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"ARIES" POLAR FLIGHT

Back at R.A.F. Air Navigation School after a record-making flight over the North Pole is the much travelled British Lancaster aircraft, "Aries." Wing-Commander McKinley, captained a hand-picked crew of eleven British and Empire airmen. Their job has been to study navigation under Polar conditions, when compasses and ordinary navigation gear go haywire. Calling their base for a "fix," Reykjavik radioed back, "zero, zero, zero, zero." Looking down on the North Pole, they made a complete circle of the globe in eighty seconds.

Arctic survival kit, alpenstocks, snow shoes and emergency food were carried in case of accidents. The R.A.F. team charted the true position of the magnetic North Pole for the first time. Lessons of this flight will influence the shape of things to come in civil aviation.