



Foundation Stone laid by Lady Maud Hoare, April 26, 1929

ON April 26 last, Lady Maud Hoare, in the presence of a large gathering, laid the foundation stone of the new Royal Air Force Cadet Training College at Cranwell. Among the principal guests on this occasion were Air Marshal of the R.A.F. Sir Hugh Trenchard and Lady Trenchard, Sir Samuel and Lady Maud Hoare, and Lord Londonderry.

A special parade of officers, airmen and band was held to mark the occasion, and Sir Samuel Hoare and his party were received at the site with a salute. The Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, the Rev. R. E. V. Hanson, then led the prayers, after which the Air Officer commanding at Cranwell, Air Vice-Marshal F. C. Halahan, asked Lady Maud Hoare to lay the stone.

Speaking after the ceremony, Sir Samuel Hoare said he wished the two officers who had already reached India in two days a successful end to their great flight. They were exhibiting just the qualities which all present hoped to see Cranwell produce. "Time after time during the last few weeks," he said, "I have thought of those two officers waiting here to start, and day after day being hindered in their departure. What a strain that was upon their nerves, what prolongation of effort and what testimony to them after all this time of waiting that they never became perturbed, but went off unruffled, their nerves just as good and their deter-

mination just as strong!" Cranwell had fostered and produced those qualities in the past, and he hoped to see them produced there to a still greater extent in the future, especially when the more fitting home for the cadet college now to be erected at Cranwell was completed. It was 15 years since Cranwell came into existence, and one man more than any other was responsible for the great conception of that cadet college and that man was his friend Sir Hugh Trenchard. He was only sorry that a second stone was not being laid to commemorate that very important fact, that it was Sir Hugh who, in spite of many difficulties and criticisms, had carried the conception through to the successful point marked by the laying of the foundation stone of the permanent buildings for the college.

The new building has been designed by Mr. J. G. West, architect of the Office of Works, and has been based on the style of Chelsea Hospital. It will be built of brick with stone facings, and will have a portico of Corinthian columns in the centre of the main façade. Large "E" wings will be located on either side of the main block, connected to it by extending arms, and surmounting the main building will be a tower and dome, while smaller towers will surmount each wing. The new premises will provide accommodation for over 200 cadets.



NEW R.A.F. CADET COLLEGE, CRANWELL: From right to left, Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard, Sir Samuel Hoare, Air Vice-Marshal F. C. Halahan, Lady Maud Hoare, and Lord Londonderry.