

# **de Havilland Aeronautical Technical School Association**

This copy of the Rolls-Royce 'Hatfield Farewell' Commemorative Brochure was scanned from the one presented to Bruce Boshier, late Secretary of DHAeTSA.

Derek Titchner, a de Havilland Engine Company apprentice at Stag Lane from 1947 to 1952, worked at the DHE site at Hatfield. DHE became part of Hawker Siddeley, then was briefly part of Bristol Siddeley before the final takeover by Rolls-Royce. Derek has provided captions for some of the photographs.

John Hinton was also a de Havilland Engine Company apprentice (1956-1961). He adds: "I was at the Hatfield beds from September 1961 to October 1964 mainly employed on the Gnome fuel system development. Numbers 13 and 15 were single Gnome beds and 16 the twin bed for the Wessex gearbox development. The first time I flew it was in the Whirlwind XJ398 which we used for development and is now, I understand, in a helicopter museum in Yorkshire." John has added a name to those on page 44.

Can anyone add more?

Please contact Roger de Mercado at [r.demercado@ntlworld.com](mailto:r.demercado@ntlworld.com)

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16th July 1990

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## **A 'HATFIELD FAREWELL' COMMEMORATIVE BROCHURE**

It gives me great pleasure to let you have your personal copy of the Souvenir Commemorative Brochure, the original version of which was presented to the Hatfield Retirees at our 'Hatfield Farewell' on 12th May.

Yours is one copy of a limited edition of just 200 and I feel confident that you will think that of it as a fitting Memento, and a continuing reminder of your association with the Hatfield Site.

Yours sincerely  
for Rolls-Royce plc

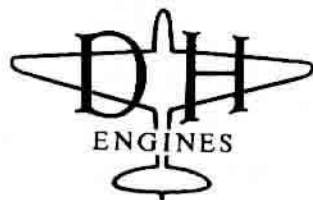
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Banton".

Peter L. Banton  
Recruitment and Development Manager - Leavesden  
[formerly Hatfield Personnel Officer]



**A Commemoration  
of the  
Hatfield Test site  
from deHavilland  
to Rolls-Royce**

ROLLS-ROYCE



# **The Engine Company Test Centre Hatfield**

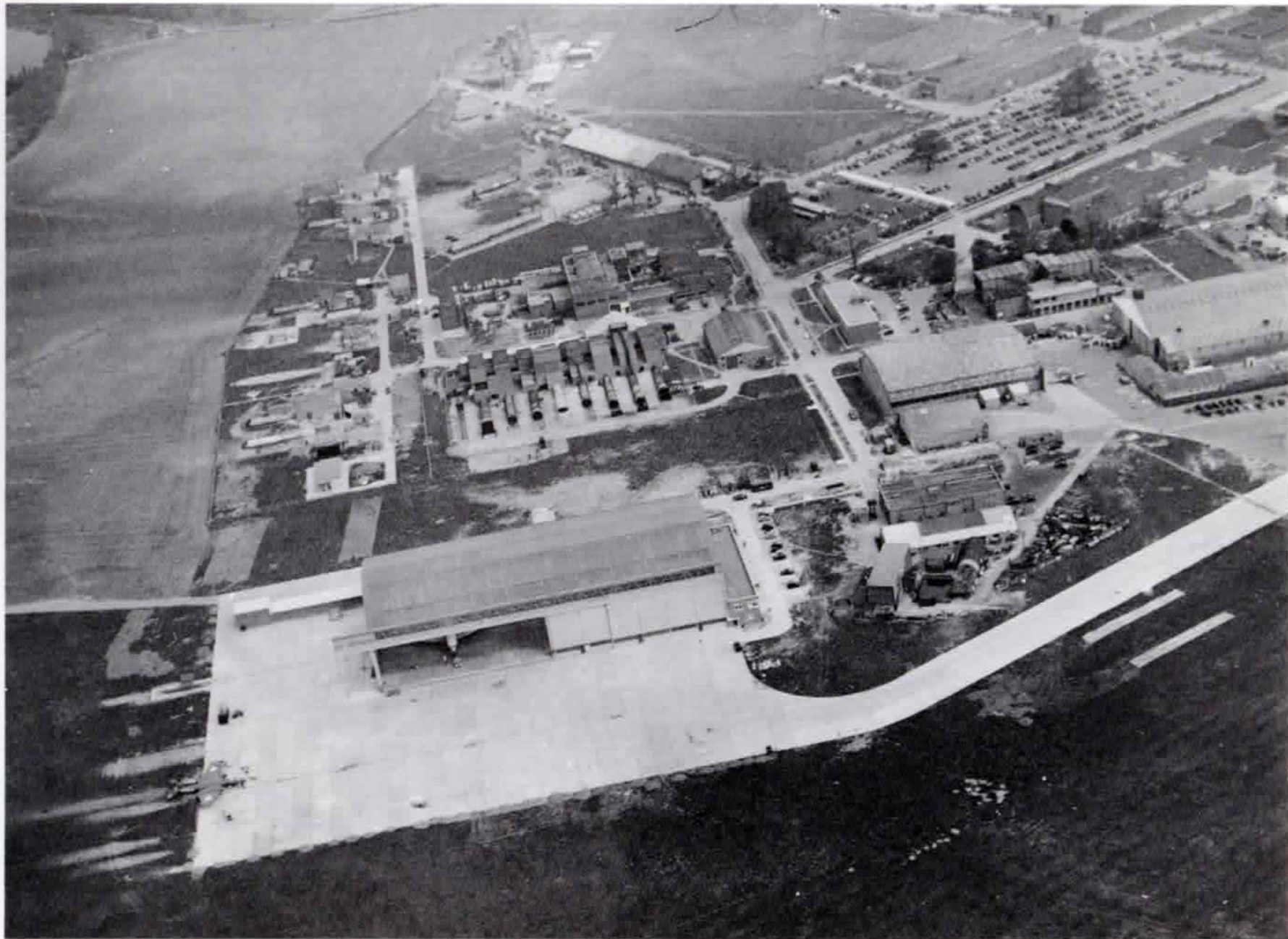
**A Commemoration  
of the  
Hatfield Test site  
from deHavilland  
to Rolls-Royce**

