

# HERE and THERE

## London-Khartoum

**S**UBJECT to confirmation, a Curtiss Commando of King Farouk's personal flight has set up a non-stop point-to-point record between London and Khartoum. Piloted by A. Cdre. Hassan Akef, it covered the 3,073 miles at an average speed of 180 m.p.h. The Commando, which took off from London Airport on May 1st, carried a crew of six and 2,800 gallons of fuel (twice normal load).

## Westland v. Whale

**MR. JOHN FEARN** of Westland Aircraft, Ltd., has recently returned from Lisbon, which he visited in connection with experiments in the spotting and killing of whales from a Westland S-51 helicopter. A Mr. Reis of Lisbon owns a whaling factory in Portugal and whaling-boats which operate off the Portuguese coast, and the helicopter has been placed at his disposal for the tests. Those who have read Mr. John Grierson's book *Air Whaler* will recall that the author considered helicopters to be very nearly ideal craft for spotting and killing.

## Cometic Progress

**THE R.Ae.C.** announces homologation of the de Havilland Comet's London-Copenhagen record flights on March 21st at speeds of 730.60 km/hr (454.03 m.p.h.) and 671.04 km/hr (416.95 m.p.h.) for the outward and homeward journeys respectively. The pilot, of course, was Mr. John Cunningham.

On April 30th, continuing its tropical trials, the Comet flew from Nairobi to Khartoum in 3 hr 10 min, this representing a speed of 420 m.p.h. for the distance of about 1,300 miles. The aircraft is at present making test flights from Khartoum, and is due to return to Hatfield this week-end.

As reported on p. 578, experiments in flight-refuelling the Comet are to take place when the necessary equipment has been installed.



**RESERVISTS' RALLY :** Formation take-off by Chipmunks of No. 22 R.F.S. during the Cambridge "At Home" reported on page 598 of this issue. Twenty-three of the new trainers are now in service at Cambridge with the R.F.S. and University Air Squadron.

## Group Executives

**T**HREE Group regional executives, for South and Central America, the Near East and Pakistan, and India and the Far East, have been appointed by the Hawker Siddeley Group. The respec-



**Hawker Siddeley special overseas executives whose new appointments are mentioned on this page:** Top left and right, W. Humble, M.B.E., H. P. Wills; below, P. H. Davy.



tive posts will be filled by Mr. W. Humble, M.B.E., previously sales manager for Hawker Aircraft; Mr. H. P. Wills, formerly sales manager of Armstrong Siddeley Motors; and Mr.

P. H. Davy, who was Deputy Director of Civil Aviation, India. Although the Group will maintain its existing selling organization all over the world, each of the new executives will be the senior Group official in his area.

## The Garden Party

**O**NE of the highlights of the aviation year — the Royal Aeronautical Society's Garden Party — will occur next Sunday at White Waltham.

A varied flying programme has been arranged, and the French Fouga Cyclone jet-powered light aircraft — to name the most unconventional of the machines to be demonstrated — will form an extreme contrast to the historic Blériot and Deperdussin machines also appearing. Admission to the Garden Party is by ticket only.

## More Powerful Stratojet

**T**HE type designation YB-56 has been applied to a new four-jet version of the Boeing Stratojet bomber. The present production Stratojet, the B-47, is powered by six General Electric J-47 units, each of 5,200 lb thrust, installed in underwing "pods." In the new version, four Allison J-35-A23 turbojets will give an output of 9,700 lb each.

News also comes from America of a novel application for an earlier type of J-35, two of which have been installed in the Hughes XH-17 cargo helicopter. These units were modified by removal of a number of compressor stages and a



**FOURTH OF HER NAME:** On May 3rd H.M.S. *Ark Royal* was launched at Cammell Laird's Birkenhead yard by Her Majesty the Queen. Described by the First Lord of the Admiralty as the most up-to-date aircraft carrier in the world, *Ark Royal* is the fourth ship of her name. She is seen afloat, with slipway shores massed in the foreground. A fly-past by Naval aircraft marked the occasion.

Central Press  
Photo