RNAS CRYSTAL PALACE AIR MECHANIC'S NOTEBOOK

The following text and line illustrations are taken from 36 pages of notes made around 1917, and give an insight into the range of subjects then taught to Air Mechanic 1st Class A.W.J.Bould (SB No 33802) during his three week course at the Recruit Induction and Training Centre, Crystal Palace, London SW, to qualify for his selected profession as a Carpenter/Joiner in the RNAS.

SOPWITH SCHNEIDER FLOAT

Their use

To support the machine when floating or laying over water they are placed under point of balance and as far apart as possible to give greatest stability as should practically balance the machine in flying condition.

Construction

The material used principle Ash, Silver Spruce – Canadian Elm for interior framework and 3-ply or ¼ mahogany for external cover.

Bilges

Outside members running fore and aft on Bottom of float.

Gunwale

Corresponding members to bilges on top of float.

Plankings

Term applied to outer covering of floats.

Fixings

Made wherever possible by copper nails and roves. The nails are driven through the timber and on inside a washer or rove is placed which is driven home flush with a rove punch, the nails are then cut off to 1/8in and rivitted.

Knee pieces

Any bracket or angle piece fitted for additional strength.

Bulkheads

Run transversely across all floats and divide them into watertight compartments, the object of which is should a float get damaged to keep water in damaged section only, and still retain sufficient buoyancy to support machine.

Willesden Canvas

Used in lighter type of floats for bulkheads to give greater resiliency and lightness.

Inspection Covers

Fitted to each compartment for drainage and interior inspection purposes, a felt washer well soaked with tallow should always be placed between plate and cover and thread of screw to prevent the water getting in.

Struts

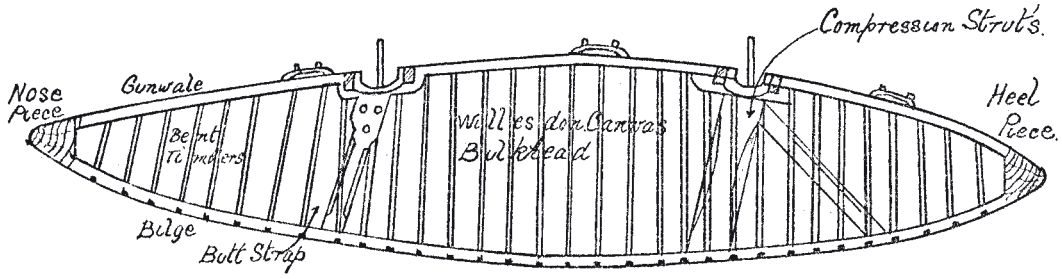
Fixed to take thrust on landing and distribute same equally throughout float.

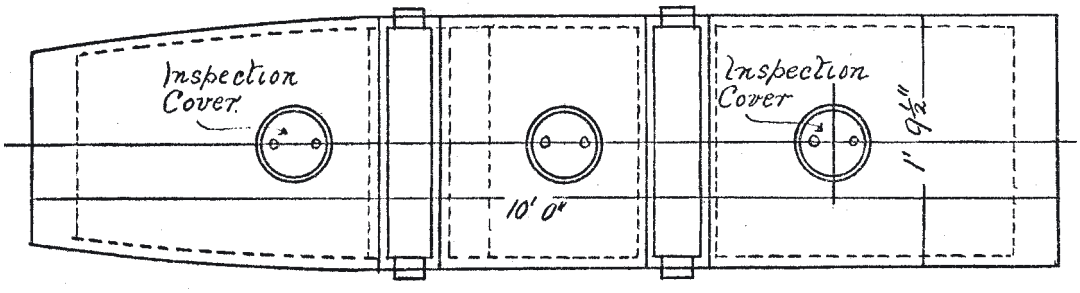
Runners

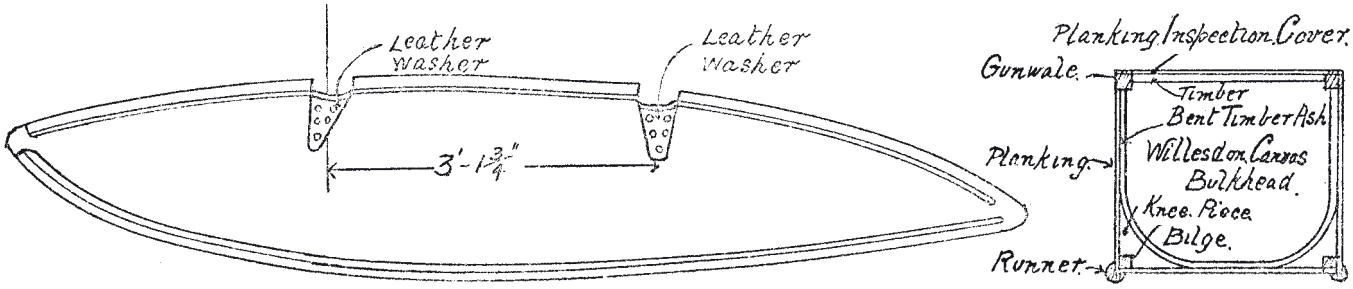
Timbers fixed to bottom of float to protect planking from damage.

Joints

The plain scarfed joint is used, the lower feather edge facing off to prevent water washing into joints and for 3-ply a butt joint roved to a 3-ply strap.







PLEASE NOTE NONE OF THE SKETCHES FROM THIS NOTEBOOK ARE TO SCALE