



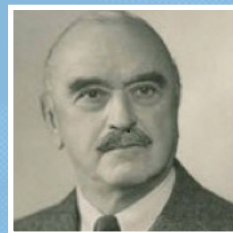
Established in 1913

Celebrating 100 years
of managing international freight



Ernest Sommer

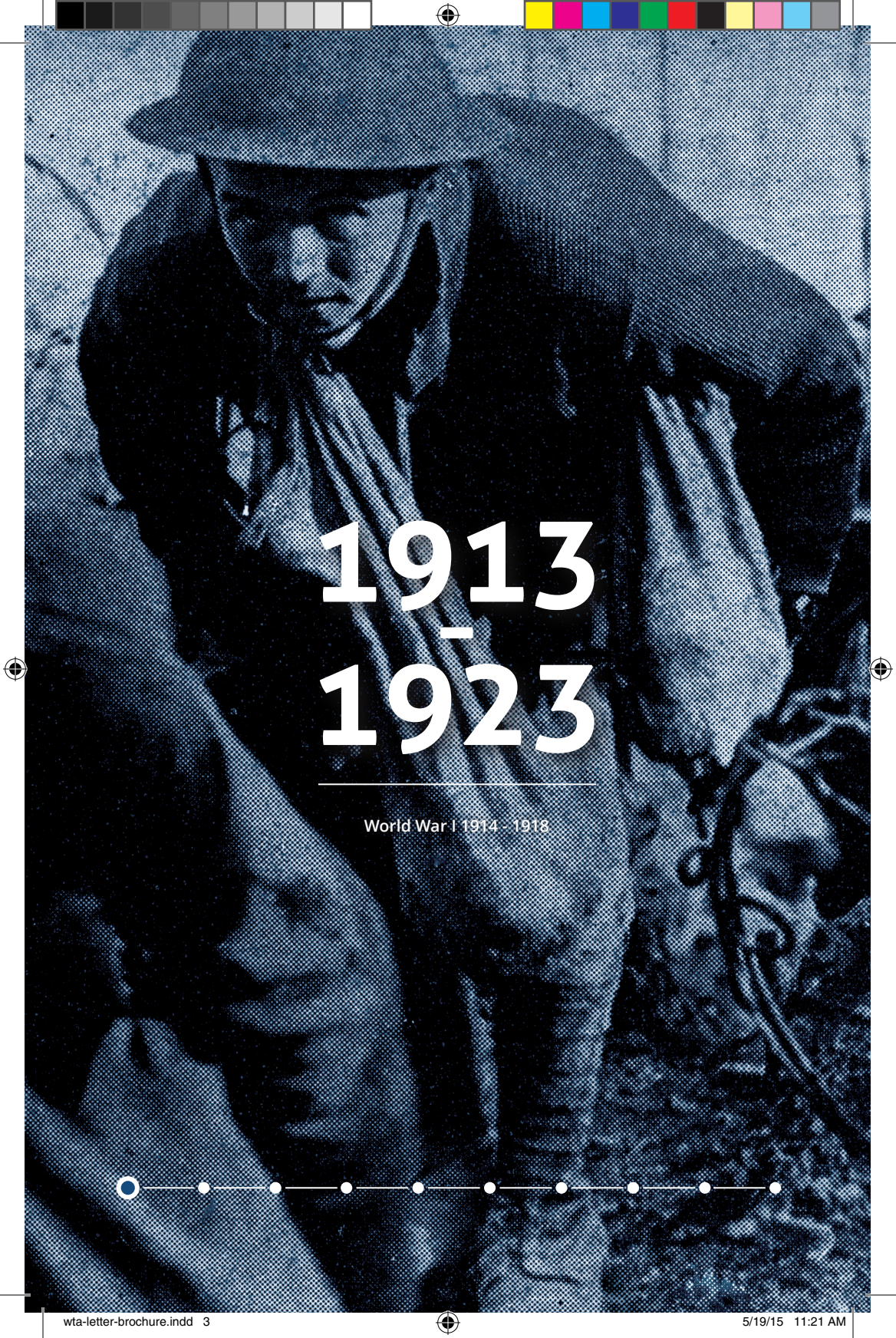
Founder of WTA



1913 – Benjamin Britten is born; suffragette, Emily Davison, sacrifices herself for the cause at the Epsom Derby and Britain teeters on the brink of war.

In this same monumental year, Ernest Sommer establishes The World Transport Agency Limited at 21, Great Tower Street, London EC3 and an epic 100-year journey begins.

