

# The Very End

## Final Warheads For North Bay

NORTH BAY (CP) — The fourth and final shipment of nuclear warheads for the nearby RCAF Bomarc missile squadron arrived here early Saturday completing the armament of 29 missiles at the site.

— Press Report

## Sand Shares Slide on Toronto Stock Exchange

TORONTO — Missile Sand & Gravel Co. Ltd. shares fell sharply as soon as trading opened on the stock exchange here yesterday morning. The drop in MSG shares comes at the end of a long slide which began last year when the Government announced that agreement had been reached with the U.S. to acquire nuclear warheads for Canadian Bomarc, Honest Johns, and air-to-air missiles carried by RCAF Voodoos.

The nuclear warheads displace sand as the principal weapon in Canada's arsenal. Until the decision to adopt nuclear weapons was reached by the Government, Missile Sand & Gravel Co. Ltd. was Canada's biggest defence contractor.

— Press Report

**W**HEN WE read the news that deliveries had begun of nuclear warheads for Canadian weapons, and the simultaneous

report that Missile Sand & Gravel's shares had taken a tumble, we immediately contacted Silas (Sandy) Sandblast, founder and president of the company, for his reaction (see AIRCRAFT, April, 1963, p. 50).

"The Government is making a serious mistake," Mr. Sandblast said in his gravelly voice. "We have access to intelligence reports which indicate that the Russians are speeding up their development program for sand. We understand that they're also continuing development of manned bombers. What people don't realize is that these aircraft won't be bombers in the ordinary sense; their bomb bays will in reality be giant hoppers. When Mr. Khrushchev said, 'We will bury you', he was not speaking figuratively.

"Sand is unsurpassed as a weapon. It's true that it isn't as 'clean' as the most recent nuclear weapons, which in general have a relatively low yield of fallout. In fact, when dropped from bombers, the fallout with sand is quite heavy. You might even say it was a relatively 'dirty' weapon. On the other hand, though the contamination of the atmosphere by sand is very heavy, it is also very brief. What's more, contamination of property, while extremely effective in achieving the desired purpose, once cleaned up has no lasting effect. In other words, with sand it is possible to conquer without destroying.

"The Government hasn't dug into this question deep enough. Can you imagine what it would be like if a

fleet of bombers began dropping sand on one of our major cities? Within minutes every piece of moving machinery in the fallout zone would grind to a halt. We Canadians have a lot of grit, but we couldn't face a devastating weapon like sand for very long. You might say we'd be snowed under."

"That's all very well, Mr. Sandblast," we pointed out, "but the fact remains that the Government has decided against the further use of sand as a weapon, and has adopted the more conventional nuclear weapons. This means that for the foreseeable future at least, your company will no longer be king of the castle, and if you are to survive, you'll have to find other profitable applications for your sand."

Mr. Sandblast snorted, "That's no problem, but we are more interested in seeing that our country is properly defended with the most effective weapons, and that means sand.

"We've done quite a bit of market research to uncover new applications for our product, so we're not worried about the future. Have you seen the beaches in the resort areas all over the country? Sand, every one of them. That sand has to come from somewhere. And have you been in the suburbs lately? In every back yard a sand box. We're also starting a campaign to bring back the popularity of the hourglass.

"Unfortunately, the export market has been smothered by American dumping tactics, but in any event it will take all our time for the next few years just to fill the needs of the domestic consumer market."

"Then you expect to be in business for a long time," we asked.

"Till the sands of the desert grow cold," said Mr. Sandblast.

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