



the following phases.

10 weeks basic training and selection, followed by one week's leave.

2 weeks skill at arms training when all platoon weapons are taught and fired.

1 week's leave.

3 weeks field training at the Battle School in Wales.

4 weeks parachute training under R.A.F. instructors at No. 1 Parachute Training School, Abingdon.

2 weeks airborne training which includes 2 airborne exercises and the Passing Out Parade. This is followed by leave before getting a posting to a battalion.

On completion of the course he will be posted to one of the three regular battalions, usually one is for service abroad whilst the remaining two are in Aldershot ready for immediate service in any of the world's trouble spots.

No recruit is asked to perform the more severe tests until he has been carefully trained to the standard of fitness and skill required.

The Parachute Regiment is from hand picked volunteers of the highest standard, and its soldiers are expected to have a spirit for high adventure.

The Parachute Regiment encourages soldiers to devise exciting and original expeditions which can be carried out as a team or individually. Financial aid is given for such projects by way of special grants. Grants have been used by the Regiment for groups going to Borneo, Norway, Germany and other countries all over the world. Sports such as mountain climbing, ski-ing, skin diving and free-fall parachuting are all classified under this category.

Two soldiers of the Parachute Regiment who caused quite a stir recently are Captain John Ridgway M.B.E., and Sergeant Chay Blyth B.E.M., who in 92 days successfully rowed the Atlantic.



palitoy

PALIToy, COALVILLE,
LEICESTER, ENGLAND

PALIToy REGO

ACTION man

FAMOUS BRITISH REGIMENTS



THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

Early in the 2nd World War, Hitler had considerable success with parachute troops in Norway and Denmark, seizing important airfields and overcoming fortifications in Holland and Belgium with very low casualties.

With this in mind Winston Churchill sent an official note on the 22nd June, 1940, to the War Office for "a corps of at least 5,000 parachute troops, suitably organised and equipped".

Training started in earnest at Ringway Airport near Manchester and 500 men of No. 2 Commando qualified as parachutists on the 1st August, 1940. The Parachute Regiment was formally established as a Regiment on the 1st August, 1942, and later that year the 1st Airborne Division was formed. As the number of parachutists grew, so did the organisation created by the Royal Air Force for training and dropping them. The need for fully trained Airborne troops became more and more essential, and by 1941 it was possible to mount the first Airborne experimental assault, Operation Colossus, the raid on the Tragino Aqueduct, Southern Italy.

The Red Beret was first worn by Parachute soldiers when they went into action in North Africa. In February, 1943, one of the battalions captured about 200 German prisoners carrying pamphlets giving detailed information on fighting the "Red Devils", a nickname that has remained with the regiment ever since.

The regiment fought with great distinction throughout the war



and in its short history has gained many famous battle honours including the Battle of Arnhem in 1944.

Montgomery's plan for the Battle of Arnhem, code name Market Garden, envisaged the dropping of three airborne divisions to seize the bridges of the Eindhoven - Arnhem road thus enabling units of the 2nd Army of 21st Army Group to outflank the Siegfried Line. The plan started well, with the US 101st Airborne Division, dropping between Eindhoven and Veghel, capturing the two southern bridges and the 2nd Army raced on to link up with the US 82nd Airborne at Grave and Nijmegen. Unfortunately things had gone badly from the start at Arnhem the British 1st Airborne Division landing a considerable distance from the town, found large German forces in the area which were able to protect the bridge and block the relieving force at Nijmegen. The only British battalion able to fight its way to the bridge was cut off, and the remainder forced back into a bridgehead near Oosterbeek hoping to hold out until relieved. The US 82nd had found the Nijmegen bridge strongly held, it was only after a combined attack with lead units of the 2nd Army that it was cleared. The Germans ferociously contested every mile to Arnhem, helped by deteriorating weather, and although the Polish Brigade was dropped south of the British bridgehead in an attempt to relieve it, few troops could get across. Holding out for

more than a week, the survivors of the 1st Airborne Division were brought back with difficulty even with the arrival of the 2nd Army.

The commander of the Airborne Corps, General Browning, had said he thought they were attempting one bridge too many and this prophecy was unfortunately borne out by results.

At present the Parachute Regiment has three regular battalions, a junior parachute company, and a depot. There are also three flourishing battalions and an independent company in the Volunteer Reserve Army. The regular battalions form part of the Parachute Brigade together with units of artillery, engineers, signals and services. They are always ready to move at short notice to support N.A.T.O. or to protect our interests in any part of the world.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A VOLUNTEER?

A Volunteer to join the Parachute Regiment if selected by the local Army Recruiting Officer, will be sent to the depot at Aldershot. Here he will meet a Personnel Selection team where he will be interviewed and given a series of tests, physical and mental. These tests last for one week and during this time he will have the opportunity of deciding if he really wants to serve in the Regiment. If he decides to do so and is successful he will be accepted for training and put into a new recruit platoon.

Recruit training takes approximately 22 weeks from the start of basic training. The course is very comprehensive and is split into