founder member of the RAF Mountain Rescue Association.

Jack Baines married, in 1963, Patricia MacPherson; they had three daughters.

Johnny 'Guitar' Watson

JOHNNY 'GUITAR' WATSON, who has died on stage in Japan at the age of 61, occupied a remarkable position in post-war blues.

He displayed an instrumental and stylistic versatility unrivalled by any of his peers, and a chameleon-like capacity for self-reinvention.

The self-styled "Gangster Of Love" originally established himself in the 1950s as a slick, extrovert urban bluesman with a dazzling stage act and an unmistakeable guitar sound. But two decades later he found a new audience with a series of successful pop-funk hits — on which he played almost all the instruments himself — and an updated Lone-Ranger-as-street-hustler persona to match.

As one of Frank Zappa's original guitar heroes — Zappa aptly characterised Watson's signature tone as "that icepick-in-the-forehead sound" — he appeared frequently as a guest vocalist on some of Zappa's records.

Watson began his career in Los Angeles during the early 1950s playing piano and calling himself "Young John Watson", but the hits only started coming once he had chosen a new instrument, a new act and a new name. The name echoed the popular film *Johnny Guitar*.

He was born at Houston, Texas, on Feb 3 1935, but he lived in Los Angeles from 1950 onwards, and his first hits, *Those Lonely Lonely Nights* and *Three Hours Past Midnight* were cut

Watson: funky on the cover of Ain't That A Bitch

from 1955 onwards for Modern Records, LA's leading independent R&B label.

The tunes themselves were derivative in content but distinctive in style: Watson's spiky Texas guitar and wheedling hustler's voice established his musical personality almost instantly, and his gymnastic stage act rendered his shows unforgettable.

"I was doing things like Hendrix, 15 years before," he once reminisced, "playing guitar with my teeth, hanging from the rafters and doing double gigs with Guitar Slim. With 30 ft guitar leads, we'd sit on each others' shoulders and walk out into the audience."

He spent much of the 1960s touring the rock revival circuit with the singer-songwriter Larry Williams.

But by the end of that decade, Watson had had enough of nostalgia and began to plan his re-emergence. In the wake of Sly & The Family Stone's revolutionising of soul music, Watson aimed straight for the dance floor.

He enthusiastically embraced new technology and new idioms, and took disco on at its own game.

He hit his new stride in 1975, and his successes in this blues-meets-disco vein included *Ain't That A Bitch*, *A Real Mother For Ya*, *It's All About The $ Bill*, and a funked-up remake of his 1961 R&B hit, *Gangster Of Love*.

In his sequinned Lone Ranger outfit, complete with diamante sunglasses and gold-rimmed teeth, he looked as distinctive as he sounded, and his album covers were almost worth the price of the discs themselves. On the cover of *A Real Mother For Ya* he was shown in a pram, being wheeled around by his real mother.

Hardcore blues fans may have cavilled at the new approach, but Watson knew exactly how much — or how little — the approval of purists was worth.

"Hey man, I been out here nearly 25 years and staying poor," he protested in a 1975 interview. But with a string of hits to his name by 1981, he didn't stay poor.

In his last year he appeared as vigorous as ever; his most recent album, *Bow Wow*, found him sounding like a man still able to teach competitors half his age a thing or two.

Xavier Gautier

XAVIER GAUTIER, who has died aged 35, was a leading foreign correspondent and a fearless investigative journalist for *Le Figaro*.

Gautier was found hanging with his hands bound behind his back in a Menorca house, where he had been writing a book on the illegal arms trade to Bosnia.

Gautier would not give up on a story, regardless of the risks to himself. In fact he made a habit of seeking out troublespots and contentious stories.

For *Le Figaro* he covered the Gulf War and the Iraqi attacks on the Kurds. During the last Spanish elections he managed to break through the Basque code of silence, and since the start of the war in the former Yugoslavia, Gautier pursued war crimes of all kinds.

One of his stories related how some Serbs made money from renting their tanks to the Bosnians. He exposed arms dealers who broke the UN embargo and supplied weapons to the Croats and the Bosnians.

Many colleagues believe his pursuit of the truth about these arms dealings led to his death. "Traitor" and "Red [Russian] Devil" had been painted on the walls of his house.

