

# Out of the Skies at 250 M.P.H.

NEW PLANE TESTED.

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION.

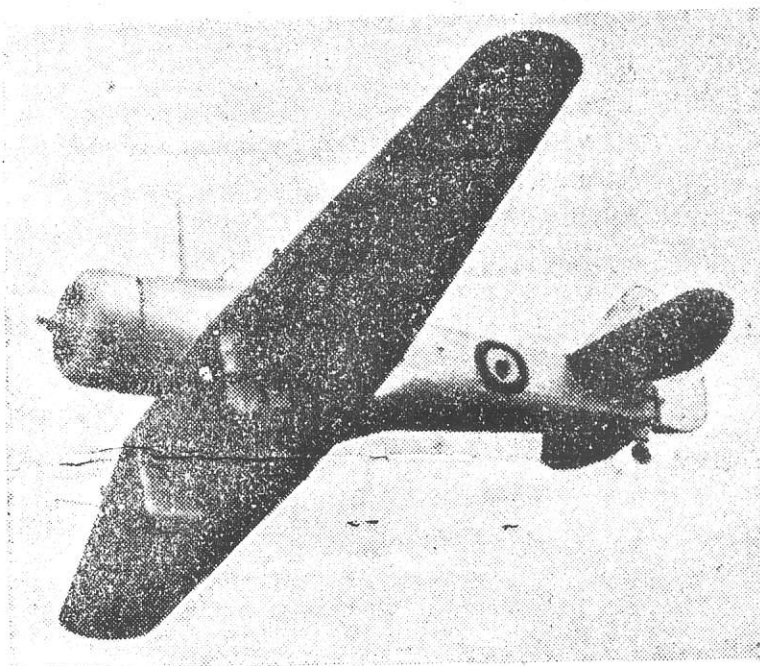
Factory Nearly Completed.

Hurting out of the skies in a power dive at 250 miles an hour and climbing gain until the deep-throated roar of the engine became a faraway mutter thousands of feet above the ground, the first American-built N.A.16 fighting and training plane, underwent all the severe tests set by the R.A.A.F. at Laverton yesterday.

The machine, a low-winged, two-seater monoplane, is a specimen of the type which is to be built for the Federal Government at the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation's factory, at Fisherman's Bend. An initial order for 40 planes has already been made, and it is expected that the construction of larger machines will follow.

A clever and careful measure of streamlining gives this plane, which is short in the wing and fuselage, a rakish appearance. A bulbous glass covering encloses the cockpit, and provides the only break in the symmetry of its lines.

For an hour Squadron-Leader F. R. W. Scherger put the machine through its paces under the critical eyes of officers of the R.A.A.F. and officials of the Aircraft Corporation, and although no official pronouncement was made,



*The NA16, which underwent tests at Laverton yesterday, is the type of machine to be built at the Fisherman's Bend works.*

the tests appeared to be eminently satisfactory.

Flaps on the wings—similar in principle to those introduced on one of the DH86 commercial machines about two years ago—give the plane a low landing speed, and a controllable pitch propeller enables it to bore steeply into the sky. Further tests will be made next week.

Meanwhile, steady progress is being made at the factory, at Fisherman's Bend. The testing ground is almost ready for use, and a staff of workmen is busy on interior details in the engine factory and assembly plant. An indication of the date on which direct construction will commence will probably be given within a fortnight.