

AIR NEWS

The "Princess", the world's largest practical passenger-carrying flying-boat, is brought out of its hangar at Cowes, Isle of Wight, to be launched. Ten prop-jet engines, eight of them coupled in pairs, will give a total of 35,000 horse-power. Two other "Princesses," still under construction, dwarf the Saro A.1., the world's first jet flying-boat fighter.

Everything's big about the "Princess." It's got a wing-span of 219 feet and stands nearly 56 feet high from ground to tail. Experts forecast that over a hundred passengers can be carried non-stop nearly 5,000 miles in its double-decker hull. But now the aircraft's certificate of air-worthiness is to be signed and test-pilot Geoffrey Tyson willingly lends a back.

As the huge aircraft enters the water a final wind-check is made. The Brabazon, the Comet, and now the "Princess" prove that Britain is still tops in aviation.

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