

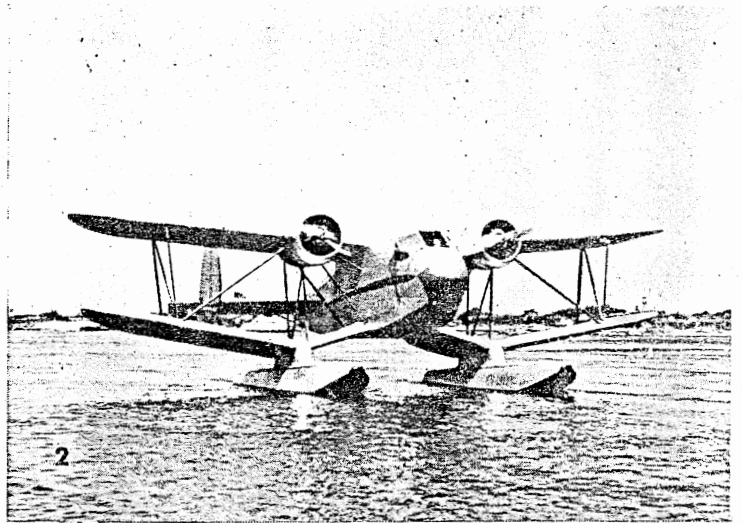
OLD PLANT (1st PICTURE)

FLEET - THE FIRST 50 YEARS

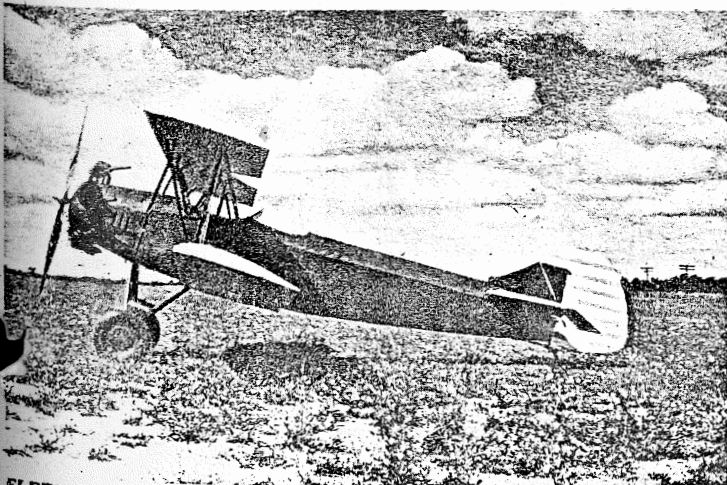
1928 - 1938 / SETTING UP OPERATIONS

It all started in London, Ontario in 1928 when Captain Jack Sanderson and Major Ruben Fleet first met at a local flying club. It was the culmination of this friendship that spirited the construction of a plant of 7,500 square feet on the present location in 1930.

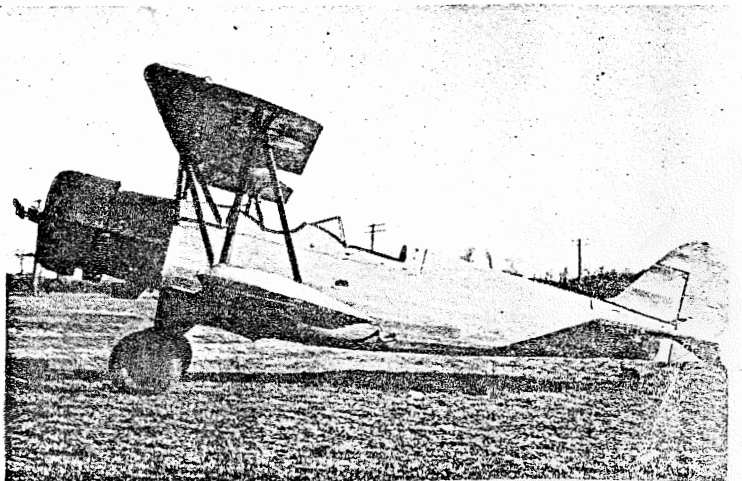
Work commenced filling an order for ten (10) Fleet Model Sevens for the Canadian Government. During the years 1930 - 1938 a nucleus of tradesmen and engineers were gathered together and by 1938 the plant facilities had increased to 72,000 square feet. Through the first eight years, the Fleet 14, Fleet Freighter, and the Fleet 21 were built for customers in Canada, Mexico and China. A total of 280 airplanes were built in the period.



