

THE AIRBORNE SERVICES

Check Point

The North American air defence system was put to its sternest test to date, when early in July the RCAF and the USAF staged a joint training maneuver that was the largest of its kind ever held.

The operation was dubbed "Exercise Check Point" and involved everything remotely resembling combat aircraft that the RCAF could put into the air. Taking part were all 12 auxiliary squadrons, as well as regular CF-100 units. At least three of the latter participated; a fourth is understood to be under formation in western Canada but it is not known if its organization is far enough advanced for it to have taken part as a unit (the RCAF no longer releases information in connection with the formation of new squadrons).

As in the case of all previous such large-scale air defence tests, the Air Force is keeping mum about the scope of the exercise, as well as about all details relating to the results.

U.S. components included the USAF's Air Defence Command and the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command, augmented by personnel and equipment of other major USAF commands, USAF Reserve, and Air National Guard units.

Although most of the aggressors flew in at high altitude, there were a number of simulated low-level attacks, giving the Ground Observer Corps a chance to work out its organization.

At least two Reserve pilots were killed and three aircraft lost during Check Point. Both pilots and aircraft were attached to No. 401 City of Westminster Squadron, an auxiliary unit operating from North Bay. One Vampire was destroyed and its pilot killed in a take-off crash. The next day, a mid-air collision between two Vampires claimed the life of one pilot and resulted in the loss of both aircraft. The other pilot parachuted to safety.

Safe Flight

The RCN Safe Flying Trophy, presented annually to the naval aviation squadron leading in air safety for 1953, has been awarded to VF-871 Squadron (Sea Furies), at present based at HMCS Shearwater, but normally embarked in HMCS Magnifi-

cent. The Trophy was held last year by VS-880 Squadron (Avengers).

VF-871 is at present commanded by Lieutenant-Commander (P) John W. Logan, but for the period for which the trophy is awarded the commanding officer was Lieutenant-Commander Michael Wasteney.

During the first half of 1953 the squadron engineering officer of VF-871 was Lieutenant-Commander (E) David J. Little. During the latter part of the year the engineering officer was Lieutenant (E) John F. Frank.

Postings & Careers

•Group Captain Leonard J. Birchall, OBE, DFC, has been appointed military Adviser to the Canadian Delegation to NATO, at Paris. He replaces

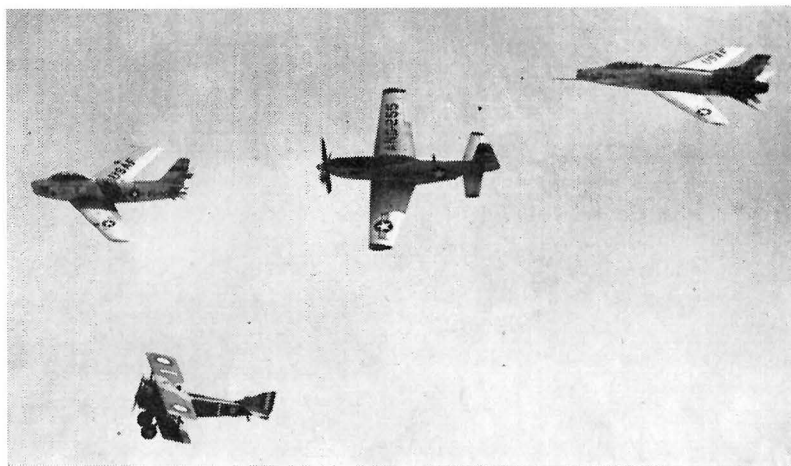
with the U.S. Fifth Air Force during the Korean War.

Citations show that Squadron Leader W. W. Fox, Squadron Leader John MacKay, DFC, Flight Lieutenant H. E. Bliss, and Flight Lieutenant Robert D. Carew "through their personal courage, outstanding airmanship, and exemplary devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon themselves, the Far East Air Forces, and the RCAF."

Medical Centre

A Medical Joint Training Centre has been opened at Toronto to train incoming doctors of the three armed services.

