

## 1. Fairey Group News

Fairey Marine will be exhibiting their Huntsman 31, Spearfish and one other power boat at the Boat Show, Earls Court in the New Year, if the emergency regulations allow.

Fairey Nuclear have an environmental test laboratory and are vibration testing air conditioning units for British Rail's new fast passenger trains.

Fairey Winches are supplying capstan winches for all new coastguard Landrovers. They are ideally suited for cliff-rescue and breeches-buoy operations.

## 2. Operations

### Flying

Dakota G-AMCA returned to White Waltham on 21st November after completing the Rockall geophysical survey. It is now being prepared for the Nigerian geophysical contract, using magnetometer and spectrometer, the first time the spectrometer has been used in earnest by us. Geoff Milsom is just back from Nigeria after making preliminary arrangements, but will be travelling out again with the Dakota at the beginning of January, for the first part of the contract. Throughout the programme, G-AMCA will operate with double crew. Besides Geoff Milsom there will be pilots Steve Fountain, Ken Povey and Ron Neale, with Mike Young and Pol Heimes on standby at White Waltham, and engineers Doug Caldwell and Jim Rowe. AMCA will be joined by B80 G-AZOH early in February, the crew being Sam St. Pierre, Dick Mottershead, Mike Birley, and Red Odell.

Chris Morton-Clarke, Tug Wilson, Bryan Palmer, Brian Corbin and Norman Townend have just moved to the Sudan with B80 G-AZFS, from Saudi Arabia, where they -completed the Mid-Hijaz and Northern Region photography. The Sudan contract is with the Sudan Ministry of Defence, Survey Department for photography of 54,314 sq. kms. Both wide angle and super-wide angle cameras will be used. The aircraft will base initially in Khartoum, probably moving to El Obeid and El Fashir, and will be in Sudan 5-6 weeks. After the Sudan contract, G-AZFS will need a check 4, for which it will probably go to Nairobi. This usually takes 3 weeks, and the crew will have a break in the UK during this time. After the Check 4, there's a possibility of a further contract in Saudi Arabia, with the Forestry Department. Crew will probably be almost the same as before.

Dove G-AWFM left White Waltham on 25th October to fly the Eastern Region photography in Saudi Arabia. Although Jim Storrie is the only pilot with the aircraft, he and crew Jeff Manning, John Kermode, Steve Muggleton and Peter Evans completed the photography in 18 of the 24 days they were allowed. They then spent a week on a road survey for Italconsult, and are now on a 3-week programme on Southern Roads, based first at Najran and then at Jeddah. They are expected to return to the UK at the end of the Southern Roads programme, unless Col. Rogers has found more work for them to do!

B80 G-AZOH has been on UK work, including a spell in Scotland, since it came back from Saudi Arabia. It's now being prepared for the geophysical contract.

Dove G-AKSS finished its job with the Ordnance Survey, based in Blackpool, on 30th September, and has been on UK work since, also including time in Scotland, on the Scottish Coastline photography.

### 3. Operations

#### Photo-lab

The Nigerian census photo-mosaics have been completed, and during this comparatively quiet period in mosaic room, display samples are being renewed.

Ian Smith has been on a colour photography course at Kodak, and Graham Roberts is expected to go on the same course in January.

Steve Muggleton is getting some on-the-job training on his first overseas trip to Saudi Arabia. He and John Kermode should be back soon.

Sue Pearce transferred to Photo-lab in December. Hope Blundell retired at the end of September, after about 14 years with Faireys, and Geny Aversana left in November. Dave Lewry eventually took the plunge, and celebrates two months of married life just after Christmas.

### 4. Mapping

The RAF modelling contract is making excellent progress. An extra model of the Isle of Wight area has been made, and will be used for display and exhibition purposes.

The Stonehouse aerial triangulation block adjustment came out very well, and made for early production work. Robin North's idea on light tables earned him an award, and it is now being used on Stonehouse and the D.O.S. Uganda plotting contract.

The Stoke-Derby mapping job is now in the drawing office, coming to a very successful finish after the style of Newmarket. Fair drawing has started now on the D.O.S. Sabah contract. There's a healthy load of geophysical work in the drawing office, and Colin Spooner is working under pressure.

The Libyan Bu-Grain to Sebha Road maps were despatched in Christmas week, two weeks early, after a great effort all round, particularly from Amy Ives in Repro, on the Loftline machine.

The 15-month exercise in Small Scales on the complete redrawing of the Readers Digest Book of the Road has now been completed. The Arab Wall Map, after a few last minute printing hiccups, is now ready for delivery. There's good progress on the Leisure Maps, with Rhodes, Jamaica and Cyprus on the go, as well as a revision of Corfu.

