


# V-Bomber Force



**Flying in the Missile Age.** The advent of the stand-off bomb (air-to-ground missile, for despatch several hundred miles from a target) greatly enhances the vital role of the V-Bomber Force for many years to come.

To fly Britain's V-Bombers calls for a highly developed sense of responsibility, and the men who fly them must also have more than a fair share of skill and initiative. How does an R.A.F. flying career begin? What, briefly, are the stages before you join the V-Bomber Force?

## The Royal Air Force Flying ...and a career

**How to Join.** You can join the R.A.F. through the Direct Commission scheme, which offers you the choice of a permanent career right up to pension age or a twelve-year engagement with the option of leaving after eight. (If you leave after twelve years you take back to civilian life a tax-free gratuity of £4,000.) Alternatively, there's a five year Short Service Commission. Whichever you choose, the pay is good. The new increases in pay and

allowances, effective from the 5th April, mean that a Flight Lieutenant of 25 can, with full allowances, earn more than £1,500 a year. If you are between 17½ and 26, if you have the General Certificate of Education, the Scottish Leaving Certificate, or their equivalent, then write, stating age and education, to the Air Ministry, Dept. (GR13), Adastral House, London, W.C.1. We will send you all you need to know.



**Aircrew Selection.** First you go for 4 days to Hornchurch for a series of tests. Alertness of mind, as well as quickness of hand and eye, will stand you in good stead.



**Basic Training.** Once through Hornchurch, you are a potential officer, ready to do your basic training. This you finish with the rank of Acting Pilot Officer. Then begins your flying training during which you do your first solo flight.



**Passing Out.** Advanced flying training takes you to aerobatics, formation flying and instrument flying. Once you successfully complete your course on Vampire jets, the great moment comes, at the passing out parade, when you step forward for your 'wings'.



**Joining a Squadron.** First you go to an Operational Conversion Unit. Soon after you qualify you are shaking hands with your new squadron commander. Your life in a bomber squadron has begun.