

# aviation intelligence

## CL-44 Cuts U. S. Air Freight Rates

The removal of minimum freight rates by the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Board was a signal for the Flying Tigers Line to make drastic reductions in its charges. Flying Tigers, one of three American airlines operating the Canadair CL-44 swing-tail freighter, claim to have reduced their rates to the point where they are directly competitive with surface carriers' rates. They say their new tariff, based on class and specific commodity rates, offers the most flexible structure in the airfreight industry. Biggest slash in rates was one of 37%, applied to electrical equipment, auto parts, jewelry, instruments and printed matter. Office machinery, glass products and certain other goods received a 22% cut, and the cost of freighting a wide range of other commodities including machinery, drygoods, metals, furs and hides was reduced by 8%. Credit for the reduction is given in Flying Tigers' national advertising campaign to the low operating cost of its CL-44's. Tiger officials said they intend lowering rates still further on some commodities between specific points for steady volume customers.

## Beech Launches Low-Price Contender

An attack on the popular-priced business aircraft market is being launched this month by Beech Aircraft Corporation, with the introduction of the Model 23 Musketeer. Priced to sell in the U. S. for around \$12,000, this is an all-metal low-wing monoplane (picture page 48) with fixed tricycle gear. The standard airplane will be equipped for cross-country flying, featuring essential instrumentation and a new Beech navigation and communications system. The prototype is powered by a 160-hp. Lycoming engine mounting a fixed-pitch Sensenich prop. Model 23 is undergoing flight test and is well along toward FAA certification. First deliveries are scheduled for early fall, 1962.

## Bomarc Makes Its Mark

Shortly after the news of the arrival of the first Boeing Bomarc B at the new Canadian missile base at North Bay, came an announcement that a B missile had successfully intercepted a Regulus II drone flying at twice the speed of sound at an altitude of 50,000 ft. over the Gulf of Mexico. The Bomarc was triggered by the SAGE centre at Montgomery, Ala., 150 miles north of the Eglin AFB launching site, and achieved the interception 150 miles south of the site.

## Twin Offered by Champion

Champion Aircraft Corporation have filled the gap for a low-priced twin-engine aircraft required by clubs and flying schools for upgrading pilots to multi-engine rating. Virtually they have added another engine to the popular Champion Tri-Traveller adding a somewhat stalky gear but getting away with a total cost (in the U. S.) of \$12,500. Two tandem seats are retained in the Lancer, as the new model is called, along with a completely functional layout designed for low initial and operation cost. Certification is currently being sought.

## Comet Production Continues

Press reports in Britain that de Havilland Comet production was to be "abandoned" have been termed misleading by the U. K. company. In fact "several" Comets are still in the works and production will continue as long as justified by the demand. Current orders will be completed by about mid-1962 but de Havilland confidently expects further orders for the versatile jet transport.

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