

BRITANNIA.

5/2/54.

Sprawled out on the mud like a stranded whale is the giant turbo-jet airliner Britannia II. She had been out on a special flight ~~with a special mission of the day~~ when one of the engines caught fire. At the controls, was the company's chief Test Pilot Mr Bill Pegg. He flew around looking for the safest ^{place} ~~spot~~ to make his forced landing; and with superb skill, brought the £800,000 liner down on the river mud at Littleton-on-Severn near Bristol. ~~Only one man of those on board~~

~~was slightly hurt.~~
~~R.A.F. units were rushed to the scene to help in the recovery,~~
~~army tanks loaned to help in the attempt to drag~~
~~the plane out of the river bed on to firmer ground.~~

This is the kind of hazard that attends all progress; but British aircraft have a proud record of security, that is unshaken by occasional misadventure.