

VULCAN'S WONDER RECORD

PATHE NEWS: 61/54

Coming into land at Richmond, near Sydney, as calmly as on a routine flight, Squadron Leader Beavis completed the 11,500 mile non-stop flight, from Scampton, Lincolnshire. The R.A.F. Vulcan had flown half-way round the world in 20 hours, 3 minutes, refuelling three times in the air.

The Chief of R.A.F. Bomber Command, Air Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, greeted Beavis and his crew, congratulating them warmly on the amazing record. They'd flown at an average of 575 miles an hour.

Ross Smith and Keith Smith took 27 1/2 days and 20 hours flying from Heston, London to Australia. These two Australian brothers flew a Vickers Vimy, in those days a remarkably fine plane, though few people would fancy a long flight in one like it today. The aviation pioneers staked their life, in enterprises such as this one.

In Australia, one-time Premier Billy Hughes presented them with a well deserved cheque. Shall we live to see the Vulcan outdated, and 20 hours from England to Sydney reckoned slow time.