

Anglo-Canadian military links

Continued from page 7

Canada's sheer vastness helps. The variety of landmarks and the fact that they are not readily identifiable on the terrain make it excellent for learning the art of map-reading. Its wilderness provides trees that can be used to develop skills in camouflage and opportunities to expose troops to many different logistical problems. Its undeveloped lands offer some of the few places in the world where the sparseness of the population permits training with live ammunition.



Kiowa helicopter from 444 Tactical Helicopter Squadron

Canada also uses the United Kingdom to train its own personnel. At any one time there are as many as 200 military personnel stationed at British military schools or serving as regular members of British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force units. With the 30 military personnel attached to the Canadian High Com-

mission in London the Canadian Defence Community in the United Kingdom, including dependents numbers in the area of 600.

It is not only active soldiers who find themselves in Britain. There are so many Canadian veterans and their dependants, estimated at up to 12,000, drawing their pensions in the United Kingdom that the Canadian High Commission in London has a Veterans Affairs office in Canada House on Trafalgar Square, to serve veterans' needs and handle enquiries concerning their pensions. It is the only such office outside Canada.

Several hundred Canuck veterans belong to an organization called the Canadian Veterans' Association of the United Kingdom (CVAUK), formed in 1948. Just as many British women married Canadian service personnel during the Second World War, so too did many Canadians stay behind in the UK or return to Britain to live after their military service. The CVAUK's principal interest is the welfare of its members and a helping hand is extended to any one of them in need of assistance. It also provides opportunities for Canadian veterans to meet old friends and make new ones.



*Canadian Forces personnel engaged in high altitude medical research on Mount Logan.
(Photo MWO W Spellmeir)*

The CVAUK also organizes ceremonies honouring fallen comrades – the Dieppe pilgrimages, the Vimy Ridge church parades and memorial services, and many others. Visits are frequently arranged to veterans' homes, hospitals, and institutions.

The organization brings needy cases to the Veterans' Affairs Welfare Officer, Percy Towgood, for assistance. The CVAUK's Honorary Life President is the World War II navy hero Commander J. Leslie Harries OBE, GM and Bar, and its Patron, Lady Sheila Butlin, whose late husband