



THEN AND NOW. Displayed at the Armed Forces Exhibit of this year's CNE, the replica of the Silver Dart, built by members of the RCAF, and the model of the Avro Arrow, represented 50 years' of flight in Canada. Left to right in the picture are: Jan Zurakowski, Avro test pilot; F/L J. F. Woodman, RCAF test pilot; and LAC Lionel McCaffery, one of the builders of the Silver Dart project.



CHAMPIONS of NATO aerial gunnery contest with teams from the air forces of the U. K., France, the Netherlands and Belgium. Members of the RCAF Sabre team are front row, 1 to r: F/L W. H. Norn, and F/O D. Barker; back row: F/O Paul, F/L R. MacGarva, and F/L C. J. Henry. They won first place.

Northwest Viscounts

Vickers Viscounts in the livery of Northeast Airlines are now serving Montreal on the Boston, Philadelphia and Washington route. The Northeast Viscounts have weather radar, and retractable steps on the forward door.

Comet 4 Shake-Down

Formal delivery on the first of British Overseas Airways Corporation's fleet of 19 de Havilland Comet 4 aircraft was scheduled to begin at the end of September following a shake-down period of 100 hours on intercontinental flights. The first production Comet 4 (G-APDA) was in Canada in mid-September and made calls at Gander, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver and then continued on to Mexico and South America before returning to England via New York towards the end of the month. John Cunningham, de Havilland Chief Test Pilot, captained the Comet 4 on its flights, with senior pilots of BOAC and other airlines taking the controls for portions of the flights. Earlier in the month, the aircraft flew to Hong Kong for opening of the new Kai Tak Airport, returning to Hatfield in an historic, one daylight flight from the Pacific coast of Asia. The journey was made in three hops and goes in the books as the fastest long flight made to date by an airliner. The 7,925 statute miles were covered in 16 hours 16 minutes flying time at an average of 487 mph, with halts of 60 minutes at Bombay and 66 minutes at Cairo. Meanwhile, another Comet 4 loaned to BOAC prior to formal delivery has been in daily use checking out aircrew. The program called for training of 261 pilots and 130 complete aircrews.

Champion Conference

Champion's 14th Annual Aviation Spark Plug and Ignition Conference is scheduled for Oct. 8-10 at the Secor Hotel, Toledo, Ohio.

BEA Viscounts

British European Airways' annual report for the year ending March 31, 1958, shows the airline flew its Vickers Viscount fleet to profits of \$6,450,000. BEA Chairman Lord Douglas of Kirtleside, in reporting the airline's most successful year to date, described use of the Viscount as "an important factor" in establishing over-all profits at a record \$2,800,000 plus. During the year, BEA operated an average fleet of 20.1 Viscount V.802s, 25.1 Viscount V.701s and had an average of one of the faster Viscount V.806s available during the last three months under review. The V.802 aircraft showed a net profit over all costs of \$4,170,000, or about \$207,000 per aircraft. Over-all profit on the V.701 aircraft was \$2,400,000. The V.806 operation showed a loss of \$210,000, to be expected with the aircraft just going into service. Average load factor on the V.802 fleet was 69.2%; on the V.701 it was 68.1%.

Lord Douglas in presenting the report indicated that BEA was convinced of a need for lower air fares in the future to fill increased capacity and keep operations profitable. Early last month this attitude was given substance by a BEA announcement of 40% reductions on regular fares for week-end tourist excursion flights between London and Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast.

Space Exploration

A vehicle which could be launched from an earth-bound satellite for an unmanned reconnaissance mission to Mars and back has been designed by the Boeing Airplane Co. The vehicle, if developed, would be assembled at the satellite in orbit around the earth and its mission, from launch to recovery, would take about three years. Authors of the study, Henry K. Hebler and Richard D. White, said the Martian vehicle would measure about 40 feet across and weigh 600 lb. Launched at least 400 miles above the earth, the vehicle would be powered by an ion accelerator and would escape at low continuous thrust to an Earth-Mars transfer orbit. It would then descend slowly to a Martian orbit where it would optically observe the surface of the planet from an altitude of about 9,000 miles. Power would be supplied from solar batteries. The vehicle is not being considered for construction by Boeing at the present time.

Transcontinental 707's

American Airlines has produced tentative schedules for its first Boeing 707 flights across the United States early in January. First service is scheduled New York/Los Angeles, non-stop in both directions, followed by service to Chicago and San Francisco. Schedules will trim present piston aircraft times by about 40 percent, with Los Angeles/New York scheduled for 4½ hours.