

## Annual Review of Helicopter Activities

*The following contribution has been received since the last issue of the Journal went to press*

### BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

From July to November, 1956, a service feeding passengers from Leicester and Nottingham to fixed-wing service at Elmdon was operated 1,860 passengers were carried in 260 hr flying with a regularity of 88% However, this traffic was disappointing and the service was discontinued

Helicopter Experimental Unit activity is now divided between commercial charters and training on the one hand and development flying on the other

The lack of a suitable site in central London now that the South Bank site has been closed is proving a drawback to charter work in the London area Many of the charters have been in Europe Home Office Civil Defence exercises were completed in September, 1957 Nevertheless numerous charters were undertaken with very satisfactory results

Development flying continues to be directed toward a practical solution of the problem of flight in all weathers

Work is proceeding with a WS 55 equipped with autostabiliser and flight director system with the objective of practical instrument flight at low speeds and in turbulence Approach aid investigations have continued with trials of large scale Decca Flight Log presentation and a microwave instrument landing system An improved visual approach and landing pattern, the result of previous work, is now being installed at Gatwick for trial purposes

BEA's present helicopter fleet consists of two Westland S 55's, one Bristol 171 one Bell 47B Total flying for the year ending 30th September, 1957, was 928 hours

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### ADDITIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION'S LIBRARY

#### BOOKS

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|---|---|
| "Hovering Angels" (The Record of the Royal Navy's Helicopters)        | By John Frayn Turner<br>(George G Harrap & Co Ltd , 1957, Price 15/-) |
| "Rescue '1" (The work of the Air Rescue Service of the U S Air Force) | By Elliott Arnold<br>(Victor Gollancz Ltd , 1957, Price 18/-)         |

#### American Helicopter Society Publications

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|--------------------|---|
| <i>Journals</i>    | Volume 2, Nos 3 and 4, July and October, 1957                                     |
| <i>Newsletters</i> | Volume 3, Nos 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 , June, July, August, September and October, 1957 |