

SERVICE AVIATION

Air Force, Naval and Army Flying News

Defending Central Europe

AN air defence exercise involving the two tactical air forces controlled by Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AIRCENT) was held last week. It was designed to counter a large number of simulated aerial attacks directed against Central Europe from points close to the eastern boundary of the AIRCENT command; defensive forces were drawn from the interceptor squadrons and Nike Hercules surface-to-air missile units assigned to 2nd ATAF (RAF, Netherlands, German and Belgian Air Forces) and 4th ATAF (US, French, German, Canadian Air Forces), supplemented by fighter aircraft units of the French Air Defence Command (DAT). The exercise was one of a series run every four months to test and practise the air defences of the Central Europe region.

RAF Germany AOC

EARLY in April Air Cdre E. G. Jones, CB, CBE, DSO, DFC, is moving north-eastwards from Fontainebleau in France to München-Gladbach in Germany: having been Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) at AAFCE headquarters since June last year he is becoming AOC, RAF Germany (Second Tactical Air Force), from April 7. His previous appointments have been those of Commandant of the CRE at Brampton and command of RAF Wyton.

Air Cdre Jones, who will become an air vice-marshal in his new appointment, won both the DFC and DSO within six months in Greece in 1941 while commanding No 80 Sqn: he gained the DFC for leading a mixed



Air Cdre E. G. Jones

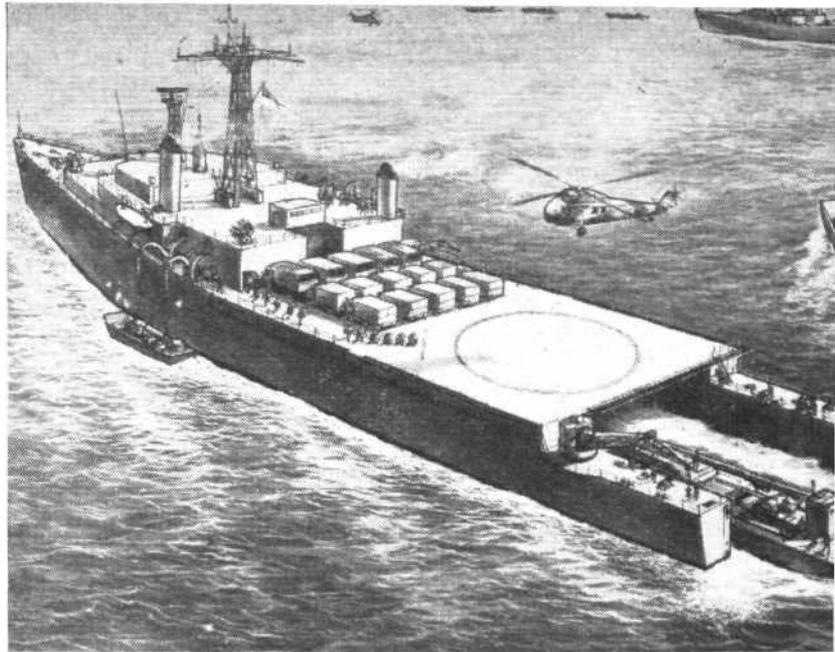
force of Hurricanes and Gladiators against enemy bombers and fighters over Albania (an engagement in which the RAF pilots destroyed 27 aircraft without loss); his DSO was won for patrols over the Greek front. Later in the war he served in Europe with No 83 Group, as group captain in charge of operations and subsequently in command of No 121 Wing (Typhoons).

UAS Future

AT the annual dinner of the University of London Air Squadron in London last Friday it was clear that the university air squadrons are having to fight harder than ever to survive.