**May 1990**

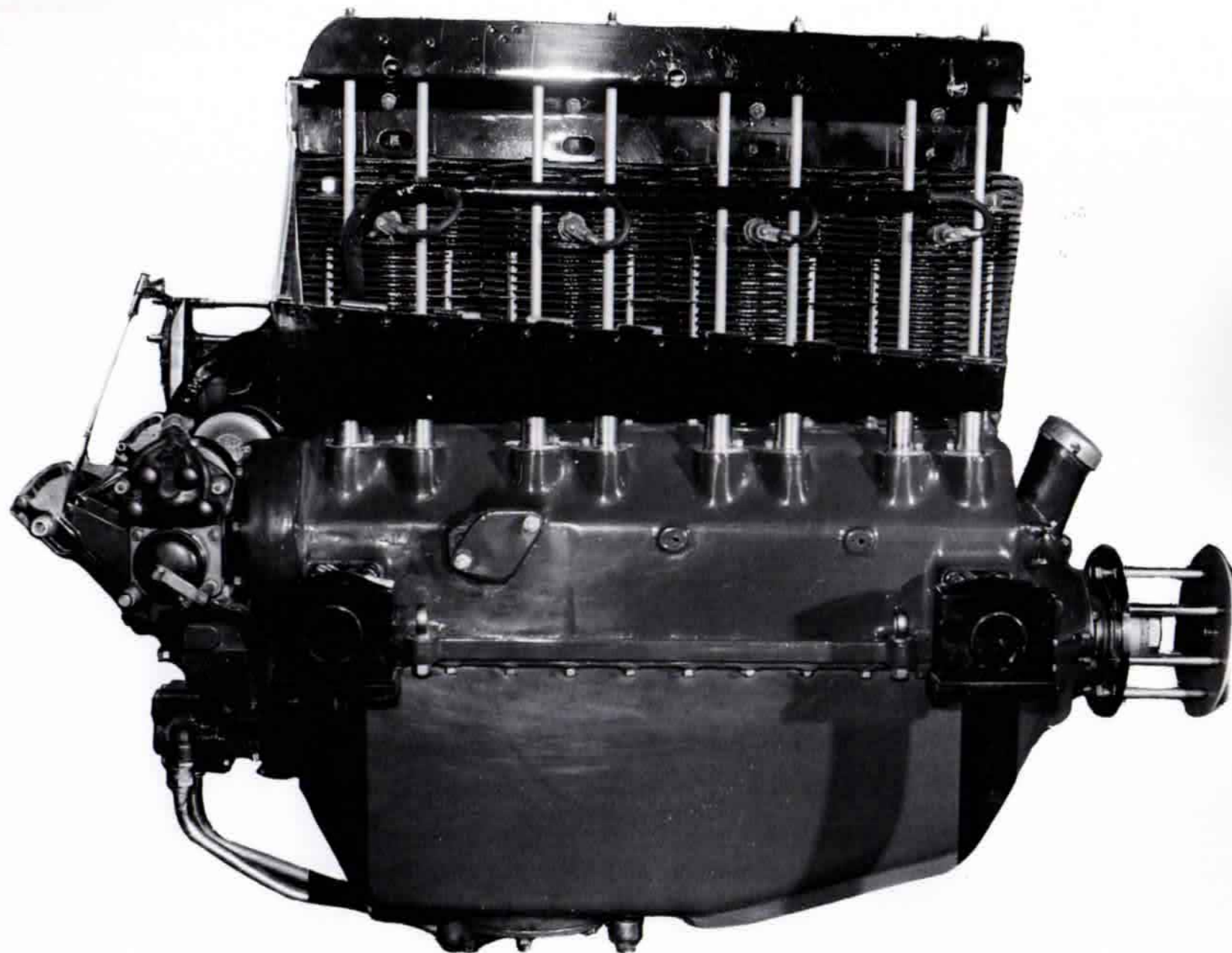


*Roy Young (unrecognised) Bruce Boshier (unrecognised) Frank Matthews in check jacket*

