



THE QUEEN'S AWARD TO INDUSTRY

EFA NEWS

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Concorde News

AS we went to press, the first flight of Concorde 01, the British made pre-production aircraft and third Concorde to take the air, took place on December 17th. For us this is an important aeroplane, equipped not only with FCD's new production standard autopilot and push-button controls, but with a full dual system cleared from the start for every flight manoeuvre but the automatic touchdown itself.

A lot has happened in the last few weeks to assure the commercial future of Concorde and with it the future of our own part in it. The key airline orders have not been placed yet, but they are far more likely now.

Concorde development and launching costs currently stand at £885 million, which includes the two prototypes 001 and 002, two pre-production 01 and 02, two non-flying structural test airframes, ten production aircraft and long-dated materials for six more.

If production goes according to plan, 12 Concorde's should be delivered during 1974, a total of 150 by the end of 1978 and 250 by 1980. This would provide a steady programme of work in FCD.

It became known early this month that the Prime Minister's Central Capability Unit, the "think tank", under Lord Rothschild had independently studied Concorde for eight months and now approves of the programme. This seemed to be the key to open Government support.

This was the sequence of events which followed:—

November 30 MPs from all parties were passengers on Concorde 002's 144th flight. One of them, Parliamentary Secretary for Aerospace Mr. David Price, brought his secretary Virginia Evans, who thus became Concorde's first woman passenger. "I enjoyed the trip immensely," she said, but she did not break any records.

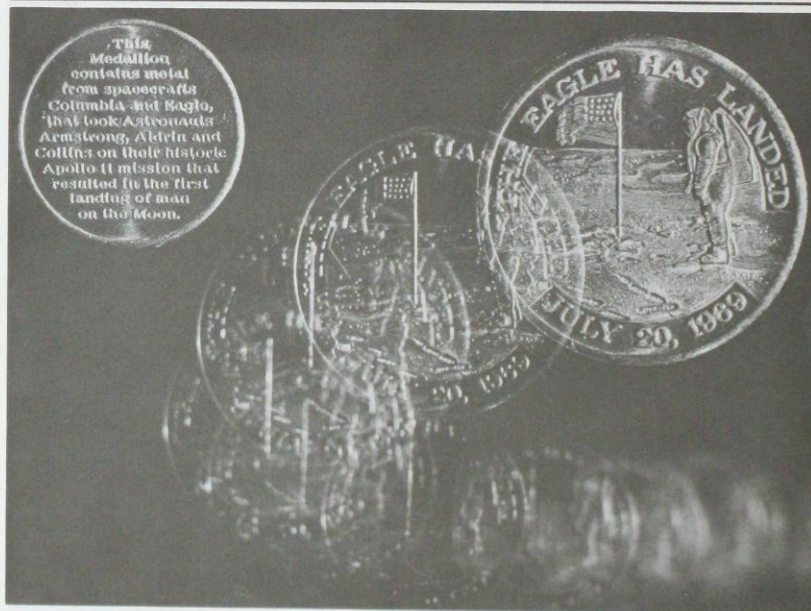
December 2 Seven newspaper correspondents rode on the 145th flight, which was curtailed by a spurious fire warning.

December 7 Paris—Mr Frederick Corfield, Minister for Aerospace, and M Chamant, French Minister of Transport, met and finalised a price formula so that the manu-

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Children's Christmas

AUDIENCE participation was the keynote of this year's children's parties on November 27 and December 4. In this picture they were telling Buttons where the ugly sisters had hidden the parcel, as shown in the picture on page 3. No fewer than 1,450 children attended the parties this year.



IT looks as if Keith Woolmer was simulating the reduced gravity forces on the moon when he photographed this medallion for EFA News; which is entirely appropriate, because the medallion contains metal from Columbia and Eagle, the Apollo 11 spacecraft which performed the first moon landing in July 1969. Dick Collinson was given the medallion during a recent visit to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology by

Bob Crisp who will be remembered as a senior systems engineer in GW Division and IND. Bob is now a Deputy Assistant Director of the Draper Laboratory of MIT and was program manager for the Apollo Guidance System, which was developed there.

Dick thinks that Lunar Medallions might become as significant, and as numerous as hairs of the Prophet's beard for Muslims or pieces of the True Cross for Christians.

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President of EEA

DR Bernard O'Kane, Chairman of Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems, has been elected President of the Electronic Engineering Association and Chairman of its Council. He will serve for the remainder of the current term, until next April, following the resignation from the industry of Mr W.R.R. Haines, formerly of the Plessey Company Electronics Group.

