

Good luck.

could make short story if demonstration is photographable.

31. 9. 55

Pa 0791.

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GIANT SUCTION TANK WILL
DRY AIRCRAFT RUNWAYS - FIRST MACHINE FOR VICKERS

On Wednesday (31st August) a giant suction tank will be hauled from Orpington, Kent, to Vickers-Armstrongs' airfield at Weybridge.

It is the first machine of its kind in the world and its bright orange colour will give a clue to its use. For this tank, an adaptation of the famous turf drier which has been in action for two seasons at the most important cricket grounds in Britain, is intended to take up 400 gallons of water at a time from aircraft runways - by means of a vacuum mechanism.

Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft) ordered the first of these new machines to remove water rapidly from the path of landing jets. Said a spokesman of the firm: "If a jet hits a pool of water on landing it can be disastrous."

Already enquiries have been received from other aircraft companies at home and abroad. According to Mr. F.J. Elvy, managing director of the manufacturers, Cimex-Fraser Tuson, the machine will be in full production in about a month. It will remove thousands of gallons of water in a day, so that the effects of a bad storm can be eliminated in a matter of minutes after the rain has ceased. Its colour is designed to warn approaching aircraft.

It is to be called the "Aeroduck", derived from the name given to the smaller cricket pitch drier - the "Duck".

So big is the machine that a special route has had to be worked out for it. It will be conveyed from Orpington to the Vickers' airfield at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour.

ENDS....

Technical Note: the dimensions and mechanical details are as follows:

Overall length	13 ft.
Overall width	6 ft. 4 ins.
Height	3 ft. 10 ins.

It is of 2 in. by 4 in. channel welded construction

(more)

Giant Suction Tank.....

2.

Wheels are 16 in. by 4 in. heavy duty rubber tyred, three in front and four at rear.

Weight when full 3 tons

Capacity 400 gallons

Width of suction 6 ft. 4 ins.

Motor - for vacuum suction 3 h.p. 4 stroke Villiers.

The machine is towed by a standard airfield tractor.

For further information or facilities:

Victor Winstone: 16 Carlisle Street, London, W.1. (GERrard 0791)

Brian Bromwich: Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Weybridge. (Byfleet 240)

PROVISIONAL ROUTE FOR "AERODUCK"

Wednesday, 31st August.

- 9 a.m. Leaves Cimex-Fraser Tuson, Orpington.
- 9.50 Swan & Sugar Loaf Hotel, Brighton Road, Croydon.
- 10.50 Ewell By-pass.
- Tulworth
- Kingston By-pass
- Esher
- Cobham
- 1-2 p.m. Brooklands (airfield) near Weybridge.

— *W. Winstone*

WITH COMPLIMENTS: