

INTERESTING GLIDERS

by PETER M. BOWERS



The British General Aviation "Hotspur" Mark I was originally designed as a light troop-carrying glider but was switched over to training duties early in World War II. Mark II and III production versions were built strictly as trainers, and had a reduced wing span of 45' 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " compared to the 61' 6" span of the Mk. I.

All "Hotspur" models had other general features in common — construction was all wood, wings and fuselage both being plywood covered. The two-man flight crew sat in tandem in the nose under a modern sail-plane-type canopy while the six troops were seated in compartments forward and aft of the single-spar wing.

The landing gear differed considerably from standard military glider practice. Double-truck wheels were mounted on single oleo struts attached to each main spar, and could be jettisoned for rough-ground landings on the single skid that ran from the nose to a point halfway from the wing trailing edge to the tail. One of the major differences between the Mk. II and III was in the method of towing. The II had the tow hook in what is now called the "C.G." position, on the belly just ahead of the leading edge of the wing. Photograph shows two II's in high-tow position with the towline making an angle of nearly 45 degrees down to the towplane. The III used the conventional tip-of-the-nose hook location.

Another difference from standard practice is that spoilers were not fitted. Instead, the "Hotspurs" used split trailing edge flaps in the manner of airplanes.

Specifications Hotspur Mk. II

Span: 45' 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Length: 39' 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Height: 10' 10"
Wing Area: 272 Sq. Ft.
Empty Weight: 1755 Lbs.
Gross Weight: 3635 Lbs.
Max. Tow Speed: 150 mph
Max. Dive Speed: 170 mph
Stall Speed, Flaps Down: 54 mph

ELSINORE CONTEST SLATED

Another SSA sanctioned soaring contest has been scheduled, this one by the Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, Ltd., otherwise known as the San Diego club. It will be called the Elsinore Spring Soaring Contest and will be held at Skylark Field, Elsinore, Calif., over the July 4th weekend. Rules for the contest will be identical to those of the previous Spring Contest which were patterned closely after the 1958 Nationals rules.

CALENDAR

Items listed in bold face type are to be sanctioned by SSA.

June 4-19. 1960 World Soaring Championships, Butzweiler Airport, Cologne, West Germany.

June 7-18. VIIIth OSTIV Congress of Technical Papers on Soaring, Cologne, West Germany.

July 1-4. Midwest Soaring Contest, Marion, Ohio, Municipal Airport.

July 2-4. First half of 1960 Southwestern and Texas State Soaring Championship, Georgetown, Texas, Municipal Airport. (25 mi. N. of Austin, Texas.)

July 2-4. Elsinore Spring Soaring Contest, Skylark Field, Elsinore, Calif.

July 2-4. Third Annual Tulsa Skyhawks Soaring Contest, Harvey Young Airport, 1500 So. 135th East Av., Tulsa, Oklahoma.

July 2-4. Northeastern States Soaring Contest, Harris Hill, Elmira, N.Y.

July 4-8. West Coast Championship Soaring Contest, Fancher Field, Wenatchee, Washington.

July 9-17. Annual P.G.C. Open House, Philadelphia Glider Port, Rte. 1, Box 315, Perkasi, Pa.

July 19-28. Canadian National Soaring Competitions, Brantford, Ontario.

Dates to be Announced. 3rd Annual Jim Swearengen Soaring Contest, Twinkletown Airport, 10 mi. S. of Memphis, Tenn., on Hwy. 61.

July 25-31. 1960 National Model Airplane Championships, U.S. Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas.

Aug. 2-11. 27th Annual U. S. National Soaring Championships, Ector County Airport, Odessa, Texas.

Aug. 4-7. Soaring "Meeting" (Camp). Frankfort, Mich.

Aug. 5-7. 3rd Annual Mid-Atlantic States Soaring Meet, Municipal Airport, Cumberland, W. Va.

Aug. 12. SSA Board of Directors' Meeting, Odessa, Texas.

Sept. 2-5. 3rd Illini Soaring Meet, Urbana, Ill.

Sept. 2-5. Labor Day Soaring Camp, Fancher Field, Wenatchee, Wash.

Sept. 3-5. Second half of 1960 Southwestern and Texas State Soaring Championship, Grand Prairie, Texas, Airport.

Sept. 3-5. Schweizer 1-26 One-Design Soaring Regatta, Harris Hill, Elmira, N.Y.

Sept. 3-5. 3rd Annual Rocky Mountain Soaring Contest, East Colfax Airpark, 10 mi. E. of Denver, Colo. Write Mervin Hicks, 1345 Elmira St., Aurora, Colo.

Sept. 3-5. SCSA's Invitational Gypsy Soaring Contest to, at and from McCarran Field, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sept. 3-5. National Air Rally, Orange, Mass., Airport.

Oct. 1-2. Fall Soaring Roundup, Sky-park Airport, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Nov. 14-16. National Aeronautic Assn. Annual Meeting, Indio, Cal.

Nov. 25-27. Snowbird Meet, Harris Hill, Elmira, N.Y.