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READERS LETTERS

NEW 4,000 TONNERS

The following message came in reaction to two stories in the last issue - the launch of Sany's 4,000 tonne nine axle SAC40000T All Terrain Crane and the appearance of XCMG's 4,000 tonne 11 axle XCA4000 at Bauma China.

The three biggest Chinese crane manufacturers continue to play the game of 'mine is bigger than yours' with these ever larger mobile cranes. How they can justify their Research & Development budgets for such beasts is hard to comprehend.

Obviously they are built to travel on sites, but that will not work for anything but a major wind farm. With a 3.6 metres width, nearly 27 metres length and a 7.4 metre overall height, not to mention the 20 tonne axle loads, make it almost impossible to travel on the road. I guess once it does arrive on site it is faster to rig than a big lattice, I reckon this will only sell in China. Perhaps they have enough of such projects to justify making it? It just does not look right.

Axel Lambert

A very similar comment came in regarding the launch at Bauma China of Zoomlion's 265ft/82.3 metre working height ZT82J telescopic boom lift.

The Chinese continue to play the game of "who has the biggest pipi". Any business who actually had to justify their R&D and return on investment would laugh at the idea of such a project. Not economically viable. And at 2.8m wide, 3.3 high, more than 17m long and over 48 tonnes, you'll have a hard time transporting that thing anywhere in Europe.

Eric L

While another simply said: "A fantastic engineering feat. 135s? - Will never catch on. 150? - it won't work.... Progress chaps, progress. Amazing engineering."



The XCMG XCA4000



and Sany's SAC40000T



Zoomlion's ZT82J unveiled at Bauma China in November

"VERY READABLE"

I really enjoyed your piece on industrial cranes, nice to see a very readable and interesting article on cranes rather than the trite stuff you usually see in industry magazines, I read the whole publication and actually learnt a great deal while enjoying it. Keep up the good work.

Adam Babcock

ARE WE LEARNING ANYTHING

Great piece on accidents in the latest mag - page 37. Although it covers a hoist the message is equally relevant to all types of access or lifting equipment. We need more people to speak up on this sort of thing, it is depressing to keep reading about totally avoidable accidents that all too often take young lives. More like this please!

Given my position I would appreciate it if you do not disclose my identity - just in case.

Name withheld on request



DON O'NEIL 1947-2025

Texas rental industry veteran Don O'Neal has died, he passed away on Friday, January 3rd at the age of 75.

O'Neal grew up in the rental industry, working with his father's business - Colleyville, Texas based A-1 Rentals - located on the Fort Worth side of the Dallas Fort Worth Airport. He joined the company full time in the early 1960s, after graduating from college, and over the next decade or two he and his father built the company into a leading player in the Dallas Fort Worth equipment rental market.

The O'Neals sold A-1 to NationsRent in October 1998, with the younger O'Neal becoming president of the Nations Rent business, a relatively new consolidator. He remained in place until it filed for Chapter 11 protection at the end of 2001 as the US economy faltered. The company recovered and was acquired by Ashted in 2008.

In late 2003 Don O'Neal acquired a nine acre plot in Colleyville and established a new company Rental One, along with his son Mike and other family members. After a very successful run through good times and bad, they accepted an offer for the company from Texas First Rentals of San Antonio, a division of Cat dealer Holt December 2022.

O'Neal is survived by his wife Elizabeth O'Neal, son, Mike and daughter Tiffany Alvarez, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the MD Anderson Cancer Center www.mdanderson.org. The family has also said that blood donations considerably extended O'Neal's life and suggests people consider becoming blood donors.



Don O'Neal

BRIAN (GINGER) HOGG 1940 - 2024

Brian Hogg of UK based steplejack company H&A Height Services has died. He passed away at home on the 15th of December at the age of 84.

Brian Hogg devoted most of his life to providing complex work at height solutions, initially with high level ops, then H. & A. Steeplejacks, which became H&A Height Services in 2003. He retired as a director in 2002.

He leaves behind his wife Judy and children Steven, Gaynor, Pauline, Leanne, Michael, Brian, Samantha, Guy and Dean, step children Mandy, Janey, Lingling, David and Michael, along with a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Please send us your thoughts and comments - editor@vertikal.net



Brian Hogg



ROGER PAUL THORINGTON 1942 - 2024

UK access industry veteran Roger Thorington has died. He passed away on the night of December 15th to 16th, having struggled with ill health for some time, he was 82. He leaves behind his wife Jane, daughter Delia and several grandchildren.



