

- UNIV 2661 -

PARATROOPS FOR CYPRUS.

13/1/56.

In the grey early morning at Blackbushe Aerodrome in Hampshire, men of the first and third Battalions, Parachute Regiment, were going aboard Shackleton Aircraft en route for Cyprus. There they will be handy in case of a development of the trouble in Jordan --- and its consequent threat to the oil interests of Britain, in Iraq and Persia.

Their C.O. is Brigadier Butler, whose wife had come to the airfield to wave good-bye to her husband and his men. The Mayor of Aldershot was also there to see them off.

There were nearly ~~sixty~~ thirty planes in this airlift --- which was one of the biggest in peacetime.....some twelve hundred paratroopers in all, going as reinforcements to the trouble zone of the Middle East. God Speed --- and good luck!