

## CIVIL AVIATION . . .

Aquila's Solent G-ANAJ was severely damaged at Santa Margherita, Italy, on September 26 when she parted from her moorings in heavy seas and was washed on to the beach.

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Swissair have ordered a third DC-8, for delivery in 1961. This brings the DC-8 score to 111 (compared with the 117 Boeing 707s firmly ordered and 134 "covered by firm contracts or letters of intent").

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Skyways' Crusader service to Cyprus is now being operated by the company's Hermes instead of York aircraft. The first service left Stansted on September 18, and will continue fortnightly via Malta for a return fare of £80 (£55 for Service personnel).

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Air-India International has decided to have its own maintenance base at London Airport. Costing some £37,500, it will be Air-India's first overseas engineering base. Target date for completion is June 1957, and the base, complete with 135ft-wide hangar, will be built in the No. 2 maintenance area.

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Aer Lingus are to extend their services to include Switzerland and Germany. Present international services include the Netherlands, Spain and France as well as the U.K. No date was mentioned by Mr. J. F. Dempsey, general manager of Aer Lingus, when he announced this in Edinburgh; the expansion would, he said, be made "as soon as we have enough aircraft."

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 4-5. Air Traffic Control Convention, Southend.  
 Oct. 5. Helicopter Association: "Strain Gauge and Blade Motion Recording Systems for Helicopters," by P. D. MacMahon.  
 Oct. 6. British Interplanetary Society: "Study of the High Atmosphere in the International Geophysical Year," by Prof. H. S. W. Massey, F.R.S.  
 Oct. 9. R.Ae.S.: Section Lecture: "The Pressure Jet Helicopter," by A. Stepan, Dipl.-Ing.  
 Oct. 10. R.Ae.S.: Graduates and Students Section: "Service Flight-testing of High-speed Aircraft," by S/L. P. D. Thorne.  
 Oct. 11. R.Ae.S.: Main Lecture at Henlow: "Rocket Motors," by S. Allen, F.R.Ae.S.  
 Oct. 16. Institute of Navigation: A.G.M. and Presidential Address: "The Place of Navigation in Modern Air Transport," by Captain A. M. A. Majendie.  
 Oct. 17. R.Ae.S.: Main Lecture: "Importance of Time in Aircraft Manufacture," by A. Cdre F. R. Banks, C.B., O.B.E., F.R.Ae.S.  
 Oct. 23. R.Ae.S.: Section Discussion: "Functional Efficiency of Aircraft," introduced by C. Abell, O.B.E., F.R.Ae.S., and A. V-M. A. F. Hutton, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C.

## R.Ae.S. Branch Fixtures (to October 22):

Oct. 10, Luton, "The A.R.A. Transonic Tunnels," by A. B. Haines.  
 Oct. 11, Henlow, Main Lecture (see above). Oct. 17, Coventry, "Problems Associated with Production and Use of Wrought Aluminium Alloys," by G. Forrest and K. Gunn. Oct. 22, Glasgow, "Development of the Jet Propulsion Gas Turbine," by G. C. R. Mathieson.

B.O.A.C.'s first DC-7C is due to be delivered on October 17, and delivery of all ten aircraft should be completed by April. As previously recorded in *Flight*, transatlantic services will start in January. (See photograph on page 594.)

## CLUB AND GLIDING NEWS

FOURTEEN women pilots visited Sandown Aerodrome, Isle of Wight, for the flying meeting organized by the British Women Pilots' Association on the weekend of September 22-23. All arrived by air, and were hospitably welcomed by the two resident pilots of the Isle of Wight Air Centre, Miss Mary Wilkins and Miss Betty McCullough. The visiting aircraft comprised six Tiger Moths, two Austers, a Magister and a Monarch—the Monarch having flown the greatest distance, from Staverton, piloted by Miss Winifred Steele. The weekend's activities included refresher trips and competition flying, plus an impromptu Tiger Moth race organized by two male intruders, Norman Jones and C. Nepean Bishop, and an aerobatic display by "Bish".

ANNUAL General Meeting of the Lancashire Aero Club will be held on Wednesday, October 10, at 8 p.m. in the clubhouse, Barton Aerodrome, Eccles.

KADUNA Airport, Northern Nigeria, is the base of a newly formed flying club which has been started by Capt. E. Minshaw, chief pilot of the Northern Region Communications Flight. The fleet will comprise Austers.

FOLLOWING completion of prototype tests, the Czechoslovak LD-40 Meta-Sokol four-seater touring aircraft has been put into production, with deliveries scheduled to begin next year. Powered by a Walter Minor 4-III engine of 105 h.p., the machine incorporates an unusual form of tricycle undercarriage in which the single wheel is located to the rear of the main legs and almost in line with the trailing edge of the wing.

The Czechoslovak LD-40 Meta-Sokol, referred to in a news item above. Note the unusual configuration of the tricycle undercarriage.



JUST published by the British Gliding Association is a cheap edition (price 5s) of *On Being a Bird* by Philip Wills. The full text remains as in the edition originally produced by Max Parrish in 1953; the photographs have been changed; and the appendices on gliding clubs and records have been brought up to date.

In our original review of the book we wrote of the author; "His gliding adventures in this country, in South Africa (where he joined vultures in their soaring), among the snow-covered peaks of Switzerland, high above the sunbaked Spanish plateau, and inside the very wet cumulo-nimbus clouds of England—all these are described vividly and with great good humour in this book. Glider pilots will have read some of these accounts before, but they are here collected and linked by an appropriate mixture of anecdotes and technical description to appeal not only to gliding folk but to all who love flying. . . ."

Certainly there is no better value for all readers of *Flight* than this attractively produced combination of adventure story and imaginative textbook. Impecunious club pilots can now own their own copies with little financial difficulty; while the new edition should bring an insight of gliding—and good gliding writing—to an even wider public.

Copies are obtainable (price 5s 3d including postage) from the B.G.A. at Londonderry House, 19 Park Lane, London, W.1, or from individual gliding clubs.

KENT Gliding Club has now been operating at Detling for six months, and members have logged some 2,000 launches in that time. The "official opening" of the club and bar took place at a party recently. Peter Crabtree has been appointed assistant chief flying instructor.