

Mr. Fred Worton, the Flight Trials Manager, inside his Dakota, setting up a precision camera used for taking oblique aerial pictures.

into maps of one sort or another, are highly-skilled draughtsmen, printers, cartographers and technicians of all kinds, whose work depicts in detail the surface of the earth, all that is above, and sometimes what is beneath.

The company was founded in India in 1923. Its first job was a survey for the Government of Burma, and the same country has just requested that Fairey Surveys should be given the job of doing a survey for a United Nations irrigation scheme. Which is proof that satisfied customers return, even at 40-year intervals. The company was "put into cold storage" during the war, and re-started under the wing of Fairey Aviation Co. Ltd. at White Waltham in 1947.

The Overseas Marketing Manager is Reg Caudle, who is part of a team which seems to be forever flying to faraway places with strange-sounding names, finding out just what the customers want, and making sure they get it—down to the last trig point, spot height or water-hole. Reg has just returned from a meeting with the UN Food & Agricultural Association in Rome. His boss, marketing director Col. R. T. L. Rogers, virtually lives in Saudi Arabia and Ken Pinkney has

just returned from an extended tour of the Middle East, with a sun-tan to prove it. Jim Daly and John Keay, deal with commercial matters such as estimating, planning and contracts.

SURVEY AREA

An aerial survey usually covers an area up to 100 miles by 200 miles and involves more than 2,000 exposures of film. And it is not simply a matter of taking pictures. According to the task in hand, geodetic surveying, airborne profile recording and aerial triangulation are employed. The aeroplane flies back and forth across the area taking 9 in. x 9 in. photographs sometimes using radar equipment to record the varying height of the land features. From the overlapping series of photographs stereoscopic pictures are produced, enabling roads, rivers and all other features to be precisely mapped.

GROUND SURVEYS

Obviously, it is a major operation just to send a survey team abroad. Manager Operations Reg Freeman has to see that they have everything they need for the job, from currency of the countries involved, to snake-bite serum, where applicable.

In the financial and administration department, Mrs. J. E. Hillman (seated) and Mrs. Jennifer Johnson check foreign currency turned in by pilots, for return to the bank.



It is not generally appreciated that Fairey's also do a great deal of ground survey work, for in many instances this is the best method. The man in charge of this, and who supervises computing of the results, is Chief Surveyor Jan Karalus.

One of the company's recent combined ground and air jobs was a survey of The Wash, to see whether fresh water could be stored therein. The river bed is soft, and the tide comes in quickly, as King John discovered many years ago. Ground surveyors often found themselves waist deep in mud, with the tide on the turn, and helicopters had to be permanently on hand, to lift them to safety.

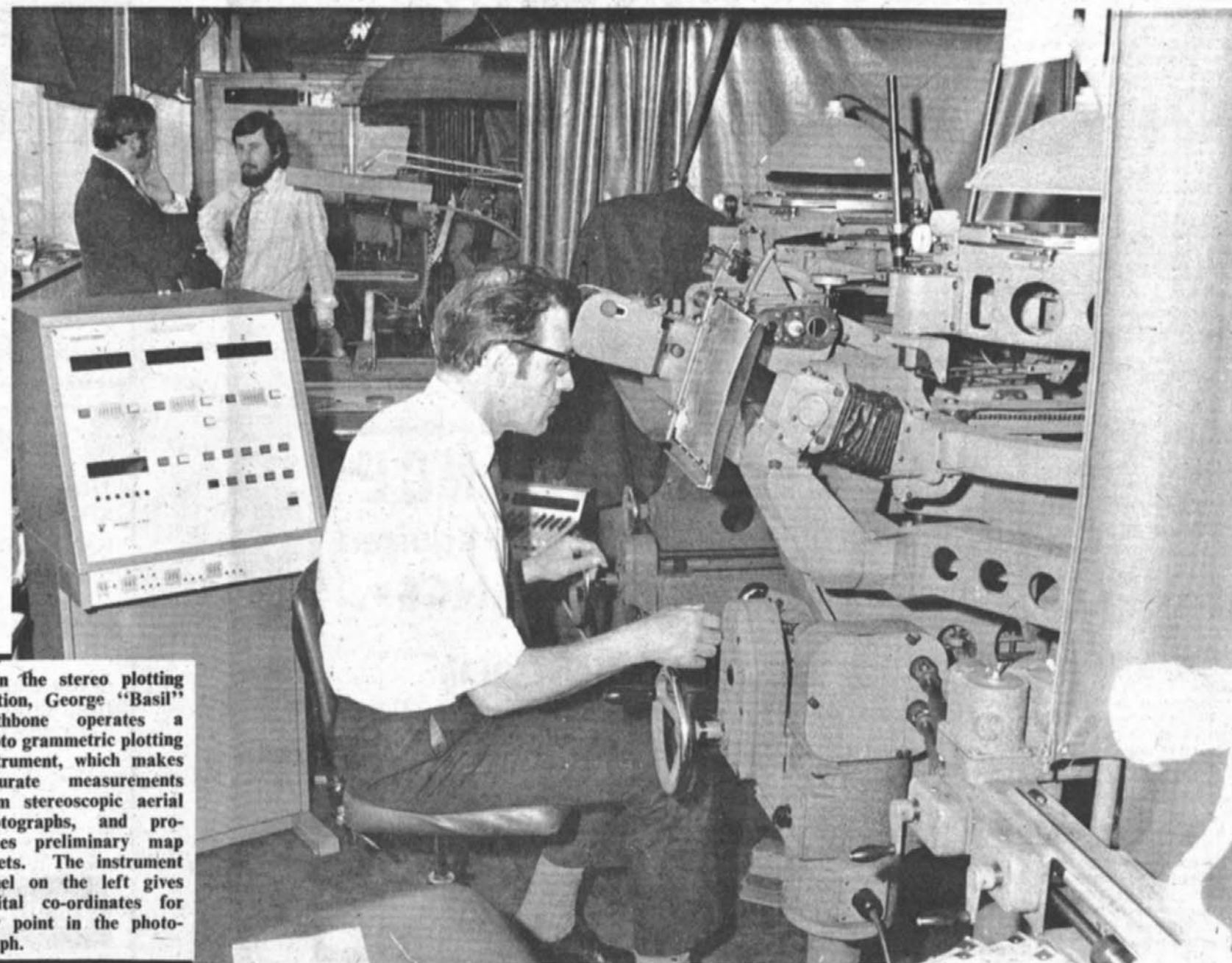
TOWN PLANNING
There is a separate marketing department for the United Kingdom, headed by Peter Forsey. His department obtains a lot of mapping jobs for town planning, motorways, open-cast mining and reclamation work. A contractor who has excavated a million or so tons of earth will ask for a survey, which

