

## Obituary

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F H DIXON AND D R GARRAWAY

The loss of F H DIXON and D R GARRAWAY in the Gyrodyne accident on Easter Sunday was a blow not only to the Fairey Aviation Company but perhaps the worst for the whole rotary wing world since the loss of JUAN DE LA CIERVA in 1936

FOSTER HICKMAN DIXON, a Founder Member of the Helicopter Association, was born in 1912 at Bristol and educated at Clifton, afterwards studying medicine at Cambridge. However, his interest in flying and his love for all things mechanical, was too strong and in 1932 he entered the Royal Air Force with a Short Service Commission. In 1936, although just granted a Permanent Commission, he was persuaded by the late CHRIS STANILAND to join the Fairey Aviation Company as a test pilot, his cool analytical mind combined with a sound knowledge of engineering soon proved that he had found his true meter.

"Dicky" was responsible for much of the prototype testing of the Swordfish, Seafox, Battle, P4/34, Albacore, Barracuda, Firefly and Spearfish. In 1942 he was appointed Chief Test Pilot and later became also Test Pilot to Avions Fairey, where he was responsible for testing the Junior and the Primer.

A Founder Member and enthusiastic supporter of the Association, DIXON learned to fly helicopters in 1946, and later went solo on the Gyrodyne after less than one hour's dual. From this time he and Garraway worked together, forming the ideal combination of the experienced test pilot and the young scientific observer. They shared many things in common, especially a love for literature and classical music, but above all they were bound together by a single-minded devotion to their work. Their eagerness to fly at any hour would often keep them at the airfield long after most people had gone home.

DEREK ROGER GARRAWAY was born on December 15th, 1924, at Gaunton. He was educated at Huish's Grammar School, where he won the Wilson Cup for "deserving best of the School" in 1942. After obtaining a Senior Somerset County Scholarship and State Bursary in Science, he studied at King's College, London, where he took his B Sc (Eng) with first class honours at the age of twenty. During this time he won the Wilson Memorial Prize, the Siemens Prize and the Jelf Medal. In addition, Derek still found time to take great interest in the various student Societies, and during 1943/44 was the Secretary of the University of London Union and Editor of the University Engineering Society's "King's Engineer," and he served also on the Executive Committee of King's College Union Society.

During the following year he took a postgraduate course in advanced aeronautical engineering at Imperial College, London, and his enthusiasm even led him to work as a Wind Tunnel Assistant during the long vacations, first at the R A E and afterwards at the N P L.

In August, 1945, he joined the Rotorcraft Division of the Fairey Aviation Company as Aerodynamicist, and specialised on both the theoretical and practical aspects of rotor blade design, in the following year Derek was elected a member of the Helicopter Association and served on the Publica-

tions Sub-Committee Last year he won the Cierva Memorial Prize for his paper, "The Structural Airworthiness of Helicopters"

We who knew them both so well have lost two dear friends We shall always remember Dicky's smile and his "Good show, chaps" when his aircraft was ready a little ahead of schedule, nor shall we ever forget Derek's kindness and his unfailing good humour

To Mrs Dixon, her son and three daughters, and to Mr and Mrs Garraway and Miss Garraway, we express our deep and sincere sympathy  
F L HODGESS

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### EXTRACTS FROM THE RULES

Membership of the Association shall be in five grades which are termed respectively, Founder Member, Member, Associate Member, Student Member, and Companion

#### FOUNDER MEMBERS

Founder Members shall comprise every person who on August 31st, 1946, was on the Register as a properly qualified Member of the Association

#### MEMBERS

Fully qualified Members shall comprise every person who was on the register as a Member of the Association on the date of adoption of these Rules by the Association, and every person thereafter elected or transferred into the grade of Member

Every candidate for election into the grade of Member shall possess the following qualifications —

- (a) He shall be twenty-five years of age or over
- (b) He shall be actively engaged at the time of his application for election in the design or in the production or operation of such works as are comprised within the science of rotating wing aircraft, or in the application to rotating wing problems of special branches of science, mathematics or engineering
- (c) He shall produce satisfactory evidence of his technical knowledge and standing in the profession of aeronautics

Every such candidate shall moreover possess *one* at least of the following qualifications —

- (a) He shall have had four years' experience in the practical or scientific development or operation of rotating wing aircraft
- (b) He shall possess an honours degree or its equivalent, in engineering, mathematics or physics and shall have had two years' experience in the practical or scientific development of rotating wing aircraft
- (c) He shall hold a professional pilot's licence issued by a recognised authority or be an officially approved Test Pilot or a fully qualified Service pilot, and with these qualifications, have been actively engaged in flying rotating wing aircraft for a period in excess of two years
- (d) He shall have made some other contribution to the advancement of the science of rotating wings which in the opinion of the Council qualifies him as a Member

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate Members shall comprise every person who was on the register as an Associate Member of the Association on the date of adoption of these Rules by the Association, and every person thereafter elected or transferred into the grade of Associate Member

Every candidate for election into the grade of Associate Member shall possess the following qualifications —

- (a) He shall be twenty-one years of age or over
- (b) He shall be actively engaged at the time of his application in such works as are comprised in the development of flight operations of rotating wing aircraft
- (c) He shall produce satisfactory evidence of his technical knowledge and standing in the profession of aeronautics