

McGoff & Vickers Ltd
1925-1975

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J. D. Vickers
Co-Founder of the Company



R. Scott



J. N. Oliver



A. G. Smith



A. E. Cruces

Board of Directors 1975

When Edward Herbert McGoff, and George Denham Vickers decided to go into business the whole saga of McGoff & Vickers Ltd., began, the actual date of incorporation being 28th September 1925.

The Company opened for business from an old three storey building in Johnson Street Liverpool, at a time when Britain was not very far from the Great Depression of the 30's, and well established companies were experiencing difficulties.

As with most newly founded companies the jobs were small, but in 1927 the firm landed a fairly large order for British Enka Artificial Silk Company, and the fortunes of the Firm began improving.

In 1931, after a long period of failing health, E.H.M. died, and George Vickers was left to carry on alone.

1937 was to see the Company's fortunes go from near bankruptcy to a period of intense work, brought about by the Re-Armament and also the award of the contract for Brockhall Mental Institution, which started late in 1937, and carried on until work was stopped early on in the War. With the increase in work GDV needed some assistance, and J. Dayes, the Company's first apprentice, was brought into the Office as an Estimator/supervisor. A year later, in 1938 J. Cruces entered the Firm's employ, after the departure of the book-keeper T. Digden. Both were subsequently appointed to the Board of Directors, J. Dayes in 1938 and J. Cruces in 1946.

Twelve months later, with the phoney war period of 39/40, the Company's work load began to fall off causing concern to all, particularly with the threat of total war. However, the fates looked kindly on the Firm, and late in 1940 the first of the contracts associated with the war effort was won, and orders were subsequently obtained for contracts at, R.O. Kirby, Blythe Bridge, Freckleton, Warton and Squires Gate, names that will doubtless stir a few memories.

Towards the end of the war McGoff & Vickers began to feel the pinch once again, but as before when one door closed another opened, and as a result of the post-war building business was once more on the move. To further improve the Company's scope a London Office was opened, with the assistance of Frank Emerson, a Londoner who had joined the Firm in Liverpool during the war. Later in 1945 J. Dayes left Liverpool to make London his base.

In 1948 George Vickers died, and soon afterwards his son John, who had joined the Company after leaving the Forces, took over the management of Liverpool Office.

The Company's Board of Directors at this time comprised of:

J. Dayes
J. Cruces
J. Vickers.

A contract for Scotts Bakery at Netherton proved to be another turning point for the Firm, as well as putting them back into the orbit of Sir Alexander Gibb and partners, possibly the most influential Consulting Engineers at that time. There followed a variety of contracts, culminating in the English Electric Factory at Netherton, and the Guinness Brewery at Park Royal in London. Both of these contracts ultimately providing a 'back-bone' of work in Liverpool and London for many years to come.

The Company was also fortunate at this time in its association with the Liverpool Architects Messrs Weightman & Bullen, and as a result carried out many contracts in schools, Churches and Colleges up and down the Country.

The period 1948-1960 saw the Company build on the firm foundations laid in the early years, and grow from a struggling business to a thriving, well known and respected organisation, capable of handling most types of work from house-wiring to work in coal mines. During this period, in 1958, J. N. Oliver joined the Company as assistant

to John Vickers, and five years earlier in 1953, R. Scott, another Company apprentice, who had been working in London since the early post-war period, took over as London manager when Frank Emerson left, both were eventually appointed to the Board of Directors in 1960.

For the next decade the Company's fortunes fluctuated according to the factors which normally affect the contracting industry, but by skilful management they stayed on the plus side. The Board during this period comprised of:

