

Retrospection on the XIVth OSTIV Congress in Waikerie, Australia

In spite of the long journey that most of the OSTIV participants had to make before reaching Waikerie, the XIVth OSTIV Congress, held from January 21 to 27, 1974, rejoiced in a very good participation. This was not least thanks to the generous offer of QANTAS Airways which guaranteed the participants a reduction of 60% of the fares on its intercontinental flights to Melbourne, the city in Australia closest to Waikerie.

Flying with ANSETT Airlines or TAA (Trans Australian Airlines) from Melbourne to Adelaide – a flight of about 50 minutes – one experienced on arrival at the airport already the first token of helpfulness of the members of the OSTIV Organizing Committee, set up for this occasion by the Gliding Federation of Australia. Expecting to have to travel to Waikerie by the Murray Valley or Wadmores Bus – a distance of more than 160 km – one was met at the airport of Adelaide by a member or an assistant of this committee with his car, who transported the tired air-traveller as soon as possible to his destination in Waikerie.

Participants from 15 countries inscribed for the Congress, and were accommodated in hotels, bungalows or in the school at Waikerie, where the crew-members engaged in the World Gliding Championships were also housed. Since the temperature in the afternoon was so high, the sessions were held in the morning and in the evening. They took place in two lecture rooms: one in an air-conditioned wooden hut on the airfield for the morning sessions, the other in the St. John's Ambulance Society Hall in the village of Waikerie for the evening sessions.

This proved to be a very good solution, because in the morning everybody was on the airfield (most of the OSTIV participants were also interested in the briefing), whereas in the evening OSTIV participants, pilots and crew-members were in the village for their meal. As a result we often saw in the evening session, pilots and crew-members who were engaged in the championships. The official opening of the XIVth OSTIV Congress took place in the St. John's

Ambulance Society Hall on Monday January 21st, at 14.30. Besides the OSTIV delegates and participants, team captains and authorities, even from Melbourne, attended this event. Addresses were given by Councillor B. R. Elliott, the Major of Waikerie, Mr. J. R. Muller, President of the Gliding Federation of Australia, Mr. P. S. Langford, Senior Assistant Director-General of Civil Aviation, Prof. C. E. Wallington, Director of the XIVth World Gliding Championships and Mr. L. A. de Lange, President of OSTIV.

The President outlined the brilliant work done by Dr. Wim Toutenhoofd, a Dutch scientist and soaring pilot since 1967, Senior Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A., using the sailplane for scientific cloud physics research. He had thereby brought to everyone's attention the value of the sailplane as an excellent scientific sensor of cloud properties.

«Consequently, he is a pioneer on the scientific frontier of soaring, and therefore I am sure that the decision of the Board of OSTIV to present the OSTIV Plaque 1974 with Klempere Award to Dr. Wim Toutenhoofd will be highly deserved».

With these words Mr. De Lange ended his exposition of Dr. Toutenhoofd's work for science and soaring.

«OSTIV Diplomas» were then given to Prof. Dipl. Phys. Ingo Westerboer for the technical paper «Electronic Solutions to Total Energy Conversions», and to Mr. T. A. M. Bradbury for the meteorological paper «Glider Flight in the lower Stratosphere above Cumulonimbus Clouds», both read during the XIIIth OSTIV Congress in Vršac, Yugoslavia, 1972, and «being of particular value to OSTIV».

On the invitation of the President of the Gliding Federation of Australia, Mr. J. R. Muller, those present then moved to «Hardy's Cyrilton Cellars» in Waikerie for cocktails.

In the evening of the same day, the first (technical) session was held. The last

session on Friday evening January 25th was a joint session (technical and scientific).

Altogether there were read 14 technical papers, inclusive of Zacher's explanation on the flutter film of the AKA Flieger Braunschweig, and 14 meteorological papers, which included the interesting extra paper of Dr. Kuettner on the international tropical experiment «GATE».

During the General Conference of Active Members on Saturday morning the 26th January, which was also attended by the President of the International Gliding Committee of FAI, Mr. A. Gehrig, an important discussion took place on flaps with fixed hinges, recently introduced on Standard Class sailplanes.

All sitting Board Members were re-elected.

However, the bow was not always stretched: on Friday afternoon an interesting excursion had been organized along the river Murray with a visit to an orange juice factory and to an animal reserve, where the participants saw several Australian kangaroos, some with young in pouch. The excursion ended with a cocktail party in «Hardy's».

A very pleasant dinner in «Hardy's Cyrilton Cellars» on Saturday evening, attended by more than 100 people (OSTIV participants, officials of the World Gliding Championships and team captains and their wives), and offered by the Gliding Federation of Australia, closed this excellent OSTIV Congress.

The co-operation of this Federation, as well as the organization on the airfield and in the Ambulance Hall, was beyond all praise. The members of the Organizing Committee – all amateurs – in particular Murray Evans, Alan Patching and Derek Reid, showed professional abilities as painters of the wooden hut, as fitters of the airconditioning device (dismantled and taken from Prof. Wallington's hut!), as administrators, and in many other ways. Fantastic!

L.A. de L./C.O.V.