The EEA is the major trade organisation for the capital electronics industry. As well as representing our industry's interests with Government and ministries, EEA has a particular significance on the eve of Britain's entry into the Common Market.

Dr O'Kane has represented the interests of the avionics industry in many specialist committees. He is currently a member of the Council of the Society of British Aerospace Companies and Honorary President of the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Electronics (Eurocae), of which he was a founder member and successively Chairman and President between 1963 and 1968.



FOR the last 11 years Harry Rayner has taken his turn in supervising parking, patrolling the factory, issuing keys and manning the reception points of EFA's buildings, including New Road.

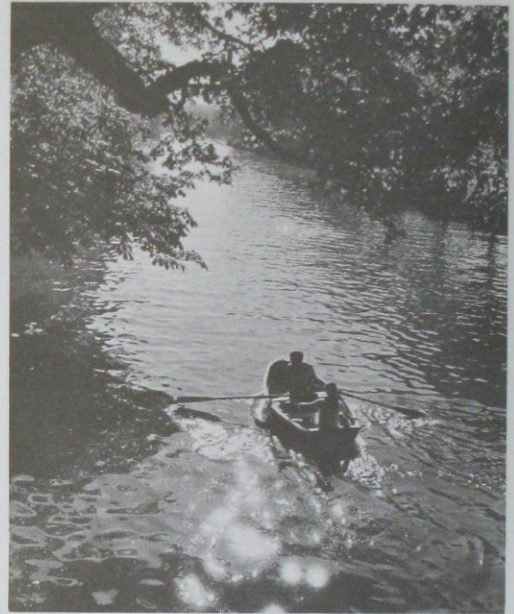
On December 18, Harry retired. Keith Woolmer, FCD photographer, was on the spot to take the above picture on one of Harry's last duties, manning the main reception in Tower 1.

Harry will certainly not be inactive. After a month's rest he intends to look for a part-time job. He will also be keeping in touch with his friends in EFA and has already enrolled as a member of the Over 65 club.

Mr H.W. Moore, Security and Safety Officer, presented him with a glass dome clock on behalf of his friends and colleagues.

Tranquillity

THE pleasure and the achievement of photography is the ability to capture and preserve those special moments and scenes. This picture by E.T. Sponder of Elliott Camera Club is captioned "Tranquillity" and reminds us that the new year brings us closer to summer. Camera Club has had an excellent year in competitions. An excellent selection of its work is always on view in a cabinet just inside the personnel entrance in the main factory.



Computers are pretty, girls are beautiful and you can get some perfectly smashing results by combining the two. Which is just what we suggested to Ray Christopher, chief photographer of the Chatham Standard newspaper when he photographed Susan Cobb, Wendy Walsh, Carol Anne Pethybridge and Janet Fabian for a full-page spread of "Charmers of Commerce" in the November 16 issue. The picture here shows Wendy Walsh, who crossed over from wages analysis in digital EDP to warm up the old analogue computer in the FCD side of mezzanine, Tower 3.

News Headlines

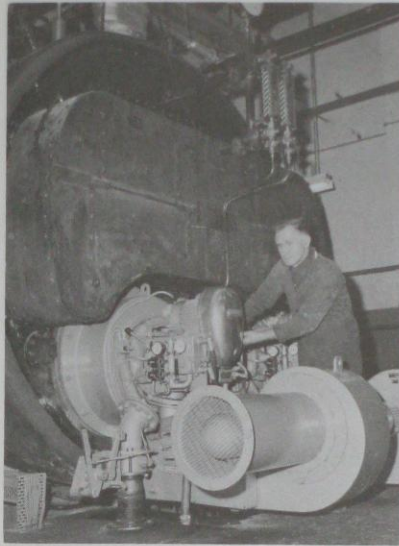
■ Trinidad is now in simultaneous telephone and colour television contact with Europe and North America through a satellite Earth Station made and built by Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. The station works through the Intelsat III or IV satellites in stationary orbit over the Atlantic.

■ Marconi medium wave transmitters, the first inaugurated last month, are providing a broadcast service in Uganda. The six Uganda TV transmitters already in operation are also by Marconi Communication Systems.

■ Marconi Space and Defence Systems has delivered the first SCOT ship-board satellite communications system for sea trials in the frigate HMS Grenville. SCOT will operate with the Skynet II satellite being made by — you've guessed it — Marconi Space and Defence Systems. This company, like Elliott Flight Automation, is a member of GEC-Marconi Electronics.

