

# Adventure Training

by Maj P. LA MACCHIA, G3 TRG SO2STAND

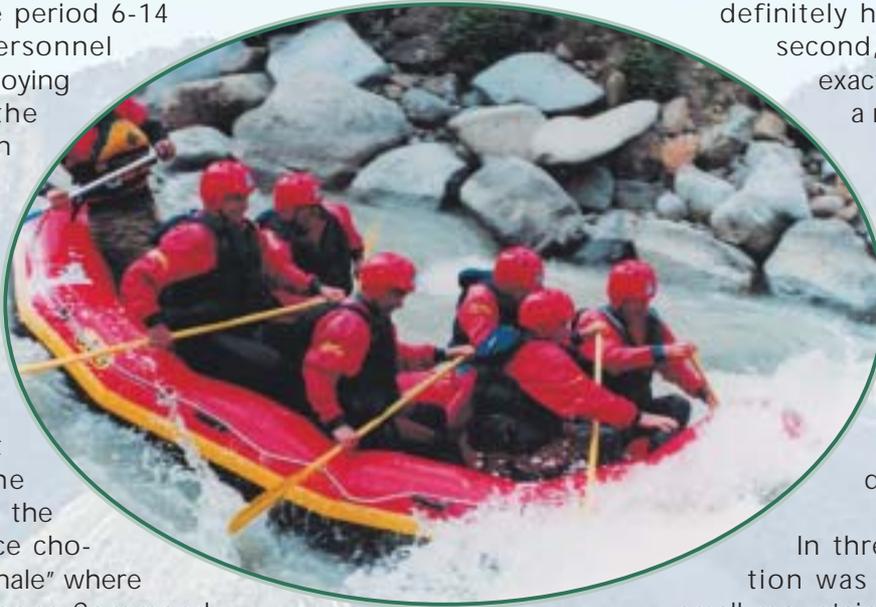
## The charm of the Alps

This summer, on the period 6-14 July, the NRDC-IT personnel carried out a very enjoying training activity in the heart of the Italian Alps.

The activity, named **A d v e n t u r o u s** Training, was aimed at making people aware of the beauty and austerity of the Alpine environment and at improving the team building among the participants. The place chosen was "Passo del Tonale" where the Italian Alpine Troops Command has got a base.

Unfortunately, due to other important ongoing activities and the beginning of the summer holiday, the participation was not so wide.

The morning of the 6th July 90 people, belonging to NRDC-IT staff, Support Regiment and Signal Regiment, arrived to the Tonolini Barracks (that is the name of the Tonale facilities) in a fantastic luminous summer day... the Solbiate suffocating climate was only a very distant memory. The green hills and the vertical rocks of the Adamello welcomed warmly the brave crew who appeared a little apprehensive of the unusual environment. The morning of the 7th July the "adventurers" were very anxious to test themselves but very soon they made some discoveries: first, the bergen weight,

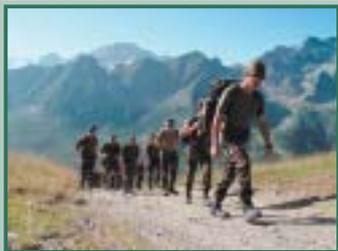


definitely heavier than usually... second, walking uphill is not exactly the same of taking a normal walk!

After the first hour everyone was alone with his problems, as always happens in these occasions, but soon the repayment was a breathless landscape which showed up as soon as the altitude increased.

In three hours the destination was reached, a peaceful small mountain lake where our Chief of Staff revealed his ability as "frog hunter"... All the people, proud like the first Everest conquerors, went to the alpine "rifugio" to get a very deserved beer. Rapidly the first day ended and the morale was very high, the enemy was not so bad...

The real drama took place on the second day; after a first comfortable part among meadows and cows, the path became hard and extremely steep, the goal was to reach "Passo dei Contrabbandieri" (Smugglers Pass) and, despite the tremendous efforts made, it seemed always at the same distance. Eventually the Pass was reached, all were visibly tired but absolutely satisfied, the feeling of power, well known among the alpinists, was possible to touch... hundreds of pictures were clicked, nobody



# Adventure Training

would have believed otherwise.

The third day was very relaxing for our heroes, as a matter of fact all the climb were done by the cable-car. At the highest point the magnificent Presena Glacier showed all its greatness, it seemed an other planet landscape; the slope was very quick and a very long break allowed to enjoy all the mountain characteristics, the fresh air, the clean sun and the soft grass where to take a nap.

Fourth day was the most feared, it should have been the longest march... and it was absolutely true! However only the last part proved the people, they were beginning to be trained and the fatigue was easily overcome. Back in the barracks all were incredulous, the four marching days were over and they were still alive, not only, but also deeply satisfied of what they did.

After the big efforts two days of relax were the award for the "adventurers". Saturday a visit to the World War I Museum in Temù was organized. All the people had a possibility, after having tasted the environment, to realize the titanic work the Italian Alpini



*A group picture*



made during the war in the Adamello (the so called White War). In the afternoon a group participated in a ceremony for rendering honors to the White War soldiers who lost their lives, also the NRDC-IT Chief of Staff addressed the attendees, it was really a moving moment.

On Sunday the Adventure was quite over but there was time for the last challenge; a rafting ride was organized and all the people had the opportunity to test the drill of riding the impetuous mountain rivers (someone tested also the water very closely...). Finally the time for packing arrived, after a simple but warm "social event" the activity ended and all the participants came back to Solbiate Olona remembering a different but absolutely fascinating week... and the most frequent phrase was...



SEE YOU  
AT THE  
ADVENTURE  
TRAINING  
2004!!!

