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Oct 12

(Ken)

From: Michael Gannon
Command Public Relations Officer
HQ Southern Command
Salisbury

Salisbury 6222 Ext 323

21st September 1959

Military Correspondent
News Editor
Pictures Editor

ARMY AIR MOBILITY TRIALS

Exercise 'Red Banner' on Salisbury Plain

Mon 12 to Fri 16 Oct 1959

On behalf of Major-General G.C. Gordon Lennox, CB, CVO, DSO, General Officer Commanding 3rd Division, I invite you to attend or be represented at Exercise 'Red Banner' on Salisbury Plain on the above dates.

The five-day tactical air mobility exercise is the outcome of trials which have been conducted this year by the 3rd Division and 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group, in conjunction with the Royal Air Force. These have now reached a point where the experimental organisations, techniques and equipment can be put to the test on a brigade group scale.

SUPPLY BY HELICOPTERS

'Red Banner' will involve an air delivered assault by a brigade formation of three battalion groups, two of which will be parachuted and the third air-landed, and the force will be wholly maintained by helicopters and a few light fixed-wing aircraft.

The enemy are to be represented by the 1st Guards Brigade Group, which will have a battalion organised as currently recommended by the School of Infantry.

Exclusive of the enemy, some 3,000 troops are to take part; 1,200 will be parachuted. About 200 Land Rover-trailer combinations will be moved in by air, 28 of them by air-drop.

Transport Command, Royal Air Force, are to provide the assault airlift, using Beverleys and Hastings, and Royal Navy fighters will be in a ground-attack support role.

Civil aircraft firms are also co-operating, and their latest types of helicopter and STOL machines will supplement the air maintenance by the Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit (Army/RAF).

/Exercise 'Red Banner' will

Exercise 'Red Banner' (2)

Exercise 'Red Banner' will be controlled from the WARMINSTER area, and General Gordon Lennox, the exercise director, will hold a briefing for correspondents at the School of Infantry, Warminster, at 12 noon... on Monday, 12th October.

Most of the air and ground activity will take place in morning and evening newspaper time, and it is expected that photographers will be able to obtain all the pictures they require by early afternoon on each day.

IF YOU INTEND TO COVER THE EXERCISE, please complete and return the accompanying form. Further information about the form of 'Red Banner' will be sent to you about a week before its commencement.

ACCOMMODATION

It is regretted that accommodation cannot be provided by the Army, but a list of convenient hotels is appended.

TRANSPORT

The exercise will cover a considerable area and the use of own cars is recommended. However, a small number of military vehicles will be available to move correspondents and photographers without cars, but it is important that those who require this transport should signify on the acceptance form that they will be travelling by train.

A convenient train from London on Monday, 12 Oct, is the 9.30 am from PADDINGTON arriving at WESTBURY at 11.13 am. Transport for the School of Infantry will meet this train at WESTBURY.

TELEPHONES

Press telephones will be installed in the Exercise Information Room at the School of Infantry.

Exercise 'Red Banner' (3)

HOTELS

WARMINSTER

Bath Arms	17 rooms	Warminster 3088
Old Bell	17 rooms	Warminster 2079

WESTBURY (4 miles)

Lopes Arms	5 rooms	Westbury 33
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TROWBRIDGE (9 miles)

George Hotel	16 rooms	Trowbridge 2047
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FROME (9 miles)

George Hotel	12 rooms	Frome 2584
Portway House	23 rooms	Frome 2717

AMESBURY (19 miles)

Avon Hotel	20 rooms	Amesbury 2112
George Hotel	35 rooms	Amesbury 2108
Fairlawn	14 rooms	Amesbury 2103

Issued jointly by

PUBLIC RELATIONS, HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN COMMAND

and ROYAL AIR FORCE TRANSPORT COMMAND

Attention is drawn to facilities offered by
Transport Command on page 8

From: Michael Gannon
Command Public Relations Officer
HQ Southern Command
SALISBURY.

Salisbury 6222 Ext 323 & 326

5th October 1959

EXERCISE "RED BANNER"

Warminster, Mon 12 - Fri 16 October

This notice supplements or confirms information sent to
you in Southern Command Press Notice dated 21st September and
covers:

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IMPORTANT : Please do not, in any advance story, give
an indication of the Special Idea or of a sequence of events
which might be inferred from information under 'Facilities'.
This information is EXERCISE SECRET.

All aspects of this exercise are experimental and do
not necessarily reflect official policy.

AIM

To test the tactical handling of a brigade group of the Strategic Reserve equipped for air transportation and to test the effectiveness of second line administrative support based on helicopters.

Two battalion groups with equipment will be parachuted. A third will be air-landed.

Major-General G.C. Gordon Lennox, CB, CVO, DSO, GOC 3rd Division is the Director.

TROOPS TAKING PART --- about 3,000 excluding enemy.

