

# Dignitaries Dignity-Less As Air Ace Swoops Low At Avro Opening Fete.

By ALLAN KENT  
Telegram Staff Reporter

Test Pilot Jan Zurakowski scared the dignity out of several hundred dignitaries yesterday as Avro, Canada staged a breathtaking air show in connection with the formal opening of the Malton aircraft company's big new jet-engine plant.

But it wasn't the falling-leaf descents or the vertical climbs of his CF-100 that shattered the aplomb of the officials and industrialists gathered at the scene.

It was an unexpected low-level swoop over their heads that alarmed the crowd. Without warning the famous war ace zoomed his 17-ton Canadian-designed fighter from behind the new engine plant at over 600 miles per hour, with a deafening scream-roar from the twin Orenda jets manufactured at the Avro plant.

There was one exception in the shaken crowd. The Zurakowski show failed to disturb phlegmatic Defense Production Minister C. D. Howe, who a few minutes before had officially declared the new engine plant open.

The plant, built with Government money and to be operated by Avro Canada's gas turbine division under Thomas S. McCrae, will enable the company to swing into full production of the Orenda engine, which experts say is the equal of any other jet produced in North America.

## MORE SPACE

The increased facilities also give more working space to the company's aircraft division, which manufactures the all-purpose, all-weather CF-100 and also turned out one civilian transport jetliner and then had to stop because of the pressure of defense orders.

The exceptional qualities of both the Orenda and the CF-100 were placed beyond doubt in the minds of the dignitaries yesterday, after a formation fly-past of CF-100's and an Orenda-powered Lancaster and after the Zurakowski aerobatic display.

Zurakowski, who came to Avro Canada recently from the famous Gloster aircraft firm in the United Kingdom, did not show off his "Zurabatic Cartwheel," but he put his sleek silver plane through just about every other aerial manoeuvre in the book.

Highest speeds announced for the performance were "over 600 miles

per hour," but several of his fly-pasts—some of them upside down—were admittedly at a much higher speed. The CF-100's highest announced speed was a 638 m.p.h. flight from Toronto to Montreal, but it is no secret the aircraft has done better than that.

## OLD PLANES TOO

Four Lancasters—manufactured at Malton during the war by Avro's predecessor, Victory Aircraft, and converted since by A. V. Roe Canada Ltd.—also took part in the air show.

The familiar, authoritative thunder of their piston-driven engines (Rolls-Royce Merlins) came as a relief after the weird, terrifying sound of the jets.

One of the old Lancs, however, carried two Merlins and two Orendas. It is an experimental plane or "flying testbed"—popularly known as a flying bedstead. Twice it flew at low level overhead at about 300 m.p.h. using only its Orendas, the bed-fellow Merlins switched off and their propellers feathered.

The Zurakowski aerobatic show dispelled most of the crowd's disappointment that the Jetliner and an Orenda-powered Sabre jet did not put on performances as expected.

After the formal opening ceremonies and the air show, visitors were conducted on an extensive tour of the engine plant where Orendas are already being run off the production lines at a rate which security says must not be disclosed.

Heading the tour through the plant were Mr. Howe and Avro Canada's president and general manager, Crawford Gordon Jr., together with RCAF Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, Deputy Defense Minister Drury, Deputy Defense Production Minister Brophy, Avro Director J. S. D. Tory, Sir Roy Dobson of the A. V. Roe Co. in England, and others.

The President and Directors

of

A. V. ROE CANADA LIMITED

Cordially Invite You to Attend the Official Opening

of the Company's New Jet Engine Plant

by

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE C. D. HOWE, P.C., LL.D.

Minister of Defence Production

2.30 P.M., Monday, September 29, 1952

at Malton, Ontario

R.S.V.P.  
TO MISS A. UNDERWOOD  
TELEPHONE: CHERRY 1-2651

( OVER )

OFFICIAL  
OPENING  
AVRO CANADA  
JET ENGINE PLANT

GUEST

MRS. P. R. COPE

SEPTEMBER 29 1952