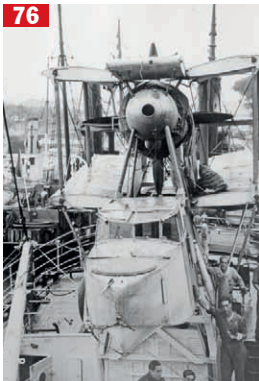


60**76****100****110****38****124****10**

CONTENTS Issue No 22

3 EDITOR'S LETTER

6 AIR CORRESPONDENCE

10 PROOF POSITIVE

Using rare and previously unseen photographs from the BAE Systems archive, Colin Higgs invites us aboard de Havilland Comet 3 G-ANLO on its 1955 world sales tour

22 WHAT IS RECHLIN 104?

In late 1942 Allied photo-reconnaissance revealed the existence of a "peculiar-shaped cargo 'plane'" at German airfields. What was it? Chris Gibson investigates . . .

28 TSR.2's COMPANY

British Cold War aviation specialist Tony Buttler takes an in-depth look at the P.1129, Hawker's promising candidate for Specification GOR.339 — what would become TSR.2

38 CROSSING THE DEEP

85 years ago Norwegian aviator Alf Gunnestad made the first direct flight from Oslo to London in a Lockheed Vega; Rob Mulder celebrates a Norwegian aviation milestone

46 TUNNEL VISION

In the second part of his *TAH* trilogy on aerodynamic developments, Matt Bearman explores wing-root drag and how extensive windtunnel work helped solve the problem

60 ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

Staffed mainly by former French Air Force pilots, the Air Squadron of the Gabonese Presidential Guard flew Skyraiders in combat in Chad, as Arnaud Delalande relates

68 A LOT LESS BOTHER BY HOVER!

Eric Bryan profiles the history of San Francisco & Oakland Helicopter Airlines, one of the few commercial helicopter operations to make a living from passenger services

76 THE WALRUS IN ARGENTINA

During 1939–52 Argentina's *Aviación Naval* operated ten Supermarine Walruses; Ricardo M. Lezon provides the most detailed account of their careers yet published

88 OFF TO BUTLIN'S

Our regular series based on previously unpublished rolls of film taken by aviation journalist John Stroud continues with a bracing visit to Butlin's airfield at Skegness in 1950

94 "VERY NEARLY A GOOD AEROPLANE . . ."

Matthew Willis unearths a sequence of rare photographs of the second Westland Wyvern prototype having its Rolls-Royce Eagle engine run up at Merryfield in 1947

100 WHAT A WOMAN!

Largely unsung in her lifetime, Janet Ferguson was one of Britain's most experienced and distinguished civil pilots; Richard T. Riding and Adèle Stephenson chronicle the flying career of this adaptable "Jan of all trades"

110 THE FALL OF DAMIEN

In May 1995 Nimrod R.1 XW666 was forced to ditch in the North Sea during a test flight; Lewis Gaylard spoke to pilot Fit Lt Art Stacey, who recalls the day's hair-raising events

118 ARMCHAIR AVIATION

123 LOST & FOUND

124 SYDNEY CAMM'S LONG-LOST TRIPLANE

In a dusty Devon bookshop, Philip Jarrett discovers a previously unknown early design by Hawker's creative genius

130 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK