

AIR TRAIN CROSSES THE ATLANTIC.

992 5.30 P.M. M. Summers -
6/7/43

This was the arrival in Britain of the first trans-Atlantic air train --- a glider with an 84-foot wing-span towed across by a twin-engine Dakota plane of the Royal Air Force Transport Command. With the towing-rope cast off, the great glider comes slowly into the ~~airfield~~ ^{airfield} ~~Air Force~~ --- loaded with vaccines for Russia and with parts for radio, aircraft and ground transport. The pilots of the tug aircraft were Flight Lieutenant Longhurst, ~~of the Royal Canadian Air Force and~~ Flight Lieutenant Thompson, ~~of New Zealand.~~

The glider pilots were
~~A tractor brought the glider to position for unloading, with its two pilots, Sq.Ldr. Seves and Sq.Ldr. Gobeil.~~

~~It is a little obvious to say that this great flight has made air history, because air history has been made every week since this war began;~~ ^{This flight} ~~it opens up a new realm of flying possibilities for freight and passengers and, with the sea convoys position so much improved as well, it immeasurably improves our position for war supplies.~~

By contrast --- here are two types of German transport aircraft taken in Tunisia. This is a Ju 290 --- all metal, capable of carrying 50 to 60 men. Its wing span is 138 feet. And this is one of the new Messerschmitt 323's --- ~~one of the latest German air giants that have taken such punishment from the Allies' North African Air Force.~~

104
190
140

434
210

644