

Hot Scout, cold Scout: right, the Westland Scout (see Col 2) during preliminary tropical trials in Aden; far right, undergoing simulated cold weather tests in the Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft) stratosphere chamber at Weybridge; below right, its Blackburn A.129 engine during cold chamber tests



SERVICE AVIATION

Air Force, Naval and Army Flying News

AAFCE Command

AAFCE (Allied Air Forces Central Europe) is to have a new Commander from next March, Air Chief Marshal the Earl of Bandon, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Sir Harry Broadhurst, who is retiring from the RAF. This appointment was announced in Paris last Friday by General Lauris Norstad, Supreme Commander, Allied Powers in Europe, and simultaneously by the Ministry of Defence in London.

The Earl of Bandon, who is 56, was Commander-in-Chief, Far East Air Force, from 1957 to last year; previously he had been C-in-C 2nd Tactical Air Force, a post giving him exceptional qualifications for his new appointment. He won the DSO on Blenheim operations in the Second World War and also holds the American DFC and Bronze Star.

Sir Harry Broadhurst, 55, was AOC-in-C Bomber Command before going to AAFCE. One of the most famous personalities in the RAF, he was a pre-war aerobatic pilot, commanded Treble One Sqn at the outbreak of the Second World War, was SASO and then AOC, Desert Air Force, and commanded No 83 Group, 2nd TAF, throughout the invasion of Europe. Amongst his decorations are the DSO and Bar, DFC and Bar and AFC.

"Illustrious and Happy Chapter"

IT was D-day—disbandment day—last Tuesday for the eleven fighter control units of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. From January 31 these units ceased to exist; and in order to pay tribute to the good work their volunteer members have done since the FCUs were formed (the oldest in 1947/48) a farewell guest night was held on January 25 at Fighter Command headquarters, Bentley Priory, Stanmore, Middx.

Air Marshal Sir Hector McGregor, the

AOC-in-C Fighter Command, presided—paying tribute to the fine record of service of the fighter control units and expressing regret that "an illustrious and happy chapter" had come to an end—and AVM (ret) F. B. Don, honorary air commodore, RAuxAF, replied on behalf of the FCUs.

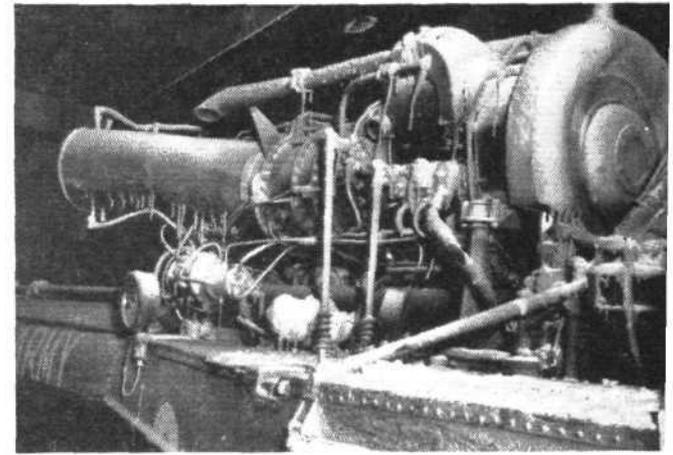
Among the guests were AVM (ret) W. J. Seward, Director of Auxiliaries, Reserves and Air Cadets; Air Cdre (ret) Finlay Crerar, honorary air commodore, No 3612 (County of Aberdeen) FCU, RAuxAF; Air Cdre (ret) G. W. Odey, honorary air commodore, No 3505 (East Riding) FCU, RAuxAF; Gp Capt (ret) J. M. Birkin, Inspector-General, RAuxAF; and the commanding officers of eight of the eleven now-disbanded FCUs—Nos 3505 (East Riding), 3506 (County of Northampton), 3508 (County of Northumberland), 3604 (County of Middlesex), 3609 (West Riding), 3618 (County of Sussex), 3619 (County of Suffolk) and 3620 (County of Norfolk).

The other three disbanded units are Nos 3511 (City of Dundee), 3612 (County of Aberdeen) and 3617 (County of Hampshire).

Scout's Good Report

AFTER tropical trials in Aden, and cold chamber tests at Weybridge, the Westland Scout helicopter has earned itself a good report. It did 19 hours' flying within 12 days under tropical conditions without incurring any unserviceability or occasioning any delay in the programme; and after subjection to a temperature of -35°C its Blackburn A.129 engine was started without difficulty.

The aircraft which went to Aden was flown out intact (apart from the removal of its rotor blades) in a Beverley of RAF Transport Command, so it was ready for flying a short time after arrival. Trials to which the Scout was subjected were



designed to obtain preliminary information on hot-weather performance, and to investigate erosion problems (affecting rotor blades, airframe and engine components) under sandy conditions: the programme formed a preliminary to full tropical trials, which are due to start in the middle of this year. The pilot was Maj L. T. Furnivall, RA, of "D" Sqn, A & AEE, Boscombe Down; and servicing was carried out by personnel from the Saunders-Roe division of Westland Aircraft at Eastleigh. The Scout was flown back to the UK in a Bristol Freighter, having had its rotor hub and secondary gearbox, undercarriage and rear fuselage removed before being put aboard the aircraft.

At Weybridge, the Scout was subjected to functional tests in simulated snowstorms and high-wind conditions in its cold chamber trials, a full servicing programme being carried out by a team from the Central Servicing Development Establishment under Capt C. R. Collier, REME. The establishment, whose headquarters are at Dereham, Norfolk, have a resident team at Eastleigh.

The Scout was originally designed and built—under the designation P.531—as a private venture, and prototype aircraft had flown before an MoA contract was received in June last year. Five aircraft of the development batch have now flown and a further three are in an advanced stage of production.

IN BRIEF

No 3612 (County of Aberdeen) FCU, one of the recently disbanded RAuxAF fighter control units, received the No 3 Group efficiency trophy at its final parade on January 22.

The new station commander at RAF Khor-maksar, Aden, is Gp Capt J. F. Davis, OBE, DFC, AFC, formerly Assistant Commandant at the RAF Flying College, Manby. He succeeds Gp Capt J. R. H. Merifield, DSO, DFC, AFC.

A record supply drop—seven and a half tons of food, medicine and other supplies delivered in the space of 5½ hr—was carried out by a Valetta of No 52 Sqn in Malaya recently. Captained by the squadron commander, Sqn Ldr Geoffrey Moss, the aircraft flew from Butterworth to supply Malayan Police in jungle forts and New Zealand troops patrolling the border area.



Two of the fighter control unit COs at the farewell guest night referred to above: at left, Sqn Ldr L. E. W. Webb, OC No 3506 (County of Northampton) FCU; centre, Sqn Ldr D. A. G. Parry, OC No 3620 (County of Norfolk) FCU. With them is Wg Cdr G. M. Shinnie, a Fighter Command HQ staff member