

De Havilland Mosquito

Pressure Cabin for 36,000feet : 4,000lb Bomb for Ground Le



1. GOING UP : Over a carpet of strato-cumulus a Mk XVI climbs toward the cirrus region which is its happy hunting ground.

THESE recently released photographs of the new Mosquito XVI amplify the story of the Light Night Striking Force of Bomber Command (*Flight*, December 28th), who use the machine.

Designed to operate at altitudes of the 36,000ft. order, the Mk. XVI is fitted with a pressurised cabin, the interior pressure of which is maintained at 2 lb./sq. in. above the atmospheric pressure at which the aircraft is flying. Cabin air supply comes from a supercharger unit fitted to and driven from the port engine, the air being warmed before entering the cabin; this measure assists in keeping the cabin temperature at a pleasant level and, further, helps the crew physiologically.

Under normal operation neither pilot or observer use oxygen masks, although these are carried in case the cabin is punctured by *flak* or bullets. Normal leakage of about 30 cu. ft./min. prevents the cabin air from becoming vitiated.

The engines are a Merlin 72 (starboard) and a 73 (port), each of which develop over 1,650 b.h.p. Long-range drop tanks beneath the outer wing panels give the bomber a range in excess of 1,500 miles, and these tanks are interchangeable with bombs.

