

BULWARK of Canada's Air Defences is the Avro Canada CF-100, Mark 4, a product of Avro Aircraft Limited, Malton, Ont.

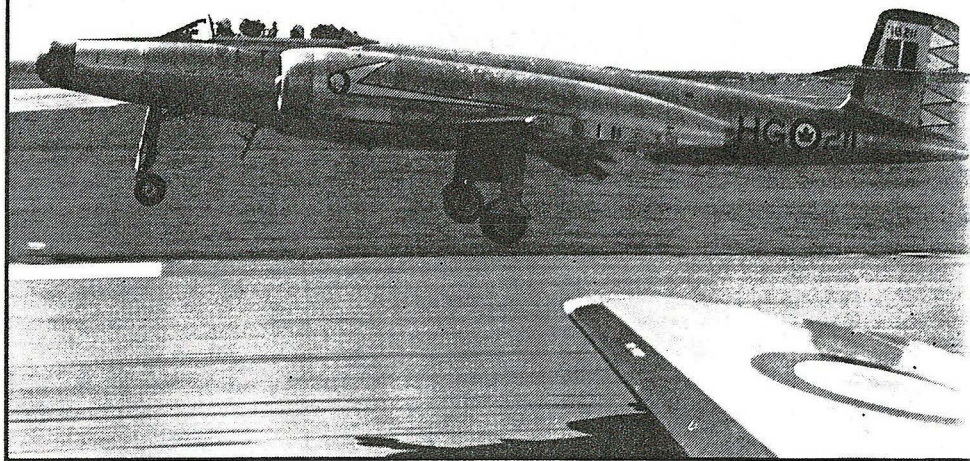
Canada's first mass-produced home-grown fighter, the CF-100 is the outcome of a specification laid down by RCAF planners in 1945. During 1946, discussions started between the RCAF and the embryo A. V. Roe Canada Limited, which at that time had only about 300 employees. Before the year was out, a start had been made on the preliminary design work and by early 1947 the project was well under way.

Airborne: The Mk. 1 CF-100 prototype, powered by Rolls-Royce Avons of 6,000 lbs. st. th., first took to the air on January 19, 1950. Two Mk. 1's were built (one later being destroyed in a crash), and both were fitted with Avons. The Mk. 2 variant differed from the Mk. 1 mainly in that it was powered by Avro Canada's own Orenda 1. The prototype of this version first flew on June 20, 1951, and in all, five were built. None of the Mk. 1's or 2's had any armament.

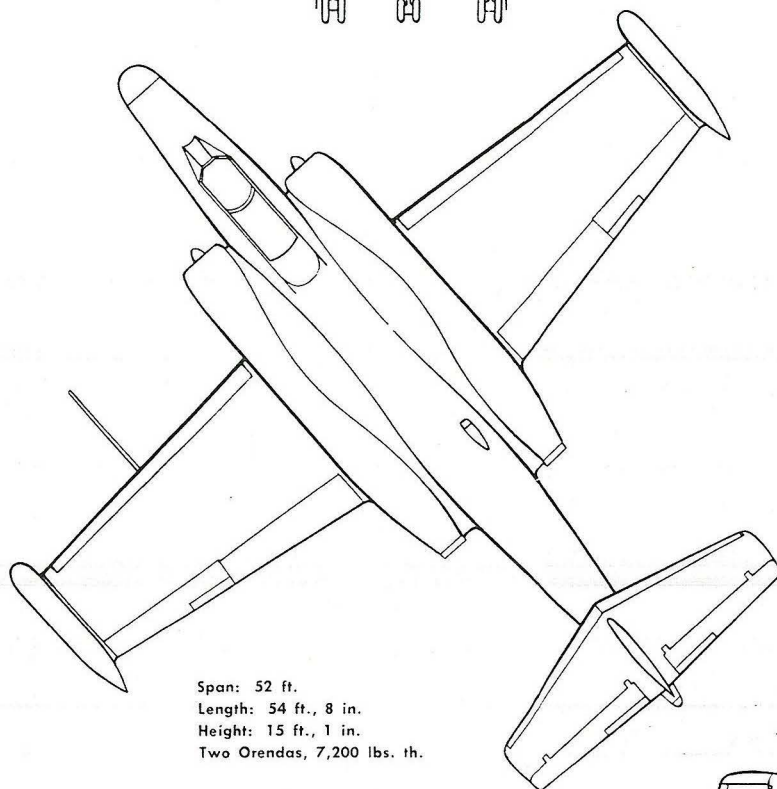
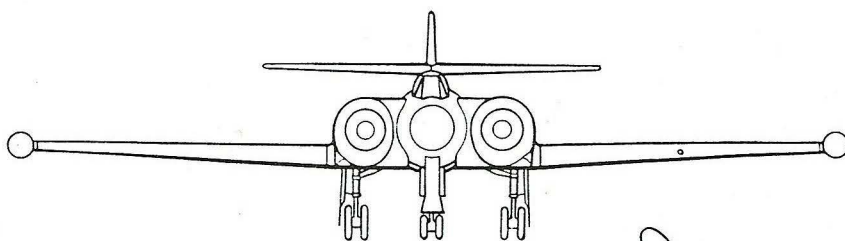
Serious production began with the Mk. 3, which was equipped with Hughes APG-33 fire control radar and armed with a ventral gun pack bearing eight .50 Browning machine guns. By late summer of 1953, the last of 70 production Mk. 3's was delivered to the RCAF (thus bringing the total number of all marks built to 82 — two Mk. 1 prototypes, and ten pre-production airplanes of Mk. 2, 3, and 4). The first production Mk. 4 flew late in the fall of 1953 and deliveries to the Air Force, which now has several operational CF-100/4 squadrons, were at a steadily increasing pace until recently when a production stretchout was ordered by the Government. It is understood that in all, approximately half of the 600 Mk. 4's on order for the RCAF have been delivered.

Big Wind: First Mk. 4's were powered by Orenda 9's, officially rated at 6,500 lbs. but more recent variants have the Series 11, rated at about 7,200 lbs. th.

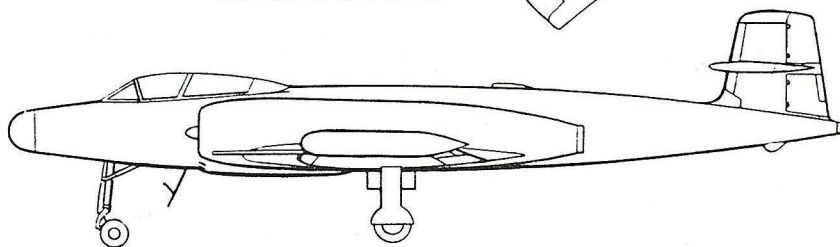
Frequently described as the most powerfully armed fighter in the world, the CF-100/4 is armed with both guns and rockets. It retains the ventral gun pack which first made its appearance on the Mk. 3, but rocket pods have been added to the wingtips.



Avro Aircraft CF-100



Span: 52 ft.
Length: 54 ft., 8 in.
Height: 15 ft., 1 in.
Two Orendas, 7,200 lbs. th.



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