

Issued by :

The Press Office
BRISTOL AIRCRAFT LTD
Filton House
BRISTOL

31st August, 1956

BRITANNIA AIRLINER RETURNS FROM THE USA

Bristol Britannia G-ANBJ returns to London Airport this morning from its tour of the USA. The aircraft is expected to arrive at 0900 hours.

The tour began when the Britannia took off from London Airport shortly before midnight on Sunday August 12th, on a 3200-miles non-stop flight to Montreal.

Since then the aircraft has visited 11 cities in the USA and Canada. By the time it reaches London Airport the Britannia will have flown a route-mileage of the order of 25,000 miles and it has operated throughout in what Mr Peter Masefield (Managing Director of Bristol Aircraft Ltd) has described as a "routine fashion."

Up to the time of leaving New York last evening the Britannia had logged 73 flying hours, with 45 landings, and had carried more than 1,400 passengers on 31 demonstration flights.

Well over 30,000 people walked through the aircraft at the various stops and at San Diego 4,000 inspected it in a single day.

The tour proper began at New York on August 13th, and the aircraft later visited San Diego, Los Angeles, Vancouver, San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, Miami, Washington, Ottawa and Montreal. Its flight from New York to San Diego was the first non-stop flight across the USA to be made by a British aircraft.

On demonstration flights the Britannia has carried as passengers representatives of a dozen major airlines, as well as US Government officials, military representatives, members of British Embassy staffs, and American and Canadian journalists. Its low noise level and excellent take-off and landing performance have made a great impression wherever it has gone.