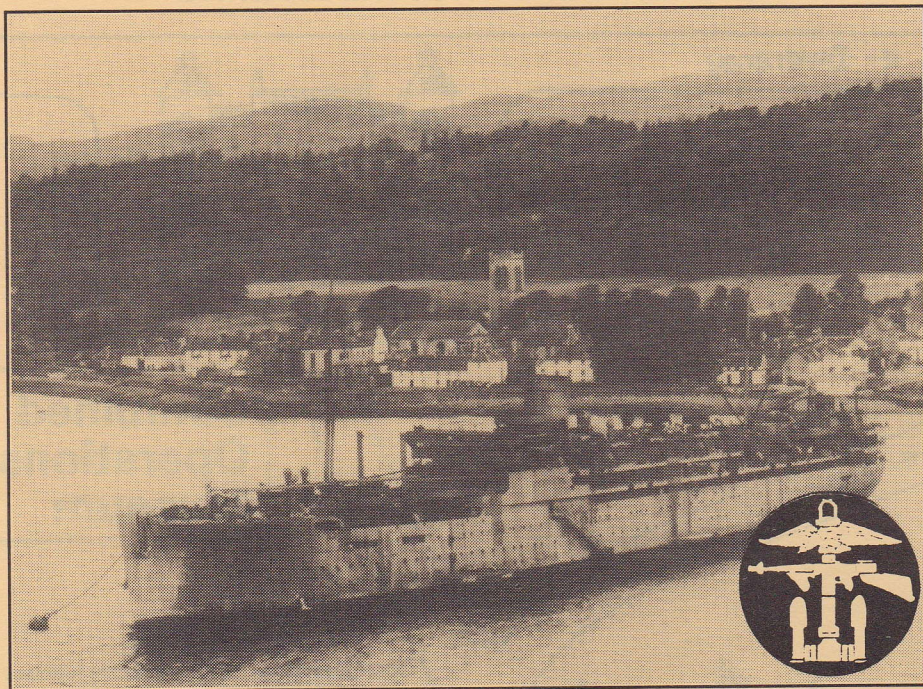


SCOTLAND'S SECRET TRAINING BASE

Combined Operations Museum at Inveraray



HMT "Ettrick" lying off Inveraray

Visit this unique Museum at Cherry Park in the grounds of Inveraray Castle - see the role played by the many thousands of men and women who passed through the C.T.C. at Inveraray in World War II.

Here the Assault Landing techniques were evolved which culminated in all the major commando raids, such as The Lofoten Islands, Vaagso, Bruneval, St. Nazaire, Dieppe, North Africa, Sicily, Salerno and finally "D" Day in Normany.

It's Britain's History - Your History!

Follow for yourself the newspapers of these days - the battle plans, the story of these heroic times.

