



AVENELL DIVERS, 23-YEAR-OLD HOSTESS ON AN AIR-INDIA PLANE, SMILES FAREWELL AS AN ELDERLY SUNNYASI (ASCETIC MISSIONARY) DESCENDS AT DELHI

INDIAN HOSTESSES

Pretty Anglo-Indian girls serve
their country's leading airline

The dusky girl with the engaging smile (above) is one of 21 native girls who, as hostesses on Air-India's planes, are setting a milestone in the slow emancipation of women in India. Until this year neither Air-India, whose DC-3 passenger planes fly over 3,000 miles of routes, nor India's other native airline, employed hostesses. Nor had women in India done such work before. Full-blooded Indian women refused to serve, so Air-India hired An-

glo-Indian girls, born of British-Indian marriages.

To train their hostesses Air-India, which is run by the Tata enterprises, India's largest native industrial empire, hired an American hostess from TWA. The girls receive \$106.23 a month and their uniforms free. Because of their mixed color, Anglo-Indians are severely stigmatized in race-conscious India. But as hostesses they now have a brighter future than most Anglo-Indian women can expect.

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Indian Hostesses CONTINUED



JUNE ARGENT, 20, served in Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) during the war. The hostess uniform she wears was designed by American TWA hostess.



PEGGY HENDERSON, 21, used to be a model, was in Indian navy during war. Most hostesses live in Bombay, jitterbug for recreation between flights.



MONICA FERNANDEZ, 22, was a teacher. Native airlines have expanded by taking over several airfields built by U.S. Air Forces in India during war.



HOSTESS MONICA GILBERT, 21-year-old Anglo-Indian, shows flight report to a Sikh passenger. The Hindu (right) with caste marks is a landowner.



SHE OFFERS SPICES to a Brahmin. Besides usual chewing gum, three kinds of spices are served to passengers by the hostesses on Air-India planes.



AT END OF FLIGHT assistant pilot, a Sikh who flew in R.I.A.F. during war, signs log. Collecting passengers' autographs is one of Monica's hobbies.



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