

This was a 36 inch span fuselage high wing tractor monoplane designed in 1923 at a time when most flying models were of the stick type. The machine apparently lasted for a number of years and underwent some modifications. The drawing is to scale and means that any modeller could easily replicate this early model which weighed 6 ounces. In the interests of authenticity use plywood and hardwood and cover with silk instead of making it from balsa and tissue, the wingtips and tailunit are made from wire. Note the use of a Gibbs Dentifrice aluminium circular container as a cowling! On the back of the original drawing CEB noted:-

"At first test the machine glided at very fine angle and fast. Flew about 50 yards very fast and good landing, but it seemed underpowered, so two strands of rubber were added, the result being great general improvement.

"Machine flies very steady even on short flights on lawn taking-off and landing perfectly. Full power ROG 75 yards and 92 yards; loops well but mainplane would not go far enough forward. Machine did several half-rolls very well. The machine was repaired and the following alterations made: the rudder was braced with two wires from its leading edge to the top of the fuselage (these were anchored to the top longerons one inch ahead of the rear motor hook) The nose was altered for added strength and less wind resistance by cutting away the lower half of the cowling. Unfortunately on being tested, the first flight on a very gusty day ended up against a stone wall - all out - which splintered the propeller and precluded further flying. This prop was the old Jones 'I' original and it was bound up and balanced. A longer landing chassis with a forward sweep and a rigid rudder bar attachment were fitted. The model was then taken out with six strands of elastic on two very

gusty days and some amazing flights were made under the circumstances, gaining considerable height and gliding slowly well. This model now holds the ROG duration of 16 seconds. This is the first attempt to break the 1924 record which was 7.1/2 seconds."

These activities apparently took place at Porlock during a leave period around 1925 (see Vintage Corner 1993 for the Porlock connection) - the durations that CEB mentions are his own personal records - he was already a customer of A E Jones Ltd the London model supply house, since he mentions one of their propellers. Due to the difficulties that enthusiasts experienced making their own propellers this item became an A E Jones speciality and their 1920 catalogue (the 16th edition!) lists over 60 examples in various shapes from 6 to 20 inches in diameter. These were beautifully made, perfectly balanced items in the 'best British workmanship and finish'.

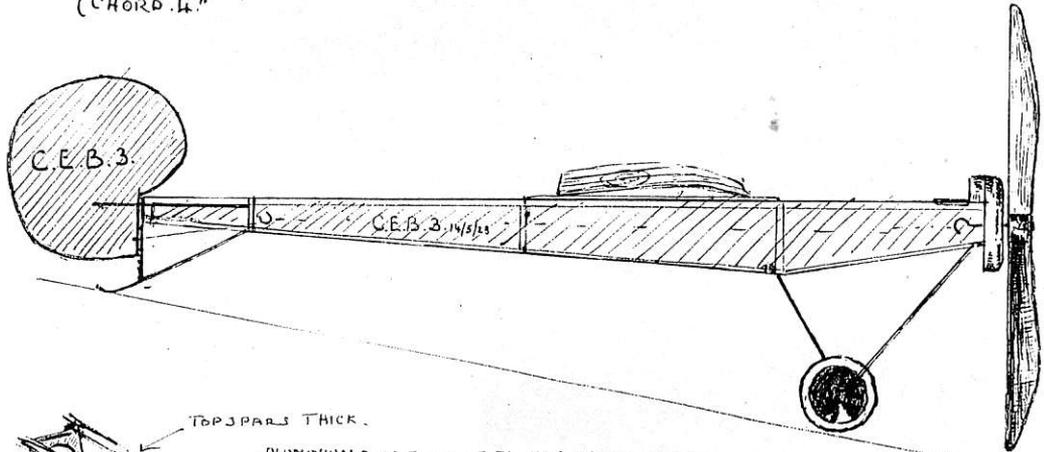
## **Ad Astra**

During July 1929 when stationed at York, CEB purchased one of the ready to fly models stocked by A E Jones, this was Ad Astra, a 39 inch span high wing fuselage tractor monoplane designed by W J Plater. Jones also sold a kit of parts and material for this model at about half the price of the completed job, but possibly due to lack of building facilities CEB went for the finished article costing Four Guineas (£4.20p). He obviously intended to do some serious flying with this 'high performance, rough weather' model and also bought 30 yards of 1/4 elastic and two tins of lubricant. That things did not go exactly according to plan is shown by payment to A E Jones of two shillings (10p) five weeks later for the repair of the Ad Astra nose piece. The use of the term 'nose piece' has largely been replaced today by 'nose block', but in the

