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AROUND BRITAIN

Radlett

Nicknamed the packhorse of the R.A.F., the Handley-Page "Hastings" (Britain's largest and fastest military transport) leaves its Radlett hangar on a 26,000 mile test flight. Families of the five-man crew form the farewell party, as the British-designed flying giant is loaded up for its six week trip. Constructed on similar lines to the "Hermes" civil airliner, this 50-seater transport can be altered to carry a battery of 25-pounders.

At a cruising speed of more than 300 miles an hour, the flight will take the "Hastings" - via India - to Australia and New Zealand - one of the longest trips ever undertaken by a troop carrier.

Providing an answer to sceptics of Britain's air power, this R.A.F. machine will strengthen the Empire's defence links.

Poplar

Bellish Street, Poplar, presents two faces, one old, one very new! It's new side may be a portent of the future, for the first block of pre-cast concrete flats has none of the drabness usually associated with prefabrication. Mr. Charles Key, Minister of Works, unlocks the doors for incoming tenants. Since responsibility for this new project is largely his, he makes sure that the fireplace has a flue, and that no plumbers tools have been left in the bath, before he lends a hand with the housewarming party.

It looks like a good party, too. For the Minister's sake, we hope it's a very good baby.

Marlborough

Encouraged by the mid-day sunshine of an early spring day, over 4,000 citizens of Marlborough in Wiltshire turn out in force to welcome the King and Queen. Given a civic welcome by Mayor James Duck, Marlborough greets royalty for the first time since 1668.

Motoring through the little market town, the King and Queen reach the College, where the Archbishop of Canterbury, an old-boy of this famous public school, greets them. Waiting under the ancient lime trees - 750 school-boys - led by the prefects - give their Majesties a rousing reception.

After a College Hall lunch, the King and Queen watch the chefs of the School's scout troop in action. It's certainly a red letter day for the boys. With the Queen - tasting their snacks (and enjoying them) - they seem to have fulfilled all the tests for a King's Scout cooking badge.