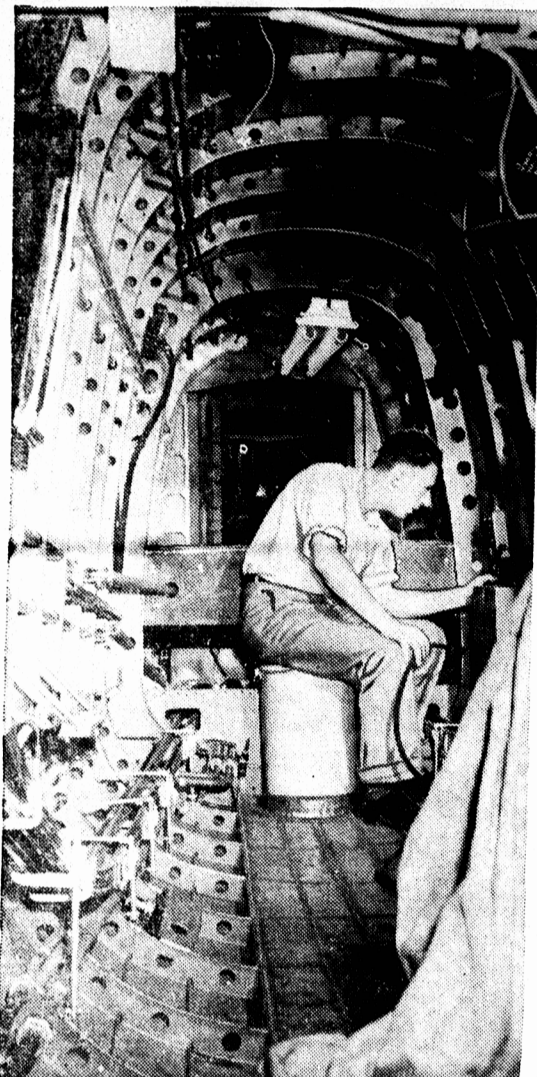
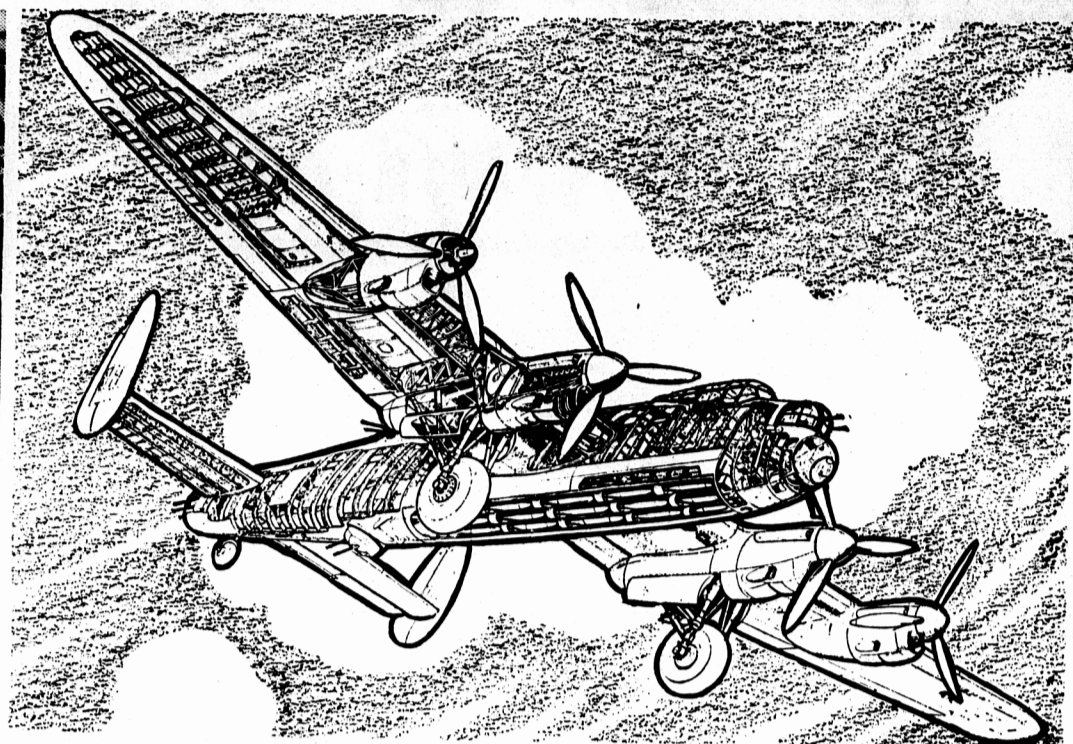


