

R.C.A.F., R.A.A.F., R.N.Z.A.F. and S.A.A.F.

Australian Carriers

IT is announced from Canberra that the King has approved the names *Sydney* and *Melbourne* for the two British aircraft carriers to be supplied to Australia. The first is expected in Australia by the end of this year. Both will be of the *Majestic* class—light fleet carriers—and will have a displacement of 14,000 tons (18,000 tons full load). The aircraft will be Hawker Sea Fury Mk. XIs and Fairey Firefly Mk. Vs.

Training Camps for R.O.C.

TRAINING camps for the Royal Observer Corps will be organized at R.A.F. Station, Thorney Island, Hants, from September 11-25. The Corps will first engage in an important exercise with the R.A.F. Afterwards, owing to the considerable numbers involved, Observers from all over the country will assemble in three consecutive groups, from September 11-15, September 16-20 and September 21-25. Each camp will provide training facilities for more than 500 observers and their officers. These will include special lectures, inspection of modern aircraft, experience in flying and competitions in aircraft recognition.

R.A.F. Small Arms Association

S/L. C. J. COLLINS, a retired officer of the R.A.F., an eminent rifle shot and winner of the Grand Aggregate at the National meeting at Bisley in 1946, has taken over the honorary secretaryship of the Royal Air Force Small Arms Association in succession to the late S/L. J. L. K. Pearce, O.B.E., who died in Dublin recently. During the 23 years of S/L. Pearce's secretaryship, the Association progressed from small beginnings to its present eminent position among the shooting element of the R.A.F. A first-class rifle and pistol shot himself, S/L. Pearce was untiring in his efforts to encourage and instruct the beginner.

Exercise Pandora

THE Premier visited R.A.F. Station, Old Sarum, on May 4th, to listen to discussions arising from Exercise Pandora. Conducted by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, Chief of the Air Staff, this exercise is a study of the effect of scientific developments on modern air warfare.

605 Squadron Inspection

MEMBERS of the recently re-formed 605 (County of Warwick) Squadron R.Aux.A.F., together with personnel from 2605 Light Anti-Aircraft Squadron, R.Aux.A.F. Regiment, were inspected by Air Commodore G. H. Vasse, C.B.E., A.O.C., No. 63 Group, Reserve Command, on April 25th.

The A.O.C. spent an extremely busy day, which commenced with a parade and march-past at Honiley of personnel from the two auxiliary units. The Station Commander, S/L. Sing, D.F.C., was in charge of the parade. In the afternoon there was a formation fly-past of six of 605 Squadron's Mosquitoes. The same high standard of flying was displayed by the Squadron as on the previous afternoon, when leading a formation of four auxiliary squadrons at Ringway in connection with the Territorial Forces' Recruiting week at Manchester.

A note of regret was struck at the dining-in ceremony in the officers' mess in the evening, when it was announced by S/L. R. J. Walker, D.S.O., who has been the C.O. of 605 Squadron since it was re-formed last year, that he was resigning his appointment to take up a permanent commission in the R.A.F. The A.O.C. spoke in appreciation of S/L. Walker's work for the Squadron.

Earlier in the evening Air Commodore J. A. C. Wright, Honorary Commodore of 605, related the story how the Squadron came to adopt the crest of the bear and ragged staff. He claimed it was the first squadron in the whole R.A.F. to have its own crest. Permission, he said, was obtained from the Earl of Warwick

for his family crest to be used. This consisted of a muzzled bear and a ragged staff, and it had appeared as such until shortly before the war. Recently, however, he had noticed that the bear was no longer muzzled, and he could give no explanation why this was so other than the fact that the Squadron which was originally a bomber unit was now a fighter squadron.

As a result of Air Commodore Wright's comments, members of the Squadron are now looking through the Squadron archives to try to solve the "puzzle of the missing muzzle."

A.O.C.'s INSPECTION: Air Commodore G. H. Vasse, C.B.E., A.O.C. 63 Group stops to chat to P/O. R. Goodwin and his navigator, P/O. R. Ayling, when he visited the R.A.F. Station Honiley on April 25th and inspected personnel of 605 Squadron, R.Aux.A.F.

Scottish Ambulance Flights

TWO R.A.F. aircraft made "mercy" flights to Dyce Airport, Aberdeen, on April 28th. An Anson flew a sick airman from Stornoway, and meanwhile a Mosquito from Northolt was racing to Scotland with a supply of streptomycin for his treatment. The patient, A/C. Macaulay, was on leave when tubercular meningitis developed.

R.A.F. Adviser in Canada

A. CDRE. C. W. BUSK, C.B., M.C., A.F.C., until recently Air Officer in Charge of Administration, Reserve Command, Royal Air Force, has taken up a fresh appointment as R.A.F. Adviser to the U.K. High Commissioner in Canada and Head of the U.K. Air Liaison Mission in Canada.

An armament specialist, A. Cdre. Busk was Deputy Director of Flying Training (Armament) at the Air Ministry from 1940 to 1943. In 1944 he became the first Commandant of the Empire Air Armament School at Manby, Lincs, where he remained until he went to Reserve Command as A.O.A. in May, 1946. Commissioned in the Suffolk Regiment in 1916, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in the same year and transferred to the R.A.F. in 1918.

No. 44 Squadron for Rhodesia

A FAMOUS squadron of Bomber Command—No. 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron—will make a training flight early in June to Southern Rhodesia, with which it has close associations. The squadron was "adopted" by Southern Rhodesia under a Commonwealth affiliation scheme during the last war. Money for new aircraft was given by the people of the Dominion and in appreciation of the gift the squadron has been officially known as No. 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron since October, 1941.

The squadron was the first to be equipped with Lancasters and it was in one of the first Lancaster operations of the war that S/L. J. D. Nettleton, a South African, who led a formation from No. 44 Squadron on this occasion, won the Victoria Cross in the daylight attack on the diesel engine factory at Augsburg on April 17th, 1942. Since the war the squadron has been re-equipped with Lincolns.

Insurance Aid

FROM April 1st the Air Ministry will refund part of any extra insurance premiums paid to cover service aviation risks during peacetime flying training by reserve and auxiliary officers and airmen. Those affected are General Duties Branch officers and aircrew of the R.A.F.V.R. and R.Aux.A.F., Class A Officers of the Reserve of Air Force Officers, and Class E aircrew of the R.A.F. Reserve.

The scheme will apply only to the extra premium charged by insurance companies in respect of service aviation risks where the individual is already personally insured. Civil flying risk insurance is not included. Refund on an annual basis of extra premiums for service aviation risks will be according to the following scale: For policies representing sums assured of up to £500 in all, nine-tenths of the extra premium; for policies representing sums assured of over £500 in all, nine-tenths of the extra premium on the first £500, three-quarters of the extra premium on the second

