

55/97.COMET III ON TRIAL.

All set for her flight to Australia, via Cairo, Bombay and Singapore, the Comet Three jet airliner prepares for a dawn takeoff from Hatfield Aerodrome. But thick fog shrouds the runways, and the crowd who've come to wish God-Speed to Group-Captain John Cunningham and his crew have to wait for six hours. "Cats-Eyes" Cunningham will have to live up to his name if it goes on like this.

At last, the pilot decides its clear enough to take off. The Comet Three is the prototype of the Comet Four, which Britain hopes will be a world-beater. This flight of nearly 12,000 miles is her first overseas proving trip. Above the fog - she's heading for the Australian summer.