

Confidential to Staff of Fairey Surveys Limited.

COMPANY NEWS

1. Fairey Group News

Fairey Group results were published the other day, and were very encouraging. Press reports were very complimentary. Britten-Norman must have made a mass appeal: a seven page article on the birth and success story of the Islander appeared in the Readers Digest July issue.

2. Operations

Flying

We were shocked to hear that Alan Woodcock had a heart attack on 1st September. Fortunately it was a mild one; and he is now out of the intensive care unit, but he'll be in hospital for a week or so yet. Hopefully he'll be fit again soon, and we look forward to seeing him back at work in due course.

B.80 FS came back in June from Chad, where it was based at Fort Laimy. The photography of Lake Chad for D.O.S. was completed right on schedule. Crew Steve Fountain, Tony Boseley, Ray Wood, John Kermode and engineer Roger Johnson were not short of problems, however. They faced dust storms and temperatures of 45°C. The heat affects the aircraft as much as the crew, so Roger Johnson really had his work cut out. Water out there costs 400 Chad Francs (75p) a bottle, which is more expensive than beer. This may not seem much of a problem, but beer has such a dehydrating effect that the crew almost went teetotal.

Dakota Charlie Alpha finished the geophysical survey of Zone D offshore S.W. Ireland and after a few days in the hangar at White Waltham returned to Shannon to base for Zone C, which covers a very large area in the Atlantic.

After a couple of trips back to White Waltham for repairs and CAA checks, aircraft and crew Pol Heimes, Ron Neal, Dick Mottershead Jim Rowe and Nigel Naugham are now based at Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides.

Dove FM has been to Ireland twice recently on photographic work for Fairey Surveys of Ireland. John Cripwell reports that the Shannon Navigation Authority is absolutely delighted with the canal photography. The disused canal system between Loch Erne, in Ulster, and the River Shannon, is going to be renovated by raising lake levels and replacing lock gates, and the photography is to help in planning.

Dove SS soldiers on for the Ordnance Survey in Blackpool, with a variable crew. This will be the last job for SS, it will be withdrawn from service late this year at over 20 years old.

B.80 OH had an engine change on its return from Saudi Arabia and since then has been used for training and spasmodic U.K. work, earning some much-needed revenue. It is due back in Saudi Arabia in October.

Engineer Harry Ghosh had an accident in the hangar in June. He fell from the wing of a Dakota while working on the engine. He was in hospital for a week with a broken arm and damaged cheekbone, but after a few weeks convalescence is now back at work only a little the worse for wear.

A new air photographer, Don Yorke, has been recruited. He arrived in a bright yellow 1928 Ford, having driven it from New Zealand. Don had come with a group of people in two old Fords that they rebuilt themselves. Six months and four dozen punctures later, they arrived in Britain. Don's car is now at the motor museum at Beaulieu.

### Photo-lab

A two year training programme has started, involving 22 staff, including some aircrew. The programme covers the theoretical and practical aspects of photo-lab techniques, and instruction on the uses to which photography is put in other departments of the company. To accommodate the training programme and to cope with an expected increase in workload we are recruiting 5 extra staff, of whom we now have 4. Trainee photographers Steve Branscombe and David Stanforth started on 13 June and 9 July respectively, ground photographer Roger Eves joined us on 3 September, and carrying on the family tradition, Richard Briggs has joined photo-lab as a trainee, after a temporary spell in stores.

About 11,000 prints of last year's Nepal photography have now been despatched and we hope to complete outstanding work by mid-October. 2 sets of the Libyan photography have now been despatched amounting to 22,000 prints. Processing of the colour photography of the Scottish coastline is progressing well.

We were able to move Steve Muggleton out of the contact print darkroom at the beginning of May, after a long and very productive stint. He is now in mosaics and film processing, the latter in preparation for his first overseas trip.

Jeff Manning has joined Surveys as an air photographer. He spent his first month very usefully in the lab, and is now at White Waltham.

Progress continues to be made on the EPES "A" Satellite imagery. John Wooldridge is now evaluating the third batch of imagery for topography, land use and photo-geology at a scale of approximately 1:1,000,000 from a height of 300 miles.

