

# Service Aviation

Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm News and Announcements



## Atlantic Arrivals

IT has been known for some while that deliveries of aircraft by air were being made across the Atlantic. The Ministry of Aircraft Production has now issued an official intimation that the four-engined Consolidated Liberators are also arriving in this manner.

## Peregrine Falcons

THE order which makes legal the destruction of peregrine falcons, and the taking of their eggs, is extended to cover the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. Severe losses to homing pigeons of the R.A.F. and Army have been caused by these falcons, which, in normal times, are protected birds. The order applies only to authorised persons and is not general.

## Praise for W.A.A.F.

THE Women's Auxiliary Air Force came in for a special tribute from the Duchess of Gloucester in a recent broadcast when she remarked that, after the war, when victory was ours and the whole story could be told, the world would be amazed to learn what intensely important work the W.A.A.F. had been doing in helping us to attain our end. "We all know with what calm courage the air-women have faced their share of concentrated attack from the air," said the Duchess, who also praised the work of the kitchen and domestic staffs.

## Farm News

RIVALRY is developing between R.A.F. stations as to which can grow the most food. The success of some Fighter Command stations with pigs, poultry and spring cabbages has already become famous. Bomber pilots have now gone back to the land. At one station it was decided to acquire sheep instead of other live stock. The flock has been installed in wire enclosures round some of the defence works.

It seems all wrong to us. Surely the Bomber



**SOCIAL CALL.** Here is the Duke of Kent having an informal chat with two R.A.F. mechanics. His Royal Highness visited two famous fighter squadrons recently, one a Polish and the other a City of London squadron, when this picture was taken.

Stations should devote their time to egg-laying, and Fighter Stations to rounding up sheep?

## Awards

THE King has been graciously pleased to approve the following appointment in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Lt. R. H. KERSHAW—No. 3 Squadron, South African Air Force.

In March, 1941, this officer was pilot of one of a flight of Hurricanes engaged in an attack on the aerodrome at Bredawa. During the engagement his Flight Commander was compelled to make a forced landing on an enemy satellite aerodrome. Lieutenant Kershaw immediately went to his assistance, landed his aircraft on the aerodrome, under heavy artillery fire, and picked up his Flight Commander, who flew the aircraft back to base while sitting on Lt. Kershaw's knees. By his promptitude and determination this officer saved his Commander and displayed the greatest courage and devotion to duty.

Sq. Ldr. P. B. B. OGILVIE.—In March, 1941, this officer undertook an important daylight reconnaissance and obtained the most valuable results. In the execution of this task, Squadron Leader Ogilvie displayed exceptional navigational skill throughout the flight of over 1,100 miles. As commanding officer of the unit, Squadron Leader Ogilvie has set a splendid example both in the air and on the ground, and his courage and determined leadership have been outstanding. He has completed fifteen daylight reconnaissances, often under difficult conditions, obtaining excellent results on many occasions.

THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

### BAR TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.

Flying Officer Charles Harold DYSON, D.F.C.—No. 33 Squadron.

### DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.

Wing Commander C. RYLEY.—No. 33 Squadron.  
Wing Commander Richard Alfonso SPRAGUE.—No. 208 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Alan Duncan MURRAY.—No. 73 Squadron.

Act. Flight Lieutenant Peter Warren JOHNSON, Denave FORSYTH.—No. 148 Squadron.

Act. Flight Lieutenant Edric Hartgill McHARDY.—No. 248 Squadron.

Captain Daniel Albertus DU TOIT (South African Air Force).—No. 12 Squadron.

Captain Peter Johannes ROBERTS (South African Air Force).—No. 11 Squadron.

Flying Officer James Robert HYDE.

Flying Officer Derek SHAW.—No. 254 Squadron.

Pilot Officer William VALE.—No. 80 Squadron.

### DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL.

565558 Flight Sergeant Donald Swift GREGORY.—No. 80 Squadron.

517815 Sergeant Ernest Claude BENNETT.—No. 55 Squadron.

506659 Sergeant Gerald William HORTON.—No. 113 Squadron.

566286 Sergeant K. R. PRICE.—No. 113 Squadron.

564395 Sergeant E. ROBERTS.—No. 112 Squadron.

563933 Sergeant Eric Franklin THORNICROFT.—No. 113 Squadron.

623275 Sergeant Alan WEST.—No. 22 Squadron.

512003 Sergeant A. F. WILES.—No. 55 Squadron.

One of the recipients of the above awards was captain of one of three aircraft detailed to rove the Heligoland Bight. He lost touch with the other aircraft in bad weather and set course for Den Helder, in Holland, alone, where he attacked two armed ships. He then attacked a seaplane base. On the way home, by skilful manoeuvring, he beat off an attack by a Messerschmitt 110.

