

For long-distance flights, the English Electric Canberra jet has long been a name to conjure with. And now --- here is a pilot, Captain John Hackett, formerly of the Royal Air Force Coastal Command and holder of several flying records --- with his navigator, Mr Peter Moneyppenny, also formerly of the R.A.F., ready for the take off from London Airport just after seven o'clock in the morning. ~~For timing purposes they passed over the Channel and checked the time at the start of the flight.~~

The ~~eight~~ flight from London to New York --- a distance of three thousand four hundred and fifty-seven point nine six miles they accomplished in just under seven and a half hours. These pictures of the arrival at Floyd Bennett Field were brought back for this newsreel on the Canberra's return trip.

Floyd Bennett Field is an American Naval Air Base --- and the U.S. Navy did a wonderful job in refuelling the Canberra's giant tanks at speed. Refuelling and a servicing check took exactly thirty-three minutes. No wonder the pilot was looking pleased. The outward journey was one flight for which a world record was being claimed as he had lunch in New York after breakfast in Britain.

Now --- the return flight to London Airport; and amongst the crowd was Mrs Moneyppenny, awaiting the return of her navigator-husband.

The Canberra came in to land even ahead of the fast time that was expected.

Crowds surged around in a hectic welcome --- and there was a reunion for pilot and navigator with their wives, after the return at nine fifty-one of the evening of the day they had ~~xxxxxx~~ left. A second record was claimed for the homeward journey --- which was made at an average speed of five hundred and fifty point three five miles an hour, *and a third for the whole flight.*

So --- congratulations to the crew and the Canberra. London - New York --- London --- in just over fourteen hours twenty-one minutes.