



Swing Wing folds up F-111K and After

HARDLY anyone in the British aircraft industry has been lucky enough to avoid being involved in some cancellation or other. The defence cuts announced in January show that no one can even now be young enough not to remember at least one. F-111K, and one or two quite sizeable Elliott contracts, are no longer.

Most of us probably have some feelings about the value of the aircraft to British defence, but few can feel any comfort at its final demise.

The loss of the automatic test equipment order for F-111K must to some extent affect ATED, although there is enough work in the business to ensure that there is no need for redundancies as a result of the cancellation.

What is much more thought-provoking, to use as innocent a word as possible, is the resultant effect on our future prospects of American orders now that the offset agreements tied to F-111K are apparently gone. At

least EFA can face the future as an established supplier of equipment to the US Air Force and Navy, with the prospect of further orders generated by those already existing.

The prospects are not as bleak as they might seem, and the sales teams are certainly not relaxing their efforts. The civil market, in an improving tariff situation, will present at least as challenging opportunities as the military market did.

It is early yet to draw final conclusions on prospects in the military area, but Lockheed have confirmed that they will retain Elliott equipment in future C-5As.

MACD LAUNCHES EMAC PRODUCTION

First Unit Completed On Time

THE MACD team producing the Energy Management Analogue Computer for the USAF Lockheed C-5A heavy logistics transport completed the first unit on time during January and is now following up with the remaining 71 units and with the four sets of test equipment.

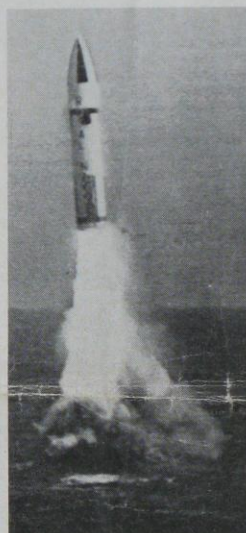
The first EMAC unit was designed and made in 53 weeks from signing the contract. Most of this was achieved by good planning followed by sheer hard work but, for the first time, the 803 computer was extensively used in circuit design.

George Bull, EMAC project leader, reckons that more than 70 Rochester people, including many in MACD's drawing office, model shop, contracts and buying departments, played their part. The very first EMAC was a production unit, and MACD man-

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EFA AT CAPE KENNEDY

IND Observes Polaris Firing



The words Royal Navy on the side of this Polaris A3 missile identify it as the first launched by HMS Resolution off Cape Kennedy.

COMMISSIONING Polaris systems, which the IND team led by Steve Pallis have been doing, means work to a tight programme in a small space on high-density equipment. This in turn means shift work, which disturbs family life. By enduring this for months, our Polaris men have all helped forge the national deterrent.

HMS Resolution's ship's company now operate on their own, but when they first fired Polaris missiles, submerged near Cape Kennedy, two IND experts, consultant Jim Whitehead and senior systems engineer Miles Foulger, were on hand.

If you are working at Cape Kennedy, you live at Cocoa Beach, but there is no truth in the rumour that the entire Cocoa Beach Hilton was taken over by IND's Polaris contingent.

...And at Barrow

What the whole IND team based at Vickers' Shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness did share in was the contractors' sea trials of HMS Resolution, around the Clyde last summer. Ably led by navigation superintendent Lionel Goodsell of Rainham Cricket Club fame, our men then exercised their skills for a few weeks in conditions which would have justified a canned sardine in striking. Off-duty hours at Lionel's field headquarters, the Colquhoun Arms on Loch Lomond, were a partial compensation. The area was well known to most of our engineers, as they had commissioned the Navigation System in the nearby Royal Naval Polaris School, in 1965/66. In fact our senior local rep of those RNPS days, Jack Conboy, had taken his fund of experience with him to Barrow, where it greatly helped in speeding HMS Resolution's success.

ARE YOU RED, BLUE OR GREEN?

MOST of us managed to freeze our faces into that Alcatraz convict look just long enough to ensure that the portrait of a lifetime appears on our new badge. For the record, there are more than 3,000 "companions in horror" in the Rochester establishment.

The reason for this acute attack of identification is the need to control access to various EFA and ESWAL areas at Rochester, but it often helps to be able to read someone's name and pretend that you had remembered it anyway.