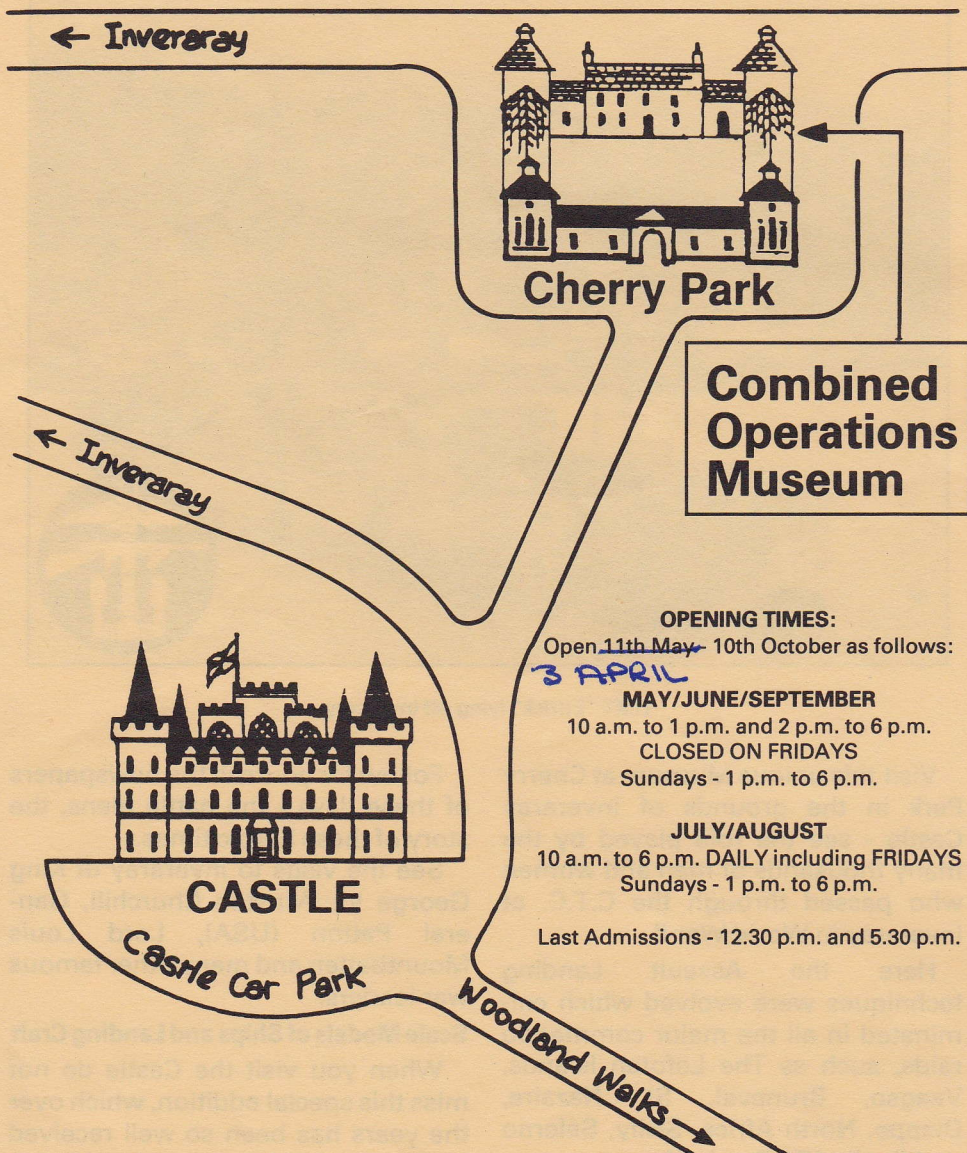
See the visits to Inveraray of King George VI, Winston Churchill, General Patton (USA), Lord Louis Mountbatten and many other famous war leaders.

Scale Models of Ships and Landing Craft

When you visit the Castle do not miss this special addition, which over the years has been so well received by thousands of visitors from all over the world.

HOW TO FIND THE MUSEUM

FOLLOW THE SIGNS FOR INVERARAY CASTLE
THE MUSEUM IS AT CHERRY PARK CLOSE TO THE
CASTLE AS SHOWN IN THE DRAWING



OPENING TIMES:

Open ~~11th May~~ 10th October as follows:

3 APRIL

MAY/JUNE/SEPTEMBER

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

Sundays - 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

JULY/AUGUST

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. DAILY including FRIDAYS

Sundays - 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Last Admissions - 12.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

For further details and party bookings apply: The Curator, Combined Operations Museum, Argyll Estates Office, Cherry Park, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XE. Telephone 0499 2203 Fax 0499 2421



INVERARAY

1940 - 1945

COMBINED OPERATIONS EXHIBITION, INVERARAY

Welcome to this unique Exhibition which was opened by the famous wartime Commando leader, Lord Lovat, in 1984. The Museum Exhibition was the idea of Mr. Berry Savory who served at Inveraray as an RAF Officer.

Inveraray was the site of No 1 Combined Training Centre from 1940 to 1945. It's function was to train troops in beach assault and landing techniques. British, American, Canadian, Free French, Polish, Norwegian and even Russians, trained here. Admiralty House, which is now the Loch Fyne Hotel, was the headquarters of No 1 C.T.C. Several camps were situated in Inveraray and around the Shores of Loch Fyne which provided training beaches and anchorages for ships and landing craft. The Argyll Caravan Park is now the only surviving site and was formerly HMS Quebec, the Royal Naval Base. No 516 Squadron RAF, based at Dundonald near Troon, provided air support.

