



The Merger takes place

During August it was announced that the English Electric offer for Elliott-Automation shares had been made unconditional, because the holders of more than 90 per cent of the E-A shares had accepted the English Electric offer and control was therefore ensured. The actual exchange of E-A shares for English Electric shares is therefore now taking place.

As forecast in the original announcement, there has been an exchange of directors between the two companies. Sir Leon Bagrit, Elliott-Automation chairman and managing director, has been elected a director of The English Electric Company and appointed a deputy chairman.

Mr P. L. de Laszlo, a director of English Electric, and Dr E. Eastwood, English Electric's director of research, have been elected directors of Elliott-Automation.



Staff Ellis, left, and Harry Eagles allowed themselves a brief smile during the final hours

BILL KEMP ENDS 20 YEARS WITH ELLIOTTS



Bill Kemp with his wife during his farewell party in the club house



Mr H. R. Walton, vice-chairman of the Valve Group, presents the cheque from Bill Kemp's friends and colleagues

Jim Hinchliffe Succeeds as Shop Stewards' Chairman

AFTER 20 years with Elliott companies at Rochester, including 13 as chairman of the shop stewards' committee, Bill Kemp retired on September 29. Rochester has lost one of its main personalities, once described by Sir Leon Bagrit as "so big-hearted and intelligent a man".

Jim Hinchliffe, a maintenance fitter in Servo and Electrical Instruments Division, has been elected to succeed Bill Kemp. Jim served 12 years in the engineering branch of the Royal Navy and has been with Elliotts at Rochester for five years.

The Difficult Years

Bill Kemp joined Swift & Swallow in the Airport Works factory in 1947, when Short Brothers and Harland were moving away from the Medway area. Those were hard years, and Bill was soon involved as shop steward in the reduction of Swift & Swallow employees from 450 to 190. He remembers discussing the situation with (then) Mr Leon Bagrit and being reassured of the future prospects for employment. It seemed hardly possible that the Rochester establishments of Elliotts, as the company became after the disappearance of Swift & Swallow, would expand to a strength of 4,000; and that it should thereby become the largest employer in the area, except for the Naval dockyard, with its strength of 12,000.

Continued on back page

ILAAS over the hump First System Delivered to Sperry

NO one who worked on ILAAS will ever forget it. The programme got under way slowly in August 1966, in the turmoil of a factory move, from Lower Sydenham, and a divisional reorganisation at Rochester. Activity built up steadily during the latter months of last year, moved into high gear this year and then escalated wildly to eight weeks of seven-day, two-shift working culminating in six days of 24-hour working.

The crucial first system, with its FTSE test equipment, was shipped to Sperry's Great Neck establishment on August 6, just under a year after contract signing. Within four days, the system was set up at Sperry's Great Neck factory and demonstrated to a US Navy team, who showed very considerable interest. During the year, the immediate prospects of a major production programme for ILAAS fell through but there are other possibilities and the effort will certainly not be wasted. From now on, the going should be less hectic. EFA's reputation in the outside

world was certainly greatly improved when Ken Warren and his ADD sales team landed the contract following months of hard work. The project management team, Dick Barltrop and, later, John Shepherd and Harry Eagles suitably "prodded" by Staff Ellis, may often have regretted that sales success, but they succeeded in getting the job done. They not only met the strict contract requirements, but broke new ground technically. There is no question that Sperry are impressed with EFA's contribution to ILAAS.

From the first design review meeting
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THE BLINK OF AN EYELASH

The wife of Harry Eagles, ILAAS project manager, was getting ready one evening to help Harry entertain some Sperry visitors. As she was applying make-up in the region of the eyelashes, her small daughter asked "What's that you're putting on, ILAAS?" Sperry always maintained that the ILAAS team should be totally involved in their work!



ILAAS over the hump

Continued from page 1

last year, it became clear that Sperry were going to enforce the ILAAS requirements to the letter. Their major sub-contract buyer Karl Stauffer, running the official Sperry/Elliott liaison, became a major driving force in the lives of all those involved in the programme. His most pungent phrase "Totally unacceptable" has become part of the ILAAS language.

Unmatched Capability

But in the end he showed an obvious admiration for much of the Elliott equipment. The company won the order on the basis of capabilities and equipment unmatched by anything available in the USA and succeeded in producing the hardware required. The all-ceramic tube, optical system, digital electronics unit and the associated test equipment are all brand new.