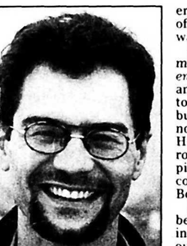
Xavier Bernard Gautier was born in 1960 and studied at the Institute of Political Science in Paris, before moving to Germany to work as a correspondent for the news service Agence France Presse (AFP).

He developed a keen interest in Germany, and from 1982 wrote regularly for the magazine *Documents*. Even before the reunification of the country, he was able to report from both sides of the Berlin wall.

In January 1987 he returned to Paris, where he worked on the staff of the daily, *Les Echos*. Three years later he joined *Le Figaro* as one of a select band of roving reporters who were never desk-bound.

As well as sending in stories from war zones around the world, Gautier retained a keen interest in central Europe as it awakened from 40 years of Communist rule and provided astute insights into the region's re-emergence.

Xavier Bernard Gautier was divorced and had no children.



Gautier: undaunted

Robert Fox writes: Xavier Gautier stood out from the pack of international journalists covering the wars in Croatia and Bosnia.

He was a cat who walked by himself, finding his own lines of inquiry, and following them relentlessly. He did as much as anyone to find out what happened in the hideous slaughter of 1,600 fighters and civilians after the fall of Vukovar in the Croatian war in November 1991.

His approach was very much that of the *littérateur engagé*. He was widely read and deeply versed in the history not only of the Balkans but also of Kurdistan and north-west and central Asia. He was not a devotee of the rounds of mutual back slapping which accompany the coverage of most conflicts, Bosnia not excepted.

His acute observations betrayed his academic training as a graduate of the famous *Sciences po*. Each time we met conversation became somewhat like a free-form academic seminar on the nature of the war and society we were reporting.

His latest reflections were always challenging, because they were the most original. He became particularly interested in how the criminal clans of the Balkans and Italy and Turkey worked, traded and occasionally fought with each other. This was an interest we shared, and it came to be the subject of the book he was preparing when he died.

He had a surprisingly good understanding of the nature of the fighting in the Bosnian war, that strange mish-mash of static defence and jungle warfare without a jungle.

Thus he knew that the Bosnian Muslims had neither the military forces nor the tactical skill to break the siege of Sarajevo when they tried their costly offensive in June last year. At the time, British colleagues were crowing: "The siege of Sarajevo will be lifted within three days."

He was the most erudite yet amiable of conversationalists. "Do you think it is worth following this up? When is the good time to have real look at this?" would be constant refrains.

Yet there was nothing diffident about his work when it was published or his conduct in the field, in Bosnia or in Kurdistan.

If anyone understood about the murky world of organised crime and the Balkan arms trade it was Xavier.

His lonely death is deeply shocking for all who knew him, and for one who was a sometime travelling companion in his inquiry, it is seriously disturbing.

Bo Tauk Htain

BO TAUK HTAIN, who has died in Burma aged 87, was a member of the group of Burmese independence fighters known as the "Thirty Comrades", revered as the father figures of modern Burma.

Born San Mya in Pyinmana in 1909, Bo Tauk Htain was a student at Rangoon University in the 1930s when he joined the nationalist group Dobama Asiayon ("Our Burma Association"), which aimed to achieve independence from Britain. Its members took the title "Thakin" meaning "master", previously used only when addressing Europeans.

The outbreak of the Second World War encouraged the belief that Britain would be forced to grant Burma independence. Instead, the British cracked down on the nationalists, imprisoning them under the Defence of Burma Act.

By 1940, the leader of the Thakin movement, Aung San (the father of Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the modern pro-democracy movement) concluded that independence could only be achieved by force of arms, and with outside assistance.

With a warrant out for his arrest, Aung San travelled to China to seek assistance from Mao Tse-tung's communists. But a Japanese intelligence officer, Col Keiji Suzuki, intercepted him, and the Japanese seized the opportunity to establish strategic relations with the independence movement.

The Japanese sought a group whom they would arm and train to return to Burma to start a guerrilla war, with the object of closing the Burma Road, by which Western aid and military supplies were reaching China. In return, the Burmese would achieve independence with a Japanese guarantee.