Many famous regiments and units trained at Inveraray during the war years and the first Commandos were based here before a Commando depot was established at Spean Bridge. A small display case is dedicated to Lord Lovat and his Commando force.

Inveraray was visited by many famous people during the war years including King George VI, Winston Churchill, Lord Louis Mountbatten, King Haakon and Crown Prince Olav of Norway. The Exhibition contains a photographic record of many of these visits.

D-Day, St. Nazaire, Lofoten, Vaagso, Dieppe and the North African landings are all documented, together with models of landing craft used during these operations.

Thank you for your visit. If you have any questions, please ask the Curator. Tell your friends and have a safe journey home.

Haste ye back.



J Jepson
Curator.

James Jepson
Norwegian Troops
Royal Engineers

ABOUT THIS MUSEUM....

It was felt that the role played by the Town of Inveraray during World War II should be recorded as a token of appreciation both to the local residents of that time, to the many of the Allied Forces who trained there in those momentous years, and especially to the memory of those who never returned.

Inveraray was the base for the first Combined Operations Training Centre, which was established in 1940, after the evacuation of Europe at Dunkerque earlier that year.

Here, at Inveraray, the techniques of assault landings over beaches were established and developed, combined operations with all three services, The Army, The Navy and The Airforce, were initiated - for the first time they acted together under one single command as one unit.

These techniques were new in the annals of warfare and they laid the foundations that enabled the re-entry and the liberation of Europe in June 1944.

Inveraray became the temporary host to over 250,000 troops of the many nationalities that made up the Allied Forces. Through Combined Operations Training Centre No 1 passed many who, from participation in early raids such as Norway and the French Coast, went on to the major seaborne assault landings, "Torch" the landing in North Africa, "Husky" that in Sicily, "Avalanche" at Salerno, culminating with Operation "Overlord", the Normandy landing on 6th June 1944.

The exhibits have been arranged in date order, so that the training period, the subsequent operation, the censored newspaper reports at the time, and the ultimate disclosed facts, can be quickly co-related by the visitor.

ABOUT THE CREATOR...

SQUADRON LEADER C.B. SAVORY, R.A.F.V.R. AT INVERARAY 1943

Berry Savory was a Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, in command of the R.A.F. Unit at Inveraray from 1942 to 1943.

He trained as a pilot in 1938 and was flying as a Sergeant Pilot on the day of the Declaration of War, Sunday, 3rd September 1939.

After being commissioned in 1940, and service with Nos 85 and 242 Fighter Squadrons, he became personal assistant, as a Flight Lieutenant, to Air Vice Marshall R.E. Saul, Commanding at No 12 Fighter Group.

He then moved to Army Co-operation Command as second in command of No 37 Wing, Western Command. He transferred to Combined Operations in 1942 and for a short time served with the Fleet Air Arm on board the Fleet Aircraft Carrier H.M.S. FURIOUS.

After leaving Inveraray, he joined the Directing Staff of Combined Operations at Largs, H.M.S. WARREN.

For his work in Combined Operations and in particular that at Inveraray, he received a Mention in Despatches in June 1944.

Many of the photographs on display came from his own collection, which he has given to the Imperial War Museum.

**N-1 COMBINED TRAINING CENTRE
INVERARAY**

NO 1 COMBINED TRAINING CENTRE

INVERARAY

CAMPS

Town Camp

Behind the Newtown South end of Inveraray

Avenue Camp

Next to Town Camp

Dukes Camp & Castle Camp

Castle Grounds

Shira Camp

Glen Shira

H.M.S. Quebec

Dalchenna Farm Lands (Now Argyll Caravan Park)

Kilbride Camp & Chamois Camp

Next to H.M.S. Quebec

PASCOE

Pass all Sigs. Co Ops (Glen Branter)

NO 1 COMBINED TRAINING CENTRE

INVERARAY

In mid-July 1940, the C.T.C. was formed at Inveraray by Brigadier Charles Haydon. In 1942 the Military Commander was Major General Sir James Drew. He was followed in 1943 by Brigadier Sir John Laurie who commanded almost until its closure. His home was Moniaive in Dumfries.

