

R. S. R. S.

Newsletter

No. 67

November 1966

THERE'S STILL A DC4 AT THE BOTTOM OF MY GARDEN

Once the rebels had surrendered, work started on debogging the Argentina Air Liner. Suggested uses for it had included a cinema, youth club and hostel for single Radio Research staff but it was a bit far out of town and rather a nuisance on the racecourse, anyway. Besides, the pilot wanted to go home! First attempts to move it bogged it even more deeply but after a struggle, the combined efforts of a mechanical excavator and a trench-digging tractor shifted it a few yards down the course until it sank into another soft spot even more deeply than before. This time, it was jacked up little by little while rocks were slipped into the hole under its undercarriage, (poor racecourse), until finally it was possible to slide large metal plates under the wheels on which it was then winched round so as to face the other way. While this was going on, all the seats and the other unnecessary gear was removed to lighten the plane.

The next move came yesterday evening after the wind had dropped. Having warmed up his engines, and watched by half the population of Stanley, the pilot let the clutch out with a bang (or whatever the aeronautitions equivalent of this operation is called) and went tearing down the racecourse in record time with Stanley fire engines in hot pursuit. Sitting where the galley used to be were six brave residents of Stanley, thus providing enough weight to keep the tail down. Just before reaching the grandstand, the pilot slammed on his brakes (to the discomforture of his human tail weight) and stopped almost where planned on a couple more large steel plates.

This morning the plane was winched around on the other plates again so that it can take off into the wind and away from the town. The slow laborious operation of transferring the contents of twenty 40 gallon drums of fuel into the plane's tanks is now going on. Oh for one of those jolly

/little

little bowsers with Shell painted on it, such as is seen so often at London Airport:

The pilot has offered to take air mail with him and if I am to get this letter posted, I obviously can't describe the last act in this drama. This should be quite exciting as the plane will have to be airborne in 300 yards if the pilot is to be certain of missing the forest of masts which is now springing up west of the town as part of the new communications system. However, if you are reading this letter, you can be sure that I no longer have a DC4 at the bottom of my garden!

D. MORTIMER

UNDER MILK PUDD.

A Requiem for PF.7 (revised) the R.S.R.S. Luncheon List

(With apologies to the shade of Dylan Thomas)

No more, no more are those things we remember so well
--- as morning mist shrouds Ditton Park, the cheerful greeting of the PF.7 (revised)
--- the agonizing appraisal of Sausage, Toad and Individual Steak Pie
--- the Friday bounty of Fish, Fish & Fish
--- the glazed expressions in Accounts at the mere whisper of the dread word "Canteen"?
--- the merry clatter of containers, cold and weary from their long journey
--- and as the witching hour approaches, the eager anticipation
--- what will it be? Tinned Ham & Spuds, or "Sorry Nothing Left"
--- "Change wanted, please", cri-de-coeur of the cash-desk
--- the timid tepid turgidity of Admiralty chips
--- a lonely prune afloat on a sea of official custard
It is something unique, something precious, that has passed from us.
Shall we see its like again?

Anon.

Staff News

Welcome to :

- Mr. A. W. Salter Non-perm. Storeman B
- Miss T. A. M. Richens Perm S.O.
- Mr. I. Monkman Non-perm A.E.O. (ESRO staff training at Winkfield)
- Mr. C. C. Church Perm. A.E.O.
- Mr. Ho Toon Meng Andrew Non-perm. Tech. Assistant (Singapore)
- Mr. R. I. Patterson Non-perm. S.A.
- Mr. S. F. Taylor Non-perm. S.A.
- Mrs. P. G. Devonshire Non-perm. Canteen Assistant (Part-time)
- Mr. E. G. A. Lee Non-perm. Lab. Mech.

Resignations

- Miss C. Robins Non-perm. S.A.
- Mr. D. P. Beeson Temp. E.O.
- Mr. Chong Pang Choeng Non-perm. Tech. Officer (Singapore)
- Dr. D. R. Owen Temp. A.E.O.
- Mrs. J. Willsher Temp. C.O.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

BONFIRE NIGHT

Following tradition, we celebrated the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 on November 5th.

The villain of the original history was of course Guy Fawkes, probably the only fact every schoolboy knows. In spite of his slight decrease in unpopularity, noted on recent car stickers of the "Come back Guy Fawkes - all is forgiven" variety, we still follow the barbaric custom of burning him in effigy, not unlike the act of sticking pins through the effigy of one's enemy. Fawkes was certainly guilty of the crime of attempted murder but did not commit it in the manner of an aggrieved capitalist plotting against our Socialist Government, but as a Roman Catholic provoked by extreme persecution. The plan originated with the embittered Robert Catesby who had been led to believe that King James I would show some measure of toleration for Roman Catholics. After arrest Fawkes was subjected to severe torture as the signature on his confession, in faint and shaky writing, bears witness. Later, with his confederates he was hung and drawn, or possibly drawn and hung.

The gunpowder and bonfire (at R.S.R.S.) provided a spectacular display which was followed by refreshments and rain. The children seemed to enjoy themselves. Our particular thanks are due to Margaret Young, Paul Dickinson and Veronica Lovell for the considerable effort they put into organizing the evening. Many others helped - the most ostensible being the crowd that turns up on November the 3rd and 4th to stack logs.

A. Lucas-Smith

CHESS

We had an enjoyable evening on October 26th, and shall be playing now regularly once a fortnight. The next chess-evening will be on November 28th, play starts at 7 p.m. in the canteen.

If interested, please contact -

Albin Zavody

TENNIS

Several members have expressed a wish to play tennis at the weekends during the winter months. As a result, we propose to start at 2 o'clock on Saturday, 19th November, and continue each Saturday whilst the weather permits. Those wishing to play should sign the weekly notice which will appear on the notice board.

R. Smith

FOOTBALL

The results of a minor public opinion poll held within the station showed that no small number of people are interested in playing football.

The idea having been passed by the powers that be; the only other delay is the construction of the goal posts. This should be accomplished in the near future.

It is proposed to have the pitch adjoining the cricket square, as the ground is sufficiently level.

I hope the support will be as great for this, as for the cricket during the summer months, and will all those interested, watch out for further notices.

R. Lucas

BRIDGE

This station was again successful in the match at Teddington on November 8th. We were represented by Dr. and Mrs. Bain, Mr. Pratt and Mr. Zavody who led against five other teams of four from N.P.L.

Lunchtime play becomes ever more enthusiastic as Winter tightens its grip and on one or two occasions we have been able to set up two tables.

Martin Bowman

LETTER TO THE OUTSTATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

On dune and headland sinks the fire. Our bonfire night effort was not perhaps quite like the jollifications of Nineveh and Tyre, nevertheless it too is one with them. Curious cattle chew on blackened fragments of wood and seem to enjoy the meal as much as we enjoyed the fireworks.

November, at present blustery rather than foggy, has placed heaps of leaves at strategic points about the car park. Given a little rain they will soon be ground into a splendid soggy carpet to await the traveller as he steps from his car. Walks in the park at lunchtime are becoming more character-building and less enjoyable. A scholarly spell in the library or prolonged gossip over the remnants of the pud. seems a better aid to digestion to such non-spartans as,

Yours sincerely,

The Editor

STOP PRESS

SATURDAY DEC 17TH STOP RSRS SSC CHRISTMAS DANCE STOP EIGHT PM
STOP HI FI'S STOP BAR STOP FOOD STOP SEVEN AND SIX STOP SEE
YOU THERE