

# THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



SERVICE NOTES AND NEWS

AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HALF-YEARLY PROMOTIONS

The undermentioned promotions are made with effect from January 1, 1937:

### GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

*Air Chief Marshal to be Marshal of the Royal Air Force.*

Sir Edward Leonard Ellington, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E.

*Air Marshal to be Air Chief Marshal.*

Sir Hugh Caswall Tremenheere Dowding, K.C.B., C.M.G.

*Air Vice-Marshal to be Air Marshal.*

Wilfrid Rhodes Freeman, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

*Air Commodores to be Air Vice-Marschals.*

Hazelton Robson Nicholl, C.B.E., Lawrence Arthur Pattinson, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., and William Lawrie Welsh, D.S.C., A.F.C.

### Group Captains to be Air Commodores

Charles Hubert Boulby Blount, O.B.E., M.C., Ernest William Norton, D.S.C., Arthur Clinton Maund, C.B.E., D.S.O., Charles William Nutting, O.B.E., D.S.C., and Robert Leckie, D.S.O., D.S.C., D.F.C., A.D.C.

### Wing Commanders to be Group Captains

Henry Ivan Hanmer, D.F.C., Arthur John Capel, D.S.O., D.F.C., Ralph Towlerton Leather, A.F.C., John Henry D'Albiac, D.S.O., George Brindley Aufrere Baker, M.C., Roy Maxwell Drummond, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., Arthur Noel Gallehawk, A.F.C., Arthur Coningham, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., Eustace Osborne Grenfell, M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., Forster Herbert Martin Maynard, A.F.C., Douglas Iron, O.B.E., Francis John Linnell, O.B.E., and John Hilliard Simpson.

### Squadron Leaders to be Wing Commanders

William Arthur Kirkpatrick Dalzell, Frederick Arthur Norton, George Maxwell Lawson, M.C., Geoffrey Arthur Henzell Pidcock, Seymour Stewart Benson, A.F.C., George Cecil Gardiner, D.S.O., D.F.C., Arnold Samuel Thompson, Sydney Edward Toomer, D.F.C., Herbert Martin Massey, D.S.O., M.C., Desmond Herlouin de Burgh, A.F.C., William Forster Dickson, D.S.O., O.B.E., A.F.C. (Acting Wing Commander), Henry George Watts Lock, D.F.C., A.F.C., Cedric Ernest Victor Porter, Oswald Robert Gayford, D.F.C., A.F.C., Robert Allingham George, M.C., Kenneth Buchanan Lloyd, A.F.C., Edward Reginald Openshaw, A.F.C., Owen Washington de Putron, Herbert Victor Rowley, Bertrand Alexander Malet, D.F.C., Philip Herbert Mackworth, D.F.C., Gilbert Formby Smylie, D.S.O., Harvey Lancelot Macro, D.F.C., A.F.C., Leslie Millington Iles, A.F.C., Henry Dunboyne O'Neill, A.F.C., Albert Oliver Lewis-Roberts, D.F.C., George Stairs Napier Johnston, Allan Robert Churchman, D.F.C., Charles Basil Slater Spackman, D.F.C., Stanley Flamank Vincent, A.F.C., Burton Ankers, D.C.M., William Kinnear Mercer, Edward Goodwin Hilton, D.F.C., A.F.C., John Melbourne Mason, D.S.C., D.F.C., Gerard Stephen Oddie, D.F.C., A.F.C., Arthur Percy Ledger, M.B.E., John Whitford, O.B.E., Noel Parker Dixon, A.F.C., Edward Michael Conolly Abel-Smith (Commander, R.N.), and Tom Oliver Bulteel (Commander R.N.).

### Flight Lieutenants to be Squadron Leaders

Charles James Wilfred Hatcher, A.F.C., Francis Herbert Donald Henwood, D.F.C., James Cornelius Stevens, Findlay Willard Sinclair, D.F.C., Sidney James Bailey, M.B.E., Michael Sullivan Keogh, A.M., Leopold Herbert Stewart, William Badley, Frank Henry Whitmore, M.B.E., D.S.C., Cecil Walter Harrison, Douglas William Mackendrick (Lieutenant Commander, R.N.), Henry Austin Traill (Lieutenant Commander, R.N.), Cecil Archer Norgate Hooper (Lieutenant Commander, R.N.), and Anthony Cuthbert Guy Ermen (Lieutenant Commander, R.N.).

