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AIR NEWS

PRESTWICK

At Prestwick Airport, Air Vice Marshal Sir Robert Jones receives on behalf of the Royal Air Force a Prestwick Pioneer aircraft - the first of a number soon to be taken over by the Service. The Pioneer, the first plane ever to be designed and built in Scotland, is just the job for short runways. Outside airbrakes built into the wing, enable the Pioneer to climb almost vertically. Let's join the V.I.P.s for a demonstration. Here she goes -

And there you are - a perfect take-off in only 75 yards. The Pioneer has already proved so successful that its makers are hard at work on a twin engine job of almost the same design. Carrying a pilot and four passengers the Pioneer can land in 66 yards. Because of that these handy little planes will soon be helping in the war against terrorists in the jungles of Malaya.

SURVIVOR FROM B. 36 BOMBER

Into Warrington comes the MANCHESTER SHIPPER, the British steamer which raced to the giant American B36 bomber after it had crashed into the Atlantic. A stretcher is taken aboard, for Staff Sergeant Roy Spears, one of the five survivors who is still suffering from an arm injury and severe shock. The other four who escaped are now on their way to Canada.

Four bodies have been picked up, one of which is taken ashore. Fourteen men are still missing.

PARATROOPERS - SOUTHPORT SANDS

Over to Woodvale airfield near Southport where nearly two hundred paratroopers get set to take part in "Operation Pancake" - a large scale drop of men and equipment on Southport Sands. Jeeps, small trucks, and light guns are loaded into tow-cars flown in from Germany. What makes this a really out-of-the-rut operation, is the fact that all the men making the drop are Territorials.

That's the last one aboard. On the beach they give the O.K. and Operation Pancake begins - there goes the first stick.

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Paratroops who took part in the Arnhem drop and in the Rhine operations - provide the instructions of the Terrier's airborne fighting force. Now comes their equipment. A cluster of chutes prevents damage as it falls from a thousand feet.

A new device is a protective platform which cushions the load on contact.

Most of the paratroops in the Operation come from Cardiff and Glasgow - but throughout the country the same fighting spirit permeates the Terriers, Britain's weekend warriors.