

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

London Gazette, December 23, 1924

General Duties Branch

The following are granted permanent commns. in ranks stated (Dec. 24):—
 Flight-Lieut. W. A. Bouchier Savile (Lieut. R.A.); Flying Officer R. L. Ragg. The following Pilot Officers are promoted to the rank of Flying Officer:—H. M. Schofield; Nov. 14. S. A. Young; Nov. 15. Flying Officer A. E. G. Forrest (Capt. Indian Army, ret'd.) is granted the hon. rank of Flight-Lieut.; Dec. 4. Pilot Officer on probation B. W. Hemsley is confirmed in rank; Nov. 11. Sqdn.-Ldr. L. M. Bailey, A.F.C., is placed on half-pay scale B from Nov. 16, 1924, to Nov. 25, 1924 (substituted for Gazette, Nov. 18, 1924). Flying Officer B. J. O'C. Hanstock is transferred to Reserve, Class C; Dec. 24. Observer Officer T. W. Hayes is placed on retired list; Dec. 24. Pilot Officer T. de L. Neill resigns his short service commn.; Dec. 24.

The short service commns. of the following Pilot Officers on probation are terminated on cessation of duty (Dec. 24):—F. W. D. Rushby, J. A. Wall.

Stores Branch

Flying Officer A. E. F. McCreary is granted a permanent commn. in rank stated; Dec. 24. Pilot Officer on probation R. G. A. Vallance is confirmed in rank and is promoted to rank of Flying Officer; Nov. 19.

ROYAL AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE

Appointments.—The following appointments in the Royal Air Force are notified:—

General Duties Branch

Wing Commander E. M. Murray, D.S.O., M.C., to R.A.F. Depot, on transfer to Home Estab.; 12.11.24. Do. to R.A.F. Cadet College, Cranwell, pending taking over duty as Assistant Commandant; 15.12.24.

Squadron Leaders: T. H. England, D.S.C., A.F.C., to R.A.F. Depot, on transfer to Home Estab.; 14.11.24. E. D. Johnson, A.F.C., to R.A.F. Cadet College, Cranwell; 27.11.24.

Flight Lieutenants: H. E. Walker, M.C., D.F.C., to No. 32 Sqdn., Kenley; 15.12.24. R. S. Aitken, M.C., A.F.C., to H.Q., Malta; 22.11.24. A. G. Bond, A.F.C., to R.A.F. Depot, on transfer to Home Estab.; 12.11.24. E. F. Waring, D.F.C., to R.A.F. Depot, on transfer to Home Estab.; 4.12.24. H. C. Todd and A. A. Ward, to No. 5 Flying Training Sch., Sealand; 29.12.24.

Flying Officers: H. G. P. Ovenden, to No. 99 Sqdn., Bircham Newton; 5.12.24. H. C. Black, to Inland Area Aircraft Depot, Henlow; 16.12.24. C. McC. Vincent, D.F.C., to Experimental Section, R.A.F., S. Farnborough; 5.1.25. W. A. B. Buscarlet, to R.A.F. Cadet College, Cranwell; 29.12.24. A. A. N. D. Pentland, M.C., D.F.C., to Central Flying Sch., Upavon; 16.12.24. (Hon. F/Lieut.) A. W. Bates and A. W. Daly, to No. 11 Sqdn., Netheravon; 29.12.24. W. N. L. Cope and (Hon. F/Lieut.) C. W. Croxford, D.S.C., to No. 2 Flying Training Sch., Digby; 29.12.24. R. L. Bateman and H. M. Schofield, to No. 24 Sqdn., Kenley; 29.12.24. R. S. Barbour, to No. 39 Sqdn., Spittlegate; 29.12.24. N. C. Saward, S. T. Littleton, H. J. Brown, W. R. Day, J. K. Smith, R. P. Mollard and G. C. Schlater, to R.A.F. Depot, on transfer to Home Estab.; 12.11.24. V. H. Clift, to R.A.F. Base, Malta; 6.11.24.