Training is designed to make doctors of the Navy, Army, and Air Force familiar with the medical problems of the three services. The subjects receiving most attention will be public health and preventive medicine, the



FOUR GENERATIONS: This unusual photo was taken at Nellis AFB, Nevada, where the USAF recently held its first all-jet gunnery meet, and shows leading fighters of World Wars I and II, and the Korean War, together with the latest thing in supersonic aircraft. Shown circling about World War I Spad are North American's F-86 Sabre, F-51 Mustang, and F-100 Super Sabre. It took precise timing to get aircraft grouped together for the photo, as speeds range from 110 mph to about 750.

Group Captain George H. Newsome, AFC.

•Group Captain Kenneth C. MacLure, AFC, has been appointed Director of Armament Engineering for the RCAF. For the past year G/C MacLure has been chief project engineer at Central Experimental & Proving Establishment, RCAF Station Rockcliffe.

Four Gongs

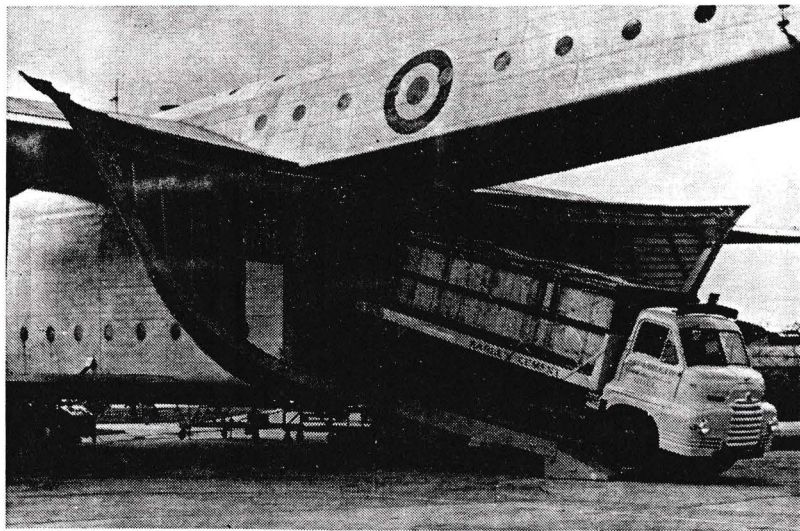
The President of the United States has approved the award of the U.S. Air Medal to four Canadian airmen for meritorious achievements against the enemy while flying F-86 Sabres

surgery of warfare, aviation medicine, and the evacuation of casualties.

Surgeon Captain H. R. Ruttan, an RCN medical officer, is first commandant of the school. Located at RCAF Station Toronto, the new Centre is under Air Force administration. The Army is contributing largely to the instructional staff. Eminent civilians are being asked to serve as guest lecturers. Each course is of six-weeks duration and allows for a maximum enrolment of 25 personnel.

RCAF Flying Club

Personnel of the RCAF's No. 1 Fighter Wing based at RCAF Station



MORE BEVERLEYS: Increased numbers of Blackburn Beverley Freighters have been ordered for the RAF. The Beverley, or "Universal" as the civil version is known, can carry a payload of nearly 22 tons, comprising very bulky cargo, as the picture shows. Canadian distributors for this huge aircraft are Field Aviation Co. Limited of Oshawa, Ontario. The RAF version has Bristol Centaurus engines, but the version for sale in North America will be equipped with Wright Turbo-Compounds.

North Luffenham, England, recently formed their own flying club, which already is a chartered organization with 70 members.

The club is operating three Tiger Moths and originally was the brainchild of Corporal Les Sawyer and LAC Gerry Grotto. With the full support of Group Captain J. D. Somerville, the Wing's commanding officer, the club enjoys many advantages, including free hangar facilities. In addition, it is allowed to make use of the Wing's airfield.

Each member buys a club share for ten pounds, and by maximum participation in operations by all concerned, it is possible for an individual to get flying instruction for approximately \$4.50 per hour.

Airmen do their own maintenance work on the aircraft, while the station's medical officer gives medicals in off hours. Flying Officer Al McCallum is chief flying instructor and chief operations officer. He is responsible for his staff of instructors and the flying of the trainers as well as the progress of the student pilots.

The Club is officially recognized by the British Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Blast Off

Flying Officer John Reid, son of the late T. M. (Pat) Reid, had an unusual experience June 28 when the clear-view canopy blew off his CF-100, providing a dramatic finale to the air show at RCAF Station North Bay in

which he was participating.

