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MID-AIR REFILL JET SMASHES RECORD

Over the South Coast, a Meteor fighter gives Britain the world endurance-flight record for jets. The secret: mid-air refuelling from Sir Alan Cobham's flying tanker. Designer McGregor waits at Tarrant Rushton airport, Dorset as the jet lands after 12 hours 3 minutes in the air. Over two thousand gallons of paraffin were fed through a 70-foot hose from this Lancaster bomber, enabling the jet to stay up six times its normal duration. As test pilot Pat Hornidge takes off in the jet, a Pathe cameraman follows in the Lancaster to record exclusively a major British triumph of aviation. During the record flight, refills were made about every 65 minutes - ten times in all. The two planes flew at heights between four and ten thousand feet, the jet slowing down to 200-miles-an-hour. Raming the hose at speed calls for formation flying of the highest order.

Tanker pilot Tommy Marks had twice to land in order to refill with paraffin. But the jet kept flying. The military possibilities of the operation are immense. Another one-up for Britain in the air.