

APPENDIX 2

THE AIR FORCE LIST—1925

EXAMINATION of the *Air Force List* for 1925 provides a clear picture of the legacy in manpower which the First World War left and of its use in the preparation, organisation and administration of the R.A.A.F. as a vastly expanded force in the war of 1939-45. In July 1925 there were 75 Permanent Force officers and 11 Citizen Force officers in the R.A.A.F. As Chief of the Air Staff and First Air Member, Williams had recently been gazetted a group captain—the highest rank yet attained by a R.A.A.F. officer. Goble was Chief of the Administrative Staff and Second Air Member, with the rank of wing commander. In July he went to England to take the course at the R.A.F. Staff College. In his absence W. H. Anderson, then a squadron leader, acted as Second Air Member and Air Member for Personnel. Williams and Goble (with Anderson acting as his deputy) held places on the Air Council (presided over by the Minister for Defence, Major-General Sir Neville Howse, V.C.) together with the First Naval Member, Rear-Admiral P. H. Hall-Thompson; the Chief of the General Staff, Lieut-General Sir Harry Chauvel and H. C. Brinsmead as Controller of Civil Aviation. The Air Board comprised Williams, Goble (with Anderson then acting for him), with A. C. Joyce as Finance Member and P. E. Coleman as Secretary.

The General Duties Branch of the Permanent Force had seven squadron leaders, six of them former members of the Australian Flying Corps. These were: Anderson; Eric Harrison, one of the A.F.C.'s two original flying instructors and then in England; L. J. Wackett; A. T. Cole, who was Director of Personnel and Training; F. H. McNamara, V.C., then on exchange duties with the R.A.F.; and H. N. Wrigley, Director of Organisation and Staff Duties. The seventh squadron leader, R. S. Brown, was the R.A.A.F. Liaison Officer in London. Another squadron leader, on exchange from the R.A.F., R. M. Drummond, of whom much was to be heard in the Second World War, was serving as Director of Operations and Intelligence.

Among the 14 Permanent Force general duties flight lieutenants were five former A.F.C. members: A. H. Cobby, F. W. F. Lukis, George Jones, E. A. Mustard and J. R. Bell. A further six flight lieutenants had served with the R.A.F. in the First World War: H. F. De La Rue, J. H. Summers, W. D. Bostock, R. J. Brownell, A. Hepburn and A. E. Hempel. At this stage Bostock was listed as a technical officer of whom there were eight in the whole force. The 36 Permanent Force flying officers included 11 seconded from the army, among them F. M. Bladin, D. E. L. Wilson, U. Ewart, J. P. J. McCauley, G. Packer and A. M. Charlesworth, all to become senior R.A.A.F. officers in the 1939-45 War. Three flying officers on loan from the R.A.N. included David Ross, another officer to

hold senior appointments in the Second World War. There were only two pilot officers listed on the permanent strength, one of these being F. R. W. Scherger, seconded from the army. In the Stores and Accounting Branch of the Permanent Force were 14 officers headed by two squadron leaders, P. A. McBain and his next in command, T. R. Marsden. In the same branch were three flight lieutenants each with military decorations, while among the seven flying officers in the branch was G. J. W. Mackinolty who had been a sergeant mechanic in the First Half-Flight, A.F.C.

Eleven officers were listed in the General Duties Branch of the Citizen Force, three of them flight lieutenants who had fine records from the First World War—G. F. Malley, L. H. Holden and E. C. Johnston. Of the remaining eight, all flying officers, two, H. A. Rigby and H. T. Hammond, were former R.A.F. officers and two, A. L. Long and H. W. Ross, former A.F.C. officers.