



NEWSLETTER

No. 135

August 1972

THE MANOR OF DITTON AND THE COMPASS DIVISION

Over the years, a number of staff and visitors have enquired about the origins of the Manor House of Ditton and the Admiralty Compass Observatory. The following brief notes, originally published a decade or so ago, were contributed by Eileen Barnes with acknowledgements to original material supplied by Admiralty Compass Observatory. - Editor.

"The Manor of Ditton" is first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) when it was held by "William, sone of Ansculf" and his brother Walter, and was valued at 30 shillings. Walter's descendants held the property for 400 years and one of them, Richard de Ditton, married Cecilia de Stoke in 1205, which probably accounts for the strange fact that the parish of Stoke Poges, six miles distant, has a long thin peninsula extending to include Ditton Park.

In 1331 Sir John de Molyns was granted a licence by Edward III to fortify his "mansum of Ditton", and, four years later, to "build a park of 38 acres". The central tower of the house is still known as "de Molyns tower", and is probably a perpetuation of the original 14th Century edifice. In 1472 Ditton reverted to the Crown, and was at one time the residence of Cardinal Wolsey. In 1532 Ann Boleyn was "Keeper of Ditton Park", an emolument worth £180 a year. Eighty years afterwards, in 1615, when Sir Ralph Winwood, Secretary of State (whose initials are moulded in the director's porch), held a similar appointment, the property was granted to him, and he promptly rebuilt the mansion around de Molyns tower and greatly enlarged the moat so that it enclosed much of the present garden. Sir Ralph's granddaughter Ann married Edward, Baron Montagu of Boughton, later Duke of Montagu. Passing often through the distaff side the property remained in the Montagu family until bought by the Admiralty in 1917.

In 1812 the Winwood house was burnt down, and the following year the present mansion, modelled on the former one, was built by the then owner, Henry, Duke of Buccleuch, as a dower house.

In 1837 the "Admiralty Compass Committee" was appointed to investigate the whole problem of the mounting of compasses in ships containing an ever growing amount of ferrous material. They sat for three years, and in 1842, with the appointment of Captain E. H. Johnson, the Department was founded with headquarters at Charlton, near Woolwich, to put into execution the findings of the Compass Committee.

In 1855 Captain Sir Frederick Evans, K.C.B., F.R.S., was appointed Superintendent in succession to Johnson, and ten years later, when Evans became Assistant Hydrographer, the Department became a Branch of the Hydrographic Department. In 1870 headquarters were moved to Deptford Yard, with an office in London, and thus the organisation remained until 1912 when the Branch was divorced from the Hydrographic Department and became a separate organisation under the Controller.

By 1917 the growth of gyro-compass work, combined with magnetic interference from electric trams and other things, had rendered Deptford no longer tenable. The whole organisation in both Deptford and London was, in that year, removed to Ditton Park, which the Admiralty purchased from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. The status of an Admiralty Department was at this time regained, and held until the re-organisation of the Controller's Departments in 1958.

In the early 1920's the Radio Research Board set up an experimental station, as tenants of the Admiralty, in part of the 230 acre park, and in more recent years a permanent headquarters was built for them in West Park.

During the 135 years life of the department there have been thirteen Superintendents and Directors.



PORTABLE RESUSCITATORS

If the victim of an accident has stopped breathing, a portable resuscitator should be used immediately. These are located in:

Spurs A, C and E
Engineering Workshops
Woodworking Shop
Old Building

To enable staff to operate these speedily and satisfactorily, they should study the following instructions.

A little knowledge gained today could save a life tomorrow.

Instructions for the use of Portable Resuscitators

- 1) Place victim flat on his back.
- 2) Gently feel inside mouth and remove false teeth and any foreign matter.
- 3) If mouth contains water, vomit, mucus, blood, etc., quickly wipe out with a piece of cloth.
- 4) Kneel behind victim and tilt head back.
- 5) Close the victim's mouth with the left hand.
- 6) Apply the resuscitator to face of victim by putting the edge of the mask under the chin. Then close mask over the face and hold it in position with the left hand - making sure the head is tilted back and the mouth shut.
- 7) Pump bellows with the right hand.
Approximately 12 - 18 strokes per minute will suffice. The timing should be:-
 - Bellows closing - approximately two seconds
 - Bellows opening - approximately three seconds
- 8) Watch the chest which should rise and fall rhythmically.
- 9) If the chest does not rise and fall:-
 - (i) There may be excessive leakage of air around the mask. Correct this by holding the mask tighter onto the face and pumping a little harder.

