

The Valetta C Mk I can be adapted for a number of transport duties. In freighter form, as above, the large double-entrance door makes possible the carriage of vehicles, guns, etc. An alternative load would be 36 troops.

NEWEST R.A.F. TRANSPORT

Vickers Valetta with Two Bristol Hercules 230s Now Flying

A VALUABLE new addition to the transport fleet of the Royal Air Force is the Vickers Valetta C Mk. I. It may be regarded as a modified form of the Viking 1B, the principal differences being in the equipment, crew arrangements and power plants. The provision of a large, double-entrance door to the fuselage and heavily reinforced flooring make the Valetta suitable for use as a heavy freighter as well as for troop transport, and, in addition to these primary duties, it may be equipped for the carriage of paratroopers and their equipment, for glider towing, supply dropping or ambulance work.

The two Bristol Hercules 230 engines together give 600 extra horse power for take-off, and although the Valetta's permissible all-up weight of 36,000 lb is 2,000 lb more than that of the Viking 1B, the already excellent take-off, climb and single-engine performance should be improved.

In its primary rôle as troop carrier, the Valetta has accommodation for a maximum of 36 men, and under these circumstances the range is 255 nautical miles at its cruising

PRINCIPAL DATA

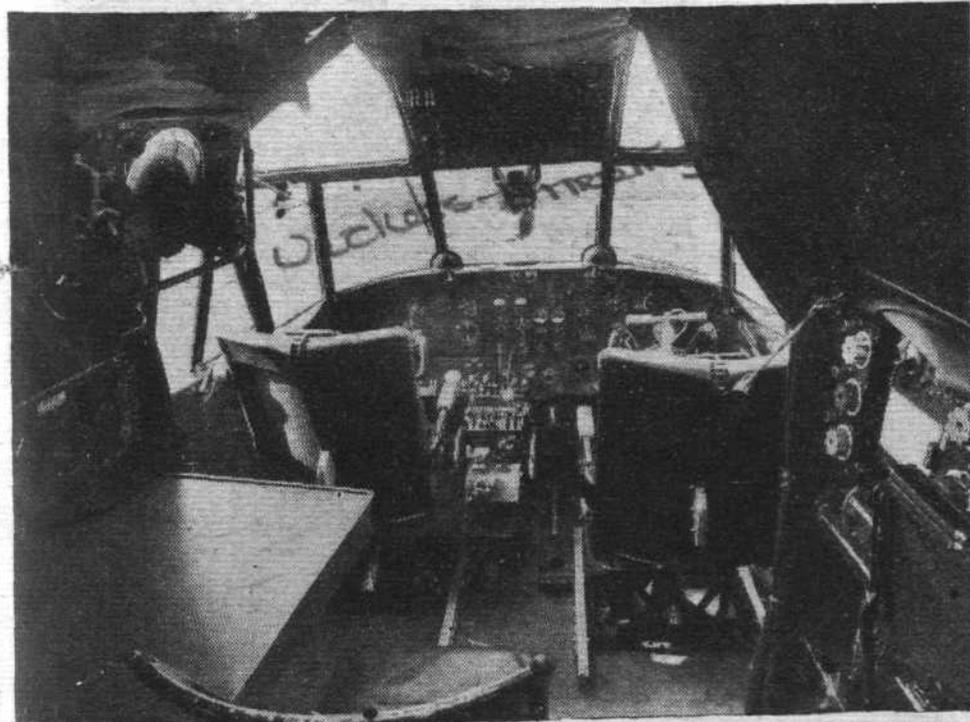
Span	89ft 3in
Length	65ft 2in
Height	19ft 6in
Gross wing area	882 sq ft
Wing loading (max a.u.w.)	49 lb/sq ft
Structure weight	11,201lb
Bare weight	20,229lb
Basic weight (with crew)	24,980lb
Max all-up weight	36,000lb
Max fuel capacity	724 gal
Max speed	255 kt at 3,000ft
Recommended cruising speed	183 kt at 10,000ft
Ceiling	21,500ft
Climb (max a.u.w.)	8 min to 10,000ft

speed of 150 knots. If 30 men are carried the range is increased to 630 miles. Considerable attention has been paid to the comfort of the troops, and the cabin is air conditioned, ventilated and sound-proofed. Oxygen is provided for crew and passengers, and a ten-gallon tank of drinking water is situated at the aft end of the cabin.

There are fourteen windows for the cabin, all of which are designed as pull-in escape hatches. The seats in the cabin are arranged facing aft and all are built to withstand 25 g in a forward direction in the event of a crash landing.

When equipped as a paratrooper the Valetta accommodates either ten or twenty men, and up to nine 350-lb containers. Under these circumstances the range varies from 415 to 1,300 nautical miles, while for ambulance duties and a maximum of twenty stretcher cases plus two sitting cases and two orderlies can be carried.

As a freighter the Valetta can carry 6,850 lb for 1,000 miles, and the entry doors are large enough to permit the carriage of a jeep or guns. Finally, as a glider-tug the Valetta can tow an aircraft of up to 17,000 lb total weight.



The roomy and well-laid-out cockpit and crew compartment will commend themselves to squadrons equipped with Valettas. Two pilots, a navigator and a radio operator are carried.