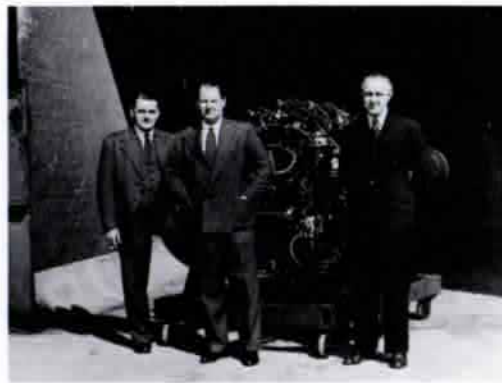




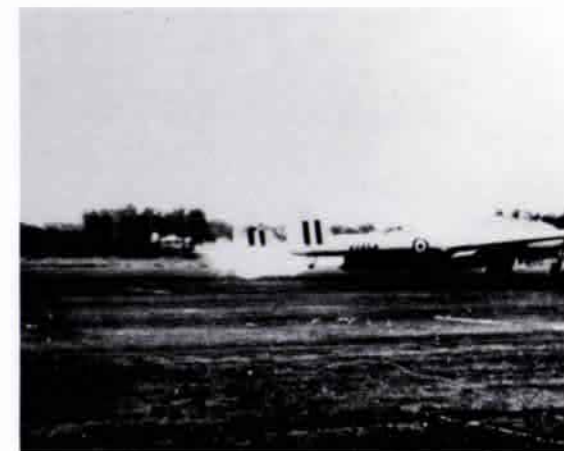
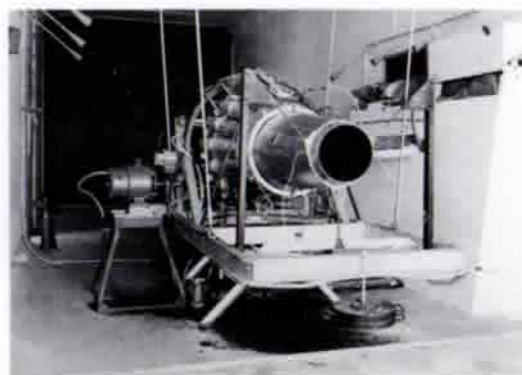
**The Hatfield Test Site**



