

World War Two paratroopers rarely flew more than 300 miles from base. By 1963 they will be able to drop on targets 5000 miles away.

A Bigger And Better ARMY

THE all-Regular Army of the not-too-distant future will be harder-hitting, faster-moving, better equipped and better accommodated than ever before.

And it will be larger than was originally planned.

New long-range aircraft designed to fly troops anywhere in the world in a few hours and to carry paratroopers, heavy weapons and equipment will soon be in service. So will new helicopters, more powerful artillery, new vehicles and signal equipment.

This glimpse of the Army of 1963, when the last National Serviceman has left, is given in the Army Estimates—the annual account of the Army's activities in the past year and its plans for the future—which says the first requirement in re-equipping the Army is mobility—strategic, tactical and on the battlefield itself.

Air-portable equipment which is already in service or is being planned includes the Mobat anti-tank gun, light vehicles for the Infantry, Ferret and Saladin scout cars for the Royal Armoured Corps, an advanced guided missile anti-tank system and the Thunderbird guided weapon for the Royal Artillery.

Trials are also taking place with an air-portable 105 millimetre Italian howitzer and large sums are being spent on new engineer equipment designed for rapid construction and improved bridging.

To achieve mobility on the battlefield a new range of wireless sets which will simplify and speed up systems of command is coming into service and there are plans to equip a number of field regiments of

The streamlined, all-Regular Army of 1963 will be quicker off the mark, will use more powerful weapons, live in better barracks and cut down paper work

artillery with a 105 millimetre self-propelled gun of improved range and performance. The Infantry will get a new and improved type of armoured personnel carrier and the Sketeer helicopter is coming into use as a reconnaissance aircraft.

Trials are also taking place on a variety of items—from atomic and guided missile weapons to new clothing designed for efficiency and comfort.

Other plans announced by the War Minister, Mr. Christopher Soames, are:

A STRONGER ARMY

The strength of the all-Regular Army will be raised to 180,000 (instead of the 165,000 originally planned) and the additional men will be used to strengthen units overseas and the Strategic Reserve.

This increase is due to the highly satisfactory Regular recruiting figures since October, 1957, particularly in the fighting arms. More

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The Army's new helicopter: the twin-engine Bristol 192. It can carry 25 armed troops and be used for paratrooping, supply dropping and as an ambulance.

A Bigger And Better Army *continued*

men, however, are needed in the technical arms.

Recruiting of boys is so satisfactory that it is planned to open a new Junior Leaders unit and a new Army Apprentices School this year.

OFFICERS

To improve recruitment of potential Regular officers a school scholarship scheme has been introduced to provide 40 scholarships a year to boys in their last two years at school who wish to enter the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. A scheme has also been devised to allow suitable young men to serve as officers for three years.

"In spite of the shortage of

officers," says the Memorandum, "the Army Council are convinced that there must be no lowering of standards of quality. The worst disservice we could do a good private soldier would be to expect him to serve under inadequate officers."

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

More recruits are needed, especially in signals, clerical and domestic trades, if the Women's Royal Army Corps is to meet its increased commitments and there are still vacancies for officers.

IMPROVED TERMS

Money has been provided to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on



Above: The Gunners may soon be getting this portable Italian 105 mm howitzer shown here undergoing tests in Italy. It can be dismantled and carried by mulepack, flown in three sections by helicopter, or broken down into 30 parts and manhandled.

Below: A new type of river-crossing device which the British Army may soon use is this French amphibious craft. It is mounted on four wheels and driven by a diesel engine. It has a road speed of 40 mph and travels through water at between six and seven knots.



Recruiting (SOLDIER, January) and from this month disturbance and education allowances will be increased to alleviate the lot of married soldiers.

At the same time, children living in Britain will be allowed one free passage to the father's overseas station each year instead of one in each tour of duty.

Pensions and terminal grants for those discharged on or after 4 November, 1958 will be increased and widows' pensions for those whose husbands are still serving will be raised to one-third of his retirement pension. This will also apply to future widows whose husbands are already retired. (For details of the new pensions and terminal grants rates see page 36.)

There are also plans to provide boarding facilities for soldiers' children in selected schools in Britain.

BETTER BARRACKS

Many more barracks and married quarters will be modernised in 1959-60. The main projects are for 4000 men stationed in Catterick, and at Colchester, Chelsea, Chatham, Donnington, Edinburgh and Pirbright.

