



After nearly 30 years as a houseboat at Felixstowe, Suffolk, this Supermarine Southampton flying-boat hull was recently collected by No 60 MU, RAF Leconfield, for carriage to the RAF Museum at Henlow. It was one of the five original wooden-hulled Southamptons which served with No 210 Sqn at Felixstowe

Norwegian Gladiator Discovery

SIR,—I feel sure many readers will be interested to hear that a letter received from Wg Cdr Arthur Gill, British Air Attaché in Oslo (who has been a tower of strength to me in "preservation" efforts) tells of Gladiator Mk II, serial 5641, discovered in excellent condition near Lesjaskog. Presumed to be the sole complete survivor of 263 Sqn, the Gladiator seems to have been purchased from the Germans by a Norwegian farmer for the equivalent of £3 10s! The farmer (now dead) built a hut for the Gladiator, removed the wings, and inhibited the engine, fixing the four machine guns to the wall.

Col Steffen-Olsen is negotiating with the farmer's family for the Gladiator to be removed by rail to Gardermoen for renovation and, later, for display in the Royal Norwegian Air Force Museum to be established in Oslo.

The remains of other Gladiators can still be seen at the bottom of Lake Lesjaskog, but whether it is possible to retrieve them is not known.

90 Woodside, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex LESLIE HUNT

IN BRIEF

Mr Geoffrey Negus, 63 Highland Road, Northwood Hills, Middx, is engaged on a comprehensive history of KLM and would welcome "anecdotes, memories or unusual historical material." He has many photographs, but lacks one of PJ-AKC, a Lockheed L-12 which the airline leased from the Dutch Air Force in 1944-45 and operated in the Caribbean area.

DIARY

- Dec 7** RAeS Fifty-sixth Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Lecture: "A New Phase in Aviation?" by Sir Robert Cockburn; Lecture Theatre, 4 Hamilton Place, London W1, 6 p.m.
- Dec 7** Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers (West Midland Section): "University of Birmingham Instrumentation in the Ariel 3 Satellite," by J. H. Wager; University of Birmingham, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Edgbaston, 7.15 p.m.
- Dec 7** RAeS Belfast Branch: Discussion evening; Short Bros and Harland Ltd Supervisors' Club, 7 p.m.
- Dec 7** RAeS Glasgow Branch: "Memories From Fifty Years of Aero-engine Development," by A. C. Lovesey; Engineering Department, University of Glasgow, 7.15 p.m.
- Dec 7** RAeS Gloucester and Cheltenham Branch: "History of Miles Aircraft," by D. L. Brown; Wheatstone Hall, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, 7.30 p.m.
- Dec 7** RAeS Halton Branch: "High-performance Aerobatics," by Sqn Ldr R. Hanna; Halton Society Building, RAF Halton, 7 p.m.
- Dec 8** RAeS Weybridge Branch: Annual dance.
- Dec 11** RAeS Bedford Branch: "V/STOL Flight Testing," by Sqn Ldr C. C. Rustin; Bridge Hotel, Bedford, 7.45 p.m.
- Dec 11** RAeS Specialist Lecture: "Structural Aspects of the Do31," by M. Flemming; Lecture Theatre, 4 Hamilton Place, London W1, 6 p.m.
- Dec 12** Institute of Mechanical Engineers (Automobile Division): "Hovercraft Skirt Problems," by W. A. Crago; I Birdcage Walk, London SW1, 6 p.m.
- Dec 12** Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers: "Evaluation and Prediction of Equipment Reliability," by P. Cox, V. J. McMullan and Mrs D. Crook; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, London WC1, 6 p.m.
- Dec 12** RAeS Boscombe Down Branch: "The Air Registration Board," by W. Tye; Lecture Hall, Boscombe Down, 5.15 p.m.
- Dec 12** RAeS London Airport Branch: AGM, followed by "Cargo Uplift and Handling," by W. D. Koster; Senior Mess, Technical Block A, BOAC, Heathrow, 6 p.m.
- Dec 12** RAeS Luton and Stevenage Branch: "Introducing the Boeing 737," by Peter Swift; Britannia Airways Senior Staff Mess, English Electric Co Ltd, Luton Airport, 5.30 for 6 p.m.
- Dec 12** RAeS Prestwick Branch: "Flying the UK Airways," by Capt J. A. MacDonald, Golden Eagle Hotel, Prestwick, 7.45 p.m.
- Dec 13** RAeS Brough Branch: N. E. Rowe Medal competition; Lecture Theatre, Flying Club, Brough, 7.30 p.m.
- Dec 13** RAeS Preston Branch: "Production and Commissioning of Thunderbirds," by W. R. Jeans; Queen's Hotel, Lytham, 7.30 p.m.
- Dec 13** RAeS Weybridge Branch: Branch lecture competition; Apprentice Training School, BAC, Weybridge, 5.15 p.m.
- Dec 13** Kronfeld Club: "More Flying Fun in Film Making," by Derek Piggott; 74 Eccleston Square, London SW1, 8 p.m.
- Dec 14** RAeS Southend Branch: "Parachute Design—Art or Science?" by J. R. Mitchell; Queen's Hotel, Westcliff, 7.45 p.m.
- Dec 14** RAeS Hatfield Branch: Film show; HSA Senior Staff Restaurant, 5.30 p.m.
- Dec 14** RAeS Yeovil Branch: "Radio-controlled Model Aircraft," by P. D. MacMahon, Yeovil Technical College, 6 p.m.

THE NEW "JANE'S"

THERE are nearly 800 new half-tone and line illustrations, and a record number of words (about 900,000), in the 1967-68 *Jane's All The World's Aircraft*, brief reference to which was made in a news item in *Flight* for November 30.

One reason for the increased number of words and pictures is that the Domodedovo Airport display last July yielded a great deal of new information on Russian military aircraft, which is reflected in the 34 pages of the Soviet section. Further, details of Russian missiles have been supplemented by first-hand information on weapons captured by the Israelis in the six-day war last June.

Another aspect of the new *Jane's* is its detailed references to strategic and tactical nuclear rockets being developed in France. These include the MSBS (mer-sol balistique stratégique) medium-range missile to be carried by nuclear submarines.

As always in his foreword, the editor, Mr John W. R. Taylor, has some stimulating things to say. He remarks upon the importance of recent Russian space achievements, the automatic docking of Cosmos 186 and 188 and the soft-landing on Venus (though barely mentioning the American Apollo programme),

and predicts that China "will almost certainly have nuclear-tipped medium-range ballistic missiles within one year, an initial ICBM capability in the early 1970s and a significant force by the mid-70s." He suggests that France's "formidable array" of nuclear missiles may qualify her, and likewise other nations similarly equipped, to join the two "super powers" in the foreseeable future.

One change in *Jane's* this year is the disappearance of the Air-Cushion Vehicles section, which has now become a volume on its own—*Jane's Surface Skimmer Systems*. Hovercraft, explains Mr Taylor, were produced by the aircraft industry, registered as aircraft and spent most of their life airborne; but now, with SR.N4 almost ready to begin superseding ships and aircraft for high-speed crossings of the English Channel, air-cushion vehicles and their near relatives such as hydrofoil ships "justify a *Jane's* all to themselves."

Jane's All the World's Aircraft is published by Sampson Low, Marston & Co Ltd, Potter Row, Great Missenden, Bucks, at £8 8s 0d, and it is expected that more than 70 per cent of the copies printed will be exported, to 113 countries. H.W.