



WATCHDOG: A Handley Page Halifax patrols near Gibraltar during the lately-completed air-sea exercises. These veteran bombers are now mainly occupied on meteorological flights but civil conversions continue to give good service on the Air Lift

Observers Tested

MASTER tests for over 800 operations room personnel of the Royal Observer Corps were held last Sunday. Members gaining over 80 per cent will qualify for a first-class proficiency certificate, and those with 90 marks and over will be classified as Masters and awarded the Master Badge, consisting of a Spitfire printed on cloth and worn on the sleeve.

Award

THE Air Ministry announces that the King has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the George Cross to Assistant Section Officer Nora Inayat-Khan, W.A.A.F. This officer was the first woman operator to be

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infiltrated into enemy-occupied France, being landed by a Lysander in June, 1943.

Shortly after her arrival, the Gestapo made mass arrests among the Paris resistance-groups to which she had been detailed but she refused to abandon what had become the principal and most dangerous post in France. After three and a half months she was betrayed, and cap-

tured by the Gestapo. Imprisoned at the Gestapo H.Q. in the Avenue Foch, she made two attempts at escape, and after refusing to sign a declaration that she would make no further attempts, she was sent to the Karlsruhe prison camp in Germany in November, 1943, and then to Pforstheim. She had continuously refused to give any information, as to her work or her colleagues, and was finally moved to Dachau on September 12th, 1944. On arrival she was shot.

The citation concludes: "A.S/O. Inayat-Khan displayed the most conspicuous courage, both moral and physical, over a period of more than 12 months." Miss Kahn, who was educated in France, and held degrees in languages and child psychology, came to England in 1939, and joined the W.A.A.F. the following year as a wireless operator. She was transferred to Intelligence duties and granted an honorary commission early in 1943.

Norwegian Honour

GROUP CAPTAIN MAURICE NEWNHAM, O.B.E., D.F.C., wartime commander of the R.A.F. Parachute Training School, has received the Haakon VII Liberty Cross for "outstanding services rendered to Norway's cause during the war. Under his command were trained many Norwegian secret agents and members of the underground movement of whom G/C. Newnham has written: "They were particularly fine men, and it was a privilege to be able to render some assistance in training them for their heroic tasks." Some of the agents were employed on the epic "heavy-water" mission.

"A" Branch Absorbed

AS from April 5th, the Air Branch of the Royal Navy ceased to exist, and its personnel were absorbed into existing Branches. All former "A" Branch officers are now members of the Execu-



FOLDING FURY: With wings tucked-up ready for stowage, a Hawker Sea Fury II taxis along the flight deck of H.M.A.S. Sydney on its way to the lift.