



**Rothmans King Size**  
When you know what you want...

the best tobacco money can buy

MIDDLE TAR GROUP As defined in H.M. Government Tables.  
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

**RAF WROUGHTON**



# **OPEN DAY**

**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1976**

**10AM TO 5PM**

**Programme**

**15p.**



A welcome to  
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA'S  
ROYAL AIR FORCE HOSPITAL WROUGHTON  
by

THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
Air Commodore E. J. McGuire MB BS MFCM AFRAes



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Open Day. In addition to flying and parachuting displays you will be able to see demonstrations and exhibitions of many forms of transport through the ages; from the horse to the jet in fact. The static displays include a wide range of arts, crafts, products and machinery. I sincerely hope that you will find something of interest and have an enjoyable day. The proceeds of our Open Day will benefit a number of charities as well as our own hospital amenity fund.

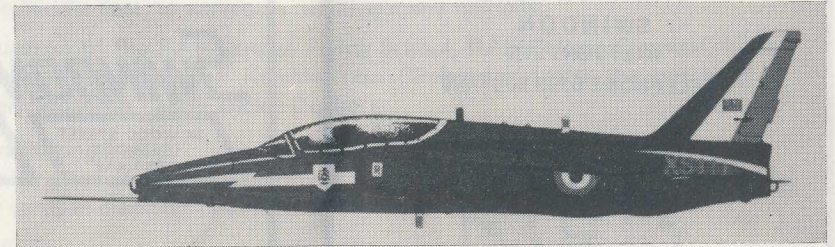
**Princess Alexandra's Royal Air Force Hospital Wroughton**

PARAF Hospital Wroughton is situated four miles from Swindon on the Marlborough Downs, near the site of the Battle of Beranburh (AD 556) and the Neolithic Hill Fort known as Barbury Castle.

The hospital was built between 1939 and 1941. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra visited RAF Hospital Wroughton for the first time on 4 July 1967 and the prefix "Princess Alexandra's" was conferred upon the hospital by Her Majesty The Queen on 4 October 1967.

The hospital is a general hospital serving RAF stations in a wide catchment area of central southern and western England and South Wales. It provides inpatient and outpatient facilities in most of the major specialties. It acts as the Reception hospital for UK-bound aeromedical flights which land at RAF Brize Norton and provides trained aeromedical teams for escort missions to any part of the world.

# The RED ARROWS



## THE HAWKER SIDDELEY GNAT T. Mk1

### *Dimensions:*

Span, 24 ft.; length (over pressure-head), 37 ft. 10 in.; height, 10 ft. 6 in.; gross wing area, 175 sq. ft.

### *Weights:*

Empty, 5630 lb.; loaded, 8100 lb.

### *Performance:*

Maximum speed (with under-wing tanks), Mach 0.91 (approx. 600 m.p.h.); maximum speed in shallow dive, Mach 1.15 (approx. 760 m.p.h.); sea-level rate of climb, 9850 ft./min.; service ceiling, 48,000 ft.; take-off to 50 ft., 2550 ft.; landing from 50 ft., 3000 ft.; normal range, 750 miles; maximum range, 1180 miles.

The Gnat Mk.1 two-seat advanced trainer was developed from the single-seat Gnat light fighter (designed by Petter of Folland Aircraft) and first flew on 31st August 1959. It is transonic and, although similar to the fighter, has wings and tail unit of increased area and a fuselage lengthened to accommodate the instructor's seat in tandem. The aircraft is light and responsive on the controls and couples excellent pilot visibility with extreme manoeuvrability.

The Gnat is powered by a 4520 lb. thrust Rolls-Royce Orpheus 10101 turbojet. A total of 258 gallons of fuel is carried internally and there is provision for two 59 gallon under-wing tanks.

The aircraft is used by the CFS for training advanced instructors and by 4 FTS, Valley, for advanced flying training.

The display aircraft has provision for red, white and blue smoke.

