First Security (Guards) Limited

Report and Accounts

31 March 1996



■ Ernst & Young

Registered No. 2053619

DIRECTORS

T A Brentnall R W Farrow D G Nineberg M K Randall

SECRETARY

DAG How

AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Commercial Union House Albert Square Manchester M2 6LP

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Roller Mill Mill Lane Uckfield East Sussex TN22 5AA

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and the group accounts for the year ended 31 March 1996.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The group profit for the year after taxation amounted to £687,000 (1995 - £1,095,000). Dividends of £500,000 have been declared leaving a profit to be transferred to reserves of £187,000.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY AND REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

The group's principal activity is the provision of a range of security manpower and associated support services.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The company expects to continue to expand its operations.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors of the company who served during the year were as follows:

T A Brentnall R W Farrow D G Nineberg

M K Randall

S F Cooney (resigned 30 July 1995)

None of the directors had any disclosable interest in the share capital of the company during the year.

The interests of T A Brentnall, D G Nineberg and M K Randall in the share capital and options to subscribe in the share capital of Orbis PLC are disclosed in that company's directors' report.

R W Farrow holds options to subscribe in the share capital of Orbis plc 217,000 (1995 - 217,000) exerciseable at 23.5 pence per share.

EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

A well trained, reliable, motivated and informed management team and workforce is essential to the successful provision of a first class security manpower service to clients of the quality served by the company. All security staff are trained in accordance with BS 7499 requirements and receive the additional specialist training required to satisfy clients' needs. Suitable and interested employees share equal opportunities for further training and career development through obtaining City & Guild diplomas and national vocational qualifications.

The company aims to be an equal opportunity employer and it is the policy to promote from within when there is a suitable internal candidate for a vacant or new position.

Employees are informed on a regular basis of current activities, progress and general matters of interest by various methods, including monthly management and operating meetings, scheduled visits to the sites at which they are based and the circulation of First Security's in-house newspaper.

The company gives sympathetic consideration to the employment and development of disabled people having regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities. If an employee becomes disabled whilst in the service of the company, every effort is made to continue his/her employment by transfer to other duties and, if required, by the provision of such training as is appropriate.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

AUDITORS
A resolution to reappoint Ernst & Young as auditors will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

f the board

DAG How Secretary

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- to ensure that applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

III FRNST & YOUNG

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS. to the members of First Security (Guards) Limited

We have audited the accounts on pages 7 to 17, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 10.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 5 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 1996 and of its profit for the year ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditor Registered Auditor

19 November 1996

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 1996

·		Year ended 31 March	15 months ended 31 March
		1996	1995
	Notes	£000	£000
TURNOVER	2	12,924	13,196
Cost of sales		(10,500)	(10,772)
GROSS PROFIT		2,424	2,424
Administrative expenses		(1,385)	(1,246)
OPERATING PROFIT	3	1,039	1,178
Interest receivable and similar income		-	38
Interest payable	6	(15)	(26)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		1,024	1,190
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	7	(337)	(95)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION		687	1,095
Dividends		(500)	(831)
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		187	264

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

There are no recognised gains or losses in the group other than the profit for the financial year.

GROUP BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 1996

•	Notes	31 March 1996 £000	31 March 1995 £000
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	8	382	334
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors	10	3,936	2,518
Cash at bank and in hand		1,107	102
		5,043	2,620
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	11	(4,228)	(1,967)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		815	653
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,197	987
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(116)	(93)
		1,081	894
			====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES Called-up share capital	15	50	50
Profit and loss account	16	1,031	844
TOTAL SHAREHOLDER'S FUNDS	16	1,081	894

Approved by the board on 19 November 1996

) Directors

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 1996

	Notes	31 March 1996 £000	31 March 1995 £000
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	8 9	382	334
Investments	9		
		382	334
CURRENT ASSETS	10	3,936	2,518
Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	10	1,107	102
		5,043	2,620
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	11	(4,779)	(1,967)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		264	653
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		646	987
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(116)	(93)
		530	894
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called-up share capital	15	50	50
Profit and loss account	16	480	844
TOTAL SHAREHOLDER'S FUNDS	16	530	894

Approved by the board on 19 November 1996

Directors

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 March 1996

ACCOUNTING POLICIES 1.

Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Basis of consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of First Security (Guards) Limited and its subsidiary undertaking Authoragent Company Limited drawn up to 31 March each year. No profit and loss account is presented for First Security (Guards) Limited as permitted by section 230 of the Companies Act 1985.

