IN MEMORIAM

Wally Wallington — A Life for Meteorology in Airsports

FIGURE 1. Wally Wallington as Visiting Scientist in 1978 at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the German Aerospace Research Establishment at Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany.

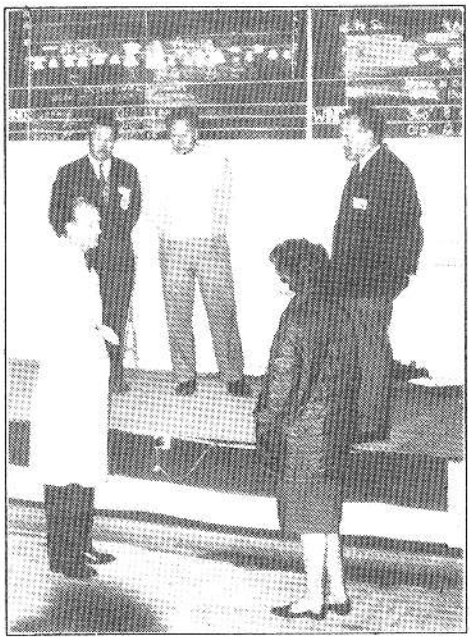

FIGURE 2. The Duke of Edinburough, Patron of the X World Gliding Championships in 1965 at South Cerney, England visits the site. Shown here with Ann Welsh, Director of the Championships, and Wally Wally Wallington, Chief Forecaster (both at the outer right.)

The airsports have lost a great man in the study, interpretation and understanding of weather phenomena, weathercasting and the use of weather knowledge in all the various airsports.

Professor Charles Edward Wallington, known to most of us as Wally, died very suddenly in his home at Canberra, Australia, on July 18, 1992, after a short period of severe illness due to a rare form of vasculitis.

Because he and I spent a long time together pursuing like work activites and other similar interests, I am grateful to be able to share a few of my remembrances of this unique man.

I first met Wally in my study of meteorological literature where I found him together with Dr. Corby and others as writers treating the phenomena of lee waves in the free atmosphere. At that time, from 1947 to 1953, Wally was working with the British Meteorological Office concentrating in avaiation forecasting at the London airport. At the same time, he was completing parallel graduate courses at Imperial College and London University, finishing in 1954 with a M. Sc. degree in hydrodynamics, dynamical meteorology, aerodynamics and meteorology.

He soon became recognized for his special talent in the area of doing research and development work in various forecasting techniques. Besides his capability to observe, describe, analyze and very sharply classify the various atmospheric phenomena — most often in combination with his flight activities in which he served as a scientific observer — he was also able to translate those events into mathematical formulas to try to generalize atmospheric structures, their origin, their dynamics, their scales and their life cycles.

The early use of electronic computers led Wally into the field of numerical weather prediction techniques and the development of numerical prediction models. Wallington's writings in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, Meteorological Magazine,* and in the *Meteorological Office Scientific Papers* from that period dealt mainly with wave phenomena and their numerical modeling, extending later to airflow and diffusion problems in general.

I first personally met Wally at the World Gliding Championships at Camphill, England in 1954 but a much longer time was spent with him at the Championships in South Cerney, England in 1965. At this contest Wally the "the" weatherman for the competition management, and made the "go" or "no go" decisions along with the Director of the Championships.

In spite of his active involvement in the management of many of the Championships, Wally nearly always participated in the meetings of the OSTIV-Congress and crewed for an Australian team (also serving as expert weather advisor.) Those years, such as 1974 at Waikerie, Australia or 1987 at Benalla, Australia, when he would serve as Director of the Championships, he would have to curtail these other interests.

Wally's interest and involvement in a wide range of activities mirrors the many-sided natural abilites which enabled him to cover a wide range in the different fields of science. He started gliding in 1947 and never lost contact with the sport. To the contrary, he accumulated information on gliding weather right up to the end through his activities as a scientist, a glider pilot , an observer, and as an organizer of gliding events.

