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Correspondence With Albert Boyd 1952

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Office of the Commanding General

HEADQUARTERS
WRIGHT AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

18 March 1952

Major Charles E. Yeager, USAF
Air Command and Staff School
Air University
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

Dear Chuck:

At last I have learned, from the attached clipping, the information that you were passing on to the French and Spanish during our visit last September. Not knowing the language as well as you, I suspected that some conversation that I should know about was being conducted. *(Commenting ref. Maj. Gen. C.E. Yeager)*

Understand from the grape vine that you are enjoying your school work and have lost interest in flying.

Please give my love to Bo.

Sincerely,



ALBERT BOYD
Brigadier General, USAF
Vice Commander

*P.S. Stop by when up
this way. We Peani, Ernest,
Ridley and Moore to dinner
with us last evening. Things
seem to be smoothing out at ETAFB.*



French Almost Ready For Quantity Output of Promising New Jet

By the Associated Press

The Mutual Security Agency said yesterday the French aircraft industry, aided by \$5.2 million worth of American machine tools, is nearly ready to start quantity production of a promising new jet fighter.

The plane, the "Mystere," MD 452, has proved superior in some ways to the Korean-tested American Sabre, the agency said.

By the end of 1952, the French expect to be producing about 30 jets a month, as a contribution to the aircraft production target of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The NATO goal is 4,000 operational aircraft in Western Europe by the year-end.

The Marcel Dassault Aircraft Co. at Bordeaux is the prime contractor for the new program, but manufacture is being carried out by six French concerns. Assembly line production is expected to start next month, the agency said.

Sweptback-Wing Craft.

It added that American aid funds financed the purchase of special machine tools from the United States to speed start of the work.

The mystery is a sweptback-wing craft, actual performance data of which is still secret. The agency said, however, an older sister plane, with less power, made a better record than the Sabre in two particulars in actual tests by American and French pilots.

These were listed as greater maneuverability at high speeds and "a better showing at braking" while landing.

The Air Force issued a separate announcement which called the MD 452 "an excellent aircraft" but which said the craft was not tested in mock battle against the American F-86 Sabre.

Made Flights.

The Air Force statement was issued by Brig. Gen. Albert Boyd, who assisted French authorities in evaluating the French jet fighter and who, with Maj. Gen. Charles E. Yeager, had made flights in the new jet.

Gen. Boyd asserted specifically that the tests "did not include simulated combat and that no attempt was made to test the relative maneuverability of the 'Mystere' and the Sabre jet."

Gen. Boyd said he and Maj. Yeager were both convinced the Mystere is "an excellent interceptor" and that both recommended its production to the chief of staff of the French air force.