The first overall Commander of Quebec and C.T.C. was Vice Admiral Theodore Hallet R.N. The senior Naval Officers at Admiralty House, the H.Q. were:

1942 - 1943

Commodore Coltart and
Capt. Lionel Dawson R. N.

Maintenance Commander
Commander Walker R.N.

Commanding Officer H.M.S. QUEBEC
Commander John H. Thomas

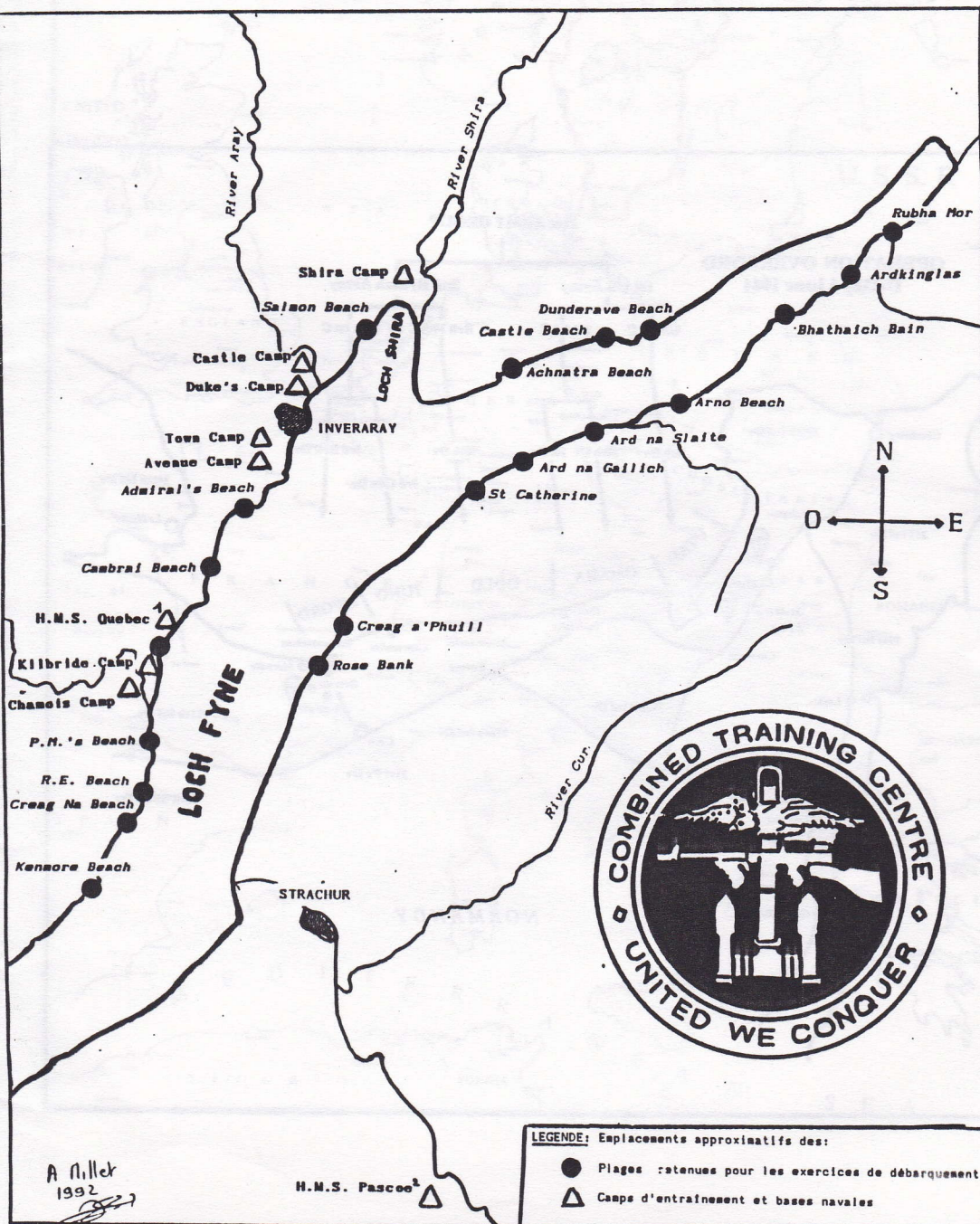
Paymaster
Commander John Raper R.N.R.

