

FIG. 1.

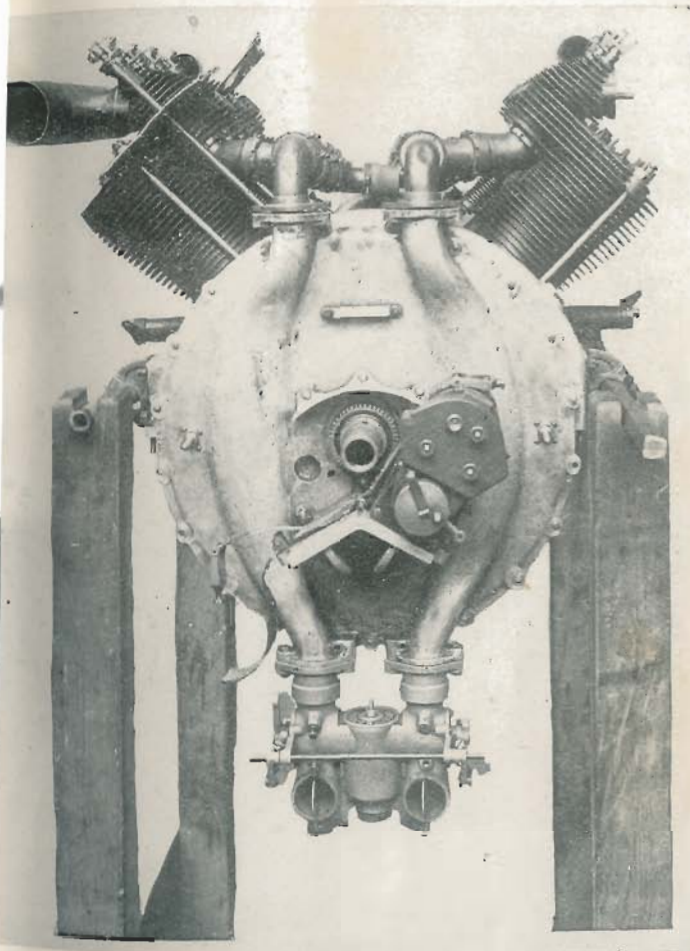
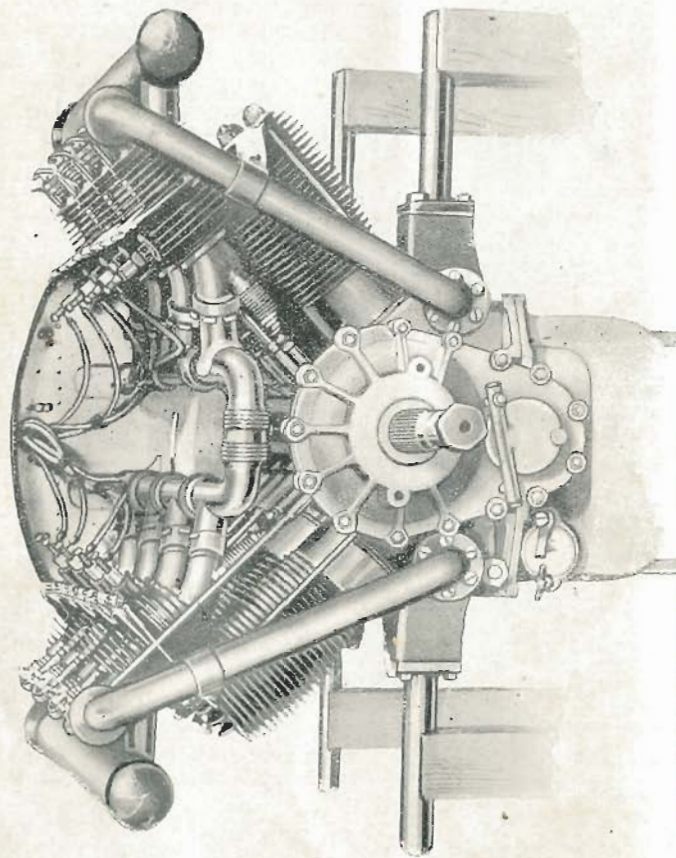


FIG. 2.

