

usual methods of maritime warfare. Let us see whether there is any substitute for the manned fighter in our defence against bomber attacks.

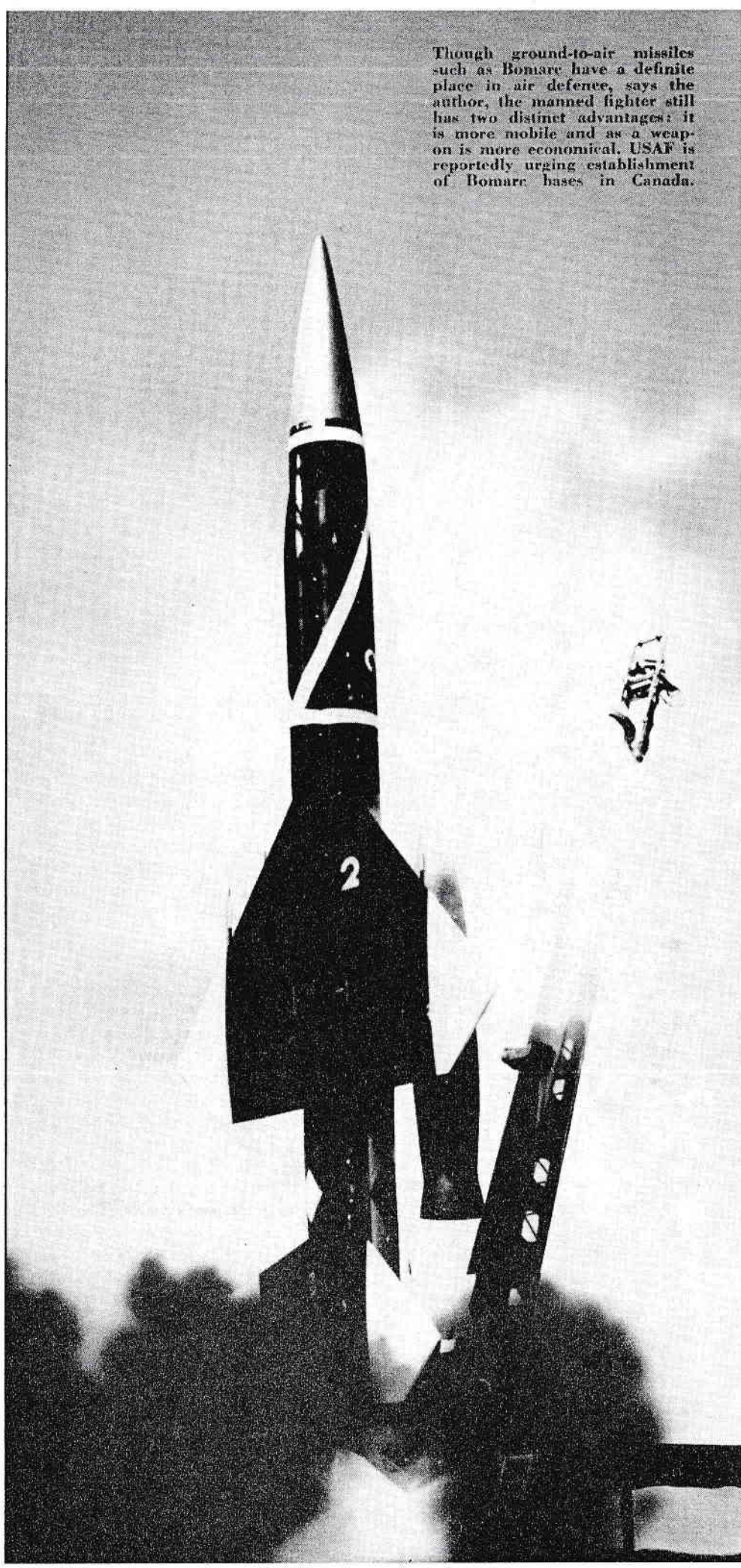
**Unidentified Targets:** The principal day-to-day job of any air defence system is that of surveillance. Because even a single nuclear bomb can cause so much destruction, we cannot allow any unidentified aircraft to penetrate our air space. Do the proponents of "missiles only" really wish to fire one of their soulless weapons at every unidentified aircraft? The slaughter among innocent civilians would be prodigious, as hardly a day passes when one or more aircraft do not stray from the routes laid down in their flight plans, report their positions wrongly, or do not report them at all because of a failure in their communication equipment.

As long as an error in navigation or in flight procedure is not an offence punishable by death for pilot, crew, and passengers, air force fighters must take off to see who the "unidentified" are. Day after day, month after month, year after year, they intercept peaceful users of the air lanes. Heaven forbid that even once those responsible for air defence should say, "No use going up, it'll be some fellow off his course again." That may be the day when the H-bomb-laden bombers come over.

The simple truth is that radar chains without fighter aircraft are of no use—not even to Strategic Air Command, as the latter would have to go off the ground, nuclear bombs and all, every time an "unidentified" appeared on some far-off radar screen. The justification for an aircraft such as the CF-105 is that it provides the guardians of the skies with a vehicle capable of overtaking the fastest "unidentified" manned aircraft that will be flying in the next few years, and with all the gadgets necessary for the job of intercepting, identifying, and, if necessary, killing it. Effective as ground-to-air missiles undoubtedly would be in war, they cannot do the work that air defence must do in peace-time, the work incidentally which, just because it is done, helps to deter would-be aggressors from attacking.

**Missiles vs. Fighter:** So far so good. There still remains the objection that ground-to-air missiles can *kill* bombers

Though ground-to-air missiles such as Bomarc have a definite place in air defence, says the author, the manned fighter still has two distinct advantages: it is more mobile and as a weapon is more economical. USAF is reportedly urging establishment of Bomarc bases in Canada.



(Continued on page 127)