After having worked for Thomas Cook Shipping, Ernest's dream is to develop a business that will transport goods throughout the British Empire. Under his guidance, WTA's reputation as a world-class transportation company is quickly established during its first decade.



1913 1923

World War I 1914 - 1918





1923 - 1933

Construction of the Empire State Building 1931





1923 - 1933 Key Events

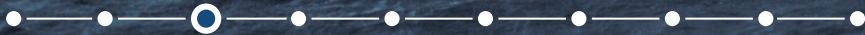
As New York City's skyline grows, so does The World Transport Agency; with recognition and prominence from the industrial press.

From 1923 to 1933, The World Transport Agency continues to expand and achieves recognition from the industrial press. In an article entitled 'Linking the World', The Industrial World says 'Transport paves the way for commerce. It is the lifeblood of industry, The World Transport Agency Ltd. under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ernest Sommer, has made vast strides since its inception'.



1933 - 1943

First Commercial Flight Over the Atlantic 1939





1933 - 1943 Key Events

25 Years of
successful trading.

Having survived one World War and now on the brink of another, WTA celebrates 25 years of successful global trading.



25 Years.

*The
World Transport Agency
Limited
cordially sends you the Compliments
of the Season, with every wish for a
Prosperous New Year.*



John Sommer

The second owner of WTA



Yet another momentous decade, as the company's ownership is transferred in 1950 to the founder's son, John Sommer.

John began his career as a barrister and at the beginning of WWII, he joined the Inns Court regiment as a volunteer, rising to the rank of Major in the Royal Artillery. Due to his father's poor health, John joins WTA soon after WWII ends. During this period, the company opens offices in all major UK manufacturing cities. WTA rapidly becomes a multimodal forwarder and establishes valuable relationships with partners in Europe, Canada, Australia and Ghana.





