**SERVICE AVIATION**

**Royal Chaplaincy**

RECENTLY appointed Chaplain-in-Chief of the R.A.F., the Ven. F. W. Cocks has been made an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen on her accession to the throne. Ven. A. S. Giles (his predecessor as Chaplain-in-Chief) on the latter's retirement.

**Service Helicopter Base**

THIS country's first Service helicopter airfield—the R.N. Helicopter Station, Portland—was inaugurated last Friday by the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, Admiral Sir Manley L. Power. It is to be used as an Operational Flying School and for carrying out various trials, and its first squadron is No. 815 (Whirlwinds), formerly based at R.N.A.S. Eglin.ton.

**Secretarial Post**

FROM today (May 1) the post of Deputy Air Secretary at Air Ministry is being taken over by A. Cdr. F. H. Dunn, with the acting rank of air vice-marshal. He has been Director of Personnel (Air) since July last year, and from 1956 to 1958 was Commandant of the R.A.F. Flying College, Manby. He won the D.F.C. as a fighter pilot, commanding Nos. 80 and 274 Sqns. (the latter the first Hurricane squadron to go into action in the Western Desert), and in 1950 he was made C.B.E. for services in Malaya.

**Admiral Fuse Retires**

AFTER 40 years' service with the Royal Navy, ending with the post of Director-General Aircraft, Rear Admiral J. P. W. Furse has been placed on the retired list. Prior to his last appointment he was successively Director of Aircraft Maintenance and Repair and Director-General of the Department of Air Material. One of his previous posts (1949-53) was that of Chief of Staff to the Rear Admiral Reserve Aircraft.

**"Adventurous Spirit" Needed**

EDINBURGH U.A.S. had a distinguished company of guests at its annual dinner last week, held in the Turnhouse officers' mess on April 22. Those from the R.A.F. included the Air Member for Personnel, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hubert Patch; the A.O.C. No. 25 Group, A.V-M. J. F. Hobler; and the A.O.C. Scotland, A. D. Sellar. The university was represented by (among others) Sir E. V. Appleton, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor; and Mr. James Robb, the Rector, who in a (for him) surprisingly serious speech said that the R.A.F. today needed "the old adventurous spirit of 1939" as it entered the space age.

S/L. G. C. Doak, who commands the squadron, proposed a toast to the guests; S/L. E. E. Brown, the last C.O. of No. 603 (City of Edinburgh) Sqn., R.Aux.A.F., before its disbandment, presented one of its silver treasures, the Rodney Allan Trophy, to the university squadron for annual award in an aerobatics competition; and P/O. W. M. Goodburn replied on behalf of the U.A.S.

**Bright Boys' Opportunity**

EIGHT hundred more boys who are clever with their hands are wanted by the R.A.F. to enter the Service next June as Boy Entrants. They should be of good secondary modern school standard, aged between 15 and 16 (or in certain cases 15 and 17) on June 1 this year. Applications should be made on R.A.F. form 1391, to reach Air Ministry (E.S. 5b) not later than May 1.

**Wanted: Airfield Builders**

WHEN Birmingham U.A.S. held its annual dinner on April 21 the commanding officer, S/L. J. D. Cotter, said that there was now a waiting list for the aircraft flight but there were vacancies for airfield construction flight members. A.V-M. H. A. V. Hogan, Flying Training Command S.A.S.O., commented that it was disappointing that the strength of the A.C. Flight was down to 50 per cent and mentioned the good work done by airfield construction units overseas. A.V-M. Hogan presented the Priestley Trophy (for the best all-round cadet) to Cdt. Flt. J. A. Morton, and the Deakin Trophy (for aerobatics) to P/O. I. G. Comrad. Among other senior guests at the dinner were A.V-M. J. F. Hobler, A.O.C. No. 25 Group; Rev. Prof. G. W. H. Lamp, Vice-Principal of Birmingham University; and Prof. G. F. Macklow, Head of the Mechanical Engineering Dept.

**Malcolm Clubs' Appeal**

AN appeal for £95,000 for the Malcolm Clubs, to serve as working capital and reserves, was launched in London on April 20. Marshal of the R.A.F. Lord Tedder, the Clubs' president, said that a signal had been received from the Air Minister "offering all good wishes and success" and commenting upon this message he said: "I asked for goodwill and we've got it."

Lord Balfour of Inchrye, chairman of the appeal committee, said that the Clubs had never asked for assistance before, but they had always had "a lot of unsolicited help."

Withdrawal of the threat of closure did not remove the need for working capital. There were to be various forms of fundraising activities, including charity shows; and Lady Tedder announced a "Friends of the Malcolm Clubs" scheme (minimum subscription, 2s 6d) and said that the furnishing trade had offered to re-furnish the Junior Officers' Club free of charge.

**Benevolent Fund Future**

Mrs. K. Malcolm, mother of the late W/C. Hugh Malcolm, the first R.A.F. V.C. of the North African campaign, was present at the April 20 meeting.

The address of the Trust Fund is 26 Cadogan Gardens, London, S.W.3.

**Local Honours**

TWO R.A.F. stations have recently been in the news at local towns, the freedom of entry to Leamington Spa having been conferred on R.A.F. Gaydon on April 18, while a similar civic privilege was granted to R.A.F. Hereford by the city of Hereford on Thursday, April 23. The Leamington ceremony was accompanied by the fly-past of a Canberra, Valiant, and two Hunters from Stradishall, on April 20, followed by a flypast of Canberra, Valiant, and two Hunters from Gaydon, which is the base of No. 232 O.C.U.; and six Hunters from Stradishall flew over during the ceremonial marchpast at Hereford.

**Spitfire to Australia**

A SPITFIRE XXII, PK481, is on its way by sea from London to Western Australia where it is to form an air force's memorial at Perth. The aircraft has been purchased from the Brighton and Hove branch of the R.A.F.A., whose members used it for display purposes during Battle of Britain Week each year, by the West Australian Division of the Australian Flying Corps and R.A.F.A. Association. It is to be mounted about eight feet above the ground in the garden of their head-quarters with its undercarriage retracted, marking it the only Spitfire in the world to appear "in flight" as a memorial.

**Benevolent Fund Future**

During last year the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund expended £520,623 on all forms of assistance to help 15,912 applicants. In announcing this the Controller, A.V-M. Sir John Cordingley, said that the need for "continued and increased" public support was plainly seen as the Fund entered its 40th year. He added that in the past 11 years total expenditure had exceeded total income by £720,147. It was clear that as it got older the Fund was going to be more active than ever, especially in the 1950s, when the immense number of veterans of the 1939-45 war and the widows of those who were lost would, in old age, have the greatest need of support.

**IN BRIEF**

The oldest airman in the R.A.F., F/Sgt. R. McCutcheon, who is 60, retired on April 17 at Tern Hill, Salop, after more than 40 years' service. * * * * *

A total of £13,619 has so far been received by the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund from branches of the R.A.F.A., as a result of their 1958 Battle of Britain Week and associated activities.