

**IN MEMORIAM J. E. ODLE**

John Elsdon Odle, OBE, FRPS died in Majorca, Spain on 11th June, 1983, the cause being a heart condition resulting from illness in childhood. John Odle was born on 25th March 1915 in St. John's Wood, London, the son of Edwin Vincent Odle, a writer and sometime editor of the Argosy magazine. He had little formal education as he suffered from frequent bouts of rheumatic fever. At the age of 16, he became an apprentice printer with the HMV company where he showed qualities of leadership and rose rapidly to a supervisory position at an early age. From this period his technical and commercial career, in which he had considerable success, was devoted almost entirely to photographic procedures.

In 1939, he joined the Williamson Manufacturing Company Limited, being appointed General Manager, which organization had a long history and expertise in the manufacture of aerial cameras, having invented the first aerial film camera in 1915.

During the Second World War, the Williamson Manufacturing Company was concerned with the production of multiprinters, gun cameras and reconnaissance cameras which played such a vital part in providing intelligence in all military aspects of the conflict. In 1941, Odle was appointed Chairman of the Aircraft Manufacturers' Group responsible for the coordination and production of aerial cameras at six different factories which made over 100,000 cameras for the Royal Air Force.

Following the cessation of hostilities, John Odle concentrated efforts on peacetime air photography and photogrammetry, the company producing Multiplex equipment in addition to air photographic apparatus. It was at this period in the 1950s that John Odle devoted so much time and energy to photogrammetric matters. Together with C. M. Williamson, the firm's Chairman and Managing Director, help was given in sponsoring the first British Chair of Photogrammetry and Surveying in the University of London.

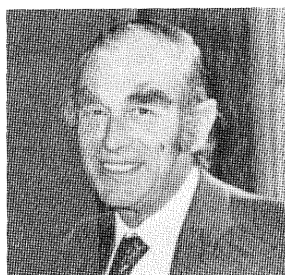
Odle was appointed Joint Managing Director of Williamson in 1948, becoming sole Managing Director in 1952. This was the year of the formation of the Photogrammetric Society and Odle became the first Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society, steering the administrative matters with wisdom and skill.

From 1956 to 1960 he was Treasurer of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Chairman of its Finance Committee at the time of the highly successful IXth International Congress of Photogrammetry in London in 1960. His wife, Mrs. Doris Odle, also played a part at the time as a member of the Ladies Sub-Committee of the Social and Entertainments Committee. It was Odle who, as Chairman of the British National Committee for Photogrammetry, presented the ISP President's Chain and Badge at the Xth International Congress, held in Lisbon in 1964. This gift to the International Society from the Photogrammetric Society, London, and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors was made to mark the success of the 1960 Congress in London.

He was elected Chairman of the British National Committee for Photogrammetry in 1963 which Committee had done so much in organizing National Exhibits and National Reports for International Congresses of Photogrammetry since 1956. He became President of the Photogrammetric Society in 1963, serving in that capacity until 1965.

Life was not all a commercial existence for Odle, however, as he was deeply interested in politics and an enthusiastic member of several yacht clubs. On retiring to Majorca he was a member of the Real Club Nautico in Palma. Many members of yacht clubs enjoyed his hospitality in Spain both ashore and on his cruiser.

John Odle, a courageous man, will be missed greatly by his family and friends and is survived by his widow who still lives in Spain, by Angela, his married daughter, and by his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Turner.



John Elsdon Odle

## IN MEMORIAN R. LL. BROWN

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Major General R. Llewellyn Brown. He died after a short illness on 17th July, 1983, within a week of his 88th birthday.

Reginald Llewellyn Brown, CB, CBE, MA, FRICS, FRGS (universally known as "Bruno") was the son of Colonel F. D. M. Brown, VC, and was educated at Wellington and the Royal Military Academy. He was due to enter the Corps of Royal Engineers in August 1914 but had the misfortune to be on a walking tour in the Harz Mountains at the outbreak of war. As a military cadet, he was imprisoned and spent the whole war in civilian internment camp. However this gave him the opportunity to develop wide interests including philosophy, art, music, literature and acting, subjects not usually associated with military officers.

After the First World War, Brown entered enthusiastically into his Army career, specialising in surveying. From 1921 to 1926 he was seconded to the Colonial Office to carry out topographical surveys in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) and, while far up country, lost his right arm in a shooting accident. This injury caused him considerable pain for the rest of his life and it is a measure of his strength of character that he never allowed his disability to restrict his activities or independence, as anyone who offered to help him on with his coat found out to their cost.

Subsequently he played golf to a handicap of eight, aided by a special grip which he designed to prevent the shaft from turning in his hand. He drove his car with urgency and flair, but presenting any passenger with a nerve racking experience.

From 1929 to 1939, he was involved in the early application of photogrammetry to surveying, firstly while on a survey of the proposed Haifa-Baghdad railway and later, as Officer in charge of Air Survey and Revision in the Ordnance Survey. Typically, while in Palestine, he took the opportunity of learning to fly.

The Second World War gave him the opportunity of displaying both his professional skills and powers of leadership. He spent the whole war overseas in France, the Middle East, North Africa and Italy. Under his direction, the use of air photography for survey purposes was greatly developed both in scope and in technique. It was due to his foresight that the region of the Alamein battlefield was thoroughly mapped at a time when many thought that such maps would never be wanted. Ultimately his Directorate controlled about 3500 technicians, employed on the maps of an area of nearly one million square miles. This large survey organization depended almost entirely on air photographs of one kind or another for the making of new maps and the revision of existing maps. He was

awarded the CBE in 1941 and the U.S. Legion of Merit in 1945, which justly indicate the massive contribution he made in the allied war effort.