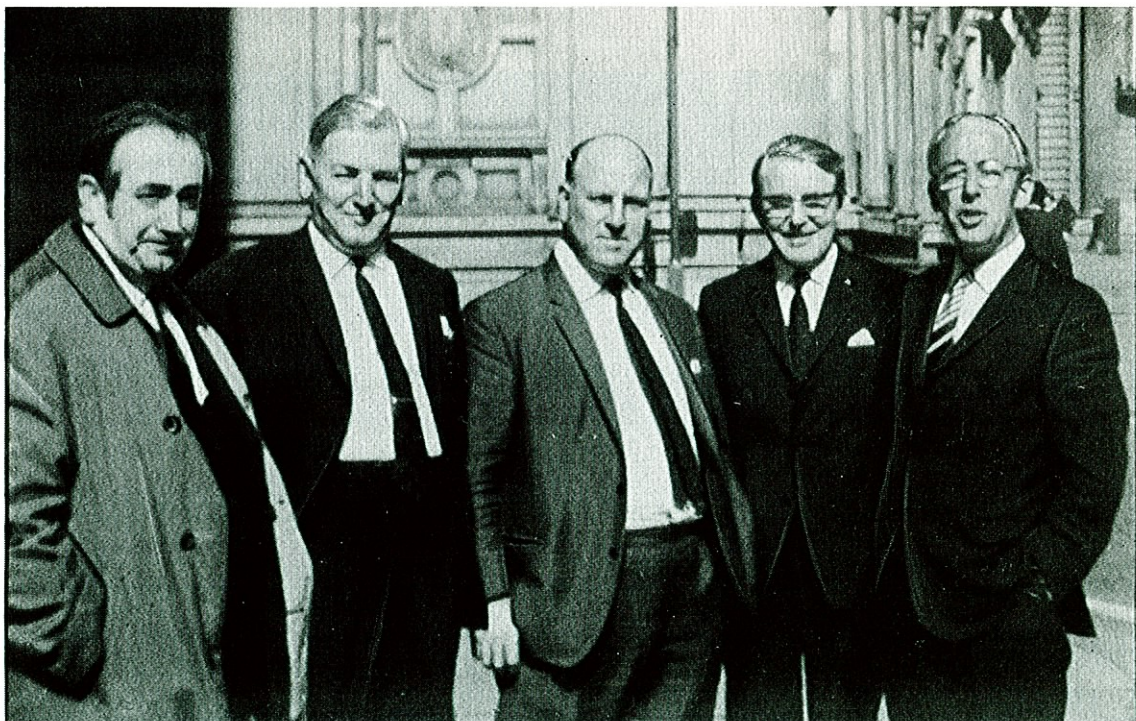
- J. Dayes
- J. H. Vickers
- J. Cruces
- J. N. Oliver
- R. Scott.

It was also during this period in 1968, that the Liverpool Office was transferred from Johnson Street, to its present position in Bootle.

In 1970 J. Dayes gave up his active part in the Company, and A. G. Smith, another Company trained apprentice, was made London Manager, with appointment to the Board in 1971.

With John Vickers now in overall control as Chairman a new phase for the Company began. Liverpool Office were actively engaged on a number of contracts in the City centre, thanks to the efforts of J. Oliver, whilst London had diversified away from Ministry work and had found alternatives in the flour milling industry.

1970 was another of those turning points in the Company's life, it being the year that saw the sudden death of John Vickers, and the start of negotiations for what was to culminate in the largest single order ever received by the Company, The Royal Insurance Offices in Liverpool.