Accountant Branch

The short service commn. of Pilot Officer on probation B. J. L. Gordon-Inglish is terminated; Dec. 24.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service

Miss A. M. Cosgrove resigns her appt. as Staff Nurse; Nov. 14.

Reserve of Air Force Officers

The following are granted commns. on probation in General Duties Branch in ranks stated; Dec. 23.

Class A.—Flying Officers.—B. P. B. Carter, D.F.C., H. S. Eaton, E. C. Gordon, C. Thomas. Pilot Officers.—C. S. Clarke, L. H. A. Fray, H. G. Harper, J. Paterson, J. J. B. Rutter, R. D. Wayman.

Class B.—Flying Officers.—L. W. Norman, H. J. Price, T. Terrell, D.S.C. Pilot Officer.—G. J. Holdcroft.

The following Pilot Officers are promoted to rank of Flying Officer:—C. F. D. Evans; Oct. 21. W. E. Taylor; Nov. 13. J. J. Scholes; Nov. 13. H. L. Miller; Dec. 16. H. W. B. Hansford; Dec. 23.

The following Pilot Officers are confirmed in rank:—J. H. C. Harrold; Dec. 10. G. H. Keat; Dec. 17. Flying Officer A. S. Keep, M.C., relinquishes his commn. on account of ill-health, and is permitted to retain his rank; Dec. 24.

W. P. Wiltshire, to No. 27 Sqdn., India; 21.11.24. A. F. Ingram, to R.A.F. Depot (Sch. of phys. Training and Drill); 7.1.25. W. J. Bray, to No. 1 Stores Depot, Kidbrooke; 20.12.24. A. E. Giddon, D.S.M., to Inland Area Aircraft Depot, Henlow; 1.1.25. A. L. Harris, to School of Army Cooperation (No. 16 Sqdn.), Old Sarum; 5.1.25. R. S. Blucke, to No. 29 Sqdn., Duxford; 5.1.25.

Pilot Officer A. R. Perry, to Armament and Gunnery School, Eastchurch; 24.11.24.

Stores Branch

Squadron Leaders: T. Fawdry, M.B.E., to Air Ministry; 27.11.24. P. M. Brambleby, to R.A.F. Depot; 20.12.24.

Flying Officer G. E. Pyne, to No. 1 Stores Depot, Kidbrooke; 20.12.24.

Accountant Branch

Flying Officer W. E. Ennis, to No. 4 Flying Training Sch., Egypt; 28.11.24. Pilot Officers: A. E. West, J. R. Thomas, S. C. George, R. C. Dickinson, S. W. Hill, R. W. Collinson and L. M. Spicer, all posted to No. 1 Stores Depot, Kidbrooke, for course of instruction, on appointment to permanent commissions; 3.12.24. C. E. Aston, H. J. Titherington, K. E. M. Holmes, J. McL. Murray, C. F. Goatcher, C. Lorimer and E. Smith, to No. 1 Stores Depot, Kidbrooke; 2.12.24.

Medical Branch

Flight Lieutenants: J. F. Gallagher, to No. 111 Sqdn., Duxford; 15.12.24. (Hon. Sqdn. Ldr.) F. W. Squair, M.B., T.D., to R.A.F. Depot; 18.12.24. T. J. X. Canton, M.B., to R.A.F. Depot; 30.12.24.

Flying Officer: B. W. Cross, to R.A.F. Hospital, Cranwell; 28.12.24.

IN PARLIAMENT

R.A.F. Home Defence Units

SIR J. NALL, on December 18, asked the Secretary of State for Air whether, having regard to the fact that auxiliary personnel raised on a militia basis and trained in existing Air Force stations would be less expensive to administer than units raised on a Territorial basis, he can state which system will be adopted for augmenting the air forces available for home defence?

SIR S. HOARE: The regular home defence units are to be augmented by both Auxiliary Air Force and Special Reserve squadrons. The pilots of the Special Reserve units are to be taught to fly at regular Air Force stations, but a similar system of attaching other personnel to regular squadrons would not, it is considered, prove to be either efficient or economical. Only men skilled in trades similar to those in the Royal Air Force are to be enlisted, and the small amount of periodical training that they will require can be carried out more conveniently at their units in the industrial centres where their homes will be, rather than at the often remote regular Air Force stations.

