



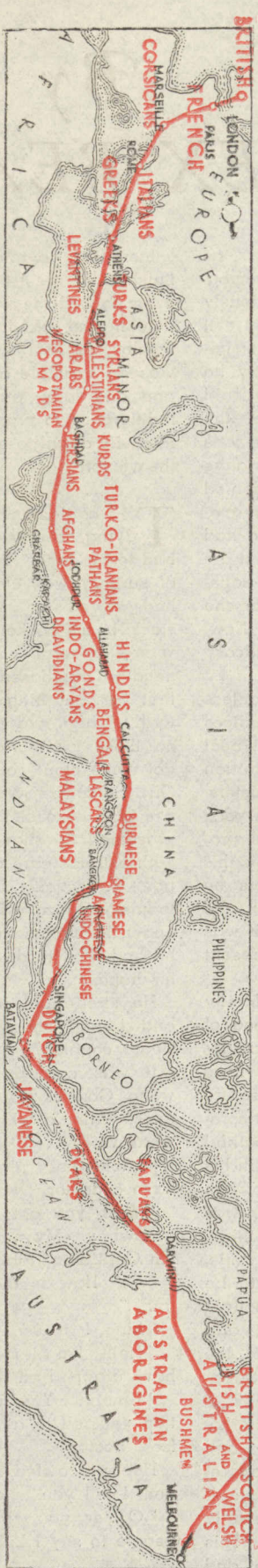
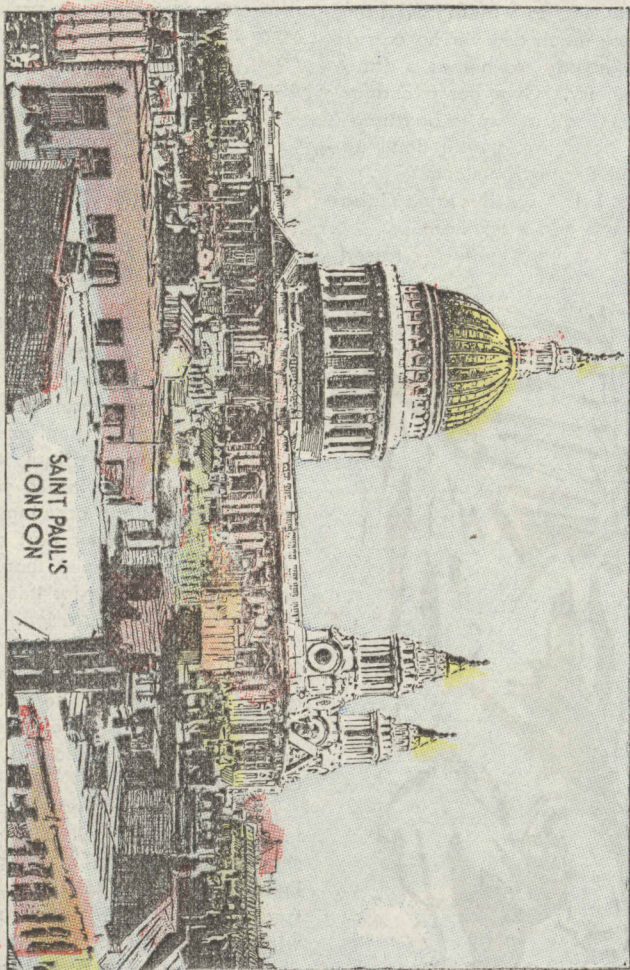
# 11,323-Mile Air Race, London to Melbourne

By Wayne Thomis

**H**AVY motors will drone over London next Saturday when two score or more of the world's finest commercial airplanes, flown by the best pilots and navigators in both Europe and the United States, climb off English soil and head out over the channel for the south of France at the start of the first international and intercontinental air races ever held.

The goal of the races will be Melbourne, Australia, 11,323 miles away, over 17 different countries and three continents. The course, consisting probably the most difficult test of mortal and pilot ever devised for aircraft or airmen, undoubtedly will be covered within 60 hours—two and a half days—by the winner.

Fifteen thousand pounds, Australian currency (about \$75,000), and a gold cup, "to be worth not less than 500 pounds," will be the immediate



Map showing different nationalities and races of people over which the London-to-Melbourne air races will fly.

prizes. More valuable considerations, however, will be world fame and possibly fortune for the winning pilots and valuable contracts for the manufacturers of the first airplane home and the motor or motors within it.

Donor of the prizes is Sir Macpherson Robertson, 71-year-old chocolate manu-

facturer of Melbourne. The race was his idea of a splendid method of focusing the eyes of the world upon the centenary celebrations of the state of Victoria and its capital, in which he has been a resident for more than half a century.

Since the race was announced last December, it has developed into a definite

competition between those nations which are the chief manufacturers of airplanes. In all 71 planes were entered before the lists were closed last June 1, by competitors from 14 nations. Most of the airplanes, however, were constructed in either England, France, Germany, Italy, or the United States, and although word at present indicates that only half these entered will reach the starting line, it is certain that pilots from those countries named above will be among those who take off.

