

## THE SOPWITH TRIPLANE . . .

## SPECIFICATION AND SUMMARY

**Powerplants.**—110 h.p. Clerget; 130 h.p. Clerget. N.509: 150 h.p. Hispano-Suiza. N.510: 200 h.p. Hispano-Suiza.

**Dimensions.**—Clerget Triplane: Span, 26ft 6in; length, 18ft 10in; height, 10ft 6in; chord, 3ft 3in; gap, each 3ft; stagger, total 3ft; dihedral, 2 deg 30 min; incidence 2 deg; wing area, 231 sq ft. Hispano-Suiza triplanes: Span, 28ft 6in; length, 23ft 2in; chord, 4ft 3in; gap, each 3ft 6in; stagger, total 3ft; wing area, 340 sq ft.

**Weights and Performance** (130 h.p. Clerget Triplane).—Weight empty, 993 lb. Military load, 238 lb. Fuel and oil, 184 lb. Weight loaded, 1,415 lb. Maximum speed at 6,500ft, 116 m.p.h.; at 10,000ft, 114 m.p.h.; at 15,000ft, 105 m.p.h. Climb to 6,500ft, 6 min 20 sec; to 10,000ft, 10 min 30 sec; to 15,000ft, 19 min.

**Manufacturers.**—Sopwith Aviation Co., Ltd., Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

**Other Contractors.**—Clayton and Shuttleworth, Ltd., Lincoln; Oakley, Ltd., Ilford.

**Production and Allocation.**—No precise figures are available, but it is known that serial numbers were allotted for a total of 172 Sopwith Triplanes (Clerget), of which 22 were not built; four may have been renumbered on return from the French Government. Two Triplanes with Hispano-Suiza engines were built.

All the Triplanes were delivered to the R.N.A.S., and the large majority went to the Naval fighting squadrons in France. One was transferred to the R.F.C., four to the French Government and one to Russia; another was sent to America, in the autumn of 1917.

**Armament.**—One Vickers machine-gun mounted centrally on top of the fuselage in front of the cockpit, firing forward through the airscrew. Some Triplanes had twin Vickers guns.

**Service Use.**—Western Front: "A" Squadron, R.N.A.S., at Furnes; R.N.A.S. Squadrons Nos. 1, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Aegean: No. 2 Wing, R.N.A.S., Mudros. Training: War School, R.N.A.S., Manston; R.N.A.S., Port Victoria.

**Serial Numbers.**—N.500, N.504, N.524, built by Sopwith. N.533-N.538, built by Clayton and Shuttleworth, armed with two Vickers guns. N.541-N.543, N.5350-N.5389, built by Clayton and Shuttleworth. N.5420-N.5494, built by Sopwith. N.5910-N.5934, ordered from Oakley; only N.5910-N.5912 were completed. N.6290-N.6309, built by Sopwith. N.509-N.510, Hispano-Suiza Triplanes.

**Notes on Individual Machines.\***—N.500, first prototype, used by "A" Sqn. at Furnes, written off at Dunkerque on December 17, 1917. N.504, second prototype, at Brooklands August 26, 1916; written off (burnt) October 27, 1917. N.524, returned from French Government. N.533, used by No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., July-August 1917. N.534, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn. N.535, R.N.A.S., Manston. N.541-N.543; returned from French Government. N.5354, with No. 10 (Naval) Sqn. July-August 1917. N.5355, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5359, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., June 1917; flown by Flt. Sub-Lt. J. A. Page. N.5261, No. 12 (Naval) Sqn. N.5364, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn. N.5366 and N.5367, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5368, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. O. S. Shirriff. N.5372, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. S. W. Rosevear. N.5373, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. C. G. Brock. N.5374, No. 9 (Naval) Sqn., June 13, 1917. N.5376, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn. N.5377, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., also used by No. 9 (Naval) Sqn., July 1917. N.5378, No. 9 (Naval) Sqn., July 1917. N.5380 and N.5381, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5382, R.N.A.S. Manston, July 7, 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. Daly. N.5383, R.N.A.S. Manston. N.5384, N.5385, N.5386 and N.5388 were transferred to the French Government. N.5387, "15" of No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., Bailleul.

\*The dates quoted against some serial numbers indicate only that it is known that the Triplane in question was with the squadron named at that date or period; the aircraft may have been with the squadron at an earlier date or over a longer period; it may also have served with other units. Similarly, mention of a pilot's name should not be taken to mean that the particular aircraft was flown only by that officer.