- (ii) There may be a blockage in the victim's throat. (In this case a whistle will be heard during each downstroke indicating high pressure in the bellows.) Correct this by clearing the victim's throat (see 2, 3 above); or, if the tongue has occluded the airway, make sure the head is properly tilted backwards and the mouth shut.
- 10) If the chest rises and falls and the whistle is heard, pumping is too vigorous and less force should be used.
- 11) Clear mucus from the throat every 3-4 minutes.
- 12) Continue resuscitation until the victim breathes naturally (this may occur up to two hours after resuscitation commences, and victims have been known to recover after even longer periods. At RSRS one would expect the victim to be in the hands of a doctor before such a long period of time had elapsed.)

Staff News

Congratulations to:

David and Sebastiana Ewart on their marriage on 11th August.

Vince Foley and Elizabeth Harris who were married on 26th August at St. Leonards Church, Swithland, Leicester.

Welcome to:

Mrs E. M. R. Grant	C.O.
Mrs E. D. Stephenson	Typist II P/T
Miss A. Taylor	Personal Secretary
I. C. Carpenter	C.A.
Miss V. Williams	C.A.
Dr. R. G. Quiney	H.S.O.
Mrs J. W. E. Parks	Ex.O. Transferred from L.O.
G. E. Woods	S.C.S.
L. Kell	S.C.S.
P. D. Gavin	S.C.S.
G. C. Brown	S.C.S.
N. Woodall	Craftsman I C/H

Resignations

M. Brooks	S.C.S.
Miss S. Blacklock	Personal Secretary
Mrs E. N. Rew	C.A.
Miss R. Ford	A.S O.
R. M. Garside	S.O.
Mrs M. V. M. Newsome	C.O. (Winkfield)

Other Changes

ESRO

G. Sinden	PTO IV. Commenced duty at RSRS Left U.K. for Falklands Arrived Falkland Islands
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Letter to the Outstations

Dear Colleagues,

It is now well set into that season when we at R.S.R.S. engage in modest competition in a variety of sports. Our near neighbours of the Admiralty who live up at the big house and those more distant fellow-workers at Herstmonceux who live in an even bigger one, visit and are visited; teams and teas mingle, and, as comes still evening on, all is conviviality within the confines of the sports club.

All very nice and jolly, but for some it has as pleasant a precursor as the real thing. Practice not only makes perfect, it converts our already not unpleasing surroundings into a scene from a classical dream-time for those given to walking abroad after lunch. Do you but have energy to watch, you may be entertained. Here clusters of girls gaily toss brightly colours balls about; there fine women indulge in pastimes of elegance and skill. Bronzed lads in friendly rivalry the sports of manhood play, whilst older men, clothed in the mantle of dignity and maturity, offset youth's zeal with the counterpoise of experience.

There is laughter - not merely the robust cry of the jolly hockey-sticks brigade, but something extra - much more old-young. All is not quite right yet; the light needs to be a mite more golden, casting longer shadows. An olive tree or two in the middle distance wouldn't come amiss, and names need a bit of revision, more of your Phyllis's, Aramintas, Corydons, Leanders and such. Let there but be made these trifling amendments and we too have dwelt in Arcadia.

Perhaps one thing more was needed to give the setting its true touch, the proper twist of the screw. Suddenly there it was, in the uncut grass, a bright bird - dead, at the feet of,

Yours sincerely,
The Editor

REPRINT LIST

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D. L. Croom, P. G. Davies
and R. J. Powell

Anomalies in attenuation and emission by rain
at 37 GHz. Electronic Letters 1972, Vol. 8,
No. 8.

W. C. Bain and
M. D. Harrison

Model ionosphere for D Region at summer noon
during sunspot maximum. Proc. IEE 1972
Vol. 7, 790-796.

F. D. G. Bennett, J. E. Hall,
P. H. G. Dickinson

D-region electron densities and collision
frequencies from Faraday and differential
absorption measurements. JATP 1972, Vol. 34,
1321 - 1335.

J. E. Hall

Atmospheric pressure, density and scale height
calculated from H Lyman- α absorption allowing
for the variation in cross-section with
wavelength. JATP 1972, Vol. 34, 1337 - 1348.

INTERNAL MEMORANDA

Nil