

V-2 Rocket Technicians Among Group

Former Nazi Brain Trusters Design New Devices For America

By BEN DAVIS

DARTON, Ohio, Dec. 2.—(AP)—The Army Air Forces has pulled the veil from its age-secret brain trusters—88 German aeronautical scientists who volunteered to continue their experience in the United States.

Representing the Luftwaffe's most agile units, the group here in Wright field include only a few of the Germans now engaged in a concentration in the mastery of scientific driving hitherto allied secrecy.

Others, the AAF said, are working with the same engineers, technicians, transportation corps and with the navy.

Until now the AAF—its own agencies—kept the closest cover afforded about on the science selection, fearing reprisals for German rocketeers' future fame if the scientists, apparently with reason.

"We know rockets were passed, but that danger now is virtually past," said Capt. C. H. Bernal, administrator of the program, many more than 100,000 rocket technicians, Wright field, center of AAF research and development.

Nazi aviation know-how was on parade before the press at Wright field meeting, cooperative technicians, most of whom hope one day to become American citizens. Some of them have been at Wright field since September, 1945.

NOT NEAR OCEAN ROCKET

There was Dr. Rudolf Hepp, the chief missile designer who was a leader in the development of the V-2 rocket.

"We were five years of postwar development away from completion of an actual ocean-crossing rocket," he said in an interview, adding that most such weapons were not planned.

It is entirely possible that the propelling force now at hand to span the ocean with a 20-ton missile with a 20-ton thrust, he said.

There was Friedrich Dohndorf, young, Viennese-born who designed the world's first jet-powered helicopter, a whirling, slow-ly with the miniature jet at the tip of its rotor blades.

Compressed air sent fuel and shot through the blades, ignited and expelled at the tip. The 25-year-old scientist explained that comparable performance with much smaller, less expensive rockets is possible with jet propulsion.

Or, you could talk with Dr. Theodor Wilberth Zohli, who took a handful of mirrors and a camera and came up with a means of observing an jet with out disturbing that flow, termed the interferometric Schlieren method for flow examination, Zohli's assignment, who works with heat.

There were many others. Dr. Alexander Lippman, who no direct danger, for measurements and data work some on the jet V-2 rocket fighter, Ernst Rudolph Koenig, one of the world's foremost thermo-dynamics, Dr. Helmut Henschel and Theodor Kowalek, who designed and developed rocket propulsion, the one also apparently in high-speed laboratory.

Education and industries have been clamoring for the services of these men and you may the government plans to allow them to become citizens and to enter private employment.

It is, some of the Germans were members of the Nazi party," said Capt. Bernal. "Not active members, but even ward-borders were read out in the evening address to the country. Just passive members, so they could continue their work.

The Germans' work at Wright field interesting and as possible sent to American industrial plants probably in saving the United States several hundred million dollars," explained Col. F. F. Hinkle, the officer responsible for the technical work.

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