### 3. Mapping

In plotting Section, the senior operator training programme is well under way, and the first four people, Vic Harding, Vic Knill, Surjeet Singh Bansil and Dave Newton have completed the full-time advanced photogrammetry course at N.E. London Polytechnic. Mahomid Malik, Robert Orr and Derek Milner have nearly finished the operator training course and are just coming into the section. Gail Edkins, who joined us on 16 July is the first girl on the formal operator training course - in fact the first girl operator Fairley's have trained themselves. The ONS students have taken their exams, and the first and second year students had a week's field course on land use analysis, amongst other things.

All the 1:500 scale plotting for the Stoke-Derby motorway link has been completed and the 1:1000 is going very well. Direct scribing of contours is now being used for a number of jobs, both on the A8 and Stereometrograph machines a number of land reclamation sites in Lanarkshire are being scribed at the moment on the stereometrograph.

In project control Malcolm Eaton has had a change from overseas contracts - he has been working on the Stoke-Derby motorway link. Ken Harris has steered the Newmarket contract (166 sheets at 4 scales) through on time despite early difficulties and with tremendous efforts from all concerned. Graham Sendall joined project control in April, and Neil Chisholm has at last moved on to surveying. He officially transferred to surveying on 1 June (to the benefit of the Fairey All Stars cricket team) but volunteered to stay in project control until the wash project was complete. Client boat troubles held the job up even more, but he eventually went into the field in the middle of July.

There is a new piece of equipment in aerial triangulation - £8,000 worth of PUG IV. With a price-tag like that you'd think they could find a better name. It's a point transfer device used in air trig preparation, and is destined eventually for plotting section.

The new drawing office tables arrived at last, but we wanted delivery in such a hurry (I mean, it was under two years) that they skimped on the specification, and the glass has this tendency to crack when leant on.

Small scales work has now overflowed into two other sections. Tony Walker's section has undertaken the town plans for the Book of the Road, and John Watkins' section has produced 113 town plans for an atlas of South America. Client is Multi-Media, a subsidiary of Mitchell Beazley, and they've now given us an order for 37 more town plans. The wall map for the Union of Arab Emirates has been completed to proof stage, and the client is delighted. Cyprus 1:5000 mapping is now successfully completed, although John Turner swears it put years on him, and Tony Apicella and Barry Hamilton worked at a run to finish the Newmarket mapping.

We have a new editor in small scales, Fiona Mackenzie, who comes to us from Edinburgh University via Readers Digest, to whom we loaned her for five weeks to work on our contract at their London Office. The drawing office trainees started with Colin Walden; Robert Hughes, Donald Lawton, Kathleen McShane, David Pritchard, Jane Weller and Anne Wilkes joined Fairey's at the beginning of September. Lindsay Davies joined Monotype to operate the varitype machine which was on order. That was April, and the machine is still "somewhere between the U.S.A. and U.K."

Modelling Department is still under pressure with the RAF contract, and have had a recent rethink of the production effort to ensure the deadline of March 1974 is met. Jeremy Warrell joined them in July, and Ken Houghton is now only part-time, while he sets up his own arts and crafts business.

Project control, drawing office and repro worked flat out on the Libyan contract to meet the dead lines, which to everyone's delight and relief they did. In Repro the load fell particularly on Andy Ives, who must have been wincing at the mention of the word Libya.

#### 4. Surveying

At the beginning of June the new ground survey team was officially set up, consisting of John Brownlee, Graham Philips, John McAuslan and one more to be recruited soon. They have their own office on the top floor and all their own equipment.

Peter Green donned his coolie hat recently to do some surveying of the Humber Bridge Site on behalf of Survey Services. He established points off the bridge centre line from which the construction of the 450 ft. concrete bridge towers will be monitored, using the first production model of the mekometer. Peter was at the press presentation of the mekometer on 6 June, and did an excellent bit of P.R. work for Fairey Surveys, talking about the Fleet line, Manchester Rapid Transit and Dungeness 'B' surveys, for which we used the National Physical Laboratory's prototype mekometer.

