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RECORD FLIGHT BY SWISSAIR DC-8

A Swissair DC-8 airliner has set a new world distance flight record by flying 7460 miles non-stop from Long Beach, California, to Beirut, Lebanon.

The airliner, Swissair's fourth and newest DC-8, Series 53, covered this distance on the first leg of its delivery flight on October 31. It flew a total of 7896 miles in just under 14 hours.

Piloted by a Swiss crew, the aircraft averaged a ground speed of 565 m.p.h. at heights which varied between 33,000 and 42,000 feet. Top speed, achieved with an average tail wind of 50 m.p.h., was 690 m.p.h.

The new DC-8 is powered by four Pratt & Whitney JT3D-3B fan engines of the latest type, and can carry 142 passengers, comprising 16 in first class and 126 in economy class. Swissair will use the aircraft on its North Atlantic services, providing non-stop flights under all weather conditions between Switzerland and the United States.

Laugh a little . . .

The doctor has ordered his patient to eat only fish. The patient enters a restaurant and asks: "Have you got shark, whale or goldfish on your menu?"

"No, we don't have that," says the waiter.

The guest takes a breath of relief and says: "Well, in that case bring me a steak with onions. And please, you will be my witness that I did ask for fish!"

* * *

The traffic officer stops a heavily-laden lorry and asks the driver to come out of his cab.

And where is your tail light?" demands the officer.

The driver goes round to the back of the lorry and scratches his head.

"Well, where is your tail light?" repeats the traffic cop.

"That is my smallest worry," says the driver, "but I would like to know where my damned trailer got to." —Nebelspalter

● RECIPE

LEMON DRINK

4lbs sugar, 1oz citric acid, 1oz tartaric acid, 1oz epsom salt: mix these ingredients. Juice of 4-6 lemons (or oranges, grapefruit) and peel of 3-4 lemons (oranges, grapefruit), 4 pints boiling water. Mix all together in a large basin and stir till sugar has dissolved. When cold bottle. Use in proportion of 1/5 lemon drink to 4/5 water. —L.O.