

## 200 BRITONS IN ARNHEM PARADE

### MEMORIAL UNVEILED TO AIRBORNE FORCES

From Our SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
ARNHEM, Thursday.

More than 200 British pilgrims joined thousands of Dutch people here to-day to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. Queen Juliana unveiled a memorial to the British airborne forces and to members of the Dutch underground movement.

The ceremony was followed by a parade through the town, in which the Britons were given pride of place. The procession ended at the Bridge of Arnhem where, in 1944, the British airborne troops made their great stand.

The most striking event of the day was the open-air memorial service at the Airborne Forces' cemetery. Here, in beautiful surroundings, the mourners gathered on the fine stretch of greensward with its imposing background of lofty oaks.

#### TENDED BY CHILDREN

With the passing of the years, each of the many hundreds of graves has become a tiny garden of its own. The children of Arnhem have helped to make this so.

Every year since the war, the children have tended the graves in a grateful effort to supplement the excellent work done by the Imperial War Graves Commission. As a result, the long lines of spotlessly white headstones stand out in a blaze of colour.

Appropriately, the Rev. E. L. Phillips, of Kingston, Lewes, who conducted the service, was a padre with the 1st Airborne Division. He took part in the landing in September, 1944.

#### FLOWERS CEREMONY

People of both nations shared in the singing of "Abide With Me" and "O God Our Help in Ages Past." There was an impressive scene which deeply affected the watchers when hundreds of Dutch boys and girls filed slowly past to halt one at each grave.

After depositing on it a floral tribute, each stood by the grave at attention. A uniformed bugler, wearing his distinctive red beret, sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille."

Leader of the pilgrimage is Major-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C-in-C., British Troops, Austria. He commanded the 1st Airborne Division during the fighting. To-morrow he is to escort the pilgrims over the battlefield.

The Dutch people are showing the greatest solicitude for the welfare of the British visitors.

D. Tel.  
18/9/53.

## PARATROOPS IN T.A. EXERCISE

### 1,200 DROPPED WITH GUNS AND VEHICLES

From Our SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BODNEY, Norfolk, Thursday.

Twelve hundred parachutists with all their equipment, including 25-pounder guns, six-pounder anti-tank guns, and vehicles, made a successful landing here to-day. They were taking part in the biggest airborne Territorial exercise in Britain since the end of the war.

It coincided with the anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem and a number of Arnhem veterans were among those dropped. Britain's only airborne T.A. Division, the 16th, is in the Stanford tactical training area, Norfolk, on annual training.

The drop was made by the 44th Parachute Brigade T.A. from 27 C-119 aircraft ("flying boxcars") of 60 Troop Carrier Wing of the 12th United States Air Force, which co-operated in the exercise. The aircraft were flown from Germany to Lakenheath, Norfolk.

One of the features of the drop was the use of 7,000lb platforms of special light steel with shock absorbers for dropping heavy equipment. It was the first field trial of this new device, which has not yet been adopted by the Army.

#### EIGHT PARACHUTES USED

The platforms are supported by eight parachutes each. I understand that the new platforms were considered a great improvement on the 4,000lb wooden types at present used.

First over the area was a single aircraft carrying a team of men to mark and organise the dropping zone. "Enemy" troops hidden all round the zone held their fire until the first main wave of 15 aircraft, carrying nearly 600 men, swept over in formations of threes.

As the troops floated down a heavy barrage of small arms fire was opened up by the enemy. R.A.F. Meteors carried out low flying strafing attacks when they had landed.

Two hours later the next 600 men were dropped and the heavy equipment followed half an hour afterwards. Among the observers was Lt.-Gen. G. K. Bourne, G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, formerly commander of the 16th Airborne Division T.A.

Arnhem Memorial Unveiled--P9

D. Tel.  
18/9/53.

A stockbroker, a barrow-boy, an insurance agent, a painter—that's a fair cross-section of the 100 tons of humanity which will take part, this week, in—

# THE BIG DROP

**T**HE abominable Fantasians are at it again. This unruly tribe, whose aggressions coincide with the Army's season of manoeuvre, has once more sneaked across the sea and established a jackbooted foothold—this time in North Norfolk.

