

OBITUARY

HAROLD GRINSTED, CBE, BSC, FCGI, HON FRAE S

It is with a deep sense of loss that we announce the death of Mr GRINSTED, on May 21st, 1955

HAROLD GRINSTED was one of the earliest members of the Staff at Farnborough, then the Royal Aircraft Factory. It is not clear when he joined, but certainly about 1914 he was in charge of the Stress Office. In October, 1915, when the Hampshire Aircraft Parks RFC were organised he was commissioned as Captain, later being promoted Major. After World War I, when Farnborough took the present name of Royal Aircraft Establishment, he became Controller of Experiment, a post which he held until the mid 1930s, when he was transferred to the Air Ministry as Deputy Director of Research and Development (Aircraft). At the time of his retirement in 1950 he was a Director in the Ministry of Supply.

He was a quiet, kindly and lovable person but with a profound knowledge of all branches of aircraft research and engineering. Because he was so completely unassuming and never sought the limelight, it is perhaps not generally appreciated how much he contributed to the sound design and engineering characteristics of British Aircraft.

It was typical of the man that while at the Ministry of Supply he never openly showed any real interest in the helicopter, yet when he joined the Association as a Member in 1949, and after his retirement he became Chairman of the Helicopter Committee of the Aeronautical Research Council, it quickly became apparent that the new development had by no means escaped his notice, and that in his own quiet way he had made himself particularly well informed on all aspects of helicopter theory and practice.

In his Association work he served on the Executive Council 1950/51/52, he was Chairman of the Lecture Sub-Committee 1953/54, Chairman of the Alan Marsh Sub-Committee 1953/54, and a Trustee of the Alan Marsh Memorial Trust Fund.

In the passing of HAROLD GRINSTED, British Aviation and the Association have suffered a great loss. To those of us who were privileged to work with him for so many years the sense of personal loss of a colleague held in great affection is very real.

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