

“ 7000 Hours of Autorotative Flight ”

by ROLF VON BAHR.

A lecture presented to the Helicopter Association of Great Britain on Saturday, 23rd September, 1950, at the Hanworth Park Hotel.



Mr. von Bahr with his C.30 Autogiro at a technical exhibition at Stockholm, Sweden. This machine (SE-AEA) has done 2,500 hours.

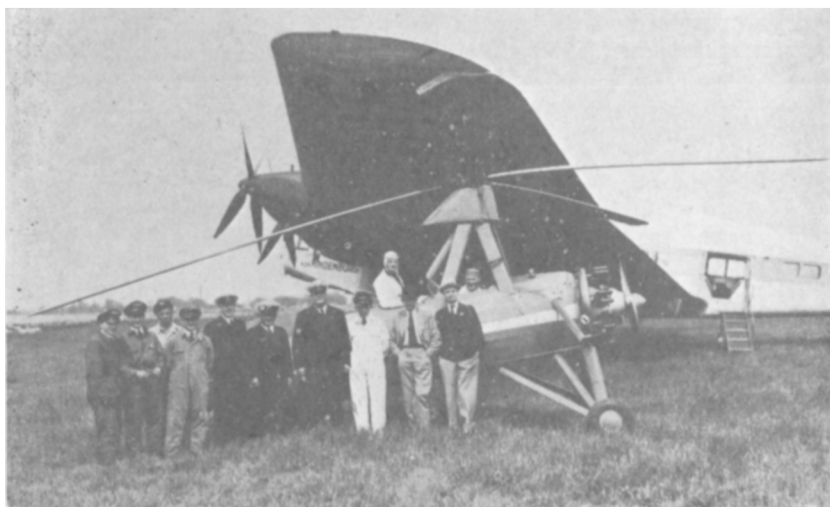
This lecture, which consisted of a commentary on a very fine series of photographs taken by Mr. von Bahr in and around Sweden, before and during the war, cannot unfortunately be reproduced in the Journal, but Mr. von Bahr has chosen a few representative photographs for publication. Mr. von Bahr was introduced to the audience by the President, Mr. J. G. Weir, who expressed great pleasure at being able to do this on behalf of a friend of long standing. He continued :

Rolf von Bahr is the main shareholder, managing director, technical chief and first pilot of the Company, Helikopter-Flyg, which was formed and registered in 1944, now having a share capital of 140,000 Swedish Crowns.

Rolf von Bahr took his pilot's B. licence in England in 1933 and has logged since then over 7,000 hours as a pilot on Autogiros. Until the



An aerial demonstration in which a mechanic climbs out of the machine at a low height, without a parachute.



The Autogiro underneath the wing of the Junkers G-38 A.P.I.S. von Hindenburg. The latter was used at several Swedish exhibitions as a "Flying Hangar" for the Autogiro.

Association of Gt. Britain.



Landing at Dalarna on Lake Siljan on the way up to winter sports and flying in the mountains.

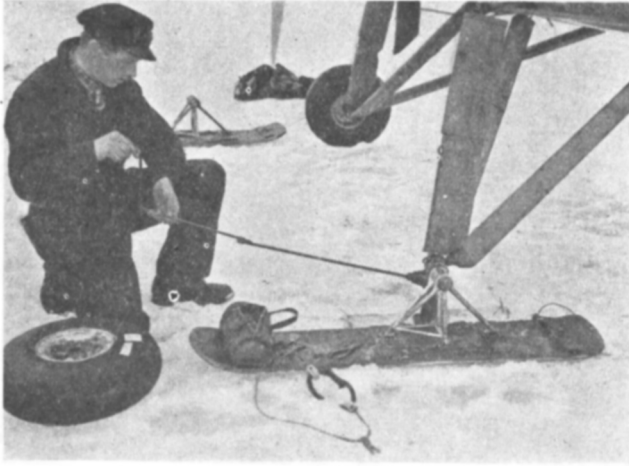
outbreak of war he was representative in Scandinavia for the Cierva Autogiro Company in England.