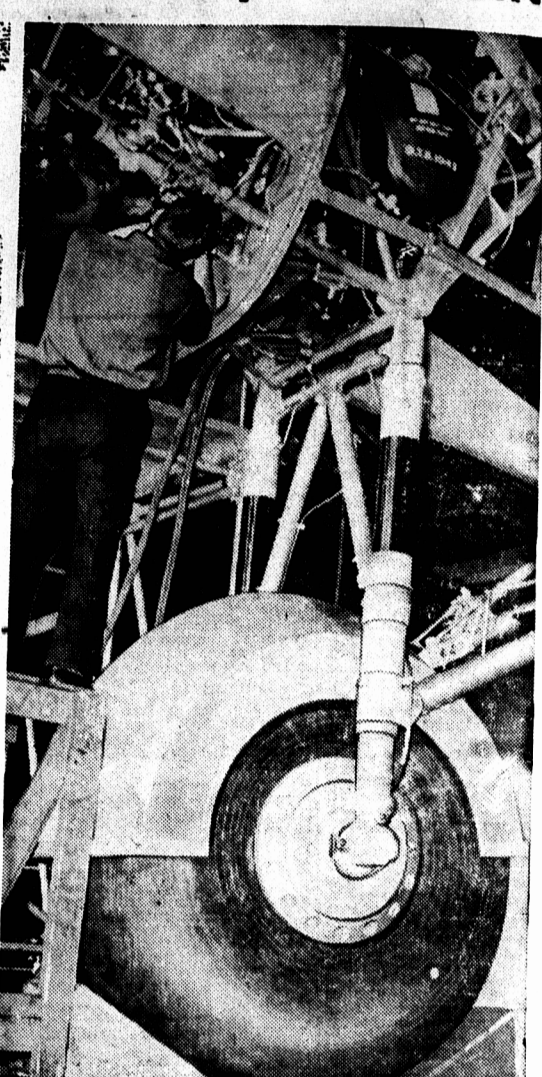
First Of Canada's Mighty Lancasters Blazes Trail From Factory To Front



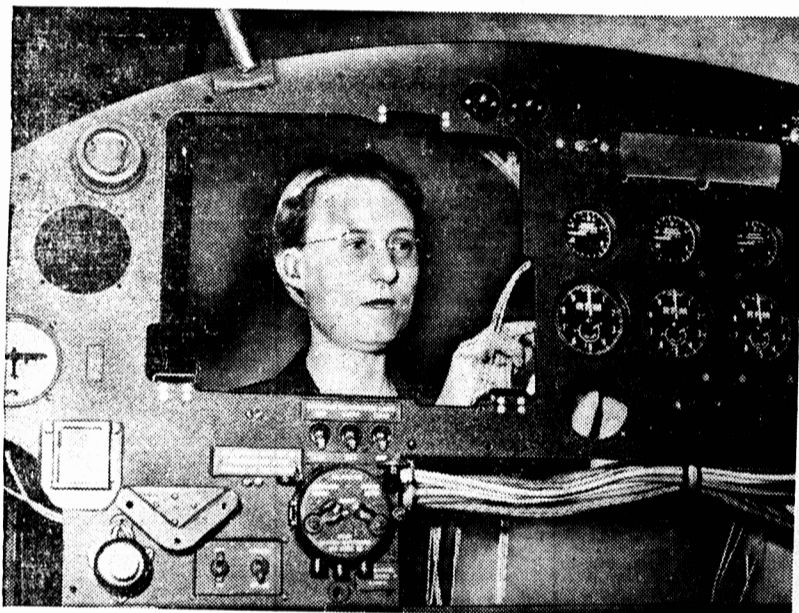
World's largest, fastest, and most devastating heavy bomber, the Lancaster, is being produced in Canada. Here, Bob Burns bores holes inside giant sky bird.



Truly a battleship of the air, the Lancaster has a wingspan of 102 feet. Exclusive of rivets, nuts and bolts, plane has 50,000 different parts, counting engines and turrets as one. Top illustration gives an idea of tremendous task involved in building the Lancaster. In bottom picture, huge 69-ft. fuselage.



