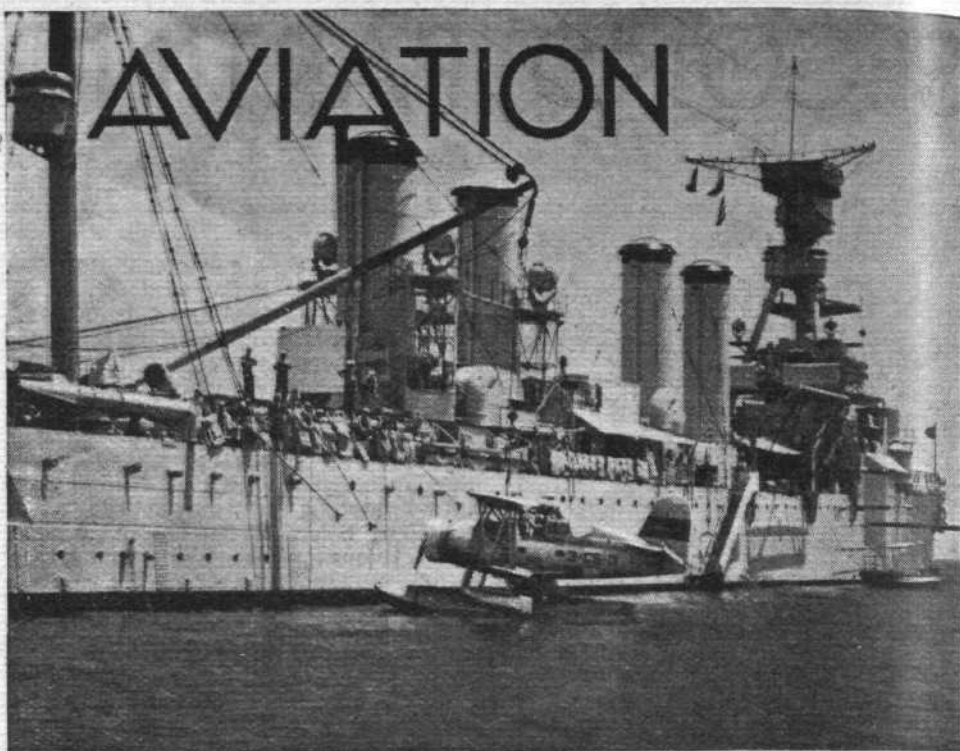


# SERVICE AVIATION



Royal Air Force and  
Official Announcements:  
Fleet Air Arm  
News: Military  
Aviation Abroad



COURTESY CALL: A Curtiss SOC-1 observation floatplane about to be taken on board the U.S. cruiser *Milwaukee* at Singapore after celebrations in connection with the opening of the new dock.

## An Assistant C.A.S.

IN view of the increased responsibilities of the Department of the Chief of the Air Staff, consequent upon the expansion of the Royal Air Force, it has been decided to appoint an Assistant Chief of the Air Staff to undertake certain duties at present discharged by the Chief of the Air Staff and by the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Air Vice-Marshal William Sholto Douglas, M.C., D.F.C., has been selected to be the first Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, and took up his appointment on February 17, being relieved in his previous appointment as Director of Staff Duties by Air Commodore Robert Peel Willock.

It has also been decided to create separate Deputy Directorates for Operations (Home), and for Operations (Overseas). Group Captain D. F. Stevenson, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., the present Deputy Director of Operations will become Deputy Director of Operations (Home), and Wing Commander W. A. Coryton, M.V.O., D.F.C., will be appointed Deputy Director of Operations (Overseas), with effect from March 7.

Air Vice-Marshal W. S. Douglas, born in 1893, was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on probation in the Royal Field Artillery (Special Reserve) in August, 1914, and was posted as an Observer Officer to No. 2 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, in France, in January, 1915. He became a Flying Officer in July of that year. Later he commanded in France Nos. 43 and 84 Squadrons, and No. 22 Wing Headquarters, and attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. For his services he received the M.C., D.F.C., French Croix de Guerre, and was mentioned in despatches on three occasions.

In March, 1920, he was granted a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force as a Squadron Leader. Since then he has filled appointments on Staff and Administrative duties at home and in the Sudan, and held the command of the Royal Air Force station at North Weald. He graduated at the Royal Air Force Staff College in 1922, and subsequently passed a course at the Imperial Defence College, where in 1932 he became an instructor. Since January, 1936, he has been Director of Staff Duties at the Air Ministry.