After very careful study, the badge system of Photo-Me Identification Ltd was chosen and one of the booths they install at railway termini and other public places was bought and installed in Cdr Fenn-Clark's office. Badge production went full steam for months, except for delays caused by equipment unserviceability and the becalming of the "plasticising" machine in a French port during the dock strike.

Now that the badges are issued and being worn, the system will have to keep up with the steady demand for new badges for people transferred between divisions. Each badge carries divisional initials. Blue badges are for EFA, red for ESWAL and green for establishment people and apprentices who have reason to enter EFA and ESWAL areas. The only hard rule in the system is "No badge, no entry". To help those who lose or forget their badges, Cdr Fenn-Clark keeps a spare copy of each badge, which can be issued temporarily until the original is restored. If lost in a public place, there is a good chance that the badge will be posted back to the owner, but security should, of course, be immediately informed.





COMPANY DANCE

Left, the Dagenham Girl Pipers practically went supersonic at the company dance at the Star Hotel, Maidstone, on December 21. Here, Ken Boniface provides a hefty portion of centrifugal force. Right, Lorraine Spendiff (AEID) was officially confirmed as Miss Elliott by Mr N. R. Dent. Lorraine was elected at the Elliott Fete last year.



Watching the dicky-bird, above, are Terry Smith (Fisher Sales) and friend, Christine Wickham (Personnel) and Fred Wickham (FID Model Shop), Maureen Arnold (Personnel) and Barry Arnold.

Nearly all the pictures in this issue, and a great many in previous issues, have been taken and processed by members of the Elliott Camera Club. Without them EFA News would be dreary and we thank them, notably Randolph Jones (MACD), Paul Chesmond (MACD) and Gay Lancaster (Fisher).



Destroyed by fire

A NEW system for handling secret and confidential documents with far less tedious paperwork, developed by Cdr. Fenn-Clark, is now in full use.

It is so good that it has been recommended to other companies. One element in the procedure is that records of documents no longer needed and destroyed by fire are simply rubber-stamped "Destroyed by Fire".

There was a curious incident when the appropriate "destroyed by fire" rubber-stamp was ordered. For some months it did not arrive, but an enquiry produced a stamp imprinted with the insignia of a certain county council's education department. The department was contacted in order to effect an exchange of stamps. But the department, puzzled by the strange "destroyed by fire" stamp, had done what they considered logical—and destroyed the stamp by fire! If it hadn't been the education department, with plenty of nimble readers on hand, heaven knows where that stamp might have ended up.

NEWS SUMMARY

India gets 90% of disputed Rann

India got the greater part of the disputed Rann of Kutch

... if it had been Rann of MACD, he could doubtless have transmitted the remaining 10% back to Rochester by transcendental meditation. (This rather startling cutting came from the Financial Times, February 20.)

SHEET METAL and CMS DANCE

George Cox of CMS looking after one of the Bunny girls while waiting for his raffle prize at the Sheet Metal and Central Machine Shop dinner dance at the Corn Exchange on December 15. Alfie Blake (CMS) one of the organising committeemen, is at that microphone.



MACD DINNER DANCE



In close formation at the MACD dinner dance at the Central Hotel (left to right) John Gilson, Janet Goodhand, John Goodhand, Laura Wofford, Reg Wofford (GE representative with EFA), Meg Karghin and John Karghin.



The well-stocked bar is a feature of the club lounge in Featherby Road, manned here by Cyril Sturla, club steward, and Major the guard dog.

Another Champion Fish

AEID fishermen have done it again. Roy Henson of the fuel flow rig caught a 17½lb, three feet long cod from Gillingham pier in December. It's the season for cod, and larger ones are not uncommon out at sea, but this was a record for Gillingham pier, well into the Medway river. The catch was duly verified and announced to the Sunday Express, who awarded Roy Henson the week's prize, a leather wallet. The catch was also reported in the Chatham and Gillingham News.

The presence of so large a cod so far up the Medway shows that the river is becoming cleaner.

Roy has been sea-fishing round the Kent coast for some years and goes out regularly. The last issue of EFA News recorded the prize-winning conger caught last year by another AEID fisherman, Noel Beby.



IND CELEBRATES



The Corn Exchange in Rochester was the scene for IND's Christmas dinner dance on December 29—and for the high-density Hokey-Cokey above. Participants, left to right, are Bill Bray (librarian), Dave Hilton, Patricia Bray (Bill's daughter), Roy Vousden (Engineering), Olive Vousdon, Frances Maynard (Production Office), Amber Swan and Roy Maynard (Clean Area).