Cadets' Fees

LIEUT.-COMDR. KENWORTHY asked the Secretary of State for Air if he is aware that his predecessor was examining into the question of the abolition of the fees for young men entering the Royal Air Force as cadets; what are his intentions with regard to this matter; and if he is aware that under the present system many promising lads, including sons of serving officers, are barred out from the officer branch of the Royal Air Force on account of lack of means?

SIR S. HOARE: I am aware that the question referred to by the hon. and gallant Member was being considered by my predecessor, but no decision had been reached, and I hope myself to go into it fully in the near future.

Flying Accounts

MR. THURTELL asked the number of fatal accidents in connection with flying which have taken place in the Royal Air Force for the 12 months ending September 30, 1924?

SIR S. HOARE: There have been 47 fatal accidents during the period in question.

Forced Landings (Compensation)

MR. FOOT MITCHELL asked the Secretary of State for Air the number of cases in which compensation is being paid for the descent of aeroplanes on agricultural land; and what is the amount of such compensation for each of the last four periods of six months?

SIR S. HOARE: The following are the particulars of compensation paid in respect of damage done to crops, fences, hedges, cattle, etc., by forced landings of aircraft on agricultural land:—

Period, Number of Cases, and Compensation Paid

January 1 to June 30, 1923 (17),	£156 14s. 2d.
July 1 to December 31, 1923 (33),	£203 8s. 6d.
January 1 to June 30, 1924 (10),	£35 13s. 2d.
July 1, 1924, to date (47),	£178 18s. 6d.
Totals (107),	£574 14s. 4d.

Boys' Wing, Cranwell

MR. TAYLOR asked whether it is intended to close the boys' wing at the Cranwell centre; and, if so, whether arrangements will be made to absorb the civilian instructors at other depots of the Royal Air Force?

SIR S. HOARE: It is intended to close the boys' wing when all aircraft apprentices now at Cranwell have completed their course of training. This will not be until September, 1927. The reduction of the boys' wing will therefore be a gradual process, and endeavours will be made to absorb the civilian instructors in other training units of the Royal Air Force.

Air Services (Prague)

SIR H. BRITAIN asked whether any arrangement has yet been made for an air service to Prague?

SIR S. HOARE: I am most anxious to see an air service to Prague started at the earliest possible date. I regret, however, that, though negotiations are continuing, it has not been found possible as yet to make arrangements for this service.

Government Departments.—Air Ministry

MISS WILKINSON asked the Secretary of State for Air what are the prospects of promotion in the case of women clerical officers employed in his Department?

SIR S. HOARE: Having regard to the large number of men clerical officers of senior standing, I am afraid it will be some time before it will be found possible to promote any of the women clerical officers to the higher clerical grade, but they will be considered for promotion in due course.

SIR F. SYKES asked whether the appointment of a director of scientific research at the Air Ministry, decided upon in the year 1923, has yet been filled; if not, what salary and terms of engagement are being offered in connection with the appointment; to how many persons has the appointment been offered; and what steps, if any, are now being taken to fill the appointment?

SIR S. HOARE: The matter has been receiving my close attention since I have been in office, and I hope to be in a position to make a statement on it shortly.

MR. TAYLOR asked what is the status of civilian instructors in the R.A.F.; whether there is an official circular describing the grading and rates of pay; whether they are on a permanent or temporary basis of employment; if the appointments are permanent, will the civilian instructors be entitled to pension on the same basis as other civil servants; and was the reduction in the award of sick pay made after consultation with the civilian instructors, or was any notification given to them of any variation of the terms of their employment?

SIR S. HOARE: In answer to the first and second parts of the question, the status of the civilian instructors referred to is that of civilian employees and their conditions of service are laid down in their letters of appointment and the Air Ministry Regulations for civilian employees. As regards the third and fourth parts, their employment is on a temporary basis, and they do not qualify for pension on retirement, but may in some cases qualify for