Gipsy ~~Gypsy~~ One

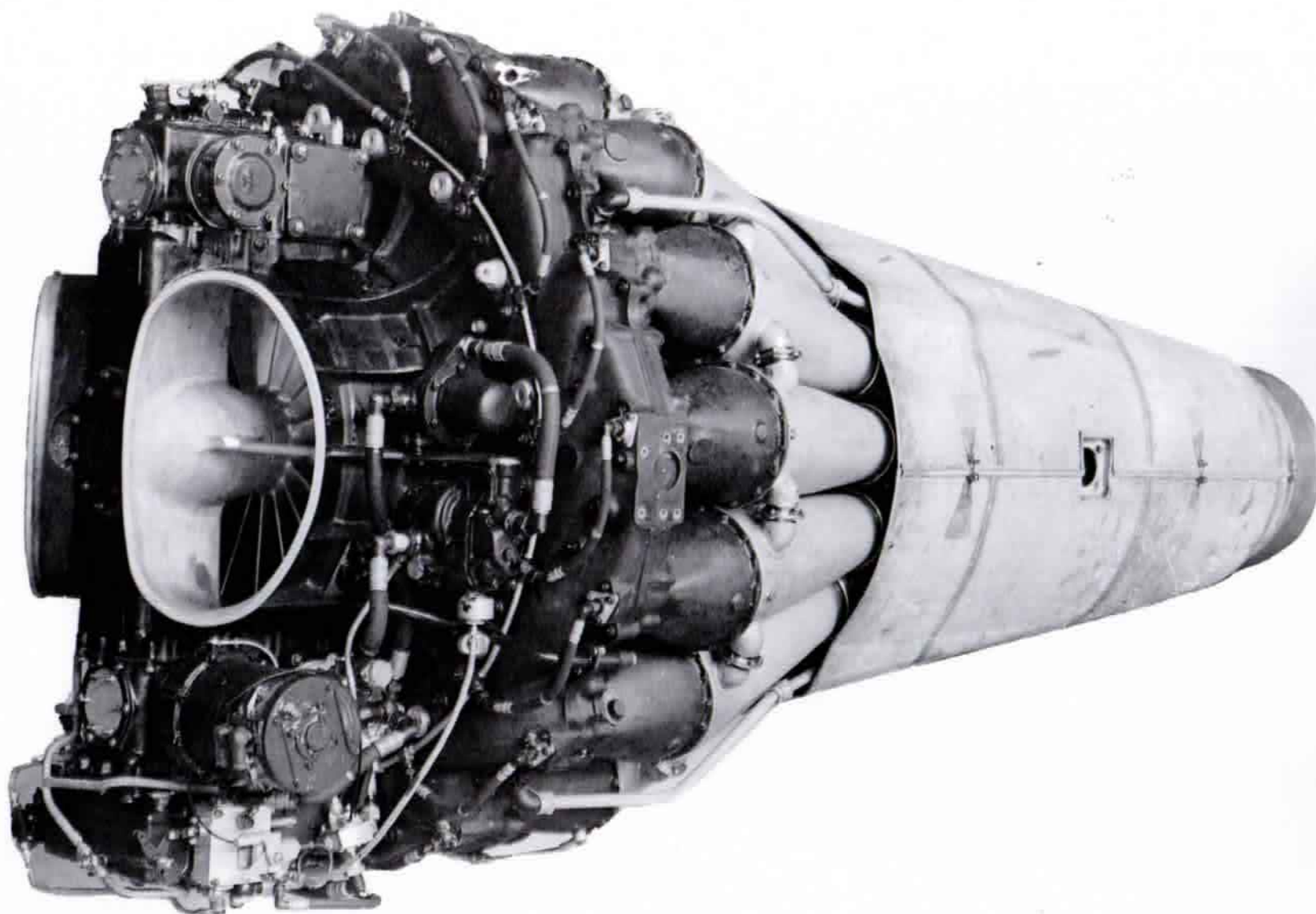


## The post War Team

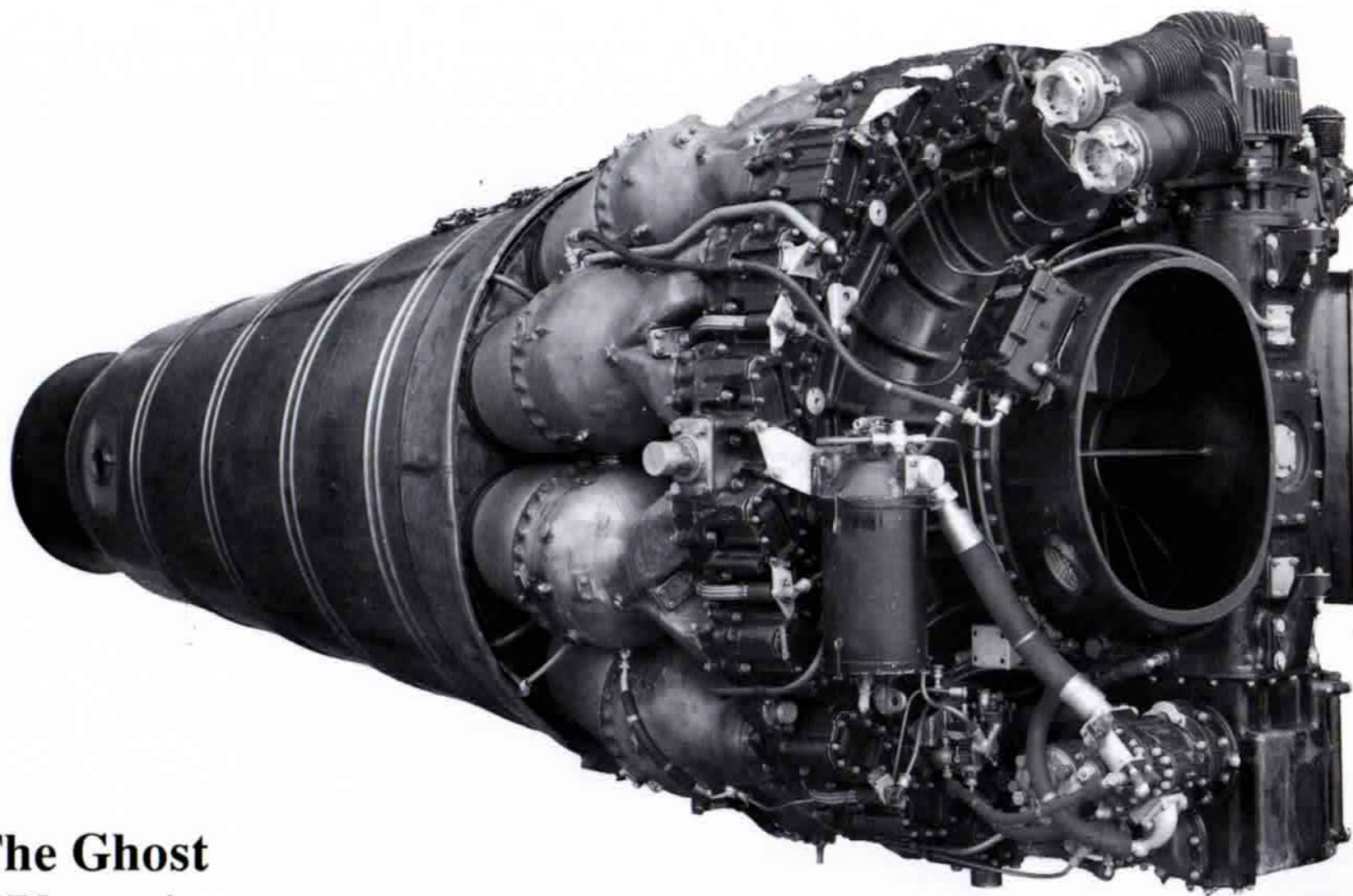


Top left, Air Marshal Sir Alec Coryton shuts down Goblin after 1000 hour endurance test; behind him Major Halford.  
Bottom left, bottom row: left Guy Bristow Chief Test Engineer, right Jack Morton, Site Supervisor.





