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Bristol: Britannia Progress

18th Jan. 1955

Bristol: Gaumont-British News visits Filton Aerodrome for a Progress Report on the Bristol "Britannia" - the world's first turbo-prop airliner. The assembly line is housed in the world's largest hangar, (it covers 7½ acres) and production is gearing up to a rate of 25 aircraft a year.

~~At present,~~ ^{AT PRESENT,} seven machines are in the final stages of assembly - ~~while~~ ^{AND} another is ready to make its maiden flight. ~~THE 2ND PRODUCTION MODEL HAS JUST MADE ITS MAIDEN FLIGHT~~ / cue

The Company's Chief Test Pilot is Bill Pegg of "Brabazon" fame - and here we see him taking up the first production model on a routine flight. This initial version has a range of over four thousand miles, ~~(which is London to New York non-stop)~~ carrying ninety-two Tourist class passengers. B.O.A.C. have thirty-three on order - including some later types.

One feature of the "Britannia" is that after touching-down, the propellers can be put into reverse - a braking device that ensures safe landings on ice-bound runways.

~~And~~ From California come first pictures of an amazing new development that could revolutionise aerial war-fare - the launching of aircraft from an elevated platform.

The plane is the nine-ton Thunderjet fighter and there she goes! Once in flight, the rocket-booster that aids take-off is jettisoned. The launching platform is 39 feet long and carried on a trailer. Thus any road can become an airfield, bringing concentrated fighter support to front-line areas.

^{SUBMARINE TRAINING IN BRITAIN, AS} Meanwhile, ~~Canadian~~ Canadian Naval ratings leave Gosport for their first ~~submarine~~ cruise. The men form part of a batch of 180 ~~ratings~~ undergoing instruction at H.M.S. Dolphin - the Royal Naval Training ~~Est~~ Establishment.

The ratings are receiving a thorough grounding in manning submarines - ~~even to practical~~ ^{INCLUDING} training in the latest underwater escape methods and devices in the 100 ft. tank.

Later, the ratings will man British ~~vessels~~ ^{vessels}, which are to be loaned to Canada, to assist in the training of the Dominion's anti-submarine forces. Meanwhile, with a helping hand from the ~~instructors~~ ^{instructors} at Gosport, the Canadians are rising to the occasion in underwater seamanship.