



The first Blackburn Beverley C.1 (four Bristol Centaurus) for Transport Command leaving Brough on March 12th, on its delivery flight. The pilot was S/L. A. St. J. Price. As recorded elsewhere in this issue, the Duke of Edinburgh is to inspect Beverley production on April 6th.

## SERVICE AVIATION

Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm News

### Senior Appointments

THE following appointments of Royal Air Force senior officers have recently been announced:—

**A.V.-M. H. A. Constantine** is to succeed Air Marshal Sir Walter Dawson as Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Operations) at SHAPE. The appointment will take effect in May, when A. V.-M. Constantine will receive the acting rank of air marshal. An announcement about Air Marshal Dawson's new appointment will be made later. Since August 1954 A. V.-M. Constantine, who is 47, has been Commander of No. 25 Group, Flying Training Command. For a time after the war he was Chief Intelligence Officer at the Headquarters of B.A.F.O. in Germany. He was Director of Intelligence at the Air Ministry from 1951 to 1952, and then became Air Officer in Charge of Administration at Fighter Command. When promoted to air vice-marshal at 36 he was one of the youngest men to reach such high rank.

**A. Cdre G. A. Walker** is to be Air Officer Commanding, No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, with the acting rank of air vice-marshal, in May 1956. Since February 1954, as Commandant of the R.A.F. Flying College, Manby, he has led his staff and students on numerous long-range exercises. In July 1954 he led two Hastings over the North Geographic Pole on survey flights from Bodö, Norway. At the outbreak of the war he was on armament duties at the Air Ministry and joined No. 16 O.T.U. as a staff pilot in June 1940. Taking command of No. 50 (Bomber) Squadron in October 1940, he led many raids over Europe, and in 1941 was awarded the D.S.O. and the D.F.C. From 1941 to 1945 he commanded bomber stations at North Luffenham, Rutland, and Syerston, Notts, and the bomber base at Pocklington, Yorks. At Syerston he lost his right arm in an explosion when attempting to rescue the crew of a crashed aircraft. In February 1945 he was appointed S.A.S.O., No. 4 Group, and subsequently was in the Directorate of Training Operations and S.A.S.O. of the Rhodesian Air Training Wing. In 1952 he commanded R.A.F. Coningsby, Lincs, and took the Imperial Defence College 1953 course.

### Director of the W.R.A.F.

THE Air Ministry announces that the Secretary of State for Air has approved the appointment of Group Officer Mary Elizabeth Barnett, C.B.E., as Director of the Women's Royal Air Force, with the acting rank of Air Commandant, in succession to Air Commandant Dame Nancy Marion Salmon, D.B.E., A.D.C., who will be retiring from the Force. The appointment will take effect later this year.

G/O. Barnett has been Officer Commanding R.A.F. Hawkinge, Kent, where the Women's Royal Air Force Officer Cadet Training Unit is based, since November 1st, 1952. She joined No. 45 (County of Oxford) A.T.S. Company in 1938 and was jointly responsible for the company's formation. Transferring to the Women's Auxiliary Air Force on its formation in June, 1939, she served as Officer in Charge of W.A.A.F. at Upper Heyford, Oxon, and Feltwell, Norfolk. In January 1941 she was posted to Air Ministry Unit, London. As a wing officer she

G/O. M. E. Barnett, C.B.E., newly appointed director of the Women's Royal Air Force.



went in 1945 to H.Q. Mediterranean and Middle East Commands, where in her capacity as W.A.A.F. Staff Officer she travelled extensively in North Africa, Italy, Malta, Greece and Austria, visiting W.A.A.F. units. On her return to the United Kingdom in October 1947 she was appointed W.A.A.F. Staff Officer at H.Q., Flying Training Command, before being promoted group officer and becoming Inspector of the W.A.A.F. in October 1948. From February 1949 until June 1950 she was Deputy Director, Women's Royal Air Force, dealing with the selection, promotion, career and personal problems of W.R.A.F. Officers. Then for two and a half years she was W.R.A.F. Staff Officer at H.Q. Home Command. She was appointed O.B.E. in the New Year Honours of 1950 and C.B.E. in the New Year Honours of 1956.

### Hull U.A.S. Dines

PROMINENT on the top table at the Hull University Air Squadron's annual dinner—held at the New York Hotel, Hull, on March 6th—was the Read Trophy, the winning of which was the squadron's outstanding achievement of the year. (First, second and fourth places were gained in the flying competition with the universities of Leeds, Nottingham, and Durham.)

At the dinner the new commanding officer, S/L. P. Dawes, who has just returned from an exchange posting with the U.S. Navy, was host to the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Alderman W. Fox, J.P.; to the Vice-Chancellor of Hull University, Dr. J. H. Nicholson; and to Mr. E. Turner, chairman and managing director of Blackburn and General Aircraft, who maintain the squadron's five Chipmunks and one Harvard at Brough. The Mayor recalled the founding of the university in 1927 and, as the first citizen of Hull, stressed the importance of the close links that existed between "town and gown." Mr. Turner, for Blackburns, illustrated with a story the mutual feeling between his company and the university—but pointed out that no university could fully serve the national interest without a chair of engineering.

The trophy for the best cadet of the year went to P/O. (acting) T. Hannath.