

2-5425F01
5/6/64.

AIR NEWS:

An aircraft to confuse the most skilful spotter is this modified Lincoln bomber, engaged in research on the problem of de-icing. The boffins are working on a "hot gas" anti-icing system for the Blackburn Beverley freighter. The Lincoln is flying in ice-free conditions, and to carry out their test the boffins make their own ice when and where they need it.

Water is sprayed out of a "washboard" frame on top of the Lincoln; the size of the drops can be adjusted to imitate any weather conditions. The airstream drives the spray against a section of Beverley wing; forming the ice which can be a pilot's greatest enemy - at best a nuisance; at worst, a danger.

But by switching on a supply of hot air to a duct inside the wing, the enemy can be defeated. The air can be kept hot, and deflected through a vent in the tail until it's wanted. As soon as the sample wing section is well iced up, the test begins - and in no time at all the ice is melting away. So science works night and day to protect our skyways from all hazards nature can produce.