For Marksmanship

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been pleased to authorize the institution of a Queen's Medal for champion shots of the Air Forces of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ceylon. The medal may be worn on all occasions and the ribbon is in dark crimson with three stripes at each edge, of dark, light and dark blue respectively. It will be worn immediately after the Queen's Medal.

APPROVED DESIGN : The new Queen's Medal for champion shots (See paragraph above.)

Valetta's Voice

THE employment of air-to-ground loudspeakers mounted in aircraft is not new, but from Malaya, where considerable use is being made of this form of public address, comes some interesting news of experience with such equipment. The aircraft in this instance is a Valetta, fitted with four loudspeakers having an output of 2,000 Watts—about 40 times the power of an ordinary outdoor public-address system—and giving a range of one mile from one speaker approach, on the other hand, altogether satisfactory, because a terrorist who has baled out over the jungle to make his home and reads his surrender leaflets on tracks used by the terrorists was not altogether satisfactory, because a terrorist who valued his life would not be seen reading one by his comrades. The loudspeaker approach, on the other hand, avoids the risk to the terrorist and yet is more likely to reach him. Tangible results, in the form of surrenders, have been good.

One problem which had to be overcome arose when certain particularly vigorous plosives (soundings of a sharp, "ex- plosive" nature), in the Hakka dialect of Chinese, overloaded loudspeakers so sufficiently to burn them out; but, following the necessary modifications, the equipment has proved both effective and useful. The previous practice of the anti-terrorist patrols of leaving surrender leaflets on tracks used by the terrorists was not altogether satisfactory, because a terrorist who valued his life would not be seen reading one by his comrades. The loudspeaker approach, on the other hand, avoids the risk to the terrorist and yet is more likely to reach him. Tangible results, in the form of surrenders, have been good.

Another use for the "voice aircraft," as the Valetta is called, is in assisting aircrew who have baled out over the jungle to make contact with rescue parties. A Vampire pilot was recently assisted in this way to make contact with the rescuing patrol.

SOUND EQUIPMENT: Used in Malaya, this Valetta carried high-power loudspeakers to call upon terrorists to surrender, for propaganda and to give rescue instructions (see item in col. 2.) Austers have also been equipped with loudspeakers for similar duties.

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SERIAL AVIATION... Similar courses qualify at intervals of two months.

After the parade the First Sea Lord announced that the Chief of the Station, G.C.W. P. J. Thomson, D.F.C., before returning to Northolt in a Naval aircraft.

Transport Training

WITH the object of increasing flying efficiency in Transport Command, a new training scheme has been put into force, under which aircraft of Hastings squadrons will be periodically detached from their United Kingdom bases to operate with overseas commands for a month or more. The squadrons will operate as independent units, or small task forces, designed to give aircrews greater experience of flying under conditions of flying in different parts of the world.

Under the Command's numerous flying commitments every month, the Hastings transports are often engaged on individual flights on the long-range trunk routes. Now, a whole squadron is to be taken away from its normal flying tasks for two months, squadrons will be periodically detached from their United Kingdom bases to operate with overseas commands for a month or more.

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