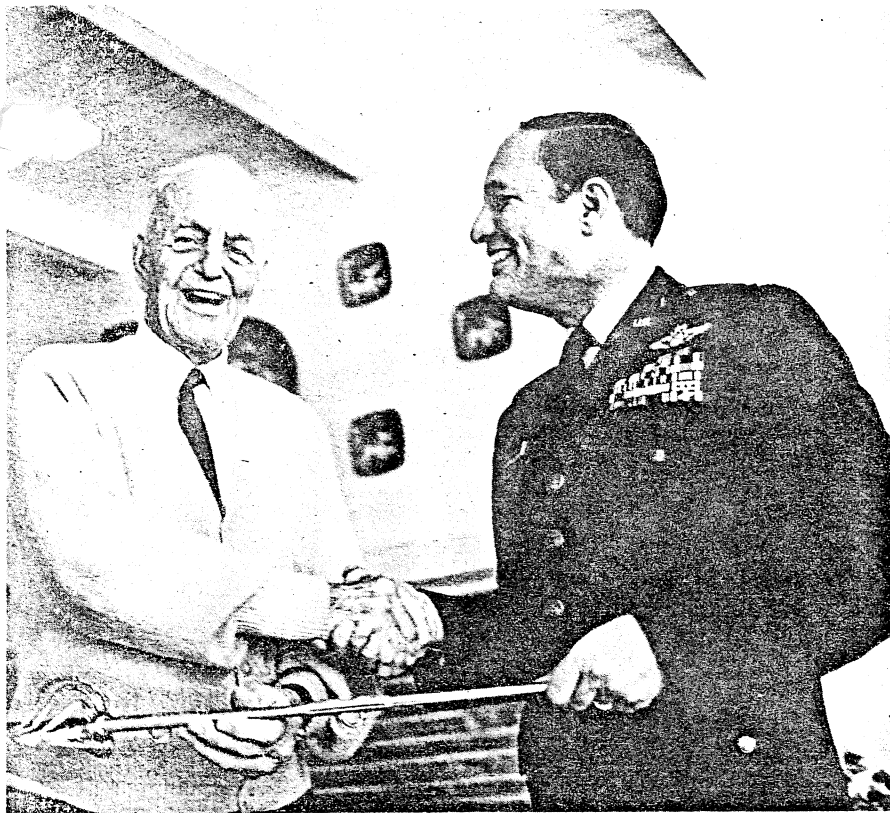
FLEET FREIGHTER (MODEL 50K)



FLEET MODEL 10



FLEET MODEL 21

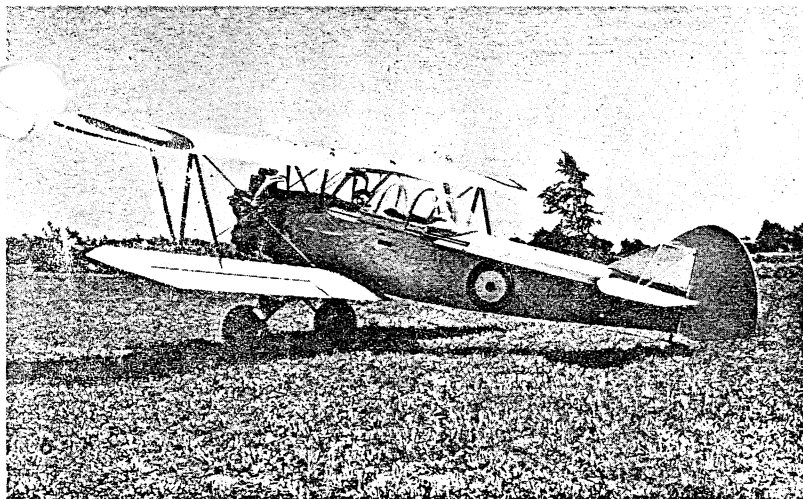


REUBEN FLEET

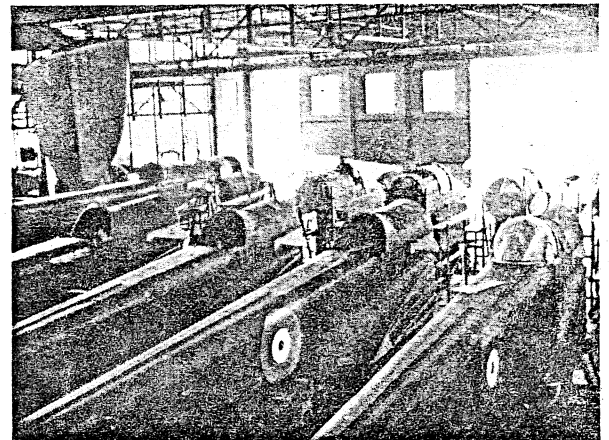
1939 - 1945 SECOND WORLD WAR YEARS

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the company became completely involved in the war effort. Initial contracts were for 404 Fleet Model 16 Trainers, 100 Advance Trainers, an original design, the Fleet Model 60 and, 80 Handley Page Hampden fuselages. The plant was again enlarged with the addition of Unit 3 and office buildings. Wartime employment in the plant increased to almost 3,000. The overhaul and refurbishment of the Fairey Battle and the Anson aircraft was also completed during this period.

