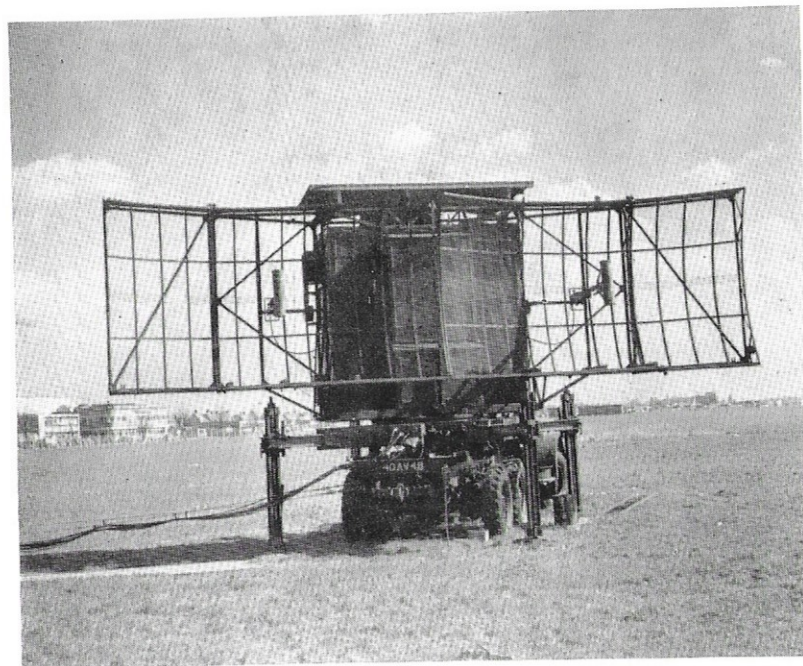


TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR AIRCRAFT

The New Air Traffic Control
Centre for Southern England

As the volume of air traffic throughout the world increases, so it becomes more important that aircraft should fly prescribed routes to avoid the danger of collision. It is the duty of the new control centre to ensure that all aircraft, both civil and military, keep to these routes. The centre is responsible for air traffic control over the southern half of England—an area extending roughly from an east-west line through Birmingham to the middle of the English Channel. To help the control staff in their task, direct telephone lines to Continental airports have been installed so that the controllers have the latest information on airliner movements. In one department, all conversations between pilots and control staff are recorded and kept for checking purposes for some two months. The London control area, which serves many other airfields, both civil and military, as well as London Airport, is one of the busiest in the world.



THE NEW SOUTHERN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE NEAR LONDON AIRPORT: This picture shows the long-range radar scanner and some of the buildings which house additional apparatus. This control centre, which will come into operation next week, will replace separate establishments at Uxbridge and London Airport.

On left—
THE SHORT-RANGE RADAR SCANNER: By using both short- and long-range radar, the control centre can follow an aircraft to a distance of 100 miles.

On right—
THE HEIGHT-FINDING EQUIPMENT: An Elizabethan airliner from London Airport is seen in the background. The equipment at the control centre will ensure that planes keep to the correct routes.

