

WEAPON HARVEST

Enough guns and ammunition to supply a South American army have been handed over to the London police alone, to say nothing of the rest of the country, since the Government announced the 3-month period in which there'd be no questions asked. So it was safe for anybody owning firearms without a licence to surrender them. After the end of October, the normal penalties apply: a £50 fine or three months - both. The first few days off the appeal produced more than 4,000 weapons and nearly 50,000 rounds of ammunition in the London area.

The strange harvest goes to the War Office. Service arms will go back to the Army. The big collection is a move against the growing amount of crimes of violence. The fewer weapons in the market (so to speak) the harder it will be for thugs to buy them. They're mostly Service revolvers, and German Lugers - war souvenirs. One woman had had a loaded Schmeisser machine gun under her bath for some years. It was very little use about the house. Husbands can be subdued by other means.

Let's hope the crime wave is considerably reduced as the result of the big surrender.