The ILAAS programme has proved again that complex technical innovation can be planned with the certainty of a production programme.

Glowing with health

The main surgery reports that coughs and colds are fewer this season than usual. Could it be due to the vitamin intake?

The surgery states that it sells, at wholesale prices, something like 130,000 boxes each containing 50 fruit-flavoured vitamin A, C and D tablets during the year. Assuming a total strength of 4,000 people at Rochester, this works out at just over 1,600 tablets per year per head, or just under 4½ tablets per day!

In addition, sales of halibut oil capsules amount to about 60,000 per year.

During a brief pause in the final hours of preparation of the first ILAAS unit the photographer caught Bill Alexander, EFA joint managing director, and Karl Stauffer, Sperry major sub-contracts buyer, together with some of the ILAAS team. Shown in this picture are, approximately from left to right, Paul Murray, Sam Dunlop, Harry Eagles, Dave Goan, Roger Alexander, John Batchelor, Noel McGregor, John Haine, Stan Jennings, Alan Tranter, Mike Freeman, Mike Alexander, R. Wilson, Ken Tuckwell, Geoff Wilson, Jim Machin, Staff Ellis, Ken Shaw, Joe Sayers, Pat Moore, Bob Robins, Tony Mundy, Eddie Goring, Ian Carruthers, Peter Royall, Ross Humphries, Stan Williams, Bob Ellwood, Alan Adams, Colin Snell, Geoff Wilkins, Johnnie King, Peter Stephenson, Mike Busbridge and Ron Usher

Power of Suggestion NOW THE GIRLS ARE AT IT

IT'S open season for suggestions from the girls—suggestions we hasten to add designed to save time, material or labour, improve processes, methods or routines and to eliminate waste or accidents in the Rochester establishment. In addition to being rewarded in the normal way by the EFA Suggestions Committee, the best suggestion received by November 11 will earn dinner and theatre for two, or a free beauty treatment or electrical goods to the value of the award.

This is just one of the periodic special schemes designed to encourage and maintain the flow of useful suggestions and to ensure that bright ideas don't go to waste. The flow has been steadily increasing during the past three years. There

were 111 during 1965, of which 49 earned financial awards, including 20 of more than three guineas. 1966 brought 143 suggestions, resulting in 67 awards including 33 of more than three guineas. 1967 so far has produced 120, indicating a year-end total of 160 to 170.

None Wasted

Any ideas concerning better ways of doing any of the jobs in the Rochester establishment are investigated by a committee headed by Norman Evans of IND. He is assisted by EFA planning and production specialists and by staff and shop-floor representatives, from DATA, ETU and AEU, appointed by the shop stewards. They can consult any appropriate divisions in order to judge the feasibility and value of each suggestion. Money is paid for each worthwhile suggestion, either an agreed sum or a percentage of cost savings, where these can be assessed by the division concerned. The highest award last year was £46, shared by two people in Fisher.

"A Few Odd Ones"

The procedure is simple to follow, and carefully planned to ensure that no worthwhile suggestion goes unrewarded. The company does not want to miss out on any good ideas, and it recognises that such ideas deserve tangible reward. The details are posted on company notice boards: the application forms

can be obtained from the personnel department. The suggestions boxes are distributed around the establishment and emptied each week. Any suggestion will be systematically considered.

There have been a few odd ones from time to time. One was that all waste paper in the towers should be thrown down the lift shafts and collected from the bottom. This one was rejected because of fire risk, but there were even more immediate problems.

NONE BUT THE BRAVE

Mike Corden, secretary of the MACD Engineers' Football Team, has asked EFA NEWS to broadcast a challenge to all other divisional teams for evening and weekend games. His exact words were "any team wishing to taste defeat". It is certain that a good many teams will want to make this gentleman taste his own words. He can be contacted in MACD Technical Publications Department, telephone extension 290. Don't forget to let EFA NEWS know the results.

Blood Donors Decline

BLOOD seems to be running slightly short in the Rochester establishment this year. For the blood collection session which ended in the main canteen on September 22, some 350 people volunteered in advance and a further 160 came without prior warning. From the total of 461 volunteers, 441 bottles of blood were collected.

A total of 1,070 bottles resulted from the two sessions held during 1966. The first session this year produced 545 bottles, making a grand total for 1967 of 986 bottles.

