

# THE AEROPLANE

Compiled by Nick Stroud

## Looking Back 40 Years — May 1961

### Tu-114 in service

ON APRIL 24 THE turboprop Tupolev Tu-114 entered regular service with an inaugural flight on the Moscow—Khabarovsk run. This is the longest Aeroflot route and the 3,780 nautical miles were covered non-stop in 8hr 20min (454kt average) by the Tu-114 which is also reported to have been carrying a full complement of 170 passengers. The service has previously been operated with Tu-104s which made stops at Omsk and Irkutsk and took about 11 hours.

### Sidewinder Accident

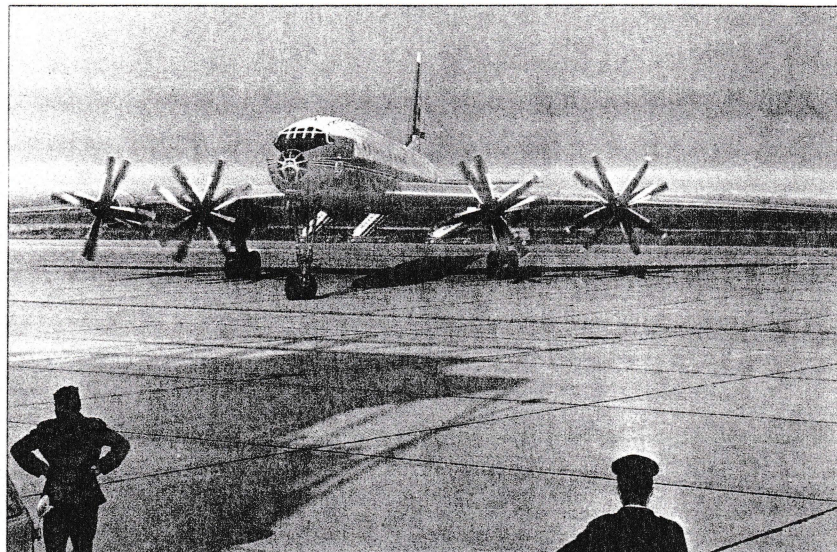
A SHORT CIRCUIT in the electrical system caused by moisture led to the release of a Sidewinder AAM from an F-100 which shot down a B-52 during training attacks. The USAF said that the pilot of the F-100 was fully cleared of any blame in connection with the accident.

### Caledonian Airways

A NEW COMPANY has been set up to operate inclusive tours and general charters from Prestwick. Named Caledonian Airways (Prestwick) Ltd, it plans to purchase two Douglas DC-6Bs and expects to begin operations towards the end of the year.

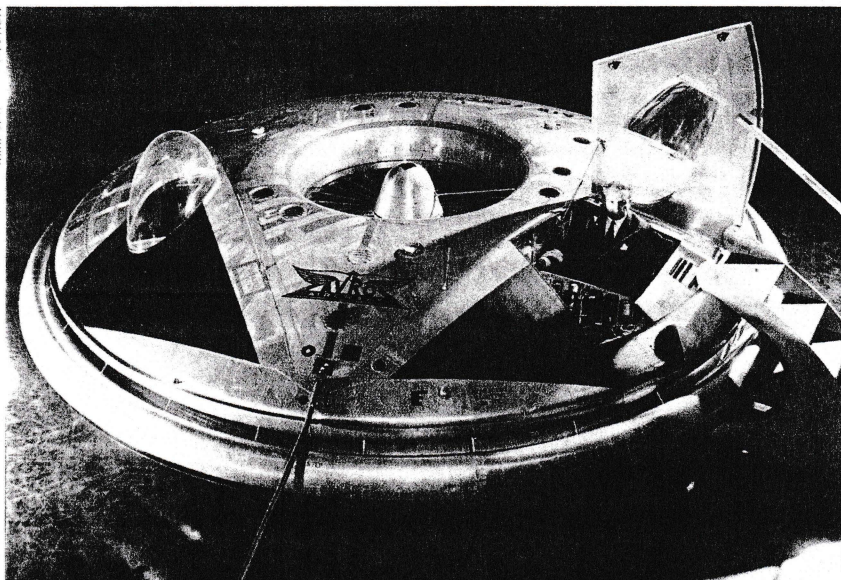
### Avrocar Flies

AVRO AIRCRAFT'S experimental "flying saucer", the Avrocar, made its first free flights at Toronto's International Airport on May 17. It made two flights along the airport's Runway 23, hovering about 15 to 20ft off the ground. It was airborne for about five minutes on each of the flights. In previous tests it has been tethered. The Avrocar is being developed by Avro Canada as a tactical weapon for the US Army. The company refuses to release details of the tests, because of security restrictions imposed, it said, by the US Army. However, the 90-minute series of tests was conducted in full view of hundreds of startled airline passengers and employees working at the airport. Shimmering in the brilliant sunshine, the huge silver disc "bobbled" easily down the runway and back, bucking like a gen-



**ABOVE** The Tupolev Tu-114 was a development of the military Tu-95 "Bear" and was for many years the largest, heaviest and longest-ranged civil aircraft in the world.

**BELOW** The Avro Canada VZ-9AV Avro-car was an ambitious attempt by the US military to foster a design for a super-sonic flying jeep, but the type was unable to fly higher than 3ft without "hubcapping", and was cancelled by the USA in December 1961, having cost \$10 million.





tle pony. The Avrocar is the brainchild of English-born Avro designer Jack Frost, who began work on it in 1952. It is not a hovercraft or ground effect vehicle — it makes use of the Coanda effect.

### Keep 'em flying



A JOKE STORY sometimes stimulates the profoundest speculation. Like the now-familiar one about the motor-van. In between bursts of speed, the driver would pull up, leap out, beat furiously on the sides of the van, scramble back and drive off again. A police patrol, observing this peculiar progress, stopped the van and asked the driver to explain. "Well," he said, "this is a one-ton van and I've got two tons of budgerigars in there." Obviously sound reasoning, which might be applied to improving airline revenues — get the passengers airborne inside the cabin, fill that wasted space near the ceiling, double your capacity, apply weightlessness. Any questions? (From Chris Wren's *Wroundabout* column.)

### Going Up

PILOTED BY NASA chief test pilot Joe Walker, a North American X-15 reached 3,370 m.p.h. on May 25. This exceeds by 296 m.p.h. the speed reached by Major Robert White on April 21. The X-15 was released from a B-52 at 45,000ft. Maximum speed was reached in a steep climb to 90,000ft, after which the rocket motor was cut out and the aircraft coasted a further 20,000ft before the glide back to earth.

ONE OF THESE →  

and

ONE OF THESE →  

**PROVIDE IDEAL BUSINESS OR PERSONAL TRANSPORT**

The advantage of dealing with a firm selling cars and aircraft is that you need not take in exchange. We are official agents for Piper Aircraft and distributors of BRISTOL, FIAT, A.C., ALFA ROMEO, VITTORIO A. ZABATO CAR.

**ANTHONY CROOK MOTORS LTD.**

THE ROUNDABOUT, HESHAM, SURREY (30 min. Windsor) Tel: Esher 1080. Website: [www.20233.co.uk](http://www.20233.co.uk) (11 lines)

**ABOVE** This advertisement appeared in the May 4, 1961 issue of *The Aeroplane and Astronautics*. Would you buy a used aeroplane from this man?