

R. S. R. S.

Newsletter

No. 66

October 1966

There's a DC4 at the bottom of my garden!

It was nearly ten in the morning and I was on the 'phone at work. "Wait till the Beaver has gone over, and say it again" I said. "I can't hear you through the noise. It's not the Beaver, it's got 4 engines" I gasped a moment later, as the plane in question flew over our station and could be seen through the window, "and what's more, the tail plane is blue and white. The Argentinos have arrived!" By this time, others at the station had noticed the unusual plane, and we watched it fly out to sea, turn and head back towards us. One more circuit and it came back again, this time with its wheels down. I returned to the 'phone. "It's an Argentine airliner and it looks as if it intends to land" I reported to my listener who was still hanging on. Soon he could see it too. "It's a DC4 and it is heading for the racecourse" he replied. "And it's made it successfully" he added a few seconds later.

Such was the start of the story which disturbed the life of Stanley for a few days last week and about which you will all have read in your newspapers. It certainly caused a sensation in Stanley and we were able to judge the impact on the world at large by the position of our story on the B.B.C. overseas news headlines. We first made the grade at one p.m. but in fourth place at the bottom. By the evening we were at the top and stayed there most of the next day. Then we slowly slipped back, getting our last mention, again in bottom place, when an Argentine gunboat arrived for the prisoners and passengers. It has been an exciting couple of days with hostages being taken, and growing rumours of Argentine gunboats and flying boats on their way.

/Ourselves

Ourselves and many others who lived near the racecourse were evacuated early on in the proceedings and half of Stanley seemed to be walking round with loaded rifles. One of our staff grumbled to me "nothing ever happens in Stanley and when it does, I sleep through the most exciting part of it because I was on night duties!"

All is now quiet again, but the story is not yet over. There remains the problem of moving 18,131 kilograms of aeroplane from the racecourse before the all important Christmas races are held. At the moment one wheel has sunk almost completely out of sight in the peat and this morning the plane was found to be sitting in a pool of petrol. Apparently the petrol tanks leak when these planes develop a list! This hasn't helped the salvage operations and all fire appliances are standing by at the racecourse, so heaven help our telemetry station at the other end of town should one of the chaps on night duty there set his frying pan on fire!

If we can get the 'plane out of the bog and tow it back to the other end of the racecourse, the pilot reckons that he might be able to get it off the ground in 300 yards if he can lighten it enough (and if the prevailing westerly wind blows hard enough). He made a superb job of landing it on a fenced course, the width of which was comparable to his own wing span, so may be he knows what he is up against. Anyway, he will have the minimum of crew and petrol and all seats and other unnecessary items are being removed. The Argentine boat which took away the passengers brought 20 drums of aviation fuel with it. This is supposed to be enough to get the 'plane to Rio Gallegos in Patagonia - its original destination.

There the story stands at the time that the mail closes. Don't forget to book your copy of the next issue of the R.S.R.S. Newsletter for the sequel to this exciting tale! (Or maybe it will be the issue after next because it will be several weeks before the next mail after this leaves the Colony).

Meanwhile, there is a DC4 at the bottom of my garden. Is that petrol I can smell? Thank goodness I don't smoke!

Don Mortimer

For general interest here is a copy of the leaflet handed out by the 'Condor' group to the people of Stanley.

TO THE PEOPLE

WE DON'T COME AS AGGRESSORS, BUT AS ARGENTINE CITIZENS TO MEET AGAIN WITH OUR COUNTRY AND WITH MEN OF THIS COUNTRY WHICH ARE OUR BROTHERS, WE ARE SONS OF A NATION READY TO DEFEND OUR PROUD BELIEF THAT THE MALVINAS HAS NOT TO BE MORE A TERRITORY CONDEMNED TO THE AMBIGUITY AND THAT THEIR INHABITANTS HAS TO REALIZE THEMSELVES IN A SURE CLIMATE OF PROGRESS. THAT IN HANDS OF THE MALVINAS PEOPLE THE ISLANDS WILL GET BACK THEIR DESTINY, THEIR TRADITION AND THEIR NAME. THEIR CEASE TO BE LAND INHABITED BY FORGOTTEN PEOPLE TO BECOME A LAND INHABITED BY CAPABLE, WORTHY AND FREE MEN AND WOMEN THEY SHALL BE OWNERS OF THE PLACE THEY LIVE AND WORK. FOR THAT REASON WE CAME AND FROM HERE WE SAY:

ARGENTINE PRESENT

FOR THAT REASON THE LEADERS PROPOSE

- I) TO CONSIDER ARGENTINE ALL THE PEOPLE BORN IN THIS ISLAND AND PUT THEM UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE ARGENTINE NATION AND ITS LAWS AND GIVE THEM ALL THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS THEY GET UNDER THIS PROTECTION.
- II) THAT THE NAME FALKLAND WILL BE IN THE FUTURE CHANGED BY "MALVINAS ISLANDS" AND SOLEDAD AND ESPERANZA TO BIGGEST ISLANDS. TO THE NAME CALLED PORT STANLEY WILL BE CHANGED BY "PORT RIVERO" TO MEMORY ARGENTINE MAN.
- III) TO DECLARE PRIVATE PROPERTY TO ALL THE MALVINE HOMES AND TO ADJUDGE TO ALL THE NATIVES THEIR FARMS OR THEIR HOUSES.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to:

Mr. & Mrs. Ian Freeston on the birth of their son Richard Geoffrey on 25th September.

