

# HERE AND THERE

## Swiss Hunter Approval

ON January 21 the military committee of the Lower House of the Swiss Federal Parliament voted in favour of buying 100 Hawker Hunters, and it was expected that the House itself would give final consent to the purchase—which was agreed to by the Upper House last December.

## High Society

A WOMAN lieutenant-colonel in the U.S. Civil Air Patrol, Miss Ruth Nichols, reached a height of 51,000ft on January 21 in a Convair TF-102. She claims to have broken the world's altitude "record" for women by 3,000ft.

## Martin Research Director

APPOINTED director of research for the Martin Co., Dr. Albert C. Hall will be in charge of technical activities associated with the Titan ICBM project at Denver. Noted for his work on missile control and guidance systems, Dr. Hall has been associated with Bendix Aviation Corporation since 1950 and was previously at M.I.T., where he founded the dynamic analysis and control laboratory and did considerable research and development work on servomechanisms.

## U.S.A.F. Leaving Manston

MAJOR U.S.A.F. operational and administrative units and personnel based at R.A.F. Station Manston are to be withdrawn by the middle of this year. Manston, which is equipped with Fido and has a 3,000 yd runway, is a master diversion airfield and the nearest R.A.F. base to the Continent. Air Ministry are considering its future use. U.S.A.F. units at present there include the H.Q. of No. 406 Fighter Interceptor Wing, Nos. 513 and 514 (Fighter Interceptor) Sqns. and No. 92 (Fighter Bomber) Sqn.

## Lockheed Orpheus Order

A NEW order has been placed with Bristol Aero-Engines, Ltd., by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation for Orpheus turbojets for the second prototype Jetstar, which



**RECOGNITION RECOGNIZED:** Members of the Dutch team who (as recorded below) won four trophies in the Aircraft Recognition Society's contest, seen with Lt-Col. J. B. H. Bruinier, Netherlands Air Attaché (second from left), and Mr. Peter Masefield (centre) who as president of the Society presented the trophies. The team members are (left to right) Pvt. A. van Niekerk; Lt. J. Valette; and Sgt. W. Kraese.

it had been expected would be fitted with American engines. Last October, Lockheed announced that a twin-Orpheus version of the Jetstar would be offered for sale as an alternative to the four-engined version using American units of lesser power. Initially the Orpheus was fitted to bring forward the date of the Jetstar's first flight, which was made on September 4, 1957.

## Airborne Washing Machines

A PILOT scheme for the export of 2,000 washing machines by truck-air services to Belgium, under a contract between the Rubery Owen Group and Sabena, started last Monday. Transport by air means that the goods arrive in Brussels 48 hours after leaving Wolverhampton, compared with 10 to 14 days by the land-sea route. Mr. Alfred Owen, chairman of Rubery Owen, said that the group was examining costs for a similar service to distributors in Germany, Austria and Scandinavia.

## Dutch Recognition Success

FOUR trophies were won by the Royal Netherlands Air Force in the Aircraft Recognition Society's tenth annual all-England contest, held at the Royal Institution on January 18. The Dutch team gained the Silver Hurricane trophy, which is awarded to the outright winners of the contest and this year was taken abroad for the first time; it carried off the Viscount trophy (awarded to the best Services team competing); one of its members, Pvt. A. van Niekerk, won the Bristol Britannia trophy as the highest individual scorer—with 33 points out of a possible 35; and the team took back with it to Holland a Fokker D.21 trophy which had earlier been presented to the Society by the Dutch Chief of Air Staff, to be awarded

to the Services competitor with the highest score—on this occasion Lt. J. Valette of the R.N.A.F. The H. P. Heracles trophy was won by No. 276 (Chelmsford) Sqn. of the A.T.C., who with 90 points out of 105 were only one point behind the Dutch team; and Cpl. C. M. Howlett of No. 276 Sqn. won the *Air Pictorial* trophy as the highest individual A.T.C. scorer. Mr. Peter Masefield, managing director of Bristol Aircraft, Ltd., who is president of the Recognition Society (and who donated the Britannia trophy), presented the awards; and earlier in the afternoon he received from Lt-Col. J. B. H. Bruinier, the Netherlands Air Attaché, the Fokker D.21 trophy presented by the Dutch C.A.S.

## Moscow Flap

ORNITHOPTERS—flapping-wing aircraft—are occupying the attention of two Russian designers, according to a Moscow report. One, Smirnov, has modelled his wing-shape on that of a bird and the other, Rybnikov, has followed an insect pattern. Their research is being carried out under the aegis of the so-called "flapping wing flight committee" attached to D.O.S.A.A.F. (Voluntary Society for Co-operation with the Army, Air Force and Navy).

## U.S.S.R. Hypersonics

IN a Moscow Radio broadcast Prof. Vladimir Pyshnow, described as an aerodynamics expert, said that in the near future Soviet engineers would be able to build aircraft capable of flying at Mach 5. Excellent turbojet and rocket engines suitable for this purpose and developing "hundreds of thousands of horse-power" were already in existence, Prof. Pyshnow claimed; and the problems of flight at hypersonic speeds were being studied.

**RUSSIAN ORNITHOPTER** models are seen in these pictures received by wire from a Soviet official source. The one on the right, said to be designated OH-EM-3, was photographed during wind-tunnel tests (see "Moscow Flap," above).