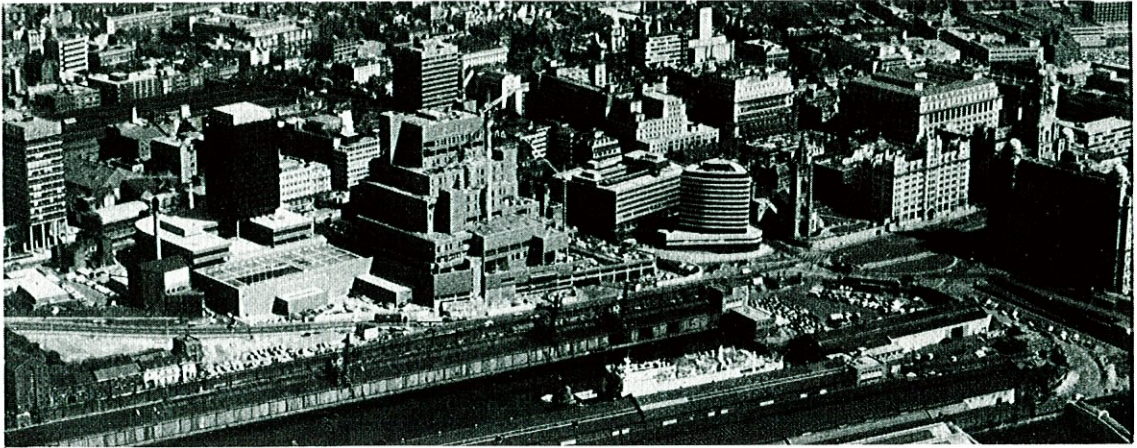
J. Cruces

J. Dayes

R. Scott

J. N. Oliver

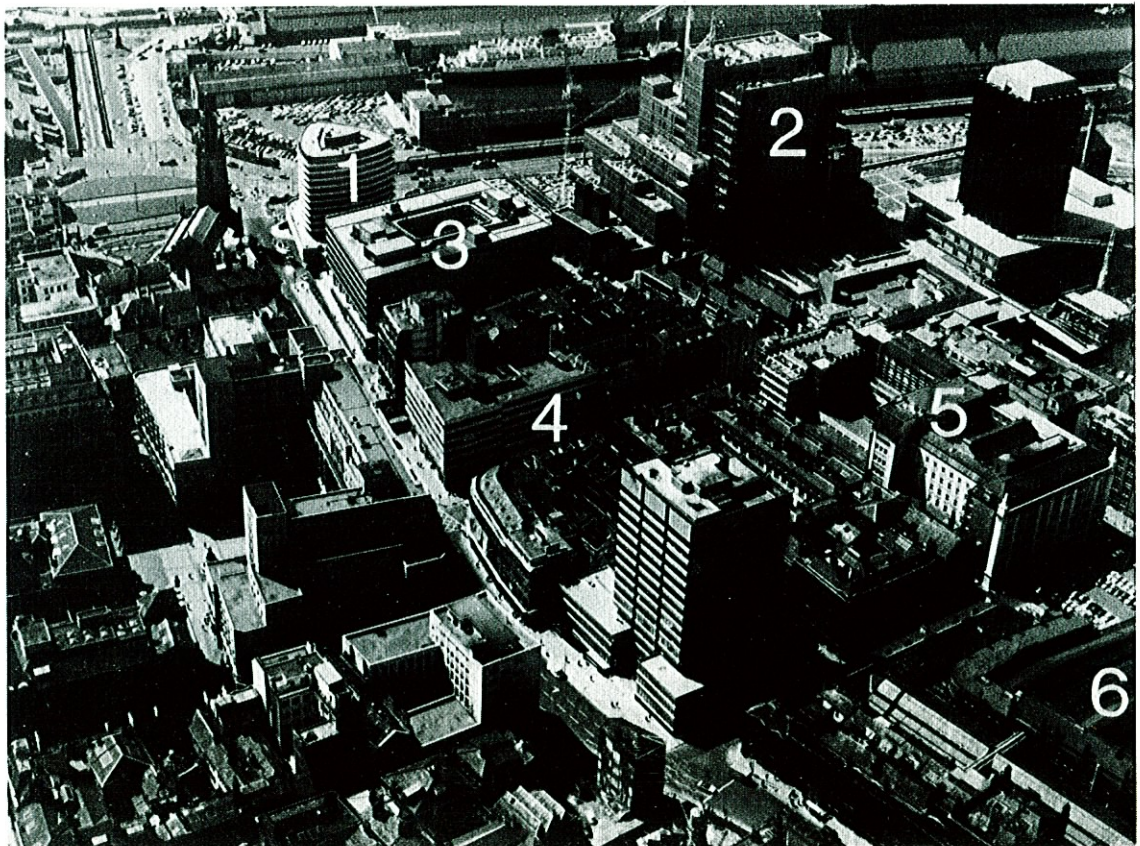
J. H. Vickers



Liverpool panorama with Royal Insurance Building in centre foreground.

Following the death of J. H. Vickers, J. Cruces was appointed Chairman of the Company and continued in that position until his retirement at the end of 1974, when the present Chairman, R. Scott, succeeded him. With the retirement of J. Cruces the vacancy on the Board was filled by A. E. Cruces who had joined the company in 1958 and was responsible for Office administration in Liverpool.

To have completed 50 years in any business is in itself an achievement, to have completed 50 years in electrical contracting is nothing short of a miracle. This undoubtedly is a sure reflection on the efforts of all those employed by the Company, from the greenest apprentice to the longest serving man. It is hoped that even in these uncertain times we can have the same faith as 'Mac' and GDV had 50 years ago, and go on to complete the century.



1. Atlantic Tower 2. Royal Insurance 3. Richmond House 4. Chapel Hall 5. Cotton Exchange 6. British Rail