Left, Vera and Harry Mott sported both shield and detergent when cameraman Randolph Jones came within range.



The Elliott Over 65s were not to be left out of the fun, as the couple above clearly showed.

OVER 65's JOINED IN



Bingo needed brain-work rather than physical energy.

Skinner Philharmonic

THE Elliott carol singing in December saw the first public appearance of the brass ensemble formed by Bill Skinner of Fisher Governor Multilith Systems department. Dave Lucas (AEID) brought the choir which he runs locally and accompanied them on the electronic organ. Bill Skinner on trumpet was accompanied by trumpeters Ian Hamilton (MACD) and George Wooding (Fuse), cornet Peter Rose (Fisher), horn Frank Border (Gear) and euphonium Sam Watson (TACD).

Bill Skinner also provided the band for the Elliott children's parties (not EFA parties, as mistakenly reported in the last issue), and he formed an organ quintet to play at the handicapped children's party on January 13. Skinner was then assisted by Malcolm Ing (Fisher) on rhythm guitar, Peter Burt (FARL) on melody guitar, Dave Lucas on organ and Stan Osborne (maintenance electrician) on drums.

With this collection of talent, Bill Skinner can form a variety of bands for special occasions, but he is keen to get in touch with any musicians in the Rochester establishment in order

to form a music appreciation society for practical musicians. This could be the start of a musical section of the social club. Multilith systems department is on internal 'phone 585.

Skinner himself has been a musician for many years. He served 12 years with the Royal Engineers, many of them with the band, and still plays

with the TA staff band at Canterbury. He arranged much of the music played at the recent Elliott functions, and had the distinction of forming a show band on Christmas Island during the nuclear weapons trials. He might have written a concerto for megaton bomb and brass—with a finale by massed harps.



Bill Skinner at full blast, leading the organ quintette he formed for the Elliott Children's Christmas parties and the handicapped children's party.

JIM IS BACK social club activities grow

Social secretary Jim Collins is back in harness after a month's enforced rest. 1967 was a crowded year for him, culminating in an intense round of social events, in many of which he shouldered a large share of the organisation.

For 1968 there are already plans for further extension of social club activities. A mountain climbing section has been formed and members have already ventured vertically in Snowdonia.

Bouquet for AEID

Senior Buyer Ken Steward and Sub-contract Administrator Wayne Bauer had to reach across the Atlantic to nominate Elliott Brothers of Rochester, Kent, England for recognition.

To prevent a work stoppage, Elliott Brothers performed modification rework on 57 fuel probes used on the C-130 wing program. Although the work normally would require 30 days, Elliott Brothers—after receiving the probes on a Friday—worked a crew around the clock through Sunday and shipped them on the following Monday morning. They were in a Lockheed stockroom on Wednesday.

This pleasant compliment appeared in the November/December issue of *Buy Lines*, published by Lockheed California Company in Burbank, California. Compliments are always welcome, but especially so when they are earned in a difficult and important sales area.

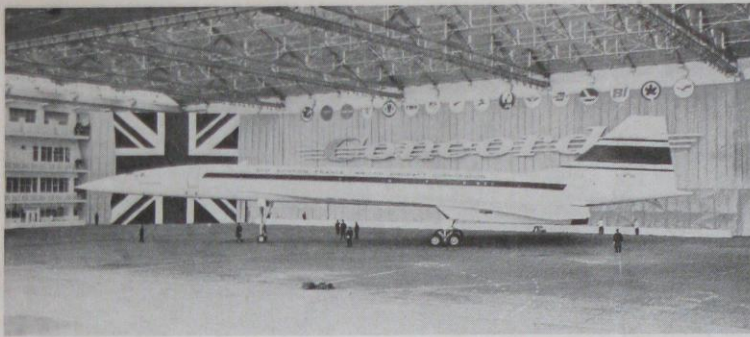
BOOKS NEEDED

The Apprentices' Association is starting a library of books dealing with mechanical, electrical and mathematical subjects up to HNC standard.

Many qualified engineers in the Rochester establishment must have such books left over from their own studies.

If so, dig them out and offer them to Ernie Free in the training centre, internal 'phone 436. Perhaps they will find a new lease of life.

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Concorde 001, as it was first seen by the public during the roll-out ceremony at Toulouse in December.

