

THERE ARE ONLY 12 KNOWN SURVIVORS OF THE FIRST OF THE MANY

THE BRITISH ARMY'S FIRST AIRBORNE SOLDIERS PARA MEN BEFORE THE RED BERET

THE FIRST PARACHUTE UNIT OF THE BRITISH AIRBORNE FORCES

Nominal Roll of No. 2 Commando as it was on the day it was formed.

Formed at Cambray Barracks PERHAM DOWN, near TIDWORTH, Hants. on the 22nd. of June 1940, the Unit consisted of two Troops, 'C' & 'D' Troops, members of which are listed below, ranks are as held at the time of joining.

Many of the O/Rs were later Commissioned

Officers

21st. April 1996 the underlined names are the only known survivors of 'C' & 'D' TROOPS.

Lieut. Col.	Jackson	R.Tank Regiment
Capt.	Bailey	R.Artilletry
Capt.	Park-Smith	R.Marines
Capt.	De-Vere Martin	Bedf. & Herts. Regt.
2/Lt	Patterson	R.Engineers
2/Lt	Davies	R.Engineers
2/Lt	Smith	R.A.S.C.

This nominal roll was compiled by E.R. CHINNEY (an original of 'C' TROOP) he requested similar records from other troops only Jock BAIN & TROOP

50th Anniversary March through LONDON on 22nd June 1990

The organisers of the celebrations initially agreed that No.2 COMMANDO would lead THE PARADE - they RENEGED

Of the 60 Officers and men on this roll only one man attended the Formation Parade at Perham Down on the 22nd of June 1940 AND the 50th Anniversary Parade and Marchpast in LONDON on the 22nd of June 1990, this was, no doubt, due to the refusal by the 50th Anniversary Organisers to permit the survivors of No.2 Commando and 11th Battalion S.A.S. to march under their original Unit Identity as they did on 22nd of June 1940 at Perham Down.

Many books have been written about Airborne History, none have even bothered to mention that the Birthplace of British Airborne Forces was Perham Down. Maybe the Authors did not know. Para Historians should note that No. 2 Commando was not only the first Parachute Unit, it was the only Army Formation to hold 'Commando' Title, and was formed solely for a Parachuting Role. (in 1940)

In May 1941 other Special Service Units were formed into Commandos for Seaborne roles.

No. 1 Bn. Special Service Brigade was split to form Nos. 1 & 2 Seaborne Commandos. The second No. 2 Commando took part in the St. Nazaire Navy/Commando raid on the German submarine base.

Small units under the title of Independent Boat Companies were based at Fort William

on Loch Fyne, August '40 When 'C' & 'D' Troops were at TORCASBARR where they were sent whilst the BINGWAY BOYS devised a new METHOD PARACHUTE DEPLOYMENT WITH A DIFFERENT METHOD - LINE.

Sgt.	Bennett	R.Artilletry
Sgt.	Cripps	10th. R. Hussars
Sgt.	Bradford	R.A.O.C.
Sgt.	Bates	R.Artilletry
Sgt.	Burns	5/6th D.Gs. (Skins)
Sgt.	Harris	R. Tank Regiment
Sgt.	Hayward	R. Tank Regiment
Sgt.	Honeybun	The Cheshire Regt.
Sgt.	Jackson	R. Berkshire Regt.
Sgt.	Witts	R. Hampshire Regt.
Sgt.	Venn	R. Artilletry
Sgt.	Hullen	R. Horse Artilletry
Cpl.	Andrews	R. Tank Regiment
Cpl.	Chinnery	17/21st. Lancers
Bdr.	Bushnell	R. Artilletry
Cpl.	Faithfull	12th R. Lancers
Cpl.	Knowles	D.C.L.I.
Cpl.	Maguire	7th. Hussars
Cpl.	McBain	Royal Fusiliers
Cpl.	Underwood	R. Tank Regiment
L/Cpl.	Baxter	The Middlesex Regt.
L/Cpl.	Bennett	Queens. R.W. Kent Regt.
L/Bdr.	Downs	R. Artilletry
L/Bdr.	Saxton	R. Artilletry
L/Bdr.	Scott	R. Artilletry
L/Cpl.	Hunter	R. Warks. Regt.
L/Cpl.	Marsh	R. Warks. Regt.
L/Cpl.	Wilson	R. Warks. Regt.
Pte.	Phillips	R. Berkshire Regt.
Pte.	Barrett	R. Berkshire Regt.
Pte.	Rance	R. Berkshire Regt.
Pte.	Minal	R. Berkshire Regt.
Pte.	Wade	R. Berkshire Regt.
Pte.	Hazledene	R. Berkshire Regt.
Pte.	Malpas	R.A.S.C.
Pte.	Whitmore	R.A.S.C.
Dvr.	Evans	R.A.S.C. (First fatal Casualty)
Tpr.	Strong	R. Tank Regiment
Gnr.	Fletcher	R.Artilletry
Gnr.	Thompson	R.Artilletry
Gnr.	Peters	R.Artilletry
Gnr.	Taylor	R.Artilletry
Gnr.	Whittingham	R.Artilletry
Gnr.	Robinson	R.Artilletry
Gnr.	Threlfall	R.Artilletry
Tpr.	Wilde	R.Tank Regt.
Tpr.	Kinder	R.Tank Regt.
Pte.	Dalton	East Yorks.Regt.
Pte.	Cockcroft	East Yorks.Regt.
Pte.	Webster	West Yorks.Regt.
Pte.	Cooney	The Cheshire Regt.
Spr.	Allen	Royal Engineers
Spr.	Jones	Royal Engineers
Pte.	Baxter	The Middlesex Regt.
Pte.	Jones	The Middlesex Regt.

Officers are not 'Posted' from their Parent Unit or Corps they are 'Seconded'

Other Ranks were 'Posted'. All O/Rs on this nominal roll were Posted w.e.f 8.7.40 they were attached from 22.6.40 until 7.7.40.

This was confirmed from individual's Personal Records at M.O.D. Archives Records held at Hayes, Middlesex

Stories about being recruited for just six months with a Para Unit is pure baloney, the facts are that after Qualifying as a Army Parachutist You are required to jump when ordered to do so, refusal to do so is to refuse to obey a lawful Command.

Historians should note that the above Standing Order was in force during the eight years that I served with the Para 1940 - 1948

and as far as I am aware still applies. Most stories published by para Historians about 'THE EARLY DAYS' are pure imagination and/or supposition, few will stand up examination by 'THOSE ORIGINALS OF 'C' & 'D' TROOPS OF No. 2 COMMANDO who 'FORMED-UP' at PERHAM DOWN on 22nd JUNE 1940.

Other

Troops of No.2 Commando were Formed at later dates, eventually Eleven (A to L) Troops