■ Latest use of satellites could be to give advance warning of volcanic eruptions. The European Space Research Organisation has commissioned Marconi Space and Defence Systems to study a design for an infra-red radiometer to plot ground temperature distribution from a spacecraft.

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YOU might say that Norman Bell, above, is one of the key people in the factory at this time of year. He and Ted Greenwood take shifts to attend the five boilers which are now available to raise steam to keep the main factory and towers warm. The biggest boiler, newly installed this autumn, together with the new chimneys, is rated at 12,000,000 BThU and can push out 12,000 lb of steam per hour. That's enough for full central heating in well over 150 houses.

Good news for the nylon-clad among us is that all the boilers have been converted with new burners from oil to gas oil, which runs with even less smoke. It should become clear now whether chimneys were the only cause of holed nylons. If and when a supply pipe can be laid, the boilers could be switched to North Sea gas.

Panto Time

THE PANTOMIME season is drawing near and this year the Elliott Dramatic Society has decided to present "Robinson Crusoe" sometime in February.

This production will be on a more lavish scale than before, involving more actors and actresses, the Peter Pan Starlets and the Elliott orchestra conducted by Bill Skinner. The show will probably go on for one week.

A few more young ladies are still required for the chorus numbers so if you have the time, join them at rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the canteen at 7.30 pm. New faces are always welcome.

Under the capable direction of Fred Haddell, (IND), this pantomime should be a show not to be missed.



These and many other party pictures are on show on notice boards and can be ordered through Jim Collins.



The entertainers had fun, too. Here it's pie-time, with Buttons (Fred Haddell) and the Ugly Sisters Tom Smith, Jack Gullion and Ken Hyde.



Squire Jim Collins (left) accepts the invitation to the ball from Prince's aide Brian Young. The Sisters look on.

Athletics - next month

Elliott Athletic Club will be competing in the following events during the coming month:

January 8

Youth and boys cross country race organised by Kent Athletic Club at Beckenham. Six mile cross country race at Tonbridge — seniors only.

January 15

Six mile cross country race organised by Medway Athletic Club for seniors, youths and boys at Mote Park, Maidstone. Six mile cross country race at Nonnington College for seniors, youths and boys.

January 22

Seniors six mile cross country race at the Metropolitan Police headquarters in Hayes, Kent.

January 29

Five mile cross country race for seniors, youths and boys at the Kent County Police, Maidstone.

Further details from Len Murphy, ADD, on Internal 361.



Father Christmas was well equipped with toys and his chariot was lit with fairy lights.

Shopping in GEC

BEING members of one of the biggest electrical equipment groups in the World must have its good points and one of them must be to be able to buy equipment at a staff discount. EFA News here presents the results of some research to determine what products are available and how to obtain them.

Any EFA employee can use the staff discount facilities for himself and, within reason, for friends. Generally you must know exactly (model, version, colour and so on) what you want and be prepared to pay with order. Hire purchase can hardly be expected. In most cases a company order is needed and can be obtained from Jim Collins, Social Secretary. It is essential to check that the particular model is available and can be delivered satisfactorily. We have tried to specify these details below.

A year ago, a three-day GEC equipment sale was held in the main canteen. This event might be repeated during 1972.

EFA does have a number of purchasing arrangements with local Kent dealers and wholesalers, both for electrical and other goods. Jim Collins can tell you about them. Then compare these not only with the price but with the delivery arrangements you can get by staff sales.

In virtually all cases normal guarantees are not lost in a staff sale and the existing local dealer network provides guarantee service and repair.

Now here are the results of our intra-GEC research.

Hotpoint, General Electric, English Electric, Morphy Richards (grouped under British Domestic Appliances)

Virtually every type of small and large domestic electrical equipment, from deep freezers to hair driers. Staff discount is equivalent to about 27½% off retail price. "Sub-standard" units, mechanically perfect and unused but externally slightly damaged, can be 40% cheaper and are in good supply.

Contact: GEC Staff Shop, East Lane, North Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7PQ: opening hours 12.00 - 2.00 daily.

Delivery: Large units delivered anywhere in Britain for £1, but check on delay: small items usually delivered to factory on GEC company van network.

Servicing: cookers, Electricity Board: large units, Hotpoint at Snodland: small units, JES Arnold Domestic Appliances, Chatham.

