



What is a Yumbo? This was a French Company (SICAM) that IH bought controlling interest (52%) in July 1970 so they could get into the hydraulic excavator business. It consisted of two manufacturing facilities and the machine was called a Yumbo after a local town. The plant at Genas sets on 57.5 acres with 122,000 square feet of manufacturing and assembly floor space under roof with 284 employees and the primary product is the 3980 excavator. It had an excavation assembly, welding of attachments, pipe bending, supporting machining, and prototype manufacturing. The other plant is located in the town of Chauffailles about 75 miles northeast of Yumbo. This is the oldest Yumbo manufacturing facility, it comprises five buildings divided by a public road. This plant is located on 6.3 acres and contains 127,000 square feet of manufacturing and assembly floor space under roof. This plant employs 290 people and production consists of welding and machining of platforms, booms, lift areas and the superstructure in support of the operations at Genas. The primary product for this plant is the larger excavators. Each plant produced about 4 hydraulic excavators a day of different sizes.

The Yumbo Company a French Firm was formed around 1954, based on worldwide patent rights of a hydraulic excavator design. Initial production was a truck mounted excavator called the S25. In 1948, a wheeled prototype of the excavator was developed by



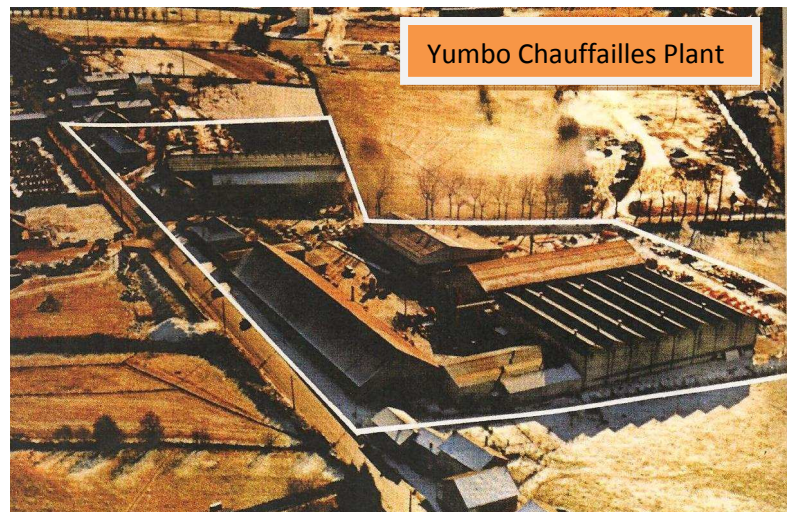
3960 with small boom and long dipperstick

Carlo and Mario Bruneri of Italy. This was the first fully hydraulic excavator and Yumbo or SICAM (Society de Industrial Construction of Mechanical Hydraulic Appliances) bought the patent rights in 1954. Some say the Gradall of 1941 was the first hydraulic excavator built in Ohio. This was built a little different than the Yumbo with a boom that moved in and out. It was also mounted on a truck. A lot of

highway departments used them. The first self propelled hydraulic excavator the model H24 was developed in 1956. This was a rubber tired machine. In 1957 Yumbo brought out the biggest hydraulic excavator in existence at the time, the model Y500 (19Ton). This machine was mounted on tracks. In 1962 the Genos plant was built. The model Y45 (crawler machine) and the model H45 (rubber tired undercarriage) were introduced in the French market. 1966 brought a four wheel drive machine the H479. Also the 3944, 3945, 3964 & the 3965 were introduced in 1966. Rubber tired models ended with a number five. By 1969 Yumbo exported 171 units to Iraq, 155 units to China and 49 units to Malagasy Republic.



One of the first hydraulic excavators, the TU, was produced in 1951 by Poclain in France. A departure from excavators which transmitted their digging power by the use of cables and winches, it employed a hydraulic pump and cylinders. The TU was unable to rotate a full **360** degrees of rotation. The Yumbo could rotate 360 in 1954, not till 1960 did the Poclain bring this out in their machines. Where this company got their patent rights is unknown to the author.