### Flying Officers to be Flight Lieutenants

Merlin Bruce (Lieutenant, R.N.), Ian Ross Sarel (Lieutenant, R.N.), Donald Hugh Elles (Lieutenant, R.N.), John Casson (Lieutenant, R.N.), Rupert Claude Tillard (Lieutenant, R.N.), Dermot Donatus O'Brien (Lieutenant, R.N.), and John Hamilton McCahon (Captain, R.M.).

### EQUIPMENT BRANCH

#### Wing Commanders to be Group Captains

Cuthbert Leopold Archbold, O.B.E., William Millett, O.B.E., and Frederick Alfred Baldwin.

#### Squadron Leaders to be Wing Commanders

Archibald James Briddon, Arthur William Smith, Wilfrid Charles Green, M.C., Frederick Ralph Wilkins, Thomas Edward Drowley, O.B.E., Arthur Garrity, and Harry Leonard Woolveridge.

### ACCOUNTANT BRANCH

#### Wing Commander to be Group Captain

James Leask Robertson.

#### Squadron Leaders to be Wing Commanders

Charles Henry Moore, Reginald Byrne, M.C., and John Swire Griffiths.

### MEDICAL BRANCH

#### Group Captain to be Air Commodore

Basil Alfred Playne, D.S.O., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

#### Wing Commanders to be Group Captains

Richard John Aherne, M.C., L.R.C.P. and S., and Thomas Montgomery, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

#### Squadron Leaders to be Wing Commanders

John Gerald Russell, M.B., B.Ch., John Beaumont Gregor, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Reginald Horace Stanbridge, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Roy Weatherley White, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Gerald Peter O'Connell, M.B., B.Ch., and Alexander Dickson, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (E).

*Air Chief Marshal Sir Edward L. Ellington, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E.*, who is only the third officer to attain the rank of Marshal of the Royal Air Force, was born in London in December, 1877, and was educated at Clifton College and the Royal Military Academy. He was commissioned in 1897 to the Royal Artillery and, in succession, was promoted Lieutenant and Captain in that arm. He graduated at the Staff College, Camberley, in 1907-8. In 1912 he began flying and graduated as a pilot, his Royal Aero Club ticket being No. 305 of October 4, 1912. He was appointed to the Royal Flying Corps in the following year.

He went to France on regimental duty in August, 1914, and was employed in France on the staff from September, 1915, to February, 1916. He was then posted to a staff appointment at the War Office and at the end of that year proceeded again to France on staff duties. Towards the end of 1917 he returned to the War Office as Deputy Director General of Military Aeronautics, and in January, 1918, he was appointed Director General of Military Aeronautics. In the meantime (1917) he had been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General: on April 1, 1918, he was promoted to Major-General in the Royal Air Force. In August, 1918, he was appointed Controller General of Equipment at the Air Ministry, and on the reorganisation of the Ministry in February, 1919, he became Director General of Supply and Research.

For his services in the Great War he received the awards of C.B., C.M.G., and C.B.E., with two brevets, and was mentioned in despatches on three occasions, besides having several foreign Orders bestowed upon him. He was awarded the K.C.B. in the Birthday Honours List of 1920 and G.C.B. in the List of 1935.

In 1922 he proceeded to Egypt to take over the command of the Royal Air Force, Middle East, and in 1923 he was posted to India on appointment as Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, India. In November, 1926, he became Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Iraq, a post which he held until he was appointed in January, 1929, to be Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Defence of Great Britain. In September, 1931, he became Air Member of Council for Personnel at the Air Ministry, and in May, 1933, he was appointed Chief of the Air Staff.

In August, 1919, Sir Edward Ellington was granted a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force with the rank of Air Vice-Marshal. He was promoted Air Marshal in July, 1929, and Air Chief Marshal in January, 1933. He was appointed principal Air A.D.C. to His Majesty from March, 1930, to November, 1933.

During his command in India Sir Edward Ellington was responsible for conducting the first operations of magnitude in India in which the Royal Air Force was used independently of the Army to deal with a situation that had got beyond the resources of the political officers. These operations, which took place against the Mahsuds in 1925, were entirely successful and were achieved at comparatively small cost. While he was in command in Iraq he also conducted certain operations against recalcitrant tribes which entered Iraq from the neighbouring country of Nejd. These, too, were brought to a successful and rapid conclusion.

### ANOTHER NEW SQUADRON

No. 42 (Torpedo-Bomber) Squadron formed at Donibristle on December 14, 1936. It has been placed in the Coastal Command.