



Rochester Avionic Archives Newsletter

From the Curator

Welcome to this second edition of our Newsletter. We have had a busy time recently with the changeover of the equipment in the new display cabinets in the company main reception area. These three cabinets are viewed by many employees as they go for refreshments or lunch in the restaurant. The number of new acquisitions is slowing down naturally as we have discovered most of the hiding places on the Rochester site. The Phase III Building is slowly being emptied so we can expect some items to appear in that process.

We are looking forward to the Employee Open Day in July and the RAA will have a stand alongside the Display Cases in the Restaurant area. See below for more information on our plans.

Please have a look at our Website and if you spot an item without a description we would love to have more information about it. Just e-mail on the address below.

Chris Bartlett



Frederick Henry Elliott, MA.
1819 - 1875



Charles Alfred Elliott
1831 - 1877

These are the Elliott Brothers (Frederick on the left and Charles on the right).

Recent acquisition



These Binoculars have three presettable positions on the eyepieces for 'Theatre', 'Field' or 'Marine'. The Binoculars are marked 'Elliott Bros 149 Strand London'. They were acquired from eBay.

Open Day 2009

The Company will open its doors for employees and their families on the 25th July. As usual there will be a chance for employees and hopefully ex-employees to see where you work but also to see some of the technology. The RAA will be there and we are marking the **Centenary of the company as a supplier of aircraft instruments**. We hope to have an exhibition of old equipment from the RAF Museum at Hendon and also from Ron Bristow's collection. The same weekend marks 75 years of Rochester Airport and one item we hope to acquire on loan is the crystal Rose Bowl awarded by Elliott Flight Automation for the Rochester Air Races.

Chairman: Chris Bartlett. Secretary Geoff Harvey

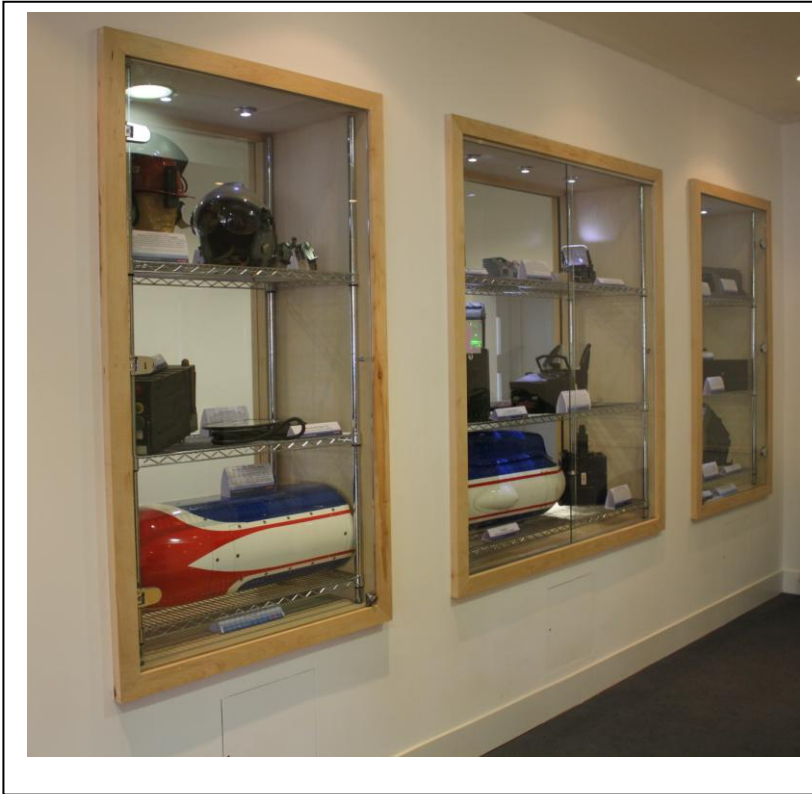
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Located at BAE Systems, Airport Works, Marconi Way, Rochester, ME1 2XX

Reception Area



This view of the Display Cabinets between the Restaurant and Reception area shows a selection of equipment from the RAA Collection. We are rather proud of the way that the LOCUS Pod appears to go through the wall between the Cabinets!