The blood was taken by the blood collection unit to the South London Transfusion Centre at Sutton, which forms the central reserve for the hospitals of south-east England. For the first time, the unit did not call for the services of the two dozen or so people at Rochester with special blood groups. During previous sessions, these "specialists" have contributed together at a fixed time, and their blood has been taken straight to a hospital engaged in something special, like a hole-in-the-heart operation.

RAF MOVES IN AT ROCHESTER

Customers
Settle in
with ATED

THE first three members of the new Elliott Automatic Test Equipment Flight, Royal Air Force, have now moved in with ATED to observe the development of the automatic test equipment for the HS.801 Nimrod and F-111K. The first three men, from the RAF's Central Servicing Development Establishment, are Flt Sgt C. A. Ward, Ch Tech J. M. Bennett and Ch Tech R. W. C. Grey. They are being joined by several other NCOs and by their commanding officer, Flt Lt Hitchins. Physical presence of the customer's representatives should put ATED on their mettle.

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PHOTOGRAPHY THIS WINTER

EFA Camera Club Plans Activities

WINTER is the dark room and studio season for the amateur photographer, but EFA's Camera Club is already laying plans for entries in the main competitions next summer.

Club secretary Derek Babington-Browne (TACD) hopes to organise fortnightly meetings in the club house in Featherby Road and to concentrate groups of members on certain projects. These are intended to produce groups of pictures suitable for the panels usually entered in competitions.

Main targets will, as usual, be the Elliott Inter-Establishment Competition and the Chatham Borough Council's Riverside Exhibition, both to be held next summer.

Prizes Won

Further afield, the Camera Club's panel won a movie camera as a prize in the international Schofield Challenge Trophy for clubs last year, and had their panel of photographs hung this year. Fewer than a tenth of the panels submitted are actually hung in the exhibition.

The Camera Club has about 40 members, some of whom have produced the pictures of social events featured in EFA NEWS. With its own lighting equipment, the club arranges studio evenings, for still-life

and portrait photography. Subjects are mostly volunteers, but very occasionally professional.

This year's chairman is Gay Lancaster (Fisher).



This wind-swept seascape was one of the pictures in the EFA Camera Club panel hung in the international Schofield Challenge Trophy exhibition this year

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These are the main social functions scheduled at Rochester between now and mid-January. Further details from Jim Collins, Social Secretary.

October 4	Beginning of Divisional Darts and Cards competitions, continuing until April 1968.
November 25 and December 2	Children's Christmas Parties.
December 4 and 5	Collections of Children's Toys from the Main Canteen at lunch time.
December 20	Company Christmas Lunch and Carol Singing.
December 21	Company Christmas Ball, to be held at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone.
December 30	New Year's Eve Dance, to be held in the Main Canteen.
January 13	Children's Party for the Medway Mentally Handicapped Children.

Where the West begins

ATED Team Moves to Fort Worth

A THIRD Elliott team is on its way to Fort Worth, "the town where the West begins", this time to stay for a year or so. Their job is to gather in the General Dynamics factory the information needed for the programming of the computer-controlled automatic test equipment for the F-111K for the RAF. Led by Ron Moseley, the team will take up residence in the Fort Worth area, together with their families, and work in an office in the engineering area, close by the mile-long production line where the first RAF F-111K is already taking shape.

Members of the group include Tony Richards and Brian Sturdy, from MACD, Neil McBain, formerly with Elliott's Australian company and representatives of E-A Radar Systems. They will be working near the RAF's own group, the Miles Electronics simulator engineers and the Australian team co-ordinating delivery of the 24 F-111Cs for the RAAF. The Miles simulators, incidentally, will each be controlled by a pair of Elliott 4100 digital computers.

Far from the Medway

Fort Worth will be a big change from Kent and the Medway towns, according to members of the ATED team who visited General Dynamics earlier this year. The town lies roughly on the dividing line between east and west Texas, close to Dallas, where President Kennedy was assassinated, astride the terrain and climate divisions in a state the size of France.

Alec Hill, back from an earlier visit, reports August daytime temperatures over 100°, with a pre-dawn low of 58°.

