

Squadron-Leader C. N. Lowe, M.C., D.F.C. (FLIGHT Photo.)

No. 43 (FIGHTER) SQUADRON

A VISIT to Tangmere on a bright summer day is a very enjoyable experience. It lies in a pleasant part of Sussex and whether one approaches through Chichester or through Arundel, one gets a glimpse of a very picturesque and ancient little town. Yet, though the rural beauties of Sussex lie close on the one hand, and the sea is not far off in the other direction, the ground round the aerodrome is open and flat. The aerodrome itself is excellent. Tangmere is one of the R.A.F. stations from which the good old Army hut has almost disappeared. There are many other stations not so fortunate. They remain as standing rebukes to those who used to accuse the Air Ministry of reckless extravagance on bricks and mortar. In place of the Army huts Tangmere has well built and quite pleasing red-brick buildings, mess houses, quarters, and barracks. The new sealed

pattern of officers' mess is very satisfactory, neither too large nor too small, compact, and withal, cheerful.

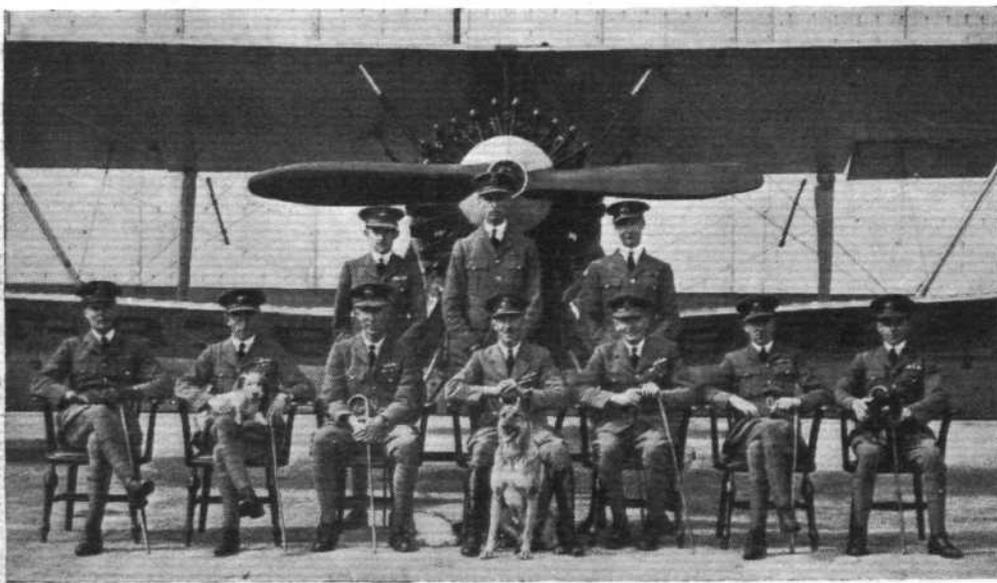
One cannot be for long on Tangmere without realising that No. 43 (Fighter) Squadron is a very smart unit. That is no surprise to the visitor who saw the R.A.F. Display at Hendon this year, or the subsequent displays at Andover and Leicester. The beautiful accuracy of the formation flying and aerobatics of No. 43 F.S. will not readily be forgotten. At Tangmere, however, one feels the atmosphere of smartness. It pervades all ranks, and is reflected by the Siskins and the Jaguars. Is a flight in a special formation ordered by the C.O., that formation is up in the air in a minimum of time. Is the whole squadron ordered to assemble in front of a certain shed, they are all present and correct without any delay or fuss. It is not surprising to learn that No. 43

F.S. has been chosen to represent the Royal Air Force at the centenary celebrations in Belgium, and one flight, consisting of three pilots and Siskins, with one reserve, under the command of the Squadron Leader, is going over to Brussels this week-end.

The C.O.

The commanding officer who has brought this squadron to such a pitch of perfection is Sqdn.-Ldr. Cyril Nelson Lowe, M.C., D.F.C., and the photograph at the head of this page gives a "close up" of him flying his Jaguar-Siskin IIIA. The black and white dicing on the fuselage and the top of the upper planes is the distinctive marking of the squadron. The same device is repeated on the fin and elevators of the C.O.'s machine.

C. N. Lowe was born at Holbeach, Lincolnshire, on October 7, 1891, and in due course was sent to Dulwich College. He later went up to Cambridge (Pembroke College) and had just taken his degree when the War broke out. In August, 1914, he was commissioned



Officers of No. 43 F.S.:—Left to right, standing—P./O. R. F. Fletcher, P./O. J. Heber Percy, P./O. G. R. A. Elsmie; seated—P./O. E. R. Simonds, Flt.-Lt. I. E. Brodie, Flt.-Lt. E. Thornton, Sqdn.-Ldr. C. N. Lowe, M.C., D.F.C., Flt.-Lt. C. T. Walkington, F./O. R. J. T. Barratt, F./O. E. Esmonde.

(FLIGHT Photo.)