

## SUEZ TROOPS

### SUEZ TROOPS DEPART AND ARRIVE

To Famagusta, Cyprus, the aircraft carrier *Thesues* brought the first <sup>big reinforcement</sup> contingent of troops sent to the Middle East since ~~the~~ Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal. The men were soon on the road to Nicosia. An Italian school was requisitioned to accommodate them. The troops' arrival stole the news headlines from the terror campaign the island's endured for several months and underlined the importance of Cyprus as a military base.

At Southampton, at about the same time, embarked on the troop ship *Dilwara* more men on the way to the Middle East. They included the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, the Suffolks and an air maintenance company of the ~~United~~ Ordnance Corps. The buildup of armed force in the crisis-area was proceeding with speed and good order.

Two days later the 12,000 ton *Dunera* took aboard the headquarters staff of the seventh army <sup>artillery</sup> group. Among other detachments were men of the 43rd Anti Aircraft Regiment and some R.A.F. personnel. Another ship, the *Empire Ken*, embarked No. 16 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Hundreds of men in these last few days have said goodbye to their wives and families in the course of duty. May their mission soon be accomplished.

Some of the new Bristol *Britannia* aircraft were at Hurn Airport to begin the airlift of troops. The men were the ~~first~~ first passengers these super prop-jet airliners have carried ~~mainly~~ - an assignment little expected only a few weeks ago.

The airlift will transport headquarter staff and two battalions of the 3rd Infantry Brigade. Incidentally *Britannias* will go into service as BOAC airliners in October. For the troops this was travelling in style.

BEH  
EIGHTON  
HEN

Blackbushe Airfield shared the airlift with Hurn. This method of transportation applies to this day and age the Napoleonic ~~Maximilian~~ maxim, always to have more troops on the spot than your opponent. Quick mobility means more than total numbers. A batallion in the right place is better than an army corps a hundred miles away. Hermes aircraft flew the men to the place of need.