AEI

Kettle elements, boiling plates, immersion heaters. Staff discount 25% off retail price, except immersion heaters, for which 25% is deducted from basic retail price, but full purchase tax is paid.

Contact: Sales Department, AEI Heating Ltd, Redring Works, Peterborough PE2 9JJ.

Delivery: by post, with 50p post and packing charge.

Cannon

Gas cookers, grills and convection room heaters. Staff rate is manufacturer's price. Use company order; payment with order. State whether town or natural gas.

Contact: Sales Department, Cannon Industries Ltd, Deepfields, Bilston, WV14 8XR, Staffs. Delivery: to Rochester factory in three to four weeks.

GEC, Sobell, McMichael

Television, radiogram, unit audio. Discount of a few percent for television can be arranged through GEC's London head office, but is unlikely to prove better than that available locally. Good discount is possible on audio equipment.

Contact: Sales Department, Radio and Allied Industries Ltd, Langley Park, Slough SL3 6DP.

Osram

Bulbs, fluorescent tubes, fittings, car bulbs and sealed beam units. Discount 25%.

Contact: Staff Sales Department, Osram (GEC) Ltd, PO Box 17, East Lane, Wembley HA9 7PG.

Delivery: No delivery service offered.

Revo

Storage heaters, with or without fan. Approximately 22% discount, money with company order.

Contact: Sales Department, Revo Domestic Appliances Ltd, Wardle Street, Bacup, Lancs. Delivery: free delivery in Britain at delay of two to six weeks.

Service: guarantee retained, service through BDA depots.

Satchwell

Room thermostats, motorised radiator valves, central heating controls. Discount 25% plus 15% on company order marked "staff purchase". Money with order.

Contact: Sales Department, Satchwell Domestic Heating Division, PO Box 57, Slough SL1 4UH, Bucks.

Delivery: GEC van network to factory or post home.

This is one of FCD's units for Concorde shortly before delivery early this year. It is one of the autopilot and flight director computers and could be one of the boxes actually on board Concorde 01 now.

Picture by Peter Tromp.

Concorde News continued

facturers can formally draw up contracts: Reported price, "about £12 million". A Boeing 747 Jumbo costs over £10 million. Mr Corfield says the price agreement "releases the safety catch" for selling the aircraft.

Mr Keith Granville, Chairman of BOAC, said "We look forward to being able to buy Concorde. It has long been BOAC's policy to go supersonic as soon as it is practicable to do so".

December 9 Speaking to the Royal Aeronautical Society in London, Mr Corfield said "Let there be no mistake about this, Concorde is a major technical achievement of which the British industry can be justly proud. We do not intend that this should be forgotten in 1972". When two Concorde were available, demonstration flights would be much more likely. We might even see Concorde over the Medway towns during 1972.

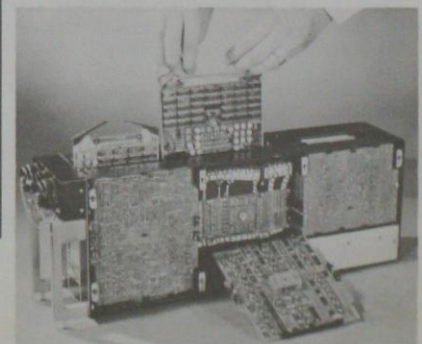
December 10 Fairford, Glos—Mr John Davies, Secretary for Trade and Industry, Lord Carrington, Secretary for Defence, and their wives, accompanied by BAC's Chairman Sir George Edwards and Mr Geoffrey Knight, Chairman of BAC Commercial Aircraft Division, made an 85 minute flight, reaching Mach 2 over the western approaches to the Channel.

Mr Davies said afterwards "It is a fabulous aircraft. If you had any scares on account of cancellation before, you can banish them now". "Everyone of us in the Government feels that no effort should be spared to see that Concorde gets all the support it needs to succeed".

December 12 French President M Pompidou made his second flight in Concorde 001 when he flew from Paris to the Azores for his summit meeting with President Nixon. The US president is reported to have admired Concorde and to have said he believed such a machine would one day be built in the USA.

December 14 Another group of MPs of both parties made a 1¼ hour flight in Concorde 001 from Fairford. Two Labour MPs refused the flight in sympathy with the strikers at Rolls-Royce Bristol Engines.

Mr John Shaffer, chief of the US Federal Aviation Administration, told journalists in Washington that Concorde would not be too noisy for US airports.



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