

Wings Gallery

AVRO CANADA C-102 JETLINER

It was on August 10, 1949 that the first Canadian designed jet aircraft took to the air, the Avro Canada C-102 Jetliner. It was also the first jet transport in North America having preceded the Boeing 707 by almost exactly five years. The aircraft in fact came within two weeks of being the first jet transport in the world to fly, but this honour was denied it when the de Havilland Comet flew on July 27, 1949. The Jetliner was well ahead of its time in that it was designed to be an inter-city jet and was not intended to be in direct competition with the longer range Comet. The aircraft was powered with four Rolls-Royce Derwent 5 jet engines with a thrust of 3,500 lbs each. The first prototype was designed to be capable of carrying 40 to 50 passengers depending upon the seat pitch arrangement with subsequent aircraft being stretched to accommodate a larger number. The machine cruised at a speed of 458 miles per hour at 30,000 feet and all performance figures either met or exceeded the design figures. Unfortunately, due to the emphasis on the CF-100 during the Korean War crisis, the second prototype was never completed. After being used as a "bandit" aircraft by the Royal Canadian Air Force in conjunction with jet interceptor exercises and after a lengthy service in California flying with the Hughes Aircraft Company carrying sophisticated electronic equipment, the first prototype was finally broken up and only the nose section now remains stored in the National Aeronautical Collection facility at Rockcliffe.



Painting and explanation by R.W. Bradford

11½ x 16 prints are available from the National Museum of Science and Technology
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1867 St. Laurent Boulevard Ottawa Ontario K1A 0M8