

FLYING LESSONS - INDOORS:

The Bristol Britannia - known throughout the world as "The Whispering Giant". And the world including America is becoming more and more anxious to buy it. It's three years since the first production model appeared. Since then, its reputation has soared, and a dozen different versions have been developed for various freight and passenger roles. Captain, engineer, and co-pilot have a highly complex task to learn: apart from anything else, there's 16,000 horsepower in those mighty turbo-prop engines. The flight deck looks more like a laboratory - and to bring her safely down, you must know just what you're doing.

Hullo, what's this? We've been on the ground all the time - in fact, we've been indoors! The flight deck we've just seen is the creation of a Crawley factory, from which B.O.A.C. has ordered a number of these "flight simulators", exact replicas of various types of airliner flight deck. Providing even sound effects from take off to landing - the simulators are designed to give air crews training in every detail than can happen on a flight deck - and to halve the time that must be spent on actual aircraft which otherwise could be earning revenue.

The mass of dials on the instrument panel are the nerve system of an aircraft - and pilots and engineers must know every shade of meaning they convey. The course the Captain's flying can be plotted accurately by the instructors - and, at will, they can face him with any emergency from an iced carburettor to a fire. Air crews can practice handling many crises they would otherwise never meet till they actually happened. No wonder seven other countries are buying these wonderful devices.