

**THE ARMY HAS WINGS.**

Airborne forces comprising airlanding units and parachute troops receive operational instructions.

First of all go the Paratroops. These highly trained men will descend on their objective by Parachute, while the airborne infantry are carried by big gliders. Young though this newest arm of the service is, it has already won its spurs on the battlefields of North Africa. At one end of the tow line is a Whitley and at the other a Hotspur or Horsa glider hauled into the air with a cargo of tough-fighting men. A demonstration of co-operative effort by glider-borne and parachute troops seen for the first time in combined operations. The Paratroops are dropped in "sticks" but come sailing to earth decidedly slower than a stick of bombs. Their job is to act as shock troops; capture an airfield, seize a position, or disrupt communications in the rear of the enemy. Most of their weapons are collected from containers released from the plane by easily identifiable parachutes. Now they set about their swift attack.

And here come the gliders. Slipping their tow ropes, they glide in to land. They're flown ~~for~~ by Army Pilots of the Glider Pilot Regiment who, once they have landed at the point of attack, will take over ground duties. They have to be first class soldiers as well as airmen.

Air-borne troops have to be competent enough to carry out their special tasks while operating temporarily alone in enemy territory. There's a lot of high adventure for these Army airmen.

It goes without saying that they must be well disciplined... and physically the last word in fitness. Adding reality to the exercises they throw in a few ersatz Nazis. The G.O.C. Airborne Division is justly proud of his men.