

On Her Majesty's Service

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EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN MISSILES FOR BRITAIN?

NEGOTIATIONS ARE to be opened with France and Germany and the United States of America for the procurement, if the terms are right, of two new missile systems for British Forces.

The announcement, about the medium range anti-tank missile from Europe and the anti-ship missile from the USA, was made by the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt. Hon. Roy Mason, MP, in a statement made recently in the House of Lords by Lord Winterbottom.

The statement reads:

"The Government have now decided the next steps to be taken on the procurement of major guided weapons systems for the British Forces. Full development, by the British Aircraft Corporation, of the helicopter anti-ship missile SEA SKUA is to proceed. Negotiations will be opened with France and Germany for the procurement, if the terms are right, of their medium range anti-tank missile MILAN, mainly by manufacture under licence in Britain; and with the United States for the procurement, if the terms are right, of McDonnell Douglas's submarine-launched anti-ship missile SUB-HARPOON. The British Aircraft Corporation's helicopter-borne anti-tank missile HAWKSWING and Hawker Siddeley Dynamics' submarine-launched anti-ship missile SUB-MARTEL are to be cancelled.

"The need to provide British Forces with first-class weapons has been the dominant consideration but in addition the Government have had to take into account the limitations on defence funds following the Defence Review; the UK balance of payments; and of course both the immediate employment and other consequences of these

decisions for British industry and the effects on its future capability to develop guided weapons, bearing in mind the substantial contribution that British industry makes to the equipment of our forces and those of other countries.

"Full account has been taken of the representations made in the process of consultation with both

sides of industry and other interests and an overall assessment of the situation shows that there should be no unacceptable consequences in the loss of job opportunities.

"The ending of HAWK-SWING will mean some re-deployment of design staff at the British Aircraft Corporation (Guided Weapons) but the development of SEA SKUA should help to mitigate this problem. Subject to the satisfactory outcome of negotiations with France and the Federal Republic of Germany the manufacture of MILAN in this country should provide a substantial increment to the production loading of the company.

"The winding up of the work on SUB-MARTEL at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics will, however, inevitably give rise to problems. Other projects which the company have in hand are unlikely to absorb all the design staff who will become available. Some loss of jobs is therefore likely to be unavoidable. The

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Ministry of Defence, however, recognises the extent to which its ability to meet its future needs is dependent on the strength of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics' design capability.

"The Ministry of Defence is therefore proposing to the company immediate talks to settle the details of a Ministry of Defence-funded programme of research and exploratory development relevant to likely future military needs and the corresponding growth of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics' knowledge and expertise. In the same manner an appropriate programme is being put to Marconi Space and Defence Systems Ltd., the other company which will be affected by the decision on the Underwater to Surface Guided Weapon, designed to maintain their lead in the field of active radar homing heads.

Anti-Ship Guided Weapon for Helicopters

"SEA SKUA, the anti-ship missile for mounting in helicopters, will now go into full development by the British Aircraft Corporation. This weapon will provide our destroyers and frigates with a strike capability stretching far beyond the horizon. It is the only weapon of its kind in the world and it has aroused keen interest in a number of foreign navies.

Man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Weapon

"MILAN is the only anti-tank guided weapon that meets our requirements for a man-portable system for the infantry. It is already in service with the French and German armies. In negotiations for its procurement our aims will include the establishment of a full-scale production line in Britain and agreed arrangements for European collaboration on weapons of this kind in the future. We shall also be aiming for a fair share of overseas sales of MILAN. The Government's final decision on MILAN will naturally be subject to the achievement of satisfactory terms.

Anti-Tank Guided Weapon for Helicopters

"Financial pressures have made it necessary to defer the

RARDE'S QUEEN



WENDY BROOKS, a blue-eyed 18-year-old CA with light brown hair, who works in the Industrial Establishment Branch, was elected Miss Fort Halstead 1975 last month. Wendy, who has been at RARDE about a year, says her hobbies are athletics — as a spectator only — and going for long walks. She also says she hasn't a boy friend either steady or otherwise!

Swimmer saved by PE man

A PE MAN on holiday in Cornwall found himself in the news when he went to the rescue of a woman surfer in difficulties.

Major Peter Larrington, leader of a team in the Directorate of Communications Projects at Castlewood House, was going for a swim at Sennen Cove, Land's End, when he heard a man shouting that a woman had lost her surfboard and was in difficulties.

