

# SERVICE AVIATION

Royal Air Force and Naval Aviation News and Announcements

**INSIDE INFORMATION :** Evidently impressed, Malayan visitors study the bomb-bay and bomb-load of a Far East Air Force Lincoln during the third Singapore Air Day, held recently at Kallang airport. Types in the flying display included Meteors, Vampires and Brigands.



## Night Search Technique

A NEW night-search technique for locating distressed crews of aircraft which have made emergency landings on land or at sea has been adopted by the R.A.F. The search aircraft, flying tracks spaced from 10 to 20 miles apart and at a height between 3,000 and 5,000 feet, according to weather, will fire a single green Very light at regular intervals. On sighting this signal the distressed crew will allow 30 seconds for the search aircraft to pass away from the glare of its own pyrotechnic, and will then fire two red Very lights, thus drawing attention to their position.

The new procedure takes advantage of the excellent visibility properties of pyrotechnics at night, and permits a search aircraft to fly at greater heights and over wider tracks. Success of the method depends on the co-operation of the distressed crew, and it will normally be used in conjunction with a day search. It is a development of a method evolved by No.

14 Squadron in Transjordan before the war. Tests of the system were made at the suggestion of Air Vice-Marshal T. C. Traill, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., who commanded No. 14 Squadron when the method was first used.

## R.A.F. Holidays in Iraq

A LEAVE and rest camp for members of the R.A.F. serving at Habbaniya and other units in Iraq has been established in the Kurdistan Mountains, at Ser Amadia.

The camp, which is a few miles from the Persian frontier, provides fishing, hiking, donkey-riding and sun-bathing facilities in beautiful scenery and is reached after a journey by rail, road and mule. The R.A.F. holidaymakers, who leave Habbaniya in small parties, travel 50 miles by road to Baghdad, and then by train to Mosul. From Mosul they make a long road journey again, until the first mountain slopes are reached. Then they journey on mules up steep mountain paths to the camp.

## Netherlands Visitors

AIRCRAFT of the Royal Netherlands Navy will shortly begin several months' training with the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. Two squadrons—from the carrier *Karel Doorman*—will operate here. No. 806 Squadron (Sea Furies) is expected to arrive on January 17th, and the Fireflies of No. 4 Squadron will fly to Eglinton, Northern Ireland, two days later. Ground crews and equipment for the aircraft are being sent in advance.

After a period of land-based training, during which the Dutch pilots will study British Naval air techniques and exercise with British squadrons, the Netherlands aircraft will go to sea during the summer in a carrier of the Home Fleet. Since the war, aircraft of the Netherlands Navy and Air Force have visited Britain during a number of Western Union exercises.

## More Recruits for R.A.F.V.R.

THE Air Ministry announces that A.T.C. cadets who have learned to fly under the A.T.C. scholarship scheme can continue flying training with the R.A.F.V.R. while they await call-up for National Service. Their full-time service will then be spent in pilot-training up to operational standard and, on release, they will return to the V.R. or join Auxiliary fighter squadrons.

Another important concession concerns suitably qualified young men holding Private Pilots' Licences, who can now be taken on for pilot-training in the R.A.F.V.R. One hundred hours' solo flying experience was formerly the minimum qualification for pilot-membership. The next step, it is hoped, will be to admit *ab initio* pupils to the V.R., since many keen prospective members will be unable to afford the cost of instruction to private-pilot standard.

## Drive for Safety

TO further the National Safe Driving Campaign, the Air Ministry has been encouraging R.A.F. mechanical transport drivers to enter the safe-driving competition organized by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. M.T. drivers who compete, and who complete the required period of driving without a blame-worthy accident or a conviction for a driving offence under the Road Traffic Act of 1930, are eligible for the Society's awards. These are valuable to drivers



"Flight" photograph.

SOON TO FLY VAMPIRES: A group of No. 80 Squadron, R.A.F. Left to right: F/L Davies, F/L Madigan, Sgt. Bennett, S/L Tremlett, D.F.C. (C.O.), F/L Jagger, Sgt. Williams, F/L Redhead, D.F.M., Sgt. Hall, Sgt. Smith, F/L White, D.F.C., F/S Freeman and Sgt. Stally. The bell incorporated in the badge dates from the squadron's inception in 1917 when, as a Sopwith Camel unit, it was commanded by Major V. D. Bell. No. 80 now has Spitfires.