

The de Havilland Devon C.1 and Handley Page Hastings Met.1 bear the new markings referred to in the leading paragraph on this page. The third machine is a Bucker Bu 181 Bestmann with a curious history. Built by Bucker in Rangsdorf before the war, it was purchased by the Royal Swedish Air Force but since the war has been re-purchased by Germany, where it is now flying in the guise shown.

clude: WS.104 (North American Navaho Mach 3.5 pilotless bomber with ramjet power); WS.107 (Convair Atlas I.C.B.M.); WS.110 (Boeing Mach 2 bomber with ethyl borane fuel); WS.125 (nuclear-powered Lockheed bomber); WS.202 (cancelled interceptor); WS.300 (fighter/bomber); WS.302 (Martin tactical bomber); WS.312 (Martin Titan I.C.B.M.); and WS.312 (Douglas Thor I.C.B.M.).

**Boeing B-52 Stratofortress.** Described by Boeing as the "flyingest" B-52 at the Seattle plant, the aircraft serial-numbered AF-52-002 has logged 370 hours' flying in little more than two months. This programme was undertaken for the intensive testing of a modified alternator drive and the 44 flights included 212 touch-and-go landings.

**Lockheed C-130A Hercules.** Some intensive flying has lately been chalked up also to the credit of a Lockheed C-130A turbo-prop transport. It was in the air for 40 hr 30 min out of 49 hr 30 min while undergoing U.S.A.F. flight tests. Six Lockheed crews alternated at the controls on its eight 5-hr flights.

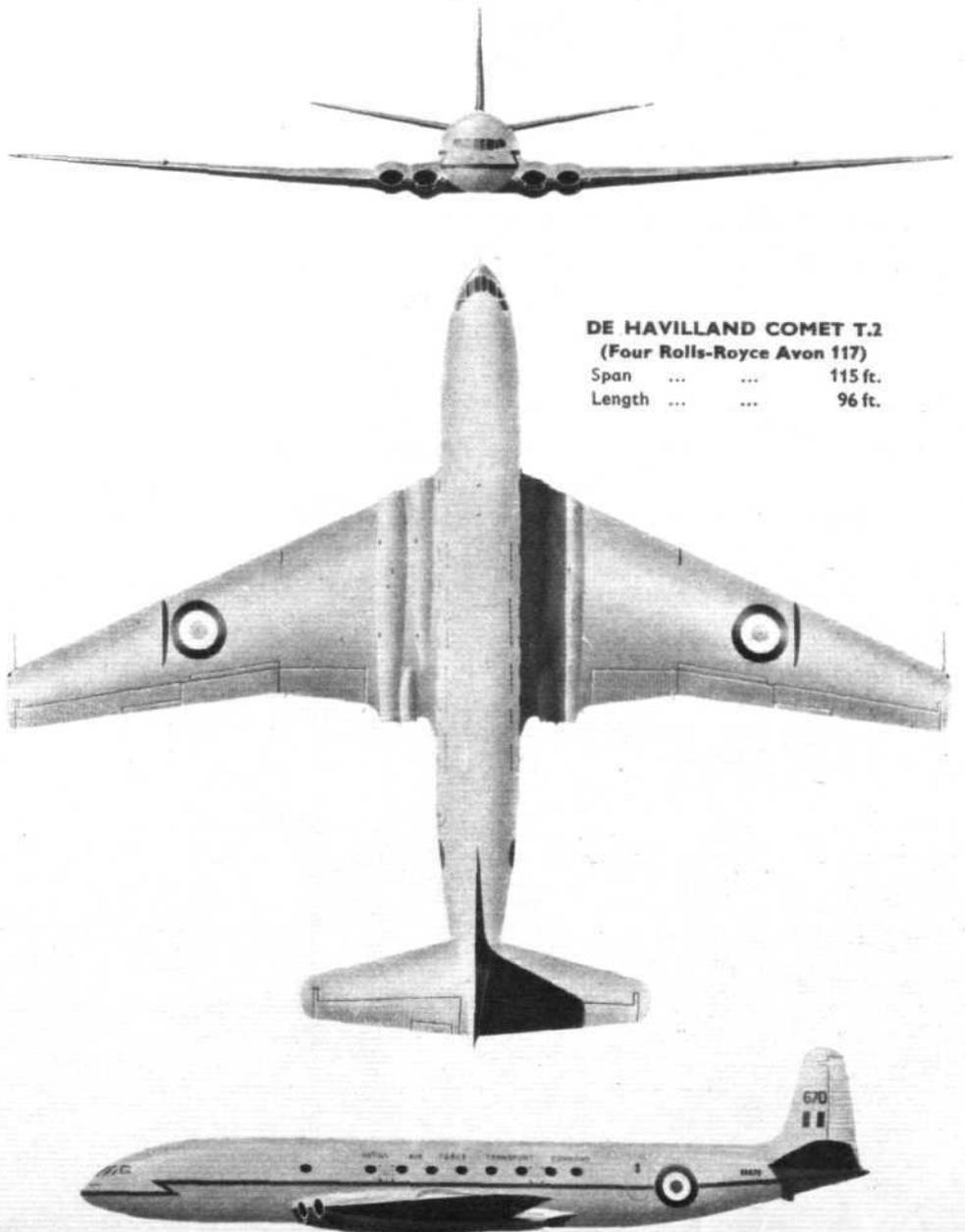
# AIRCRAFT INTELLIGENCE

## Great Britain

**R.A.F. Squadron Markings.** The hitherto somewhat drab appearance of squadron and unit aircraft of R.A.F. Transport and Coastal Commands is now being brightened to conform more closely to the colourful standard set by Fighter Command. Coastal Command Avro Shackletons, for instance, now carry the squadron number on the side of the fuselage, plus the squadron badge and individual aircraft letter on the nose. Squadrons with aircraft so marked include Nos. 224, 120 and 269 (224 with Shackleton M.R.2s, and 120 and 269 with M.R.1s). The Handley Page Hastings Met.1s of No. 202 Squadron, Aldergrove, have recently shed their drab-grey finish for the new Coastal Command blue, plus white lettering and "cheat lines" as shown on this page. The squadron number is painted on the fin, in grey on a white circle, and the individual aircraft letter is on the nose. Transport Command aircraft carry squadron or unit markings on the fin (see photograph of Blackburn Beverley on page 104 of last week's issue). The letters are white, on a green background. Devons and Ansons of the Metropolitan Communications Squadron, based at Hendon, now carry a similar marking, though the colours are red/blue with gold "MCS". Other Transport Command units so marked are No. 30 Squadron (Valettas) and No. 1312 Flight (Hastings).

## U.S.A.

**U.S.A.F. Designations.** "Experimental" designations recently announced by the U.S.A.F. include the following: Lockheed X-7 (Mach 3.5 missile powered by Marquardt ramjets); North American X-10; Douglas X-12 (Mach 5); Ryan X-13 (V.T.O. powered by one Rolls-Royce Avon); Bell X-14 (high-speed V.T.O.); North American X-15 (Mach 10 at 520,000ft, piloted); and Lockheed X-17 (derived from X-7). Weapons systems in-



**DE HAVILLAND COMET T.2**  
(Four Rolls-Royce Avon 117)  
Span ... .. 115 ft.  
Length ... .. 96 ft.