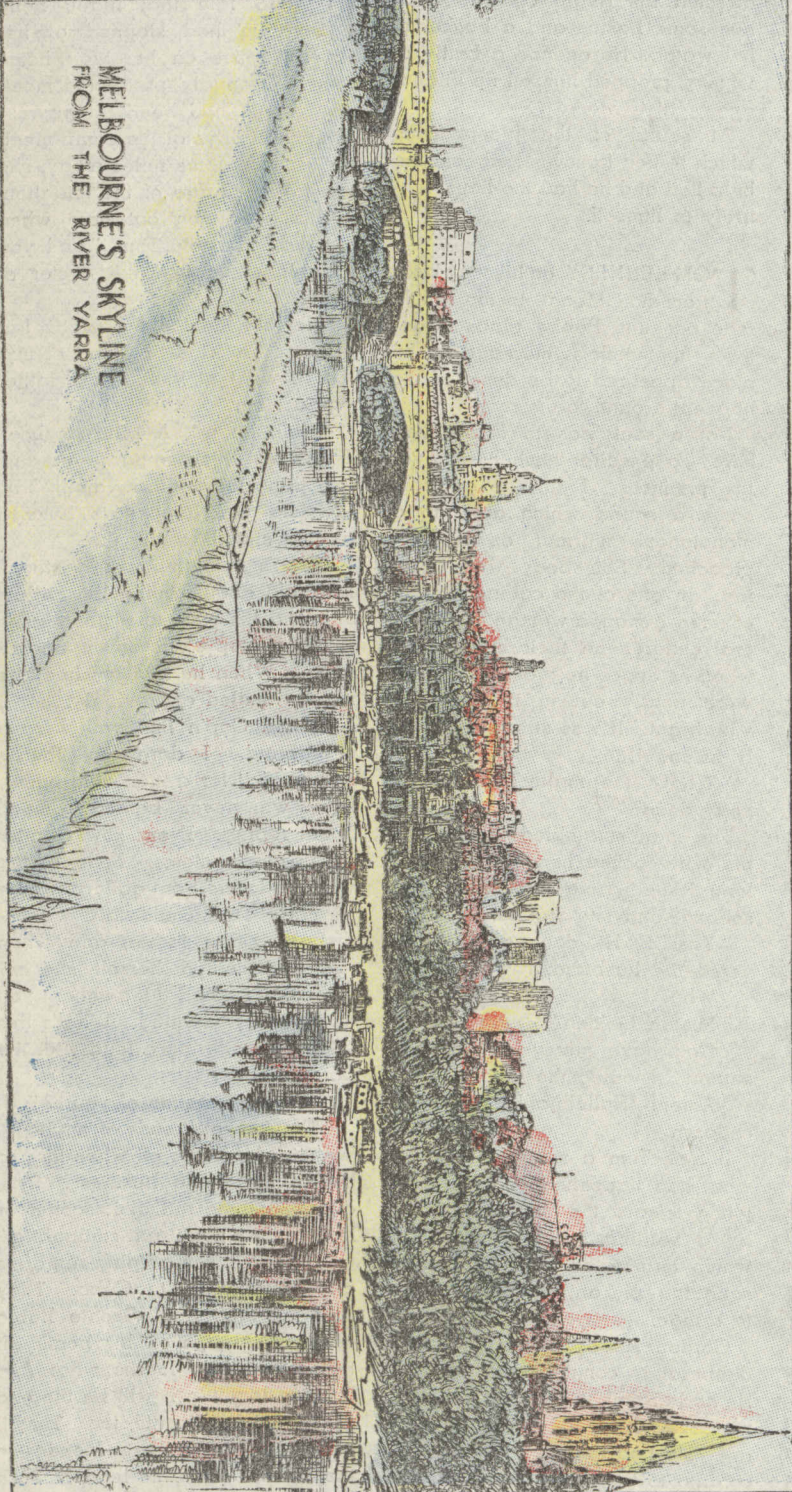
Actually there are to be two races run concurrently. One is designated the speed race and the other the handicap race. The rules as worked out by the Royal Aero club and representatives of the Australian commonwealth provide that the first ship across

the finish line in Melbourne airfield will win the speed race. In other words, this race will be on a basis of elapsed time. The handicap race will be run over the same course, but entrants will be sent away at time intervals, calculated by experts with the slide rule, on a system which will compare top and cruising speed, horsepower, and load-carrying capacity of the planes. It is hoped that, luck of all entrants being equal, the handicap planes will provide a neck-and-neck finish for Melbourne.

First prize for the speed race is 10,000 pounds (about \$50,000) and the gold cup. Second and third prizes respectively are 1,500 and 500 pounds. There are only two prizes offered for the handicap race, first being 2,000 pounds and second 1,000 pounds.

The race committees worked out the general plans so that the course is flyable by both small machines capable of cruising from 250 to 300 miles an hour, but with a range limited to three or four hours, and by larger machines which will cruise from 175 to 225 miles an hour and carry gasoline tanks which give them a fifteen-hour range.

On this general premise the committee chose seven control points at which all competitors either in the speed or handicap races must land. These control points are London, Baghdad, Alahabad, Singapore, Darwin, Christchurch, and Melbourne. Along the logical course between these points the committee picked out 17 other places roughly 500 miles apart and designated them as checking points. The checking points and control points in order are: London, Marseille, Rome, Athens, Aleppo, Baghdad, Basrah, Karachi, Jodhpur, Allahabad, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Aor Star, Singapore, Batavia, Surabaya, Koepang, Darwin, Newcastle, Widen, Cloncurry, Charleville, Narronine, Melbourne.



MELBOURNE SKYLINE FROM THE RIVER YARRA