



Telephone :  
Midhurst 443/6

In reply, quote SS/131/G.51.

HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL SERVICE BRIGADE,  
c/o G.P.O.,  
MIDHURST,  
SUSSEX.

24th August, 1943.

Future No 4 Parachute Troop

In reply to your letter dated 19th August, I apologise for the delay in answering, but this has been inevitable owing to change of policy and operational requirements coupled with shortage of man power in the Special Service Brigade.

It is now proposed to retain one additional stick of paratroops besides personnel actually to be employed in Forfar Operations 'ITEM' and 'DOG'. The remainder of the troop will be absorbed by Special Service Brigade.

Twenty-seven other ranks have already been cross posted to No 9 Commando who are likely to be joining Brigadier Laycock in the Mediterranean theatre at the end of this month. Please treat this matter as MOST SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL. The remainder of the Troop will be posted in due course, and I will naturally make every attempt to see that you get out to the Mediterranean where you will at last have the opportunity of becoming operational.

I fully appreciate the disappointment which all ranks of the troop will suffer, having worked so hard and well in the parachutist role. I have asked C.C.O. and General Haydon to convey a personal message to congratulate them on their efforts which we are all confident have not been wasted, in spite of disappointments.

Wishing you every success on your adventure. I shall try and be there to see you return.

Yours sincerely,

*L. MEB*

*OC M.S. is showing a good subaltern who can be added to the 27 other ranks. Please contact him.*

Captain O.B. Rooney,  
No 12 Commando,  
c/o G.P.O.,  
Littlehampton.

L/MEB