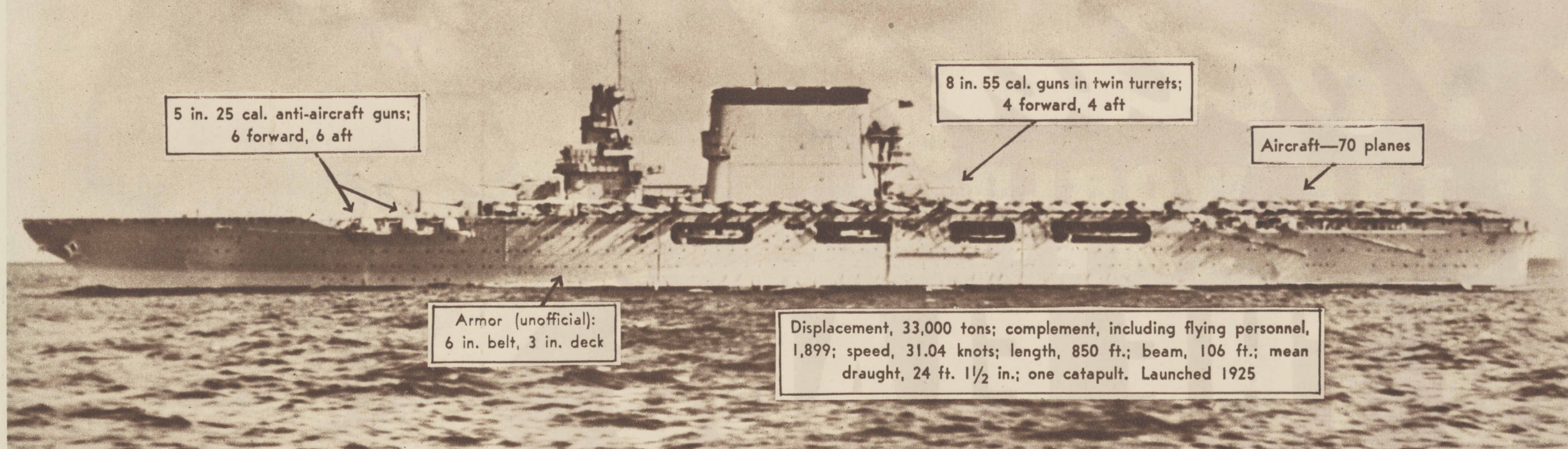
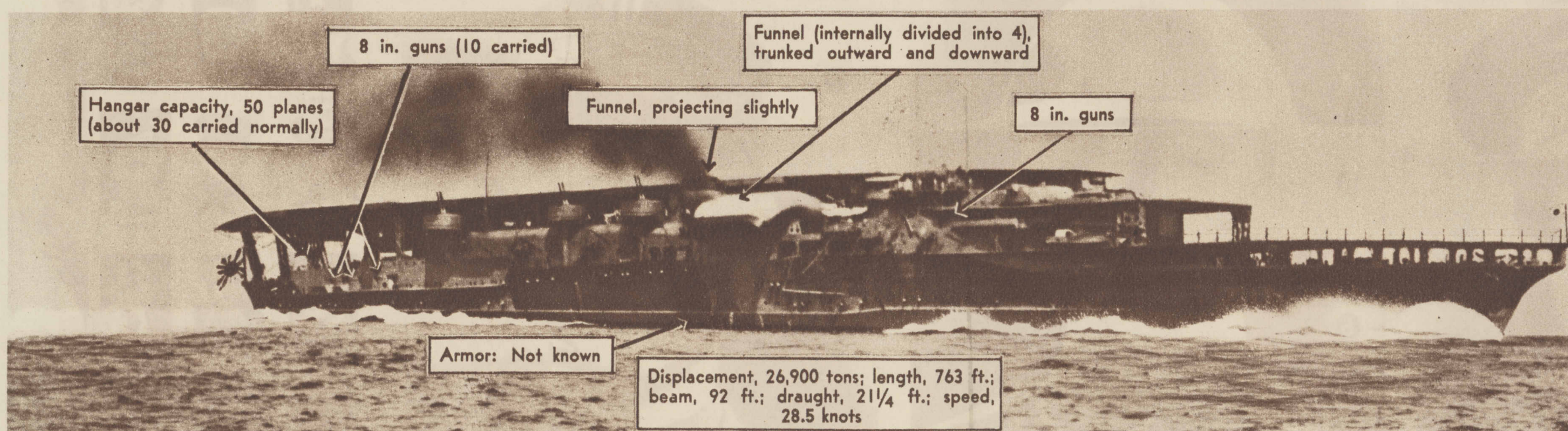