Around 1958 Liebherr a company from Germany started building a hydraulic excavator on tracks and rubber. Even though Yumbo was already established and Liebherr's principal business was cranes they took a lot of Yumbo's business. Liebherr was a large company and already had the reputation of quality machines. Eventually they would become the company's second stream of business.

Hy-Hoe was an US company making a hydraulic excavator in the late 1950's. Hy-Hoe was a product of Hydraulic Machinery Company, Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Not a lot of information about this company is available. Interesting that they used the word hoe in their name. Today most contractors' call hydraulic excavator's track hoes, a lot easier to pronounce. The Hy-Hoe track hoe's used a 3 cylinder Detroit diesel and only had a 270 degree slew. The Hy-Hoe was the early Hy-Mac track hoe of England. During the early sixties the idea of producing an all hydraulic excavator was conceived by a London entrepreneur, Peter Hamilton. This idea was based on an earlier visit to the United States where he had seen the Hy-Hoe

excavator working. He anticipated that there would be a market for this in the UK. An agreement was reached with Hy-Hoe and the first ten units were shipped to the UK in kit form assembled and sold very quickly. At the same time, Hy-Hoe in America were experiencing financial difficulties, as a result of this Peter Hamilton purchased the manufacturing rights of the excavator, He based his 'Hy-Mac' design around the U.S made 'Hy-Hoe' excavators. Hy-Mac then became an excavator manufacturer in its own right and in 1962 production began in Wales. This was another company that cut into the sales of Yumbo.

The 3940, 3960 and the 3960R (rubber tired undercarriage) were the first track hoes to enter the United States in 1971. The 3940 was a 5/8 of a yard machine with a 4 cylinder diesel and 62 horse power. The 3960 and 3960R were 7/8 yard machine and powered by 103 horse power Duetz air cooled 6 cylinder diesel engines. They were offered with two different booms the S boom for a push shovel type job and the L boom which was like a typical back hoe. The only size bucket was 0.875 of a yard.

In October of 1972 the larger 3980 was released. It was a 17 ton crawler machine fitted with a variable displacement pump. In 1973 the 3960 was replaced by the 3964 and had a 358 cubic IH 6 cylinder diesel engine. It had larger hydraulic pumps, extra rollers on under carriage, piston drive swing motors instead of gear drive. In 1974 the Model 3980 was replaced by the 3984 a 20 ton machine. Same motor as the 3964 but turned up to 110 horse power. This machine had lifetime sealed track rollers and idlers, longer reach, joystick controls and a faster cycle time. A prototype Model 3994 (32 ton) machine was built and displayed at the Expomat in Paris, France. If any of these ever made it to the US is unknown.

It was no until 1978 that the 3960R was changed to the 3965B (rubber tired). It had all the latest updates including a joystick instead of the many levers to move the boom. The crawler excavators were also changed in 1978 to the 630, 640, and 650. The 630 used the D358 diesel with 75 horse power and weighed 32,615 lbs. The 640 used the DT358 (turbo charged) with 90 horse power and weighed 45,000 lbs. The big guy, the 650 used the DT402 diesel with 118.5 horse power and weighed in at 70,000 lbs. The 650 run 4350 psi in its hydraulics with 55.5 gallons per minute.

I have a friend Joe Yackley who lives in Pittsfield, Illinois and he has two IH hoe's a 3984B and a 640. Joe has visited with IH track hoe owners and operators from across the nation with good results from all. John Deere (1969) Caterpillar (1972) Komatsu (1968) got into business about the same time because of the demand for these machines. In 1994 when I worked as an inspector repairing the damage from the 1993 flood on the Missouri River it seemed like Komatsu and other Japanese machines



Joe's 3984 he saved from the scrap yard.

had a better and faster machine and would take over the business. According to a friend I have in the great state of Louisiana that still does construction work said today all three machines are pretty similar on what they will do and John Deere seems to be a little bit ahead of the market.

IH sold Yumbo back to the employees of Yumbo in 1982 where they were sold throughout Europe. In the 1990's the Yumbo Company started building excavators for a Japanese Company Furukawa.



This is a 1/64th toy I have that has Yumbo on one side of the boom and International on the other.



All Yumbo hydraulic excavators that come to the United States had nothing by International emblems. I wonder if the Yumbo's in Europe had Yumbo cast in to the counter weight on the back.



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