## The Goblin



**The Ghost  
(Venom)**



# **The 'Ghost' Lancastrian**

**Aug. 1947**





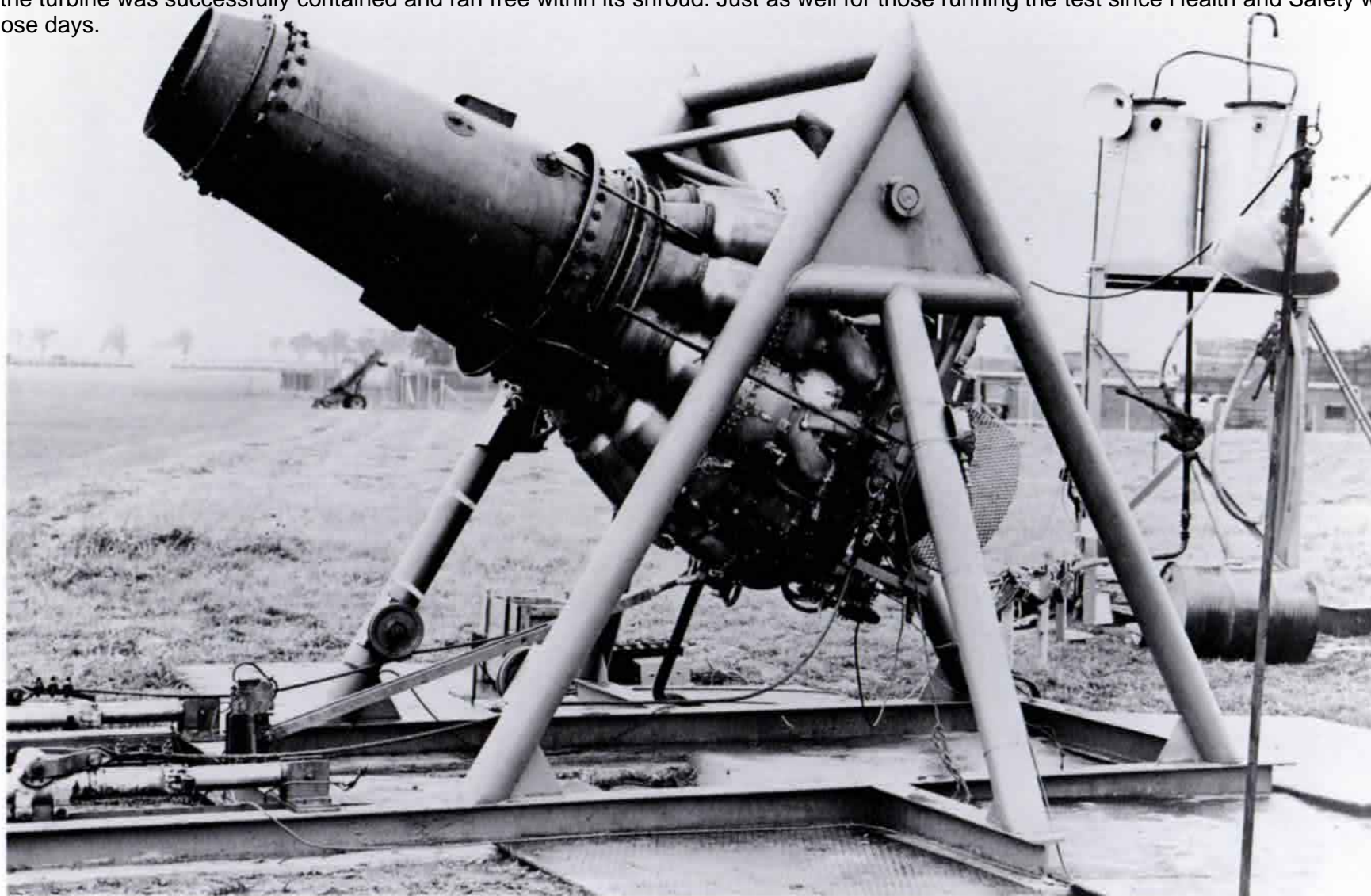


**Ghost Comets**



The picture of the Ghost under test following the Comet disasters shows the first job I was given, since it was a bit " hairy" and I was the newest recruit. The test was to establish if the Comet crashes had been caused by engine failure and ejection of the turbine. The engine was mounted out of balance with a retaining bolt which could be remotely withdrawn allowing the Ghost to return to horizontal with a hefty thump after having been subjected to a simulated flight sortie. This was to stress the turbine attachment bolts well beyond their normal operating conditions. Many such cycles were completed with nothing happening until the bolts eventually did fail, but the turbine was successfully contained and ran free within its shroud. Just as well for those running the test since Health and Safety were not much in evidence in those days.

Derek Titchner.



