

From London Airport to Christchurch, New Zealand. Over twelve-thousand miles, about half-way round the world. That was the journey that faced the eight planes ^{competing} completing in the longest Air Race yet staged.

A race that would be won or lost through time spent refuelling & so tanks were filled to capacity.

Before starting the race, the Duke of Gloucester wished the crews "Good Luck! Men of the B.F.A. "Viscount!"

~~And the crew of the K.L.M. Douglas "Littmaster" the favourite in the transport section of the race.~~

The two Royal Australian Air Force Canberra crews. With three R.A.F. Canberras - they made up the five entries in the Speed Section.

~~The Dutch airlines carried immigrants to New Zealand. An adventurous beginning to a new life.~~

~~THE DUTCH AIRLINER -~~

and the K.L.M. was first to leave. Roaring away at the Duke's signal to win the Transport-section race. It reached Christchurch in exactly fifty hours.

^{THE HEAVILY-HANDICAPPED BRITISH}
Soon after, ~~the~~ "Viscount" (a propellor turbine airliner) was sent roaring in pursuit. First home in its section, in forty hours forty minutes, it beat all Transport plane records for the flight to Melbourne.

^{NEW} The crews of the five Canberras climb aboard.

And as night fell - they roared off into the darkening sky. - The speed battle between Britain and Australia was on.

Meanwhile, at the Albert Hall, the airline companies were celebrating with a Ball - at which the progress of the transport planes was relayed to the revellers.

^{SOUND (said "over flying PERTH")}
~~Cheers for the Viscount, making a gallant attempt to concede 44 hours~~
~~running handicap time to the K.L.M.~~

One of the R.A.F. Canberras was first home - ^{having} heaving covered the distance in 23 hours 51 minutes.

In startling contrast to the last great air-race, in 1934, when G.B. NEWS showed the first radio-film in history, the day after Scott and Black reached Melbourne from London, in three days.

The winning Canberra had flown at an average speed of 494 miles an hour, nearly three times as fast as Scott and Black, 19 years ago.

2063

Air Race.

Now - it's London to New Zealand in less than a day, and congratulations to the R.A.F.