

CF-100'S, SABRE JETS SEEN BY 27,000 AT 'OPEN HOUSE'

Special to The Star

Malton, May 11 — More than 27,000 employees, friends and relatives wandered through more than a mile of assembly line, inspected finished jets and watched a whistling CF-100 swoop overhead in A. V. Roe Canada's "open house" over the week-end.

On Saturday, workers in the aircraft construction division, with wives, children and neighbors, visited the plant. More than 21,000 came. On Sunday, employees in the jet engine plant and their visitors, numbering 6,000, arrived.

Beneath sunny skies and in near-80-degree temperatures they inspected eight CF-100's on the hangar aprons, an Orenda-powered Sabre F-86, the Avro Jetliner and a jet-converted Lancaster.

Holds Speed Record

The Sabre fighter, equipped with an American-built engine, not the Orenda, now holds the world speed record of 669.7 mph for a single-engine fighter. The day may not be far off when the all-Canadian Orenda engine in the Sabre will also take a crack at the speed record, talk here has it.

In the shiny CF-100's visitors saw the last word in all-weather fighters, the sleek round-the-clock jet that rumor says General

Matthew Ridgway wants for 600 NATO pilots in Europe. Last week a team of American officers visited the plant to see the long-range fighter in production.

While Saturday's curious eyed the roped-in CF-100's on the ground, Peter Cope, AVRO test pilot and former RAF fighter pilot, put the aircraft through its paces in the air as the visitors craned their necks. He sent the manoeuvrable fighter over their heads at breakneck speed, turned, climbed, dived and wheeled high

in the air to show workers' friends and families the plane was everything that has been said about it in beauty, manoeuvrability and speed. On Sunday, Mike Cooper-Slipper was in the cockpit.

Tests Still Going On

The wartime Lancaster "Flying Bedstead" is now powered with two Orenda jet engines and two Rolls Royce propeller driven ones. Much valuable information has been gained from testing this half jet, half propeller-driven aircraft. The tests which have been going on for several months are still being carried out. The stripped-down bomber saw many

raids over enemy territory in World War II and is one of the 400 built at the plant during the war.

A similar open house day will be held for friends and families of the 15,000-odd Avro employees in September when the turbo jet division of the operation, a mile removed from the airframe plant, will be thrown open.

There were many tired feet but few lost children as the 27,000 thronged plant and grounds of the giant factory. Lost children were quickly recovered by a loud speaker system which played gay music the rest of the time to further enliven the visit.

Canada Jet 'Wows' U.S. Experts

By TIM CREEERY

Telegram Staff Reporter

If NATO leaders like Canada's all-weather CF-100 jet fighter as much as visiting members of the Industrial College of the U.S. Armed Forces did yesterday on a tour of A.V. Roe Canada Ltd. at Malton, there's likely to be a sale.

In Ottawa, Defense Production Minister C. D. Howe laughed off reports that there was a connection between the visit and the possibility of a \$400,000,000 order for 600 planes.

Eventually, he said, Canada hoped to sell the U.S. some CF-100s and also to place some with NATO. But it would not be for some time yet.

A senior A.V. Roe official pointed out, however, that the U.S. officers' tour might have a "long-range influence." For the 24 students of the States' highest level military school who visited Malton yesterday are destined to go to the top of the class in military affairs.

The group had nothing but superlatives for the huge, new, sparkling Orenda engine plant, now turning out jet units for the CF-100 and the F-86 Sabre (being built in Montreal by Canadair).

"Canadians can be really proud of what they have here," said Col. C. F. Damberg, U.S. Air Force. "This place seems to have everything I've ever seen in any similar

plant in the States and probably some advantages our plants have not got."

After watching test pilot Peter

Cope put the CF-100 through paces—his sleek silver plane dashing about the sky at speeds over 600 miles an hour—the U. Air Force officers in the group came out with more superlatives.

"There's a plane that any pilot in the world would be anxious to fly," said Col. W. G. Davis. "That's a pilot's aeroplane."

During the day the group did a complete tour of Avro facilities taking in the airframe assembly plants as well as the engine plant. In addition there were secret briefings from top Avro officials.

To help mark the occasion, the first time a group from the U.S. College had visited a Canadian plant, four members of the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa were on hand: Hon. Don C. Bliss, minister; Miss Claire Wilson, the world's only female civil air attaché; Col. M. D. Blaine, military air attaché; and Col. Paul J. Bryan, military attaché.

The group was led through much of the tour by Avro President Crawford Gordon, Jr. In addition to the students, all of them senior officers who have spent an average of 23 years service with the U.S. armed forces or federal government departments there were seven college faculty members present. The party was flown to Malton by the RCA, arriving Thursday night and leaving last night.

SEES IT.