

**William Jalland**  
**D-Day Equipment**

Not only had we our own equipment but we'd got to take a lot of spares. And Ian English had the bicycle company, everybody had a bicycle in his company, the idea being that he'd rush off down the road as soon we landed with his men on bicycles. But some of the rest of us, including myself, had a bicycle and also had a spare battery, which I carried, and some extra Bren gun magazines to generally help out so that we'd have sufficient equipment when we got to the other side and I'd then hand over the magazines to the Bren gunners. We were given a good supply of condoms with which to waterproof things like grenades, because I think all officers had two grenades, but they had to be in condoms to waterproof them. Watches, compasses all went into condoms separate ones. We had a very heavy load to carry. And in addition to that the final part was the waders, they gave us huge waders which went over our boots and so on and right up to under our armpits. Over the equipment, over everything. I remember, in common with certainly a number of other officers and probably quite a few of the men, I was, in fact, wearing my pyjamas underneath my battledress. The reason being, of course, that it prevented chafing if you were required to go for some time. And I think I wore my battledress for about 28 days before it was changed so I was pretty filthy and smelly at the end of it. But I had got my pyjamas underneath, and it was very useful.