

# HERE AND THERE

## Seventieth Washington

A BOEING B-29 Superfortress (R.A.F. name Washington), which landed at Marham, Norfolk, on July 4th from Westover Field, Massachusetts, was the seventieth to be delivered to Great Britain under the U.S. Government's mutual defence assistance programme for the fiscal year which ended on June 30th, 1950. More machines of the same type are expected to be allocated for the R.A.F.

## Igor Sikorsky's Lecture

DETAILS are now available of the lecture to be given before the Helicopter Association by Mr. Igor Sikorsky, who is at present visiting this country. The date is Tuesday next, July 17th; the time, 5.30 p.m.; the place, the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London S.W.1. Mr. Sikorsky's paper will deal with *Helicopters in Peace and War*, and all those interested in the subject are invited by the Helicopter Association to attend.

## On the way

THE first American Air Force unit to be sent to General Eisenhower's North Atlantic force will soon be on its way to Europe, according to a Washington announcement last week-end. It will be the 433rd Troop Carrier Wing, composed of former Air Reserve squadrons from Northern Ohio. When at full strength it will include about



**BEAUTEOUS PARASITE:** The supersonic Douglas Skyrocket (see news item on this page) is seen at the moment of release from its Superfortress carrier. This dramatic photograph—apparently quite untouched—was secured at about 35,000ft and shows one element of the quadruple rocket motor already in action. According to the pilot there is no particular sensation when going "through the barrier" under power, but when decelerating through it, without power, the Skyrocket gets a thorough "working over." Note modifications to the underside of the Superfortress.

48 aircraft. There are about 1,500 men in the Wing, which is commanded by Col. Harry Hop, a veteran of troop carrier service during the Second World War.

## World's Fastest

THE U.S. Navy announced on July 3rd that the Douglas Skyrocket research aircraft has flown faster and higher than any other piloted aircraft. Speeds between 1,250 and 1,500 m.p.h. are rumoured, and the height of the speed runs (made in level

flight) is believed to have been between 60,000 and 70,000ft. The Skyrocket was flown by Douglas test pilot Bill Bridgeman and was launched by a B-29 flying at 35,000ft. The turbojet initially fitted in addition to the tail-mounted rockets had been removed. Previously, the world's fastest aircraft was the U.S.A.F. Bell X-1, likewise rocket-powered.

## Stadium Aeronautics

HOME COUNTIES readers unfamiliar with the capabilities of modern model aircraft, and whose interest was aroused by our report last week of the Langley Airfield meeting, have an opportunity of seeing a big model-flying contest tomorrow, Saturday, July 14th, when the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers holds its Festival of Britain Championships at Wembley Stadium. The meeting begins at 2 p.m., and admission is 2s 6d for adults, 1s 6d for children and 2s for cars.

## Saab Successes

AN order has been placed by the Royal Swedish Air Force for a considerable number of a new and more powerful trainer version of its all-metal Safir three-seater, known as the Saab-91 B trainer/tourer, or, by the Swedish Air Force itself, as the Sk 50. The Lycoming O-435-A engine of 190 h.p. has been selected. Because of Saab's heavy military commitments production of the new trainers has been sub-contracted to the Dutch De Schelde factory at Dordrecht, near Rotterdam. It has also been made known that quantity deliveries of the Saab-29 Ghost-powered fighter started early in May. The first unit to receive these 650-m.p.h. machines is the F.13 day-fighter wing at Norrköping which, in 1946, was the first to be equipped with de Havilland Vampires.

## U.S. of S. and Mig-15

MR. AIDAN CRAWLEY, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Air, announced in the Commons on July 4th that "further information about Russian jet aircraft



**RESERVIST:** Counterparts of our own R.N.V.R. squadrons are the Air Reserve units of the United States Navy, certain of which are equipped with Curtiss Helldivers. One of these two-seat dive bombers is seen releasing a pair of 100-lb water-filled practice bombs on a week-end training flight.