The Libyan ground control was finished at the beginning of May, and went very well despite some bad conditions in the desert. The little 8" X 8" tents got rather cold during the freezing nights and the frequent high winds blew sand into every corner of them. Food was reasonable, but monotonous. Porridge and sultanas, eggs and fried bread may be quite a good breakfast, but not every day for five months. The traversing went well, but levelling through the old mine fields was a bit hazardous, particularly as the seismic lines through the mine fields did not show up on the field prints, and general lack of detail meant the party kept getting lost. The surveyors were all back in May although John Churchard was held up with a visa hitch, and they are still adjusting to U.K. work. Dennis Shearing went to Zaire for a month to do some ground survey work on airfields at Moandaka, Kisangani, Kindu and Kananga.

In the U.K., the mudlarks flew back from the Wash and the Newmarket verifiers managed to drag themselves away at last. Control for the Stoke to Derby M1-M6 link is finished, although there is still some verifying to do, and photo-control for the M67 trans-pennine section mapping is complete.

After an interesting solo job in Scotland on the Oban to Lochgilphead road survey, Ron Russell has now undertaken the mammoth task of the 1:500 survey of Stonehouse New Town, with Alan Wild, David Street and Neil Chisholm.

5. Geophysics

The southern section of the offshore Ireland Survey data has been resold to Chevron, who joined in the offshore S.W. Ireland survey. The offshore Faeroes survey, flown in 1972, has also been resold to Esso.

The flying of the offshore S.W. Ireland Survey is complete and Dakota Charlie Alpha is now based at ~~Stor~~ Norway flying another large area over the Atlantic Ocean. Ralph Matthias and Ian Hunter have each had spells operating the geophysical equipment, and the new electronics engineer, Nigel Maughan, had only been here 24 hours before being packed off to join the crew.

Maurice Huggett has been away on three marketing trips recently, twice to Ireland and once to the Netherlands.

After months of sporadic planning and preparation, there was the usual last minute panic for the exhibition at the annual conference of the European Association of Exploration Geophysicists, held at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton in June. The results on the stand were quite impressive despite some near disasters wall papering and painting the exhibition boards in the Geophysics office.

Ian Hunter left last week to take a job in Gainsborough, where his wife comes from. Ann Wilkes, who has been working as a temporary data compiler, will shortly be joining the new drawing office trainees.

Heather and Ken Harris now have a daughter, Jenny Lea, born May 26.

6. Flight Trials

After experimenting with stereophotography of waves earlier this year, flight trials perfected the technique and were awarded a contract for plotting and modelling by MOD (PE). They now want us to take some photography of the sea in rough conditions, with 15ft wave heights. This may cause problems, trying to find a day which will be suitable for flying, but yet with a very rough sea.

Some night photography has been done recently, based at St. Mawgan, Cornwall and RAE Bedford, and oblique colour photography has been taken of the RAE establishments at Aberporth and Llanbedr.

Work continues for the Ministry of Defence, testing new camera equipment lenses and experimental emulsions, and some trials work in Jersey has been completed. The ministry contract has now been renewed for the coming year.

Freddie Worton attended the 21st anniversary celebrations of the Photogrammetric Society at the House of Commons, along with a number of other Surveys staff, including Mr Smith who has been elected President of the Society for this year. This is a distinction he shares with Col. Rogers and with Group Captain Laws, now aged 86, who was also present.

## 7. Research and Instruments

Work has now been completed on the fatigue testing of cylinder liners for M.V.E.E. The engine which utilises these liners is of interest because of the range of fuels it can run on. Apart from petrol, it can run on paraffin, diesel oil a mixture of coal dust and tar, and the most interesting (from driver comfort point of view) - whisky. Now that this work is over, we have set up the fatigue testing rig again and will be fatigue testing gearbox shafts for the foreseeable future.

We have had a number of enquiries and orders for anti-vibration mountings recently. One sizeable order was from the Army, to support a piece of surveillance equipment in helicopters, for use in trouble areas not a hundred miles from our shores! We have also received the order for mounts for the Automatic Coffee Inventory Equipment for Brazil. The main contract went to Hawker Siddeley against very stiff national and international competition. Their proposal included inputs from ourselves and E.M.I. The system will comprise a long focal length T.V. camera and a mapping camera (Zeiss RMK 15/30) to measure the size and leaf colour of coffeetrees.