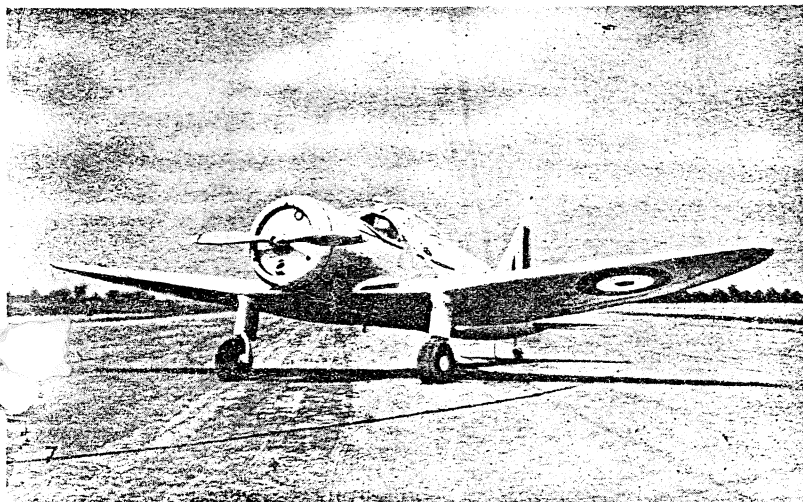
In 1941 work commenced on the redesign and manufacture of the Fairchild PT 23 Primary Trainer. The Canadian version was known as the Cornell. The total number of Cornells produced was 2082 with a peak production of 161 aircraft per month, an impressive production record, which in a post war analysis, was the best performance of all the aircraft manufacturers in Canada. The Cornell aircraft production was phased out and was replaced by the production of the Handley Page Lancaster bomber wing assemblies and other components for that aircraft. In mid 1945, all war work ceased and Fleet returned to peace time activities once again.



FLEET FINCH (MODEL 16B)



HANDLEY PAGE HAMPDEN



FLEET FORT (MODEL 60)



There's Freedom in the Air!

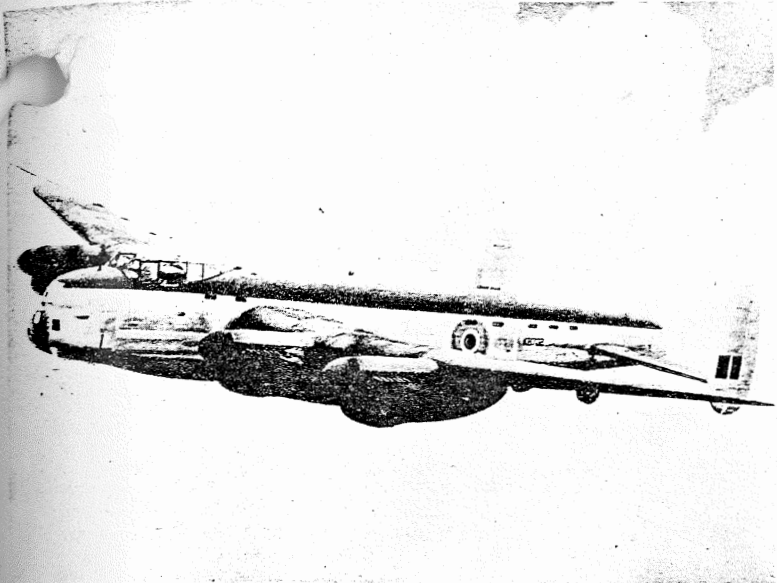
© In the dim light of dawn the roar of aircraft breaks the stillness of the French countryside... freedom is in the air.

And when you read of these great air victories remember this: the aircraft which are bringing liberation to oppressed Europe today were themselves born of freedom... for it was under a system of freedom, opportunity and initiative that these mighty armadas of the sky were envisioned, developed and produced.

As a pioneer in the development of the Canadian aircraft industry, Fleet Aircraft Limited was ready when war came to lead in the production of planes.

With the coming of peace, all the skill and experience of this Company which is now dedicated to filling the needs of war, will be available to serve a new era... an age of global transportation in a war-free world.