Roger Thorington during his later working days

Roger Thorington was born on a farm in Rochford, Essex and went to school in Southend, leaving on his 15th birthday to join the British Army as an apprentice with the Royal Engineers, spending the next three years in Harrogate, Yorkshire, with spells at a technical college in Leeds.

He rose through the ranks to become the most senior Non-Commissioned Officer in the Royal Engineers equipment division, and in the years that followed he oversaw the construction of a runway on the Isle of Skye in 1971, moving to Germany in 1974 to carry out a similar project in Höxter, North Rhine-Westphalia. When the airfield was completed, the local people wanted to present him and his relatively small team with an official award, but it was not permitted at the time for serving army personal to accept such things. Instead a Thank You memorial to the men was erected on the airfield, where it remains to this day. His efforts were later acknowledged with an MBE awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1976 for his exceptional leadership, dedication and hard work on the German airfield construction

Thorington was appointed technical services manager, staying with the company until it was sold to A Plant (Ashted) in mid-1995.

His next move took him to platform manufacturer Simon Access, but when it was sold a couple of years later he left to join Grove Manlift as European service manager. In 2000 he spent brief period with Phil Alan at Alan Access, leaving in 2001 to join Malcolm Bowers who recruited him as technical service director at Aerial For Industry - AFI. He remained with the company until he retired in August 2007.



Jane and Roger Thorington collecting his MBE from the Palace in 1976

But his career did not quite end there, some three years later he was tempted back into the access industry by Malcolm Bowers to take up a consultancy role with Lifterz, the company Bowers had set up in 2007, after leaving AFI.

Speaking of his abilities former colleague Mike Evans said: "He was a first class organiser, led the quality assurance teams and always strove to deliver a best in class service delivery offering. Above all he was a totally dedicated person, honest, diligent, hardworking and a great team player, and we appreciated him for both his man management skills and great sense of humour."

Malcolm Bowers added: "You just couldn't meet a guy with so much all round talent, skills, personality and man management ability. Lovely man. So sad."

Other comments included:

RIP Roger.

You gave me good advice during our time together at Grove Europe. You were a rock, and I very much appreciated your help and support

You were a true gentleman

Ian James

Very sad news, I spent some good times with Roger in the PTP and GKN days, he was hugely knowledgeable, a thoroughly nice man and a fixture in the industry for decades.

My condolences to his family and friends - he will be greatly missed.

Paul Richards

Roger was everything that others have said about him. In the time we knew each other he never lost his focus, and his knowledge levels were legendary. He was a great friend and a great colleague. He was always larger than life and always unassuming. I shall miss you Roger. My condolences to Jane and Delia. Rest in peace mate.

Austin Baker

Thorington and the construction of the airfield at Höxter, Germany



project, the largest that the Army had undertaken in years.

Along the way he was offered a commission but apparently declined it on the basis that commissioned officers tended to spend much of their time office bound, while he wanted to be organising things at the 'coal face'. Other projects involved spells in Canada, Hong Kong and back in the UK.

He retired from the army on his 40th birthday in 1982, having served a full 25 years to the day. That same year he joined PTP, the UK's leading aerial lift rental company at the time and remained with the company after it was acquired by BET in 1987. In 1989 he left the company to join PTP colleague Mike Evans who was then setting up GKN Powered Access.



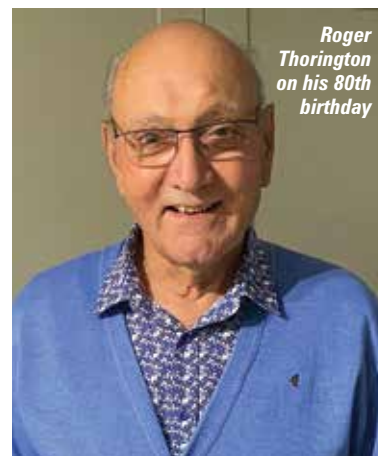
MBE Citation

The funeral arrangements are as follows:

Friday 31st of January at 14:00
Huddersfield crematorium
Fixby Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD2 2JF

For those unable to attend the funeral will be livestreamed.

Website:
<https://watch.obitus.com>
Username: mufe3399
Password: 508996



Roger Thorington on his 80th birthday