Admin Duties
Lt. Hastings R.N.V.R.

1943 and later

Capt Arvill R.N. was the
Senior Naval Officer after
Commodore Coltart

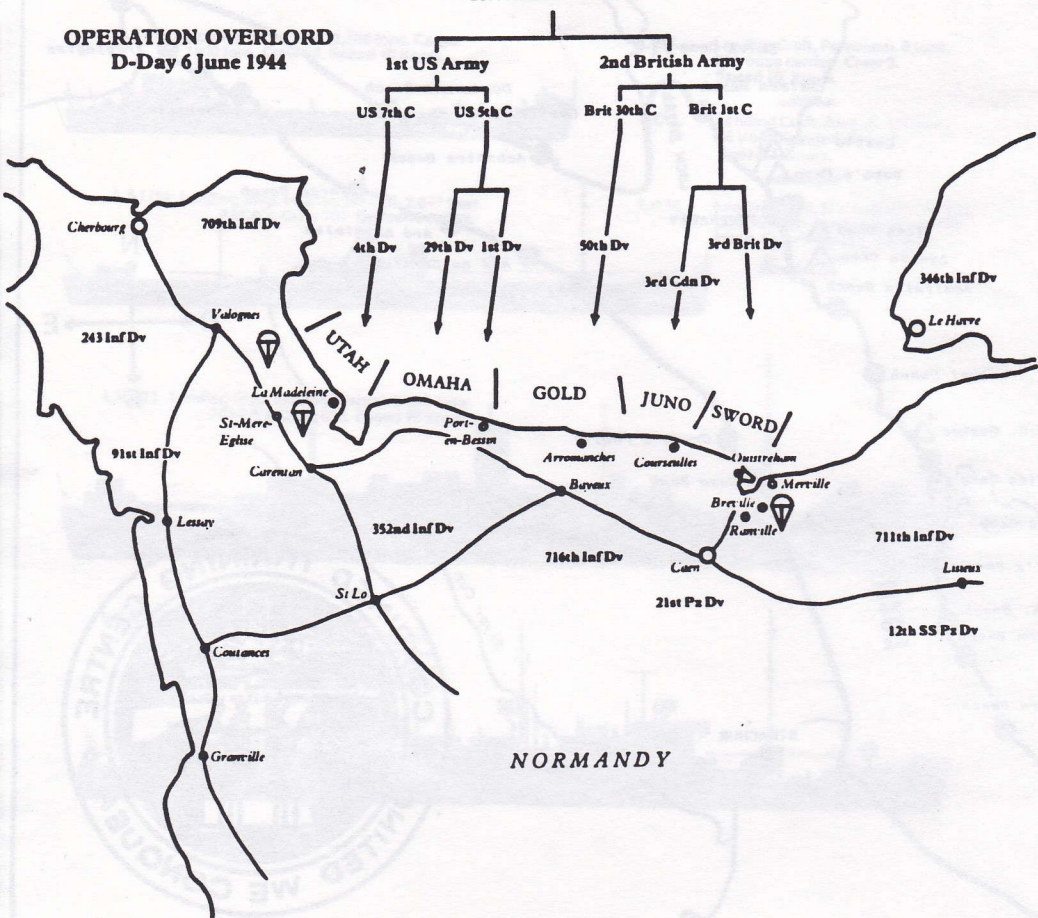
N°1 COMBINED TRAINING CENTRE INVERARAY



LANDING CRAFT DATA

21st ARMY GROUP

OPERATION OVERLORD D-Day 6 June 1944



EUROPE UNDER THE AXIS



LANDING CRAFT DATA

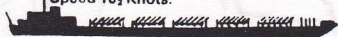
L.C.S. Landing Craft, Support. Anti-tank craft.
116 tons. Crew 25 men. Speed 14 Knots.



L.C.F. Landing Craft, Flak. Anti-aircraft vessel.
470 tons. Crew 62. Speed 9½ Knots.



L.C.T.(R) Landing Craft, Tank (Rocket). Ground support craft. 792 rockets electrically fired in 24 salvos. 590 tons. Crew 12. Speed 10½ Knots.



