

Names given. D. Whitaker. } Form sent. 28/5/62. (Handled by
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George
Young

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

STOREY'S GATE, LONDON, SW1

file: rehearsal.

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOINT SERVICES DEMONSTRATION, 1962

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The largest land-air warfare demonstration of the year, involving all three Services, takes place at Knighton Down, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain on Thursday, 7th June. More than a thousand officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force will participate. A full "dress rehearsal" will be held on Tuesday, 5th June.

Although the primary purpose of the demonstration is to help in the training of young officers and cadets, it will be watched by officers of the three Services, including Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Chief of the Defence Staff, representatives of Government departments and foreign Service Attachés.

Starting at 10.30 a.m., it will be in three distinct parts; the first, known as Noisy Nora, is a joint fire power display by the R.N., Army and R.A.F.; the second, Plain Jane, is a joint Service static display; and the third, Saucy Sue, is a joint tactical logistic display in the air and land aspects of an airborne and seaborne operation. Planned details of two phases are as follows:-

Noisy Nora - A joint fire power display designed to show the capabilities of weapons.

The Royal Navy's contribution will be provided by Fleet Air Arm Scimitars in dive bombing and strafing roles, while there will be rocket firing by Sea Vixen aircraft and low angle bomb sight attack by a Buccaneer, the new Blackburn strike aircraft coming into squadron service this summer.

The air part of the display will start with a fly past of aircraft in current service and then a fire power display by fighters and bombers. Hunter ground attack aircraft will be participating, together with Canberras from the Near East Air Force, Germany and the United Kingdom.

From the viewpoint of the Army, this exercise involves an infantry assault supported by a fire plan from artillery, tanks and infantry weapons. These include Wombat, Malkara and Vigilant anti-tank missiles, Honest John bombardment rockets and Baby Viper for minefield clearance and also a display of the Abbot self propelled 105 mm. field gun. The new Carl Gustav rocket launcher will also be used.

Saucy Sue - Responsibility for controlling and co-ordinating rests with No. 38 Group, R.A.F. Transport Command, which specialises in tactical transport operations in support of the Army.

Objective in this operation is a river line located 15 miles from an area suitable for an outstrip and 10 miles from a dropping zone. The theatre base is 500 miles distant, and a carrier task force and a Commando carrier are 70 and 25 miles away respectively.

After parachute pathfinders have set up marking beacons in the dropping zone, there will be a free fall by the Special Air Service and an airborne assault by 16 Parachute Brigade from escorted aircraft of No. 38 Group R.A.F. Royal Marines will be landed from R.N. Whirlwind helicopters and a troop of the same Corps will mount an assault on the airstrip area.

Tanks and infantry in armoured patrol carriers from an imaginary beachhead join up with the assault forces, while other troops will make a landing at the airhead. There will also be a parachute heavy supply drop.

R.A.F. aircraft involved include the Argosy, Belvedere, Hastings, Twin Pioneer and Whirlwind 10.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

24TH MAY, 1962.

Note to Editors

Details of the facilities available to Press representatives at the Joint Services Demonstration at Knighton Down, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 5th June and Thursday, 7th June, 1962, are listed below. For Press passes, special train tickets, car park permits etc., it is asked that the attached proforma be completed and sent to the Public Relations Office, Ministry of Defence, Storey's Gate, S.W.1., not later than Thursday, 31st May, 1962.

DRESS REHEARSAL ON 5TH JUNE

How To Get There - No special trains are being arranged on this date and it is suggested that representatives from London should travel by the train leaving Waterloo Station at 7.20 a.m. and arriving Andover Station at 9.31 a.m. Service transport - clearly labelled "Press" - will leave Andover Station for Knighton Down at 9.35 a.m.

For those driving to the Demonstration, roads from Amesbury (A.303) have been signposted. Special permits are available for the official car park, in which a separate enclosure has been set aside for Press use to enable their vehicles to leave without difficulty at any time during the day.

When There - A Press Room, clearly marked, is located some 300 yards from the car park. Telephone facilities will be available there and the Press Officer-In-Charge will, in addition to dealing with the usual requests for information, be in a position to handle requests for transport to parts of the arena and to Salisbury railway station from which the fastest and most frequent trains to London can be obtained. Lunch and refreshments will be served in the Press Room.

For reporters, there will be reserved seats, and a 20 ft. tower with an unobstructed view of the arena has been erected for photographers and cameramen. The latter will also be able to move into the arena - transport is being arranged for this purpose - for close-ups of various phases of the demonstration. The only restrictions on their movements in the arena will be those demanded by safety considerations.

DEMONSTRATION ON 7TH JUNE

Press facilities will be on the same lines as for the Dress Rehearsal (see above) except that tickets are available for Press representatives to travel in the special train leaving Waterloo Station at 7.45 a.m. and arriving Andover Station at 8.56 a.m. On arrival, reporters and photographers are asked to use the Service transport clearly marked "Press" which will meet this train. The attention of Press representatives is drawn to the fact that the return halves of the special tickets for the 7.45 a.m. Waterloo-Andover train can be used only on the 5.42 p.m. Andover-Waterloo train. They will not be accepted for travel on any other train.

In the Press Room at Knighton Down, Information Officers of the three Services will be on duty to deal with questions concerning specialised equipment and techniques.

ADVANCE PRESS ENQUIRIES

Press enquiries concerning the Demonstration should be addressed as follows:-

Passes, special train tickets, car park permits - Public Relations Department, Ministry of Defence, Storey's Gate, S.W.1. (Tel: WHI 7000).

Facilities at Knighton Down, further information on the Demonstration - Public Relations Office, Headquarters, Southern Command (Tel: Salisbury 6222 Ext. 326).