

THE BEARING OF THE EXPERIMENTS WITH KITES A B & C
UPON THE CONSTRUCTION OF AERODROME NO. 5 by A.G. Bell.

It is a little surprising to find so little difference in the efficiencies of Kites A B & C. Taking Kite A as our standard for comparison there can be no doubt, I think, that the efficiency of B is slightly less than that of A. This came out both in the experiments of July 11 and July 17 when the kites were directly compared (page 34).

In relation to Kites A & C the answer is not so conclusive. In the experiments July 11 the efficiency of C was slightly less than the efficiency of A; and in the experiments July 29 it was slightly greater (page 34).

I take it therefore that there is no substantial difference in efficiency between Kites A & C; and so slight a difference between Kites A & B that it is hardly worth considering. For the purposes of this inquiry we may consider that Kites A B & C are of substantially equal efficiency.

What bearing then have the experiments upon the type of structure to be adopted in aerodrome No. 5? The efficiencies being substantially the same, our choice of structure will depend upon other conditions than efficiency.

The type of structure employed in the Cygnet, typified by the A kite, was developed at Beinn Bhreagh as the result of numerous experiments which demonstrated that Kites composed of large aggregates of cells arranged in full construction were extremely steady in quite fluctuating winds.