**90 H.P. R.A.F. 1.a.**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION.** This engine is of the stationary air cooled vee type with 2 sets of 4 cylinders arranged at right angles. The cylinder dimensions are 100 m.m. by 100 m.m., and the engine is rated at 90 H.P., but is capable of developing some 100 H.P. at 1800 R.P.M. Its chief points of difference from other stationary engines are:—

- (1) The cylinders are staggered in order that independent connecting rods may be used.
- (2) 4 of the main bearings are of the roller type.
- (3) A light steel flywheel is fitted which also acts as an oil circulating pump.
- (4) There is no oil pressure pump.
- (5) The engine has no double thrust bearing, and cannot be used as a pusher.

The direction of rotation of the propeller is clockwise as seen from the propeller end of the engine. The angle through which the crankshaft turns between any 2 consecutive explosions is 90°.

Approximate oil consumption	=	5 pints per hour.
"    petrol    "	=	9 gallons per hour.
"    weight of engine	=	450 lbs. or 5 lbs. per rated H.P.

**CRANKSHAFT.** The crankshaft is made of forged steel. It is hollow and has 4 throws arranged in pairs at 180°. Cranks 1 and 4 form 1 pair, and these are vertically upwards when cranks 2 and 3, the other pair, are vertically downwards. The crankshaft runs on 4 roller bearings and 1 ball bearing. The ball bearing, which is at the flywheel end, centres the crankshaft and prevents any floating motion. Three of the roller bearings are between the 4 crankthrows, and the fourth is at the end of the crankshaft between No. 1 crank and the spur reduction gearing. The bearings between the cranks are of larger diameter than the end roller bearing, and their inner races are supported by split bushes. One half of each split bush is keyed to the crankshaft, and is held in position by a flange and a set screw. The other half is held in position by a flange and the crankweb. The crankwebs are shaped in such a way as to allow these bearings to be threaded over the crankshaft and so placed in position. A helical groove around the fly wheel boss serves as a baffle to prevent oil from escaping where the crankshaft passes through the flywheel cover.

**PROPELLER SHAFT.** A short hollow propeller shaft mounted above the crankshaft at the end opposite the flywheel and is driven direct through the spur gearing at half the engine speed. The propeller shaft runs on 2 radial ball bearings and is fitted with a thrust bearing arranged for tractor working.

**CAMSHAFT.** The hollow steel camshaft has 1 plain phosphor bronze bearing at its centre, and a radial ball bearing at rear end. Its other end fits into the hollow propeller shaft, and is held in position by a cross pin which passes through both shafts, and driven by means of a series of vee shaped castellations which engage in corresponding castellations in propeller shaft. As stated above, the propeller shaft rotates at half the engine speed, which is the correct speed for camshaft. There are 8 inlet cams, 8 exhaust cams and 1 pump cam, all cut solid with the shaft. The inlet cams actuate the inlet valves through the medium of adjustable hardened steel tappets sliding in phosphor bronze bushes. The exhaust valves are operated by overhead rocker arms through the medium of adjustable hollow steel push rods which are connected to their corresponding tappets by ball and socket joints.

**CRANKCASE.** The crankcase is of aluminium alloy and is in 3 main parts, the upper portion, the lower part or sump, and a large end plate or flywheel cover. At the propeller end of the crankcase is a smaller end plate which forms a cover for the gear box and a housing for the front propeller shaft radial ball race and the thrust race. The bottom of the oil sump slants downwards towards the flywheel end, where is a chamber communicating with the bottom of the flywheel casing. This chamber is screened by an inclined wire gauze cover, and fitted with a drain plug for the removal of oil. A pivoted float, at the centre of the sump, indicates the oil level by means of a pointer outside the crankcase. The top half of the crankcase has 8 circular recesses for the 8 cylinders, and 5 webs or partitions for supporting the 5 crankshaft bearings, and 4 brackets for the flanged steel tubes by means of which the engine is attached to the aeroplane. At the propeller end is the reduction gear box, which also forms the housing for the rear propeller shaft radial ball race. At the flywheel end of the top half of the flywheel casing, which is connected to the flywheel cover by a series of studs and nuts. At the front