With the departure of Suzie Cryws-Williams, following her husband to Cyprus to benefit from a better economic and physical climate, Ann Higgs was welcomed as her successor, transferring from John Watkins' section. Peter Timbrell has now settled down in Computing, since he took over in September.

Barrie Hamilton left on 14th December to take up a three-year contract in Zambia.

## 5. Surveying

Roy McDonald has been out in Saudi Arabia since late October, working on the Eastern Region mapping contract. He was recently joined by Nick Searle and Bob Hendry. Bob Hendry must have had the quickest mobilisation on record. At four o'clock he phoned from Kirkcaldy to be told that there was no news on his prospective trip to Saudi Arabia. At ten past four he was telephoned with instructions to be at Heathrow by 11.00 a.m. the next morning to collect visa, passport, tickets, money and the 11.30 a.m. plane out!

The ground survey team is working on its first major job, the A9 Luncarty-Birnam 1/500 mapping contract. The work is expected to take 2-3 months. John Brownlee, John McAuslan and Graham Philips are out there at the moment, and will be joined by others later.

Verification and permanent ground markers (PGMs) have just started at Stonehouse for the 1/500 mapping. Ron Russell, Eddie Holmes and Les Ritson-Smith are staying at the Cartland Bridge Hotel, where the arsonist has fortunately been caught.

John Davies went to Ireland for a week to help John Cripwell, but has got lost in the peat bog - he's been there a month already.

We've also lost Dennis Noble and Dennis Shearing. Presumably they are still in Zaire, but no word has reached Maidenhead since they left here on 24th October.

Five surveyors - Ken Penhallurick, Jim Tyler, Ted Allnutt, Jim Hodder and Neil Chisholm are working on the Thurlston Moor to Tankersley cross-Pennine road survey, to get it finished by Christmas. Bob Wilburn and Paul Jessop will also have finished the Stoke-Derby verification before Christmas. No problems of a 3-day working week for them.

Stop press: 21.12.73 - very short telex received from Dennisses Noble and Shearing - survey finished, and could they please take some leave!

## 6. Geophysics

The bombshell came in the form of a three or four-line telex, one otherwise peaceful Thursday morning, 15th November. A £200,000 contract for an airborne magnetometer and spectrometer survey in Nigeria, for which we first quoted more than eighteen months ago, suddenly turned up trumps. Since then, the Geophysics department has been working at the double to break the back of the compilation for the Rockall survey and prepare for the Nigerian contract. Len Sellwood, Bob Wallace, Alex Copeland, Ralph Matthias and Mike Birley form the geophysical part of the team in Nigeria. The first aircraft G-AMCA will be leaving the UK at the beginning of January followed by G-AZOH at the beginning of February, and the whole party will probably be out there until the rains start in late April.

Forest Oil have purchased two of the blocks of offshore survey data that are available: East of Shetland and the Southern part of offshore Ireland.

The interpretation of the offshore South-West Ireland survey is complete, and has been despatched to the clients.

Alex Copeland and Bob Wallace carried out a shallow seismic survey of part of Belfast Airport, for the positioning of new terminal buildings. Security regulations were very strict - they even attracted the attention of a Special Branch Officer, but the biggest hold-up they encountered was the traffic police at Stranraer on the way back.

Maurice Huggett attended a meeting of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists in Mexico in October, before going to the USA for a grand tour of all the major oil companies in Houston, and a visit to the United Nations in New York to find out the overseas development mineral exploration programme.

Bob Wallace visited oil companies in Holland during November, and has just returned from a weekend North Sea conference in Bergen.

## 7. Flight Trials

Trials went through a bad patch for six weeks August/September, with no aircraft, while G-ALWC underwent a major check and G-AMCA wasn't available as a replacement.

Since then, camera trials have been conducted for new aircraft such as the Jaguar and M.R.C.A., and comparison of photo emulsions has continued.

Permission has just been received to base at Shannon to try and obtain the stereophotography of waves in rough conditions, which, as anticipated, has proved difficult. Hopefully the Atlantic will provide the right combination of wave conditions and flying weather.

Equipment is being installed in the aircraft now for a new series of night flying trials of low-light television.

February 1974 will see the beginning of the 21st year of our regular Ministry of Defence flight trials. That's quite a testimonial for Freddie Worton's department, and for Whisky Charlie. Congratulations all round, and when's the party?

## 8. R & I

The Brazilian coffee inventory equipment has had a lot of publicity in the last month. Hawker Siddeley - to whom we supplied anti-vibration mountings for the system - have had press releases published in numbers of magazines and newspapers - each time with a mention of our name.

