

THE COMET REBORN.

The long-awaited Comet IV takes the air at last - the most highly-developed airliner in the world. Test Pilot John Cunningham has the job of taking her up for her first flight, from De. Havilland's Hatfield headquarters. Many new features have been added to the Comet IV - for example, the noise suppression nozzles fitted to her Rolls-Royce Avon engines. Bad luck dogged the Comet in her earlier years - but her designers are confident that with the Comet IV, her teething troubles are overcome. Compared with the original Comet I, this handsome aircraft is twice as powerful, weighs half as much again fully loaded, is 18 feet longer, and will be able to carry twice as many passengers twice as far. This is the first of 19 Comet IV's being built for service for B.O.A.C.

After nearly an hour and a half in the air, John Cunningham brings her down.

Smiling broadly, he leaves the aircraft and shakes hands with Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, to whom he gives his verdict: "She behaved splendidly. I am delighted".

More flights trials to come - but by the end of the year, she will be earning her living.