Force Troops

Rear HQ 3rd Division
1 Rear Air Supply Organisation
Forward Maintenance Area Staff
Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit (Army/RAF)
894 Sqn, Fleet Air Arm (Sea Venoms : Fighter/Ground Attack)
Elements of 17, 31 and 80 Sqns RAF (Photo Reconnaissance)
Elements of RAF Transport Command (see Page 8)
One flt 11 Transport Company (Light Helicopter)
United States Army

The following civilian transport helicopters will have exercise rôles :

Bristol 192
Fairey Rotodyne
Westland Westminster

Brigade Group

HQ 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group
Airportable Sqn, Royal Horse Guards
One Troop, Queen's Own Hussars
33rd Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Artillery
9th Independent Parachute Field Squadron, Royal Engineers
1st Bn Welsh Guards
1st Bn Parachute Regiment
3rd Bn Parachute Regiment
Elements of :

63rd Parachute Company, Royal Army Service Corps
23rd Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
16th Parachute Workshops, Royal Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers

Enemy

Elements of 1st Guards Brigade Group with under command
19th Reconnaissance Flight, Army Air Corps.

OPENING SITUATION

See accompanying sketch map.

Otopia is a prosperous country whose only forces are of a para-military nature armed with infantry small arms weapons.

Salsbodia is poor and discontent has been rife. However, a revolutionary government has recently taken over, and with an eye to the riches of her westerly neighbour has created the fiction of a state of crisis on the frontier -- clearly as a preliminary to invasion.

Otopia has appealed for help and on October 9 Great Britain agreed to use her armed forces to stabilize the situation.

SPECIAL IDEA

The Salsbodian Army has one active brigade group and two reserve brigades. The former, normally deployed in the Aldershot area, consists of two infantry battalions, a regiment of 25-prs, six Centurion tanks and an engineer squadron. There is no air force apart from a flight of light reconnaissance aircraft. The reserve brigades are unlikely to be battleworthy until the end of the third week of October.

It is assumed that Salsbodia realises that her only hope of seizing Otopia is to do so before the arrival of outside intervention. It is doubtful whether Salsbodia would act offensively against an intervening force.

The British plan, subject to detailed information at the time, is to ensure rapid political impact on the area by the immediate drop of a parachute brigade group less one battalion, quickly followed by the air landing of its third battalion group. A second brigade group may be required to tidy up the situation or exercise military control in Salsbodian territory.

The plan includes a detailed air movement table to ensure the most rapid concentration of force near the Otopian frontier, and a tentative brigade operation instruction by Comd 16 Indep Para Bde Gp for a subsequent advance into Salsbodia.

British treaty aid to Otopia is limited by one important factor which must affect initial dispositions : British Forces may not go within 1,000 yards of the frontier without specific authority.

The provisional date for the start of the air drop (D Day) was given as AM 12 Oct, but this would not be finally confirmed until at earliest 0800 hrs on 11 Oct.

FACILITIES and Miscellaneous Information

Please see IMPORTANT note at the foot of page 1.

All events occur within a few miles of Warminster, but locations cannot be given beforehand because of exercise security.

These are the highlights of special Press interest. Operations by fighting units of the brigade group, when these are not mentioned, will be concurrent with them.

Monday 12 October

7.30 am PARACHUTE DROP by tactical headquarters parachute brigade group and one parachute battalion (about 600 all ranks plus vehicles).

Press rendez-vous for this event : Exercise Information Centre, School of Infantry, Warminster 7 am. 

11.13 am Transport meets Press representatives at Westbury Station and conveys them to the Information Centre. Train : 9.30 am from Paddington.

12 noon PRESS BRIEFING by exercise director, Maj Gen Gordon Lennox, at Information Centre.

1 pm PRESS LUNCHEON at the Bath Arms, Warminster. It is hoped that all representatives who are covering the first day of the exercise will attend the luncheon. Please inform Public Relations, HQ Southern Command, Salisbury 6222 ext 323 or 326 if you cannot be present.

To avoid congestion in Warminster, please leave cars at the Information Centre and travel to the Bath Arms in a coach which will leave the School of Infantry immediately after the briefing.

4 pm PARACHUTE DROP by the second parachute battalion.

Tuesday 13 October

am & pm AIR-LANDING of rear divisional headquarters, field maintenance area staff and one battalion group by Beverleys and Hastings of Transport Command.

Facilities for visiting the airfield will be notified at the Information Centre pm Monday.

Wednesday 14 October

pm Helicopter supply begins to operate from the forward maintenance area.



Thursday 15 October

am & pm Helicopter supply system in full operation.
Civilian transport machines employed.

ROD DYKE

The requirement of ammunition, fuel, rations etc is expected to approach 100 tons.

Visits to the forward maintenance area and brigade landing zones (supply points).

Friday 16 October

Subject to the tactical situation.

Final Press Conference at a time to be decided during the exercise.

INFORMATION CENTRE

This will remain open throughout the exercise in Blenheim Hall, School of Infantry.

Press telephones will be connected to the School of Infantry exchange until 7 pm each day. Please reverse charges.

The School of Infantry telephone number is WARMINSTER 3101.