**Comet crash investigation  
Ghost engine coupling rig**

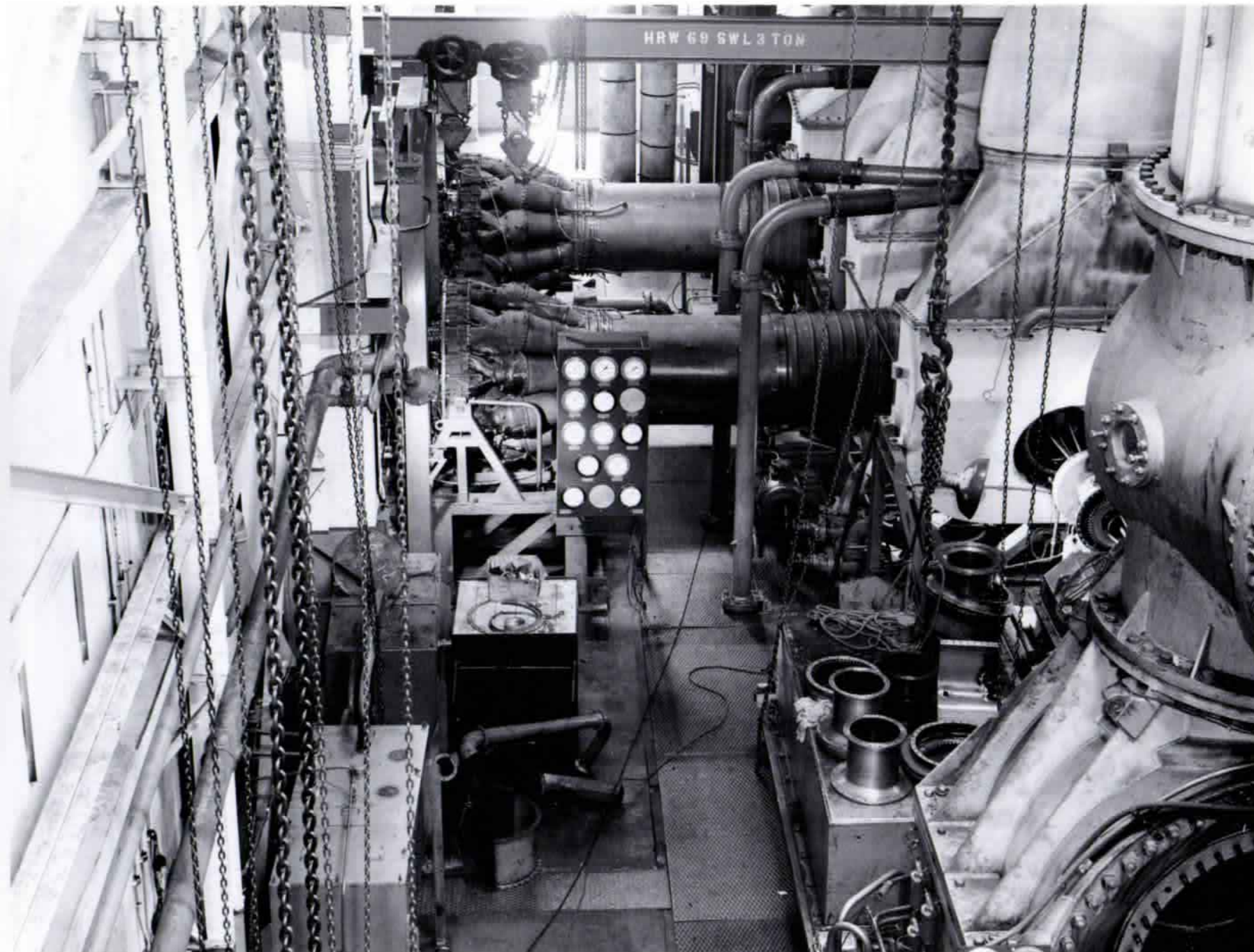
## **Young Bob with the Skeeter Gipsy Major**

Robert "Bob" Penderleith, Test  
Pilot and ex Battle of Britain pilot.