Picture Archive



This Poster was one of a series sponsored by Jerry Fisher and should be quite a collectable item. Unfortunately the RAA only has three of the set. The theme was used in the mid 80's for exhibitions and in 'Flight' and Aviation Week'. (*I would love to know who published them.*

Curator)
The RAA has a large collection of framed pictures and prints of equipment and aircraft which we are in the process of archiving.

Books

The RAA has accumulated a number of Books which have yet to be archived. These include some valuable old books, one by Claude Graham-White from the early days of flight and a handbook for Subalterns from the days of the RFC called 'The Aeroplane Speaks'.

Later books include Roly Beaumont's book on his test flights, with an excellent chapter on the Lightning, and various 'Flight' magazines from the 60's illustrating Elliott products



EFA NEWS



No.9
ELLIOTT-AUTOMATION IN AVIATION
September 1968

ELLIOTTS STRONG AT FARNBOROUGH —

In the Air and On the Ground

ALLIED for the first time with English Electric and Marconi, Elliott-Automation is mounting a major exhibit at the SBAC Farnborough Show on September 16, showing a spectacular variety of aviation and space equipment, and featuring prominently in most of the advanced aircraft. The indoor stands are Nos 286-287 and 294-296. The BAC weapons display will also be featuring the Elliott Nomad computer-controlled fighter and missile control system. Altogether, at least ten Elliott computers will be on show.

Farnborough lasts this year from September 16 to 22, and the last three days are open to the public, from 10.00 until 7.00 pm. The flying display starts at 3.00. Friday is expensive, costing £1 per car and £1 per head. On Saturday and Sunday, £2.10s covers a car and up to five occupants. Entry on foot costs 10s. Train from Chatham to Farnborough station, via Waterloo costs £1 for a cheap day return and there is a half-hourly train service. Special bus services from station to airfield are virtually certain. An alternative route is via Waterloo and Aldershot, with bus to the airfield. A well-loaded car, with off-main-road navigation, is probably the most cost-effective method.



Thanks from Lockheed

LOCKHEED Georgia made sure that EFA got its share of credit for the successful first flight of the mighty C-5A Galaxy, which got airborne on schedule on June 30.

Mr Montgomery, Lockheed's C-5 electronics purchasing manager, sent a cable to Rochester saying "Lockheed appreciates Elliott assistance in meeting the on-schedule first flight on the C-5 aircraft. This flight would not have been successful as it was without the efforts and dedication of many Elliott people."

"However, we would like to specifically recognise the fine efforts of Bob Jelley, Bob Shipp, Chris Frost and Tony Hodson on central air data computer during the hectic period of time just prior to flight".

Shipp, Jelley and Hodson were mentioned in the last *EFA News* as Elliott representatives at Atlanta, Georgia, supporting the C-5 project. Chris Frost, who was FID C-5 project manager at Rochester and is now the division's chief engineer, is, incidentally, one of the World's leading authorities on air data systems.

In addition to the cable, which was duly forwarded by EFA to our men in Atlanta, Lockheed sent to Rochester within a fortnight, a sound, colour movie film of the first flight and several other films about Lockheed Georgia and its products. These were widely shown at Rochester and aroused considerable interest. Mr Montgomery, who visited Rochester early in July, also gave a detailed briefing on the first flight.

Efforts Appreciated

It feels good to work for a company which makes this kind of effort to recognise the contributions of its suppliers.

The two Elliott air data computers in the C-5A played a major part in the success of the first flight since they provided the aircraft's main speed and height reference. By August 1 the two units had completed well over 1,000 hours running in the aircraft without a single failure.

Also on board the first C-5A are the AEID indicators of undercarriage leg position. EMAC and the cross-wind steering computer are scheduled to be phased-in later in the test programme.



