

# AIRLINE WINGS

by DES MCGILL



## A NORTH AMERICAN DEBUT

IN 1946 A NEWLY-FORMED COMPANY, **A.V. ROE, CANADA, LTD.**, MALTON, ONT., CARRIED OUT AN ANALYSIS INDICATING GOOD PROSPECTS FOR A HIGH-SPEED MEDIUM RANGE INTER-CITY JET AIRLINER.

**AVRO C-102 'JETLINER'**—A FIRST FOR CANADA & NORTH AMERICA.

ON **AUG. 10, 1949**, THE JETLINER LIFTED OFF THE RUNWAY AT TORONTO AIRPORT ON ITS MAIDEN FLIGHT TO BECOME THE FIRST JET TRANSPORT TO FLY IN NORTH AMERICA. WORLD'S FIRST WAS BRITISH 'COMET' ONLY **13 DAYS EARLIER!**

IT WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED AS A **30-60** PASSENGER AIRCRAFT POWERED BY **2** ROLLS-ROYCE 'AVON' ENGINES OF **6,500** LBS. THRUST EACH. UNAVAILABILITY OF THESE POWER PLANTS NECESSITATED REDESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE **4** R.R. 'DERWENT' V'S OF **3,500** LBS. THRUST EACH. THE 'DERWENT' WAS TOO GREEDY FOR AIRLINE DIGESTION & RANGE DROPPED FROM **1,200** TO **700** MILES. REDESIGN UPPED COST TO **\$750,000**. MAX. SPEED **450** M.P.H. & GROSS WT. **60,000** LBS. WING SPAN **98** FT.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES (NOW **AIR CANADA**) CONTINUED UNTIL **1951** BUT THE AIRLINE'S INTEREST WANED. UNABLE TO FIND A CUSTOMER, AVRO DROPPED THE PROJECT. THUS ENDED A DESIGN THAT SEEMED TO PROMISE CANADIAN LEADERSHIP IN THE JET TRANSPORT FIELD.