Coast Defence Exercises

Two combined exercises in coast defence have been arranged for this month by the Admiralty, War Office, and Air Ministry. The smaller exercise in the Channel commenced on Tuesday, but air participation consisted only of No. 16 (A.C.) Squadron as part of the defence forces.

A large-scale exercise will be held from July 20 to 23 and will test the East Coast defences from the Forth to the Medway. The defence forces include eight general reconnaissance squadrons (two of them equipped with flying boats), one torpedo bomber squadron, and four fighter squadrons.

A New Command

A S foreshadowed in the last Estimates Speech a Maintenance Command has lately been formed with headquarters temporarily at the Air Ministry. Air Vice-Marshal J. S. T. Bradley, O.B.E., has been appointed to command; Group Capt. G. C. Bailey, D.S.O., has also been appointed.

The object in forming the new command is to decentralise as far as is practically possible. Briefly, its duties will be the reception, store, repair stocking and distribution of material.

Full use will be made of civil transport systems where such use would expedite delivery.

Royal Air Force Gazette

General Duties Branch

F/O F. J. Manning (A.Flt. Lt.) is promoted to the rank of Flt. Lt. (June 15).

Sqn. Ldr. J. H. F. Burroughs (Lt. Cdr., R.N.) is granted the acting rank of Wing Commander, with effect from June 13, on appointment as Senior Fleet Air Arm Officer in H.M.S. Courageous.

Sqn. Ldr. A. L. Franks ceases to be seconded for duty with the Royal Navy, on appointment as R.A.F. Station, Tangmere; to command, June 15.

Wing Commander.—L. G. J. E. B. Croke, to No. 333 (G.R.) Sqn., Thornaby, on appointment as Wing Commander, June 25.

Squadron Leader.—A. W. Bates, to School of Air Navigation.

Owing to the greatly increased length of these lists as a result of R.A.F. expansion, ranks are confined to those of Flt. Lt. Lieutenant and above.

Half-Yearly Promotions

The Air Ministry announces that the following promotions are made with effect from July 1, 1938:

Air Commodore to Air Vice-Marshal

Paul Copeland Maltby, D.S.O., A.F.C.

Group Captain to Air Commodore


Group Captain.—F. Sowerby, D.S.O., M.C., to R.A.F. Station, Tangmere; to command, 9/6.

Wing Commander.—L. G. J. E. B. Croke, to No. 333 (G.R.) Sqn., Thornaby, on appointment, June 25.

Squadron Leader.—A. W. Bates, to School of Air Navigation.

Royal Air Force Appointments

General Duties Branch

Air Commodore.—C. H. Blackett, M.C., M.C., to H.Q., No. 4 (B.) Group, Linton-on-Ouse; on appointment as Air Officer Commanding, 8/6.

Group Captain.—F. Sowerby, D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., to R.A.F. Station, Tangmere; to command, 9/6.

Wing Commander.—L. G. J. E. B. Croke, to No. 333 (G.R.) Sqn., Thornaby, on appointment, June 25.

Squadron Leader.—A. W. Bates, to School of Air Navigation.

Owing to the greatly increased length of these lists as a result of R.A.F. expansion, ranks are confined to those of Flt. Lt. Lieutenant and above.

Good Work in the Middle East

Two excellent examples of co-operation occurring during recent activities in the Middle East are deserving of mention.

On April 13 six aircraft of No. 11 (B.) Sqn. (from India) force landed in the Jordan Valley north of the Dead Sea, having lost their way in a thick dust haze. They were located by aircraft of No. 14 (B.) Sqn. and petrol and other requirements were flown out. The six aircraft were all able to return to Amman by 14.00 hours the following day.

On April 22 an aircraft of No. 208 (A.C.) Sqn. forced landed in the desert about 25 miles S.E. of Heliopolis. A new engine was flown out in an aircraft that was on the unserviceable engine brought back to Heliopolis on April 23.

More Australian Fighters

In addition to the first order for 40 machines which are now on the way, a further order for more than 60 N.A. 33 fighters has been placed by the Australian Government with the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation of Melbourne.

FLIGHT LEUTENANT TO SQUADRON LEADER


FLYING OFFICERS TO FLIGHT LIEUTENANT


Equipment Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain

James Ambrose Stone, Walter John Brice Curtis, O.B.E.

Accountant Branch

Eric Alfred Luniley, M.C., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SQUADRON LEADER TO WING COMMANDER

Arthur Samuel Glynn, M.B., Ch.B.

WING COMMANDER TO GROUP CAPTAIN

Eric Albert Lawley, M.C., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander