

**617's Great Day**

EXACTLY 20 YEARS AGO TODAY—on May 16, 1943, nineteen Lancasters of 617 Sqn took off from Scampton to attack three dams (Moehne, Eder and Sorpe) east of the Ruhr industrial area with a specially designed weapon which they had been modified to carry. The success of this daringly conceived and brilliantly executed low-level operation, in which the Moehne and Eder were destroyed, is now history; the courage of its leader, Wg Cdr Guy Gibson, and the genius of the bomb designer, Dr Barnes Wallis of Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft), are legendary. At right is reproduced a photograph of a painting giving an impressionistic depiction of the operation. It is the work of Mr Arthur Sturgess, of the company's technical publications department, and was originally painted for, and exhibited by, the Society of Aviation Artists.

**Farewell to the Mosquito**

THE LAST D.H. MOSQUITOS IN RAF SERVICE—at No 3 Civilian Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit, Exeter Airport, S. Devon—were making a farewell flypast last Thursday before being retired. Five of the six aircraft (TT.35s) until recently operated by the unit are being preserved—two by the RAF, at Henlow and at the Central Flying School, Little Rissington; and the other two by de Havilland Aircraft and by Mr P. F. M. Thomas of Gwbart, Cardigan, who aims to set up a museum of famous aircraft. Another is being transported to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, in June as a gift from the Air Council. At No 3 CAACU the Mosquitos are being replaced by Meteor TT.20s.

Mosquitos were first used by the unit (which, with Spartan Air Services of Canada, was the last organization to operate these aircraft) in January 1953. Originally Mk 35s, powered by Rolls-Royce Merlin 114As, they were fitted with target-towing gear, including 6,000ft of non-twisting steel cable with four drogues, which could be deployed one after another and therefore all used on

the same sortie. Winch mechanism was operated by a second crew member. Duration of the Mosquitos, with ten internal tanks (496 Imp gal), was 4½-5hr.

Chief pilot of No 3 CAACU is Mr H. R. Ellis and the chief engineer Mr Ken Foster. All the unit's 12 pilots are ex-RAF; some of the younger ones are former jet pilots who had to convert onto Mosquito T.3s before flying the TT.35s. No 3 CAACU carry out tactical exercises (with Vampire T.11s) for Army units in addition to their target-towing duties, which include gunnery practice for ships at sea. Their area of operation extends from Portland to Cardigan Bay, but they may be called upon to co-operate in Army exercises held anywhere in the UK.

*Mosquito pilots of No 3 CAACU (story, this page): front row, l to r, Messrs E. Cassidy, S. Cooper, L. Jordan, H. R. Ellis, G. File, W. R. Beaumont, J. Bowie; back row, l to r, G. Lee, B. F. Samuel, N. Harper, R. MacGregor, J. W. G. Oliver, S. J. Thomas and F. Masarik*

**SERVICE AVIATION**

*Air Force, Naval and Army Flying News*

**IDC Change**

A CHANGE IN SENIOR DIRECTING STAFF at the Imperial Defence College has been announced: AVM E. G. Jones, CB, CBE, DSO, DFC, who has been AOC RAF Germany, is joining the staff on July 31; and AVM P. T. Philpott, CBE, who has been a member of it since May 1961, leaves to become AOC No 23 Group, Flying Training Command, on August 29.

**To Whitehall and Cyprus**

A CHANGE IN THE POST of Director of Manning (2) at the Air Ministry brings Air Cdre P. E. Warcup, CBE, to Whitehall from Bracknell, where he has been Assistant Commandant of the RAF Staff College since January 1961; he succeeds Air Cdre F. J. Manning, CB, CBE, who from June 1 becomes Air Officer in Charge of Administration, HQ Near East Air Force, Cyprus.

An ex-apprentice, Air Cdre Warcup was a test pilot at A&AEE early in the war (1939-40) then while with No 1 Sqn in France was shot down and taken prisoner. Air Cdre Manning, who served with Coastal Command during the war, when on marine craft duties in the early 1930s had Lawrence of Arabia (AC2 Shaw) as one of his airmen.

SEA VIXENS ABOARD USS "ENTERPRISE" (this page, last week) were depicted in an official US Navy photograph.

ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY AIR SQUADRON won the Scone Trophy for the first time in five years at Scone Aerodrome on May 1 and now go forward to compete in the Hack Trophy competition. Glasgow UAS, the holders, came second, 28 points behind with 260 points; Edinburgh had 251 and Aberdeen 246.