Opposing the horde are several splendid British divisions which are no bother at all to the A and Q staffs because they exist only on the tac overlays of the exercise maps. And in reserve is a real live formation, the 16th Airborne Division, Territorial Army, whose troops will fall (weather permitting) on the necks of the Fantasians on Thursday, with a repeat performance on Friday.

Thursday happens to be the ninth anniversary of the opening of the Battle of Arnhem, and on this day the drop will be made by a parachute brigade group composed in the main of Londoners. They are to emplane in U.S. Air Force Flying Boxcars at Lakenheath, Suffolk, and pitch themselves into a dropping zone whose location I cannot mention for fear this may be read by a beautiful blonde in the pay of Fantasia.

I may say, though, that they will hit the enemy somewhere between Norwich and King's Lynn, and their performances will add up to the biggest airborne exercise this country has known since the war. On each day about 100 tons of humanity (including the 18 stones of R.S.M. F. Martin, of the 10th Parachute Battalion—who was wounded at Arnhem) will land with feet together and chins tucked in to dispute with blank ammunition the tenacity of a prominent feature.

They will be followed by a vaster weight of 25-pr. guns, Jeeps and trailers—all the trappings of a self-contained force, gently let down by goodness knows how many thousands of pounds' worth of nylon and silk.

## Ideal country

The 16th Airborne Division is presently encamped in the Stanford Practical Training Area, some 40 square miles of Norfolk woodland and warren which, broadly speaking, the soldier may blast with shot to his heart's content. Here, in ideal country, are parachute infantry whose homes and civil jobs are in London, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Durham, the Midlands, Scotland and Wales. Their three airborne gunner regiments have London addresses and a good many of the other support and ancillary troops live in the Metropolitan area.

London's infantry contribution to the 16th is two units, the 10th and 11th Parachute Battalions.

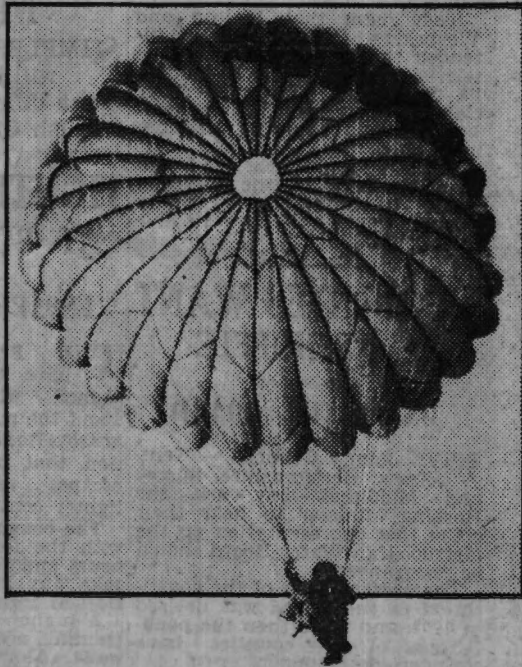
The 10th is the County of London Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, which is affiliated to the Royal Fusiliers. Its headquarters are at Charlton. The 11th's home is at Hounslow, and it also answers to the title: 8th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment. If you find this affiliation and alias confusing let me make it clear that these two units are first of all parachute battalions, but they also share the antique traditions of two famous line regiments which live up to standards set at Albuhera when they helped to fight Soult silly long before parachutes became a practical proposition.

Convention requires me to say that I found these troops in good heart, and I do so in all honesty. For though this part of East Anglia offers meagre recreational facilities (cinemas and pubs, are far-dung and of low capacity) and a T.A. camp is, after all, a holiday of sorts, the men are intent on work of absorbing interest and they looked cheerful under their paratroopers' helmets.