Cash flow statement

As a subsidiary of Orbis plc, the company is exempt under S228 Companies Act 1985 from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Per annum

Leasehold property

Equal instalments over period of lease

Fixtures and fittings

10% straight line

Computer equipment

20% straight line

Motor vehicles

25% reducing balance

The rates of depreciation were revised following the acquisition of the company by Orbis PLC. The impact of the change in rates on the depreciation charge for the period was not material.

Deferred taxation

Provision is made for deferred taxation, using the liability method on all timing differences to the extent that it is probable that the liability will crystallise.

Leases

The accounting policy adopted in respect of leased assets depends upon the classification of the underlying lease as either a finance lease or an operating lease. Assets leased under a finance lease are treated as fixed assets and depreciated in accordance with group policy. Interest costs under finance leases are expensed at a constant periodic rate of charge on the outstanding amount. Rental charges in respect of assets leased under an operating lease are apportioned on a straight line basis and expensed over the period of the lease.

TURNOVER 2.

Turnover is the total amount, excluding value added tax, receivable by the company in the ordinary course of business for services provided.

3. OPERATING PROFIT

Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year ended 13	months enaea
	31 March	31 March
	1996	1995
	£000	£000
Depreciation - owned assets	59	35
- leased assets	20	48
Auditors' remuneration	10	8
Operating lease rentals - land and buildings	58	72
• -	·	

4. EMPLOYEES

The average number employed by the company within each category was:

•	Year ended 15	months ended
	31 March	31 March
	1996	1995
	No.	No.
Calling and administration	27	21
Selling and administration Security staff	770	658
	797	679
		<u>====</u>
The costs incurred in respect of these employees were:	Year ended 15	months ended
	31 March	31 March
	1996	1995
	£000	£000

	£000	2000
Wages and salaries Social security costs Pension costs	9,961 915 1	10,354 977 1
	10,877	11,332

6.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS at 31 March 1996

5. DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

DIRECTORS EMODERATE	Year ended 15	Year ended 15 months ended		
	31 March	31 March		
	1996	1995		
Management remuneration	£000	£000		
	199	210		
Pension contributions	8	1		
	207	211		

The emoluments of the highest paid director, excluding pension contributions were £91,000 (15 months ended 31 March 1995 - £78,938). Directors' emoluments include a payment of £30,000 to S F Cooney as compensation for loss of office.

The emoluments (excluding pension contributions) of the directors fell within the following ranges:

			Year ended 15	months ended
			31 March 1996	31 March 1995
			No.	No.
£Nil	_	£5,000	2 .	1
£45,001	_	£50,000	1	1
£60,001	_	£65,000	1	1
£70,001	_	£75,000	-	1
£75,001	_	£80,000	-	1
£90,001	-	£95,000	1	-
INTERES	ST P	AYABLE		
11111111111		 	Year ended 15	months ended
			31 March	31 March
			1006	1995

•	1990	1993
	£000	£000
Donk overdraft interest	-	9
Bank overdraft interest Interest element of finance lease costs	15	17
		
	15	26

7. TAXATION

Year ended 15 i	nonths ended
31 March	31 March
1996	1995
£000	£000
337	95

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and company		Fixtures		
	Leasehold	and	Motor	
	property	fittings	vehicles	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost:				
At 1 January 1995	4	296	249	549
Additions		85	83	168
Disposals	•	-	(59)	(59)
At 31 March 1996	4	381	273	658
Depreciation:				
At 1 January 1995	1	99	115	215
Charge for the year	-	28	51	79
Disposals	•	-	(18)	(18)
At 31 March 1996	1	127	148	276
Net book value:				
At 31 March 1996	3	254	125	382
At 31 December 1995	3	197	134	334

Details of fixed assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts included in the above are as follows:

	Fixtures			
	Leasehold	and	Motor	
	property	fittings	vehicles	Total
•	£000	£000	£000	£000
1996				
Net book value	-	10	1	11
Charge for the year	==-	5	15	 20
	£000	£000	£000	£000
1995				
Net book value	-	43	124	167
Charge for the period		6	42	48

9. INVESTMENTS

At 31 March 1995 and 1996, the company had an investment of £2 in Authoragent Company Limited, which is registered in England & Wales. Authoragent is a wholly owned subsidiary engaged in the supply of manned guarding services.