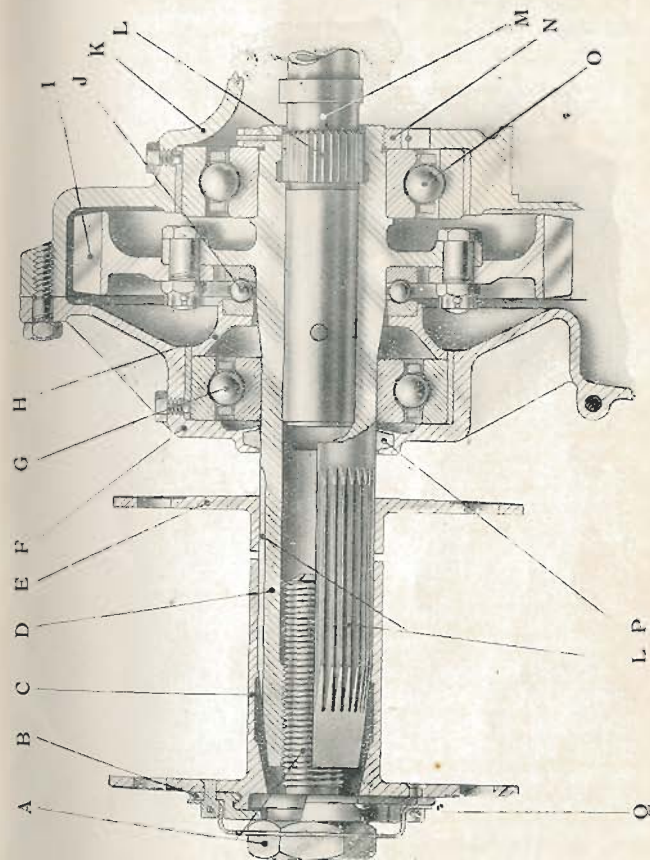


FIG. 4.

- A Propeller Boss Extractor Screw.
- B Extractor Collar.
- C Propeller Boss.
- D Propeller Shaft.
- E Propeller Boss Back Plate.
- F End Plate.
- G Propeller Shaft Front Radial Ball Bearing.
- H Distance Piece.
- I Reduction Gear.
- J Thrust Ball Bearing for Tractor Working.
- K Crankcase.
- L Serrations.
- M Camshaft.
- N Lock Nut.
- O Propeller Shaft Rear Radial Ball Bearing.
- Q Locking Plate.
- P Felt Oil Retainer.

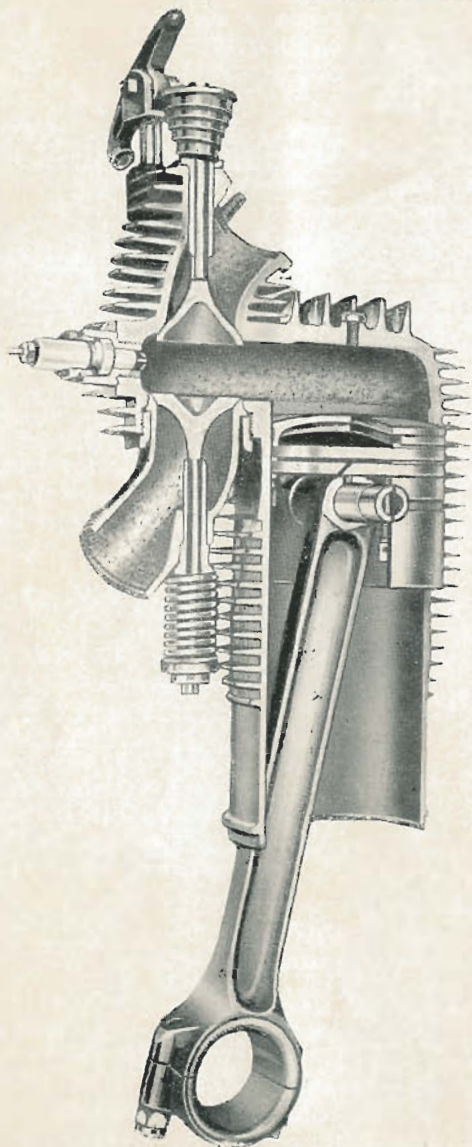


FIG. 5.

The crankcase are 2 long copper breather pipes fitted with gauze diaphragms. The upper ends of the breathers are bent backward to direct the oil vapour on to the rocker arms.

**CYLINDERS.** The cylinders are of cast iron with cooling fins, of the usual type, extending over the whole of the cylindrical surface, and surrounding the valve pockets and exhaust valve guides. Each cylinder has also 5 small cooling ribs ranged longitudinally at the top of the cylinder head. The cylinders are held in position by long mild steel rods or "studs," which are screwed into the crankcase and pass through projecting lugs at the top of the cylinder. The tops of these rods are screwed to take castellated nuts, which bear upon the lugs and draw the cylinders up to the crankcase, where they rest upon small flanges turned on the cylinder base. There are 2 holding down rods per cylinder, and they are arranged in positions which are diagonal in regard to the lines of cylinders. In this engine the cylinders are numbered in the order in which they are fired, and the openings in the crankcase are marked with the corresponding numbers, as follows:—

