

Happy had been shot down, but had bailed out and were prisoners. So that was the end of it.

But I always wondered a little every now and then—why all the fuss, and then the anticlimax?

SO some dozen-odd years later we had the reunion that we had meant to have at the Park Lane. Percy had dug up Bran Hignell, a grey-haired QC, who was in town and registered at the same hotel, and he had also found Happy, who was living right in town, unbeknown to me. Happy looked much the same as the grinning boy I had met at Manning Pool.

"It was a shame, washing me out as a pilot," Happy was saying as I entered Percy's corner suite. "They said I couldn't land a plane. Why boy, when I landed 'em, they stayed landed. I'll bet nobody could get 'em up again. Hank, you old horse, you've put on three hundred pounds. Say, boy, Percy's been tellin' us about the party we missed in London that time—in '42, wasn't it? The time you and him got hooked up with the phoney Major. Of all the cheescheads I ever heard tell of, you two guys are about the dopest. They shouldn't of let guys like you loose in a town like London, not in the blackout, anyway."

"All right, Happy, you can be quarterback now that it's Monday morning," I said. "I know you'd have been a lot smarter, but it so happens you didn't meet our phoney Major, or . . ."

"Not much we didn't!" Happy said. "Where do you think he went when he left you? Why, he came straight up to visit us at Holkleigh! Boy, did we ever meet him!"

"No kidding?" I said. "Was that where they caught him—at your station?"

"Nope, nobody never caught him," Happy said. "Not that boy. We knew you guys were mixed up in this thing, but Intelligence told us to shut up, and right after that we were shot down and never got a chance to see you. But ask Bran, he's the guy who can tell you. He went all over England after the war to track the story down."

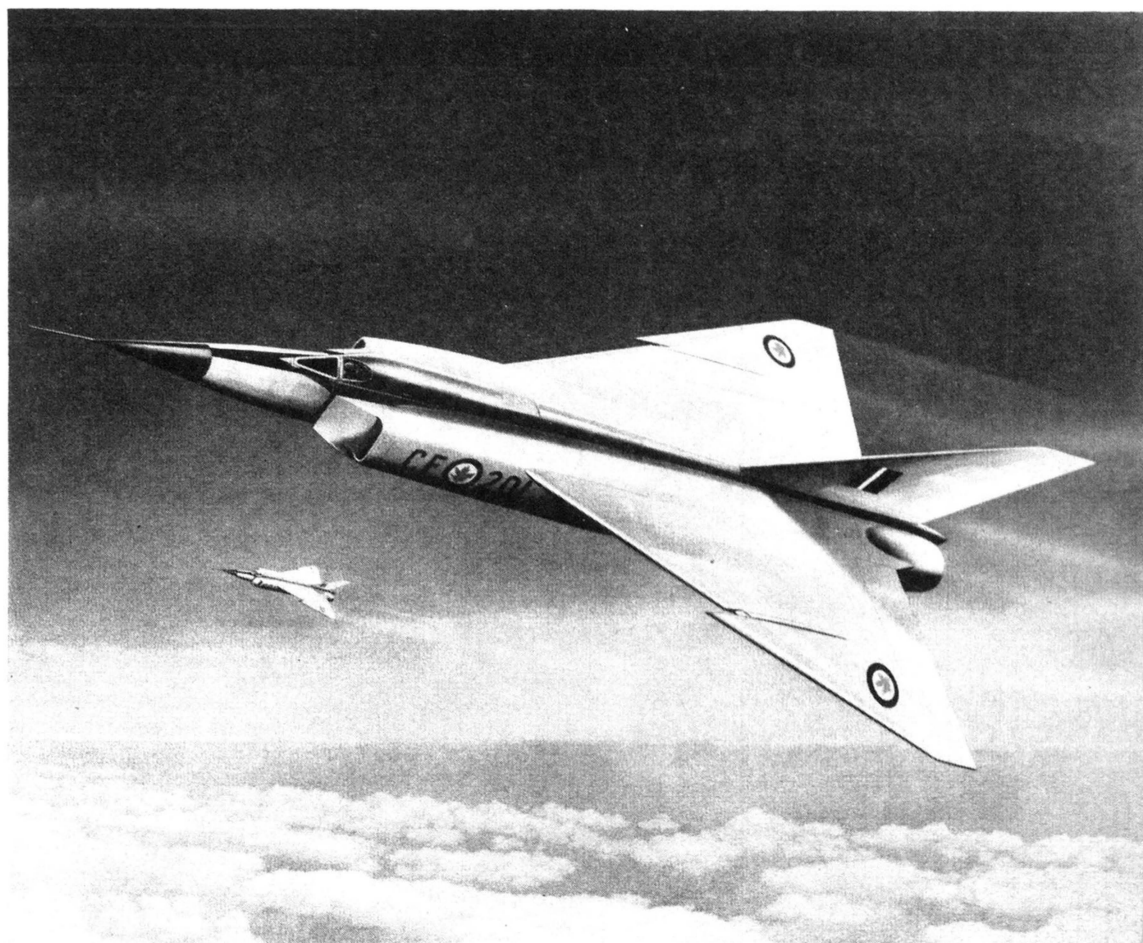
"Well shut up, then," Percy said, "and let the guy tell it."

"Your Major," Bran said, looking important, "evidently left London, wearing your uniform and carrying your dog tags and twelve-fifty. He also had the letter I had written to you—that's how he knew enough to come to Holkleigh. You can't accuse him of lack of nerve. We were confined to camp for a good reason. Butch was planning to put one thousand bombers in the air over Cologne—the first thousand-bomber raid, if you remember—and we were all teed up for it."

"The first I knew of this visitation was when somebody came down to the flight and said that there was an old friend of mine waiting to see me up at the mess. Somebody called Lowndes or something. It seems this chap had walked in at the guard room, flashing your twelve-fifty, carrying a parachute bag with some pyjamas and things in it, and claiming he'd been posted to Holkleigh."

"Well, they called the orderly room, and they had no word about the posting, and they asked him if he had a copy of the signal posting him, and he said he hadn't. He was a cool customer. They took him to the Adj, who was very busy and said he'd get a signal off to Hullavington to check up on the thing, meanwhile he could have tea in the mess. Did he know anyone at Holkleigh? Why sure, he knew Bran Hignell—just like that."

"He was taking a fantastic risk—I might have been right in the next room. But I was at the flight, so they sent him over to the mess with a runner, and



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Malton, Ontario, plant. Honeywell helped design and engineer special advanced control systems that will make the Arrow one of Canada's most formidable air defence weapons.

Honeywell is helping to make the Avro Arrow Canada's most formidable air defence weapon

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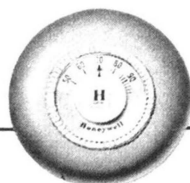
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