N.5389, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5420, supplied to Clayton and Shuttleworth as sample aircraft; later lost at Dunkerque. N.5421, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., also used by No. 8 (Naval) Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. F. V. Hall. N.5422, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn. N.5424, R.N.A.S. Manston, July 7, 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. Butler. N.5425, "16"

of No. 1 (Naval) Sqn. N.5426, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. H. K. Millward. N.5427, *Phillipine Island Britons No. 1*, used by No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. F. H. M. Maynard. N.5428, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn. N.5429, No. 10 (Naval) Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5430, transferred to R.F.C. N.5431, No. 2 Wing, R.N.A.S., Mudros. N.5432, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., May-July 1917; Flt. Lt. C. A. Eyre and Flt. Sub-Lt. de Wilde. N.5434, No. 8 (Naval) Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. D. Shields. N.5435, No. 1 (Naval) Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. C. A. Eyre.

N.5436, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917, Flt. Cdr. R. S. Dallas. N.5437, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. D. W. Ramsey; with No. 10 Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5438, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. C. A. Eyre. N.5440, *Britons in Siam No. 1*, used by No. 1 Sqn; Flt. Cdr. T. G. Culling; Flt. Sub-Lt. O. B. Ellis killed, May 19, 1917. N.5441, No. 1 Sqn. N.5442, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. E. A. Bennetts. N.5443, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. T. G. Culling. N.5444, *Canary Islands Britons*, used by No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Cdr. B. C. Clayton and Flt. Sub-Lt. T. G. Culling. N.5445, No. 1 Sqn. N.5446, *Manaos Britons*, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. R. P. Minifie. N.5447, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lts. D. M. H. Wallace and B. C. Ridley. N.5449, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. P. A. Johnston. N.5450, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. C. D. Booker. N.5451, No. 1 Sqn. N.5452, No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Lt. B. C. Ridley. N.5453, No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. de Wilde.

N.5454, "1" of No. 1 Sqn. N.5455, No. 8 Sqn., also with No. 1 Sqn. in July 1917; Flt. Lt. Everitt. N.5458, No. 8 Sqn., also No. 10 Sqn., June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. D. F. Fitzgibbon; exhibited in America, December 1917. N.5459, No. 1 Sqn., also No. 9 Sqn., July 1917. N.5460, No. 8 Sqn.; Flt. Sub-Lt. J. J. Simpson. N.5461, No. 1 Sqn., Flt. Sub-Lt. G. G. Bowman killed, May 19, 1917. N.5462, No. 9 Sqn., July 1917. N.5464, No. 8 Sqn., also No. 10 Sqn., July-August 1917. N.5465, No. 8 Sqn., Flt. Lt. R. J. O. Compston. N.5466, No. 10 Sqn., June 1917; later to No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. S. W. Rosevear. N.5468, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. Jenner-Parsons. N.5469, No. 8 Sqn. N.5471, No. 8 Sqn.; Flt. Sub-Lt. R. R. Thornely. N.5472, No. 8 Sqn., also "17" of No. 1 Sqn. N.5473, No. 1 Sqn., July 31, 1917. N.5474, No. 8 Sqn. N.5475, "18," No. 1 Sqn.; also with No. 9 Sqn., July 1917. N.5476, No. 1 Sqn. N.5477, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. A. R. Knight. N.5478, No. 10 Sqn., June-August 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. H. W. Taylor. N. 5479, *Britons in Spain No. 1*, "8" of No. 1 Sqn.; Flt. Sub-Lt. L. H. Cockey. N.5480, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. D. W. Ramsey; later to No. 10 Sqn., July-August 1917.

N.5481, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. H. A. Pailthorpe. N.5482, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. C. D. Booker. N.5483, No. 10 Sqn., Flt. Sub-Lt. E. V. Reid, July-August 1917. N.5484, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. J. F. Nalder; No. 9 Sqn., July 1917; No. 12 Sqn., September 1917. N.5485, No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. G. R. G. Scott. N.5486, sent to Russia, May 1917. N.5487, No. 10 Sqn., June-August 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. W. M. Alexander. N.5488, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Cdr. T. F. N. Gerrard. N.5489, No. 9 Sqn., July 1917. N.5490, No. 1 Sqn., also with No. 10 Sqn., June 1917, flown by Flt. Cdr. R. Collishaw; later to No. 9 Sqn., July 1917. N.5491, No. 1 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Cdr. R. S. Dallas. N.5492, No. 10 Sqn., June-August 1917; Flt. Cdr. R. Collishaw. N.5493, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. R. A. Little. N.5494, *Peking Britons*, used by No. 1 Sqn. N.6290, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. A. R. Arnold.

