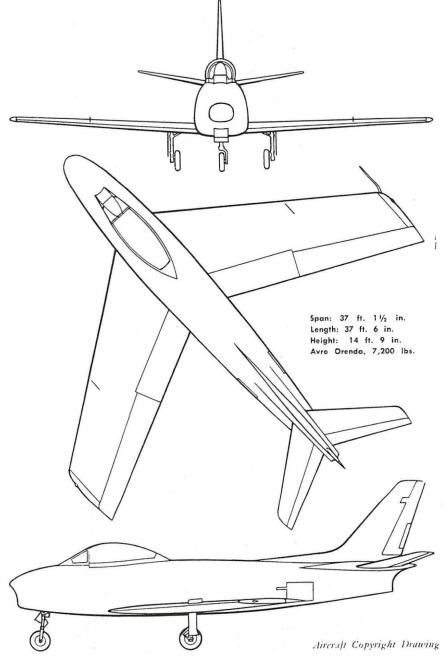


Canadair Sabre



ANADA'S most significant material contribution to NATO's air defences is symbolized by Canadair's F-86 Sabre. In operational service with the RCAF's Air Division in Europe, this Canadian version of the modern world's most ubiquitous fighting airplane is also in service with the RAF, the Turkish Air Force, the Greek Air Force and the USAF. The USAF used them in Korea and at least a few are known to be now in service with U.S. Air National Guard units in the Detroit area.

Plentiful: Nearly 1,400 Sabres of several marks have now been turned out by the Montreal plant of Canadair Limited, and of this total, nearly 600 have been turned over to the air forces already mentioned. With the exception of 120 which were sold outright to the U.S., all of these aircraft have been sent out into the western world as part of Canada's Mutual Aid contribution.

Canadian Sabre production has come a long way since the first contract for 100 aircraft was signed in August, 1949. The first production aircraft, an F-86A, received the designation Mk. 1. Only one Mk. 1 was built, being followed in series production by the F-86E, Mk. 2 and Mk. 4. The majority of the Canadair Sabres which have so far been produced are of these two latter models, which differ only in details and are both powered by the General Electric J-47, as was the Mk. 1.

New Wing: Towards the end of the production run of the Mk. 4 F-86E, the "6-3" wing was incorporated, a modification which in reality turned the airplanes into F-86F's.

The Mk. 3 was the production prototype of the Orenda Sabre (the Orenda had earlier been tried out in a North American-built F-86A, the installation being made in California by North American Aviation). The Mk. 5 was the first production version of the Orenda Sabre, being powered by the Orenda 10 of 6,500 lbs. th. It is understood that about 300 of this model were built before being succeeded by the Mk. 6. This differs physically from its predecessor mainly in that it is powered by the Orenda 14 of some 7,200 lbs. th. and thus has marked performance superiority. Some Sabre 6's have already been delivered to Air Division squadrons in Europe.

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