

LARGEST U.K. AIR EXERCISE

The biggest air exercise ever to be held in peace time will take place over the United Kingdom during the first two weekends in October and in one mid-week phase.

The object of the exercise, which has been given the code name "Ardent", will be to subject the U.K. air defences to intensive operations such as might be experienced in war. Aircraft involved will fly several thousands of sorties to test the defences, and will try out a variety of methods of attack.

All Commands of the Royal Air Force in the U.K. and on the Continent will contribute to the exercise. In addition, Anti-Aircraft Command will participate, and aircraft of the Royal Navy, the U.S.A.F., and other N.A.T.O. Air Forces will play their part.

New features of this year's Exercise are the employment of the Canberra jet bombers and the Canadian swept-wing Sabre fighters; and the use of airborne forces. A greater number of aircrew and ground staff will be engaged in this exercise than ever before. The U.K. Air Defences are under the command of the Air Defence Commander, Air Marshall Sir Basil Embry, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., D.F.C. A.F.C.

Many R.A.F. Reservists will be assisting during their fortnight's annual training. In addition there are a number of other reservists who have volunteered to help in the Exercise. Volunteers of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force will be on duty at the weekends, assisting in the operation of their jet fighter squadrons. Fighter Control Units and the Royal Observer Corps will be deployed at maximum strength during both weekends, and Territorials of A.A. Command will also be at their operational stations.

we should cover if the Air Ministry will put up deal facilities