

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Service Notes and News



Air Ministry Announcements

No. 203 (F.B.) SQUADRON

The three "Rangoons" of No. 203 (F.B.) Squadron flew from Singapore to Batavia, over 500 miles, on September 20. On the 24th they reached Koepang.

No. 209 (F.B.) SQUADRON

The two "Perth" flying boats which had to abandon their cruise to Greenland have returned to Mount Batten.

NEW AERODROMES

The plastering of East Anglia and the Fen Country with Service aerodromes continues. Two more sites have been selected by the Air Ministry, one at Feltwell, about thirteen miles from Ely, and one at Marham, eight miles south-east of King's Lynn, in Norfolk. Still more will have to be found before all the new squadrons in the five years' programme are raised.

SIR PHILIP SASSOON

Sir Philip Sassoon, Under-Secretary of State for Air, left England on Saturday, September 22, on an extended tour of R.A.F. Units in overseas commands.

He embarked at Calshot on the morning of the 22nd on the new flying boat Singapore III, and flew by way of Hourtin, Etang de Berre and Ajaccio to Malta. From Malta he will proceed via Athens and Crete to Aboukir, and after visiting the various R.A.F. stations in the Middle East, will proceed by aeroplane to Iraq. Thereafter he will continue through India to Malaya, and, following a short stay at Singapore, will return on October 14 to India. After visiting the R.A.F. stations on the frontier and elsewhere he will leave Karachi on October 24, arriving back in England on October 29 in time for the opening of Parliament.

ARMY MANŒUVRES IN THE WEST

Aircraft were used with much energy on both sides during the sham war waged round Hungerford and Marlborough on September 19-21. Capt. Liddell Hart wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* on the second day: "The great final exercise of the Army looks rather as if it may become predominantly an indirect lesson in the power of the Air Force." During the manœuvres the director, Gen. Sir John Burnett-Stuart, and also the chief umpire made a number of journeys in "Rotas" (i.e., R.A.F. autogiros). In these days of mechanised forces the "Rota" must be a tremendous boon to the higher command.

R.A.F. GOLF CHAMPION

Sq. Ldr. C. H. Hayward won the R.A.F. golf championship on September 23 at Sandwich, beating F/O. Robins in the final after playing 41 holes.

ROYAL AIR FORCE GAZETTE

London Gazette, Sept. 18, 1934
General Duties Branch

Air Commodore R. H. Verney, O.B.E., is appointed Director of Technical Development, Air Ministry, vice Air Commodore H. M. Cave-Browne-Cave, D.S.O., D.F.C. (Sept. 17); Flt. Lt. R. G. Forbes is granted a permanent commission in this rank (Sept. 19).

The follg. Flying Officers are granted permanent commissions in this rank:—H. G. Adams (Sept. 13); L. E. Jarman, B. Paddon, A. C. Watson (Sept. 19).

P/O. M. Hastings is promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (July 10); Flt. Lt. F. T. Eades, D.F.C., is placed on the retired list (Sept. 16); F/O. R. R. Bennett is placed on the retired list at his own request (Sept. 15); Flt. Lt. F. H. Astle is placed on the retired list on account of ill-health (Sept. 18).

The follg. Flying Officers are transferred to the Reserve (Sept. 13):—CLASS A.—S. H. Bell, D. P. A. Boitel-Gill, G. B. S. Coleman, C. R. Davies, J. L. M. Davys, S. W. H. Egan, C. J. Hansford, E. E. Noddings, R. C. Parker, I. N. Roome, K. N. Sayers, S. D. Slocum, H. J. Wilson. CLASS C.—L. R. Mouatt.

INTER-SERVICES CROSS-COUNTRY CHALLENGE CUP

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to present a challenge cup to be competed for annually in the Inter-Services Cross-Country Championships. The cup was first competed for at the Inter-Services Cross-Country Championship Meeting at Bordon on April 19, 1934, when it was won by the Royal Air Force. The cup will be kept in the officers' mess at Uxbridge during the period it is held by the Royal Air Force.

R.A.F. RUGBY UNION

Group Captain the Reverend A. McHardy, Headquarters, Inland Area, Bentley Priory, has been appointed referees' representative on the committee of the R.A.F. Rugby Union vice Flight Lieutenant J. I. T. Jones.

SPECIALIST COURSES AT CAMBRIDGE

The undermentioned officers, having successfully completed the specialist course in engineering or signals at Cambridge University and obtained the degrees indicated, are awarded the appropriate symbols:—

Awarded symbol "E."*

Flight Lieutenant E. B. Steedman—3rd class, Mechanical Sciences Tripos.

Awarded symbol "S."*

Flight Lieutenant P. Kinsey—B.A. (ordinary).

AIRMEN PILOTS

The following addition has been made to the Air Ministry Order which regulates the re-engagement of airmen pilots:—Airmen pilots who are classified medically as temporarily unfit for flying duties and have been remustered to their basic trades will be regarded for re-engagement purposes as pilots. In such cases selections for re-engagement will be provisional and will not be finally approved before remustering as pilot takes place; airmen who do not regain their fitness for flying duties will be considered as members of their basic trades and, if they are due to apply for re-engagement during the eighth year of service and the appropriate date has passed, should forward applications immediately on being found permanently unfit for piloting.

THE R.A.F. BENEVOLENT FUND

The usual meeting of the Grants committee of the fund was held at Iddesleigh House on Thursday, September 20. Mr. W. S. Field was in the chair, and the other members of the committee present were: Air Commodore B. C. H. Drew, C.M.G., C.B.E., and Wing Commander H. P. Lale, D.S.O., A.F.C. The committee considered in all a number of cases, and made grants to the amount of £378 18s.

The next meeting was fixed for Tuesday, October 2, at 2.30 p.m.

Medical Branch

The follg. are granted short service commissions as Flying Officers for three years on the active list with effect from Sept. 3 and with seny. of the dates stated:—J. C. Blair, M.B., Ch.B.; H. F. Harvey, M.B., B.S., G. H. Morley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Sept. 3, 1933), A. W. Callaghan, M.B., B.Ch. (April 8).

F/O. W. P. Griffin, M.B., B.Ch., is promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant (Sept. 4).

Chaplains Branch

The Rev. D. F. Blackburn is promoted to the relative rank of Group Captain (Aug. 16).

Errata

In the *Gazette* of Sept. 11:—For F/O. Godfrey Cathbar O'Donnell, D.F.C., read Flt. Lt. Godfrey Cathbar O'Donnell, D.F.C. For William Frederick Quillam read William Frederick Quilliam.