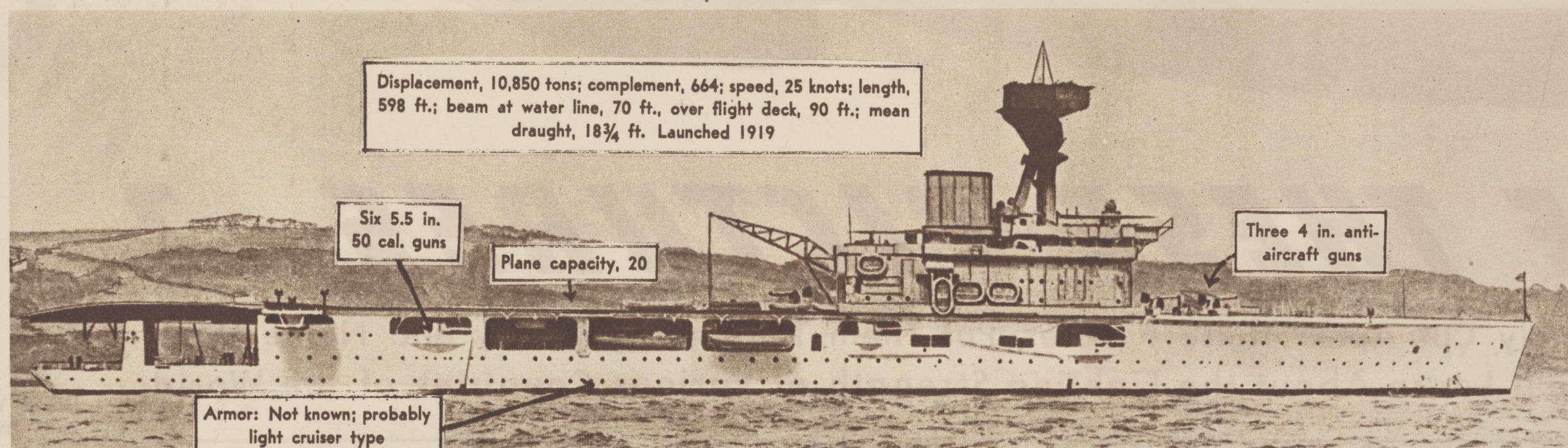


