ACCIDENT SUMMARY CARD

Two Canadair Sabre 6, mid-air collision

23 February 1961 · near Niederauerbach, Zweibrücken, West Germany

PLACE	In the air near Niederauerbach, Zweibrücken, West Germany. Both aircraft belonged to 4 (F) Wing at RCAF Station Baden-Soellingen.
OPERATOR	No. 444 (Cobra) Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, 4 (F) Wing.
AIRCRAFT	Canadair Sabre 6 (F-86F) 23409 (manufacturer's number 1199), RCAF accident no. 102103, file 093-23409 Canadair Sabre 6 (F-86F) 23488 (manufacturer's number 1278), RCAF accident no. 102102, file 093-23488
RESULT	Both aircraft destroyed. Each was flown by one pilot, and both pilots were killed.

What happened

Two Sabres of No. 444 Squadron, flying from Baden-Soellingen, collided in the air near Niederauerbach on 23 February 1961. Wing Commander Roy Vaughn Smith was flying 23409 and Flying Officer Eugene Doral Payne was flying 23488. Both aircraft were destroyed and both pilots died.

The cause is not given in the sources listed below, and CASPIR holds no investigation report.

Those killed

AIRCRAFT	NAME	RANK	SQUADRON	CASPIR NO.
23409	Smith, Roy Vaughn	Wing Commander	444	600018793
23488	Payne, Eugene Doral	Flying Officer	444	600015736

Sources

- Aviation Safety Network, WikiBase entries 182592 (23409) and 203701 (23488): aviation-safety.net/wikibase/182592 and /203701.
- RCAF Accident No. 102103 (file 093-23409) and No. 102102 (file 093-23488), held by the RCAF Office of History (as cited by the Aviation Safety Network).
- Passauer Neue Presse, 24 February 1961, page 8 (cited by the Aviation Safety Network).
- Extract from the 1 Air Division Historical Report for 23 February 1961 (cited by the Aviation Safety Network).
- CASPIR aircraft and personnel records for serials 23409 and 23488.

This is a summary card prepared by CASPIR from the sources above. It is not an official accident or investigation report, and CASPIR does not hold the RCAF accident files.