1943 - 1953

DNA Discovered 1953

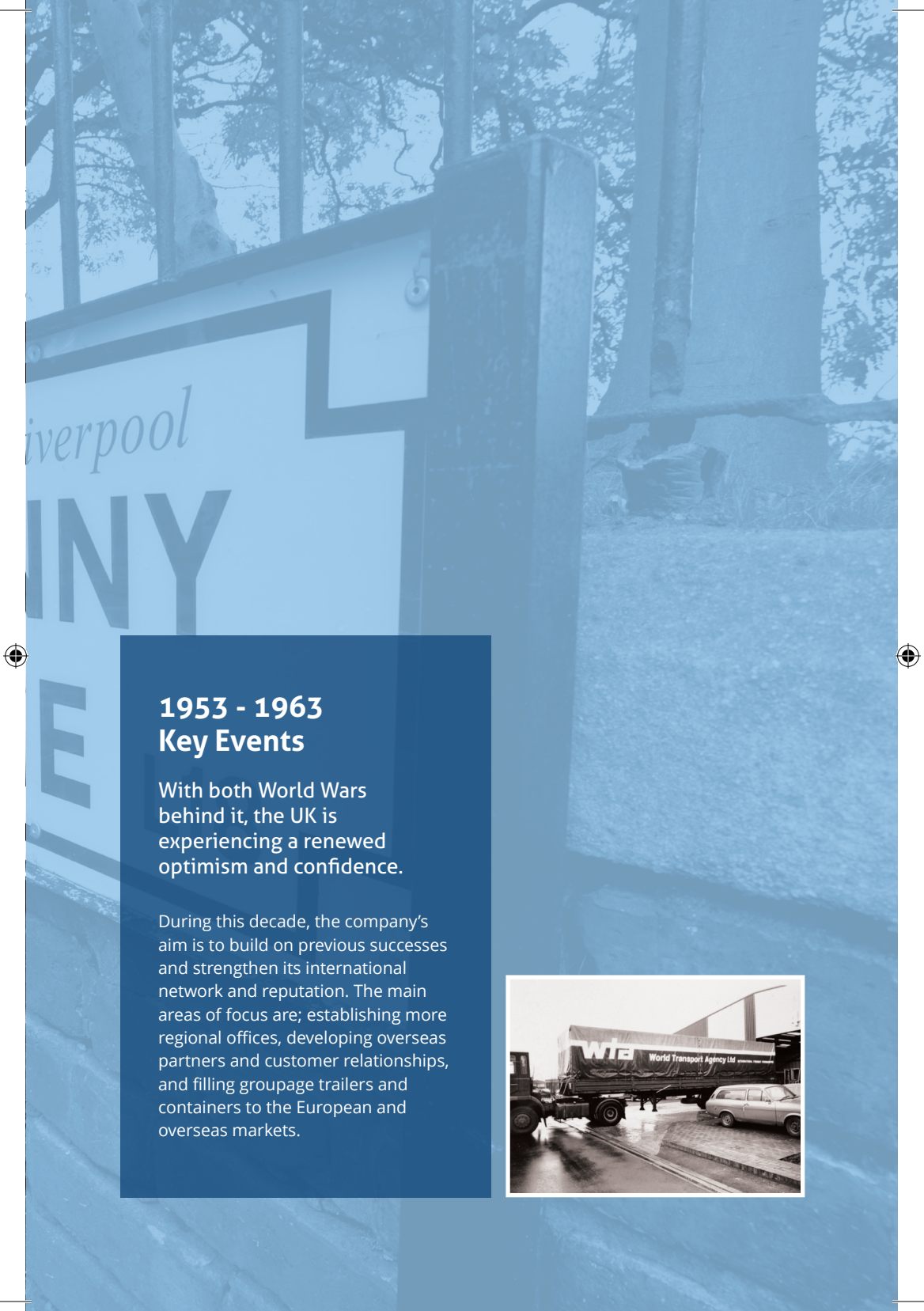




1953 1963

The Beatles Formed 1960





1953 - 1963 Key Events

With both World Wars behind it, the UK is experiencing a renewed optimism and confidence.

During this decade, the company's aim is to build on previous successes and strengthen its international network and reputation. The main areas of focus are; establishing more regional offices, developing overseas partners and customer relationships, and filling groupage trailers and containers to the European and overseas markets.





1963 - 1973

Neil Armstrong - The First Man on the Moon 1969





1963 - 1973 Key Events

A time of huge cultural and social upheaval.

The Beatles enjoy world domination, Neil Armstrong takes a “giant leap for mankind”, both JFK and Martin Luther King Jr. are assassinated, and WTA celebrates half a century as a leader in international transport.



1973 - 1983 Key Events

As air travel becomes cheaper, the world is opened up to more people than ever before.

After years of trials, Concorde comes into service and at 2,100 kilometres an hour, flies between London and New York in just 3 hours and 20 minutes.

WTA's international reach also goes from strength-to-strength as it launches new services to cover Canada, Spain, Portugal, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand. The company also expands its services to the USA.





1973 - 1983

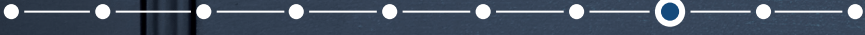
First Commercial Flight of Concorde 1976





1983 - 1993

The World Wide Web Invented 1990



1983 - 1993 Key Events

If the 60's and 70's were a time of cultural change, then this decade is most certainly one of technological change.

The personal computer becomes a reality and Tim Berners Lee launches the World Wide Web.

During this period, the company is restructured to focus on freight management services and all systems are fully computerised across it's global network. The company also celebrates another milestone - 75 years of successful trading.



Charles & Paul Sommer

Equal ownership of WTA



In 1994, after 44 years as Chairman, John Sommer hands the reins over to his sons, Charles and Paul.

This decade proves to be one of many challenges and triumphs. The company faces tough economic times and is up against stiff competition from larger, mainly European competitors. Charles and Paul share the vision that for the company to remain competitive, the focus needs to shift from operations to customer service.

WTA is recognised at the British International Freight Awards for Australian Services, Training & Education, Logistics & Distribution and Airfreight. The company also becomes an Investor In People.



1993 - 2003

Introduction of the Euro 1999





2003 - 2013

Smartphones and Tablets Invented





2003 - 2013 Key Events

Advances in technology show no signs of slowing down.

