

'LIKE OUTSIZED EGGS' PRESSED PAPER PODS HOLD CF-100 ROCKETS

By WILLIAM STEVENSON

Possibly the world's most expensive laboratory has been used in testing the latest rocket-firing version of the RCAF's twin-jet CF-100 fighter. It is the Avro Canada Jetliner, only one of its kind in the world and one of the few aircraft that could carry engineers and designers who wanted to keep pace with flight trials of the fighter.

Flew Alongside CF-100

With movie cameras and binoculars, these observers flew alongside an experimental Mark IV version during rocket-firing trials over the Consecon range southwest of Trenton RCAF base. But one of the most remarkable shots they obtained in order to study the effect of rocket-firings, came from the camera of photographer Vern Morse, ordered up to get publicity photographs only.

Sixty rockets are fired from two wing-tip pods. Between the time that the pod "nose" explodes and the discharge of the last rocket, only one-eighth of a second elapses.

"I waited for the yellow flash of the exploding pod," said Morse. "At exactly that moment, I pressed the camera release without attempting to glimpse the rockets myself. Even at 1/1,000th of a second, lens wide open, I just caught them all in the air."

The result is regarded as a remarkable air-airshot. It gave air engineers exactly the information they needed on certain aspects of the firing of grouped rockets.

To contain the clusters of rockets, the chief of Avro Canada's experimental division, Jim Kenny, developed pressed-paper pods which were both light and expendable. The pods are constructed from pressed paper, through which liquid glue is sucked under pressure. Shaped like outside eggs, they each hold 30 rockets and shed both nose and tail-cone during firing. Then the pods themselves are jet-tisoned.

Pilot during the trials for Avro



PETER COPE, test pilot at Avro, flew new CF-100 during many of rocket tests

was Peter Cope, a graduate of the Empire Test Pilots School in Britain and a wartime fighter pilot who has been test flying ever since.