

Since Man first rose to the challenge offered by the wider horizons of powered flight - Britain has played a leading role in the conquest of the air.

A development that largely sprang from those Schneider Trophy planes of ~~the thirties~~ ^{EARLY THIRTY YEARS AGO} that not only laid the foundation of speed; but also set the pattern for the Hurricane and Spitfire - fighters that were to achieve immortal fame.

At this same time - long distance passenger travel was making slow yet steady headway. Imperial Airways had started regular passenger and Air Mail services.

And when, in 1937, the flying boat "Caledonia" made its famous two-way Atlantic crossing - this country was paving the way for regular trans-Atlantic travel.

Eighteen years later - Britain had long introduced the jet age when the "Canberra" flew from London to New York and back - in just over fourteen hours.

The needs of war brought rapid progress, and the coming of peace saw ~~our~~ ^{OUR} air superiority maintained - when the Gloster Meteor ~~was~~ ^{CREATED} a new World speed record.

But the Meteor (an R.A.F. fighter) was to climb to even greater heights in jet propulsion. In 1951, it captured four "Speed of Climb" World records. ^{AVIATION APPROACHED THE UNKNOWN BARRIER OF SOUND. THE D.H. 108 WAS THE FIRST BRITISH PLANE TO PENETRATE THE SOUND BARRIER.} THE PILOT - ~~JOHN DERRY~~ ^{JOHN DERRY} And Neville Duke (flying the Hawker Hunter) set up a new record...

These super-speeds called for new aircraft design to withstand the immense strains.

Once again, the challenge was answered - and we saluted the Fairey Delta Two.

This was the plane that shattered all known barriers.

Britain was again "fastest in the air".

Aviation

2457

Yet, with typical courage and faith, the pilot, Peter Twiss, described his 19 miles a minute as a routine flight!

And now comes the astounding news that the English Electric P.1. tops that incredible speed in daily test flights. A speed of 1,500 m.p.h. is claimed for this new fighter....the proud product of a great industry that ~~keeps~~ ^{Keeps} Britain "flying high!"

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Say one thousand five hundred.