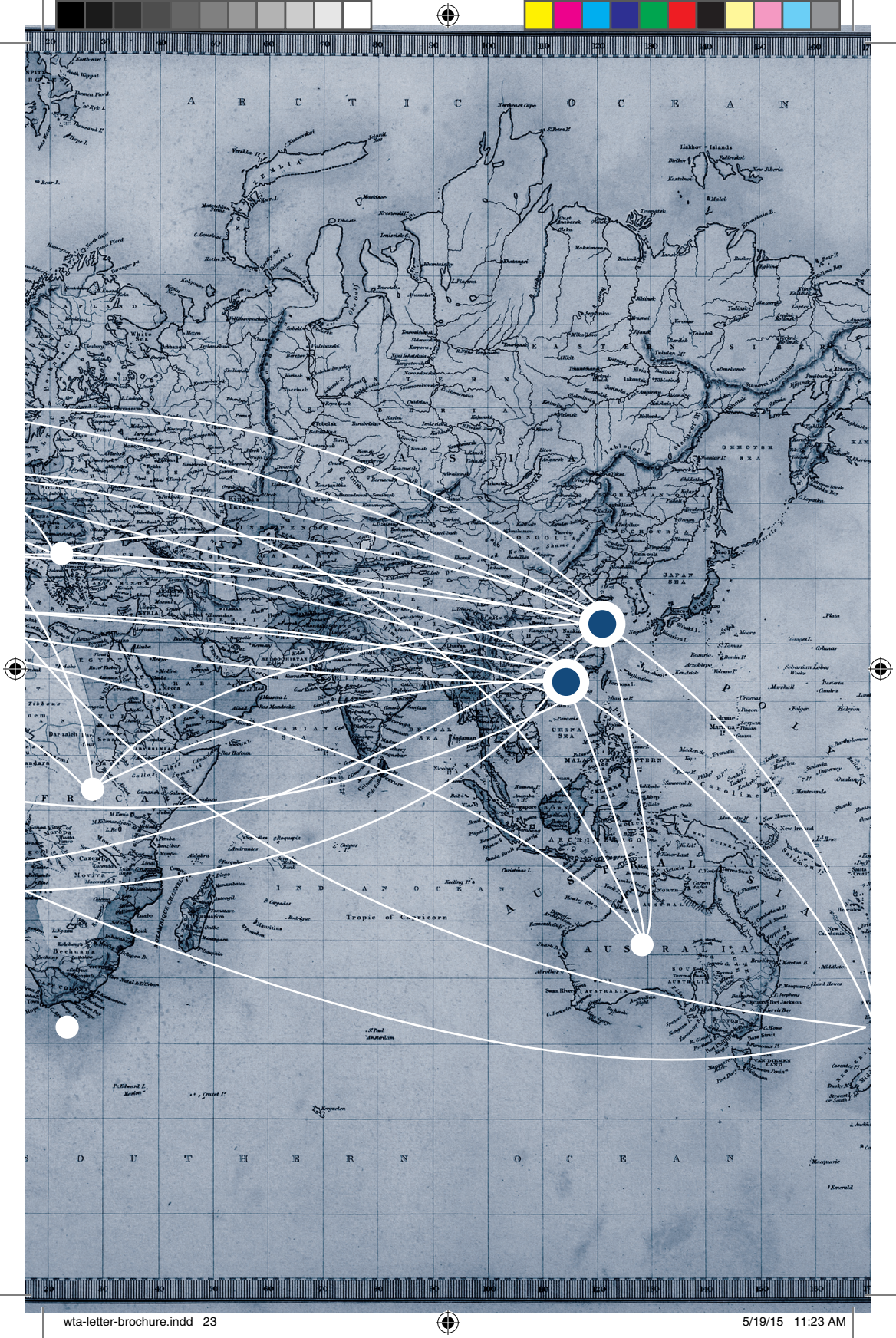
During this decade, mobile communications grow and the phenomena of social media takes off.

As WTA opens offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Chicago, all systems are transferred to cloud computing. WTA GreenRoute, The BookFreight network and the WTA Academy are launched and perhaps most significantly, the company celebrates 100 years as a leader in international transportation.



Complex logistics simplified

In a hundred years, we have achieved and surpassed many of our goals. We have grown, adapted and innovated, but have always maintained a real connection with our heritage.





Our customers and partners

WTA has had the pleasure of working with many global corporations over the last 100 years; from pharmaceutical organisations to publishing houses, electronic giants to FMCG multi-nationals, chemical companies to household names in retail.

We would like to thank all of our customers and partners throughout the world who have helped WTA to become the successful company it is today. We also very much look forward to working with you in the years to come.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff, many of who have been with us for a quarter of a century or more.

Kind words from our clients and partners

“Business is about products and prices; but in my view, it is also about people. It is to WTA's great credit that you have some very good people working for you.”

Nick Ruston, Commercial Director, RECO Ltd

“The help, advice and service we receive is the main reason we have not been tempted away. We appreciate the passion and patience of your team in helping us to cope with the competitive arena of today's import/export market. We enjoy significant cost savings through your tailor made services.”

James Carey, Templar Publishing

“WTA Means: Great Partner, Great Business and Great Friends.
With Them Always.”

