

# THE AIRBORNE SERVICES

## RCAF Comet Accepted

The RCAF accepted delivery of its first Comet on March 23 and training flights have already been made to South Africa and to Singapore.

Captain of this first RCAF Comet is Squadron Leader J. B. Dickson, while the training program is under Captain Ernest E. Rodley of British Overseas Airways, who is the first air line pilot to complete 1,000 hours on Comets (DH Test Pilot John Cunningham has also exceeded this figure).

The first training flight left London on March 23 for Johannesburg, and the second one was scheduled to leave for Singapore on April 23. The Comets will be used in Canada for simulated interception work and radar calibration.

Captain R. M. Cox; Wing Commander R. A. Ashman, and Flight Lieutenant W. Unruh.

A/V/M Campbell, G/C Cox and A/C Hodson all suffered spinal injuries, in addition to which the AOC had a head injury and his right leg was fractured in several places, according to news reports. W/C Ashman had a skull injury, while F/L Unruh's injuries were said to be comparatively minor.

Cause of the accident was said to be engine failure shortly after take-off.

## Leap Frog Three

Leap Frog Three was brought to a successful conclusion on April 7 when the three squadrons of No. 3 Fighter

point, Blue West One, Keflavik, and Prestwick. Participating were 413 Squadron, commanded by Squadron Leader W. I. Gordon; 427 Squadron, commanded by Squadron Leader C. L. V. Gervais; 434 Squadron, under the temporary command of Flight Lieutenant Howard S. Tetlock, in the absence of Wing Commander John D. Mitchener.

Arrival of No. 3 Wing brings to nine the number of RCAF Sabre squadrons in Europe. No. 1 Wing is based at North Luffenham, England, but is slated to move to the continent later this year; No. 2 Wing is based at Grostenquin, France. No. 4 Wing will go overseas later this year.

## First CF-100 Squadron

The formation of the first CF-100 squadron was started at North Bay on April 1, the RCAF announced recently. The numerical designation of the squadron was not revealed, and while a number of CF-100's are already located at North Bay, these are mainly for the use of No. 3 All Weather OTU. Thus it will probably be some months before the unit can boast a full complement of aircraft. No details of the unit or its personnel were revealed beyond the bare fact that it had come into existence.

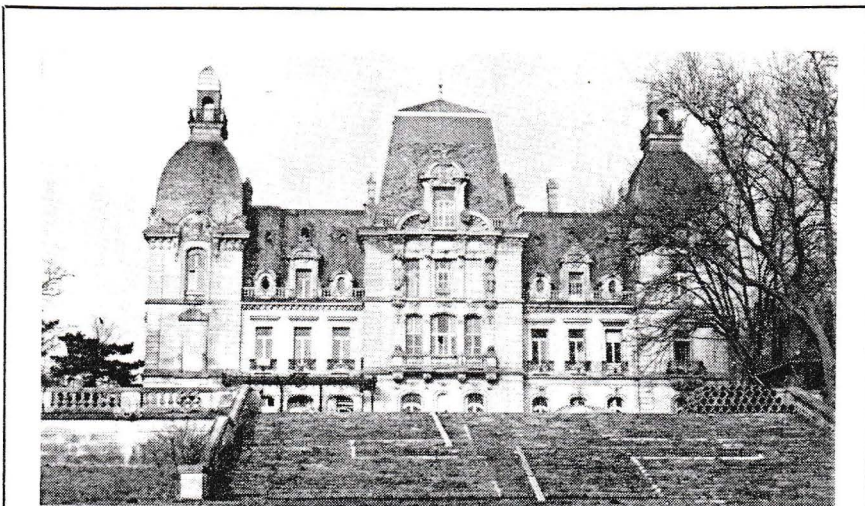
## One Damaged MiG

Flight Lieutenant Grant H. Nichols has been credited with damaging a Communist MiG-15 in an action over North Korea, April 7. F/L Nichols is one of several RCAF pilots serving a tour of combat duty with the USAF in Korea.

Another Canadian airman, Flight Lieutenant William Bliss, left for a similar tour in Korea during April. At the time of his posting he was serving as flight commander with 439 Squadron, part of RCAF No. 1 Fighter Wing, North Luffenham, England.

## No. 4 Wing

Preliminary organization work on the formation of No. 4 Fighter Wing was heralded last month with the RCAF announcement that Wing Commander D. G. Malloy, DFC, has been posted to Europe as acting commanding officer of the final component of No. 1 RCAF Air Division. W/C Malloy will later become chief operations officer of No. 4 Wing, which is to be based at Baden-Solingen, Germany. He



**AIR DIVISION HEADQUARTERS:** The new home of the RCAF's No. 1 Air Division headquarters is this chateau, near Metz, France. The chateau has had a turbulent history. The main building itself was rebuilt between 1906 and 1909, but it has a chapel which dates back to 1626. The chateau's structure shows signs of strafing and behind the building are masses of barbed wire, a reminder of the Allied POW camp located there during 1945. It was also a German hospital at one time.

## A/V/M Campbell Injured

Air Vice-Marshal Hugh L. Campbell, AOC of the RCAF's No. 1 Air Division in France, was injured April 7 when the Beech Expeditor in which he was a passenger made a forced landing near Zweibrücken, Germany. Five other RCAF officers who were in the aircraft were also injured. One of them, the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Ross Gooder, had injuries described as serious.

Besides the pilot and A/V/M Campbell, those in the Expeditor were: Air Commodore Keith Hodson, chief staff officer for No. 1 Air Division; Group

Wing arrived safely at their new base at Zweibrücken, Germany, over a month after Defence Minister Brooke Claxton bade official goodbye to components of the Wing at St. Hubert, P.Q., March 5. The actual movement got underway a few days later, but persistent adverse weather conditions between Goose Bay and Prestwick caused long delays.

Leap Frog Three was under the command of Wing Commander R. T. P. Davidson and followed the same general procedure established with the earlier Leap Frogs. Stops were made at Goose Bay, which was the marshalling