MISS ELLIOTT 1968

Another AEID girl won the Miss Elliott title at the Annual Elliott Rochester Fete on July 13.

Elaine Lee-Frost, newly elected Miss Elliott, is here being presented with the trophy by Mr J. E. Yates, Managing Director of E-A Control Valves, while Mr J. E. Pateman, EFA's Joint Managing Director, lends a helping hand with her cape.

Elaine is 18 years old and has been a Banda operator, in AEID for a year. She says her hobbies include modern dancing, reading and knitting. (Picture by Gay Lancaster.)

A Snazzy Set-up

ADD's New Production Area

ONE of the most striking, attractively designed areas in the Elliott Rochester establishment, is the new ADD production area, now in operation in the space previously occupied by Gear Division. ADD is now tackling the quantity production of head-up displays for US Air Force and US Navy A-7 Corsair 2.

This colourful ultra-modern air-conditioned area, with its brilliant contemporary strip lighting gives, in many people's opinion, ideal working conditions.

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These cheerful smiles in ADD's new production area belong to (front row, left to right) A. Bakewell, production manager, G. Ramsey, production controller, J. Roberts, J. Pearce, C. Bennett, D. Burgeon, W. Harbottle and J. Griffiths. In the back row are, left to right, E. Ross, D. Meys, R. Barry, D. Searle and J. Dodd.

Elliott Man in Atlantic Race



NOEL BEVAN, technical manager of Elliott's Naval Division at Frimley, made the headlines when he came eighth in the Observer single-handed trans-Atlantic yacht race after a 37 day crossing in his ocean racer *Myth of Malham*. He is an electronics engineer as well as a highly experienced yachtsman and designed and made for the voyage a complete range of communications and navigation radio and a temperature sensor for detecting the presence of icebergs. Before the voyage he used the Elliott digital Hydroplot system to calculate corrections for radio bearings over the Atlantic.

On July 12, Bevan began the return voyage, accompanied this time by his wife, eight-year-old son and Mrs Livingstone, the yacht's previous owner. They were due to call at Plymouth on about August 9 before returning to home base on the Solent.

Fred Haskett

The many EFA people who know Fred Haskett, deputy marketing manager, will have been saddened to hear of his illness. He suffered a heart attack on August 23, but is now recovering at home in Bourton, under the care of his wife Sarah and one of his daughters.

He will probably be away for several months, but we all wish him the best possible recovery and look forward to seeing him back in action in due course.

This 'EFA News' from 1968 tells us about the SBAC at Farnborough. The Elliott Automation stand was combined with English Electric and Marconi. The company was proud to be showing the Nomad computer controlled fighter and missile control system. Alongside that as a contrast is the picture of Elaine Lee-Frost as Miss Elliott. Her hobbies are listed as modern dancing, reading and knitting.

Elliotts made the Air Data Computers, Energy Management system, Cross wind Steering and Undercarriage position indicators for the Lockheed C-17 and that company expressed its appreciation. It is a shame that the message of thanks and the first flight films have been lost.

The new Airborne Display Division Production area is shown with the smiling faces of the Production Manager, A. Bakewell, and his team.