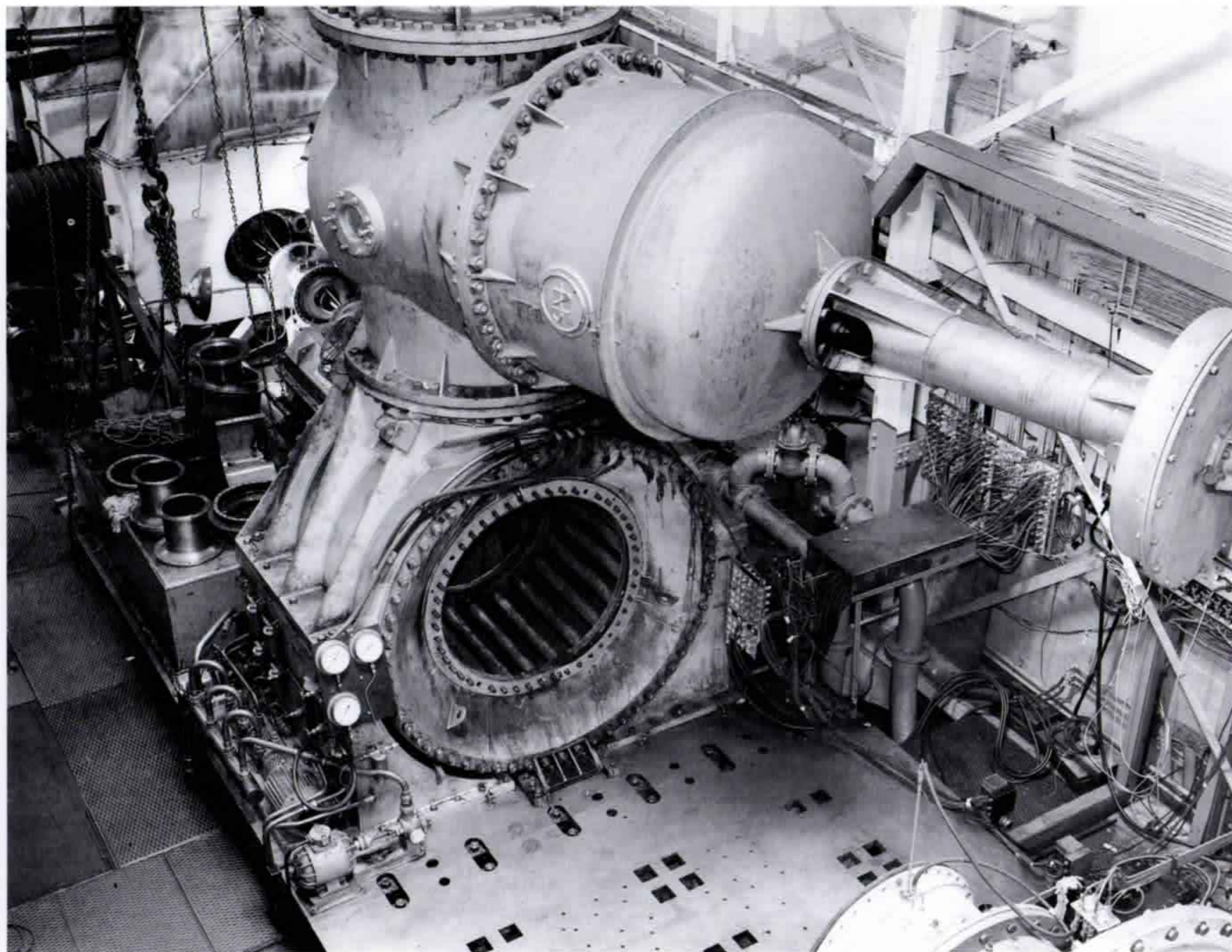






**Ghost power in the lab**



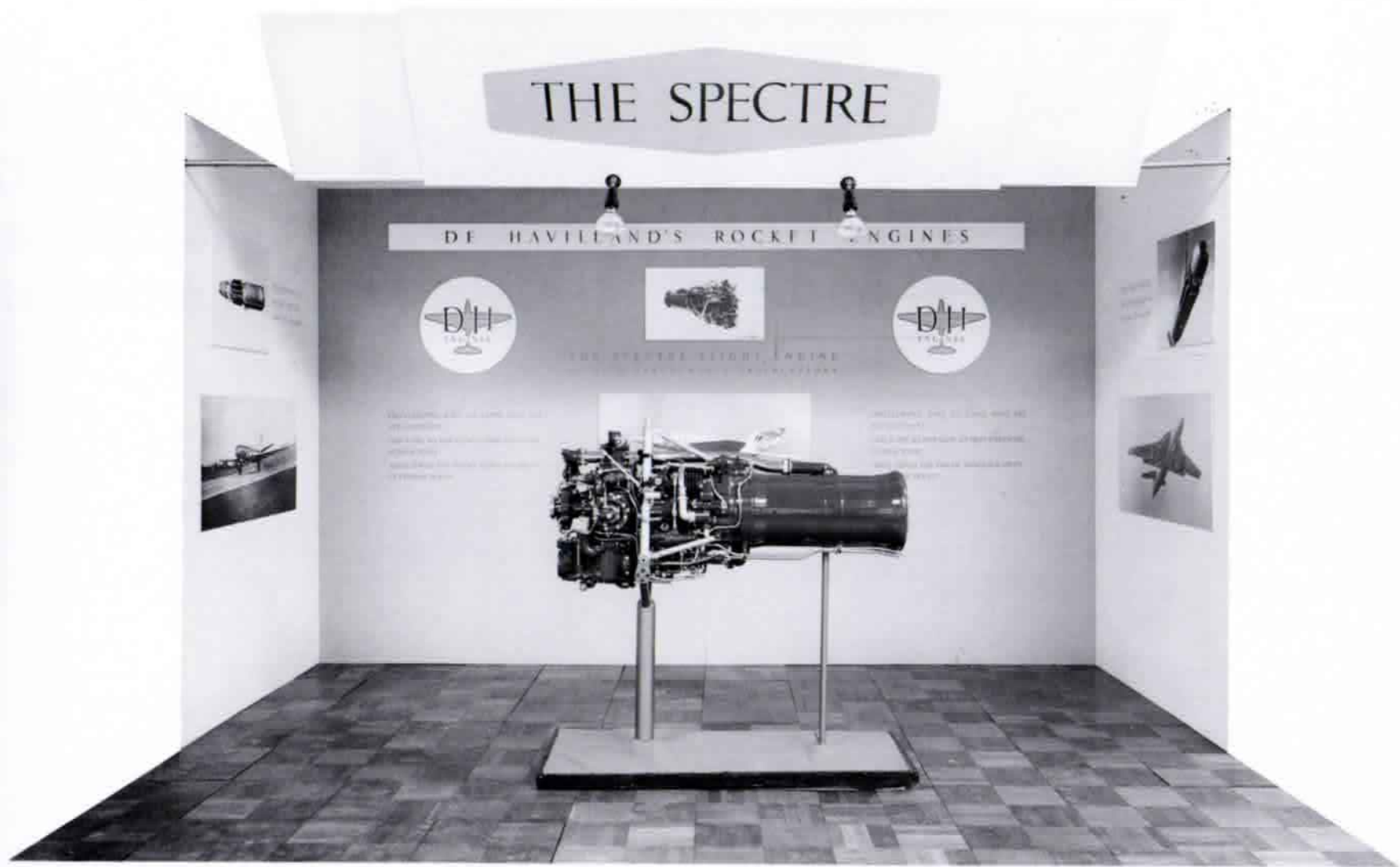


**Halford lab Valvery**





**Hatfield's rocket beds**



# **'EYES OPEN' – The rocket doesn't last long ! Spectre bench run**

No. 25 Test Bed, used extensively for the Big Gyron, the Gyron Junior PS 50 and for the Olympus once we were part of Bristol.





**Sprite  
Dropping Pack  
on bench test**



**25 bed with  
ample Detuners  
– Gyrons  
and PS 50**





**Ground checks on  
Spectre Canberra**



**Spectre Canberra with flight  
test crew**

Fourth from right: John  
Nicholson, Chief Test Pilot.