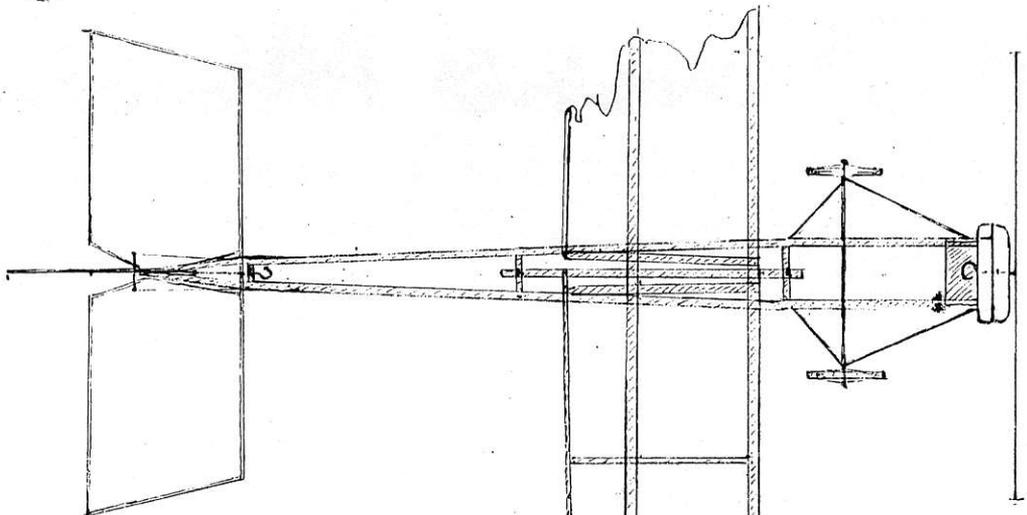
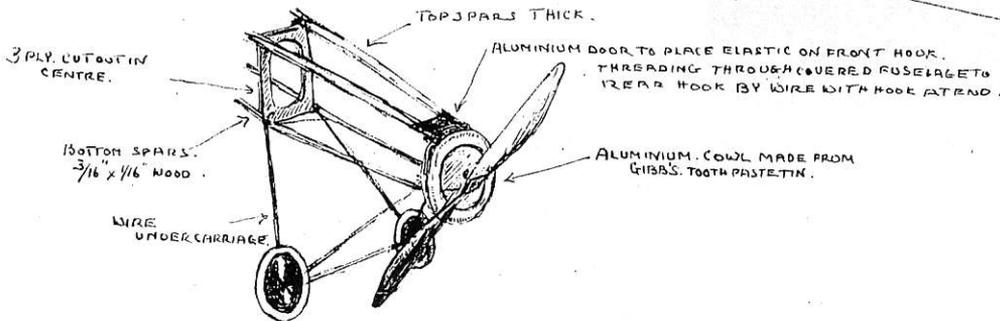
14/5/23. C.E.B.3. TRACTOR MONO. COVERED IN FUSELAGE.

Scale 1/5" = 1"

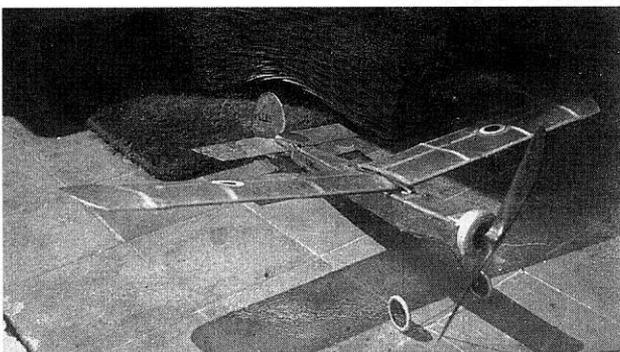
LENGTH. 22 1/2"  
 SPAN. 36"  
 CHORD . 5 1/4" + 4 3/4"  
 PROP. 12"  
 TAILPLANE. { SPAN. 11"  
 CHORD. 4"



ELEVATION.



PLAN.



CEB 3 in its original form, shortly after completion at Porlock in 1923.

Historic 72 year old original constructional drawing by C.E. Bowden Tractor Fuselage Monoplane, apparently his third own - design.