STRAIGHTS LEVEL

Supermarine Spitfire Mkl, after a forced landing (lack of fuel) near Scarborough, Yorkshire, 12 July, 1939

Bottom Foggy: "Why did
you change the designa-
tion of your new chopper
from LH to RAH?"
Gen Strike: "Because it
changed from being a
Light Helicopter to being
a Raised-Avoirdupois Heli-
copter."

• Back in the 1960s,
VFW and Fokker decided
to put M45H engines
above the wing of their
614 regional airliner. The
customers ignored it to
death (although the Ger-

man Luftwaffe still has
three, one of which is
being used for slippery-
engine trials) and Fokker
went on to make the emi-
nently sensible rear-engi-
ned F.28. In the 1980s,
Embraer decided to put
the engines above the
wing of its EMB-145 re-
gional airliner. The cus-
tomers ignored that idea
to death, and Embraer has
now proposed a rear-
engined 145. Wonder
what the Lake amphibian
would go like with two

General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon
First flown in 1974, the F-16 has become one of the west's most
important warplanes and more than 3000 have been ordered by air
forces around the world. As a tactical fighter, it is designed to
carry air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons.
I-Spy for 5

REGINALD S POTTER'S REVENGE

Those nice people who make Michelin tyres pro-duced this helpful little book. Hope the Michelin tyre fitter doesn't use it for reference...

Lycomings at the back in-
stead of one over the

YUCKSPEAK
Series of 1,000,000
"Temporal continuity
from concept to in-orbit"
= we believe it will work.

RESTORATION
SPECIAL
While Graham Warner's
British team toils towards
getting a Bristol Blenheim
(or is it a Bolingbroke,
Blenoke or Bolheim?) back
in the air, on the other
side of the world Ralph
Cusack of Queensland,
Australia, is well on the
way to getting a Beaufort
airborne again. The sight
of two Bristol twins in the
air together again would
really be worthwhile...

• ...meanwhile, the mem-
bers of the Association des
Constructeurs de Repli-
ques d'Avions Anciens in
France are building a full-
scale, flying replica of a
Spitfire. Aha, avancez Ven-
tente cordiale, etc. Mais
what is this? Sucre bleu!
Monsieur Mitchell's finest
metal monocoque is being
recreated tout en bois, or,
as your average Angry of
Angleterre would say:
"...in bleedin' wood!" Not

ROGERNOMICS
Lesson 1,992,993

THE DECLINE OF
THE LIGHT AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

Well, Brian, if this GAMA release is right, they priced themselves out of the market, didn't they?

He was speaking at the industry's annual press briefing where manufacturers

revealed they had shipped fewer airplanes to dealers and customers than in any

other year since World War H. The industry shipped a lota! of 1,021 airplanes

worth 51,968 billion.

only that, this "Spitfire" is
not powered by the ever-
scarcer Rolls-Royce Mer-
lin, but by the practically
extinct Hispano-Suiza 12
X CRS of but 700 horses,
as built for the nipped-in-
the-bud Dewoitine 500.
All this is very worthy, but
isn't there a Packard Mer-
lin sculling around some-
where that could make
this into more of a Spitfire,
and doesn't your uncle re-
member a recently auc-
tioned kit of parts to make
a Dewoitine that could
certainly benefit from an
airworthy Hispano engine?

The airline will have a start-up
capital of $30 million to 35 million.
Transcontinental Airlines will
fly six turbo prop 737-500s, carry-
ing up to 90 people.
It will employ 660 staff for its six
planes. "Compare that with Com-
pass, which had 1,000 staff fcr five
aircraft," Mr King said.

Sun Herald, Sydney,
12 January, 1992

• British Airways News
quotes a retiring Air Lin-
gus Captain Speaking:
"When I first started in
this profession, I used to
find flying dangerous and

sex fun. These days the
roles have reversed." This
must be some sort of sub-
tle recruitment campaign
by Air Lingus: is there
anywhere else in the world
where constant battling
against slot congestion,
airways thrombosis, ex-
tended crew rostering,
flight-engineer depriva-
tion, cargo inebriation,
threatened redundancy
and attacks of bean-
counter meddling is seen
as FUN?

• According to The Sun-
day Times of London, one
of the developments
which helped gain the
great Joe Sutter his place
in its list of "1,000 makers
of the '20th century" was
his co-development of
"slotted flats". Presuma-
bly, that's where ATCO
Annie and her colleagues
live...

It's a Lockheed C-130K Hercules, and Her Majesty had
given this lot a packed lunch and some pocket money, an
sent them off to the Caribbean to practise being
operational...

bO FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL 22 - 28 January, 19