

aviation intelligence

Comets Return

The Royal Canadian Air Force's two de Havilland Comet 1As should be plying Canadian skies again by the time this is read. RCAF crews completed re-acceptance flights and training on the aircraft at de Havilland's plant at Hatfield, England, during September. The two aircraft, powered by de Havilland Ghost turbojet engines, have undergone extensive modification at the de Havilland plant and have been certified for further service.

PAA at Frobisher

Pan American World Airways plans to back up its use of Frobisher as a refueling stop for over-the-Pole operations with construction of a 24-bed staff house and establishment of a spares depot at the Canadian Arctic airport. The facilities will permit the airline to slip crews at the new halfway point for services from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle-Portland to London and Paris. Regular service of four round trips a week from the California centres began this month and a fifth weekly round trip connecting Seattle-Portland with Europe is to go into operation shortly. All told, PAA sees its Frobisher commitment running to \$500,000, exclusive of spares. The PAA facilities will be in addition to those covered in the half a million dollar program announced recently by the Department of Transport which took over the Frobisher field from the RCAF on Sept. 1.

RCAF Goes UHF

Collins Radio Company of Canada Ltd., Toronto, has been awarded a production contract valued at \$8.3 million for UHF airborne transceivers, by the Department of Defense Production. The RCAF have planned conversion from VHF to UHF communication for some years. After evaluation of available equipment they selected the Collins designed AN/ARC-52. This radio has been adapted to meet RCAF requirements and will be known in Canada as the AN/ARC-552. The AN/ARC-552 will be manufactured in Collins' Toronto plant. The AN/ARC-27 (predecessor of the AN/ARC-52) was produced for the RCN and RCAF at this same facility.

DC-4s for Arctic

Pacific Western Airlines of Vancouver has put two more DC-4s into service. The company has already taken delivery on one of the aircraft, both of which are specially modified for Arctic use. PWA has been designated the re-supply carrier for the Western section of the Distant Early Warning radar line.

Malton Expansion

Transport Minister George Hees has indicated that his department will proceed with original plans expansion of facilities at Toronto's Malton and Island Airports. In Toronto for the Canadian International Air Show annual dinner, the minister gave assurances the projected \$25,000,000 program aimed at turning Malton into a first-class international terminal with the Island to serve as a main satellite would be carried out. While he made no references to the reports, Mr. Hees scotched by implication prevalent rumors of plans to turn Malton facilities over to military and manufacturers' test and acceptance operations, with a new commercial field being established in the vicinity of Maple north of the city.

Conway Thrust

Rolls-Royce Ltd. has quoted take-off thrust of its civil Conway By-pass turbojet at 16,500 pounds, the highest yet for engines specified for civil airline operation. The Conway has so far been specified by airlines for 63 of the jet airliners now on order throughout the world. Trans-Canada Air Lines led the field by designating Conways for its six Douglas DC-8s.

TWA Viscounts

Trans World Airlines is said to be only contract inking ceremonies away from purchase of 22 Rolls-Royce Dart powered Vickers Viscounts for its domestic fleet. The Viscount order is described as firm and in no way contingent on efforts of Howard Hughes to pry long range Bristol Britannias loose from present committed production for early delivery to TWA. On an initial 15 of the 22 Viscounts, Trans World will get almost immediate delivery of aircraft which were originally designated for Capital Airlines before financing problems forced the carrier to take a second look at plans for expansion of its turbo-prop fleet. The remaining seven TWA Viscounts would be delivered after present orders are filled.

TCA Extends Order

Trans-Canada Airlines has extended its purchase of Collins Radio Company Automatic Pilot Systems with a half-million dollar plus order of equipment for the remaining 33 of its projected 51 aircraft Viscount fleet. Eighteen Collins AP-101 systems have already been installed in TCA Viscounts. Delivery of the additional 33 systems will begin in December for installation in Viscounts now in service with TCA and in new aircraft as they are delivered with the order to be completed in March of next year.