

PRESS NOTES.

ROYAL VISIT TO VARIOUS R.A.F. BOMBER AND COASTAL
STATIONS AND R.A.F. GENERAL HOSPITAL.

18TH, 19TH AND 20TH JANUARY, 1941.

NOTE:

No editorial matter to be published or photographic or News Reel material to be released before the morning newspapers of the day following each visit nor broadcast before 7 a.m. on that day.

PROGRAMME.

SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY.

9.00. a.m.	Leave Air Ministry, King Charles Street by car.
12.00. noon. (approx.)	Arrive R.A.F. Station Mildenhall. Lunch.
2.25. p.m.	Leave for ELY.
2.40. p.m.	Arrive R.A.F. General Hospital.
4.40. p.m. (approx.)	Leave Hospital and proceed by car to Kings Lynn. (Accommodation reserved at Dukes Head Hotel).

SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY.

2.00. p.m.	Leave Kings Lynn.
2.30. p.m.	Arrive R.A.F. Station, Bircham Newton.
4.15. p.m.	Leave for Kings Lynn. (Dukes Head Hotel.)

MONDAY 20TH JANUARY.

9.00. a.m.	Leave Kings Lynn.
11.15. a.m.	Arrive R.A.F. Station Waddington. Lunch.
1.45. p.m. (approx.)	Leave R.A.F. Station Waddington.
2.30. p.m.	Arrive R.A.F. Station Swinderby.
3.00. p.m.	Leave Swinderby.
3.30. p.m.	Arrive R.A.F. Station Syerston.
4.00. p.m.	Depart for Nottingham. (Flying Horse Hotel.)

R.A.F. STATION MILDENHALL.

During his visit to this Bomber Station His Majesty the King will invest R.A.F. Personnel with honours and decorations conferred upon them as follows:-

Bar Group Captain Modin was awarded the C.B.E. as a New Year Honour. *Mackin*

Pat Denis Wing Commander J.A. Powell received his *Padua 20 feet* ^{D.S.O.} O.B.E. as a New Year Honour. He is attached to the Southern Rhodesian Air Force.

Wing Commander Elwerthy's A.F.C. was a New Year Honour.

Squadron Leader MacFadden was awarded the D.F.C. in July for gallantry during air operations. He was born in London in 1912 and was commissioned in 1935. His home is at Caerphilly, Glamorgan.

Squadron Leader Sawrey-Cookson was awarded the D.F.C. in November for gallantry during a flight to Gelsenkirchen. Unable to locate his target owing to cloud, he bombed an unlighted aerodrome on which nine large bombers were lined up, from a height of 1,500 feet, in spite of ground defence opposition. He was born at Radwell, Hertfordshire, and educated at Uppingham. He was formerly in the Royal Artillery. (A.M. Bulletin 2369).

Squadron Leader Mulholland was awarded the D.F.C. this month for gallantry in flying operations. It was stated that since August 1940 he had taken part in 24 major operations. One night in December, undaunted by heavy anti-aircraft fire he took valuable photographs of Kiel. On the following night he obtained a record of the results of a raid at Mannheim. He was born at Sydney, New South Wales, and educated at Brisbane. He was a cadet in the R.A.A.F. before being commissioned in the R.A.F. in 1933. (A.M. Bulletin No. 2722).

Flight Lieutenant W. Robinson received the M.B.E. as a New Year Honour.

D.F.C. and bar
Acting Flight Lieutenant Cruickshank won his D.F.C. in May when he made a low level bombing attack on heavily defended bridges over the Meuse. (A.M. Bulletin No. 835). He was awarded the Bar in October. He comes from Newport, Mon., and is 23 years of age. He was commissioned in 1938.

Flying Officer Page received the M.B.E. as a New Year Honour.

Pilot Officer Robertson won the D.F.M. as a Flight Sergeant in September for gallantry in air operations. He was born at Twickenham in 1909 and his home is at Banstead. He was formerly an architect's assistant.

Pilot Officer Hutchings won the D.F.C. in July for gallantry in air operations. He was born in Pembroke and his home is at Palmer's Green. He joined the R.A.F. as an apprentice in 1929 and was commissioned in April 1940.

Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Gibson won the Medal of the British Empire for meritorious service in July.

Flight Sergeant Williams won the D.F.^{M.} for gallantry in air operations.

Sergeant D. Mackay won the D.F.M. in September for gallantry in air operations. He was born at Altrincham, Cheshire where his father lives. He is 22. He was an invoice checker before enlisting in 1936.

Sergeant Mylod won the D.F.M. in October for gallantry in flying operations. He is 19 and was born at Oakengates, Shropshire where his home still is. He joined the R.A.F. in 1939.

Sergeant Daley won the D.F.M. in July for gallantry in air operations. He was born in 1920 at Wolstanton, Staffordshire. Before he joined the R.A.F. in 1937 he was an electrician. His home is at Blackpool.

Sergeant Conner won the D.F.M. in October for gallantry in air operations. He comes from Lancing, Sussex.

Sergeant Symmons was awarded the D.F.M. this month. It was stated that since July 1940 he had completed 28 operational flights thus doing 177 flying hours. One night in December as navigator and camera operator he obtained valuable photographs of Kiel harbour despite heavy anti-aircraft fire. On the following night he obtained an excellent photograph during an attack at Mannheim.