In the immediate post-war period, he occupied key positions in the government survey organizations, being Director of Military Survey from 1946 to 1949 and Director General of Ordnance Survey from 1949 to 1953. He guided the Military Survey Service from its wartime status to its peacetime organization and role and, in the Ordnance Survey, he codified the policies which were to guide its work thereafter. Brown's, far sighted vision, ensured that these policy statements laid the foundation for the work of the Ordnance Survey to the present time. In his farewell address to the staff of the Ordnance Survey he said that, if ever they should abandon his policy of continuous revision, he would return to haunt them, a threat that present and future staff of the Ordnance Survey will do well to remember.

After retiring from the Ordnance Survey and the Army in 1953, Brown applied himself energetically to furthering the progress of the newly created professional and learned societies related to the survey profession. He played a leading part in the formation of the Photogrammetric Society, served on its Council for 21 years and was President from 1957 to 1959. He was the President's Medallist in 1963 and became an Honorary Member in 1965.

He was instrumental in creating the British National Committee for Photogrammetry to provide the national adhering link to the International Society for Photogrammetry (ISP). He was a member of Council of the ISP (now ISPRS) from 1952 to 1964 and President from 1956 to 1960. He managed the affairs of this international organization forcefully but with great tact and diplomacy and photogrammetrists throughout the world still recall with great pleasure his handling of the IXth International Congress in London in 1960. He was made an Honorary Member of ISP in 1960, a rare but thoroughly deserved honour.

Brown possessed a fortunate combination of qualities, having the sharpness of mind to see solutions and the necessary energy and determination to implement them; at the same time he always showed a genuine concern for others, and above all, allowed his strong sense of humor to soften an outwardly stern appearance. Indeed, it was his interest in and concern for people that endeared him to all who knew him. As a result, he was able to offer such wise counsel to the many organizations which he served and he did so with humility and good humour.

In Bruno Brown, the ISPRS has lost a revered colleague, who led us skillfully and purposefully in our early years and guided us wisely in recent times. We shall miss him greatly. We share his loss with his wife, son, and three grandchildren to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.



Reginald Llewellyn Brown

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**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Oliver Scott Reading (1894-1984)**

Captain O. S. Reading, President 1948-52 and Honorary Member of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, died April 10, 1984. Captain Reading, known affectionately as "Scott" to his many friends, served with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (now the National Ocean Service) from 1915 until his retirement in 1954.

Capt. Reading was born August 2, 1894 in West falls, New York, and attended public schools in Chicago and Evanston, Illinois. He graduated as an engineer from Lane Technical High School in Chicago. During his early years at the Coast and Geodetic Survey he was assigned to hydrographic and geodetic field surveys along the coasts of the United States, Alaska and the Philippines. During one such venture in the Aleutian Islands, after having disembarked from a skiff into heavy surf with a planetable and tripod--a task he did not enjoy at all--an airplane of the U. S. Navy flew overhead. The next evening,, aboard ship, he wrote to the Director of the Survey suggesting that this charting task could be accomplished more economically and more accurately with aerial photographs. Soon afterward Reading was assigned the job of developing such a system.

Capt. Reading's professional reputation was based upon the development of large photogrammetric instruments of very high accuracy. He designed and constructed a huge, precision copying camera for 50-inch cartographic press plates to accommodate the largest nautical and aeronautical charts. It was designed for the wet-plate process. He also developed and had built a projection ruling machine for drawing/scribing the curved parallels and converging meridians according to the polyconic, mercator, and other types of map projections with an accuracy of about 0.01 mm

He is most noted for the development of the nine lens aerial camera and its associated instrumentation. The system included the aerial camera itself, a transforming printer, a precision two-story rectifying camera, and two stereoscopic plotting instruments for pairs of 30 x 36-inch metal-mounted photographs, all to function at map accuracy standards.

The American Society of Photogrammetry was founded in 1934 by a group of men who met around Scott Reading's dining room table, and he became the third President of the Society in 1937. He was elected an Honorary Member in 1938.

Capt. Reading was a strong supporter of the International Society of Photogrammetry, and attended the Congresses in Paris 1934, Rome 1938, and The Hague in 1948 where he was elected President, with the responsibility of organizing the Congress in Washington in 1952--the first time outside of western Europe. In an effort to enhance the participation of a large number of European delegates, Capt. Reading invited the U.S. Department of Commerce to sponsor a group of about 30 top photogrammetrists from 15 wartorn countries. It was a huge success physically, philosophically and economically. After the Congress, the group was taken on a two-week tour of the U. S. visiting government and private photogrammetric firms. This established a firm connection between photogrammetrists in the United States and their colleagues in Europe. He was elected Honorary Member of the Society in 1956.

After retiring from the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Capt. Reading was Chief Surveys Engineer for the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, N.Y. He designed and helped install the many pedestals and magnets on the circumference of a circle 1 km in diameter with an accuracy of about 0.1 mm. For making thermal corrections to steel tapes, he suspended them in paper tubes and used electrical impedance to determine temperature.

During his later years Capt. Reading devoted a great deal of thought to the prevention of international conflicts through the free exchange of knowledge from national libraries stored in computer memories. He published several tracts outlining his ideas.

Capt. Reading was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of Sigma Xi and the Cosmos Club in Washington. He is survived by his wife Martha, who accompanied him to many of the ISP Congresses, a son George P., and a daughter Martha Jane Luria. The Society joins them in the loss of a distinguished scientist, but also a kind, generous, and congenial person.



Oliver Scott Reading