Propeller	{	2	8	4	6	}	Flywheel
		5	3	7	1		

**PISTONS.** The pistons are of cast iron with slightly convex heads, and each carries 3 cast iron rings fitted in grooves close to the piston head. A fourth groove around the piston, at the level of the centre of the gudgeon pin, communicates with holes through the piston wall and serves to spread oil over the cylinder wall. The pistons are attached to the connecting rods by hollow steel gudgeon pins, which are carried in bosses of the usual type, and are fixed in position by a tapered pin or set screw. This pin screws into the lower side of the gudgeon pin boss, and passes through the end of the gudgeon pin, which is slotted longitudinally so that it may be expanded in the boss by the action of the taper pin. A plate fitting against the piston wall locks the gudgeon pin in position, and a split pin passing through the set screw secures the lock plate.

Piston clearance = .4 m.m. to .5 m.m.\*

Piston ring gap = .08 m.m. to .10 m.m.

In some engines aluminium pistons are used. In such cases the clearance should be 0.5 to 1.0 m.m.

**CONNECTING RODS.** The connecting rods are of special alloy steel, "H" section, bronzed bushed at the small end and lined with white metal at the big end. The big end cap or lower half bearing, is removable, and is secured to the connecting rod by 2 steel studs and nuts.

**VALVES.** The inlet and exhaust valves, which are made of nickel steel, slide in bronzed bushed guides, and open in pockets adjoining the combustion chamber and situated at the highest parts of the inclined cylinders. The exhaust valve seating and outlet are cast integral with the cylinder and this part is above and opposite to the inlet valve seating which is removable together with its valve and guide. The exhaust valve has a cone shaped head of light section and hollow stem. The head of the inlet valve is also cone shaped but is of heavier section than the exhaust valve, and the stem is solid. A short length of the induction pipe is in 1 piece with the cast iron inlet valve seating, which is held in position by a screwed steel ring, known as the inlet valve seating nut which screws into a recess under the valve pocket and engages with a flange on the valve seating. The inlet valve spring is of the ordinary helical pattern encircling the valve stem. The exhaust valve spring is of the volute type. It is made of rectangular section spring steel, wound spirally in the form of an inverted cone. The lower end of the spring presses against a shoulder on the bronze valve stem guide, and the upper end against the under side of a small flanged steel disc or cup washer held in position by a split collar screwed on the top of the valve stem. A steel pin is fitted to take the impact of the rocker arm. The tappet clearances should be adjusted to the following values:—

Engine cold - Inlet = 0.006"  
 " " Exhaust = 0.004"

**CYCLE OF OPERATIONS.** Consider the case of any cylinder, for example No. 1, starting with the piston at the top of the stroke (T.D.C.) and the exhaust valve open. When the piston has moved 2 m.m. down the stroke, the inlet valve opens, and at 4 m.m. the exhaust valve closes. There is thus 2 m.m. "overlap." The piston continuing its downward motion draws the explosive mixture into the cylinder, reaches the bottom of the stroke (B.D.C.) and moves up through 14 to 16 m.m. of the return stroke before the inlet valve closes and compression commences. When the piston is 12 m.m.

