

PIONEERS OF AIR TAKE OFF TODAY FOR GUATEMALA

Flight to Test Route from Chicago.

BY WAYNE THOMIS.

The first trial flight over a new airway—due south from Chicago to Central America down the Mississippi valley to New Orleans, La., and then across the 1,000 mile wide Gulf of Mexico to Guatemala—will be made today by two American air transportation lines operating as a team. It is another pioneering effort and forecasts establishment of regular service over the route.

The two companies are Chicago & Southern Airlines and American Export Airlines. The first has been flying from Chicago to New Orleans for nearly eight years with an excellent safety record. The second is the newest trans-oceanic aviation company in the United States. They seek federal approval to bring Chicago within 15 hours' flying time of virtually any point between here and the Canal Zone.

Flight Is for Survey Purposes.

Today's flight is being made for survey purposes. Crews will observe conditions on the route, take upper air soundings to obtain meteorological information important in any regular ocean flying service, and make their time and distance estimates from which regular timetables and operating schedules will be composed. No effort will be made to fly at high speeds.

The route lies from Chicago to St. Louis, Memphis, Jackson, Miss., and to the New Orleans combined air and sea port on Lake Pontchartrain. This part of the route will be covered in Chicago and Southern's Douglas air liners. At New Orleans passengers

Proposed Air Line



Route of proposed airway which would put Chicago within 15 hours' flying time of Canal zone. First trial flight will start from city today.

will switch to flying boats operated by American Export Airlines.

Speedy Ships to Be Used.

The first trips will be made in a twin-motored commercial version of the navy's long range Consolidated PBY flying boats. Regular passenger and possibly mail service will be offered in faster four-motor Sikorsky Clipper type boats that will cruise at 200 miles an hour with 16 to 25 passengers and three tons of additional cargo.

These boats will strike out across

the Gulf of Mexico on a course that seldom has been flown, never in regular passenger service. The navy and a few long-range airplanes from Central American republics have made the trip, which is somewhat longer than the New Orleans-Cuba direct route.

Planes to Cross Caribbean.

The first stop after New Orleans will be at Belize, in British Honduras. From there the boats will continue across one corner of the Caribbean sea to Puerto Barrios in Guatemala and will make the final hop to Cristobal on the Atlantic side of the Panama canal without an intervening landing. This tentative schedule is subject to change and to factors that may be uncovered in the survey trips.

This reporter—accepted as a member of the pioneering crew by federal agencies—will have a first glimpse of the route from the Consolidated boat. I will leave this morning on a Chicago and Southern plane for New Orleans. From there I will take off for the gulf flight with American Export Airlines' regular flight personnel.

Route to Aid Trade Position.

The importance of the new route is manifold. It provides Chicago and the 21 states of the Mississippi valley with a preferred position for trade with Latin America. Instead of a three day trip as at present via domestic lines and Pan American Airways from Brownsville, Tex., and Mexico, the shortcut makes it a matter of hours.

American Export lines at Belize, at Puerto Barrios, and perhaps later at Guatemala City, will connect with TACA (Air Transport of Central America), which it has just purchased. TACA operates a network of routes in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama that will enable travel-

ers swiftly to go anywhere they wish in Central America.

The service will add another link to the hemisphere defense that already is chiefly a matter of aviation. The seaports and weather and radio stations that already are being constructed by American Export Airlines and TACA will be available for army or navy air fleets that operate in Latin America.

This first flight is to be a quick round trip. After one night in Cristobal the plane will return north. There probably will be 10 such trips before the Civil Aeronautics Bureau is asked to approve regular passenger service.

BRITISH WARSHIP TORPEDOED; S O S SENT, ROME SAYS

ROME, Nov. 10 (AP).—A Stefani, official Italian news agency, dispatch from Tangier, Morocco, said tonight that an S. O. S. call had been intercepted about 10 a. m. (3 a. m. Chicago time) from a British warship believed to be a cruiser torpedoed by an Italian warship in the Mediterranean off Sicily.

Earlier an Italian high command communique reported a fierce attack by Italian bombing formations on a British naval force in the central Mediterranean in which a battleship and an aircraft carrier were said to have been hit and two British planes shot down.

On the African front, the communique admitted for the first time that the Italians had been forced to retreat from Gallabat (on the Ethiopian-Sudan frontier) after "hot fighting" on Nov. 7, then announced that Gallabat was recaptured yesterday. A counter-attack on Nov. 8 had failed, it was admitted.