Mr. & Mrs. B. Peters on the birth of their son, Neil, on 21st September.

Mr. J. Gourlay on his marriage to Miss K. Sumner at Fleetwood on 1st October.

Mr. F. Bennett on his marriage Miss J. Sadler on 15th October.

Mr. P. Bradley and Miss Eileen Glover on their engagement.

ACADEMIC SUCCESSES

Mr. D. P. Morgan	M.Sc.
Mr. R. J. Messias	Grad. I.E.R.E.
Mr. M. C. D. Edwards	H.N.C.
Mr. M. D. Austin	O.N.C. (also awarded S.R.C. sponsorship for Sandwich Course)
Mr. T. A. Booth	O.N.C.
Mr. J. M. Galler	O.N.C.
Mr. M. A. Trower	O.N.C.

Welcome to:

Mr. H. S. Meswani	Perm./A.E.O.
Mrs. J. L. Prescott	Non-perm./C.O. Part time
Mr. C. S. Clarke	Non-perm./S.A.
Mr. Chong Hok Choi	Non-perm./Tech. Officer (Singapore)
Mrs. N. E. Dobner	Non-perm. Senior Cook
Mr. P. A. Ellis	Non-perm. Labourer (Winkfield)
Mr. E. Taylor	Non-perm. Labourer
Mrs. Pilkington	Non-perm. Canteen Assistant (Part-Time)
Mrs. Duggan	Non-perm. Canteen Assistant (Part-Time)

Resignations

Mr. P. A. Hobbs	Perm./A.E.O.
Mr. J. W. Shelley	Non-perm./S.A.
Mr. R. S. Davies	Temp./S.A.
Mrs. D. E. Louch	Non-perm./Typist I, (part time)
Mr. I. Grimes	Estab./Sp. Tel. Op.
Mr. R. W. Monk	Sandwich Course Student
Mrs. D. M. Povey	Temp. Cleaner (part time)
Mr. W. Andrews	Temp. Labourer (retirement)
Mr. M. C. D. Edwards	Temp./A.E.O.

VISIT TO PENDLEY

Visits to the annual Shakespeare festival at Pendley Manor near Tring are not for the squeamish or sybarytic. For Dorian William's production of "The Tempest" last year we sat in the open air on precarious canvas seats, trying

to avoid slipping through the gaps between tiers. We suffered vicariously the misfortunes of Caliban, Ariel and particularly Trinculo who, at the whim of the producer, ended up in a pond.

This year we attended "King Lear". The seating arrangements had not improved since last year (even Shakespeare knew where to store seating - "If you have tears prepare to shed them now" - Julius Caesar). Nor does "King Lear" appear to belong to the realms of respectable theatre and can well take its place in the 'theatre of cruelty'. Most of the characters suffered slings and arrows (outrageous fortunewise) and Gloucester's fate duly appalled the audience. The stage props included a small armoury of weapons and much red paint. We were treated to a lucid, exciting production which at times rivalled the professional theatre for clarity. It was enjoyable to understand the language and story of such a difficult play with ease and, like "Hamlet", we found "King Lear" reassuringly full of quotations.

A. Lucas-Smith

RECENT ACQUISITION

A recently acquired stores item of general interest will be on display for a limited period in the staff restaurant. Staff may wish to exercise their wits in guessing its use. Solutions to, but no prizes from, Mr. Christie or the Editor.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

BONFIRE

The annual Bonfire festivities will commence at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday 5th November. Please come along - and bring all the children you know (2/- each for them and 4/- for adults) - and don't forget to sign the list on the notice board so that we know how many hot dogs to buy and how many gallons of coffee and squash to make.

Meanwhile we would be grateful for

- a) assistance with wood gathering at lunch times - bring your own saw if possible please.
- b) old clothes for the guy.

- c) old engine oil
- d) more assistance with wood gathering.

We hope to invite children from local homes and will welcome offers from would-be chauffeurs.

Margaret Young
Veronica Lovell

CHESS CLUB

A chess evening will be held on Wednesday, 26th October, at 7.15. If you have a board, please bring it with you. Everybody interested is welcome.

A. M. Zavody

BRIDGE CLUB

The new season has got off to a good start with a win for R.S.R.S. in the N.P.L., Teams of Four competition held on 4th October. This augurs well for our retaining the splendid D.S.I.R. cup on display in the canteen.

The first evening at home on 10th October was well enlivened by many familiar faces but newcomers of any standard would be very welcome. Anyone interested is invited to contact the Laser Group, especially at lunchtimes.

Martin Bowman

LETTER TO THE OUTSTATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

I am sure you will all join with us in congratulating our former director, Mr. Ratcliffe, who is now President of the I.E.E. His inaugural address on the subject of the 'Ionosphere and the Engineer' was enjoyed by a large audience in which were many eminent physicists and electrical engineers.

There have been two recent happenings which I have failed to report up to now, both changes in our domestic affairs. Firstly our Road Research Laboratory colleagues have packed their bags and left us. They taught us much and we are grateful. Now our experience and the increasing docility of an ageing Pegasus will allow us to hack without a leading rein.

Secondly, you should know that those extinct or rather still-born volcanoes, the cooking pots in the Station kitchen, have erupted into life. Under the guidance of Mrs. Dobner our Senior Cook we enjoy home cooking and very satisfactory it is. We don't have to decide lunch hard upon the heels of breakfast; judgement now waits upon appetite and appearance. The moment of decision can be postponed. A satisfactory thing for those with talent for being non-committal such as

Yours sincerely,
The Editor