Faireys survey the world (from Maidenhead)



Pilot "Dusty" Miller, operations manager Reg Freeman and Chief Pilot Geoff Milsom study the map of an area due for a survey.

will tell precisely the amount removed. Over the year, Fairey Surveys had taken many pictures of the slag heap at Aberfan and had better use been made of the information they provided, tragedy might have been averted. As it was, more pictures were taken after the disaster and provided valuable technical data for the inquiry.



In the stereo plotting section, George "Basil" Rathbone operates a photo grammatic plotting instrument, which makes accurate measurements from stereoscopic aerial photographs, and produces preliminary map sheets. The instrument panel on the left gives digital co-ordinates for any point in the photograph.

In 1971 the Company's experts finished a thermal survey of the River Sever. It had been found that hot water from a power station, discharged into the river, was producing a warm current, and it was feared that salmon would be faced with a barrier of warmth which they would refuse to pass. Keen anglers will be relieved to know that the plan, depicting different temperatures of water in different tones, showed a clear, cool passage available to the salmon.

COOKHAM

Nearer home, Mosaic Supervisor Bob Purcell is at present working on an aerial plan of the Cookham district, on behalf of Berkshire County Council, which is preparing a special study plan of the area. Aerial photographs have also been taken of the new Oxfordshire—Area 33 as it will be called when local government is reorganised.

A survey is being made for a new road in Scotland. There are to be two bridges and it gives some indication of the precision work involved that the heights of land and water features must be exact within 1-inch. Due to tide and wind, the water at one side of a firth could be higher than at the other, and a slight error could result in every civil engineer's nightmare — two halves of a bridge meeting at different levels.

A plan for an atomic power station will have to be precise within one millimetre. It is being drawn actual size, on a scale of 1 to 1, on the floor of an aircraft hanger.



Mr. Worton with the test-bed Dakota in which he recently photographed rain clouds in India.



Drawing Office Supervisor Jack Briggs, with a particularly fine example of a contour map, by one of his team of skilled draughtsmen.

Drawing Office Supervisor Jack Briggs must surely be the ultimate in perfectionists. Under his supervision, skilled draughtsmen produce large and small scale maps of just about everything from Neasden railway depot, which is due for re-organization, to Sinthe Dam in Burma and a meticulously detailed map of Nicosia and the surrounding countryside, with every tree precisely located. This map was so large that it had to be done originally on four sheets of paper, yet it was impossible to detect the joins.

Mr. Briggs is particularly proud of his department's work in the WORLD ATLAS OF WINE, which shows, in a full range of colours, the location of the world's vineyards. His pride is justified, for its maps are gems of beauty and precision.

From wines to waters, across seas and jungles, Fairey can truly claim that, from their Maidenhead offices they survey the world, and faithfully record its features for the benefit of mankind.

By
Tony Anderson

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Their fleet of two DC3 Dakotas, three Hawker Siddeley Doves, and two Beechcraft B80s, fitted with the most modern ultra-sensitive equipment, ranges half around the globe. Their staff of more than 200 includes pilots like Geoff Milsom, the Chief Pilot, who began flying 30 years ago and has spent 12,000 hours—the equivalent of six working years—actually in the air.

Carrying on the process initiated in the offices, and translating the films provided by the aerial photographers

In the project control section, Dave Truluck is checking contours on a map of Zambia. In the background, Malcolm Eaton is editing a compilation of an ortho-photo map.