## By the sea

Furthermore, there was the promise of a glorious off-duty week-end by the sea at Yarmouth, and everybody was looking forward to Thursday's drop.

company of the city performing an exercise devised by a field executive of the Trust, with special Vickers guns mortars. Also troops



## MICHAEL GANNON



visits London's spare-time paratroops on the eve of the Fantasian "invasion."

Camden Town who crossed the Rhine by air-drop.

Lieut.-Colonel R. A. Corby, Commander of the 11th Parachute Battalion, manufactures women's clothing. One of his subalterns works here in Carmelite House, Company Sergeant-Major Tucker, a member of the wartime 5th (Scottish) Parachute Battalion, is a painter; Corporal Ronald Cull, stalwart of the unit's highly reputed tug-of-war team and a light-heavy-weight boxer, is a foreman in charge of one of those gangs that mess up the roads and pavements to shove cables beneath them.

## Proud record

These civilian-paratroopers are perfectly ordinary citizens who have discovered that the pleasure of soldiering in a T.A. airborne unit more than compensates for the time it requires (not much more than many

chaps spend filling in football coupons). The 16th Airborne Division is not a cloak-and-dagger outfit and has no place for the damfool hero. Only those who play according to the rules can maintain its proud record of no fatal accident since it was formed in 1947.

Parachuting is perfectly safe if the rules are kept and I am assured by scores of its practitioners that it is great fun. It is this sporting aspect of it and also the sense of belonging to a first-class unit that attract men rather than special rates of pay. But the pay is worth mentioning if only to resolve the doubts of those who imagine they cannot afford to give up time to the T.A.

## A Bounty

An airborne Territorial who completes his annual training requirement receives a T.A. bounty of £8, a further parachutist's bounty of £8 and payment for up to eight drops at the rate of £1 for each of the first three and 10s. thereafter, and normal Army rates of pay plus 4s. a day parachute pay during annual camp and occasional week-end training.

The 16th Airborne Division is the only one we have. Like all T.A. formations it is now a compound of Territorial volunteers and National Service men who have completed two years' Regular service and are posted to T.A. units for two more. N.S. men receive the same emoluments as the Territorials, but do not qualify for the T.A. bounty unless they volunteer for continuous service.

So far this has been a most successful camp. If the weather permits Thursday's and Friday's shows to go as planned 16th Airborne Division will return to its many homes with its tail high, and its commander, Major-General F. D. Rome, is hoping that many National Service men will decide the T.A. is worth staying in.

E. News  
15/9/53.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

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**Arnhem Day drop**  
 Biggest airborne T.A. exercise since the war will start at Stamford, Norfolk, on September 17, anniversary of Arnhem.

3.9.53

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# London's T.A. Skymen Ready For Mass Jump

"Evening News" Reporter

LONDON'S part-time paratroops have arrived in camp near Thetford, Norfolk, for annual training which will end in the biggest airborne Territorial Army exercise held in this country since the war.

The men—members of the 10th (County of London) and 11th (Middlesex Parachute) Battalions, whose headquarters are at Charlton and Hounslow; airborne gunners from Wanstead and supporting units—are to take part in a drop of 1,200 paratroops from 27 U.S. aircraft over the Stamford battle training area on September 17, the ninth anniversary of Arnhem.

Field-guns, jeeps and other heavy weapons and equipment will also be parachuted into "battle."

The London troops are part of the 16th Airborne Division, T.A., which is to be exercised during the next fortnight under its new commander, Major-General F. D. Rome.

General Rome, late Royal Fusiliers, commanded a Special Force brigade in South-East Asia towards the end of the Second World War. He has succeeded Lieut.-General G. K. Bourne, now G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command.

7/9/53.

16 Airborne Division, T.A.

Summary of Exercise, Stanford P.T.A., 17/18 Sept. 53.

The exercise is being carried out by the 44th Parachute Brigade (TA), and units of the 12 USAF. We are very much indebted to the Americans for their enthusiastic support and co-operation.