## BAMPTON BROS LTD

STRATTON ROAD  
SWINDON  
WILTS SN1 2PS  
TELEPHONE 0793 5547/8/9



ONE OF BRITAIN'S LARGEST AND BEST  
EQUIPPED ACCIDENT REPAIR SPECIALISTS

*SWINDON MOTOR*  
34 WOOD STREET  
SWINDON  
SN1 4AJ

*Co. LTD.*

**MAZDA**

## *Blunsdon House Hotel*

Blunsdon, Swindon, Wilts.  
AA. \*\*\* R.A.C.

### EXPERIENCE BLUNSDON HOUSE HOSPITALITY

An ideal stop for the West Country or  
Cotswolds, although many return or  
stay longer once they have discovered us.

For further information write John Clifford  
or Telephone Blunsdon (0793/72) 701.

B.T.A. Commended Country Hotel.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

### FLYING DISPLAYS

#### 2.00 p.m. — The Red Arrows

This year marks the twelfth successive season for the Royal Air Force aerobatic team, the Red Arrows, which has already given nearly 1,000 displays throughout Europe, North America and the Middle East, to audiences totalling many millions.

A detached squadron of the RAF Central Flying School, RAF College Cranwell, Lincs, the Red Arrows operate from RAF Kemble, near Cirencester, under the command of their team leader, Squadron Leader Dickie Duckett.

#### 2.20 p.m. — Parachuting Display

The RAF Sport Parachute Association jumping from a height of 5000 ft and aiming to hit a target area 20 yards in diameter (Main Arena).

#### 2.35 p.m. — A Firefly

Another aircraft of the Royal Naval Historic Flight from the RN Air Station Yeovilton, Somerset.

#### 2.50 p.m. — A Spitfire

An aircraft of the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Historic Flight from RAF Coningsby.

#### 3.00 p.m. — The Rothmans Aerobatic Team

An exciting aerobatic display by the famous Rothmans team flying Pitts Specials.

#### 3.40 p.m. — A Swordfish

An aircraft of the Royal Naval Historic Flight from the RN Air Station Yeovilton, Somerset.

### VETERAN AND VINTAGE MOTOR VEHICLES

**A Concours d'Elegance of Veteran and Vintage Motor Cars** (Area "a"). The concours will be judged by Mr Nigel Arnold-Forster, Past-President of the Vintage Sports-Car Club.

**A Vintage Fire Engine.** The machine is maintained and demonstrated by volunteers from the London Fire Brigade Workshops at Ruislip in Middlesex. It is a 1941 Dennis powered by a 4 cylinder 6780cc petrol engine. The body is of the "Braidwood" type with open cab and mainly constructed of wood. Pumping capacity is 1000 gallons per minute by a rear-mounted two-stage centrifugal pump. This type of machine was in common use during the "blitz" on London.

**A Vintage Bus.** A 1948 Bristol single-deck L.5.G No 2388. Purchased for preservation in 1974 this bus has won two prizes at rallies in 1975. It is owned by Mr E Amos and Mr M Jeffries, and is used as a publicity vehicle for the Bristol Suburban Railway Society.

### HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES

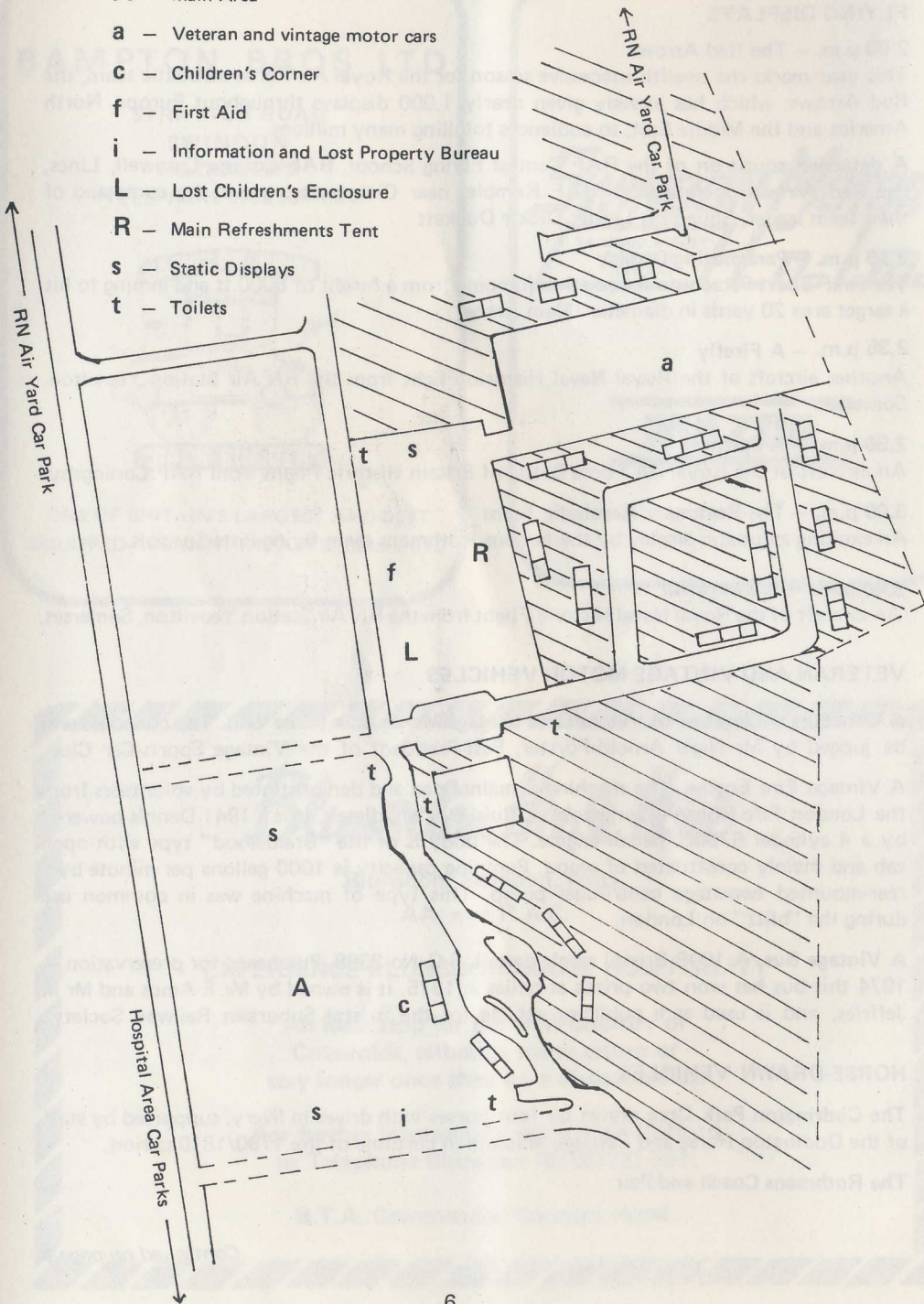
**The Codrington Park Drag** drawn by four horses with driver in livery; supported by staff of the Dodington Horse and Carriage Museum in costume of the 1790/1810 period.