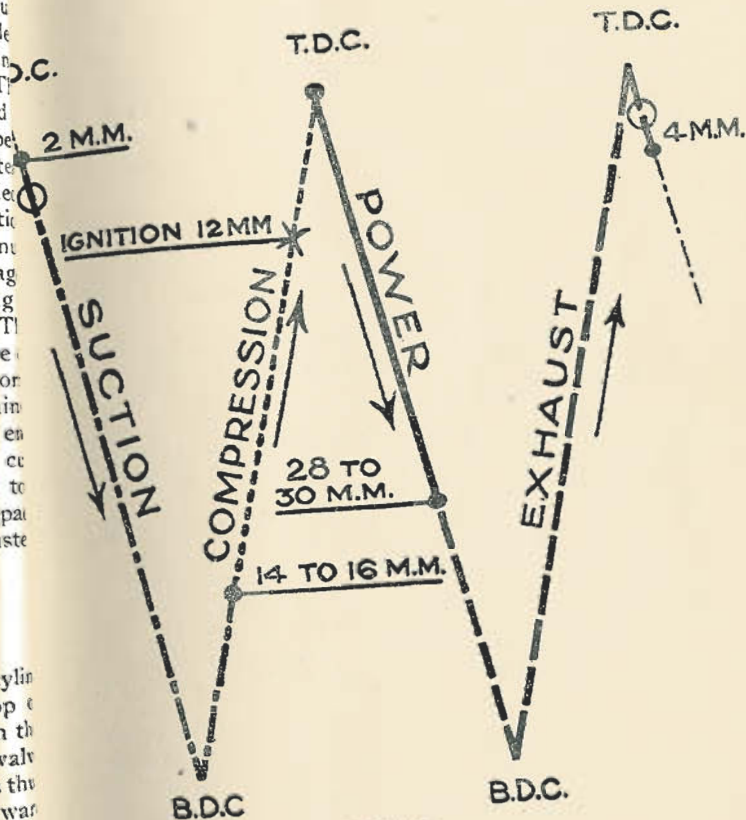


FIG. 6.

from the top of the compression stroke, i.e., 12 m.m. before T.D.C., ignition takes place, and the stroke is complete while the flame is spreading through the mixture. During the succeeding power stroke, the piston is driven down by the force of the explosion, and the exhaust valve opens when the piston has reached a point 28 to 30 m.m. before end of the stroke, i.e., 28 to 30 m.m. before B.D.C. The exhaust valve remains open during the whole of the reverse stroke, i.e., until the cycle has been completed.

Admission of explosive mixture	{ 2 m.m. past T.D.C. to 14 to 16 m.m. past B. before T.D.C.) - - - - T.D.C. to 28 to 30 m.m. before B. to 4 m.m. past T.D.C.
Compression (Ignition 12 m.m. before T.D.C.)	
Power - - - - -	
Exhaust - - - - -	

**VALVE TIMING.** The large and small wheels of the spur reduction gear are marked to indicate the correct position of meshing.

**IGNITION TIMING.** Set the piston of No. 1 cylinder 12 m.m. before T. D. C. on the compression stroke by turning the crankshaft and inserting a plug through the flywheel cover into 1 of series of holes in the flywheel. Turn the armature of 1 of magnetos in its normal running direction until the brush makes contact with No. 1 segment on the distributor, and the contact breaker points are just "breaking." Mesh the distributor wheels, taking care not to disturb the setting of the distributor and contact breaker in so doing. Repeat with the second magneto but timing this to No. 2 cylinder instead of No. 1.

**MAGNETOS.** The magnetos are mounted on brackets projecting from the flywheel cover, and are driven at engine speed by a spur wheel which is keyed to the crankshaft. They are of the revolving armature type, giving 2 sparks per revolution so that the 2 magnetos together give 8 sparks in 2 revolutions of the engine, during which time each of the 8 pistons completes 1 cycle. In some engines, 1 magneto of the rotating shaft type is fitted. This magneto, giving 4 sparks per revolution equivalent to 2 magnetos of the revolving armature type.

**CARBURATION.** The carburetter is a special double "Caudel-Hobson" having 1 float chamber and 2 mixing chambers and jets. It is mounted at the base of the crankcase under the magnetos. The supply of mixture is controlled by 2 cylindrical throttles operated by 1 lever. Air enters through openings at the side and base of the jet, flows past the jet at a high velocity, and carries the sprayed petrol with it up induction pipes or passages in the flywheel cover to a built-up manifold induction pipe, which is common to the cylinders. Special attention is required to prevent air leaks on the induction pipe joints, which are of the usual rubber tube and metal clip type. The insides of the induction passages in the flywheel cover are stove enamelled with the object of stopping small air leaks due to porosity of the metal or faulty casting.

**LUBRICATION.** Lubrication is by gravity and splash. The lower part of the flywheel chamber being in communication with the sump, the flywheel picks up oil during its rotation and projects it into an overhead oil gallery leading to a chamber or reservoir in 1 of the rear crankcase brackets, from which oil flows into a main duct or channel which runs the whole length of the base of the top half of the crankcase. At the end of this duct remote from the flywheel is a small hole registering with a corresponding hole in the gear box cover, in which is a passage terminating in an orifice from which oil flows into the teeth of the lower gear wheel as they move forward to mesh with those of the upper gear wheel. From the main duct, oil also flows by separate pipes to the under side of the 2 main bearing caps between cranks 1 and 2, and 3 and 4. Each of these pipes is "stopped down" at the lower end by a metal diaphragm drilled with a hole usually 5.5 m.m. in diameter, the size of which determines the quantity of oil that will flow through the pipe. Each of the pipes also has a small vent hole at its lowest point. The crankwebs, adjacent to the bearing caps supplied with oil, are fitted with steel oil collector rings the function of which is to convey the oil which flows from orifices on either side of the bearing caps, to the insides of the hollow crankpins. Each crankpin has 2 radial holes, through which oil passes to lubricate the connecting rod big end bearings. It should be noted that the 2 oil pipes are taken to the main bearing caps in order to provide for the lubrication of the connecting rod big ends, and

