2251.

The Channel: Bleriot flies again 29th July 55

Calais: With his home-made "flying birdcage", an intrepid French pilot, Jean Salis, turns back the years as he takes off - bound for Dover...

The fifty-nine year old Frenchman was paying tribute to Louis Bleriot - the brave pioneer of Channel flight. And these historic pictures show Bleriot himself making that first crossing; thirty-seven minutes, from Calais to Dover, in July, 1909...

Now almost on the forty-sixth anniversary of that initial crossing - the modern "Bleriot" (flying an exact replica of the pioneer's frail machine) sights the welcome Cliffs of Dover. SALAS crossed the Channel in exactly the same time, thirty-seven minutes...

But unlike the pioneer, HE was forced, by modern regulations, to land at an official airport. A perfect landing. S

After the flight which was made without modern navigational aids, Jean Salis was full of praise for the skill and courage of his one-time flying instructor - the great Bleriot...

The crossing also commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Entente Cordiale and the congratulations of Mr Geoffrey Lloyd, Minister of Fuel and Power brought a gallant French response. SOUND.