



"Operation Union" will bring families from Britain to this row of houses. In Austria the family reunion scheme was called "Operation Henpeck".

and the size of the family, and the minimum scale of rooms will be: one sitting-room, one dining-room (in exceptional cases these may be combined), bedrooms sufficient for the family, a bathroom and lavatory and a kitchen. In some areas families may have to share kitchens and bathrooms, while the size and type of home will vary according to the district.

Every home will be fitted with sufficient household equipment to meet all the housewife's essential needs. When the private's wife enters her new home she will find a well-equipped kitchen with wash-bowls, dish cloths and tea towels, an adjustable clothes drier, a mincing machine, and a large cupboard for kitchen-ware. Brooms, scrubbing brushes, a dustpan, and mops will be stored in a small box-room. The scale

of crockery, glassware, and cutlery has not yet been finally decided, but it will be liberal enough to ensure that the normal requirements of a family are satisfied. Shortage of materials, especially linoleum, may result in the floors of some rooms being stained and polished, but normally the dining-room will have a six-foot square carpet on which will stand an oak-veneered extending table. A large sideboard, two arm-chairs, and four Windsor wooden chairs will tone with the silk-type curtains.

homes which compare very favourably with those in England, and that an advance party of 200 wives has already prepared for their reception and accommodation.

**O**PERATION "Union" — the plan for wives of soldiers serving in BAOR to join their husbands and bring their families with them — is nearly ready for launching. By the end of August the first of the main body of families will have set sail from Tilbury for their new homes in the British Zone.

When they arrive they will find that the Army has provided

The scheme falls into two main divisions: the provision of permanent homes in flats or houses, for which the bulk of the applications have been made, and temporary accommodation in hostels and flats for families on short visits lasting not more than two months.

Families qualifying for a permanent home will be billeted according to rank of the husband

Where three bedrooms are provided, one will have a double or two single beds, a wardrobe, bedside mats, a table and lamp. The others will be similarly furnished, but with only one single bed in each room. All beds will have linen sheets and woollen blankets, including one complete change of bed linen. The acute shortage of textiles will probably not allow the issue of cushions.

Some items of furniture in the homes will have been made in Germany, others requisitioned or sent over from England.

Rations will be issued from Army sources, and wives and children over 12 will receive 6/8ths of the scale for Women's Services abroad, which is slightly higher than the civilian ration scale in Britain. Children between four and 12 will receive 4/10ths of this scale and those under four will get 4/10ths.

The housewife will be able to supplement her household equipment and purchase a few extra foodstuffs, soft drinks, toilet

requisites, cosmetics, cleaning materials and so on from NAAFI's Family Shops which will be established in the main towns. However, she will be unable to buy clothing for herself, although NAAFI will stock a limited supply of children's wear. To offset this difficulty a wife will be issued with 50 clothing coupons, and children with 25, before they leave Britain so that they will be able to "stock up" before sailing for Germany, or obtain clothing by post after they have arrived.

The problem of providing education for children is one that has worried both the families and the planning authorities, but as the build-up goes on so the standard of education will improve until primary education in the shape of nursery schools and classes will be available for children under five, and for older children there will be arrange-

buildings for communal feeding, lounges, bars and games rooms. Conditions will be similar to those provided for the permanent families, but only one visit at Government expense will be allowed.

Terms of eligibility for both officers and men to bring their wives and families to Germany are the same. A man must be entitled in the first instance to draw marriage allowance; he must have 12 months service to complete after the date of his application; and if an Age and Service release soldier must be in group 56 or above. All daughters of any age and sons up to the age of 18 are entitled to make their new homes in Germany.

Advances of pay which officers are at present entitled to draw from the Army Canteen

will be increased to permit the withdrawal of the marriage allowance, and the private will draw his marriage allowance with his pay.

Accommodation for permanent homes and short-term visits will be available at the following chief centres: Hamburg, Buckeburg, Minden, Bad Oeynhausen, Herford, Bielefeld, Oldenburg, Hannover, Berlin, Osnabruck, Dortmund, Munster, Iserlohn, Cologne and Dusseldorf.

Housing costs have not yet been officially approved, but it is expected that rent and rates will be charged according to rank, ranging from £120 a year for a General officer and £85 for a Lieut-Col. down to £40 for a sergeant and £36 for a private. Furniture, coal, light and servants wages, if employment of German servants is permitted, will be included in a quartering charge, and there may be an additional charge for special items like cutlery, crockery and glassware.

Payment for rations will work out at approximately 13s a week for wives and children over 12, and a little over 10s for children between four and 12.

"Many families in Britain have been led to believe that we shall give them luxury homes, but if they come here expecting that they will be disappointed," said a senior officer. "We have done our best to provide them with everything a normal family wants, but the scale of issue will not be excessive. There will be many problems to solve, and it will not be until 1947 at the earliest before some of them can be satisfactorily surmounted."

E. J. GROVE.

Soon it will be a feminine face at the window and the cry "Don't be late for dinner!" will be heard in Beethovenstrasse.

# BAOR WIVES

ments for elementary and secondary education.

Medical attention will be free, except for officers families, and the services of the RAMC will be assisted by a number of district nurses from SSAFA. A nurse or governess will be allowed to travel with the family on payment of the fare from England.

Wives and children will be allowed to go to all clubs, cinemas, theatres, and cabarets which soldiers are entitled to visit. A scheme for the provision of recreational transport at the rate of 2d a mile for cars and 3/4d a mile per head for TCV's is being considered.

For short-term visits accommodation will be found in hostels or groups of houses organised on the hotel system with central

## HOMES AT HOME

In view of the housing-shortage at home many families may have difficulty in retaining possession of their houses when they come to live in Germany. In certain cases local authorities are empowered to requisition vacant, unfurnished houses, and families should seek professional advice before joining their husbands in BAOR.

However, one local authority — Pontypridd (Glam.) Council — has already assured the wife of a BAOR soldier that she will retain for 12 months the tenancy of the home she vacates on coming to Germany. It is thought that other councils will follow suit.

# THESE ARE THE HOMES FOR



Left: nothing old-fashioned about the bath-tub, which has a hand shower. Above: part of the hostel scheme for Private and Mrs. Smith will be the communal dining room.



This is the chinaware that Private Smith will be washing up.



"Come and get it..." This is where Private Smith will dine with his family.



"Pretty good beds," says this ATS private. They are supplied double or single.