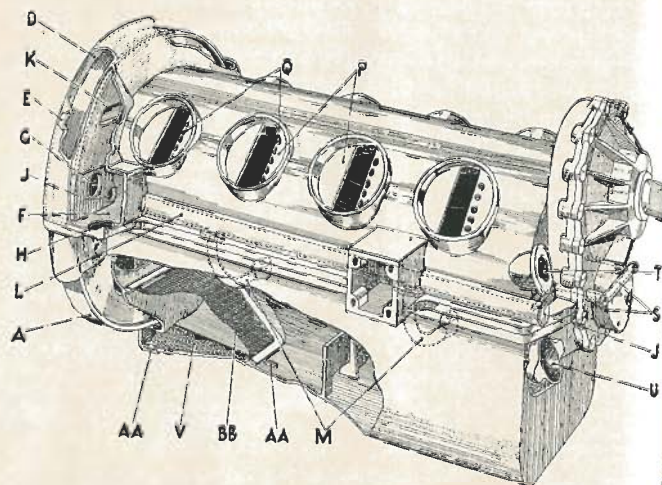
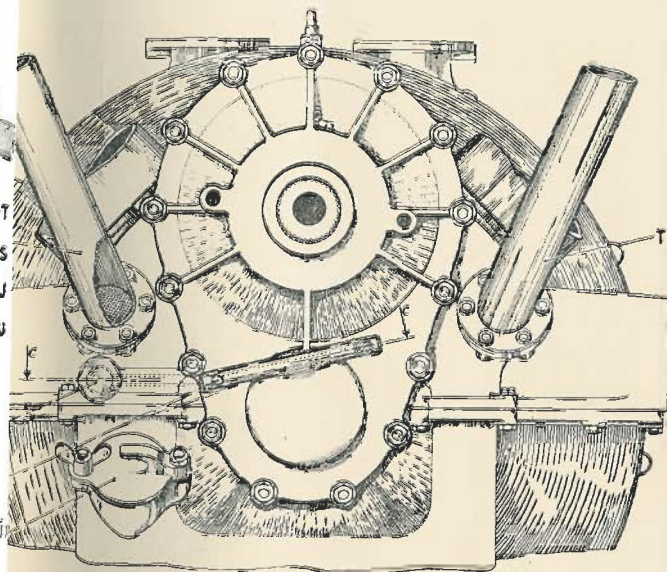


FIG. 7.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>A Flywheel.<br/>         B Flywheel Chamber.<br/>         C Helical Groove serving as Oil Baffle.<br/>         D Overhead Gallery leading to Reservoir.<br/>         E Gallery Inspection Plug.<br/>         F Reservoir.<br/>         G Reservoir Inspection Plugs.<br/>         H Reservoir Drain Plug.<br/>         J Main Duct Inspection Plug.<br/>         K Bypass.<br/>         L Main Duct.<br/>         M Pipes leading to Main Bearing Caps.<br/>         N Collector Rings conveying Oil to Hollow Crank Pins.</p> | <p>O Radial Holes leading Big Ends of Connecting Rods.<br/>         P Baffle Plates.<br/>         Q Holes in Baffle Plates.<br/>         R Felt Oil Retainer.<br/>         S Passage leading to Reduction Gearing.<br/>         T Crankcase Breather Pipes.<br/>         U Sump Oil Filler.<br/>         V Sump.<br/>         W Oil Level Indicator.<br/>         X Pivoted Float.<br/>         Y Vent Hole.<br/>         Z Diaphragms.<br/>         AA Drain Plugs.<br/>         BB Wire Gauze.<br/>         CC Air Pump.</p> |
|---|--|



Prop. End View.

FIG. 8.

