



NAMES: JAN ZURAKOWSKI & ADAM BISHOP
AGES: 85 YEARS & 13 YEARS
HOME TOWN: BARRY'S BAY ON
& BANCROFT ON
ESSAY TITLE: THE RISE AND
FALL OF A NATIONAL TREASURE
ONTARIO/(ENGLISH) QUEBEC
REGIONAL WINNER

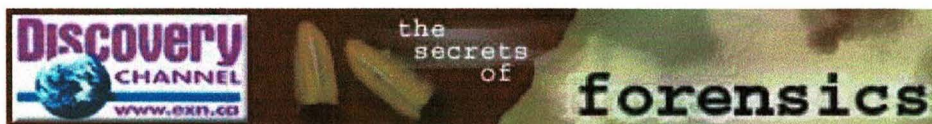


"Tower to Arrow 201. Congratulations on your first flight."

With Jan Zurakowski, a Polish flying ace and test pilot famous for his work in England, at the controls, A.V. Roe Canada had done what experts felt was impossible. Canadian engineers had successfully designed and built a plane that surpassed staggering standards, unheard-of to date. The Avro Arrow. Designed as a supersonic fighter/interceptor that could protect Canada from Russian bombers in all weather conditions, this all-Canadian jet was almost 30 years ahead of its time. Unfortunately, the project was abandoned on February 20, 1959 when the Canadian government ordered the destruction of all 5 completed Arrows and all 34 of the Arrows under construction. Not one Arrow entered service. This was one of the most significant setbacks to Canadian aviation history and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

On a personal level, the Arrow was the last airplane Mr. Zurakowski ever flew, and was the last he had flown in until the late 80s when he visited his homeland, Poland. The Arrow was the pinnacle of his flying career.

Instead of following fellow A.V. Roe employees to NASA or American aviation companies, Jan retired to build and operate a Polish-style family resort in Barry's Bay, Ontario. His interests in testing and design have resulted in numerous original inventions, from kayaks and sailboats to powerboats and snowmobiles. Today, Jan is in his eighties and is still busy working and writing his autobiography.



AVRO ARROW

Words

Janusz Zurakowski

June 28, 1999



Janusz Zurakowski (1914-)

Chief Developmental Pilot, Avro Aircraft Ltd.

On March 25, 1958, Jan Zurakowski, as Chief Developmental Pilot, completed the first flight of the Avro Arrow prototype. Following immigration to Canada in 1952, he

had joined Avro Aircraft in Toronto, and that year broke the sound barrier in a CF-100 Mk 4 fighter aircraft, the first Canadian design to fly at that speed.

Janusz Zurakowski was born in Russia in 1914 and moved to Poland seven years later. While attending high school he learned to fly gliders and joined the Polish Air Force in 1934. At the outbreak of World War II he was an instructor at the Central Flying School, and while flying an obsolete aircraft shot down an enemy aircraft. When the Polish Army was defeated, Zurakowski escaped to England and joined a unit of the Polish Air Force. While flying with the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain he was credited with destroying three enemy aircraft, and promotions and decorations followed for his wartime services.

In 1945, after completing the Empire Test Pilot's Course he was posted to the Aircraft and Armament Experimental Establishment to test the first U.K. jet fighter, the de Havilland Vampire. Employed after the war testing jet fighter aircraft for the Gloster Aircraft Company, he demonstrated a new manoeuvre known as the "Zurabatic Cartwheel," which was considered to be the only new aerobatic manoeuvre in 20 years (1951). In Canada Zurakowski was awarded the McKee Trophy in 1958 in recognition of his experimental work with Avro Aircraft. Following the cancellation of the Arrow program in 1959, he retired from aviation to engage in the tourist business.