

# Reveal British Air Expert Told Canadian Jet Secrets

## Author Toured Avro Plant On Visit Here

By JIM HORNICK

The only man who seems to know, isn't in any position to reveal how a mysterious leak released a flood of information about Canada's new top-secret, very confidential, hush-hush jet fighter.

It was no bearded spy that wormed through the iron security curtain surrounding the Malton plant of A. V. Roe. It was a scholarly, soft-spoken Britisher who is now enjoying a peaceful ocean cruise back to the land of his forefathers.

Charles W. Cain, one of the world's top-ranking experts on aircraft identification, recently visited the Roe plant and was conducted on a tour which furnished him with sufficient information to write for Aviation Week a 2,000-word article on another new Avro development.

It is the story of the new jet transport plane being built at the Malton plant.

In its Nov. 1 issue, Aviation Week published Cain's first story with the footnote: "It was written by Charles W. Cain, editor, until its discontinuance this summer, of The Aeroplane Spotter, noted British aeronautical journal. Mr. Cain is in the United States at the invitation of Aviation Week. On a side trip to Canada he toured the plant of A. V. Roe Canada Ltd."

Little does Mr. Cain realize the furore his side trip created. The RCMP has promised a full-dress investigation of his second assignment for the New York publication, a detailed description of the twin-jet XC-100 so complete that the chief of Canada's air staff is in a tizzy.

Air Vice Marshal W. A. Curtis said in Ottawa that prosecutions would be launched if the RCMP unearths evidence that the XC-100 disclosures constitute a violation of the Official Secrets Act.

Aviation Week, meanwhile, is saying little. William Kroger, its assistant managing editor, admitted yesterday that the story was the handiwork of Mr. Cain but knew nothing of his sources. The writer himself is on his way home and unable to contribute anything to enlighten either RCMP or RCAF.

Officials at Avro are convinced the information came from outside sources. They neither confirm nor deny that the Briton visited their plant and brush aside inquiries about Mr. Cain with a brusque: "No comment."

Murray Willer, assistant sales manager at the Malton plant, says no visitors have been permitted into the fighter plane division for a year, since initial work began on the prototype model of the XC-100.

A Toronto aviation editor, however, says a trip into the fighter division would be unnecessary for an expert of Mr. Cain's qualifications. "All he'd have to do would be look at a blueprint or assemble stray bits of gossip to duplicate on paper a fairly accurate replica of the machine," the Toronto man said.

Little guesswork was involved, he added, in writing an article so packed full of detail.

Where Mr. Cain picked up the detail, as far as the air force is concerned, is still one of the greatest peacetime mysteries in the annals of Canadian aviation.

Ottawa, Nov. 12 (Staff).—The RCAF has asked the RCMP to investigate alleged leakage of information which led to publication of information about the new jet fighter plane nearing completion at Malton's Avro plant.

If it is found that any employee of the company is implicated there may be a charge under the Official Secrets Act. Section 4 of the act would make any employee liable if he revealed to any one facts which he had picked up by reason of his work in the plant. It would not have to be proved in this case that the information was of use to a foreign power.

There is also some liability for publication of the information, but it seems less likely in this case that any action would be taken.