

In Recognition of Frederick William (Taffy) Higginson O.B.E., D.F.C., D.F.M.

By David J. Farrar O.B.E., M.A., C.Eng., F.R.Ae.S., Hon. F.I.E.D.

'Taffy' had a remarkable wartime career which can be read about on the Internet¹, but he also had a key role in Bristol's ability to join British Aircraft Corporation.

Single handed he was able to win the confidence of our foreign customers who believed us and did not believe English Electric (despite their top Board dominance), and despite the Bristol aircraft people joking that he would get nowhere.

He ensured that all GW statements had full engineering integrity.

His relationship with the Swedes was very close and he was ready to step in when their own programme fell behind the funding position, as he knew well. As a result I was respected by the Swedes and Swiss and little questioned by them.

'Taffy' became head of sales and service and later of all sales by the GW Division of which he was a Director like me. The English Electric people kept hacking at his legs when Mark 2 sales arose and I am not surprised he later left to work for an international company.

I give him credit for the sales and revenue which prevented Bristol bankruptcy and enabled Bristol to join British Aircraft Corporation and funded its first aeroplane, the BAC111.

David Farrar, August 2015



¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Higginson and see References.