

1958

DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY, INC.
GENERAL OFFICES, SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., June 4 -- A second test flight was completed today by the new Douglas DC-8 Jetliner, which flexed its wings for the first time last week.

Douglas engineering and flight test personnel pronounced both flights "completely successful."

Pilots were particularly enthusiastic about the ease of handling and general responsiveness of the big aircraft.

The same air crew which zipped the four-jet transport off Long Beach Municipal Airport on May 30 occupied the cockpit on the second flight of 2 hours 5 minutes today.

A. G. Helmerdinger, the pilot, termed the DC-8 "a dreamboat," easy to handle even at the low take-off and landing speeds.

On the first flight, the new jet airliner was taken off at a gross weight of 197,000 pounds, including some 6000 pounds of water used to augment the take-off thrust. Helmerdinger pulled the nose off the ground at 128 knots or 190 MPH.

Following the prescribed plan for the shakedown flight, the pilot eased the DC-8 out to only 305 knots, about 350 miles an hour, on the first flight. His maximum altitude was 21,000 feet.

Further test flights will be made as soon as test data recorded on the first two hops are evaluated.

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