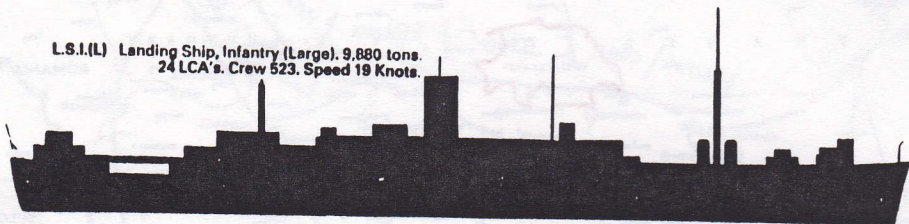
L.S.T. Landing Ship, Tank. 2,286 tons. Cargo 1400 tons. Crew 64. Speed 10 Knots.



L.S.I.(S) Landing Ship, Infantry (Small). 3,647 tons. 8 LCA's. Crew 207. Speed 22 Knots.



L.S.I.(L) Landing Ship, Infantry (Large). 9,880 tons. 24 LCA's. Crew 523. Speed 19 Knots.



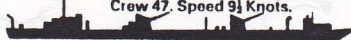
L.S.H Landing Ship, Headquarters. Communications ship. Radio rooms manned by men of all three Services. Controlled all movement on land, sea and in air. 2,300 messages handled in one day at Normandy.



L.C.I. Landing Craft, Infantry. 387 tons. Crew 28. Speed 14 Knots. 205 troops carried.



L.C.G. Landing Craft, Gun. Ground support craft. Two 4.7in. naval guns. 491 tons. Crew 47. Speed 9½ Knots.



L.C.T. Landing Craft, Tank. 586 tons. Crew 12. Speed 8 Knots.



L.C.P. Landing Craft, Personnel. 8 tons. 20 troops carried. Crew 3. Speed 10 Knots.



L.C.A. Landing Craft, Assault. 13½ tons. 35 troops carried. Crew 4. Speed 7 Knots.



L.C.M. Landing Craft, Mechanised. 36 tons. Load carried — one tank or up to six jeeps. Crew 6. Speed 7½ Knots.



R.A.F.

R.A.F. Dankeith in 1942 - 1943 was under the command of Grp. Capt. G. Wood M.B.E., it was the H.Q. of the R.A.F. in Scotland with Combined Ops. The H.Q. came directly under the command of Air Commodore Orlebar in Combined Ops. H.Q. at Richmond Terrace, London. It administered units at Inveraray, Largs and 516 Squadron at Bogside, Dundonald.

No 516 (Combined Ops.) Sqn. R.A.F.

Formed at Bogside in April 1943 and disbanded on 2nd September 1944.

Aircraft Establishment

Mustangs (8)
Hurricanes (8)
Blenheims (2)
Lysanders (2)
Ansons (2)
Proctor (1)

Commandos

In 1940, after the fall of France Winston Churchill wanted to develop the Commando idea. "Komando" is a Boer name for a swift, lightly armed Cavalry column.

The first Commando troops were in independant companies and were recruited from nearly every Regiment of the British Army, each Soldier proudly wearing his own Cap badge.

Royal Navy, Royal Marine and RAF servicing Commandos were formed and a Commando Depot was established at Achnacarry Castle.

Throughout the War Commandos trained at Inveraray and were among the first Troops in the dark days of 1940.

The R.A.F. Servicing Commandos

On the 22nd January 1942 Lord Louis Mountbatten of Burma, when he was Commodore Combined Operations, recommended that a number of Servicing Commandos should be created within the R.A.F. In due course 12 units were formed in the United Kingdom, together with a further 3 units in the Middle East Command. They comprised a total of some 2,400 Officers, N.C.O.'s and other ranks, mostly volunteers, and all of them skilled aircraft tradesmen capable of working on all types of aircraft to keep them flying under all kinds of conditions.

These Commando Units were trained on similar lines to the Army and Royal Marine Commandos. Their prime purpose was to accompany the invasion forces, either to make captured enemy airfields serviceable, or to make operational the new airstrips built by the Army Airfield Construction Units. On occasion three or four Squadrons of aircraft were kept serviceable for several days until their own ground crews arrived to take over.

