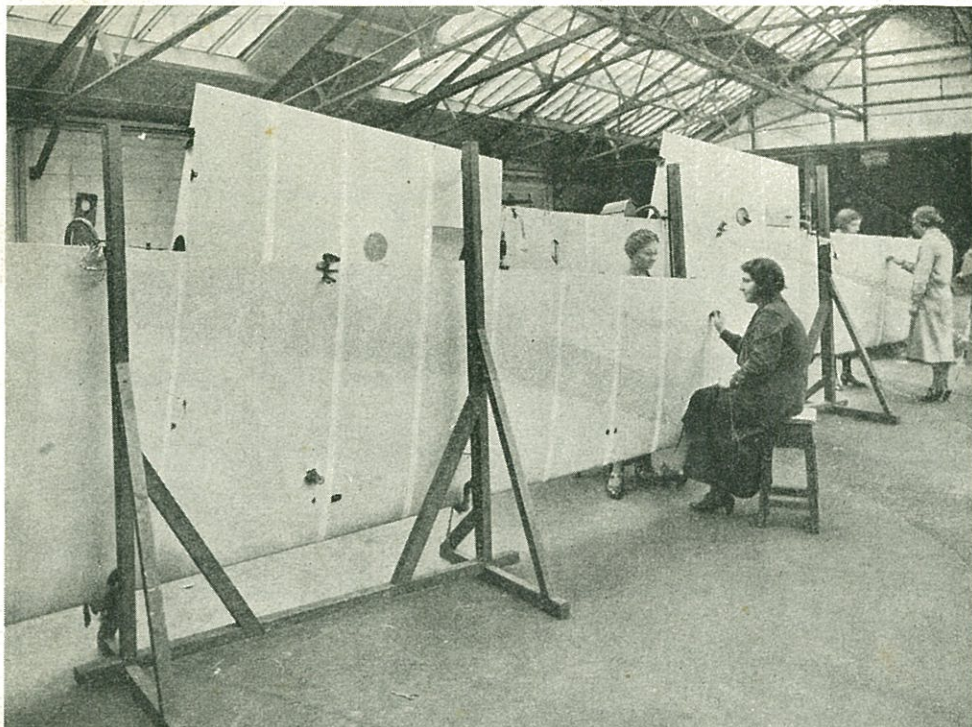
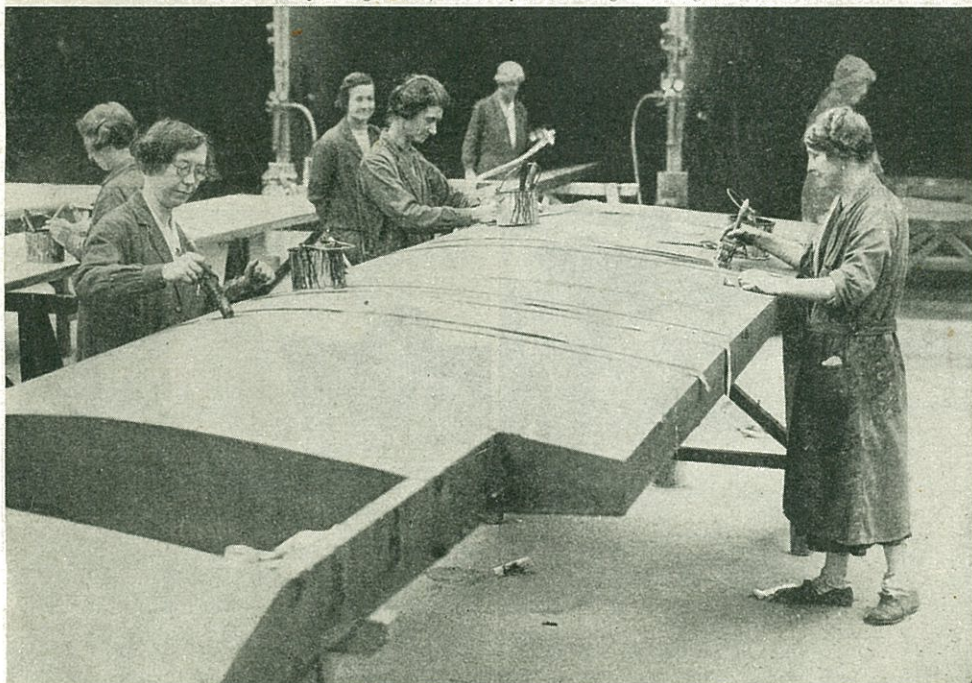


COVERING AND DOPING THE WINGS



The linen for the wings having been cut and joined according to pattern, the next stage is to stretch it over the wooden framework. Here we see expert craftswomen securely fastening the wing-coverings of Leopard Moth machines. The fabric is held to the ribs by strong thread, which is passed through the wings on six-inch needles.



To make the fabric perfectly weatherproof the surfaces are treated with dope, a cellulose substance, which also tends to tighten up and toughen the coverings. An aeroplane of the size of the Puss Moth is required to have a safety factor of nine, that is, its structure must be able to withstand loads and stresses equal to nine times its own weight.