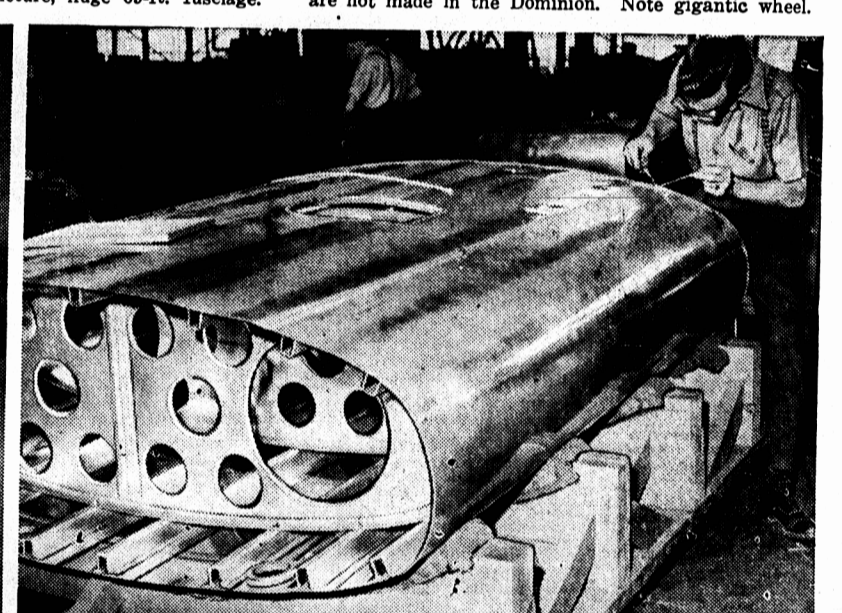
Engines, of which there are four, are famed Roll-Royce Merlins, only components of Lancaster which are not made in the Dominion. Note gigantic wheel.



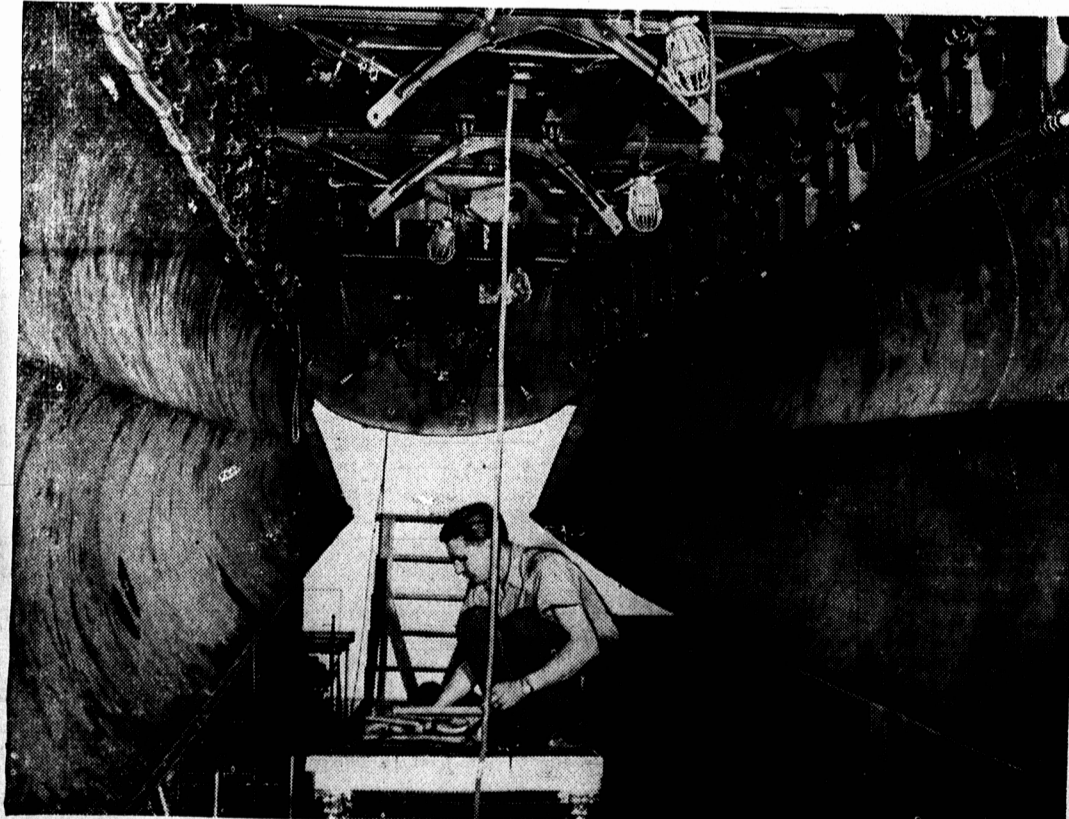
Government-owned Victory Aircraft Limited, Malton, Ont., builds Lancaster, employs 5,000 persons, requires as many more within next year. Plant has million square feet of floor space. Florence Orr wires instrument panel.