The U. S. Navy Outstripped ... No. 3: Aircraft Carriers



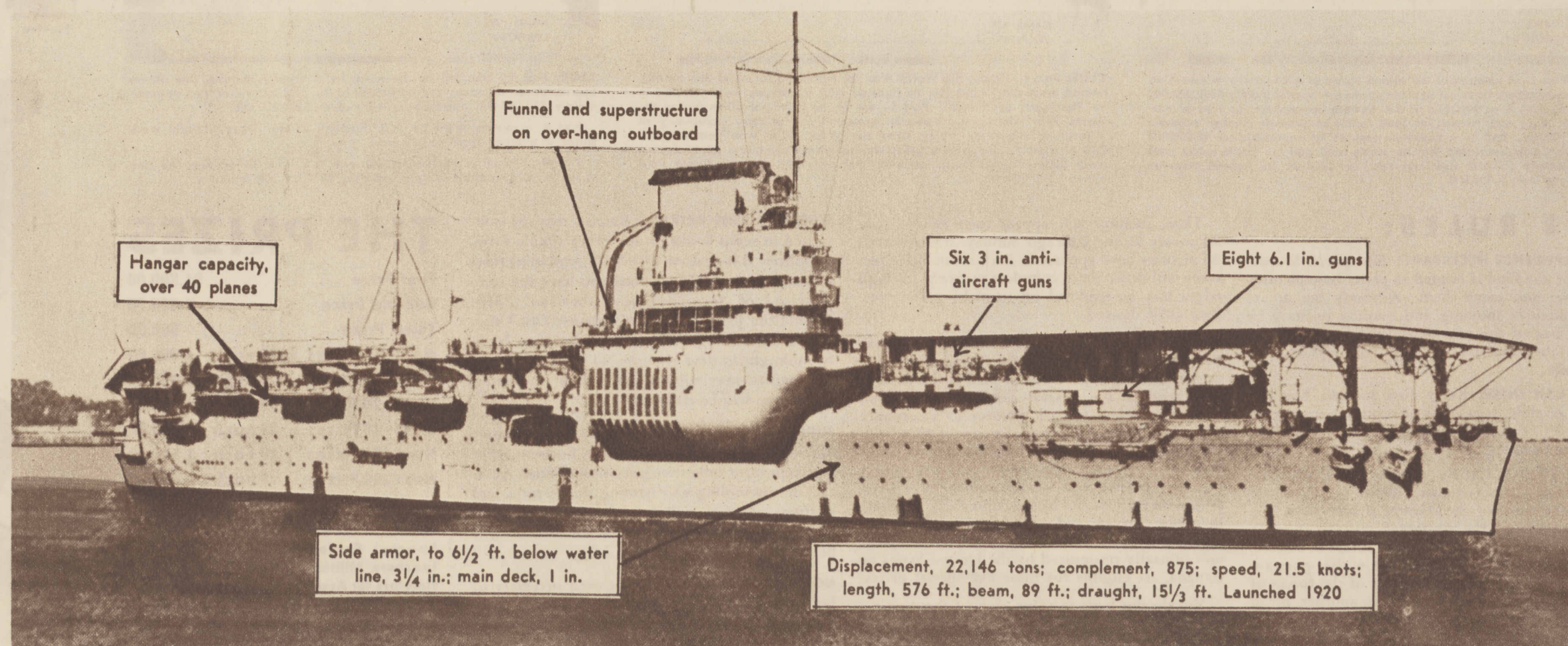
AN EXPERIMENTAL TYPE NOW OUTMODED—At the time the Washington treaty was signed, the Lexington (above) and its sister ship, the Saratoga, were under construction as battle cruisers; but plans were largely recast to fit the vessels as carriers. Naval experts now consider that carriers of this size are too large, holding that smaller vessels will do the work equally well. The 14,500 ton Ranger, completed in 1934, is the only under age carrier of smaller type in the American navy.

BRITAIN'S FIRST SPECIALLY DESIGNED CARRIER—The Hermes, which is described as a very steady vessel, with little propensity for rolling. All of the British carriers are under age, and all are fast enough to keep up with the battle fleet.



AN OLDER JAPANESE CARRIER—The Akagi, originally laid down as a battle cruiser and converted as a part of the empire's 1924 naval program. Note the unique arrangement of funnels that leaves the flight deck clear. Japan's more recent aircraft carriers have been of the smaller size favored by experts.

AS in the case of capital ships and cruisers, the United States is lagging behind treaty status in aircraft carriers, the spearhead of tomorrow's strategy that introduces fast striking airplanes into naval combat. The United States has four carriers, one over age; Britain has six under age; Japan, four. America needs more for effective use of naval aviation.



A CONVERTED BATTLESHIP is the heavily armed French carrier Bearn. An external gangway 3 feet 9 inches below the flight deck permits personnel to move about clear of planes taking off or landing. Space is so limited on the flight deck, nevertheless, that only about one-fourth of the Bearn's forty planes can be employed simultaneously.