Another recipient, when deep in enemy country over Sogne Fjord, Norway, bombed and disabled a merchant vessel.

One officer destroyed five enemy aircraft in one day. Later, when the enemy was employing large masses of aircraft, he encountered six fighters and shot them all down. Another officer drove off an enemy fighter which had severely damaged his own aircraft while he was machine gunning Castel Benito aerodrome, Libya. He has twice damaged and set on fire enemy aircraft at this aerodrome.

One of the sergeants was pilot of one of five Gladiators which engaged 54 enemy aircraft. He personally shot down two. He has destroyed altogether six enemy aircraft. Another sergeant has become a specialist in long-distance strategical reconnaissance. He obtained information regarding the enemy's intention to abandon the Benghazi area, which was of great assistance to the G.O.C. Western Desert.



**JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.** At this Royal Air Force depot the Women's Auxiliary Air Force have their own hospital, complete with a W.A.A.F. dispenser, so "medicine and duty" has its compensations.

THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

### AIR FORCE CROSS.

Wing Commander Reginald Bryson WARDMAN.  
Act. Wing Commander F. S. HOMERSHAM, D.C.M., M.M.

Act. Wing Commander Peter Rodriguez MAY.

Act. Wing Commander G. C. O'DONNELL, D.F.C.

Squadron Leader Cyril Carlisle HODDER.

Squadron Leader Richard John C. NEDWILL.

Squadron Leader Mervyn Hugh RHYS.

Squadron Leader H. de Clifford A. WOODHOUSE.

Act. Squadron Leader D. G. ALLISON, R.A.F.O.

Act. Squadron Leader Douglas Henry V. CRAIG.

Act. Squadron Leader Royd M. FENWICK-WILSON.

Act. Squadron Leader William Ernest HOOPER.

Flight Lieutenant John Aiden FIELD.

Flight Lieutenant Morgan Griffiths.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Warren JOHNSON.

Flight Lieutenant R. H. MCINTOSH, R.A.F.O.

Flight Lieutenant Wilfred MILLER, R.A.F.O.

Flight Lieutenant Vivian Reginald MOON.

Flight Lieutenant Derek Sydney PAIN.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Norman SAYERS.

Flight Lieutenant Donald L. TOWNSEND, R.A.F.O.

Flight Lieutenant I. E. C. WATSON, R.A.F.V.R.

Flying Officer Richard George BURKS, R.A.F.O.

Flying Officer Philip Henry KNOWLES.

Flying Officer John Cyril Mason WILSON, R.A.F.O.

Act. Flying Officer Hugh Philip HOPKINS.

Act. Flying Officer Eric Bertram G. MASEFIELD.

Act. Flying Officer William John RYE.

Act. Flying Officer James Sibley SIMONS.

Warrant Officer William Henry FORSTER.

### AIR FORCE MEDAL.

Flight Sergeant Thomas Alfryn HOWELLS.

Flight Sergeant Leslie Harry POLTOCK.

Flight Sergeant Cecil Joseph ROSE.

Sergeant Sidney Harry PARKEE.

THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal to the following airmen:—

Sgt. D. R. YOUNG.

A/C1 C. E. HAYLAR.

A/C2 A. L. H. HIGGS.

One night in January, 1941, a Wellington aircraft crashed near an aerodrome. The aircraft became enveloped in flames, but, despite exploding incendiaries and small arms ammunition and the possibility that bombs in the aircraft might also explode, these airmen attempted to extricate the rear gunner from his turret, which had become jammed. Being unable to break open the turret, A/C Taylor endeavoured to enter the fuselage, but was beaten back, being slightly burned in the effort. Axes were then obtained and Sgt. Young, assisted by the two airmen, smashed the rear gun turret and succeeded in rescuing the gunner. These airmen showed courage and resolution throughout.

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Air Ministry, March 28th, 1941.  
General Duties Branch.

Air Commr. C. E. H. Medhurst, O.B.E., M.C., is apptd. Assist. Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) and is granted act. rank of Air Vice-Marshal (Mar. 1).

The foll. are granted comms. for duration of hostilities as P/Os, on probn.:—Flt. Sgt.: (Feb. 28) H. W. Edwards. Sgt.: (Jan. 31) R. H. Francis, D.F.M.; (Feb. 27) R. S. Williams; (Mar. 3) G. A. Steward, D.F.M.; (Mar. 9) T. P. Pratt. Temp. Sgt.: (Feb. 26) J. G. Cansdale.