During the years before the war Rolf von Bahr made many flights abroad with his C.30 Autogiros ; amongst others, he made each year a flight from Stockholm to London returning via Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium and France, to visit the Cierva Company and give the Autogiro an overhaul at their workshops. In 1937, von Bahr made a special flight, Stockholm-Budapest-Stockholm, to take part in the International Technical Conference on Aerial Relief with demonstrations and competitions organised by the Hungarian Red Cross Society and Hungarian Air Federation under the auspices of the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Air Federation.

The Company is at present operating four C.30 Autogiros on various activities, one being stationed at Storlien for the present winter season. Possibly two may be put into service to assist the shipping around the Scandinavian coast during the present severe winter conditions, ice surrounding Sweden and Denmark.

Ever since the early start of helicopter development, Rolf von Bahr has been in close touch with the constructors all over the world and his Company is now looking ahead to the day when it can purchase and introduce a good commercial helicopter suitable for use in the Scandinavian countries. There are some good helicopters both in England and U.S.A. well on their way and with the great experience on rotary wing aircraft that Rolf von Bahr and his Company possess, they are sure not to go wrong in their choice.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Wing/Cdr. R. A. C. Brie, who was at one time closely associated with Mr. von Bahr, and he congratulated him on his fluent technical English. He was very pleased that Mr. von Bahr had agreed to give this lecture, knowing how much his audience and



Changing from wheels to skis.

particularly his friends of the old Autogiro days had appreciated it. Mr. von Bahr's return to Hanworth, where he had received his initial flying training, thus completing the circle, was certainly a big event and he, Wing/Cdr. Brie, was very glad to be present on that occasion.



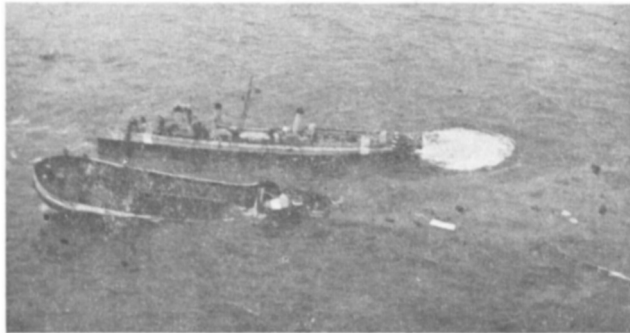
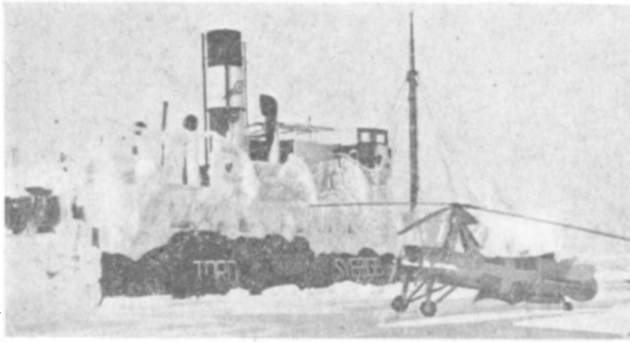
Old and new methods of transport in the mountains.



"Snow Hangar" at Storlien in the Swedish mountains.