**The Rothmans Coach and Pair**

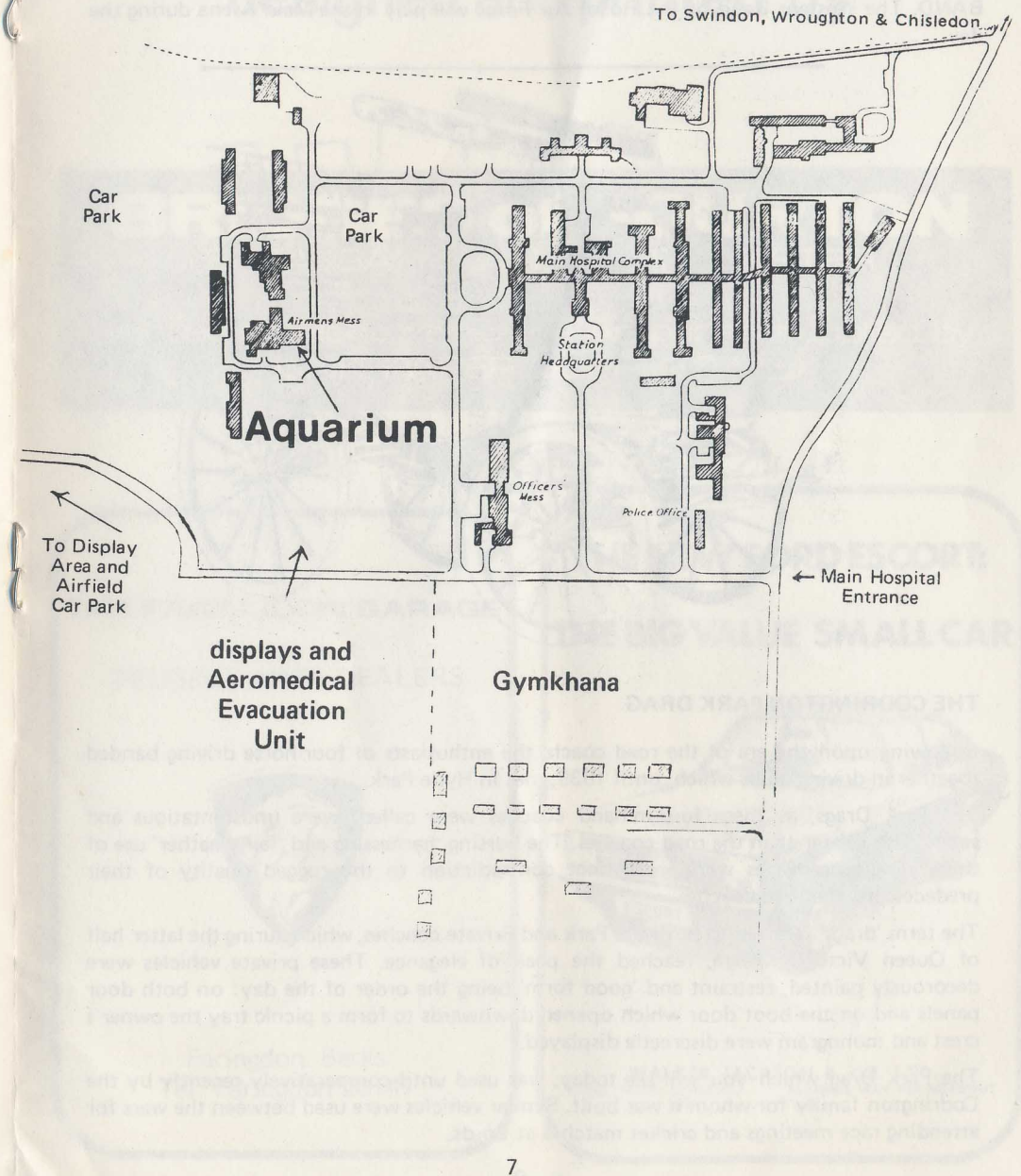
*Continued on page 8*

## DISPLAY AREA

- A** - Main Area
- a** - Veteran and vintage motor cars
- c** - Children's Corner
- f** - First Aid
- i** - Information and Lost Property Bureau
- L** - Lost Children's Enclosure
- R** - Main Refreshments Tent
- s** - Static Displays
- t** - Toilets