Being able to combine theory and experiments in the atmospheric sciences and use it in the field of gliding and also use gliding in the field of atmospheric research enabled him to write numerous papers. Topics covered included wave motions in the atmosphere, convection, sea breeze effects, dispersion problems and forecasting weather (especially for gliding.) His book *Meteorology for Glider Pilots* published in 1961 had worldwide circulation. This book has now seen three editions and one translation to German.

In addition to gliding, Wally also developed an interest in ballooning when his son John started a career in the sport. Assisting in the establishment of Balloons Aloft and while crewing for John, he developed a theodolite meteorological observing and data system, allowing nearly on-line wind soundings which turned out to be of decisive value for John in his many balloon competitions.

Expanding his interest to the field of ballooning led Wally to start to work on another book which would include meteorology for all airsports. This book, titled *Meteorology for Airsports*, was half-finished at the time of his death, and it is my fondest wish that it might some day be completed.

During all his diverse undertakings, Wally's wife, Joyce, provided a wonderful and stable source of immense support. Together they raised a family and she always supported his work and professional development.

Being so active, so ingenious, so inclined to specific fields of personal interest, in combination with the art of being a good listener, the patience of clear study and analysis, the ability to explain and persuade in a convincing manner led Wally to many leading positions during his professional career. He was a lecturer at the British Meteorological Office Training School in 1954-1955, was Principal Scientific Officer in the Dynamical Research Branch of the British Meteorological Office, and later decided to take an overseas assignment in the pursuit of a special interest in computing research. He became a Principal Research Scientist in the Division of Computing Research at C.S.I.R.O. in Canberra, Australia.

From 1970-1973, Wallington served as Professor and Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of New South Wales. This was followed by a successful period of service as Head of the School for Applied Sciences at the Canberra College of Advanced Education which later became part of Canberra University. Here Wally was able to build a division which increased in size from 10 academic and support staff to one of over 100 persons.

In spite of tremendous professional pressures, Wally never missed a meeting of the OSTIV-Congress where he led the Scientific Section and worked with the Meterological Panel, giving lecture courses and publishing his scientific work, especially so in the field of boundary layer research.

In 1982, Wally followed Dr. Joachim P. Kuettner as Chairman of the Scientific Section and the Meteorological Panel, positions Dr. Kuettner had held for thirty years. Under Kuettner's leadership and effort, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) had published the *Handbook of Meteorological Forecasting for Soaring Flight*, which had become one of the more popular WMO publications. Several years after the date of the first publication, WMO and OSTIV discussed a need for a revised edition and Wally made this revision his primary task. He began the process through the OSTIV-Meteorological Panel and enlisted the help and support of meteorologists worldwide. Numerous meetings, workshops and test periods followed and resulted in the acceptance of the revised work by the Aeronautical Commission of the WMO in 1992. Wally's contribution to this effort as both author and editor was invaluable.

Wally was recognized with an appropriate plaque in 1965 for having presented the most valuable papers in the meteorological sessions of the OSTIV-Congresses and for his noteworthy contributions to the science of soaring flight since 1960.

In 1991 he recieved the Order of Australia Medal for his significant professional and sporting contributions. The Australian Sport Aviation Confederation presented him with the FAI-Airsports Medal Diploma in recognition of his many years of service to sport and recreational aviation.

In recalling one of our many shared projects, I see Wally sitting beside me as meteorological observer in the motorglider ASK-16 K-KMES during one of his year's sabbaticals with the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the German Aerospace Establishment at Oberpfaffenhofen. We were shuttling between the mountain slopes of the Inn-Valley east of Innsbruck for measurements of heat fluxes in the boundary layer and he look at me, laughed and said, "What a wonderful job! What a wonderful life!"

OSTIV has lost a scientific leader; gliding has lost a strong supporter; and many of us have lost a great friend!

- Manfred Reinhardt