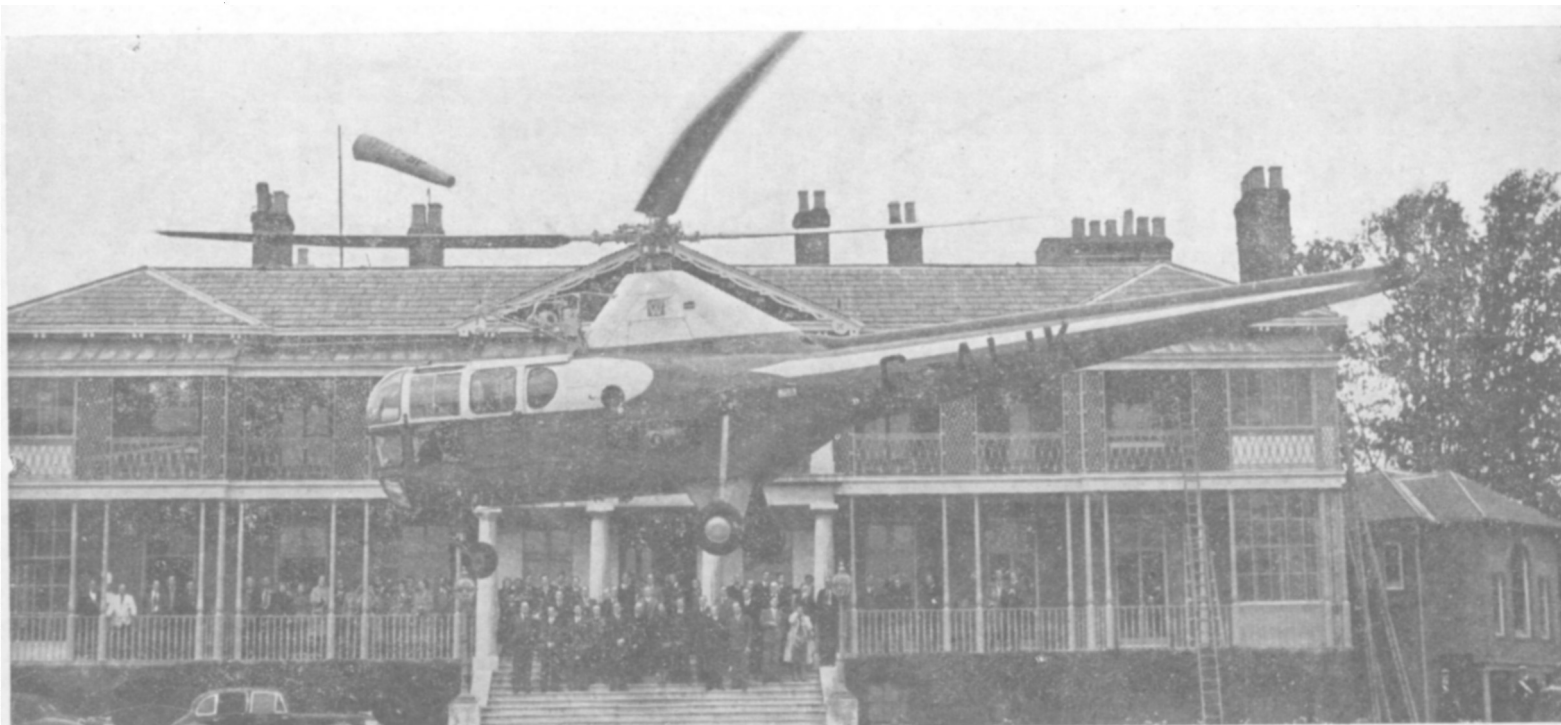
A little relaxation on the ice during a neutrality patrol.



Doing a survey of the first ship struck by a mine in Swedish waters. Note the flag of the ship, which has been fastened to the Autogiro as a souvenir.

Carrying messages to and from coastal artillery defences.

The Autogiro was used during neutrality patrols to bring help via coastal patrol ships wherever a vessel was found in distress. The photograph shows survivors clinging to a rapidly sinking Dutch ship.



By courtesy of 'The Aeroplane.'

A MEMORABLE OCCASION.—On September 23 the Helicopter Association of Great Britain held their fourth annual gathering, at Hanworth. Here a Westland Sikorsky S.51 lands on the lawn in front of the assembled members and their guests.