

AIRBORNE MEN GET STAND-BY

Alerted for possible immediate despatch overseas, men of the 16th Independent Airborne Brigade attend a high-speed refresher course at Abingdon. Rolling takes the jer out of a landing and prevents damage.

There's a right and wrong way to jump, too. From this to parachute drill - without parachutes. Trained men can speed up their descent or guide it, by swinging or pulling on the cords, so as to land on the right spot.

Someone's forgotten his drill! Normally, once trained, airborne men don't jump very often. Jumping is only their way of going into action. Fighting on the ground is their real job.

Next, outdoors, where the wind can take a hand - and a nice long drop, just to renew that old sinking feeling.

The next thing is the real thing. Really Airborne, this time; and there's a U.S. Ranger going with them as they march off to board a waiting Hastings. R.A.F. Transport Command are co-operating fully in the alert, so it's practice for both arms.

There's the drop point. For the first time we see the new technique of dropping from both sides of the 'plane. This method ensures better concentration of troops over a given area.

Where they're alerted for is still a secret. But the Airborne Brigade is out fastest answer to an S.O.S. whether it comes from Persia or the Pacific.