## HOSPITAL AREA



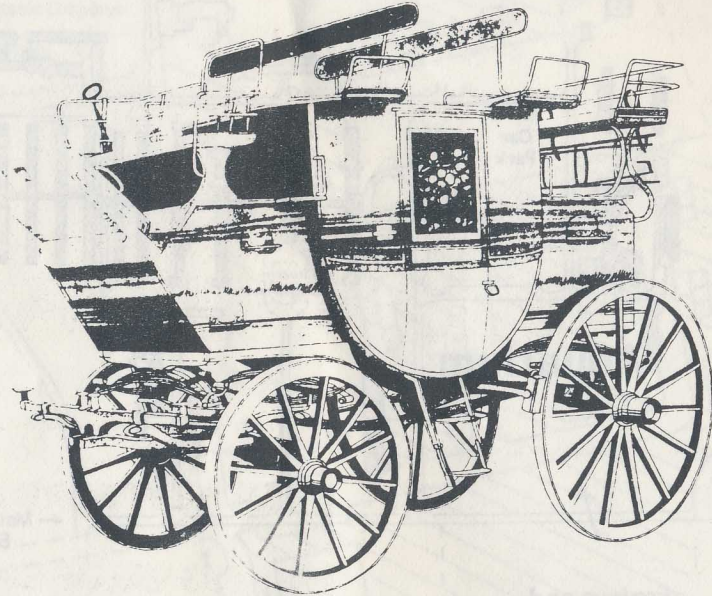
### A ROYAL AIR FORCE AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION UNIT

A demonstration of an RAF Aeromedical Evacuation Unit deployed under "field" conditions.

**A GYMKHANA.** The Annual Wroughton Village Gymkhana will be held on the fields alongside the hospital entrance road. The Gymkhana will be judged by Mr Richard Pitman.

**AN AQUARIUM.** An exhibition of tropical fish will be held in the Airmen's Mess dining hall.

**BAND.** The Western Band of the Royal Air Force will play in the Main Arena during the day.



### THE CODRINGTON PARK DRAG

Following upon the era of the road coach, the enthusiasts of four-horse driving banded together in driving clubs which, until 1939, met in Hyde Park.

The Park Drags, as these four-in-hand coaches were called, were unostentatious and smart, but lighter than the road coaches. The horsing, harnessing and 'fair weather' use of these elegant carriages were in distinct contradiction to the rugged quality of their predecessors, the road coaches.

The term 'drags' referred to both the Park and Private coaches, which during the latter half of Queen Victoria's reign, reached the peak of elegance. These private vehicles were decorously painted, restraint and 'good form' being the order of the day: on both door panels and on the boot door which opened downwards to form a picnic tray the owner's crest and monogram were discreetly displayed.

The Park Drag which you will see today, was used until comparatively recently by the Codrington family for whom it was built. Similar vehicles were used between the wars for attending race meetings and cricket matches at Lords.

ROTHMANS AEROBATIC TEAM

TRIALS UNIT

This programme was  
designed and printed by

**BRIDGES of BOURTON**  
SPITALGATE LANE, CIRENCESTER

printed on Bondway Blade Artpaper, supplied by  
LINK PAPER SUPPLIES LTD

THE FARINGDON GARAGE

PEUGEOT AREA DEALERS



Faringdon, Berks  
Tel: Faringdon 20141

THE NEW FORD ESCORT:  
THE BIG VALUE SMALL CAR



WALKER JACKSON & CO. LTD.  
FORD MAIN DEALERS 20062 FLEMING WAY ROUNDABOUT  
SWINDON WILTS

## STATIC DISPLAYS

A wide variety of static displays are on show. These range from traditional arts and crafts, such as glassblowing and leatherwork, to aero-engines and helicopters.

Railway preservation societies are represented by the Cranmore Railway Co Ltd (East Somerset Railway), the Bristol Suburban Railway Society, the Great Western Society Ltd, and the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway Society.

A range of motor cars is being shown by various franchise dealers including Dick Lovett (Specialist Cars) Ltd (Porsche, Lancia, BMW and Ferrari); Haskins Garage Wroughton (Rover and Triumph); The Faringdon Garage (Peugeot); Swindon Motor Co Ltd (Mazda and Reliant); Walker Jackson & Co Ltd, Swindon (Ford). The National Drag Racing Club and the Swindon and District Motor Cycling Club are displaying their sporting machines.

Careers information displays are provided by the Police, HM Prison Service and the Armed Services.



### Fairey Swordfish

Known affectionately as the 'Stringbag', the Swordfish has the distinction of being one of the few biplanes to remain in front line service throughout World War 2 – it even outlasted the Albacore, its intended replacement.

Built in 1934 and designated TSR 2 the Swordfish, already obsolete in 1939, was destined to play an important and often decisive part ashore and afloat in every theatre of war.

