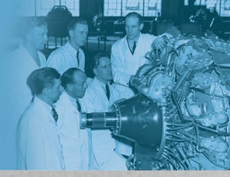
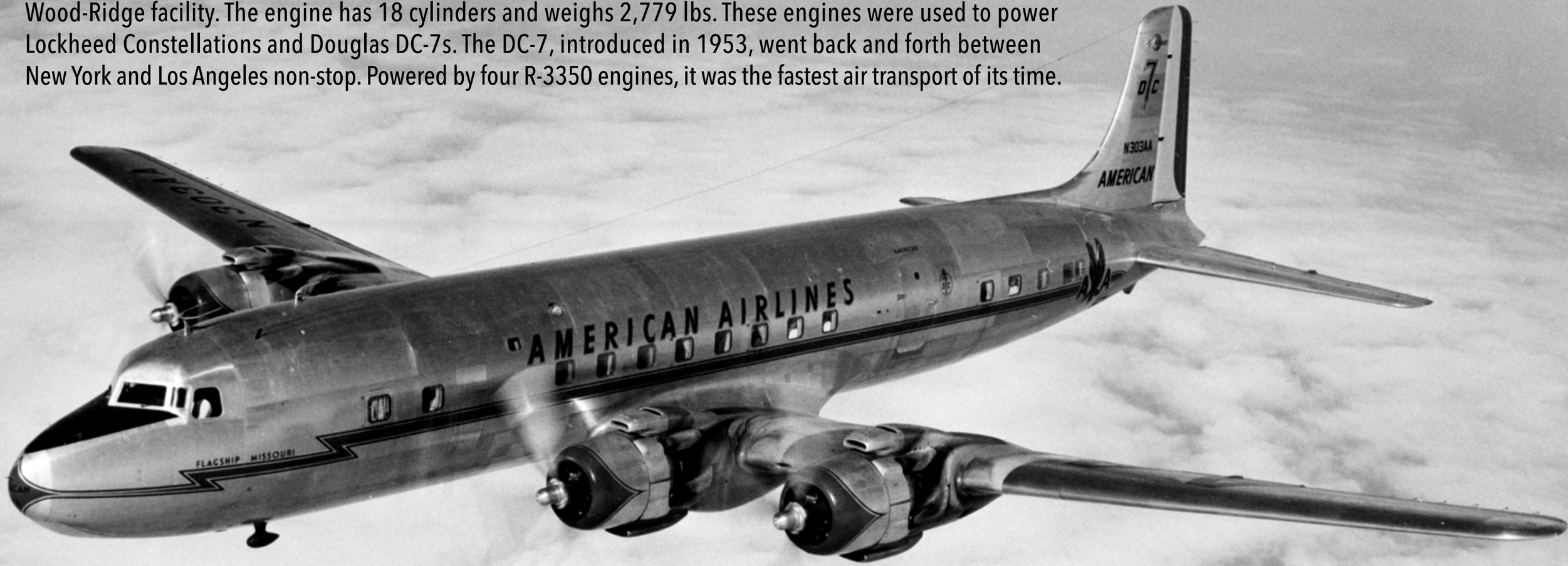
Wright R-3350 Turbo Compound Cyclone



This engine is a Wright R-3350 Turbo Compound Cyclone Engine, produced in the 1950s. This engine, with a maximum of 3,400 horsepower at 1900 revolutions per minute, was produced at Wright Aeronautical's Wood-Ridge facility. The engine has 18 cylinders and weighs 2,779 lbs. These engines were used to power Lockheed Constellations and Douglas DC-7s. The DC-7, introduced in 1953, went back and forth between New York and Los Angeles non-stop. Powered by four R-3350 engines, it was the fastest air transport of its time.



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Wrights produced an earlier version of the R-3350, which powered WWII planes, such as the B-29 bombers. The Turbo Compound you see before you was more advanced because it used some of the gas exhaust to power itself, resulting in a 20% boost in power. However, this development added to the complexity of the engine, and made it less reliable than earlier versions.