Fort Worth still has large cattle stockyards and is a typical American

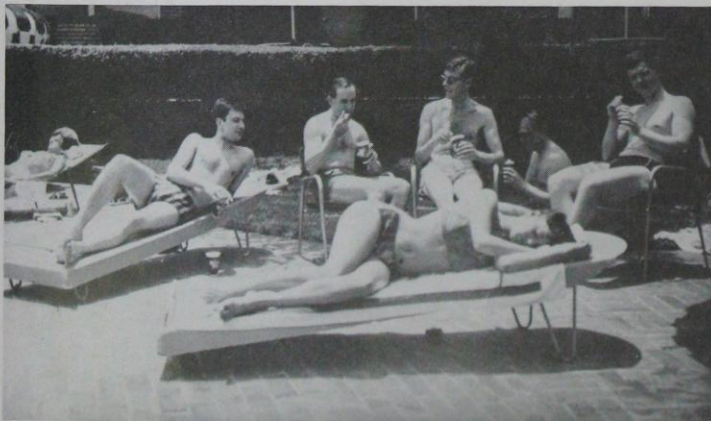
city sprawl. It is about 200 miles from Johnson City and the LBJ ranch. The sea is a long way south, but nearby the Trinity and Colorado rivers are dammed at regular intervals and have formed lakes up to 20 miles long which are available for boating and bathing.

"Dry" State

There is no public transport and shops or shopping centres tend to be planted out in open country. A car or two is an absolute family necessity. People tend to spend a good deal of their time on motorways.

In the peculiar variety of the USA drink laws, Texas is nominally a dry state, which means that you can only buy short drinks in clubs—unless you take your own bottle, bought at an official liquor store, into the bar and pay through the nose for "set-ups", which are the tonic or whatever you drink it with. Bars are otherwise limited to beer.

It is hardly surprising that one sees plenty of ten-gallon or "Hoss" hats but, according to ATED, few side arms are carried. Further afield, you can go and see the famous Alamo mission church at San Antonio.



The ATED team concentrating on a strictly non-automatic feature of Fort Worth, Texas, during an earlier visit. They included (left to right) Mike Kitley, Leon Painter, Eric Iball, Ken Brewster (project manager) and John Basham. No one found time to discover the identity of the lady

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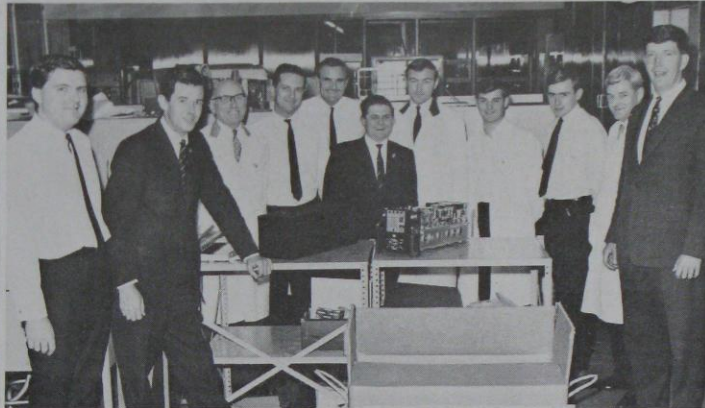
The last straight bat of 1967 AS & RD Wins Cricket Finals

AN early start on a cool evening was the setting for the Cricket Knockout Final between AS & RD and the much-favoured Fisher team. From the first ball it was apparent that an upset of form was not unlikely, and so it was that AS & RD managed to hold off considerable pressure in the later stages of the match to run out eventual winners.

Both teams were well pleased with the pitch prepared by Club Steward, Mr Sturla, and with the spirit in which the game was played. It was not difficult to select a man of the match, there were 22 good-un's—take your pick. Final scores were AS & RD 93, Fisher 83.

Both teams were presented with individual prizes by Mr F. Shields, EFA Joint General Manager.

FID DELIVERS TO USA ON TIME



During the final night before the on-time delivery of the first air data computer for the Lockheed C-5A, the FID team who made it pose alongside computer and its destined shipment case. Left to right, they are John Spinks, Stan Wells, Arthur Colver, Chris Frost (project manager), John White, John Smith, Peter Farrer, Michael Stevens, John Clover, Roy Scudder and Dick Collinson (FID manager)

First Air Data Computer for C-5A Completed

WITH rather less fanfare, but equal pride, FID joined ADD in the select group of EFA divisions to have delivered equipment for US military aircraft. The first air data computer for the Lockheed C-5A was put into its case during the final night and shipped by PanAm direct to the Elliott team in Atlanta.

