

THE AIRBORNE SERVICES

No. 1 AOP Flight

The formation of No. 1 Air Observation Post Flight has been announced by the Canadian Army. The birthplace of military aviation in Canada, Camp Petawawa (north of Ottawa), will be the home of the new AOP Flight, which, with the assistance of the RCAF, will carry out air observation duties for the Royal Canadian Artillery.

For some time now, the Army has had a Light Aircraft Wing at the Canadian Joint Air Training Centre at Rivers, Manitoba, and this Wing has had an Air Observation Post integral to it. However, this unit is not considered an Active Force Air Observation Post Flight. The Light Aircraft Wing conducts training of AOP officers and provides for AOP duties at the Royal Canadian School of Artillery, Shilo, Manitoba.

No. 1 AOP will be equipped with Auster aircraft, flown by Army officers. The aircraft and maintenance crews will be supplied by the RCAF, which will also be responsible for the pilots operating in accordance with flying rules and regulations. Group Captain J. G. Stephenson, OBE, AFC, CD, commanding officer of RCAF Station Rockcliffe, will be in charge of flying discipline, while operations will come under Army control.

A commanding officer has not yet been appointed.

445: First CF-100 Unit

Official announcement of the formation at North Bay, Ontario, of the first CF-100 squadron has been made by RCAF Headquarters in Ottawa. The squadron has been designated "445", a number that has not hitherto been used by an RCAF unit. The honor of commanding this first RCAF all-weather fighter unit has gone to Wing Commander George F. Nickerson, DFC, a bomber pilot during World War II.

Output of CF-100 aircraft and training of the two-man crews has now progressed to the point where the Air Force expects to be able to form a new CF-100 squadron every three months. It is thought that each such squadron will be equipped with about 15 aircraft.

The first squadrons formed will all be based in Eastern Canada, while later units will form in the West. After the planned active force squadrons are in existence, then several of the reserve units will receive CF-100's.

No. 3 at Zweibrucken

An internationally flavored ceremony took place at Zweibrucken, Germany, on April 26, when France turned over the newly-completed air base there to the RCAF's No. 3 Fighter Wing, and then the Wing itself was turned over to NATO.

The air base was built by France,

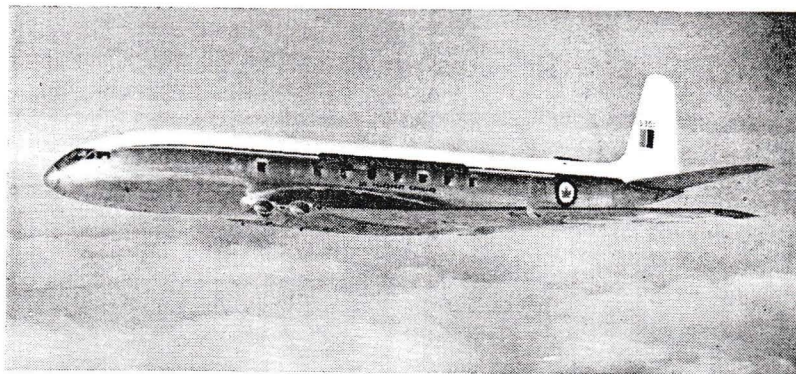
AAFCE was French General Pierre J. Fay, acting chief of staff.

Parts in the ceremony were also played by Defence Minister Brooke Claxton; Lord Ismay, secretary-general of NATO's Allied Air Force, Central French High Commissioner to Germany; T. C. Davis, Canadian Ambassador to the Federal German Republic.

The air base is located just outside Zweibrucken, which is west of the Rhine on the Saar-German border. This is in the French controlled zone of Germany.

Jet Mercy Flight

For the first time in Canada, a jet aircraft has been used in a mercy mission.



RCAF COMET ARRIVES: On May 29 the first of two de Havilland Comets to be purchased by the RCAF arrived in Canada. The flight from London to Ottawa was made in 10½ hours flying time under the command of Squadron Leader C. S. Olsen. This first Comet is now touring Canada and incidentally smashing inter-city records for transport type aircraft. Both of the jet transports are to be attached to 412 Squadron of Air Transport Command and will be based at Ottawa's Uplands Airport.

using German labor, on German soil, as part of the French NATO contribution. An agreement between France and Canada was signed covering the use of the base by the RCAF. Representing Canada during the signing ceremonies was Air Commodore W. R. MacBrien, OBE, CD, acting commander of No. 1 RCAF Air Division in the absence of Air Vice Marshal Hugh Campbell (who is in hospital recovering from injuries suffered in an aircraft crash on April 7). Signer for France was Lt-General Roger Noiret of the French Air Force.

Following the signing of the agreement, Group Captain A. C. Hull, commanding officer of No. 3 Wing, formally placed his unit at the disposal of NATO's Allied Air Force, Central Europe. Accepting on behalf of

A Montreal woman was suffering from a rare blood condition which could be treated with only a certain type of serum, of which the closest source was Boston. The woman's condition became critical on May 8 and following the completion of arrangements with the RCAF, Flight Lieutenant J. A. de Niverville took off from St. Hubert in a T-33A at 4:45 pm EDT and arrived back at Dorval at 6:47 pm EDT with the necessary serum.

At last reports, the sick woman was recovering.

Carrier Jets

When Canada equips the RCN's new aircraft carrier, the HMCS Bonaventure, with turbine powered aircraft, it is going to cost about \$50,000,00.