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THE COMET III

The prototype Comet III is made ready at Hatfield in Hertfordshire for its maiden flight. Four Rolls Royce Avon jet engines power the aircraft which has a range of 2,600 miles. John Cunningham and co-pilot Peter Bugge prepare for the flight.

The men and women who built the airliner in the de Havilland factory watch as the aircraft moves to its take-off point.

And the Comet III is airborne! A rapid take-off, and now a steep, high-speed climb. Although intense research still continues on the Comet I (and the Comet II has yet to go into service) it is hoped that the latest version of the airliner will be flying the world's air-routes in two years: 76 passengers can travel in the new 'plane which, test-pilot, Cunningham says: "behaves perfectly".

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