

Woman finds material from Avro Arrow maker

INGERSOLL, Ont. - When Julia Turner bought some used binders, she had no idea they contained classified documents from the makers of the Avro Arrow, the Canadian jet fighter scrapped in 1959.

"It sort of made me jump when I saw the Avro name in them. I thought they could be historic," said Turner, who paid 25 cents each for the 11 binders at a store in London, Ont., last month.

The binders are from the technical library of A.V. Roe Canada.

They contain technical drawings and calculations for airplane and weapons designs. The material dates back to the early 1950s and is marked secret and classified.

Most of the information appears to deal with the CF-100, a successful jet fighter built by the company, not the ill-fated Arrow.

When the Arrow project was scrapped, the federal government ordered the planes destroyed along with all technical data.

But one of the binders does deal with research on the Velvet Glove missile, a weapon which was originally supposed to have been installed in the Arrow but was later scrapped.

Lt-Commander Jeff Agnew, spokesman for the Department of National Defence in Ottawa, said the department's historic archives might be interested in the documents.

But Steven Payne, technical curator for the National Aviation Museum in Ottawa, said material on the Arrow is not as rare as generally believed.

"It's a myth that everything having to do with that program was destroyed," he said. "That's nonsense. People walked out with stuff."

However, Payne said the museum may be interested in the binders.

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