

OBITUARY (Revised)

John Crookshank an appreciation by Mike Brufal

For the majority of the 300 years that Gibraltar has been British it was governed by the military with the Convent as the seat of power and the Governor as supreme ruler.

After the Second World War the military was forced to accept the new world order and lessened its stranglehold on life on the Rock. This process was started by Lieutenant General Sir Kenneth Anderson and accelerated a decade later with the arrival of General Sir Charles Keightley and his personal staff of Major Peter Lendrum, AMS, and Captain John Crookshank, ADC.

John Crookshank died on May 1st, aged 74, after an illness borne with his customary fortitude.

John was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, Repton and the R.M.A. Sandhurst where he was commissioned into the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. In 1958 he was appointed ADC to the Governor and from his first day went out of his way to open up the social life at the Convent to Spaniards. He loved telling stories about life in the Convent which included visits from many world famous personalities such as General Montgomery and Winston Churchill.

He was a first class sailor and was the tactical brains behind Sir Charles' foray into Victory class racing at the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club. Despite John's presence in the crew, the General, as skipper, usually finished amongst the also rans.

John was an accomplished skier won the 6th Armoured Division's Downhill Challenge Cup and took part in the Cresta run. His other main hobbies were bird watching and Gibraltar's heritage.

When he left the Army his love of ocean racing led him to enter maritime and yachting publishing: a job he enjoyed until his retirement.

John maintained a lively interest in Gibraltar's politics as well as its heritage and wrote countless letters on these subjects to the national press. He was a frequent visitor to Gibraltar and always renewed his many friendships amongst those in the local yachting community.

'Cringle', as he was affectionately known, would never be deviated from his wish to present Gibraltar's case for genuine self determination to a wider audience.

When he was ADC he became friendly with the archaeologist younger brother of the Marques de Tamaron and through his good offices the Spaniard was able to visit places which otherwise he would have been prevented from entering. As soon as the Marques de Tamaron was appointed Ambassador he made a point of inviting John to both the set piece glittering public receptions at the Embassy and also to intimate discreet dinners. John wrote a letter about the Gibraltar problem which was published in The Daily Telegraph. This displeased the Ambassador and John was never invited

to another event at the Embassy. 'Cringle' was disappointed in not speaking to Tamaron again but accepted that in the political jungle this was the price to pay for supporting the Gibraltarians.

He is survived by Diana, his wife, their children Charles and Antonia and four step children Caroline, Sarah, Patrick and Miranda.

John will be greatly missed . Gibraltar has lost a formidable lobbyist.