Work will also begin on another 1500 married quarters in Britain: about 350 new quarters will be completed and many more will be modernised.

Overseas, new air-conditioned accommodation will be provided for troops in Aden and more married quarters will be built. Work will continue on a new cantonment for the Commonwealth Brigade in Malacca, on single and married quarters for British and Gurkha units in Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong.

ADMINISTRATION

Great efforts are being made to simplify administration and reduce paper work. In 1960 the Royal Army Pay Corps will begin



New Aircraft

On The Way

THREE new aircraft for use in support of the Army—a long-range troop carrier, a supersonic general purposes plane and a long-distance air freighter—are announced in the Defence White Paper.

The long-range trooper is the Bristol Britannia which will come into service this year and replace the Hastings.

In 1960, the TSR 2 (the initials mean Tactical, Support, Reconnaissance) will be available to support the Army in the field. It will fly at supersonic speeds and be able to carry nuclear bombs and air-to-air guided missiles.

The long-distance air freighter is the Short SC-5 Britannia, a development of the Bristol Britannia and capable of carrying bulky equipment such as guided missiles and their radar vehicles. Typical loads are four laden one-ton trucks; a 3-ton artillery tractor; or two 25-pounder guns, a scout car and two one-ton trucks. Carrying a load of up to 15 tons the Britannia has a non-stop range of 5500 miles. Heavy loads can also be parachuted.

The number of tactical freighters suitable also for dropping paratroopers is to be increased by the introduction of the Armstrong Whitworth Argosy (picture left). Twin Pioneers for short-range transport duties are also coming into service as are the new Bristol 192 helicopters.

operating an Automatic Data Processing equipment to keep the pay accounts of every soldier. Later, the system will be used to do other administrative work which at present requires large numbers of men, notably in Central Ordnance depots.

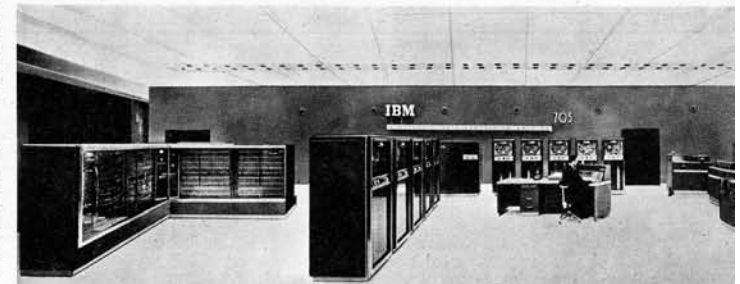
CIVILIANISATION

The plan for an all-Regular Army is largely dependent on employing a high proportion of civilians and in the next year 2500 more civilians will replace soldiers and relieve men in fighting units of routine domestic tasks so that by April, 1960 the proportion of military to civilians in the Army will be about four to three.

However, says the Memorandum, "this policy of increasing the proportion of civilians to military must not be carried too far. The Army must retain a sufficient number of officers and other ranks trained in carrying out all the activities which it must perform for itself in war and there must be a reasonable balance in all Arms and Services between home and overseas."

TERRITORIAL ARMY

The strength of the Territorial Army increased in the past year from 78,000 to 100,000 but more officers are needed. To meet the needs of the larger force, additional funds are being made available for out-of-camp training in the next year. Arrangements will be made for artillery and Infantry units selected for civil defence roles to attend a civil defence camp once every four years.



Above: To simplify administration and reduce paper work, the Army will soon be using this automatic computer for all soldiers' pay accounts. It will cost £700,000 but will do the work of hundreds of clerks. Similar machines will also be used in Ordnance depots. Below: A model of the new Chelsea Barracks which will be completed by 1962 at a cost of £3,200,000. It will house two battalions and contain a swimming pool, squash court, tavern and café.



The Cost of an Army

The Army will cost the British taxpayer a little less this year—£431,350,100 compared with £431,400,100 in the year 1958-59.

Of this amount £143,540,000 will be spent on pay and allowances; £72,580,000 on stores; £52,370,000 on supplies; £39,620,000 on works, lands and buildings. The cost of employing civilians will total £88,060,000 and the Territorial Army and Army Cadet Force will cost £18,740,000.