

SERVICE AVIATION

Air Force, Naval and Army Flying News

Rhodesian Air ADC

SUCCESSING Air Cdre (now AVM) E. W. S. Jacklin of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force, Air Cdre A. M. Bentley of the RRAF has been appointed an air aide-de-camp (additional) to the Queen.

Dual Standard Presentation

THERE is to be a joint ceremony at RAF Finningley on June 6, when Princess Margaret is presenting Standards to Nos 18 and 101 Sqns. Both squadrons extend cordial invitations to former members to be present, and those wishing to do so should communicate as soon as possible with the respective adjutants at the station, whose postal address is Doncaster, Yorks.

Both units were originally formed in the First World War, No 18 Sqn in 1915 (with Vickers Fighters, later getting FE2bs) and No 101 with FE2bs. No 101 was the only squadron to be equipped with Boulton Paul Sidestrand and Overstrand aircraft, with the latter type pioneering the use of power-operated gun turrets. Both units operated Bristol Blenheims early in the Second World War, No 18 later having Bostons and No 101 Lancasters. The latter was the first bomber squadron to be equipped with jet aircraft (Canberras); it now has Vulcans. No 18 Sqn operates Valiants and Canberras.

The Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously in 1942 to its CO, Wg Cdr H. G. Malcolm, for his gallantry on operations in North Africa.

Deperdussin to Mirage

THIS year sees the 40th anniversary of the RAAF, which was formed as the Australian Air Force in March 1921, the prefix "royal" being granted later the same year; though the story of military flying in Australia goes back to before the First World War, when the Australian Government bought 734 acres of land at Point Cook, near Melbourne, for the country's first air base: this is now the site of the RAAF Cadet College where all RAAF pilots are trained.

During the First World War the Australian Flying Corps was formed within the Royal Flying Corps, and eventually comprised four squadrons. These were disbanded after the war, but Nos 1 and 3 Sqns were re-activated in 1925. The foundation strength of the RAAF (in 1921) was

20 officers and 120 airmen; it grew to its greatest strength in the Second World War, when there were 20,000 officers, 144,000 airmen and 18,000 airwomen. The fighting reputation of the RAAF during the Second World War was not gained without tremendous cost, losses in all theatres totalling over 10,000 dead and missing.

The strength of the RAAF today is 15,500. Its policy is dictated by the Department of Air, and control exercised through an Operational Command (with headquarters at Penrith, NSW) and a Support Command at Melbourne. The original Deperdussin which was part of the 1914 equipment of the Central Flying School at Point Cook is now in the RAAF museum; its present-day successors are Sabres, Canberras, Neptunes and Hercules; and the RAAF is soon to have Dassault Mirage IIIs as interceptors to replace its Sabres.

Operation Maize Bag

FIGURES have been published showing the scale of relief work carried out by the RAF in Kenya to supply tribesmen in the Northern Provinces during the recent famine. In "Operation Maize Bag" (this page, March 6) a total of 302,100lb



Senator H. Wade, Australian Minister for Air, in the cockpit of a Vampire at East Sale during his recent tour of RAAF stations. With him is Fg Off K. Wilkins, an engineering officer. The RAAF (see col 1) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year

of maize was dropped, 20,508lb of biltong (dried meat) and 2,008lb of dried milk. In the operation, Beverleys flew 31 sorties, a total of 102hr. Detachments of Nos 47, 53 and 30 Sqns carried out the flying, supported by members of 16 Coy of the RASC Air Despatch Unit. The famine was caused by failure of the rains last year, which prevented crops from maturing. Supplies were dropped in 100lb containers, in an area virtually inaccessible to overland transport.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Pike, the CAS, replied to the toast of "The Guests," proposed by Air Cdre J. R. Morgan, at the annual dinner of the RAF Education Branch in London last week. The Director of Educational Services, AVM E. Knowles, presided.

The squadron standard of No 65 Sqn, which was disbanded at Duxford at the end of last month, is being laid up in the RAF church, St Clement Danes, Strand, London, on Tuesday, April 18, at 3 p.m. Past members are cordially invited to attend the ceremony. Dress, lounge suits.

The Coastal Command Officers' annual reunion is being held in the officers' mess at Coastal Command headquarters, RAF Northwood, Middx, on Saturday, May 27, at 6 p.m. There will be a buffet supper. Dress: lounge suits. All officers who have served in the Command since September 3, 1939, are eligible to attend. Tickets (£1 each) may be obtained from the hon secretary, Wg Off S. P. Titcombe, OBE, WRAF, at Coastal Command headquarters.

The Golden Hawks are to be the official RCAF aerobatic team again this season. They have been working up with their gold, red and white Sabres at RCAF Chatham, NB.

One of the highest-scoring RAAF fighter pilots in the Second World War, A. P. Goldsmith, died recently at the age of 40 after a brief illness. A squadron leader, he destroyed 16½ enemy aircraft, winning the DFC and DFM. He served in the defence of Malta, later was shot down over Darwin when he took on seven Japanese fighters escorting a bomber formation, spending 24 hours in the sea before being picked up by an Australian Navy corvette.

Two RNZAF apprentices were awarded the main prizes at the graduation parade of 89 Entry at No 1 School of Technical Training, RAF Halton, on March 29. WO App A. W. Street won the Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize and five other awards; Sgt App P. B. Thorpe the Pioneer Trophy (for highest marks in all technical subjects) and two other awards. The reviewing officer was Air Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, AOC-in-C Technical Training Command.



Nine men of Ninety-two: pilots of No 92 Sqn, which is representing the Royal Air Force this season as the official Fighter Command formation aerobatic team, after a sortie during their recent work-up in Cyprus. The CO, Sqn Ldr Brian Mercer, is fourth from the right. The unit's new status was referred to on this page last week