Neither F/O Reid nor his navigator, Flying Officer Richard Pearce, was injured, even though the aircraft had just pulled out of a dive and was making a high-speed, low-level pass at a reported speed of some 600 mph when the canopy blew off, shattering into small pieces which fell to the ground in front of the spectators.

PRODUCT LITERATURE

•**Rubberized Abrasives:** New Cratex Catalogue No. 53 gives details of adaptability and application of rubberized abrasives, together with complete specifications. Copies from Cratex Manufacturing Co., 81 Natoma St., San Francisco 5, California.

•**Branching & Balanced Duplexers:** Six-

page technical bulletin No. T-2200 covering design theory and applications of microwave duplexers has been published by Airtron Inc., Dept., A, 1103 W. Elizabeth Ave., Linden, N.J.

•**Halfco Bearings:** Halfco Div., U.S. Bearings Corp., 9632 Bellanca Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif., has published a new catalogue containing information about the complete line of standard Halfco bearings with material finish and heat treating specifications.

•**Facts About Zirconium:** Pocket-size 68-page booklet is a concise compilation of information about the history and production of zirconium. The mechanical and physical properties, chemical properties, facts about fabrication of zirconium such as melting, forging, rolling, welding, and machinability are discussed. Copies from Research Dept., The Carborundum Co., Niagara Falls, N.Y.

•**Microwave Directional Coupler Design:** New 6-page technical bulletin No. T-2400 on the relatively new art of microwave directional coupler design has been published by Airtron Inc., Linden, N. J.

•**Niagara Press Brakes:** Bulletin 89-C of 32 pages describes and illustrates complete new line of Niagara press brakes. Copies from Niagara Machine & Tool Works, 683 Northland Ave., Buffalo 11, N.Y.

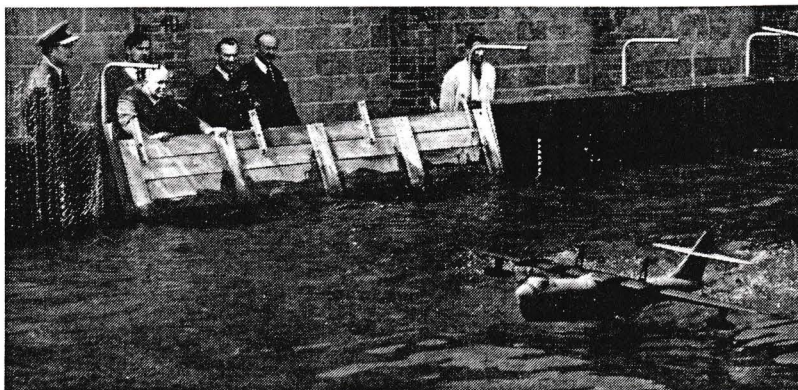
•**Steel Shot Abrasives:** 8-page Bulletin 89-A describes Wheelabrator steel shot, a cast steel, heat treated, blast cleaning and peening abrasive. Copies from American Wheelabrator & Equipment Corp., 1005 S. Byrkit St., Mishawaka, Indiana.

•**All American Engineering:** New 20-page booklet describes and illustrates facilities and achievements of All American Engineering Co., in both the aeronautical and industrial fields. Among the projects that have been developed by this company have been an air mail pick-up technique, hydro-ski water landing gear, lightweight helicopter winch, etc. Copies from All American Engineering Co., Box USS 2668 Dupont Airport, Wilmington 5, Delaware.

•**Niagara Squaring Shears:** Bulletin 69D contains latest information on the entire line of Niagara Underdrive Power Squaring Shears, including specifications for each of the 48 models. Copies from Niagara Machine & Tool Works, 683 Northland Ave., Buffalo 11, N.Y.

•**Viscount Success Story:** Four-page booklet describes the third phase of the development of the Viscount, in which performance is improved through the availability of more powerful version of the Rolls-Royce Dart.

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MODEL BEHAVIOR: During a recent visit to Saunders-Roe Ltd., in the U.K., Air Marshal C. R. Slemon inspected one of the firm's test tanks. This tank is fitted with a catapult by means of which models are fired at any required speed, angle, and rate of descent, to check and develop suitable landing characteristics. Shown watching a test are, L to R: A/C M. Costello, RCAF; W. A. Crago, tank supt.; A/V/M D. V. Carnegie, RAF; A/M Slemon; R. V. Perfect, Saro director.