

WATCHFIELD, BERKS.U.M. CHIEFS SEE PARA. RAID TRIAL

Men of the parachute regiment board Hastings transports to take part in land-air exercises. Flying-banners of the U.S. Third Air Division load jeep-drawn 25-pounder guns to be dropped by parachute. The unit will be a fighting force ready for action. Slung in bomb bays of Halifaxes are huge para-technicians weighing 8,000 lbs. each.

As experts watch, the planes approach the drop area. Since the Germans captured Holland and Crete airborne warfare has made great strides. On the West Front we made the German efforts look puny. And today, when the parachute regiment gets the order to jump, it can take with it practically everything except the barracks square.

Now the supplies begin to follow them. There goes the jeep followed by its gun. In all enough to keep 3,000 troops going for 24 hours will be dropped. In an exercise this summer 10,000 allied air troops will jump somewhere over Europe.

Now for the para-technician - this is its fourth drop. Laid on by the British Parachute Training School, this is one of a series of day and night exercises. If you hear anything go bump in the night, don't worry - it'll probably be just another para-technician practising its para-technique.