

856 5.45 P.M.
17/3/42 M. Sumner.

THE KNIGHT OF THE WARRING SKIES.

The Battle of Britain was won in 1932; the Hurricanes and Spitfires --- all fighters engaged in that epic battle of the skies were powered by Rolls Royce Merlin Engines; and that engine was first conceived ten years ago.

In the factories in which those engines are built the most exacting tests are carried out. Scientifically, the breaking point of the metal is measured by different methods.

This is where thousands upon thousands of crank cases are made; each with that mathematical exactitude which is the right of the pilots who must never be let down by bad workmanship.

Combustion chambers are milled in groups of six on a machine controlled by the touch of a finger.

The multiple drill for cylinder-faces makes fourteen holes at each operation. The keynote of all this work is precision --- every operation must be exact to a fraction of a millimetre, whether it's drilling or grinding or boring. Are we boring you?

On the day our cameraman ^{four} ~~found~~ this great factory a trio of Royal Air Force Officers were looking over the assembly room. They have D.S.O's, D.F.C's and A.F.C's after their names --- and they're enthusiastic about the planes they fly --- and the men and women who make them.

We follow with an inspection of the Test House for accelerating controls: ~~when the throttle opens you can hear the~~
~~throb of mighty engine power.~~

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That spells hundreds of miles per hour; but ^{the} R.A.F. men weren't satisfied until they went inside and got a real earful.

So that's the story of the Merlin which has eleven thousand separate parts; each a tiny unit which has helped to beat the Luftwaffe out of the skies of Britain; a modern knight who rode the clouds to victory.