

KING AT NORTHOLT.X

The King said it was like being back with the old firm when he made a 200-mile aerial tour of Royal Air Force Stations --- His Majesty had formerly served in the Royal Air Force. The first inspection was at Northolt Aerodrome, where secrets of London's Air Defense system were explained. The King also met the R.A.F's fastest pilot --- Squadron Leader Gillant, who recently flew from Edinburgh to Northolt at a speed of seven miles a minute.

The planes lined up for a display were 12 Hurricanes of No. 111 Squadron. ~~The planes took off~~, and his Majesty watched their performance with Sir Cyril Newall, Chief of the Air Staff, ~~Chief of~~ ~~Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding and the former Schneider Trophy pilot~~ ~~Group Captain Orlebar.~~ And then the Hurricanes dived and flew past at 300 miles an hour.

Another important air occasion on the same day was the trial of the Balloon barrage at Cardington. Details of the barrage are on the Air Ministry secret list, but the object is roughly as follows: Thin steel chains, almost invisible, are suspended from these balloons which will fly at a great height above the outskirts of London. Attacking bombers become entangled in the chains on the principle of the spider and the fly.

Now to turn from war <sup>to peace</sup> ~~in the air to peace~~ --- a garden party at the Great West Aerodrome, ~~held by the Royal Aeronautical Society.~~ <sup>planes went</sup> Some of the earliest types of aeroplanes were on view and ~~even went~~ for a short flight. They all laughed at Wilbur and his brother when he said that man could fly --- but this was the ancestor of the ~~300 mile per hour~~ bomber, so laugh that off.

TO

KING AT NORTHOLT (Contd.)

45-6

Distinguished people attended this garden party. --- Mrs Amy Mollison took pictures of Mr and Mrs Handley Page --- Sir Harry Brittain was there and so was the Belgian Ambassador. Record-breaker Tommy Rose was on the ground and Mrs Mollison climbed into a glider for an exhibition flight. Here she is taking off --- ~~on rather~~ <sup>and</sup> here she is not taking off. When you're as famous as Mrs Mollison you can do that sort of thing and get away with it..... but only just.