

First Helicopter Atlantic Crossing



Captain V H McGovern, First-Lt H W Moore, Capt H G Jeffers and Capt G D Hambrick, the two crews that piloted the Sikorsky S 55's across the Atlantic are welcomed by General Griswolde of the 3rd U S A F

The first Atlantic crossing by Helicopters was completed by way of Goose Bay, Greenland and Iceland, when two Sikorsky S 55's of the U S A F arrived at Prestwick on July 31st, 1952. The machines had left Westover Field, Nr Springfield, Mass., on July 15th, but the actual crossing from Labrador to Scotland took only five days. The distance of 3,000 n m was completed at an average flying speed of 70 knots. Longest flight was 947 miles, approx 240 miles further than the official record.

On arrival at Prestwick the crews were handed a telegram and letter of congratulations and greetings (reproduced below) sent on behalf of the Association Membership by the President, Mr Eric MENSFORTH.

Mr COLIN COOPER (*Council Member*) was able to be present to extend a personal welcome on behalf of the Association.

Sikorsky S 55 helicopters are being manufactured under licence in this country by Messrs Westland Aircraft Ltd, of Yeovil.

Greetings telegram form

Major RICHARD McVAY, Trans-Atlantic Helicopter Flight, Prestwick Airport
To wait arrival

Have sent letter of welcome to your Pilot in charge. Very many congratulations on this historic achievement. Looking forward to opportunity congratulating you personally.
29 7 52

ERIC MENSFORTH, *President, Helicopter Assoc*

Captain Vincent H McGovern,
Trans-Atlantic Helicopter Flight
Dear Captain McGovern,

Welcome to the United Kingdom.

We have all watched with the keenest interest and admiration the progress of your Flight across the Atlantic, and do now wish, on behalf of all our Association, to extend to you our most sincere congratulations on this very great achievement—one which marks a great milestone in Helicopter progress.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) ERIC MENSFORTH, *President*