

# THE GERMAN 'L' PILOTS FIND A JET PIONEER TO GREET THEM

*Evening Standard Night Reporting Corps*

**T**he four German pilots and three ground instructors who will be the nucleus of the new German civil airline were interviewed and photographed for two hours last night. Watching, almost unnoticed, was one of the real pioneers of modern aviation.

He was 32-year-old **DEREK HARVEY**, an "unknown" to most people in Britain. But he was one of Britain's first jet pilots—and one of the few jet pilots still alive.

In the early 1940s, Mr. Harvey tested Sir Frank Whittle's jet engines. He tried them in the air several years before Whittle flew a jet airplane. All contemporary jet testers have since been killed.

Whittle's engines were tested in the back of a Wellington bomber.

"RAF pilots in fast fighters used to make swoops on the airplane," Mr. Harvey recalled. "When I brought in the power of the jet the fighters were surprised to find that they could not even keep pace."

What was Mr. Harvey doing at London Airport last night? He is in charge of overseas liaison for Air Service Training at Hamble (Hants). He met the Germans, then drove them to Hamble.

## Transport pilot

The German pilots will all learn to fly again. They were delighted at the prospect.

"We have been like babies who have had their bottles of milk taken away," said Mr. **WALTER BLUME**, 46-year-old ex-Luftwaffe pilot. He flew troop-carrying aircraft in North Africa and Norway during the war.

"I have waited for this

## IN LONDON LAST NIGHT

moment for eight years," said the oldest of the four, Mr. **JOHANNES RATHJE**, 47. He has flown 15,000 hours.

Had Rathje not flown since the war?

"Well, not officially," he replied.

# Ex-Luftwaffe men are due

Five German pilots, some of whom flew with the Luftwaffe during the war, are to be trained in Britain for their commercial pilots' licences. They will arrive here on Monday.

When they graduate they will become the first pilots of a new German airline and the first Germans permitted to fly in charge of aircraft since the war. None of them has flown since 1945.

D. Worker.

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## WE TRAIN GERMANS

COLOGNE, Thursday.—Former German airline pilots will on Monday start three months' training at Hamble, Hants, in preparation for flying the first German airliners.—B U P.

D. Herald

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# AIR TRAINING FOR GERMANS

## COURSE IN BRITAIN

Daily Telegraph Reporter  
Four German air pilots and three ground instructors who will train in Britain and America before becoming the nucleus of Germany's new civil air line, arrived last night at London Airport from Hamburg.

During the next three months they will undergo flying instruction at the Air Service Training School at Hamble, near Southampton. Then they will go to the United States for flight conversion courses to fly Convairs and Constellations.

The pilots, L. Rath, 47; Herbert Topp, 45; Rudolf Mayer, 43, and Walter Blume, 46, were Lufthansa air line pilots before the war. They stated that none of them flew over Britain during the war.

All were instructing young German fighter pilots in blind flying and ground approach. They said that after their training they would train other pilots for the new air line which would be named Luftag.

## DEATH FALL FROM

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LIST OF STUDENTS  
AT  
AIR SERVICE TRAINING LTD. HAMBLE.

<u>NATIONALITY.</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>COURSE.</u>
Portuguese.	2	Engineering.
Icelandic.	1	Radio.
Swiss.	1	Radio.
German.	7	Flying and Navigation.
Norwegian.	1	Engineering.
Venezuelan.	1	Flying.
Jordan.	2	Engineering.
Lebanese.	3	1 - Flying.
		2 - Engineering.
Israeli.	1	Radio.
Egyptian.	5	1 - Navigation.
		2 - Engineering.
		2 - Radio.
Iraqi.	10	6 - Flying.
		4 - Engineering.
Chinese.	12	11 - Engineering.
		1 - Flying.
British from Hong Kong.	3	1 - Flying.
		2 - Engineering.
Burmese.	12	1 - Flying.
		4 - Flying and Navigation.
		5 - Technical Officers.
		2 - Engineering.
Indonesians.	25	Flying and Navigation.
Indians.	26	19 - Engineering.
		1 - Flying.
		5 - Radio.
		1 - Navigation.
Indians from East Africa.	3	2 - Flying.
		1 - Engineering.
Pakistanis.	9	1 - Radio.
		1 - Flying.
		7 - Engineering.
Malays.	6	1 - Radio.
		1 - Flying.
		4 - Engineering.
Cypriots.	2	1 - Radio.
		1 - Engineering.
Nigeria.	3	Flying and Navigation.
Gold Coast.	2	Flying and Navigation.
Canada.	1	Navigation.
South Africa.	1	Radio.
Iranians.	1	Engineering.
Polish.	1	Navigation.
British.	151	12 - Marconi Radar.
		13 - Marconi Pre-Sea.
		100 - Radio.
		4 - Engineering.
		13 - Navigation.
		9 - Flying.

Total Number of Students: 292.

Engineering.	65
Flying.	25
Navigation.	17
Flying and Navigation.	41
Radio.	114
Technical Officers Courses.	5
Marconi.	25

*Nationals of 70  
different countries have  
now received training  
at the "University of  
the Air"*