

G17/2

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



Salisbury 6222 Ext 323

11th September, 1961.

News Editor
Pictures Editor
Military Correspondent

ORDERLY ROOM

19 SEP 1961

12 Field Squadron RE

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EXERCISE "GO-DEVIL"

An army is a thirsty machine. It takes more than 10,000 gallons of fuel to move one armoured regiment alone for a distance of 50 miles. It is essential, therefore, that the means of providing the petrol, oil and lubricants for an operational force should be constantly under review.

A practical outcome of recent thought is Exercise "Go-Devil", a large-scale trial of new materials and methods of storage and delivery now taking place at No. 1 Petroleum Reserve Depot, West Moors, near Wimborne, Dorset.

The tests include laying a pipe-line by helicopter.

: There will be a Press facility at No. 1 P.R.D.,
: R.A.S.C. on Thursday, 21st September, Details
: are on sheets 2 and 3.

"Go-Devil" began on Monday (11 Sep) and will continue until 28 September. For the first two weeks or so, Royal Engineers will be engaged in building a bulk petroleum installation with a capacity of 472,000 gallons. During the remainder of the period, this tank farm will be operated by Royal Army Service Corps petroleum units.

A list of units and their locations is attached

The installation will consist of 9 miles of aluminium pipelines, three bolted steel tanks of 350,000, 105,000 and 17,500 gallons capacity, a mainline pumping station and ancillary equipment. Altogether, the equipment weighs about 250 tons.

Five hundred tons of petrol (150,000 gallons) will be used to test the system.

Much of the equipment will be of new type, so that though it is planned to build the system as near as possible under field conditions, many methods of construction will be tried.

Methods of pipelaying, in addition to lifting by helicopter, will include working off a vehicle when the line is laid close to an existing road. Obstacles such as roads and railways will be overcome by a variety of means; one of them is a machine which

forces a hole under the obstacle, through which the pipe is subsequently laid, and another method is by building a special bridge.

From these trials it is hoped to obtain time and labour constants to assist in planning future projects, and during the operation by the RASC tests will be carried out to determine friction losses.

Exercise "Go-Devil" will also give the troops training in war tasks.

Units taking part

ROYAL ENGINEERS

12 Field Squadron. from RIPON, Yorks.

Part of 38 Corps Engineer Regiment, and commanded by Major J.A. Notley, MBE, RE. It is part of the Strategic Reserve.

15 Corps Field Park Squadron (detachment of) From RIPON.

Also part of the Strategic Reserve. It will provide plant and crane operators and stores experts.

516 Specialist Team from MAIDSTONE, Kent.

Commanded by Major E. Price, RE. Includes welders, petroleum fitters, draughtsmen, etc. The team's function is to plan projects such as this and also provides skilled tradesmen to help in construction.

510 Specialist Team, RE (AER)

This unit is similar to 516, but apart from the officer commanding, Major D.E. Dowdell, RE, and a few other Regulars, is composed of civilian members of the Army Emergency Reserve who come from many parts of the country and are undergoing their annual two-weeks' training.

35 Stores Squadron from LONG MARSTON, Warwicks.

Experts in stores handling, commanded by Major D.H. Wheeler, RE. Part of No. 1 Engineer Stores Depot.

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

35 Petroleum Storage Platoon and 112 Petroleum Platoon, both stationed at No. 1 Petroleum Reserve Depot, West Moors. These sub-units will operate the installation after the Royal Engineers have built it.

P R E S S D A Y

Thursday, 21 September, 1961

If you intend to send to West Moors please complete and return the accompanying form.

ROAD travellers are asked to be at No. 1 Petroleum Reserve Depot, West Moors, not later than 11.15 a.m. Your contact is Colonel Bill Ponting of Southern Command Public Relations. The Depot is reached by a turning north off A.31 (Ringwood - Wimborne Minster) $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Ringwood and half a mile east of the roundabout at the junction of A.31 and A.348 (Ferndown - Bournemouth).

RAIL travel: Transport will be at Bournemouth Central station (at 10.30 a.m.) to meet the 8.30 a.m. train from Waterloo. Transport will also convey passengers to the 4.40 p.m. train (Bournemouth Belle) from Bournemouth Central due at Waterloo 6.46 p. Both trains have restaurant cars.

Luncheon will be provided at West Moors.

Further information

About the Royal Engineers' operations from:

Captain J. Underhill. RE

About the Royal Army Service Corps operations from:

Captain W. Clayden, RASC.

- both at FERNDOWN 770

/Form ...

Please return to:

PUBLIC RELATIONS,
HQ SOUTHERN COMMAND,
SATISBURY, Wilts.

Exercise "Go-Devil" : 21 Sep 61

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will be represented by (please say whether writer or photographer or both):

Number requiring transport from
Bournemouth Central Station
(per 8.30 a.m. from Waterloo)

Number requiring luncheon

Signature

Appointment