

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCEWING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

New Delhi, September 23, 1948.

R.I.A.F. in Hyderabad

The Royal Indian Air Force played a vital role in the recent police action in Hyderabad. The remarkable degree of cooperation that existed between our air arm and our ground troops really helped to bring speedy success to our forces.

In the five-day Hyderabad drama, the tasks assigned to the RIAF were to carry out reconnaissance without offensive action and pass on intelligence to our army regarding concentrations of Razakars and others. The RIAF also rendered unserviceable those air fields in the State which were known to have been used for aerial gun-running. These tasks were carried out with such precision and noteworthy accuracy that when news of the success came, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel praised the RIAF with the remark "we have nothing but the warmest praise for their valiant efforts".

Keeping a day-and-night vigil over the Hyderabad skies to prevent aerial gun-running by Sydney Cottons, and rendering direct and close support to ground troops in their 200 mile march to Secunderabad, from the borders of the State, the RIAF carried out a very delicate and difficult task with great efficiency and thoroughness.

In personal command of these air operations was Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukerjee, the Deputy Air Commander of the RIAF.
