



THE ROTATING BEACON

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SUMMER 1987 BULLETIN

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of the

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

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UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

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### ROTARIAN PILOTS INVADE MUNICH

The Spring Edition of the Rotating Beacon gave details of the many U.K. members intending to fly themselves to participate in the Rotary International Convention held in Munich, West Germany during the first week in June. In spite of all kinds of difficulty every one of those planning to go managed to get there, although a delayed departure from Manchester caused Erwin Rodgers & Feroz Wadia to get caught behind a deep frontal trough lying across their route, necessitating a landing at Trier, just inside the German border. Undeterred, they persuaded the hotel at which they made an overnight stop to lend them the hotel minivan in which they succeeded in reaching Munich in time for the IFFR Re-union Banquet held on the Sunday evening. Several other U.K. members combined the Convention with a touring holiday and travelled by road intentionally.

No fewer than seven American aircraft had again flown the trans-Atlantic route from Frobisher Bay via Greenland and Iceland to accept the pre-Convention hospitality of the combined Jersey Rotary Clubs, many of whose members under the leadership of IFFR Chairman Charles Strasser travelled with them to the Conference. Among the familiar faces were IFFR vice-Chairman John Linford, past Chairman Ned Poyser and the furthest travelled of all, Lou Capozzoli from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It was interesting, if not surprising, to learn that the worst weather en-route was encountered in Britain, closely followed by that shared by all on the way to Munich.

The IFFR Booth at the Convention Headquarters was manned throughout by a keen contingent of both U.S. and U.K. members, and by the end of the Conference stocks of ties, badges, stickers, sweaters and even literature were virtually cleaned out. We lost count of the total number of new members who first learned of the existence of IFFR at the Booth and promptly joined, including one or two whom we hope will form the nucleus of a Benelux Section to be formed as soon as sufficient contacts have been made.

The International IFFR AGM, and the Banquet warrant a separate report in this Bulletin, but there are two items which justify individual comment. Firstly the Airport Authorities at Munich deserve recognition and praise for the manner in which they handled the Armada of Rotarian planes both on arrival and departure. Unlike the attitude sometimes encountered elsewhere in Europe the private pilots were made as welcome as any professionals and fitted into a predominantly 'jet' framework without fuss. The second matter is one frequently raised in conversation by the American visitors, namely when are any of the European IFFR members going to fly the Atlantic to attend an R.I. Conventions in America? Several of the American pilots have made the crossing twice, and while a turbocharged twin may make the journey in style several of those attending did so in various single engined types. They do not accept that among all the Rotarian Pilots in Europe holding the basic Instrument Rating qualification needed for the trip there are none able to spare the time and money or lacking suitable machines. The next Convention is in Philadelphia in June 1988 and such a flight would be the Voyage of a Lifetime to many deskbound dreamers. What about it? Surely if they can do it so can some of us!



R O T A M S

The apparent ignorance of the Editor of the correct titles of the various military aircraft constructed by British Aerospace under the generic name of "Hawker" one of which was referred to in our last issue provoked the following anonymous contributions by our readers. It is gratifying to have any response which indicates that these Bulletins are so closely scrutinised !

*"If I was an ordinary punter  
I'd not cough or splutter or chunter  
The one that goes up  
Isn't Beagle or Pup  
And neither, dear Sir, is it Hunter."*

*"The Hunter is full of surprises,  
In Switzerland it wins all the prizes.  
It can fly, loop and roll  
Through the Austrian Tyrol  
But in Wales it does vertical rises."*

Readers are invited to submit similar comments whether or not in rhyme

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PolioPlus Sponsorship Appeal

With the approval of the IFFR Chairman Charles Strasser, all pilots flying themselves to the Munich Convention were invited to secure from their Clubs or fellow Rotarians sponsorship for their flight in support of the PolioPlus Appeal launched at the Convention by the retiring R.I. President Mat Caperas, who you may remember wrote in the "Rotarian" last year commending the part which all World Fellowship Associations such as IFFR can play in supporting Rotary projects. IFFR members responded magnificently as with only a few weeks in which to arrange sponsorship a dozen of the pilots secured promises totalling almost \$6000 and one of them, Rotarian Adib Barsoum from the Rotary Club of Greensburg Pennsylvania persuaded his Club to contribute at the rate of 25 cents per mile for the return journey of 11,938 miles and actually handed over a cheque for \$2,984.50 which was duly presented to Rotn. James Bruno, the International Campaign Coordinator at the Convention. At the IFFR Meeting several other pilots pledged their support so that the final sum to be raised through IFFR will certainly make a substantial contribution to the cause.

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'Where do I lay my weary head ?'

*How many times when compelled by adverse weather or technical delays to make an overnight stop at an unfamiliar airfield, have we asked this question ? Members are invited to submit brief details of hotels sited conveniently close to fields at home and abroad in the hope that in the next Membership List we can also provide an 'Airmans Ashley Courtney'.*

### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Invitations have been received from both the French and Scandinavian Sections of IFFR to attend their Annual Reunions, which unfortunately have both been fixed for the same weekend - 12/13th September. Details of the Scandinavian Rally at Vasteras in Sweden are being sent with this issue to those members in Scotland and Northern England who may feel able to participate. A few spare copies are available on request from the European Liason Officer, Ives Branson, through whom all booking should be made. The only information available in respect of the French Meeting at the time of going to print, are the date and venue - Avignon in the Rhone Valley, which is a well known area for its attractions to visitors. We are assured that the programme will be generally similar to past reunions and that every effort will be made to contain costs. Full details will be provided when received to any member wishing to participate. To help those responsible for the arrangements PLEASE complete and return the Reservation Form enclosed with this issue which also (on the reverse side) includes a reservation form for our own Annual Meeting to be held at East Midlands Airport on the weekend 3rd/4th October. The venue has been chosen to be equally convenient for those in the Midlands, North and South, and accessible by road or air so as to ensure a good attendance.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that nominations for office (with the consent of the nominee) are welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary by 30th September at the latest. The current officers are the Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, and European Liason Officer. It would be helpful if you ensure that nominees for Secretary/Treasurer have adequate secretarial assistance available, and preferably that the Liason Officer has an adequate command of written and spoken French. Most communications with the other Sections are conducted in English. It is believed that in the absence of fresh nominations the existing officers are willing to continue in office for a further year, but the appointment of a Vice-Chairman is likely to be under consideration at this Meeting. Please let us hear from you with your observations on the running of the Section by the Committee.

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### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members :-  
Brian F. Cullen, "Moonraker", Killaloe, County Clare, Eire.  
Douglas A. James, 82, Grange Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey  
Max Norrey, 12, Beechbrook Avenue, Yateley, Nr. Camberley, Surrey  
Melvyn A. Robinson, 128, Dumpton Park Rd., Ramsgate, Kent  
Desmond Scott, 30, First Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex  
Richard B. Wade, Fa Yven, Vine Park, Beaumont St. Peter, Jersey C. I.  
Roger K. Wilson, 63, Kensington Court, London W.8

