

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MEMORIAL FUND APPEAL.

To the Editor of the AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—We should be very glad if you would afford us the hospitality of your columns to make an appeal on behalf of the Royal Air Force Memorial Fund.

This Fund has been established to commemorate the services of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force during the war, by an organisation which will secure such lasting benefits to the officers and men of the Royal Air Force and their dependents as may be worthy of the greatness of the achievements commemorated.

The Executive Committee of the Royal Air Force Memorial Fund, while taking care that their memorials should distinctly commemorate the Royal Air Force, have equally been anxious to avoid mischievous overlapping, and have with that purpose put themselves into communication with the United Services Fund, with Lord Haig's Central Committee and with the Flying Services Fund.

The objects the Executive Committee have decided to pursue are:—

The erection of a commemorative monument to the fame of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, including the officers and men who joined the Force from Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the other overseas Dominions.

The establishment of places of residential education (like Trafalgar Homes) for the children of airmen.

The provision of bursaries available at approved schools.

Generally the provision of such treatment and the rendering of such assistance, as means may permit either directly or in co-operation with other organisations, to officers and men and their dependents who may be disabled, sick, or otherwise infirm.

All officers and men of the Flying Services, whether from the Dominions or from the United Kingdom, will of course be eligible for these benefits.

These objects will be furthered by the Royal Air Force Memorial Fund in the closest co-operation with the United Services Fund and with Lord Haig's Committee in accordance with the requirements of each particular object, so as to prevent overlapping in expenditure; and the Executive Committee are confident that they will both fittingly commemorate the precious national services of the Royal Air Force and realise with due economy the benefits for those whom it is sought to help. An approximate estimate shows that a large sum, probably £400,000, will be required. It is necessary, therefore, to appeal to the abundant generosity of those who honour the memory of the services and sufferings of the Royal Naval Air Service, Royal Flying Corps, the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force during the war.

We know that in many hearts the memory of these services glows unforgettable. To some it is intertwined with the agony of bereavement; to some it speaks of happy friendship and pleasant reminiscence; but by all who endured the anxieties and rejoiced in the glory of the Great War, not the least honoured place in the proud and thankful recollection of its chequered days is given to the skill and nerve of the brave men who first made war in the unbounded arena of the air, and to the ingenuity and industry of those who rendered that gallant fighting so fruitful to the cause of victory. To all in whose minds these memories are

enshrined we now appeal; of everyone whose heart quickens with pride or pain when he recalls the warfare in the air we ask that these sentiments of patriotism and of affection shall now be shown in a liberality not unworthy of their high temper, and that he will join with us in raising a lasting memorial, which shall carry down to a remote posterity the shining tradition of the Royal Air Force in the war, of its fine courage and its great renown.

Inquiries, donations and subscriptions should be addressed to the Secretary, Derek McCulloch, Esq., 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

(Signed) ALBERT.
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