CONCORDE IN THE FLESH

First Flight Draws Nearer

CONCORDE has been publicly seen in the flesh now. It exists and is that much harder to cancel because of it. But someone always finds a chance to knock, even by mistake, as happened during January when the French minister of transport was manoeuvred into some indiscretions by astute journalists.

The French minister's reported accusation that the AFC's was holding up the first flight was an apparently cruel blow, but was due simply to a mis-translation in the UPI news bureau in Paris. The minister had referred to powered controls, but who are journalists to differentiate between these and automatic flight controls?

Icy Winds

If icy winds on the Concorde project usually originate with the politicians, Mother Nature outdid them all when the 001 prototype was formally rolled out of its hangar at Toulouse on December 11. This time the politicians provided the only hot air available—and not nearly enough of it to warm the frozen spectators. The enormous one-piece hangar door slowly ground upwards to reveal the weird shape of the supersonic transport age.

National Anthems

The jingo emotions of the national anthems reciprocally played by the French and British military bands—"I thought we played theirs better than they played ours, old boy"—were neatly excised by razor edge of the icy wind.

Concorde itself, trailing behind a king-sized tractor, seemed to hobble in the cold, its sharply cambered leading edges apparently trying to wrap themselves round the box-like engine nacelles. The minute windows looked more like the perforations across a sheet of stamps.

Now the date of the first flight has become something of a mystery. Most probable target seems to be June or July, but it might come even later.

Anyone For Table Tennis

ALTHOUGH somewhat limited in numbers because of the restricted resources, the progressive table tennis section has managed to provide competitive table tennis for the enthusiast. Founded in 1960-61, the assets were one and a half tables (an improvised half, home made) and loads of enthusiasm. Official recognition was forthcoming in the acquisition of a "proper" table, and the Medway Towns League was entered in the 1961-62 season.

Brian Barton, John Brambleby and Roy Sands were all indefatigable

Below, Mr Alexander gets the seniors off to a good start in the Annual Road Race, held on the day after the dance.



founder members and are still active. Pat Baylis and Ken Walling were also prominent in the early days. Elliotts soon made their mark in the League tables. They earned promotion right up through the divisions in successive seasons, and now have teams in the Premier, First, Second and Fourth divisions.

A room was provided at the Club House but, because it was too small

Running & Dancing

Busy Winter for Athletics Club

OVER 120 members and friends met at the Elliott Athletics Club annual dance to celebrate a successful year's athletics, in which the membership had increased to 68 mixed members. Moderation, however, was the keynote, as the following Saturday the Annual Road Race organised by the club, was held.

Eight teams took part, with the Elliott team finishing third, but supplying the individual winner in Tim Briault who covered the 6½ mile course in 32min 48sec. Starter of the race was Mr W. H. Alexander, who this year became an official starter with the AAA's blessing. The only problem that has arisen has been in finding an official starter's hat for Mr Alexander. Club members have given many reasons for this state of affairs, but we are sure it must be because of a general shortage of hats. The club is certain that another suc-



Above, Lorna McPake, minutes secretary of the athletics club, and Brian Young (TACD) recover from dancing at the club's annual dance.

cessful year is starting and would like to extend a welcome to those interested in joining the club, whether as an athlete, administrator or those just wanting to see other people run.

MACD LAUNCHES EMAC PRODUCTION

Continued from page 1.

aged to hook it up to one of FID's air data computers ahead of schedule, to prove that the two were compatible.

It is hardly necessary to record that these American contracts involve a great deal of hard work—the kind that sorts out the men from the boys, and proves very hard on family life. But MACD have joined the growing number of EFA people who have demonstrated that they can deliver the goods.

The exacting nature of the job was duly emphasised by Mr Pateman at English Electric House on February 19 when he briefed the US Procurement Committee of the British National Export Council on the requirements for obtaining and executing contracts of this type. The panel was shortly due to leave for the USA, where they were to discuss British prospects with various United States companies.

It was an enlightening session, supported by several PERT charts, publications and hardware from the EMAC programme. EMAC was, in fact, taken as the prime example of the American procedure.



Elliott table tennis stalwarts in battle order with, extreme right, Jim Collins, social secretary. Left to right, they are Bob Scott, Robin Fawell, Syd Groves, John Brambleby, Brian Barton, Jim Southworth, Denis Speed, Dave Phillips, John Read, Roy Sands, Trevor Gilbert, Ron Honzek, Alan Cuthbert and Idris Roberts.

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