

Army Graves Service, and A/C. E. Ashman, the driver.

Of the 41,887 British, Dominion and Allied aircrew missing during the war, just over 21,000 have now been accounted for. Of those still untraced, between 12,000 and 17,000 were probably lost in the sea, leaving between 4,000 and 9,000 still to be traced.

"Illustrious" Memorial Fund

NEARLY £4,000 was contributed to a memorial fund opened to assist the next-of-kin of the victims of the boat accident in Portland Harbour on October 17th, when a midshipman and 28 ratings were drowned.

The fund, which closed on December 31st, is known as the "H.M.S. *Illustrious* Memorial Fund, 1948."

Eskimo Trainers at Survival School

THE Royal Canadian Air Force is setting up a survival training school, to train its aircrews in methods of bush and Arctic survival, because of the rigorous climate and hazardous terrain encountered in normal flights over uninhabited areas. It has been shown that lack of knowledge of self preservation after forced landings in isolated districts has resulted in undue hardship and even death.

Instruction will be given in geography, first aid, use of emergency equipment and clothing, shelter and rescue technique. The school's staff will consist of experienced R.C.A.F. personnel, and a number of Eskimo and Indian instructors. Since the average Eskimo speaks little or no English, a course in

basic Eskimo will be part of the syllabus.

R.A.F.'s 1948 Flying Statistics

DURING 1948 the R.A.F. logged approximately 900,000 flying hours, made up as follows: Flying Training Command (including Rhodesian Air Training Group), 263,000 hr; other Home Commands (including B.A.F.O. Germany), 416,000 hr; Overseas Commands, 94,800 hr; Reserve Command, 122,200 hr.

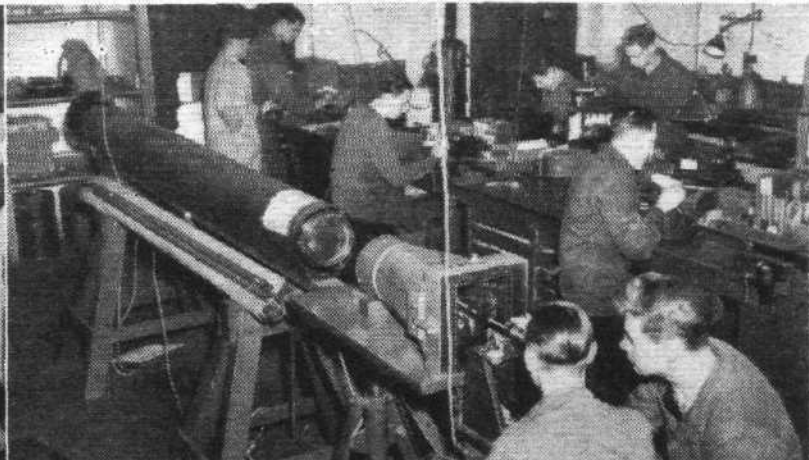
British mileage on the Berlin Air Lift had reached 13 million by the end of the year, and the tonnage carried 175,000.

R.A.F. in Scotland—1948

THOUGH now operating on a peacetime basis with only a fraction of the stations, aircraft and personnel of a few years ago, the R.A.F. in Scotland has had a busy and eventful year in 1948. Scotland's East Coast airfields staged one of the two big air-naval exercises of the year, and Stornoway saw the start and finish of the first double crossing of the Atlantic by jet aircraft—Vampires of Fighter Command. Throughout the summer R.A.F. Mosquitoes and Spitfires (on detachment from Benson) operated from Leuchars on an aerial photographic survey of Scotland, not only for revision of Ordnance Survey maps but also to produce new large scale series for planning purposes. Lancasters of No. 120 Squadron during the summer photographed more than 1,400 miles of the coastline of the Orkneys, Hebrides, Islay and Jura groups to "pinpoint" the location of seaweed beds for the Scottish Seaweed Research Association. Coastal Command Ansons, operating

from Kinloss, co-operated with fishery cruisers of the Scottish Home Department in "Operation Fish Patrol"—spotting "poaching" trawlers off the Scottish coast and photographing them from low level. For the second successive year, the King's Flight operated a helicopter mail service between Aberdeen and Balmoral while the Royal Family were in residence there in August. Scotland's Air/Sea Rescue organization, which operates from No. 18 Group H.Q., at Pitreavie Castle, Dunfermline, laid on a total of 24 searches—ten for aircraft missing over land, six for aircraft missing over the sea, six for vessels overdue or lost, one for a climber missing in the Ben Nevis range and one for a German prisoner who attempted to escape to sea in a dinghy near Berwick. Perhaps the most spectacular rescue was in July, when a Lancaster had to "ditch" near the Shetlands, and the crew of eight, after drifting ten hours in their rubber dinghy, were picked up by a flying boat. It was a R.A.F. Lincoln, working under Pitreavie's orders, which recently searched for and found seven survivors of the foundered S.S. *Rojo* in the North Sea. Mountain Rescue units from Kinloss and West Freugh were out on five occasions to aircraft crashes in the Scottish hills.

Scottish Reserve Forces of the R.A.F. continue to build up. New Fighter Control Units have opened up at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and others will start recruiting soon at Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness. A second R.A.F.V.R. Centre opened at Bishopbriggs (Glasgow) during the year and a Flying School at Grangemouth. The A.T.C. with 3,200 cadets in 78 Scottish squadrons, is also steadily growing. A new squadron in Edinburgh has enrolled



PEACETIME P.R.: (Above) The interior of one of the R.A.F. photographic Ansons recently engaged in mapping 50 sq. miles of Central and West London. In the camera repair section at upper right adjustments are being made to an F.52 20" lens. The need for speedy printing, developing and drying of film is met by the multi-printer (right).

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