The Brigade (Commander: Brigadier W.D. Tighe-Wood, MC, consists of two territorial parachute battalions recruited from London and one from Hampshire. To enable the Brigade to fight in an independent role it will have under command 292 AB Fd Regt (TA) to supply gunner support and detachments from the North Somerset Yeomanry to man anti-tank guns. 301 AB Sqn RE (TA) will assist with engineer tasks, and the crossing of a river which is necessary for the success of the operation. Also with the Brigade Group will be parties from the Middlesex Yeomanry to man the signal communications, the 44 Parachute Field Ambulance (TA) to look after human casualties, and the 44 AB Workshops (TA) to deal with vehicle and mechanical crocks. RASC territorial parachutists will drop with the force to assist in supply, and RAOC to organise stores and ammunition. The Provost NCOs who drop will not be required in their more familiar role of maintaining "law and order", but rather in controlling and signposting the dropping zone and the axis of advance.

The aim of the Brigade Group is to parachute behind the enemy lines about 6 hours before a powerful infantry attack is delivered on the main line of enemy defences some 7 miles away. By so doing the enemy rear areas will be disorganised, his resources may be drawn off, and a river crossing will be seized and held to assist in the advance of an armoured division, which is to break out after infantry have made the initial breach in the enemy defence.

The first troops down will be pathfinders of the 16th (Lincoln) Independent Parachute Company, who will drop at 1615 hours and mark the dropping zone and erect navigational aids to assist the main stream of aircraft. Half an hour later fourteen aircraft will drop the 11th and 14th Battalions The Parachute Regiment with their supporting arms and services.

The Brigade Commander's plan is that the 11th Bn The Parachute Regiment (8Mx) commanded by Lt.Col. R.A. Corby, TD, a territorial officer, will protect the dropping zone area and, with the North Somerset Yeomanry squadron under command, will prevent enemy infantry and armour from shooting up the subsequent parachute operation that will take place. Meanwhile the 14th Bn The Parachute Regiment (5R Hamps) commanded by Lt.Col. H.D. Nelson-Smith, MC, will advance and capture an important enemy position which is vital to the success of the river crossing operation. Meanwhile the aircraft will return to base at Lakenheath and take on the next "lift" - the remainder of the Brigade Group. They will drop on the same DZ now securely protected by the 11th Parachute Battalion. The 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (TA) (County of London) commanded by Lt.Col. P.H.M. May, DSO, MC, will then advance through the firm base held by the 14th Parachute Battalion and force a crossing of the River WISSEY. They will have the support of the field guns of 292 AB Field Regiment RA (TA) commanded by a territorial gunner Lt.Col. G.B. Aris, OBE, MC, TD, who, together with their OP parties and gun crews, will have parachuted into action. During the night the Royal Engineers will build a crossing over the river and, assisted by the Assault Pioneer Platoon of the 10th Battalion, they will construct light rafts to ferry essential guns and transport into the bridgehead.

Next morning the 11th Battalion will break out of the bridgehead and advance on the final objective, a well known feature on the Stanford PTA called Frog Hill. Whether they succeed in capturing it alone, or whether the Brigade have to mount a full scale attack, depends on the progress and umpiring of the exercise.

At certain stages in the exercise "~~live~~" firing with 25 pounder guns,

...../over

3 inch mortars and medium machine guns will take place. Casualties will be evacuated by helicopters, and the force will be maintained by ammunition and supplies parachuted from aircraft and collected and sorted by the RASC detachment who jumped with the main body.

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Headquarters of T.A. units taking part.

10th Battalion - Charlton.  
 11th Battalion - Hounslow.  
 14th Battalion - Southampton.  
 North Somerset Yeomanry - Bath.  
 292 AB Fd Regt. - Kennington.  
 301 AB Sqdn R.E. - Croydon.  
 Middlesex Yeomanry - Chelsea.  
 560 Coy RASC (AB Div Tpt) TA - Tottenham.  
 562 Coy RASC (AB Div Tpt) TA - Southall.  
 44 Para Fd. Ambulance - Chelsea.  
 44 AB Workshops, REME - Hampton, Middlesex.