Sergeant Morson won the D.F.M. in November when as captain of a bomber he successfully attacked a target near Berlin. Although the aircraft was damaged over Hamburg on the return flight Sergeant Morson set a direct course for home across the Heligoland Right. He was forced down into the sea but was rescued thanks to the skill of his wireless operator. He was born in West Hartlepool where his home still is in 1919. He enlisted in the R.A.F V.R. in June 1939. He was formerly a Civil Servant.

Sergeant Purdy won the D.F.M. in December. He comes from Tyneside.

R.A.F. GENERAL HOSPITAL.

His Majesty The King will visit Officer and Airmen patients in the wards as well as the various special departments including operating theatres, X ray block, kitchens, barrack rooms and messes. He will be received by Air Vice-Marshal Sir A.V.J. Richardson, the Director General of R.A.F. Medical Services.

In the course of the visit he will invest the following personnel of the R.A.F. Nursing Services with the honours and decorations shown:-

Matron Miss M.E.R. Edwards.	R.R.C. 1st Class.
Senior Sister Miss M.E. Ball.	A.R.R.C.
Sister Miss A.M. Wilkinson.	A.R.R.C.

The above are awarded in recognition of exceptional devotion and competency displayed in the nursing and care of sick in R.A.F. hospitals at home and abroad.

The following R.A.F. personnel under treatment at the hospital will be invested as follows:-

Pilot Officer Westgate was awarded the M.B.E. as a New Year Honour.

Flight Lieutenant Goddard won the D.F.C. in November for a successful attack against two He. 115's while severely wounded in the foot. Despite loss of blood he brought his aircraft and crew back to base. He was born at Portsmouth in 1914. His father lives at Southsea. He enlisted as an aircraft apprentice in 1929 and was commissioned in 1938. (A.M. Bulletin No. 2429).

Note: This R.A.F. General Hospital was completed in September, 1940 the building having commenced at the end of 1938. The hospital is a modern well built and well equipped hospital conveniently located for the reception of casualties from many R.A.F. Stations. It is the first R.A.F. hospital to be provided with twin air-conditioned and blast-proof operating theatres.

R.A.F. STATION BIRCHAM NEWTON.

The Royal Party will inspect various parts of the station and in the course of the visit will invest R.A.F. personnel with honours and decorations conferred upon them as follows:-

Group Captain Primrose was awarded the C.B.E. as a New Year Honour.

Wing Commander Lees won the D.F.C. in October. He was born at Broken Hill, New South Wales in 1910. He was educated at Adelaide University and joined the R.A.F. in 1931.

Squadron Leader Tuck. He was awarded the D.S.O. in December. It was stated that he commanded a squadron with great success. He is Commanding Officer of the Burma Squadron. He has brought down at least 18 aircraft. He won the Bar to the D.F.C. in October. He was born at Catford, London in 1916.

Squadron Leader Dias was awarded the D.F.C. in September. He was born in 1913 at Colombo and was commissioned in 1936. His wife lives at Glasgow.

Flight Lieutenant Blatchford won the D.F.C. in November. It was stated that he was a leader of a squadron which destroyed 8 and damaged a further 5 enemy aircraft in one day. He was born at Edmonton, Alberta, where his mother still lives in 1912. He was commissioned in the R.A.F. in 1936.

Flight Lieutenant Sing was awarded the D.F.C. in September. It was stated that he had taken part in a number of operational patrols and had destroyed 7 enemy aircraft and damaged several others.

Flight Lieutenant Strickland was awarded the D.F.C. in September. It was stated that he had destroyed 9 enemy aircraft. He was born in the Phillipine Islands in 1918 and was educated at Kings School, Bruton, Somerset. He entered the R.A.F. in 1937. His home is at Exeter.

Flight Lieutenant Sizer won the D.F.C. in November. It was stated that during a period of 5 days in France he had destroyed 7 enemy aircraft. Once when shot down by 5 Me's in France he swam across a canal although wounded, was taken to England and after two days sick leave was flying again with his squadron. He was born at Chelmsford in 1920 and was educated at the Grammar School. He was commissioned in 1938 (A.M. Bulletin 2175).

Flight Lieutenant Williams won the M.B.E. as a New Year Honour.

Flying Officer Phillips won the D.F.C. in October. He was born in Dublin in 1919. His home is at Middlesborough. He was commissioned in 1938.

Flying Officer Martin was awarded the D.F.C. in November. He was born at Bournemouth in 1918 and was educated at Cheltenham where his home is. He was commissioned in July 1937.

Pilot Officer Brown won the D.F.C. in November. Born at Hull in 1912. His home is at Helhoughton, Norfolk. He enlisted in the R.A.F.V.R. in 1937 and was commissioned in August, 1940.

Sergeant Alexander won the D.F.M. in July.

Sergeant Deighton won the D.F.M. in September. He was born at Smethwick, Staffordshire where his father lives. He was a wire drawer before enlisting in 1935. He is 25 years old.

R.A.F. STATION WADDINGTON.

In the course of the visit His Majesty The King will invest R.A.F. personnel with honours and decorations conferred upon them.

A list will be provided at a later stage.

R.A.F. STATION SWINDERBY.

His Majesty The King will inspect Polish personnel of the R.A.F. and will witness the "Polish March Past".

R.A.F. STATION SYERSTON.

A brief inspection of the station will be carried out.

CENSORSHIP.

It is important that in addition to normal restrictions no indication however broad, of the area visited should be given.

Directorate of Public Relations,
Air Ministry,
S.W.1.

January, 1941.