He was promoted to the rank of Wing Commander in 1925, to Group Captain in 1932, to Air Commodore in 1935, and to his present rank in January, 1938. He has been awarded the Gordon Shepherd Memorial Essay Prizes on several occasions.

Air Comdre. R. P. Willock, born in 1893, was commissioned in the Army as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant in 1914, and after joining the Royal Flying Corps two years later, was granted a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force in 1919, with the rank of Squadron Leader.

During the Great War he served both at home and overseas, being mentioned in despatches while in Egypt in 1918. He was posted to command No. 4 Armoured Car Company in Iraq in 1922, being mentioned in despatches in connection with the operations in Kurdistan in the following year. After his return to the United Kingdom in 1926 he attended the Senior Officers' School, and a year later was appointed to the Air Ministry for Air Staff Duties. In 1928 he was appointed to command the Royal Air Force Station, Kenley, and in 1930 passed a course at the Army Staff College, Camberley. He was posted to Headquarters, Fighting Area, for Air Staff Duties in 1931, and two years later, after a short period at the Air Ministry in the Department of the Chief of the Air Staff, became Air Attaché, Shanghai. During the past year he has attended a course at the Imperial Defence College.

He was promoted to the rank of Group Captain in 1934, and to his present rank in January, 1938.

Group Capt. D. F. Stevenson, born 1895, joined the R.F.C. as Flying Officer in 1916, being appointed Flight Commander the following year. In 1919 he was granted a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force, was promoted Squadron Leader in 1925, Wing Commander in 1933, and Group Captain this year. He was employed in Staff Duties at Headquarters Inland Area and Headquarters, Iraq, in 1924, and commanded No. 6 (A.C.) Squadron in 1925. In 1931 he was appointed to the command of No. 12 (B) Squadron, and in 1933 was on duty at Headquarters, Palestine and Transjordan. Since January of this year he has been deputy Director of Operations at the Air Ministry.

In 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and a Bar to the Military Cross, the Distinguished Service Order in 1918, was mentioned in despatches in 1918 and 1919, and received the O.B.E. (Mil.) in 1937.

Wing Cdr. W. A. Coryton, born 1895, was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade in September, 1914. In 1917 he was posted to the R.F.C., became a Flying Officer in 1919, Flight Lieutenant in 1921, and Squadron Leader in 1925.

He served as Instructor at Flying Wing at the R.A.F. College in 1920, and in the same year was posted to No. 31 Squadron in India. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1922 for gallant and distinguished service in Waziristan, and was promoted to the rank of Wing Commander in 1933. After serving at the Air Ministry in 1932, he was posted to Headquarters, Coastal Area, for staff duties and was attached to Headquarters, Iraq, in 1935 for special duty at Mosul.

## Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

FLYING training is now being given at twenty aerodrome centres, and the number of centres is to be increased during the present year.

### Central Flying School

THE undermentioned officer and airman pilots who attended the flying instructors' course at the Central Flying School from August 23, to November 6, 1937, have been categorised as follows:—  
B.—Flt. Lt. C. M. H. Ontram, Flt. Sergts. G. R. Aggett, W. T. Jeffrey, R. K. Webb, Sergt. H. E. Davies.

### Flying Training Schools

THE following officers and airmen have been awarded special assessments at Flying Training Schools on completion of their courses of instruction:—

No. 2 F.T.S., BRIZE NORTON: *Distinguished Pass.*—A.P./O.s E. F. Nind and J. A. Slater, A./Sgt. T. E. Jones.

No. 6 F.T.S., NETHERAVON: *Distinguished Pass.*—A.P./O.s J. R. Appleton, D. F. Beardon, W. H. Coleman, R. M. J. Cowles, P. H. Woodruff, A./Sgt. J. Ashmore.

No. 11 F.T.S., WITTERING: *Distinguished Pass.*—A.P./O.s A. J. Handley, C. W. Poulter, P. R. M. Williams, A./Sgt. W. H. Heaynes.

### Progress of Expansion

WHEN the decision to expand the Air Force was announced in May, 1935, it was estimated that about fifty new stations would be needed. By the beginning of the present year twenty-six new stations and armament training camps had been opened, and twenty other sites had been selected.

Since April 1, 1935, about 4,100 pilots have been accepted, while the number of airmen who have entered amounts to about 28,300. Some 5,650 apprentices are being trained at Halton and Cranwell, and 1,130 boy entrants are also under training. The total strength of the Force is now about 65,000.