The Press Controller is Brigadier G.H. Lea, DSO, MBE, commander, 2nd Infantry Brigade Group.

CREATURE COMFORT

Once launched from the School of Infantry we shall be in the main on an unsheltered, publess plain. The wise will equip themselves with stout footwear, rainproofs and, after Monday, emergency rations. Every effort will be made to return representatives without their own transport to civilisation before the taverns close for the afternoon, but this cannot be guaranteed for transport must be shared and experience shows that there are always one or two members of a party who have difficulty in tearing themselves away from proceedings.

Transport will carry you as far as possible towards each venue in the field, but some walking will be inevitable.

Red Banner (6)

COMMANDERS

3 DIV : Major-General G.C. Gordon Lennox, CB, CVO, DSO.
16 INDEP PARA BDE GP : Brig T.C.H. Pearson, CBE, DSO.
Airportable Sqn RHG : Maj R.M.F. Redgrave, MC.
25 Fd Regt RA : Lt. Col E.M. Stocker, MC.
33 Para Lt Regt RA : Lt. Col M.C. Hall, MC.
9 Indep Fd Sqn RE : Maj. R.M. Merrell, MBE.
1 Welsh Gds:: Lt. Col J.M. Miller, DSO, MC.
1 Para Bn : Lt. Col J. Awdry.
3 Para Bn : Lt. Col M. Forrester, DSO, MC.
63 Para Coy RASC : Maj E.A. Kynaston.
23 Para Fd Amb : Lt. Col A.M. Ferrie, MB.
16 Para Wksp REME : Maj J.M. Rogerson.
1 Rear Air Supply Organisation : Lt. Col L.N. Barker-Simson, MBE.

OFFICIAL SPECTATORS

Chief of the Imperial General Staff,: General Sir Francis
Festing, GCB, KBE, DSO, ADC. - 14th, 15th.
DCIGS : Lt. Gen Sir Harold E. Pyman, KCB, CBE, DSO, MA. - 15th
Quarter-Master-General : General Sir Cecil S. Sugden, KCB, CBE,
14th, 15th.
Director-General of Military Training : Lt. Gen Sir Gerald W.
Lathbury, KCB, DSO, MBE. - 13th, 14th.
Director of Inf ntry : Maj-Gen D.A. Kendrew, CB, CBE, DSO,
12th, 13th.
Director, Land/Air Warfare : Maj-Gen R.K. Exham, CB, CBE, MC.
12th, 13th.
Director of Supplies and Transport : Maj-Gen W.G. Roe, CB, CBE,
13th.
Director of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering : Maj-Gen
L.N. Tyler, CB, ODE. - 14th.

Red Banner (,,

Air Officer, Commanding-in-Chief, Transport Command :
Air Marshal Sir Dennis Barnett, KCB, CBE, DFC, MA.
13th and 14th.

Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operations):
Air Vice Marshal J. Grandy, CB, DSO. 12th, 13th.

Commandant, School of Land/Air Warfare :
Air Vice Marshal D.R. Evans, CB, CBE, DFC.
12th, 13th, 15th, 16th.

Ministry of Supply : Lt-Gen Sir John Cowley, KBE, CB, AM.
13th, 14th.

ROYAL AIR FORCE TRANSPORT COMMAND'S
ROLE IN "RED BANNER"

Bids for seats in Transport Command aircraft

should be made to INFORMATION 2(B), AIR

MINISTRY, WHITEHALL GARDENS, S.W.1. Tel :

TRAlfalgat 8811 ext 7446

The Royal Air Force Transport Command force taking part in 'Red Banner' consists of nine Beverleys drawn from Nos. 47 and 53 Squadrons from RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and fifteen Hastings from Nos. 24, 36 and 114 Squadrons at Colerne, Wilts. These aircraft were recently engaged in the Anglo-Norwegian exercise 'Bar Frost' in arctic Norway.

'Red Banner' will demonstrate the versatility of the Beverley, which is to be deployed in its four main tactical roles -- para dropping, air transportation, logistical support and casualty evacuation.

On Monday, 12th October (D Day) the aircraft will drop 1,200 men of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group and their vehicles in two waves. (See page 4).

Elements of the 1st Welsh Guards will then be flown in to nearby airfields as reinforcements.

RAF Beverleys, each flying two sorties daily, will throughout the exercise fly a total of 100 tons of ammunition, fuel, rations and other supplies needed to maintain the brigade group in the field.

These supplies will be carried forward to the troops by helicopters of the Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit (Army/RAF) from Middle Wallop and of the United States Army supplemented by civilian machines.

IT WILL GREATLY HELP IF INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS WILL
CO-OPERATE TO SUMMARISE INFORMATION ON ONE FORM

To: Command Public Relations Officer
HQ Southern Command,
SALISBURY, Wilt s.

EXERCISE 'RED BANNER'

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will be represented by (please state whether correspondent
or photographer or both):

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Number travelling by train

Number travelling by car

Number of car labels required

Signature

Appointment