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Commander: 16 Airborne Div (TA)	Major General F.D. Rome, CBE, DSO.,
GSO 1 (Ops)	Lt. Col. A.G. ff Powell,
GSO 2 (Ops)	Major J.H.M. Stephenson, MC.

*Gen Matthews  
 in charge of  
 the jumpers*

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With Mr. Ramsden's compliments



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From: Major B. Langley, M.B.E.,  
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*Capt. Oswald  
Ray. 6049*

EC/PR/20 (44)

7 Sept 53

*Capt. Oswald  
WAX. 4360  
Et. 64  
Lakenheath*

The News Editor.

The Art Editor.

Large Airborne T.A. Exercise.

The biggest airborne T.A. exercise held in this country since the war is to take place in the STANFORD (Norfolk) practical training area on THURSDAY and FRIDAY, 17-18 Sept. Appropriately, 17 Sept. is the anniversary of Arnhem Day.

Britain's only Airborne Division, T.A., - the 16th - will be in the area undergoing annual training during this period, and on 17 Sept. there is to be a Brigade Group drop followed by a 24 hours' exercise.

The Brigade doing the drop will be the 44th which consists of two London battalions and one from Hampshire, together with airborne R.A., R.E., R.Sigs., R.A.S.C., R.E.M.E., R.A.M.C. and R.A.O.C. units, weapons and equipment.

About 1200 officers and men will land in the region of BODNEY WARREN, which is realistic country in the heart of the training area. They will be carried in 27 American aircraft which are coming from Germany for the exercise.

Full details of the exercise will be given at a Press conference to be held at the Divisional Headquarters, WEST TOFTS camp, at 3 p.m. on THURSDAY, 17 Sept.

The approximate times of landings are:

- 4.15 p.m. - Pathfinders.
- 4.45 p.m. - Two battalions and supporting arms and services.
- 6.15 p.m. - The third battalion.
- 6.45 p.m. - Guns, jeeps and other equipment.

Notes for Press Visitors.

*Mon. Gr. Eastern Hotel  
Brandon.*

Press representatives arriving by car should follow the A 11 to THETFORD. Immediately on crossing the railway bridge in Thetford turn left and from that point the route to the training area is sign-posted. Visitors arriving by car are requested to be at WEST TOFTS camp shortly before 3 p.m. To avoid congestion in the dropping zone it will be necessary for all Press representatives to travel from West Tofts camp into the training area by Army transport.

Press representatives travelling by train should alight at BRANDON (Suffolk). A suitable train (restaurant) leaves Liverpool St. at 12.24 p.m. and arrives Brandon at 2.39 p.m. This train will be met.

The only reasonable return train leaves BRANDON at 6.17 p.m. and is due Liverpool St. at 8.40 p.m.

Visitors intending to catch this train will miss the last two drops and the remainder of the exercise.

Hotel Accommodation. Press representatives who wish to stay overnight will be required to arrange their own accommodation. The following hotels are recommended:-

- Great Eastern, Brandon (a station hotel - nearest to the training area)
- Bell, Thetford (a Trust House - about 6 miles from the area - private transport required)
- George, Swaffham (private transport required)
- Bull, Barton Mills (the best but 15 miles from the area - private transport required)

Crown/over.

*8.30 am.  
THETF.*

Crown, Watton (near to the area - private transport probably required)

Telephone facilities. Public telephone facilities in the area are very limited. Correspondents will probably find it much easier to telephone from Thetford or Brandon.

Meals. The provision of meals in the field is going to be extremely difficult and cannot be guaranteed.

So that arrangements can be completed will you please let me know as soon as possible if you intend to cover this exercise and if your representative/s will be travelling by car or train.

*Mr. St. George*  
*Brandon*