Thousands of man-hours are required to put the half-million dollar bomber in the air. Plane is a maze of wiring and tubing. Above, Iola Allen, a riveter.



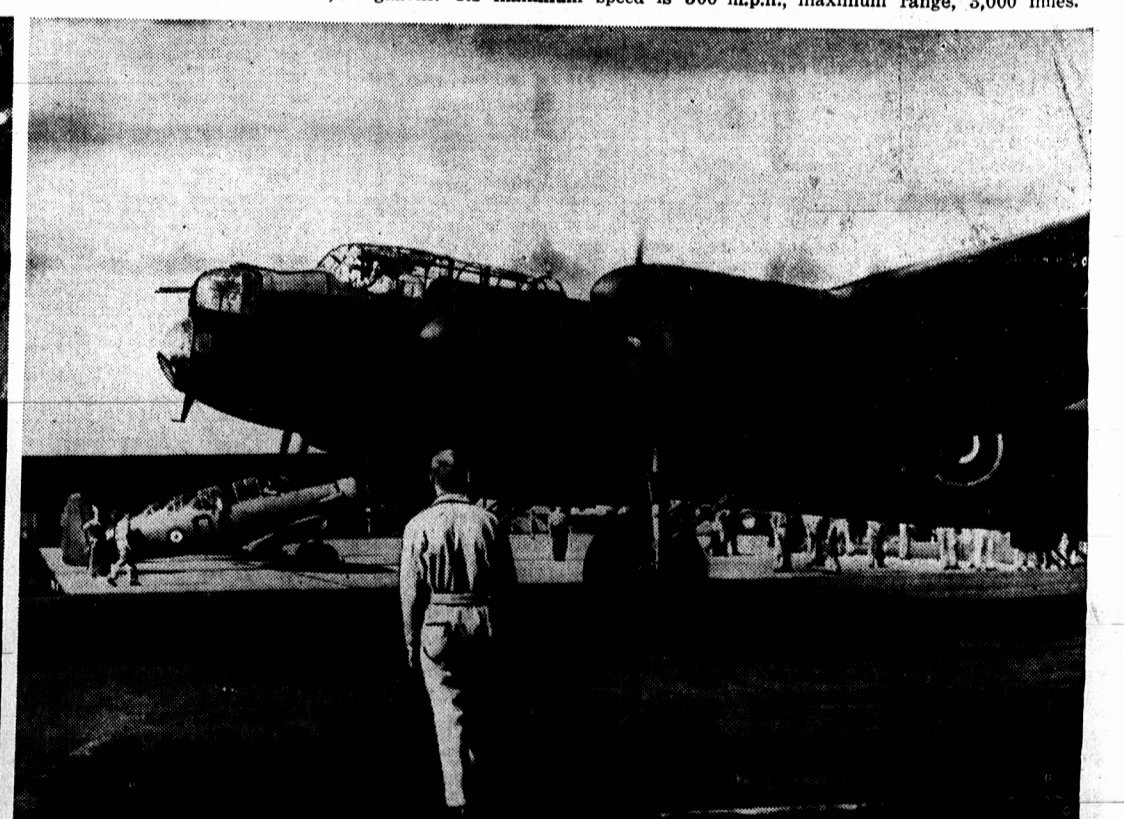
Alvin Cox, whose brother, Harry, is in the R.C.A.F., welds one of the plane's huge bullet-proof tanks. Lancaster carries six tanks with total capacity of 2,000 gallons. Its maximum speed is 300 m.p.h., maximum range, 3,000 miles.



A Spitfire fighter, minus wings, would fit easily in 33-ft. bomb bay of mighty Lancaster. Maximum bomb load is 8 tons, equal to the weight of 5 automobiles.



First Canadian-built Lancaster was flown yesterday, 16 months from the day blueprints arrived in Canada, a truly outstanding Canadian production achievement.



A Lancaster is brought out of the plant. Harvard trainer in background is dwarfed by mammoth bomber. Switching from production of Ansons to that of the

Lancaster presented problems similar to those which would confront a Canadian shipyard required to stop building corvettes and turn out huge battleships.

National Film Board Photos.