Though FID had not suffered the intense pressures and the sweat of basically new developments needed for the ILAAS head-up display, they had to work hard, to a difficult schedule—for various reasons—and met similar requirements for “deliverable data” and the other concomitants of an American order. The pace hotted-up in the final days and several nights were worked through. Hottest point in the programme was possibly the moment when John Spinks walked into a hot wire-stripper and was observed to be smoking at the waist. Though his trousers were a write-off, his worst fears proved unfounded. Burning seems to be popular in FID. Shortly before the wire-stripper episode, Dick Collinson was caught by a change of wind beside his bonfire and suffered a scorched face and arm.

BILL KEMP RETIRES

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Bill, a member of the AEU, was elected chairman of the shop stewards' committee in 1954, representing the AEU, ETU, Boiler-makers' and Sheetmetal Workers' unions at Rochester. During his term of office he achieved his three main ambitions, a non-contributory sick benefit scheme, a pension scheme and staff conditions for hourly-paid workers. The last-named now apply after 15 years' service, but the qualifying time will reduce to 10 years in 1969. Labour relations have been

generally very good and there has never been a significant strike.

Years of Change

The years of expansion have seen many changes, not least in the type of work done in the factory. Bill remembers the schemes to retrain men for electronics assembly, and the beginning of the apprentice scheme which has since trained 300 apprentices. Several have now become production managers with Elliotts.

Bill shows considerable satisfaction at having been involved in these developments and can take his share of credit that Elliotts have often set an example in the Medway towns for labour relations and working conditions. The company has come a long way from the days of coke stoves and hot cocoa in the works during winter months, and before the tower blocks were built.

In addition to his functions with Elliotts, Bill Kemp has been chairman of the AEU Chatham and District Committee, the disabled men's committee and the employment committee for the Medway area. On a national level, he has four times served on the AEU National Committee.

On September 26, at a farewell party in the Featherby Road clubhouse, Mr. H. R. Walton, vice-chairman of the Valve Group, presented Bill with

the cheque which resulted from a collection amongst his friends and colleagues.

Mick Moran, Establishment Personnel Manager, gave him a gold watch from past and present shop stewards and Bill himself presented to his wife, on behalf of the shop stewards, a brush and comb set.

Going to Australia

Now Bill is headed for Australia, to join his son in Canberra. The managership of an English immigrants' club is waiting for him there; and Bill is considering retiring there. His very many friends at Rochester will wish him further success and happiness. He will long be remembered here.

Meanwhile, since October 2, Jim Hinchliffe has been wearing the symbol of office, the bleeper.

EFA ON TV

Concorde's Autopilot Featured

DURING late August and September, BBC TV ran three programmes entitled “The Supersonic Adventure” starting with a look at Concorde and going on to discuss its ultimate successor, the hypersonic transport. The second programme, shown on September 6, included a short description by Ron Howard of the EFA flight control system for Concorde.

The scene was filmed in the Concorde wiring rig at BAC's Filton factory. TV lighting, camera trolley, monitor screens and cables were added to an area already festooned with the Concorde's own wiring looms. It all looked a bit improbable, but came out very well in the actual programme. Ron was made to say his piece over and over again until he had lost all spontaneity. Then the

producer stopped filming and picked the best of the shots for the programme. This is apparently a standard technique. There was a great deal of dramatic activity in the BBC control van, where the various camera pictures were being switched, and the programme recorded for subsequent broadcasting. It was rather like a fighter control room at the height of an air battle.



Jim Hinchliffe, maintenance fitter in Servo and Electrical Instruments Division, has been elected chairman of the shop stewards' committee in succession to Bill Kemp

YE OLDE BAT AND TRAP GAME

ATED Stays Sober Long Enough to Win

UNDER floodlights and amid good humoured comment and much elbow bending the final of the old English game of Bat and Trap Knockout took place at the Elliott Sports Ground at Featherby Road on Wednesday, September 13.

The competing finalists, Fisher and ATED engaged in friendly combat, with many ribald remarks aimed at the floodlights, the opposition and each other (in that order) going a long way towards setting the tone of the final. After a friendly and entertaining evening ATED managed to stay sober long enough to run out worthy winners by two games to nil.

Both teams were presented with well earned prizes by Mick Moran, Establishment Personnel Manager.

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