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TO: THE MANAGER.

4th May, 1942.

PRODUCTION AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMME.

Confirming our discussion last Monday, the Aircraft Division is proceeding on the following lines:-

1) Tooling for the Interceptor, together with outstanding Engineering work, will continue as at present for 3 or 4 weeks. A minimum quantity of tooling will be made.

At the end of this period every effort must be made to transfer the majority of tooling hours from the Interceptor to the Bomber so that the Bomber will rapidly acquire most of our tooling capacity.

Concentrated action on the Bomber will also be taken by the Planning and Shop Development staffs, with the object of building at least 12 Bombers by early next year.

After the first Interceptor has flown, it is expected that a further order for Interceptors will be forthcoming, but production action in anticipation of this must not be taken at this stage.

It is realised, however, that for continuity of production after the 105th Interceptor more of this type must be built before Bomber manufacture can be developed to a scale sufficient for all fabricating departments.

2) Immediate steps will be taken by all concerned to build up outside production for the Bomber to the maximum possible extent. This is the only way of eventually achieving Bomber production in reasonable numbers, and at the same time relieving our Tooling Department of some of its work. Moreover, Interceptors can only be made simultaneously with Bombers by greatly increasing outside production of parts and components.

3) The Engineering Department will -

- a) Complete Engineering work for the Bomber.
- b) Design an Improved Fighter, one experimental prototype of which will probably be built and will be ready for flight before the end of this year. Production in numbers of this model could start 4 months after a production decision is made, assuming that outside manufacture is on such a scale as to allow 2 types to be handled at once in the Aircraft Factory.
- c) Engineering work will be undertaken with a view to fitting a Turbo Supercharger to the existing Interceptor, together with certain other improvements of an experimental nature.

Data and experience will thereby be accumulated for application to the new design of Fighter.

*J. H. ...*