Bo Tauk Htain was recruited by Aung San to join this group of 30 nationalists, which was to form the nucleus of the Burmese Independence Army, later the Burmese National Army.

In April 1941 the Thirty Comrades were sent secretly to Japan for a programme of jungle warfare training. In October they were transferred to Taiwan to await orders from the military high command in Tokyo.

The BIA was established in Bangkok on Dec 27 1941, with about 1,000 men, mainly drawn from exiled Burmese inside Thailand. This number rose to 30,000.

To inaugurate the BIA, the original Thirty Comrades met in a house in Bangkok. In a ritual that has taken on the significance of a creation myth in the Burmese national imagination, the Thirty Comrades gathered around a silver bowl, and cut their fingers to let drops of their blood fall into it. To their mingled blood was added strong liquor, which they took turns in drinking, each pronouncing an oath pledging commitment to the cause of independence.

Each member of the group took a new name, prefixed by "Bo", meaning commander; Bo Tauk Htain assumed the name he was to bear for the rest of his life, which means "Commander Blazing Light". The point of the new names was to recapture the spirit of Burma's martial tradition.

On Dec 31 1941, equipped with Japanese arms and led by a Japanese commander, the Burmese youths left Bangkok to begin a three-month march into Burma as scouts for the invading Japanese 15th Army.

On March 8 1942, the Japanese army and the BIA marched into Rangoon, cutting off the lifeline to China. But Japan did not give the Burmese independence.

In 1945, as the defeat of Japan approached, the BIA switched sides and joined the Allies. Bo Tauk Htain, by then a senior officer in the BIA, led guerrilla raids against the Japanese.

In the political turmoil which followed Burma's independence in 1948, Bo Tauk Htain remained a pragmatist. Unlike others of the Thirty Comrades, he did not take up arms against the new government, and was elected as representative in his home district of Pyinmana. The era of parliamentary government lasted until 1962, when a successful coup d'état was led by Ne Win, another member of the Thirty Comrades.

Along with other political leaders, Bo Tauk Htain was arrested in 1963. He spent four years in prison and then retired to Pyinmana.

On Sept 6 1988, he was among the nine of the 11 surviving Thirty Comrades who denounced Ne Win's despotic regime and petitioned the army to join the pro-democracy uprising. The only remaining members of the group who did not sign the petition were Ne Win himself and Bo Kyaw Zaw, still a member of the Communist Party of Burma, in exile in China.

With Bo Tauk Htain's demise, only five of the Thirty Comrades remain.

William Carter. In Virginia, aged 88. Former Major-General, US Army. Combat engineer in Second World War. Chief engineer, First Army, for the Normandy invasion and the "European campaign". Governor Panama Canal Zone, 1960-62. Distinguished Service Medal. Later engineering adviser to Inter-American Development Bank, Washington.

Commander 'Peter' Player. Aged 83. Second World War submariner. Engineer Officer, *Cachalot*. DSC 1940. Survivor July 1941 when *Cachalot* was damaged by Italian destroyer and had to be scuttled, off Benghazi. PoW until 1945. Admiralty, 1946. Submarine depot ship, *Montclare*, 1949. HMS *Hornet*, Gosport, 1951. Engineer-in-Chief's Dept, 1953. HMS *Afrikander*, Simonstown, South Africa, 1956.

Capt 'Mike' Harvey. Aged 83. Second World War submariner. First Lieutenant of *Undine* sunk by German A/S trawlers off Heligoland, Jan 1940. Royal Humane Society's bronze medal. PoW in Colditz acting as a "ghost" (disappearing at the time of an escape and hiding in the castle for several months, reappearing to make up the numbers at roll-call after another escape, to give the new escapers more time to get clear). Commanded Frigate *St Austell Bay*, 1946, and the naval air station HMS *Blackcap* Stretton, 1955. Project Chairman for 72 ft Norfolk boat *Spirit of Boadicea* sponsored by Ocean Youth Club.

Hans Milton. In Australia, aged 56. Crucial operator in the propulsion of Australia into the metric era. Director metric conversion for the government sector of the building industry, 1970-76. Advised United States on metrication, 1976.

"Bo Tauk Htain." Daily Telegraph, 23 May 1996, p. 21. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0701008718/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.