In welcoming the guests the CO, Wg Cdr V. Rees, asked whether the country got value for money from the UAS. Both the present minister and his secretary of state were former UAS members, he said,

An artist's impression of the Royal Navy's new assault ship, building of which was announced in the First Lord's explanatory statement on the Navy Estimates for 1961/62 (see p. 229): the vessel has a helicopter platform and is designed to carry landing craft



but their membership had been an intangible benefit until now. Some 28 UAS members had attained air rank and two had become Cs-in-C. Ex-UAS pilots were now twice as likely to complete RAF pilot training as other entrants. Since the abolition of national service, the UAS were the only preview of the Service available and they influenced the best aircrew prospects. In view of the expected expansion in universities, the UAS should also be expanded.

Proposing the health of the squadron, the Secretary of State for Air, Mr Julian Amery, recalled that the UASs had originally been formed to make future leaders air-minded. People were now naturally air-minded. The heads of the Service were favourably disposed to the UAS, but the squadrons must produce concrete results in the form of regular aircrew if their retention was to be made easy for the planners. Aircrew applicants of a sufficiently high standard were hard to find, but Transport Command was to be increased three-fold and the deterrent would remain airborne. The demand would not decrease during the next ten years.

2nd ATAF Post

A STAFF change at 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force headquarters, Germany, has been announced: the post of Deputy Chief of Staff (Air) has been taken over by Air Cdre John H. Lapsley, OBE, DFC, AFC. He succeeds Air Cdre R. J. B. Burns, CBE, who from next Monday is to become Director of Flight Safety at Air Ministry.

Air Cdre Lapsley has previously been at 2nd TAF as Group Captain Operations, before taking up his most recent appointment as Deputy Director of Joint Plans at Air Ministry. He is an ex-apprentice, having gone to Cranwell on a cadetship; among his previous posts have been the command of No 74 Sqn and of RAF Wahn. His predecessor at 2nd ATAF, Air Cdre Burns, is a South African; prior to becoming Deputy Chief of Staff (Air) he commanded RAF Wildenrath in Germany.

Mr S. T. Gunnis, "helpmeet and guide to every holder of the office of Vice-Chief of Air Staff at the Air Ministry," receiving a presentation cigarette-box from Marshal of the RAF Sir William Dickson on retirement from the post of personal assistant to the VCAS. Mr Gunnis, 61, joined Air Ministry shortly after it was formed in February 1919 and became PA to the first VCAS, Air Marshal R. E. C. (later Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard) Peirse, when the post was created in 1940

IN BRIEF

The Duchess of Kent, who named the aircraft carrier *Centaur* in 1947, is to attend the ship's re-commissioning ceremony at Portsmouth on March 3.

What is described as "the biggest air pageant ever staged in Australia" is being held this weekend at Avalon, near Geelong in Victoria, organized by the Air Force Association.

The Potters Bar branch of the RAFA is celebrating the 21st anniversary of the inception of the D.H. Mosquito with a ball on midsummer eve (June 24) at Salisbury Hall, London Colney, where the first of these aircraft was built in secret and is now permanently housed.

Eight Books of Remembrance, bearing the names of over 105,000 men and women who gave their lives while serving in the RAF and its associated Services during the Second World War, are to be placed in the RAF Church of St Clement Danes on May 7.

Air Cdre A. G. Dudgeon, Commandant of the Air Training Corps and RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force, has been attending conferences in Paris and Montreal to work out arrangements for this year's international air cadet exchange scheme.

No 194 Sqn (India-Burma-Malaya) is holding its 11th reunion dinner on Saturday, April 15, at the Mapleton Restaurant, 39 Coventry Street, Piccadilly, London W1. Tickets (£1) from the hon secretary, Douglas Williams, 56 Mottingham Lane, Lee, London SE12 (Kip 1025).

The captain, co-pilot, navigator and signaller of a *Britannia* of No 99 Sqn—respectively Flt Lts D. West, G. Shipway and D. Hancock and F/Sgt L. Bennett—were yesterday being presented with awards by the Chilean Ambassador in recognition of the part they played in taking relief supplies to the earthquake-stricken areas of Chile last year. They have also been made honorary members of the Chilean Air Force.

