



the eighties

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| 1989 | <p>Record profits were announced for 1988 by the ABH group of £11.135 million - British Midland retained a profit of £14.307 million before tax.</p> <p>New Diamond Service route from London Heathrow to Dublin commences.</p> <p>Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Holdings, announced the appointment of John Wolfe as group managing director, Airlines of Britain, and of Austin Reid as managing director of British Midland.</p> <p>British Midland announces the building of an engineering facility at London Heathrow which would be completed by 1991.</p> |
| 1988 | <p>British Midland's 50th Anniversary year</p> <p>Diamond Service is introduced on the East Midlands to Glasgow route.</p> <p>Last flight of a British Midland Viscount Aircraft.</p> <p>Introduction of Diamond Service on to the Birmingham - Brussels route.</p> <p>Inaugural flight of ATP aircraft on Birmingham – Brussels route.</p> <p>Application to the CAA for 11 new routes from Heathrow to Brussels, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Geneva, Milan, Malaga, Paris, Rome, Zurich and Palma.</p> <p>Announcement of intention to acquire two Boeing 737-400 aircraft for delivery in autumn 1988.</p> <p>Airlines of Britain Holdings PLC announce record profits of £5 million prior to taxation.</p> <p>A record 25,000 calls in a week handled by Reservations unit at Donington Hall.</p> <p>Publication of "Diamond Flight" a book by Bill Gunston detailing the story of British Midland.</p> <p>Diamond Service introduced from East Midlands to Paris, Amsterdam and Belfast.</p> <p>Application for the transfer of the Manx Airline's Heathrow to Liverpool route to British Midland.</p> <p>Airlines of Britain Holdings plc announced the sale of a 24.9% stake in the group by Scandinavian Airlines Systems (SAS) for £25 million</p> |
| 1987 | <p>Expansion of Diamond Service to Heathrow - Leeds Bradford route.</p> <p>The DC9 fleet named after famous diamonds</p> <p>Launch of frequent flyer scheme - Diamond Club</p> <p>First Boeing 737-300 is delivered. Inaugural flight on Heathrow-Edinburgh route.</p> |

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| <p>1986</p> | <p>London Heathrow to Amsterdam service inaugurated.</p> <p>Chairman, Sir Michael Bishop receives the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.</p> <p>Introduction of international business class service, Diamond Service, to flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast and Teesside.</p> <p>Application filed to operate services between Heathrow and Jersey.</p> <p>British Midland awarded runner-up prize in the Anglo-Dutch awards for Enterprise for its Heathrow-Amsterdam service.</p> |
| <p>1985</p> | <p>Boeing 707 fleet is sold.</p> <p>British Midland Airways becomes British Midland.</p> <p>Change of livery to red, white and blue with distinctive diamond motif.</p> <p>The airline announces intention to purchase five British Aerospace Advanced Turboprops.</p> <p>Exclusive departure lounges opened in Glasgow and Edinburgh.</p> <p>New record monthly passenger carryings of 60,000 on routes between Heathrow and Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast.</p> |
| <p>1984</p> | <p>London Heathrow to Belfast service inaugurated</p> <p>Gatwick to Los Angeles inaugurated using 707's.</p> <p>Application for Manchester to New York refused.</p> <p>Applications for Birmingham to Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Amsterdam, Dublin, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Paris refused.</p> <p>Exclusive departure lounge provided at Heathrow.</p> <p>New record passenger carryings of over 1.8 million.</p> |
| <p>1983</p> | <p>Heathrow to Edinburgh service inaugurated.</p> <p>Expansion of holiday destinations from East Midlands and Birmingham to Tenerife, Corfu and Crete.</p> <p>Start of Manchester holiday flights to Athens, Malaga, Palma, Rimini, Tenerife and Toronto (via Belfast).</p> <p>Third Boeing 707 added to holiday fleet and based at Manchester.</p> <p>Application filed with CAA to fly between Heathrow and Belfast Harbour Airport. Despite objections from British Airways, approval was given but for Heathrow to Belfast Aldergrove.</p> <p>Introduction of the Shorts 360 aircraft.</p> <p>British Midland Airways acquires 75 per cent shareholding in Loganair from the Royal Bank of Scotland.</p> |
| <p>1982</p> | <p>Heathrow to Glasgow service inaugurated.</p> |

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| | <p>British Midland Airways, British and Commonwealth Shipping group form Manx Airlines.</p> <p>British Midland Airways moves its headquarters to Donington Hall, Castle Donington.</p> |
| 1981 | <p>Application to fly between Heathrow and Glasgow and Edinburgh denied by Civil Aviation Authority. Appeal lodged with Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and CAA ruling overturned.</p> <p>Introduction of two Fokker Friendship F27s.</p> <p>Heathrow to East Midlands route inaugurated.</p> <p>Introduction of one Shorts 330 aircraft.</p> <p>Re-entry into the holiday and tour market during the winter from East Midlands and Birmingham to Palma and programme is launched for a major re-entry into holiday market for 1982 with flights from East Midlands and Birmingham to 10 Mediterranean destinations. Two Boeing 707s refitted as "wide bodied" to cater for planned holiday expansion.</p> |
| 1980 | <p>Decline of 707 work and sale of two of the 707's. BM fleet now consisted of three DC9s and 12 Viscounts.</p> <p>Downturn in British economy.</p> |