

WEST AFRICAN

887

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WEST COAST AERODROME AIDS WAR SUPPLIES.

TAKORADI

Some ^{West} On the ~~West~~ Coast of Africa ~~--- across the Gulf of Guinea ---~~
there ^{a place comparatively unknown} ~~is the harbour of Takoradi~~ ^a ~~--- now~~ vital source of supply for
aircraft to the Middle East.

Once an impenetrable tangle of forest, bush and swamp, it
was recently reclaimed, so as to provide an up to date West African
aerodrome for bringing reinforcements to our forces in the desert.

^{local labour is} ~~Native~~ ⁱⁿ are busily employed preparing new runways ~~--- while~~
~~tar and gravel are spread lavishly over the ground.~~ In the harbour,
Hurricanes are being lifted by powerful cranes from the ship's hold
and are then swung on to land. ^{then} ^{harbour} The crates ~~are~~ loaded onto lorries,

^{the} ~~and lorry~~ convoys move off to the aerodrome nearby ^{On the roads to the}
^{aerodrome} ~~the inhabitants seem quite unconcerned at the passing of these motor convoys~~
On arrival, fighter aircraft are unloaded and assembled ~~--- fine~~
and the test pilots take over.

Special long-range fuel tanks have to be fitted to these
aircraft to enable them to cross the Continent, ~~--- even so, the~~
~~journey has to be made in several stages --- most of the flight is~~
~~over rough country~~ where navigation is difficult and emergency
landings impossible.

~~And so~~ ~~crated~~ aircraft now pass to this important harbour
on Africa's West Coast ~~--- where they are assembled near this port~~ ^{from} ~~the~~
~~and then ferried~~ ^{aircraft are flown} across Africa to Khartoum. From here they are
~~flown~~ ^{various} up the Nile Valley and thence to ~~the~~ ^{the} Middle East War Zones.

^{Sent} The single-seater fighters ~~are~~ ^{do} not ~~sent off~~ ^{move} unescorted over
this difficult country. Each formation is led by a Blenheim whose
navigator is responsible for the safe passage of this precious cargo
to its final destination across the wild African bush.