He told SCOPE "I looked for her surfboard but couldn't find it and swam out about 20 yards to the woman who was floating face-up and half-drowned, clearly very frightened. After detaching her from round my neck, I supported her and tried to swim back to the shore. There was heavy surf breaking and we were

being driven under by the breakers. I then turned and pulled her out beyond the surf-line. I thought we would be able to regain the shore further down when the rip-tide current had eased up."

Two other men then joined in the rescue, swimming out and bringing them both back on their surfboards.

Powerful swimmer that he is Major Larrington said afterwards that there was no way in which he himself could have brought the rescued woman, a Mrs. Ann Thornton from Derbyshire, back to the beach.

To keep his hand in, Major Larrington often swims in the Oasis Pool at St Giles Circus and during service in Hong Kong was chairman of the Army Sub Aqua Diving Club there.

TRAGEDY HITS FARNBOROUGH PRESENTATION

A presentation to a Royal Aircraft Establishment fireman, Mr Sidney Allwork (63), was marred by tragedy when he collapsed during the ceremony. Mr. Allwork, who was deputy to the Senior Fire Officer at RAE Farnborough, was found to be dead when he was taken to the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. Immediately he collapsed, his colleagues gave him the kiss of life and oxygen in an attempt to revive him.

Mr. Allwork joined the RAE in 1939 after service with the Wiltshire Regiment and was recalled to the Forces at the outbreak of war. He returned to RAE in 1946 and joined the Fire Service. As deputy to the Senior Fire Officer, Mr. William Cowan, he was responsible for fire prevention. He held the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Electronic whizz kid sees Farnborough

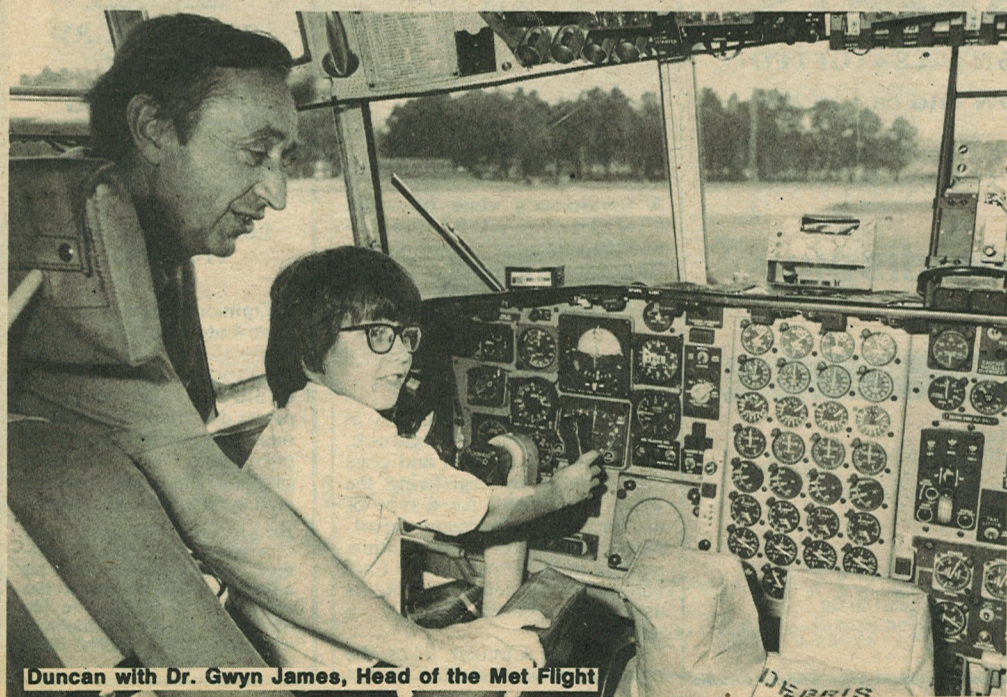
A 10-YEAR old Fleet boy who prefers electronic equipment such as transistors and semi-conductors to toys, wrote to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, asking if he could visit the Electronic Departments.

The boy, Duncan Willis, of Oakley Drive, Fleet, was so keen to make the visit that he wrote saying that he could be there if necessary at 6 a.m.!

Arrangements were made for him to visit various

parts of the Establishment and he saw work being done on a Hercules, probably the world's most advanced meteorological aircraft; the Air Traffic Control tower and Space Department, where he saw work being done on satellite equipment.

Duncan has been reading advanced electronics magazines since the age of five, and it is hoped that special arrangements can be made for his education.



Duncan with Dr. Gwyn James, Head of the Met Flight

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