An extension of the Ministry of Defence environment camera contract, worth £8,500, has been received. The extension is for further development work to take it up to production standard by the end of April. Orders are expected in the next financial year.

Stereoviewer production has been hit by shortage of materials, a problem that is occurring almost everywhere at the moment. A sale of 20 stereoviewers to Canada reduced stocks to nil, but production on the new batch has been halted, and they aren't expected to be ready until February.

At present time with two aircraft being made ready for Nigeria, production of the multi-spectral viewer in full swing, and power problems, things are a bit hectic in R & I.

#### 9. Overseas Marketing

Col. Rogers and Reg Cudle have been away a lot of the time since October, and with Jim Daly being very much missed in the department, John Keay is just managing to hold the fort. Eileen Foad joined us in November to sort out and maintain the marketing files, as well as scouring the world press for marketing opportunities.

Reg Cudle is just back from Nigeria, having obtained the signature for the Nigerian geophysical contract, and we're hoping that Col. Rogers will be back from Saudi Arabia for Christmas.

Col. Rogers' and Ken Pinkney's efforts on the Saudi Arabia road map have been successful so far, and the layout proposals are now with the client for evaluation.

Two D.O.S. contracts, which were awarded recently, are now in production: machine plotting of 35 sheets of Uganda at 1/2500 and fair drawing of 24 1/50,000 map sheets of Sabah, East Malaysia.

In the continuing saga of the Scotland, Barbados contract, ground control has eventually been received. After the initial enquiry in early 1970, it has taken until now for ground control to be provided so that we can start mapping at 1/2500 from existing D.O.S. photography. Overseas Marketing is nothing if not persistent.

#### 10. UK Marketing

John Cripwell of Fairey Surveys of Ireland had proved the best client recently. Operations' persistence in completing the Dublin photography, over 3 seasons, has paid off with a mapping contract for 1000 hectares at 1/1000.

The first big ground survey contract was sold to Perth & Kinross County Council, for the A9 Luncarty to Birnam, the same road for which we surveyed the Beaulieu-Cromarty section. Thanks to very fast and well-co-ordinated teamwork from Bix Clark and Jim Hill, this contract never went out to tender at all. After the preliminary documents reached us, we were able to provide the client with such a good combination of price and delivery date that it wasn't worth his while to go elsewhere. Being able to give a complete ground survey service means that the client will be able to have the maps by the Spring. Using airborne methods, the photography probably couldn't have been taken until April.

A firm of planning consultants wanted a small job doing in Cornwall recently. Jim Hill was able to produce a very quick price quotation in response to their telephone call, and the acknowledgement and acceptance came almost by return. Jim raised the flying order before he went home for the weekend, and had the satisfaction of coming in on the Monday morning to hear that it had been flown. A very speedy bit of work all round.

#### 11. Personnel and Administration

We welcomed Margaret Taylor on 3.12.73 to replace Sue Pearce in the Telex/Filing/Post Room. Mr Anil Kumar Ahoudrie, joins us on 31st December to take over from Stuart East as Assistant Accountant. Stuart will be leaving, with our best wishes for his future career, on 31st December.

Sheela Prowting has been off sick for some time now. We very much hope she'll be fit again in the New Year, and look forward to hearing her voice on the Tannoy again soon.

Apologies to the visual record magnetic card computer for calling it an accounting machine. It is now fully functional in Accounts.

Stores have been very hard pressed in the last few weeks, with two aircraft abroad, and preparations for two others to go. Most recently they managed to freight  $\frac{1}{3}$  ton of equipment out to the Sudan at 24 hours notice. Hazel Yeend is somehow coping with all the Stores work as well as R & I. We think she must be sleeping here.

Travel arrangements, passport applications and visa applications have been pouring into John Venn and Jane Denham. There have been numbers of overseas trips recently - and many more to come - and with fuel shortages making nonsense of aircraft timetables, arrangements for each trip become more complicated.

The 25 years service presentations to Bill Cheffins, Ted Jones and Gerry Jones and Mike Young took place on Friday 14th December, amidst a flow of 'do you remember' stories, most of them about Fairey's days at White Waltham, and none of them for publication!

## 12. Fairey Surveys Scotland

Bix Clark is currently working from his flat, but the new company will be moving into a new factory unit as soon as it is completed, which hopefully will be mid-January. John Scarrott will be joining Bix after the New Year and Malcolm Eaton will be going up in due course.

A Merry Christmas to all our readers.

Gillian Edwards  
21.12.73