

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Service Notes and News



Air Ministry Announcements

No. 203 (F.B.) SQUADRON

The three Short "Rangoon" flying-boats (Bristol "Jupiter" engines) of No. 203 (F.B.) Sqdn., which are to take part in the centenary celebrations at Melbourne, arrived at Darwin, their first contact with Australia, on September 26. They proceeded according to schedule to Milingimbi Islands on September 27, and arrived at Cooktown on September 29. They arrived at Bowen on October 1, and Brisbane on October 2. They were due at Sydney on October 5 and at Melbourne on October 8.

OPENING OF R.A.F. STATION, MILDENHALL

Mildenhall will open as a R.A.F. station on October 16, 1934. No. 99 (Bomber) Squadron will move from Upper Heyford to Mildenhall. The move is to be completed by November 14, 1934. The postal address will be: Royal Air Force Station, Mildenhall, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, and the telegraphic address will be: Aeronautics, Mildenhall.

REOPENING OF No. 2 FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL

Digby was removed from a care and maintenance basis and was reopened as a R.A.F. station on October 1, 1934. No. 2 Flying Training School re-formed at Digby on that date. The first course after reopening will commence on November 5th, 1934. Under arrangements made by the Officer in Command Records, the families of airmen overseas are in process of being evacuated from the airmen's married quarters, which will become available for the married airmen of the station under normal procedure.



THE TARGET: Nearly 100 ship-planes on the deck of the U.S. Carrier *Saratoga*.

SIR PHILIP SASSOON'S TOUR

Sir Philip Sassoon, Under-secretary of State for Air, who is now absent on a 19,000-miles tour of inspection of Royal Air Force stations overseas, arrived at Dum Dum aerodrome, Calcutta, on October 5, in the Imperial Airways machine *Arethusa*. Next day he left for Singapore to inspect the headquarters and station of the R.A.F. Far East Command. Although this Command is still modest in point of numbers, and is not commanded by an officer of Air rank, it is of great strategic importance, and may in time develop into one of the largest of the overseas Commands of the R.A.F. At present it is commanded by Group Capt. Sydney W. Smith, O.B.E., who has under his orders No. 205 (Flying Boat) Squadron, soon to be re-equipped with the "Singapore 3" (four "Kestrels"), No. 36 (Torpedo-Bomber) Squadron which still flies the "Horsley" ("Condor"), and No. 100 (Bomber) Squadron, which has the torpedo-bomber landplane the "Vildebeest" ("Pegasus"). The last-named squadron in reality belongs to the Home Defence force, but is on loan to the Far East Command.

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS FOR DENTAL OFFICERS

The undermentioned dental officers have been selected for permanent commissions, subject to physical fitness: Flight Lieuts. (ord.) Michael Joseph Pigott, B.D.S., and Roy Scoggins, L.D.S.

ACCIDENT ON H.M.S. COURAGEOUS

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that F/O Leonard Nicholas Elsner, the pilot of the aircraft, is missing and believed to have been drowned as the result of an accident, which occurred in the Firth of Forth on October 5, 1934, to a "Baffin" aircraft of No. 810 (Fleet Torpedo-Bomber) Squadron.

No. 362272 Sgt. Harry Brett Bexley, the passenger of the aircraft, was injured.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

The usual meeting of the Grants Committee of the above Fund was held at Iddesleigh House on Tuesday, October 2, 1934. 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., Wing Com. H. P. Lale, D.S.O., D.F.C., and Mrs. L. M. K. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E. The Committee considered a number of cases, and made grants to the amount of £223 9s. 7d. The next meeting was fixed for Thursday, October 18.

A Council Meeting was held at the offices of the Fund, No. 7, Iddesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1, on October 3, 1934. Sir Charles McLeod, Bart, was in the chair. The Council have to record with much regret the resignation of Sir Charles McLeod, who has been a Member of Council and Hon. Treasurer to the Fund since its inception and, in addition, the Chairman during the last six years. The usual financial resolutions were carried. The Council were informed that grants to the amount of £2,616 4s. 2d. had been disbursed since the last meeting on July 11, 1934. The number of cases dealt with so far this year total 1,543, representing a drop in the last few months which has, however, not altogether counteracted the big number of applications received during the early part of the year, and there is a net increase of 66 over the numbers recorded for the same period last year.

The Armistice Ceremony at the R.A.F. War Memorial is to be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, November 4, *i.e.*, the Sunday before Armistice Day, as is usual, so as to facilitate the attendance of relatives and friends of the Fallen.

The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, December 5, 1934.