FLEET Aircraft LIMITED
FOOT BRID, ONTARIO



LANCASTER



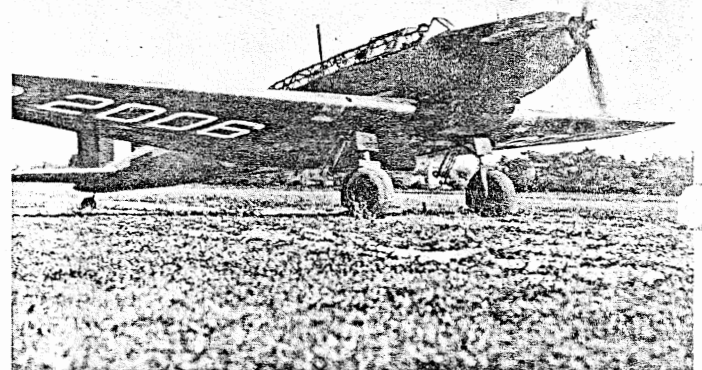
CORNELL

**PLANE, GIFT OF
WORKERS, PRESENTED
TO AIR FORCE**

FORT ERIE, Oct. 22—Holding a record of top position in the Canadian aircraft industry in terms of pounds of aircraft produced per employee per month, workers of Fleet Aircraft, Ltd. today started on the production of the second thousand of Cornell training planes for the forces of Canada, Britain and United States.

The 1,000th plane, gift of the Fleet employees to Canada, was flown from the plant yesterday after ceremonies in which Air Marshal L. S. Broadner, D.S.O., Canadian Chief of Air Staff; Maj. Merle Armitage of Detroit, and Ralph P. Bell, director-general of the Aircraft Branch of the Canadian Department of Munitions and Supply, spoke to the plant's 2700 workers and hundreds of visitors.

The hours necessary for supplying material and assembly of the 1,000th Cornell had been given free of charge by the workers of the plant, both in office and factory.



FAIREY BATTLE

FLEET AIRCRAFT LIMITED

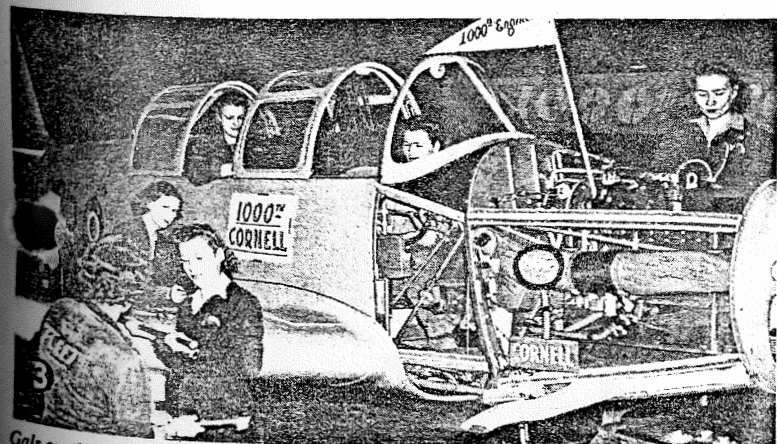
Plane & Talk

Vol. 4, Issue 7 432 FORT ERIE, ONTARIO 1943

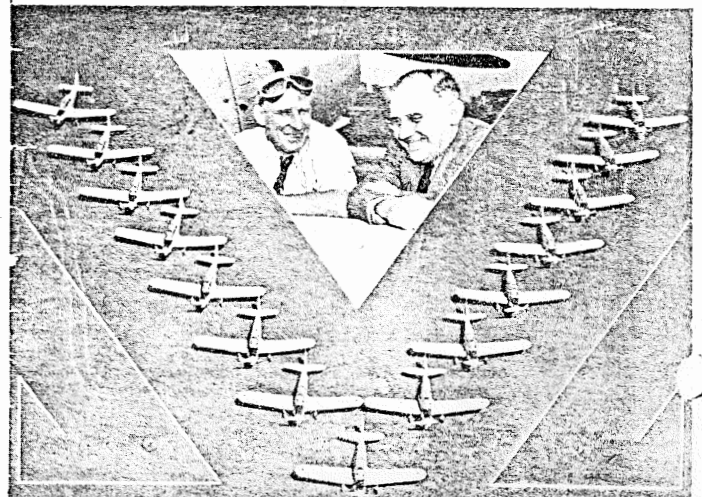
The President and Directors of Fleet Aircraft, Limited request the pleasure of your company at a ceremony in which The Thousandth Cornell Aircraft produced by the Company, is to be presented by the Personnel of the Organization to Canada's War Effort, at the Company's Plant, Fort Erie, on Thursday, October Twenty-first, Nineteen Forty-three at One Forty-five p.m.

ALP & the Secretary No 3416

This message must be presented at the gate. For reasons of security no person will be admitted without this card.



Gals on the 1000th CORNELL



PLANE TALK

