



During an inspection of R.A.F. Khormaksar on his visit to Aden, the Duke of Gloucester drives past Venoms of No. 8 Sqn. The new form of marking adopted by the squadron can be clearly seen on the nose of the aircraft

SERVICE AVIATION

Royal Air Forces and Naval Flying News

Ground Defence Director

APPOINTEED Director of Ground Defence at the Air Ministry, G/C. K. W. Godfrey is to take over his new post on March 1 next year, with the acting rank of air commodore. He succeeds A. Cdre. J. H. Harris, who on the same date (as reported on this page, December 5) becomes Commandant-General of the R.A.F. Regiment.

G/C. Godfrey has been Deputy Director of Ground Defence since April 1955 and before that was O.C. the Aden Protectorate Levies. During the war, in which he commanded a wing of the R.A.F. Regiment on the invasion of Germany, he was twice mentioned in despatches and received the Croix de Guerre with Palm. He is also a C.B. and C.B.E.

Cyprus Reinforcements

AIR support for British troops engaged on anti-terrorist activities in Cyprus has recently been increased at the request of Maj-Gen. Kenneth Darling, the Director of Operations. The hard-working Sycamores of No. 284 Sqn. have been reinforced by six Whirlwinds from the Joint Helicopter Experimental Unit, carried out to the island (as shown in a photograph on this page last week) by Beverleys of R.A.F. Transport Command; and slow-

flying, fixed-wing aircraft have also gone to Cyprus to assist in the work. These are Pioneers of No. 230 Sqn., whose rôle as an Army support unit was described in *Flight* for December 5, and Chipmunks. Two of the Pioneers were flown out by squadron pilots and the remainder were transported by Beverleys. The Chipmunk unit concerned is No. 114 Sqn.

No. 284 Sqn., which is now entering the third year of its operations in Cyprus, has achieved some remarkable successes in the past two years. Underlying them has been the quality of surprise introduced into terrorist searches by the agile Sycamores, "due to their ability [to quote *Flight's* special R.A.F. issue in June last year] to bring in troops out of the blue."

The squadron has initiated two techniques in support of anti-terrorist operations—night-flying and the landing of troops in mountainous terrain, sometimes at points where the Sycamores' landing-wheels can only just find a purchase. No. 284's statistics make impressive reading—over 16,000 sorties flown, 3,271 troops landed on operations, 113 tons of stores transported to security forces in the mountains; and when Field Marshal Lord Harding retired last year as Governor of Cyprus he said that the squadron had "contributed more to fighting terrorism on the island than any other single unit."

Two 1914 members and three former C.O.s of No. 5 Sqn. at its recent reunion. Left to right, W/C. G. J. C. Hogan (C.O. 1943, Burma); A. Cdre. H. le M. Brock (1914, France); F/L. S. P. George (1924, India); S/L. P. V. Ayerst (C.O. 1954, Germany); Lt-Col. L. Strange (1914, France); and S/L. T. P. Fargher, who commanded the squadron when it was disbanded last year

"Flight" photograph



Malayan Honours

IN the *London Gazette* on December 9 it was announced that the Queen had been graciously pleased to approve the following honours and awards in recognition of distinguished service in Malaya:—

Honours

C.B.: A. V-M. V. E. Hancock, C.B.E., D.F.C., Royal Australian Air Force, A.O.C. No. 224 Group, Malaya.

C.B.E.: G/C. R. J. P. Prichard, O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.

Awards

D.F.C.: F/L.s J. Hubicka, J. H. Liversidge, A.F.C., and C. E. Slater; Capt. M. G. Badger, C.R.E., and H. G. Crutchley, R.R.A.

D.F.M.: S/Sgt. R. W. Bowles, Army Air Corps.

B.E.M. (Mil.): F/Sgt. A. N. Patient.

Mentions in Despatches: S/L. R. F. Duncombe, R.A.F. Regt.; F/L.s B. R. Schroder,



Air Marshal W. M. L. MacDonald, the new C-in-C. M.E.A.F., inspecting a guard of honour at A.H.Q. Episkopi when he assumed command. He was previously A.C.A.S. (Intelligence)

R. Strickland, R.A.F. Regt., C. Taylor and T. L. Thompson; F/O.s J. A. Wallace, R.A.F., and N. E. Wickland, R.A.F. Regt.; W/O. J. M. Ramage; F/Sgt. W. R. Rowe; Sgts. F. B. Gordon, A. Henshaw, F. J. James, R. P. Millyard, F. T. Robertson and G. E. Thacker; S/Techs. P. R. Hale, F. C. Huntley and L. A. Speakman; Cpl. A. Greaney; and J/Techs. R. M. Danton and R. G. House.

Aden Award

IN recognition of his "gallantry and devotion to duty in air operations in Aden," S/L. E. W. Talbot, D.F.C., has been awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross. Now commanding No. 84 (Communications) Sqn. at R.A.F. Khormaksar, S/L. Talbot won his D.F.C. in 1945 for the "great gallantry, courage and fine fighting spirit" shown by him during his tour in Bomber Command, when he took part in raids on the Ruhr and Pas de Calais.