10. DEBTORS

Group and company

		31 March	31 March	
		1996	1995	
		£000	£000	
	Trade debtors	2,374	1,261	
	Amounts due from parent undertaking	1,338	1,079	
	Other debtors - taxation	-	13	
	Prepayments and accrued income	224	165	
		3,936	2,518	
11.	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year			
	Group	31 March	31 March	
	•	1996	1995	
		£000	£000	
	Net obligations under finance leases and hire			
	purchase contracts (note 13)	61	48	
	Trade creditors	32	107	
	Amounts due to parent undertaking	27	-	
	Corporation tax	346	108	
	Other creditors including taxation and social security	637	912	
	Accruals and deferred income	2,142	792	
	Proposed dividends	983	174	
	Proposed dividends			
		4,228	1,967	
			<u> </u>	
		21.171	21.16	
	Company	31 March	31 March	
		1996	1995	
		£000	£000	
	Net obligations under finance leases and hire			
	purchase contracts (note 13)	61	48	
	Trade creditors	32	107	
	Amounts due to subsidiary undertaking	994	-	
	Corporation tax	74	108	
	Other creditors including taxation and social security	493	912	
	Accruals and deferred income	2,142	792	
	Proposed dividends	983	-	
		4,779	1,967	
12.	CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year			
	Group and company			
		31 March	31 March	
		1996	1995	
		£000	£000	
	Net obligations under finance leases and hire			
	purchase contracts (note 13)	116	93	
	•			
13.	OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES AND HIRE PURCHASE CONTRACTS			
	Group and company .	31 March	31 March	

		1996	1995
		£000	£000
	Payable within one year	61	48
	Payable in two to five years	116	93
		177	141
14.	PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES		
	Group and company	21.16	21.16
		31 March 1996	31 March 1995
		£000	£000
	Provided: Deferred taxation		
	Accelerated capital allowances	_	
	Other	-	-
		-	-
			
	Not provided:		
	Deferred taxation Accelerated capital allowances	34	27
	Other	(14)	1
		20	<u></u>
15.	SHARE CAPITAL		
		31 March	31 March
		1996	1995 £
	Authorised:	£	L
	'A' Ordinary shares of 50p	-	-
	'A' Deferred shares of 50p	100	100
	'B' Ordinary shares of £1 'B' Deferred shares of 50p	49,900	49,900
	Ordinary shares of \$0.01	1	1
		50,001	50,001

15. SHARE CAPITAL (continued)

	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March
	1996	1995	1996	1995
	No.	No.	£000	£000
Allotted, called up and fully paid:				
'A' Ordinary shares of 50p	-	-	-	-
'A' Deferred shares of 50p	200	200	-	-
'B' Ordinary shares of £1	-	-	-	-
'B' Deferred shares of 50p	99,800	99,800	50	50
Ordinary shares of \$0.01	200	200	-	-
	100,200	100,200	50	50
	100,200	100,200	50	50

On 21 June 1994 the existing 'B' ordinary shares of £1 each were sub-divided into 2 'B' ordinary shares of 50p each and the authorised share capital was increased by \$2 by the creation of 200 new ordinary shares of \$0.01. The existing 'A' and 'B' ordinary shares were converted into deferred shares and 200 new ordinary shares of \$0.01 were allotted to shareholders credited as fully paid by way of a bonus issue and evidenced by the issue of share warrants to the bearer.

16. RECONCILIATION OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND MOVEMENTS ON RESERVES

Group

-	Share capital £000	Profit and loss account £000	Total £000
At 1 January 1994	. 50	580	630
Profit for the period	-	1,095	1,095
Dividends	-	(831)	(831)
At 31 March 1995	50	844	894
Profit for the year	-	687	687
Dividends	-	(500)	(500)
At 31 March 1996	50	1,031	1,081

16. RECONCILIATION OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND MOVEMENTS ON RESERVES (continued)

(CONTENTATE)			
Company	Share	Profit and	
• •	capital	loss account	Total
	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 1994	50	580	630
Profit for the period	-	1,095	1,095
Dividends	-	(831)	(831)
At 31 March 1995	50	844	894
Profit for the year	•	136	136
Dividends	-	(500)	(500)
At 31 March 1996	50	480	530

17. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments in the next twelve months are £58,000 in respect of land and buildings under leases that expire after more than 5 years. The comparative figure at 31 March 1995 was also £58,000.

18. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company is party to a cross-guarantee of the bank borrowings of Orbis plc. At 31 March 1996, Orbis plc had net bank borrowings of £4,034,000.

19. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The ultimate parent undertaking is Orbis PLC, a company incorporated in England and Wales.

Copies of the group accounts are available from the registered office at The Roller Mill, Mill Lane, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5AA.