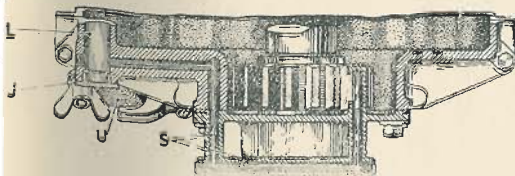
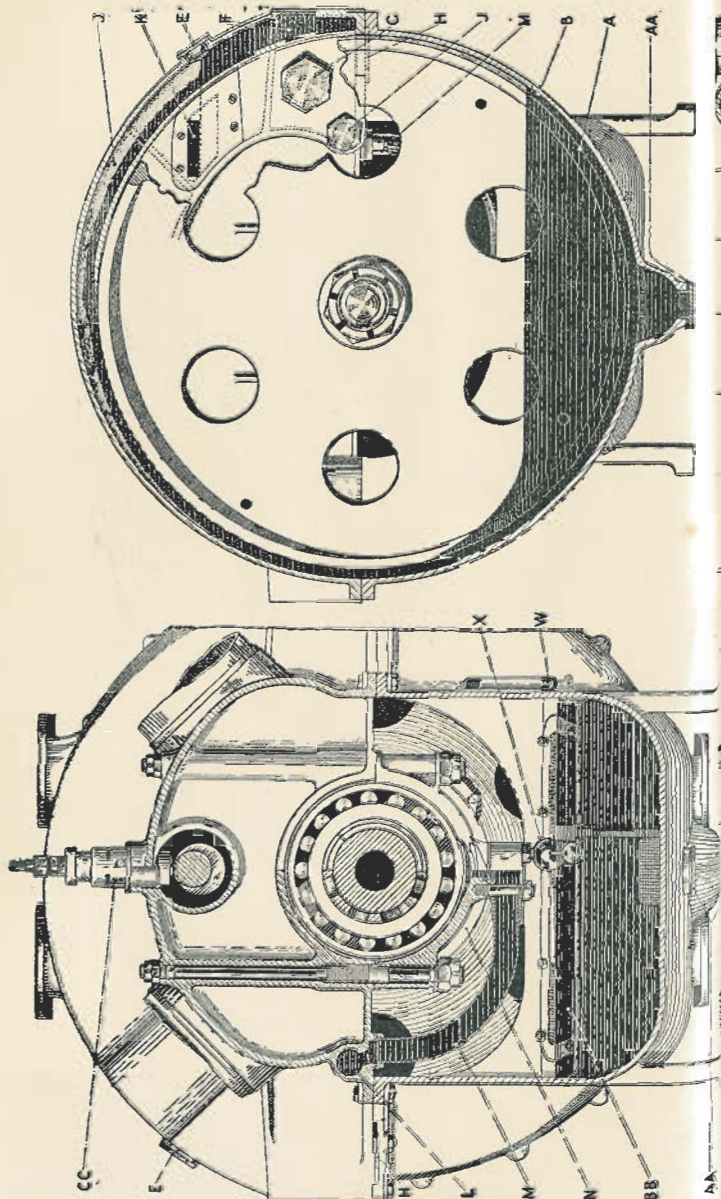
Plan Section at *cc*.

FIG. 9.

*For descriptive matter, see Fig. 7.*



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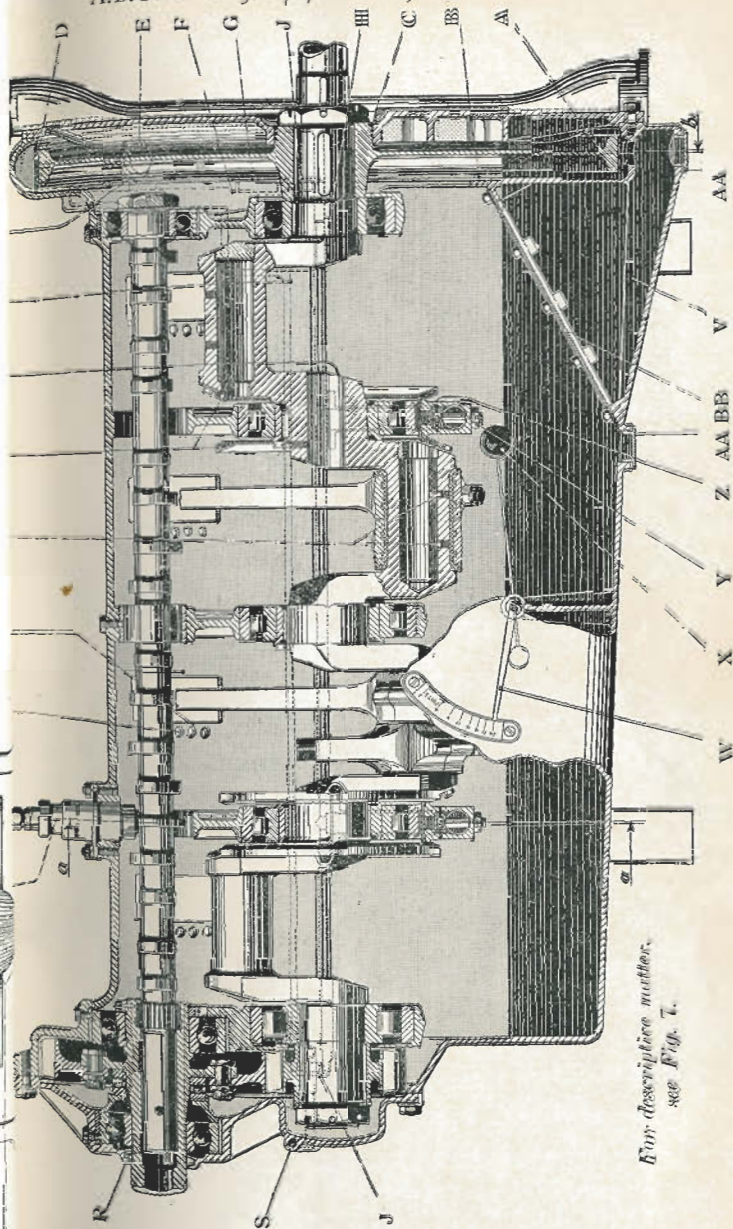


