

Major General Logan Scott-Bowden

In his retirement he lived at **Prospect Farm, Cottesmore, Ewelme.**

From Wikipedia

Major General Logan Scott-Bowden, CBE DSO MC & Bar (21 February 1920 – 9 February 2014) was a British army officer. A Royal Engineers officer during World War II, he was the first commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment. Retiring as a major general in 1974, he served as the colonel-commandant of the Royal Engineers from 1975 to 1980.



Early life

Scott-Bowden was born in Whitehaven, Cumbria on 21 February 1920, the son of Lt.Col. Jonathan Scott-Bowden, OBE, TD, and Mary Scott-Bowden (née Logan). He was educated at Malvern College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers on 3 July 1939

Military career

Scott-Bowden saw early service in Norway in 1940, before joining the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division as an Adjutant in 1941. During 1942 and 1943 he served on liaison duty with Canadian and American forces.

In mid 1943 Scott-Bowden joined Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP), the reconnaissance unit tasked with scouting the beaches for the D Day landings. Scott-Bowden and another COPPist, Sergeant Bruce Ogden-Smith, swam ashore in Normandy over thirty times to obtain sand samples to see whether the beach would support tanks.

A trial landing at a Norfolk beach had proved that they would not be detected when they swam ashore at night from an LCT.

At midnight on 31 December 1943, Scott-Bowden and Ogden-Smith, during Operation KJH, landed on Gold Beach to take samples of the material from the beach. They swam ashore from a landing craft operated by 712th Landing Craft Personnel (Survey) Flotilla. They found that the sand, in places, was thin and supported by weak peat material. They took samples back to the United Kingdom that allowed planners to cope with the weaker-than-expected beaches.

Scott-Bowden and Ogden-Smith returned to Normandy from 17–21 January 1944, this time operating from X20, an X-class midget submarine, during Operation Bellpush Able. They twice swam ashore onto sectors of Omaha Beach. After returning to the UK, Scott-Bowden was summoned to a briefing with General Omar Bradley. Scott-Bowden said to him "Sir, I hope you don't mind me saying it, but this beach is a very formidable proposition indeed and there are bound to be tremendous casualties." Bradley put his hand on his shoulder and replied "I know, my boy. I know."

On D Day both Sgt. Ogden-Smith and Maj. Scott-Bowden assisted in piloting the initial American landings on Omaha Beach. He then went on to command 17 Field Squadron for the remainder of the War.

After World War II, he had operational service in Burma, Palestine, Korea, Aden and lastly in Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland he was given the challenging task of forming the Ulster Defence Regiment. His final appointment in the Armed Services, on promotion to Major General, was as Head of the British Defence Liaison Staff, India. After retirement from active service Scott-Bowden served as the Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Engineers from 1975 to 1980.

Personal life

In 1950 he married Helen Jocelyn, daughter of late Major Sir Francis Caradoc Rose Price, 5th Bt, and late Marjorie Lady Price. They had three sons and three daughters.

Honours

Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) 1 January 1972

Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) 6 June 1964

Distinguished Service Order 15 June 1944 (Operation Bell Push Able, Normandy reconnaissance January 1944)

Military Cross (MC) 2 March 1944 Operation KJH (Normandy reconnaissance December 1943 - January 1944)

Bar to the Military Cross (MC and Bar) 22 January 1946

Appointments

He held a number of appointments throughout his career including:

3 July 1939, commissioned, Corps of Royal Engineers

1940, served in Norway

4 May 1941 – 3 June 1942, Adjutant, 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division, RE

1942 – 1943, Liaison Duties in Canada and United States

25 January 1943 – 24 May 1943, Adjutant

1943 – 1944, Normandy Beach Reconnaissance Team

1944 – 1945, Officer Commanding, 17th Field Company RE (NW Europe)

29 May 1946 – 2 December 1946, GSO2, HQ Allied Land Forces South East Asia (Singapore)

03.12.1946 – 18 October 1947, Brigade Major, 98th Indian Infantry Brigade (Burma)

16 October 1950 – 3 December 1950, SORE2, HQ British Troops in Egypt (Palestine)

1951, served in Libya

1 March 1951 – 11 February 1953, DAQMG, War Office

1953, served in Korea

24 July 1954 – 2 April 1956, brigade major, HQ Training Brigade

1 April 1958 – 18 February 1959, GSO2 Joint Secretariat HQ British Forces Arabian Peninsular

20 February 1959 – 24 April 1960, GSO1 (Plans) (Arabia)

1960 – 1962, Commander Royal Engineers (CRE), 1st Division (British Army of the Rhine)

20 December 1962 – 29 March 1964, GSO1 (Home Defence Plans), UK Land Forces HQ, Eastern Command

31 March 1964 – 6 May 1966, Assistant Director of Plans, War Office

20 May 1966 – January 1967, Commander, HQ Training Brigade

1969, National Defence College, India

1970 – 1971, Commander, Ulster Defence Regiment

1971 – 1974, Head of British Defence Liaison Staff, India

1975 – 1980, Colonel-Commandant, Corps of Royal Engineers

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