



MILTON KEYNES AT WAR

CRUSADES, CAMPAIGNS AND CONFLICTS

THE MITROVICA BRIDGE, KOSOVO

Keeping the peace, March 2000...



'On the Mitrovica bridge in Kosovo we had to separate the Albanians and the Serbs. There's been a lot of trouble in this area and this came to a head one evening. Now on this bridge was a company of 120 men. There was no way the Serbs were going to let the Albanians on the bridge, so we were piggy in the middle.'



These 35,000 Albanians eventually came out of Pristina, marched all the way to the bridge and we separated the two warring factions. We never used our weapons in anger, we never wore helmets, we wore our green berets, and we held them back for 3½ - 4 hours, and it was like the biggest rugby scrum you could ever imagine.

As nightfall came, the Albanians knew that they were not going to be allowed to get on to that bridge, so they dispersed. They made their point, but as a member of the British Army we'd made our point as well – that, you know, we don't need weapons, and sometimes we don't even need automatic fire or bombs to keep warring factions apart.

It's one of the poignant moments of my career, that, if we hadn't been there they would have got across that bridge and the Serbs would have shot them dead. You do it because you know that if you don't do it there's going to be mass slaughter.'

Capt Bill Holland, 'E' Company, 7 Rifles.



**One Hundred Years
of the Territorial
Army:**

*E Company 7 Rifles is
Milton Keynes' own
Infantry Territorial
Army unit, based at
the newly renamed
John Howard Barracks
in Blakelands, Milton
Keynes.*

DISCOVER
MILTON KEYNES