50 years of British air transport

May 1, 1969, was the 50th anniversary of the official start of civil aviation in Britain. The pilot of the first successful flight—by a Bristol Coupé from Bristol to Hounslow Heath—was Mr Cyril UWins (left), who was guest of honour at a luncheon given by Mr Peter Masefield (centre), chairman of the British Airports Authority, at Heathrow on May 1. Other pioneers, including Capt Jerry Shaw (right), Capt Walter Rogers and Wg Cdr R. H. McIntosh, were present. The Handley Page Company was represented by Mr J. H. S. Green, and de Havilland by Mr R. E. Bishop. "Everything we see today at Heathrow, Kennedy, Chicago and other airports", said Mr Masefield, "stems from the event that took place on May 1, 1919."

The basic medium-range version. Whether Douglas can undertake further stretching of the DC-10 to match the L-1011-8 remains to be seen, but the company is already heavily committed to several versions and, with P&W, to a second-engine certification programme.

HueyCobra's European Tour

Under the code-name Operation SnakeFly, a two months' tour of European countries is being made by a Bell HueyCobra, jointly sponsored by the company and the US Government. Leading up to the Paris Salon (May 29—June 8), the helicopter's schedule—which began on April 15—involves visits to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Italy and Spain, with a second demonstration in Germany. The HueyCobra, described by its makers as "the world's first attack helicopter," is being supported on its tour by a Bell OH-58A Kiowa, the US Army's newest light observation helicopter, 2,200 of which have been ordered.

Jersey International Rally

Nearly 400 private flyers in some 134 light aircraft flew into Jersey last weekend for the 15th annual international rally of the Channel Islands Aero Club. As usual, the event was truly international, with a major proportion of visitors coming from the Continent. Overall winner, and recipient of the Piccadilly Trophy, was Mrs T. Pritchard of the Southend Aero Club. Runner-up was Mr P. Koestler from the Düsseldorf Aero Club. A full report will appear in next week's issue of Flight.

Granville Bradshaw

We record with regret that Mr Granville Eastwood Bradshaw, one of the earliest British designers of aero engines, died recently at the age of 82.

He was co-founder and chief designer of ABC (All-British Engine Co, later Walton Motors), which produced aero engines in the First World War, during which he was associated with RAeFarnborough in engine design. His Dragonfly radial engine was manufactured under licence in the United States in addition to British production, and an example of it has been preserved in the Science Museum.

McDonnell Boron Epoxy Contract

McDonnell Aircraft has received a contract from the USAF Aeronautical Systems Division to manufacture 50 boron epoxy rudders for Air Force Phantoms—the largest production contract ever given for boron composite structures. Recording this in his McDonnell Douglas Corp report for the first quarter of 1969, chairman Mr James S. McDonnell said that the development of such advanced structural materials was required in the design of future aircraft. McDonnell Aircraft is one of three companies recently awarded contracts for the contract definition phase of the new USAF F-15 tactical fighter.

On DC-10 progress, Mr McDonnell said that the production programme was moving ahead rapidly; assembly was planned to begin in the first quarter of this year, with roll-out of the first aircraft scheduled to occur during the second half of 1970. Details of the McDonnell Douglas results for the year ending December 31, 1968, are given on the Industry page of this issue.

London-Sydney Air Race?

A London to Sydney air race, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1919 pioneer England-Australia flight by Ross and Keith Smith, is being planned for December of this year. It would also inaugurate the 200th anniversary celebrations next year of Captain Cook's discovery of Australia in 1770.

The chairman of the Captain Cook bi-centenary year committee, Mr Asher Joel, confirmed recently in Sydney that negotiations for the race were under way at both state and federal levels. A trophy plus a $A25,000 (£12,000) first prize is among proposals for the event, which would be for "general aviation" aircraft.

The Federation of Aero Clubs of Australia said that the federation and the Royal Aero Club of London were hoping to sponsor the race and had been discussing it for some time.

World 40 Race Postponed

The 40-day round-the-world air race for single- and twin-engined light aircraft originally planned to start from Paris on August 3 has been postponed until April 20, 1970. Entries must now be made by October 31 this year (Flight, January 23, page 119).

Franco-German Trainer

Messerchmitt-Bölkow has announced an agreement with Nord-Aviation and Sud-Aviation for joint development of a jet trainer for the French and German air forces. Its design will be based in part on the French companies' SN600 civil project, a military communications version of which is also planned. Combined requirement of the two air forces for the trainer is estimated at some 500 aircraft.

Spanish Striker

Hispano Aviation have announced a new twin-engined strike trainer project, the HA-500 Alacran. Powered by rear-mounted, podded, 2,000 lb-thrust engines of unspecified make, it seats two in tandem forward of a shoulder-mounted wing. Eight load-carrying strongpoints are situated beneath the aircraft, which has a tandem undercarriage plus wing-mounted outrigger wheels. Two Martin-Baker ejection seats are specified.

Lindbergh Honoured

Col Charles Lindbergh, who in 1927 made the first solo Atlantic flight from New York to Paris, was presented with honorary membership of the Air Line Pilots Association in Washington, DC, on April 21 and with a plaque commemorating his aviation achievements. An inscription on the plaque reads: "To Charles Augustus Lindbergh, honorary member of the Air Line Pilots Association International, whose contribution to aviation sparks the imagination of all who hear him. The Air Line Pilots Association commends his continued efforts over the years to perpetuate and promote aviation."

RAeC 1968 Awards

The Royal Aero Club has requested nominations and recommendations for its 1968 awards of the Britannia Trophy, gold, silver and bronze medals, and FAI Tissandier diplomas. The trophy is awarded annually to the British aviator (or team) who, in the opinion of the awards committee, has accomplished the most meritorious performance in the air during the preceding year. The medals are awarded for outstanding achievement, chiefly as pilot, during the year under consideration or culminating in it. The three diplomas are awarded by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale to those who have given outstanding service in organising or administering sports aviation for at least five years.

The awards committee is meeting during the second week of May, and nominations should reach the Secretary-General, Royal Aero Club, 30 Pall Mall, London SW1, by first post on May 12.