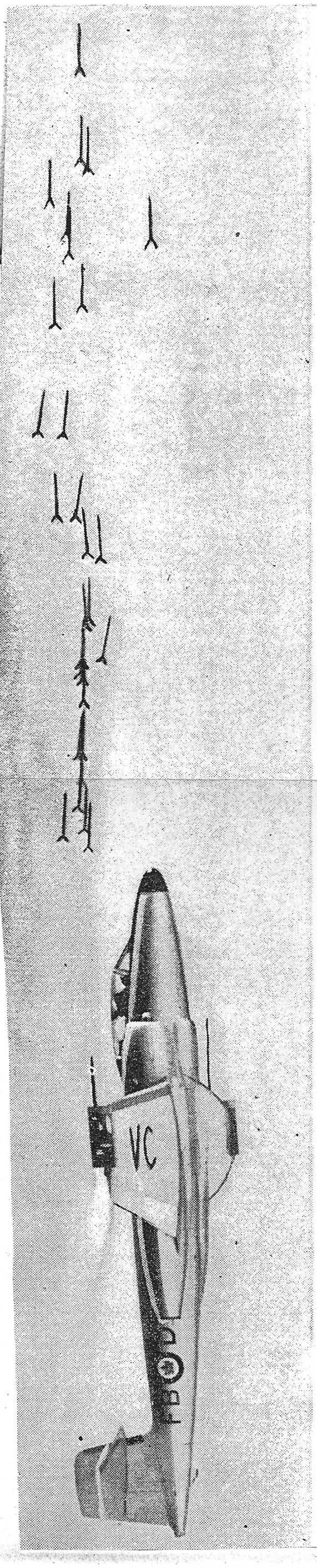

Quicker Than the Eye Was This Salvo of 29 Rockets Launched From One Wing-Tip Pod by This New Version of Royal Canadian Air Force's CF-100 Jet Fighter

But camera, stopped down to 1/1000th of a second caught radar-aimed, high explosive missiles just after they were fired over the Consecon range southwest of the Trenton air base

Newest Canadian Jet Can Fire 60 Rockets; Passes Tests by RCAF

By JAMES HORNICK

Trenton, Feb. 17 (Staff). — The RCAF has successfully completed the first firing tests of its newest fighter, a supersonic jet which packs 60 radar-aimed rockets.

The aircraft is the Mark IV version of the all-weather CF-100, designed and built at Malton by Avro Canada Ltd. Only the prototype of this particular model is in existence. By late summer, however, it is predicted that the Mark IV will be in mass production.

Although the Mark IV already carries the heaviest disclosed rocket load of any aircraft in the world, Avro engineers are preparing fuselage modifications which will permit the installation of an additional streamlined rocket compartment slung between the plane's two engines. Rocket capacity may, with this device, rise as high as 100.

(One of the newest all-weather interceptors of the United States Air Force, the Lockheed F-94C, Starfire, carries only 24 rockets against the Mark IV's 60. In the Starfire they are enclosed in a nose compartment covered by snap-open doors.)

So deadly are the long, slender rockets, it is said, that only one hit would be required to knock down an enemy bomber. The explosive force would be sufficient to blast a lethal cavity in the bomber's tough hide.

The rockets' striking power was demonstrated for several days on the RCAF's Consecon Ranges, southwest of here. Observers report that huge, fiery craters in the ground were the only visible remnants of their force.

Once the Mark IV picks up a target, either on its own search radar or from a ground station, automatic controls relieve the crew of guesswork. They virtually lock the aircraft onto its quarry, deviating course to correspond with the changing course of the simulated foe. The rocket aiming is equally automatic, assuring a high ratio of hits for the amount of ammunition expended.

The Mark IV carries its rockets in two pods made from pressed paper. One pod is mounted on the tip of each wing. Once the rockets have been discharged, singly, in groups or in salvo, the pilot can jettison the pods by pressing a button in the cockpit.

The rockets used on the Consecon ranges are believed to have been of 2.75-inch diameter. They were produced in the United States. Later, Mark IV's will be equipped with rockets made in Canada.

Previous models of the CF-100 were armed with six 50-calibre machine guns, the same armament carried by F-86 Sabres of the U.S. Air Force which regularly engage Russian-built MIG-15's over Korea.

The Canadian Government hoped originally to arm some of its long-range jets with 30-millimetre cannon. It was found, however, that this weapon is still undergoing development in Britain and that it will likely not be available for export in quantity for some time.

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