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AIR NEWS:

A new chapter has opened in air travel. A helicopter landing place in London. The Mayor of Battersea, the Westland Aircraft Chairman, and Mr. John Hay, came to the opening ceremony. Mr. Hay is Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation.

Having shown official approval to helicopter travel over London, Mr. Hay decided to sample it, and went aboard to be flown over the capital. Arrivals and departures follow aerodrome procedure, carried out from the control tower. The T-shaped concrete landing slab can take helicopters of up to fifteen tons. This heliport is an experiment, There'll be others if it's a success. Then, not only inter-city travel in Britain will be speeded up, but there'll be services to the Continent, from the heart of London to the centre of Paris, for example, cutting out time-wasting journeys to the airports at both ends.

To the advantages of all kinds of air transport the Army is thoroughly alive. Near Salisbury, the Air Transport Training Centre demonstrated various helicopters and planes now used to get men and equipment on to the field in the least possible time. A very interested audience of NATO officers saw how several types of aircraft can be used in modern tactics.

a delayed action drop, calling for men of tough nerve, knowing the exact moment to pull the ripcord.

* The all-important landing after delayed action was perfectly carried out; a tribute to the excellence of the training. A Wessex helicopter landed a gun-carrying vehicle,. 'Copters of this type can cruise at 100 miles an hour with a load of nearly two tons. A slight mishap, this time. Now, heavy great parachuted from a Beverley transport. It's amazing what weight of equipment can now be put down just where it's wanted by this technique.

Skilful employment of air transport enables units to go into action, wherever they're wanted., without delay. This Development Centre gives the Army the know-how, essential in these troubled times.