

# BOMARC LAUNCH

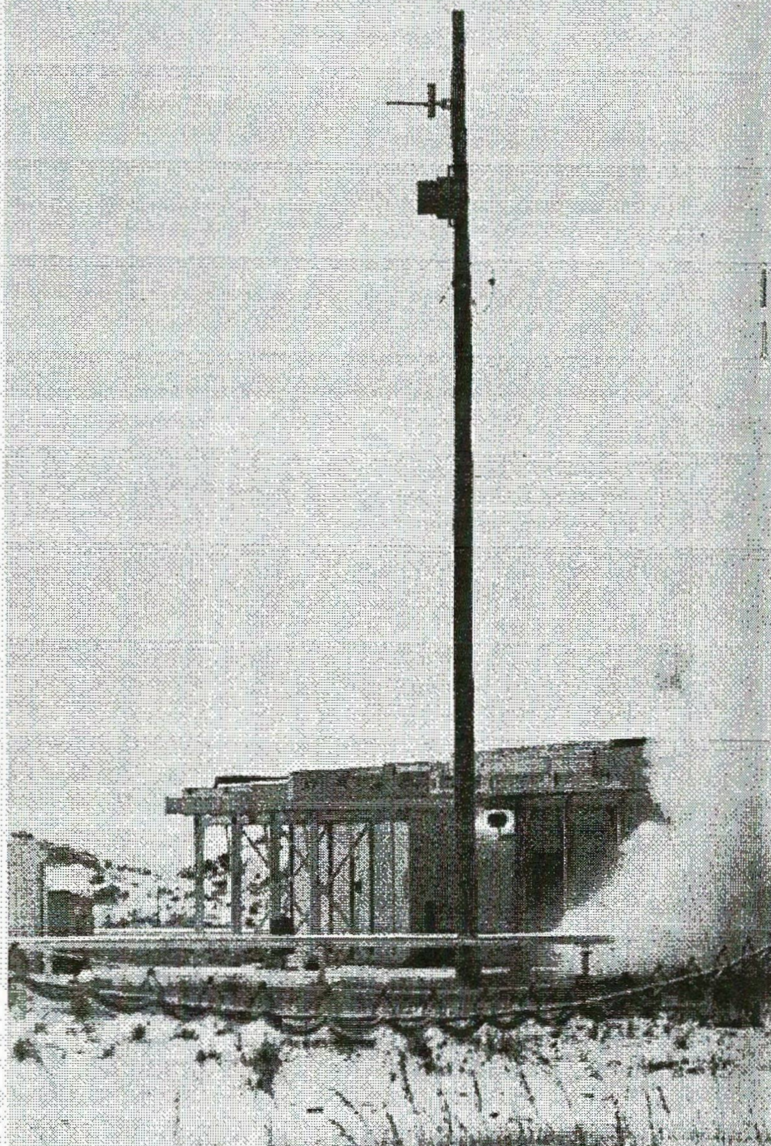
by Captain O. A. Tate, Jr.



Before the launch, M/Cpl Gordon Ramsbottom (left) and Cpl Donald Campbell check a ram-jet engine with USAF S/Sgt Dwight Baker.



BUIC and missile linked for the first time; Maj-Gen Maurice Lipton was with USAF Maj Richard Cox at Tyndall AFB to view results.