Roberto Cantaluppi and Cesare Casati, T.S.T SA





“Despite all the new technologies, freight forwarding is still a people business, and for us, WTA have always had the right people working with us. This has been a wonderful partnership. Our very, very best wishes for the next 100 years.”

The Directors and Staff, Mondiale Freight Services, New Zealand



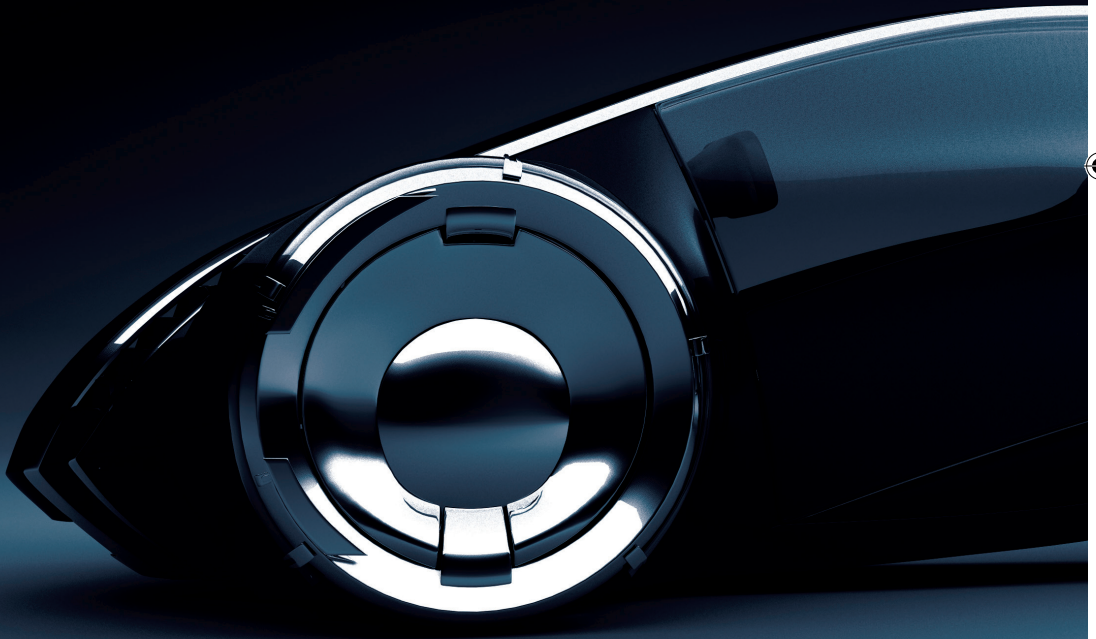
“As WTA reaches the century mark, we offer Charles, Paul and the Sommer Family, to Gerry and to all of our wonderful friends that make up the current WTA Team, as well as to the many special WTA people of years past, our most sincere and heartfelt congratulations!

This incredible milestone could have only been attained through the strongest leadership, vision and dedication to first class business principles. We are most proud to have been associated with you over so many decades, and we look forward to sharing continued successes for many years to come.”

Micheal, David, Mark and Paul Glionna, Chris Barnard, and all of your friends at Universal Logistics, Canada



Looking to the next hundred years



WTA has always been and will remain a family business. Rochelle and John Sommer, are the fourth generation of Sommer's to enter the business and are active WTA Group Directors. They recently submitted a 2020 vision for the group, which aims at empowering the people at WTA to take greater ownership of their careers and allows them to "buy-in" to the company's model, creating greater self-confidence and worth within the organisation.

Products

The driving factor in our business has always been to enhance the competitive strength and profitability of our clients. Innovation in the products that we offer has always been key to achieving this and today, WTA is leading the way with developments in Supply Chain logistics management. Plus developing customized products for niche vertical industries.

People

Our people are our business; their skills, motivation and dedication are key to our success. In recognition of this, we have developed industry-leading programmes to train and develop our team. This includes the WTA Academy, a forum for creative thinking and mutual learning.

Best People. Best Products. Best Service.

Routes

Throughout our hundred-year history, our network has been continuously developed and refined. It now extends to more than 250 offices in over 100 countries – providing the winning formula of in-depth local knowledge and worldwide coverage.

Systems

Investment in and the development of technology, has helped WTA to stay at the forefront of international transportation. We provide systems that are secure, integrated and enable easy connectivity. Our customers benefit from real time process control, immediate access to shipment status and clear, concise performance reporting.



Complex logistics simplified

www.wtagroup.com