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In order to provide for simultaneous publication at Home and Overseas, Editors are asked not to publish items from this News Letter before the morning of **Friday, June 25, 1954.** Further information may be obtained by telephoning Trafalgar 8811, Ext. 6155 or 6403.

R.A.F. AID FOR BRITISH NORTH GREENLAND EXPEDITION

Sunderland flying-boats of Royal Air Force Coastal Command will fly to the Arctic Circle at the end of July for the final operation in the series of flights which have been conducted since 1951 to assist the British North Greenland Expedition. This year the task will be to bring home members of the Expedition on completion of their work.

No. 230 Squadron (Squadron Leader E.C. Bennett, D.F.M.) will carry out this year's operations. The first two Sunderlands will leave R.A.F. Station, Pembroke Dock, South Wales, on July 31 for Reykjavik, Iceland, arriving at Young Sound on the north-east of Greenland on August 1. Three other Sunderlands will arrive at Young Sound on August 6.

The Sunderlands will collect 21 members of the Expedition and equipment from the base camp at Britannia Lake, which lies 190 miles inland from Young Sound, and fly them back to Pembroke Dock. The operation is planned to be completed by August 19. Heavy equipment will be returned from Young Sound by sea.

Twelve husky dogs will also fly back in the Sunderlands. They were purchased by the Expedition in Greenland, and are being flown to the United Kingdom at the request of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. In October they will leave Southampton in the Royal Research Ship "John Biscoe" for the Antarctic, where they will introduce new blood into the existing dog teams of the Dependencies. The air journey from Britannia Lake to Pembroke Dock is 2,070 miles, and the sea voyage to the Dependencies will be in the neighbourhood of 10,000 miles.

By arrangement with the Danish Government the first two Sunderlands to arrive in Greenland will make a photographic survey of the Britannia Lake area for the Expedition.

This will be the fourth successive year that the R.A.F. has co-operated with the British North Greenland Expedition. In 1951 a Sunderland from Pembroke Dock carried Commander C.J.W. Simpson, D.S.C., R.N., leader of the Expedition, and other members, to Greenland for a preliminary survey of the ice-cap. In 1952, five Sunderlands and two Hastings carried expedition personnel and 250 tons of equipment to the bases at Britannia Lake and "Northice." Last year a similar force of aircraft carried a further 130 tons of stores to the bases.

These air operations have proved of considerable training value to the R.A.F., and have been an essential contribution to the success of the Expedition. Aircrews

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have gained valuable experience in high latitude navigation and cold weather flying, and the squadrons have operated from advanced arctic bases with the minimum of equipment. Successful air operations of this kind are restricted to a few weeks in the late summer when Britannia Lake and Young Sound are both free of ice.

The Expedition, of which the Queen is Patron and Sir Winston Churchill Vice-Patron, is undertaking a geophysical, geological and glaciological survey of hitherto unexplored areas of Northern Greenland. One of the objectives has been to establish the depth of the great ice-cap which covers most of the country. A survey of much of Queen Louise Land has been carried out and considerable experience gained in the difficult art of living under arctic conditions.