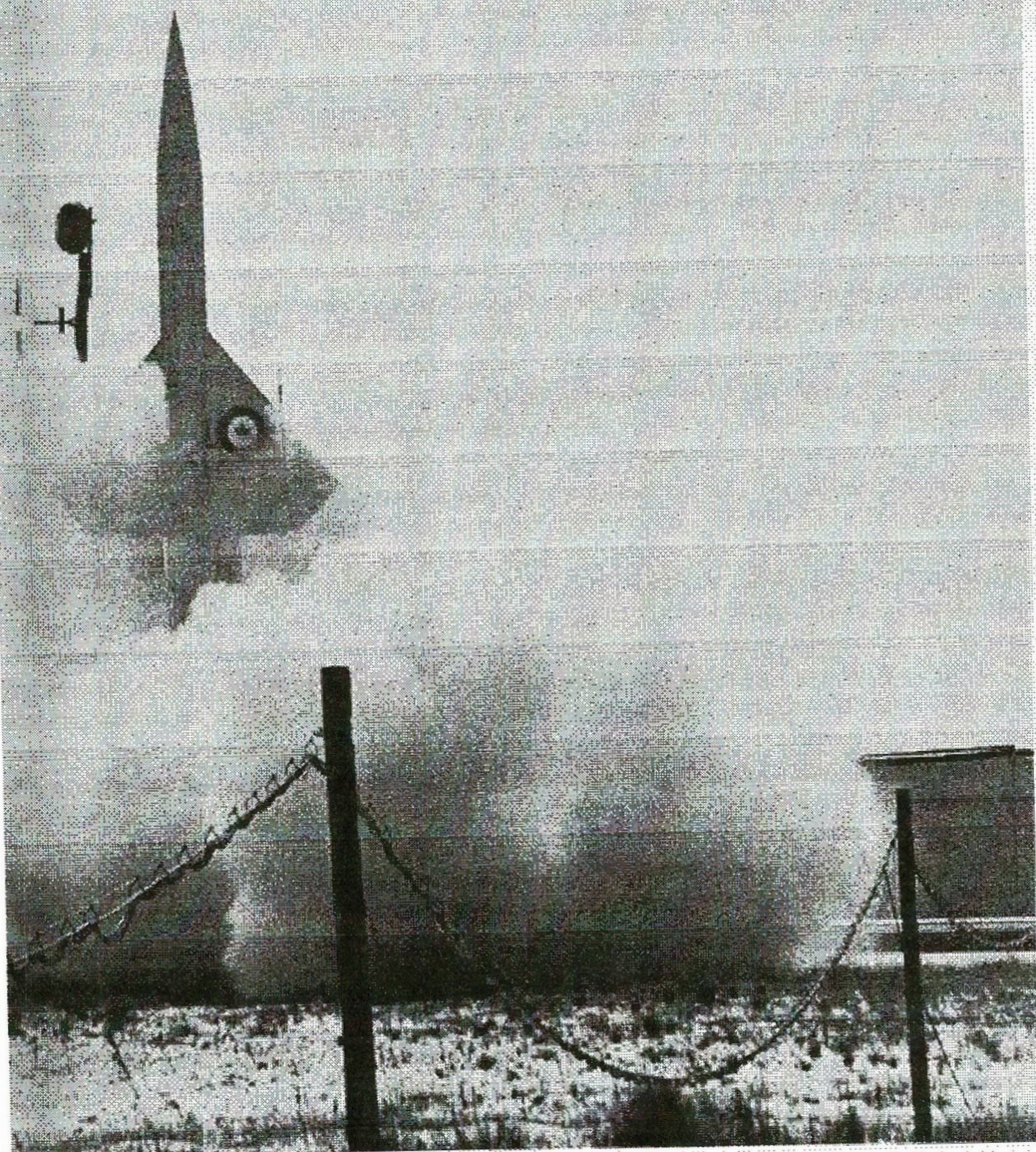


RL. 866-1970

A missile of a foreign government recently streaked across the Gulf of Mexico and intercepted an American target 80 miles from the United States mainland.

Only minutes before, a Canadian Major-General had proudly monitored the launch of the missile — for it bore the familiar roundel of the Canadian





Armed Forces. The missile was a BOMARC B — the General was Major-General Maurice Lipton, Commander of the Air Defence Command and the 22nd NORAD Region — and the target was a US Air Force Firebee Drone aircraft.

The successful tracking and downing of the drone climaxed a two-week

training exercise for 35 members of 446 SAM Squadron at North Bay, Ontario. They had gone to Florida as part of the annual North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) missile evaluation program. In a ten-day period, they had assembled and made ready to fire, a BOMARC shipped from New York.

Then as General Lipton watched, their BOMARC roared to life from Santa Rosa Island, off the Florida coast, and wrote a new page in the history of North American Air Defence. The launch marked the first time the new Back-up Interceptor Control (BUIC) III computerized command and control equipment had been used in a Bomarc launch. In the past command and control of all launches had been by the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) System. (similar to that located in the underground control centre at North Bay). However, NORAD's constant search for new ways of using proven equipment led to the BOMARC — BUIC combine. In addition to the 22nd Region Commander, representatives of the Region's BUIC III sites at St. Margarets, N.B., and Senneterre, P.Q., were present in the Tyndall AFB, Florida BUIC site during the launch.

Following the successful firing and climb-out of the supersonic long-range defensive missile, it was paired against the drone which simulated an enemy aircraft. The "kill" maintained the BOMARC's consistent record of successfully intercepting supersonic targets at altitudes which exceed the capabilities of the present day air-breathing threat.

Canadian and United States BOMARC missiles Squadrons are on 30 second alert. Canadian sites are at North Bay, and La Macaza, P.Q. The nuclear-capable missiles could scream toward enemy aircraft approaching Canada at 2,000 mph. They can climb to over 70,000 feet and have a range of over 400 miles. On take-off they develop 50,000 pounds of thrust using a solid-propellant booster, and then cruise under the power of two 14,000 pound thrust ramjet engines.

According to Major J. B. Randall, Acting Commanding Officer of 446 Squadron, the Canadian Contingent did an outstanding job during the firing. "They performed perfectly throughout the exercise and we are indeed proud of the showing they made," he added. The Major said the 22nd NORAD Region unit followed exactly the same procedure as would be undertaken if the North Bay BOMARC's ever had to be fired by the Region's underground Control Centre.





Capt. O. A. Tate, Jr., "BOMARC  
Launch," Sentinel, June 1970, pp.  
24-25.