On the Ministry front, we are busy repairing Type 35 camera controls, and have now received the contract to modify a further batch of GWI cameras. The G.W.I. cameras are used in a towed target for tests of a new missile in both U.K. and Australia. Initial tests have shown the missile to be very accurate, with consequent loss of the target. This is of course, very good for business as far as we are concerned.

The multi-spectral viewer has now been in use with John Wooldridge for three months. Response from potential customers is encouraging and we are now manufacturing a small batch of production models, incorporating several modifications which are required.

## 8. Overseas Marketing

The winter aircraft programme is being prepared at the moment. One aircraft will almost certainly be required for Saudi Arabia, and possibly two. Continuation of the Nepal programme is awaiting a contract amendment and negotiation with the Nepalese. There are various other prospects including West Africa, and the Middle East.

Col. Rogers has spent several weeks in Saudi Arabia and has brought back news of several good prospects. Although he will not commit himself until the contracts are signed we believe his time was not wasted.

Reg Caudle was finally admitted to Tripoli with his passport translated into Arabic, and continued his journey to meet Col. Rogers in Lagos for an introduction to Nigeria. He must have liked it for he went back again a couple of weeks later!

## 9. U.K. Marketing

The market place is still very active and recent major awards include 1:2500 mapping in South Yorkshire for the proposed M67 motorway. In addition to the survey photography, additional colour and multi-spectral photography will be flown and used by the Consultants Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners to interpret soil and geological conditions. The field control work on this contract comprises more than one third of the total task so we hope they all like Yorkshire pudding.

The early work done by small scales on the Nicholson Guide to Britain has resulted in the award of the main contract to be completed by September 1973.

Visits by Bix Clark and Jan Karalus to the Stonehouse area in Scotland were made prior to our presenting our price and proposals for the 1/500 mapping of the New Town Area. Discussions with all production departments were held and our bid was appraised by the East Kilbride Development Corporation. For all the people involved the worst period was sweating it out to award stage. However we now know that their efforts have been rewarded and this contract becomes the largest every awarded to F.S.L. in U.K.

Gerry Jones has completed 25 years with Fairey Surveys, apparently unscathed (perhaps the odd grey hair?) and will be receiving his Watch/ Pen/ Salver/Clock later in the year.

Bix Clark has gone up to Scotland to start Fairey Surveys of Scotland. Ken Pinkney has joined U.K. Marketing Department to take over marketing of Leisure Maps R. and I. instruments and some modelling and repro services, and is researching into new projects. Sally Thorne will be coming up to join us soon, to replace Brenda Page who left in August.

## 10 Administration

David Hughes joined Fairey's in the middle of August as Accountant, when Peter Harland took over Personnel and Administration.

Marjorie St. Leger is making a takeover bid for Accounts. Her new N.C.R. accounting machine seems to fill most of the office with all its trays, cabinets and plugin optional extras, and if it wasn't for husband Fred performing juggling miracles in Stores, the special paper would have commandeered any remaining space.

Congratulations to Barbara Sullivan née Withington. She kept very quiet about it we none of us know until about two days before the wedding.

The technical library doesn't seem to be used as much as it could be. Under Betty Gray's supervision it's been put into apple pie order, with a comprehensive collection of reference books, technical papers, periodicals etc. There's a cross referenced index to tell you whether a particular book is in the library, or whether there are any books on a particular subject, and a list of additions to the library appears regularly on the notice board. The library hasn't yet got a telephone, but its high on the priority list when an extension becomes available. In the meantime you can contact Betty on 31 or 32.

## 11. Social Club

The Social Club opened officially on September 1st after a tremendous effort on the part of the committee and the volunteers who decorated the club. There was a brief opening ceremony attended by the directors and the club committee when Mr Smith made a presentation. Comments about IRA infiltrators when the gift was found to be ticking quickly changed to queries about flexible opening hours when a clock was unwrapped.

First drinks were on the company and subsequent drinks were cheaper than anywhere else in this expensive part of Berkshire. Prices will stay low if sales are high enough. Remember, you can bring any number of guests, so you don't have to talk shop.

The badminton season has now started if anyone is interested in playing- whether or not you have any experience- please contact me.

Gilliam Edwards

6 September 1973.