FIG. 12.

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For descriptive matter, see Fig. 7.



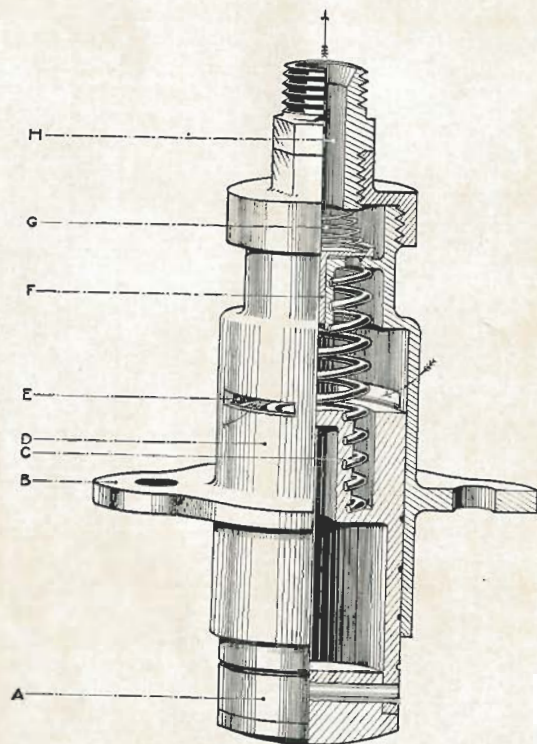


FIG. 13.

- A Plunger.
- B Flange for attaching Pump to Crankcase.
- C Spring for keeping Plunger in engagement with Cam.
- D Pump Barrel.
- E Air Inlet Port.
- F Non-return Delivery Valve.
- G Valve Spring.
- H Pressure Outlet to Petrol Tank.

90 H.P. R.A.F. I.a.

It is with the object of supplying oil to the roller bearings. To ensure that oil shall be supplied to the collector rings at a definite pressure, the chamber or reservoir, supplied by the overhead passage from the flywheel, is provided with a by-pass, from which the oil overflows into the sump when the required level is reached. The remaining internal parts of the engine including the piston, connecting rod small ends, crankshaft, cams, tappets, air pump, and ball and roller bearings are lubricated by splash. The external parts are lubricated by hand. The efficient lubrication of the pistons in an engine of the vee type is a matter of some difficulty. To prevent excessive lubrication of the cylinders, the openings for the connecting rods in the crankcase are partially covered by baffle plates which are cast with the crankcase. These baffle plates are slotted to allow the connecting rods free play, and, in order to adjust the supply of oil to the best value, a suitable number of holes are drilled in the baffle plates. The upper sides of the port side cylinders and the lower sides of the starboard cylinders are accessible to be splashed oil, but the upper sides of the starboard cylinders must of necessity remain relatively dry.

**AIR PUMP.** The air pump, which maintains the pressure in the petrol tank, is operated by a cam on the camshaft. There is no suction valve as the inlet is through the sides of the pump barrel, and a non-return delivery valve is at the upper end of the barrel. The pump is single acting and the plunger is kept in engagement with the driving cam by a spring.