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ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE, LTD.

From.....**HOWARD THOMAS**.....

To.....**MR. G.T. CUMMINS**.....

.....**Production-in-Chief,**.....

.....**Editor - Newsreel Dept.**.....

Please refer to.....**ET/MBC**.....

.....**12th May, 1955.**.....



"Dam Busters" Premiere

I would now like to put on record what is going to happen at the "Dam Busters" Premieres.

1. The first Premiere is Monday, 16th May. This will be filmed by Turner acting for Royal Rota under Pathe direction supplemented by two Newsreel cameramen and two Pictorial cameramen. In addition, we shall supply lights and electricians.

2. For the 15-minute Television programme the Pictorial cameramen will obtain their own original negative and have access to Turner's material; the two Newsreel cameramen will concentrate on Newsreel requirements.

3. In addition to the short item in the Pathe Newsreel national edition, there will be a filmed version for A.B.C. theatres with emphasis on "The Dam Busters." The A.B.C. theatres will retain the item for screening beyond the normal three days.

4. It may be necessary to ship the Newsreel version to Warner Pathe News, and Tony Morris, Overseas Department, is enquiring whether or not they would require it.

5. I am enclosing a copy of the TV script for your information, and you will see that we are concentrating on the R.A.F. aspect of this, rather than film stars. You may well decide that a similar course could be followed in the Newsreel.

Second Premiere, Tuesday, 17th May. On this night, we have to put up a show of Newsreel coverage, although I have told everyone concerned that we are not likely to make use of the material; therefore, in addition to Turner there could be one Newsreel cameraman. All that would be required, would be the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester; in this case we should also cover the film stars because Elstree may require this material for a special trailer.

Mr. Frewin will be sending us a list of the international film stars who they suggest should be covered.

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Mr. G.T. Cummins.

12th May, 1955.

Both the Chairman and Mr. Latta have requested that we do a special job on the Newsreel for the Empire Theatre on the Monday night, because you scored such a success when on the first night of "A STAR IS BORN" you had shots of Princess Margaret arriving that same day. As this evening marks the actual anniversary of the "Dam Busters" raid, Mr. Latta suggests that you would like to flash back to the library items which show:-

1. The King and Queen being shown by Guy Gibson, photographs of the raid.
2. The "Dam Busters" in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace after receiving their medals.

To bring this up-to-date you might consider the filming of the reunion of the "Dam Busters" which is to take place on Saturday night, 14th May at the Criterion Restaurant, when many of the survivors will be present at a cocktail party. I have suggested that they should get as much material, such as models of the Dams, and the aircraft, as they could to strengthen the Newsreel item.

Finally, there is a third Premiere at Birmingham on Wednesday, 18th May and we should try to get our Newsreel up there for the 8 o'clock performance. Ideally, this should contain the longer version which will go to A.B.C. theatres.

9 have done

Handwritten signature

Enc. Script