N.6291, used by both Nos. 1 and 8 Sqn. N.6292, No. 8 Sqn.; Flt. Sub-Lt. R. R. Soar; later to No. 1 Sqn. N.6295, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. P. A. Johnston; later to No. 10 Sqn., July-August 1917. N.6296, *Britons in France No. 1*, used by No. 1 Sqn., May-July 1917; Flt. Sub-Lts. E. Anthony and G. R. G. Scott. N.6299, No. 1 Sqn., also No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Lt. R. J. O. Compston. N.6300, No. 1 Sqn., May-July 1917; Flt. Cdr. F. H. M. Maynard, Flt. Sub-Lt. A. E. Spence. N.6301, No. 8 Sqn., May-June 1917; Flt. Sub-Lt. R. McDonald. N.6302, No. 10 Sqn., June-August 1917. N.6303, No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Lt. R. P. Minifie. N.6304, No. 10 Sqn., No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Lt. B. C. Ridley. N.6306, No. 10 Sqn.; Flt. Sub-Lt. L. H. Parker. N.6307, No. 10 Sqn.; Flt. Sub-Lt. J. E. Sharman, July-August 1917. N.6308, No. 1 Sqn., July 1917; Flt. Lts. F. H. M. Maynard and H. V. Rowley. N.6309, No. 1 Sqn.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 29-  
May 4. Institute of Metals: Spring Meeting.  
Apr. 30. R.Ae.S.: Section Lecture: "Purpose and Problems of Research Aircraft," by F. P. Youens, A.F.R.Ae.S.  
May 4. British Interplanetary Society: Film Show.  
May 4. Surrey Flying Club Anniversary.  
May 4-5. Aero-Club des Greves du Mont Saint-Michel: Second International Rally, Avranches Aerodrome.  
May 5. Tiger Club: Aerobatic Competition, Sywell.  
May 8. R.Ae.S. Annual General Meeting.  
May 9. R.Ae.S.: Main Lecture: First Lancheester Memorial Lecture, by Dr. T. von Karman, Hon.F.R.Ae.S.  
May 10. Helicopter Association: "Military Helicopter Operations in Malaya," by W/C. W. R. Williams, O.B.E., D.F.C.  
May 14. R.Ae.S.: Section Lecture: "New Techniques in Manufacture," by W. A. Baker, Grad.R.Ae.S.  
May 15. R.Ae.S.: Graduates and Students Sections: "Guided Weapon Research and Development," by W. H. Stephens.  
May 18. British Interplanetary Society: A.G.M. and Brains Trust.  
May 18-20. Quiberon Aero Club: Air Rally and International Touring Meeting, Quiberon.  
May 21-23. European Aircraft Ignition Conference (Champion Spark Plug Co.), London.  
May 24-  
June 2. Paris Aero Show, Le Bourget.

- May 25. Elstree Flying Club: At Home and Flying Display.  
May 25-26. Popular Flying Association: Rally, Sywell.  
May 28. R.Ae.S.: Section Lecture: "Flight Instruments," by F. W. Meredith, F.R.Ae.S.  
May 31-  
June 1. Aero Club of South Africa: Governor-General's Air Race.  
June 1-2. Aero Club of Western France: International Rally, Anjou.  
June 8-10. Fréjus-St. Raphael Aero Club: 4th International Rally, Fréjus.  
June 9-10. Austrian Aero Club: International Rally, Vienna/Aspern.  
June 9-16. Western France Aero Club: Angers Gliding Week, Angers.  
June 10. Royal Aero Club: National Air Races First Round, and R.Ae.C. Aerobatic Competition, Yeading.  
June 10. Royal Dutch Aero Club: 6th International Air Display, Ypenburg.  
Sept. 2-8. S.B.A.C. Show, Farnborough.

## R.Ae.S. Branch Fixtures (to May 2):

May 1, Leicester, "Pioneers," by N. J. Capper; Luton, "Airbreathing Powerplants for Supersonic Flight," by A. W. Morley; Weybridge, Annual General Meeting; Chester, Annual General Meeting and Film Show. May 2, Glasgow, "Achievements and Prospects in the Field of Aircraft Engines," by Prof. A. D. Baxter.