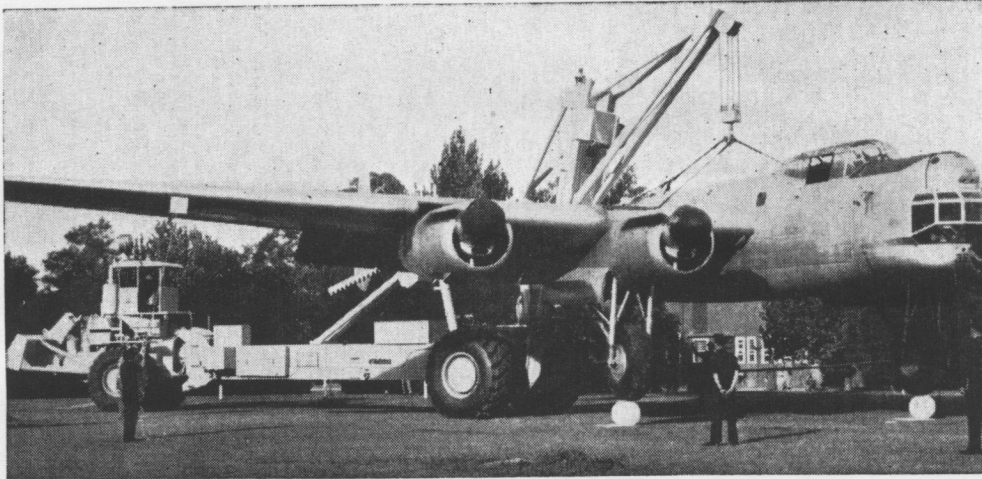


## 50 Tons Touch Was Really Delicate



**In a demonstration of the RAAF's new salvage crane a 20-ton Lincoln hulk was balanced on two meteorological balloons—without mishap!**

The first of seven of these 50-ton crash cranes was officially handed over to the RAAF at Richmond last month.

Air Cdre C. W. Pearce, CBE, DFC, ADC, accepted the crane from Mr. J. W. Debenham, chairman of Australian National Industries.

The Le Tourneau aircraft salvage crane is designed to lift and carry loads up to 50 tons on a DC electric hoist built into the crane.

These juggernauts and the crane can be manoeuvred as delicately as a tap-dancer's toes, and the lifting of a Lincoln hulk, which was then gradually lowered until it was held balanced on two balloons on the ground, won spontaneous applause from the spectators — both service and civil engineering visitors — who were present.

In addition to routine tasks, the new vehicle has a remote

control ability, which allows an operator to stand clear of dangerous areas, such as fires, while the crane continues in the work of salvage or clearance.

Each wheel is driven by its own electric motor housed in the hub of the wheel itself, which obviates the need for gears or other conventional type of transmission. A cutaway drawing and description of an electric wheel is on page 6.

*RAAF NEWS.*