Responsible for sinking or causing serious damage to 30 enemy warships, numerous U-Boats and over 350,000 tons of enemy shipping, the 2392 Swordfish destroyed more tonnage than any other type of allied aircraft.

Most famous of its exploits must be the virtual destruction of the Italian Fleet at Taranto in 1940, with the crippling of the Bismark and the gallant attack on the Scharnhorst, Prinz Eugen and Gneisenau running a close second. This last attack resulted in a VC being awarded posthumously to Lieutenant Commander Eugene Esmonde RN.

In July 1945 all Swordfish aircraft were down graded to the training role.

## ROTHMANS AEROBATIC TEAM

This is the seventh season of the Rothmans Aerobatic Team, the world's first full-time civilian formation aerobatic team, internationally renowned for precision, professionalism and dynamic performance. Formed in 1970 by Rothmans of Pall Mall and top aerobatic pilot, Manx Kelly, the Team originally flew the Belgian-designed Stampe SV 4 biplanes. These 1930's aircraft were meticulously restored to display condition and served well for three years, but the rapidly increasing standard of the Team, and the elaboration of their performance, was limited by the Stampe's capability.

In 1973 the Team changed to their present Pitts S2A's, described as "the ultimate in airshow machines", and immediately their routine took new and exciting dimensions. American-designed and built, the Pitts is a world-class aerobatic competition aeroplane, its biplane configuration reflecting the requirements for strength and manoeuvrability in this demanding role. The increased potential has been fully realised during the last three years, with the development of the Team's display to its present spectacular level.

The Team members this year are among the most experienced aerobatic pilots in the world. Leading the Team in the air for 1976 is Colin Woods, 32, ex-RAF Instructor and Flight Commander who specialised on Vulcans and then flew two years with the RAF aerobatic team, The Poachers. Graham Rutson, 30, also ex-RAF who became Chief Flying Instructor at Aberdeen University Air Squadron. Bob Thompson, 31, ex-RAF Instructor who led both the Gemini and Swords RAF aerobatic teams. David Perrin, 22, whose exceptional flying ability has won him the Air Squadron Aerobatic Trophy for the past two years. Pete Marsden, 25 is the Commentator and flies the spare Pitts to displays, gained a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has built up his flying experience on Cessnas and Chipmunks.

The 4-aircraft display includes formation outside loops (where the pilots hang in their straps); a new, exciting version of the Prince of Wales feather burst; the intertwining "threadneedle"; pairs stall turns; the sparkling "leapfrog"; the "swissroll"; and the unique slow roll in box with two aircraft the right way up and the other two upside down. All these manoeuvres require supreme concentration and split-second timing from all members of the Team. The display concludes with the dramatic "chandelier bomburst".



ROTHMANS AEROBATIC TEAM 1976  
Left to Right: David Perrin, Graham Rutson, Colin Woods, Peter Marsden (Commentator) and Bob Thompson.

### The Pitts S-2A

Fitted with a 200 hp fuel-injected Lycoming engine with inverted fuel and oil, and Hartzell constant speed propeller. Standard equipment includes a 12-volt electrical system, 40 amp alternator, starter and military-type non spill battery for aerobatics. The fuselage is completely conventional, a welded tube frame with metal decking on top with wooden stringers along the sides, the whole being fabric 'Dacron' covered. The wings are of the spruce 2-spar type, with built-up ribs the assembly being wire braced.

**Performance:** Top Speed MPH – 157; Cruise Speed – 152; Stall Speed – 58; Never Exceed Speed – 203; Rate of Climb FPM – 1900. **Specification:** Span (lower) – 20 ft; Span (higher) – 19 ft; Wing area – 125 sq. ft; Height – 6 ft 7 ins; Length – 18 ft 9 1/2 ins; Gross Weight – 1500 lb; Empty Weight – 1000 lb; Useful Load – 500 lb; Fuel Capacity – 144 lb; (20 Imp gals.); Oil Capacity – 15 lb (8 quarts).