A Servicing Commando Unit comprised between 150 and 170 other ranks with two or three Technical Officers, one appointed as Commanding Officer. It would normally be equipped with about 15 three-ton trucks, a jeep for the Officers, and two or more motor cycles. Most of the time the men lived like nomads, sleeping under tents, or their own issued bivouac, moving often at short notice. Mobility was the order of the day. All the Units were involved in the major invasion landings, either going in with the initial invasion forces or giving active support in other ways in order to keep the aircraft flying.

Three small Units were also formed in India and trained on Commando lines; these were called Servicing Parties and each comprised one Technical Officer and 30 aircraft tradesmen. These Units were part of the R.A.F. Support Group that was assigned to help Major-General Wingate's Chindit forces that were involved in "Operation Thursday", where landing strips were constructed behind the Japanese front line troops in Burma to service Allied and U.S.A.A.F. fighter and transport aircraft. After the surrender of the Japanese Forces in August 1945, Units took over Japanese-held airfields, assisted the evacuation of Allied prisoners of war, and undertook other peace-keeping duties in Java, Thailand and French Indo-China.

The R.A.F. Servicing Commandos

R.A.F. Servicing Commando Units
1942 - 1946

Formed in United Kingdom

Numbers 3201, 3202, 3203, 3204, 3205, 3206,
3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3225, 3226.

Formed in Middle East Command

Numbers 3230, 3231, 3232.

R.A.F. Servicing Parties
1943 - 1944

Formed in India

Numbers 1, 2, 3.

Countries of Service

North Africa, Sicily, Italy. Normandy,
Southern France, Burma, Akyab,
Malaya, Indonesia, Thailand, Indo-China.

EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY KEPT BY A LOCAL RESIDENT OF SOME
OF THE UNITS TRAINING AT INVERARAY FROM 1941 - 1944

1941

April	Royal Engineers
May	Special Services (Commandos)
June	Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Royal Scots Fusiliers
July	East Lancashire Regiment Royal Welsh Fusiliers
August	Royal Artillery Royal Scots Fusiliers Royal Welsh Fusiliers Canadian Troops Royal West Kent Regiment Royal East Kent Regiment
September	Royal Army Service Corps
October	Royal Pioneer Corps Royal West Kent Regiment
November	London Fusiliers
December	Royal West Kent Regiment The Black Watch

1942

January	Royal Surrey Regiment Northamptonshire Regiment
February	Lancashire Fusiliers
March	East Surrey Regiment Bedfordshire Regiment Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY....

April	East Surrey Regiment Royal Pioneer Corps Royal Artillery
May	South Lancashire Regiment East Yorkshire Regiment Suffolk Regiment
June	Kings Own Scottish Borderers Royal Ulster Rifles Lincolnshire Regiment
July	Kings Shropshire Light Infantry Sherwood Foresters Duke of Wellington's Regiment
August	Duke of Wellington's Regiment American Troops
September	American Troops
October	Royal West Kent Regiment Black Watch Royal Army Service Corps Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
November	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Black Watch Royal Marines
December	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) Canadian Troops

1943

January	Canadian Troops
February	Canadian Troops French Canadian Troops
March	French Canadian Troops South Lancashire Regiment Suffolk Regiment East Yorkshire Regiment

EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY....

April	Royal Ulster Rifles Kings Own Scottish Borderers Canadian Troops
May	Canadian Troops French Canadian Troops Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Norfolk Regiment
June	Norfolk Regiment Kings Shropshire Light Infantry Middlesex Regiment Somerset Light Infantry
July	Lincolnshire Regiment Kings Own Scottish Borderers
August	Canadian Troops Irish Guards

1944

January	French Canadian Troops Monmouthshire Regiment
February	North Staffordshire Regiment Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Seaforth Highlanders of Canada East Yorkshire Regiment
March	Hampshire Regiment Green Howards South Wales Borderers Gloucestershire Regiment
April	Royal Air Force Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
May	King's Own Scottish Borderers
June	Glasgow Highlanders Norwegian Troops Royal Engineers