

Britain To Begin Armed Forces Cutback In Germany Next Fall, Sources Declare

Editor's note: Great Britain has announced a cut of \$250 million in its military spending this year and a slash in the size of the British Army from 373,000 to 325,000 men. The bulk of the cuts will be in the Rhine Army. In the following dispatch a senior officer who cannot be identified because of service regulations tells how Britain hopes to maintain its fighting strength in Germany.

BY JOSEPH W. GRIGG
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Muenchen-Gladbach, Germany
—(UPI)—Britain will begin the first 13,000-man economy cutback in her forces in Germany only next autumn, authoritative sources at British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) Headquarters here has disclosed.

But a guided missile regiment already is being trained in Britain in use of America's Corporal surface-to-surface tactical

atomic weapon. It will be shipped to Germany as soon as possible, the sources said, to maintain the punching force of Britain's crack Rhine army.

Formation of a second Corporal regiment in Britain this year was announced in London Monday.

The 13,000-man slash is scheduled to be carried out between autumn this year and April, 1958.

The cutback, it was learned, will be carried out in such a manner as to maintain the fighting strength of Britain's Rhine Army unimpaired as far as possible.

The heaviest cuts will be in the army's administrative "tail."

Anti-aircraft units also will be sharply slashed on the theory that the Soviets would use atom-loaded rockets themselves rather than planes if war should break out.

Under present plans the United States will supply the initial tactical A-weapons for Britain's Rhine army. But authoritative sources here pointed out that Britain herself is working continuously on these and they hope that British-built A-weapons later will supplement or

even take the place of the American Corporal.

Washington—UPI—The United States has informed its European Allies it plans to maintain its present military strength in Germany but only if this constitutes a "fair share" of allied might.

The word to the Allies contains an implicit warning that any drastic cut in European troop strength might cause this country to re-examine its troop commitments on the continent. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles may spell out this policy in more detail at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) council meeting in Bonn, Germany, May 2-4.

The Bonn meeting of 15 NATO allies will review the smoldering Middle East situation and particularly the Jordan crisis. The Mid-East flanks the southern end of the NATO shield and the Atlantic partners are anxious to keep the region out of Communist hands.

Special Showing Of Film Scheduled In Courthouse

Special showing of the film, "A Family Affair," is planned for 8 p.m. Friday in the courthouse auditorium under sponsorship of the Jackson County Mental Health committee.

Showing of the film is in observance of National Mental Health Week.

The film will also be available to groups wanting to see it at other times. It may be obtained by calling Mrs. John Schroeder, SP 2-4765. The film is being lent to the committee until May 12.

Work of the local Mental Health committee recently has concentrated on study of plans looking toward the establishment of some type of family counseling service in the county. Recent surveys made by the committee have shown substantial need for such service.

Panel of Speakers

The committee has also made arrangements to provide a panel of speakers to present the need and plans for a family counseling service to any group which would be interested. The speakers also can be arranged through Mrs. John Schroeder.

The Mental Health committee is an informal group made up of representatives from various interested organizations and agencies and meeting about once a month. It is not formally associated with the Mental Health Association of Oregon but cooperates with it in programs working toward better mental health and is actively interested in the state mental hospitals.

Present chairman of the committee is the Rev. Thomas McCamant and the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for May 17.

Year-Round Public School Use Said Drawing Interest

Washington—UPI—Two plans for year-round use of public schools are stirring interest among parents and educators.

The "four-quarter system" is designed to relieve the classroom shortage and ease requirements for costly new buildings.

The "summer enrichment" program is aimed at combating juvenile delinquency by keeping youngsters off the streets during the long summer holiday.

Behind both schemes is a growing conviction that the nation cannot afford the "waste" of scarce schoolrooms and teachers which results from the custom of closing schools for three months out of each year.

This custom was established more than a century ago when America was predominantly an agricultural nation, and farmers needed the children to help with the crops during the summer. It has been perpetuated by the national habit of taking vacations during the hot months.

Except for this deeply ingrained habit, many educators believe, there is no good reason why schools should not remain open, teaching their regular curriculum, for a full 12 months each year.

Three Tried It
This is the concept of the "four-quarter" system, which has been tried in Ambridge and Aliquippa, Pa., and in El Paso, Tex., and which is now being urged by Gov. Thomas B. Stanley for all Virginia schools.

Under this system, the school year is divided into four equal terms. Each child attends classes for three quarters and is on vacation during the fourth quarter. Schedules are so arranged that a child starting his school year in any quarter will get a full nine-month course of study.

The effect is to reduce a community's need for classroom space by one-fourth. Overcrowding and double shifts can be eliminated if the four-quarter system is installed temporarily; the need for new buildings may be trimmed if the system is adopted permanently.

A further advantage cited by supporters of the plan is that it enable teachers to work year-round at the profession for which they are trained, rather than having to find "summer jobs." Because each teacher is handling a larger total group of students in the course of a year, a community can afford to pay higher teacher salaries. So runs the pro argument.

Those Opposed
The anti's, who have been quite vocal in Virginia since Stanley advanced his four-quarter proposal, point out that it would be impossible for a family to plan a vacation if Dad got his time off in July while Junior got his three months in mid-winter. And what about the family with several children, all out of school at different times?

Dr. L. M. Wilson, who was superintendent of schools at Aliquippa, Pa., when it conducted a pioneering experiment with the four-quarter system during the 1930's, told the United Press that the "vacation problem" was the chief stumbling block.

"Most of the people of the community accepted the plan as an emergency measure because they realized that it was the only way that we could provide a full educational program for our children during the depression," he said. "Opposition came from two groups of parents—those whose children were assigned to winter vacations, and those whose children had to attend during the summer quarter."

Wilson, now professor of education at Geneva College, said the four-quarter plan "worked well" educationally during the 10 years it was in effect at Aliquippa. It was dropped because school authorities had "promised" parents to return to the traditional nine-month term when funds were available to construct additional classrooms.

Enrichment Plan
Ambridge, which tried the four-quarter system for six years in the 1930's, and El Paso, which adopted it as a temporary expedient during World War II, had a similar experience—good results educationally and financially, but parent opposition to staggered vacations. No other American community has tried

Plywood Producers Tell Price Advance

Portland—UPI—Major plywood producers in Oregon today revealed price advances of \$1 to \$2 on 5-18th-inch sheathing and \$3 on 5-8-inch sheathing as an improved demand filled order files.

Basing price on sanded stock was generally listed at \$72.

The industry reported that demand reflected the seasonal upturn in home and commercial building and most of the industry was able to return to a full-time basis. Virtually every plywood plant in the region had been on a four-day week to avoid surpluses and their depressing effect on prices.

In the Douglas fir region, however, the green lumber market was still slack and production was generally ahead of orders and shipments.

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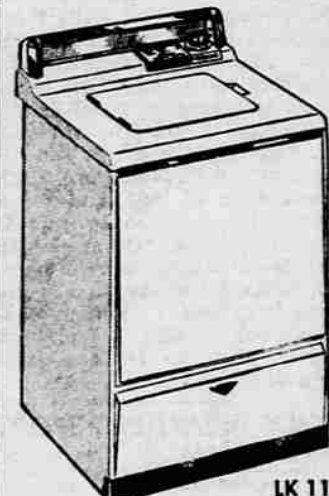


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