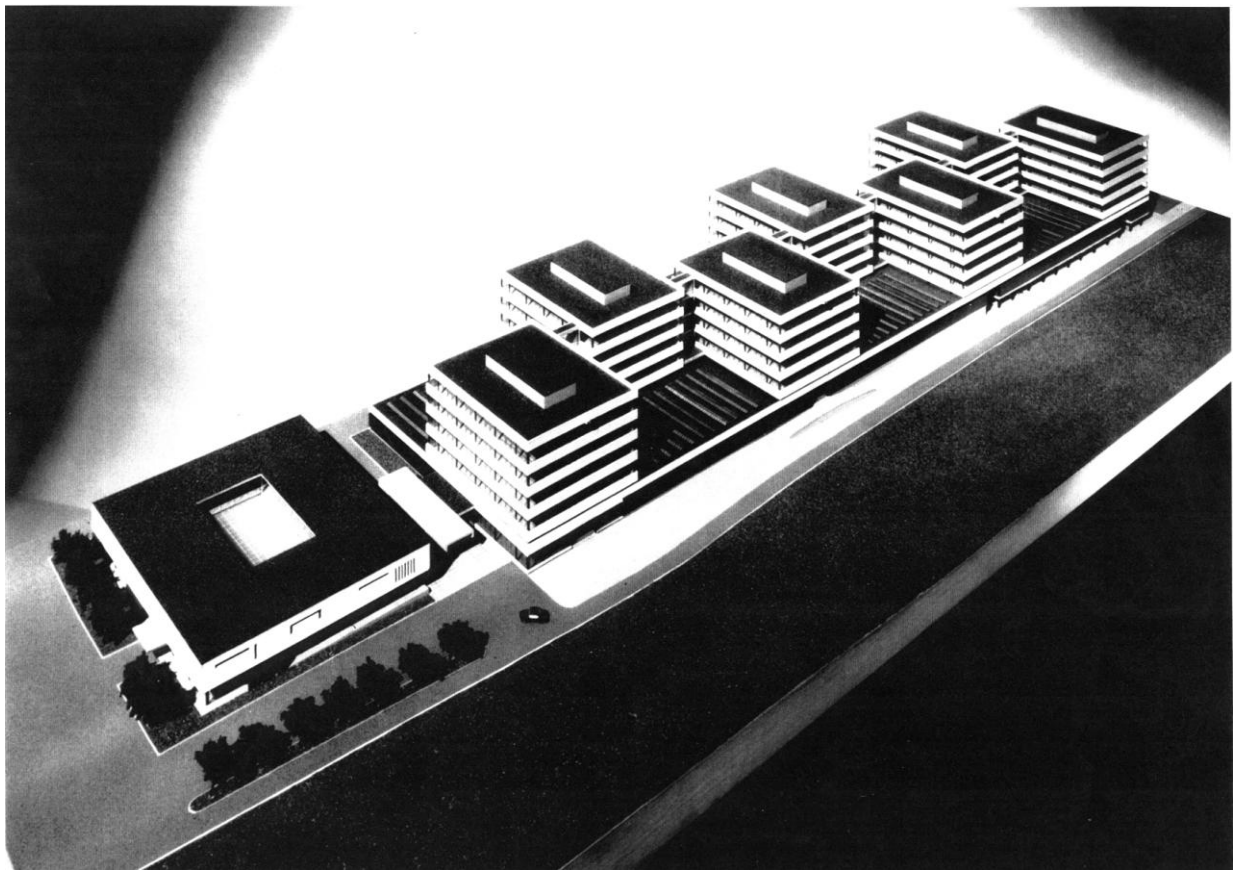
The note in the middle concerns an employee who took part in The Observer single-handed trans-Atlantic yacht race.

Finally a paragraph about Fred Haskett recovering from a heart attack. He is known for the Haskett Trophy presented for many years to the winner of an innovation competition at FARL. Fred's wife Sarah later went on to be a Mayor of Maidstone.

Negative Archive



This picture shows an Elliott Analogue Computer and is recorded as taken in 1967 at the Sydenham site. This was the old Cintel site where the original Head Up Display work was done. Cintel's activity was acquired by Elliotts in 1964 and slowly moved to Rochester and the move was completed in 1966. The man in the picture looks very much like Robin Sleight who was in charge of the move to Rochester. The Negative Archive from 1961 to 1972 is slowly being transferred to a searchable Excel Database but we have recently acquired another three cabinets of more recent pictures



This is a picture from 1960 showing the original plan for the Towers at Rochester with an ambitious seven Towers and a lower Restaurant Conference Centre at the front (East) end. Only three Towers were built. These Towers were quite original in their day with a central core and the floors are cantilevered out from this. On a windy day a slight bounce can be detected by those with a corner office