**Rocket assisted Victor  
2 Spectre**





**Spectre bed in action**

**Saunders-Roe SR 53  
aircraft takes off**

**Spectre adds to the Viper  
power**



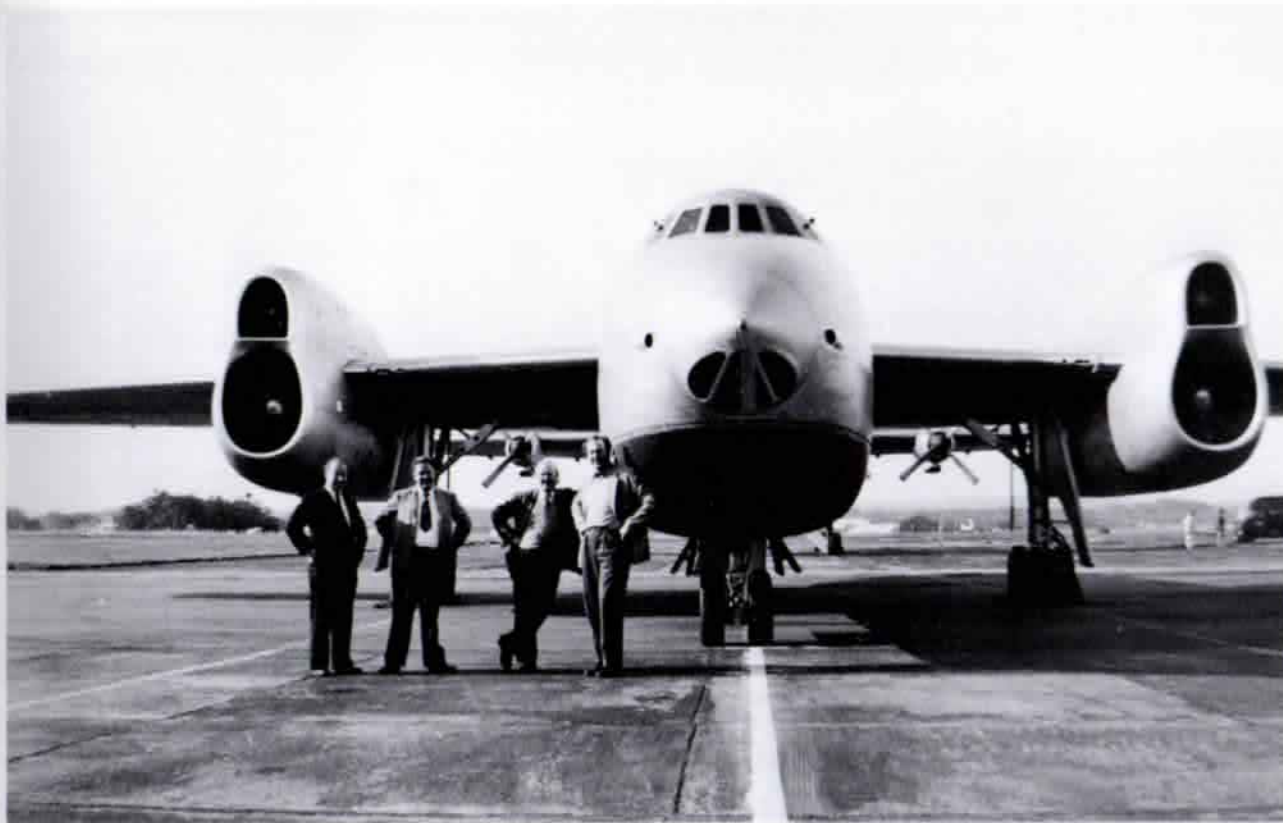


**The Gyron arrives**



**Manually operated Gyron**





## **Short Sperrin with 2 Gyrons**

First left: Ken Hulin, Inspector.





**Hawker P1121 mock-up intended to be Gyron powered**



## **A Post flight smoke Gyron Junior Canberra WF 909 and crew**

Second left: Peter "Nick" Crossland,  
Assistant Chief Test Engineer; fourth  
from left Ranji Khera, Section Leader  
Flight Test; 6th from left John  
Nicholson, C T P.



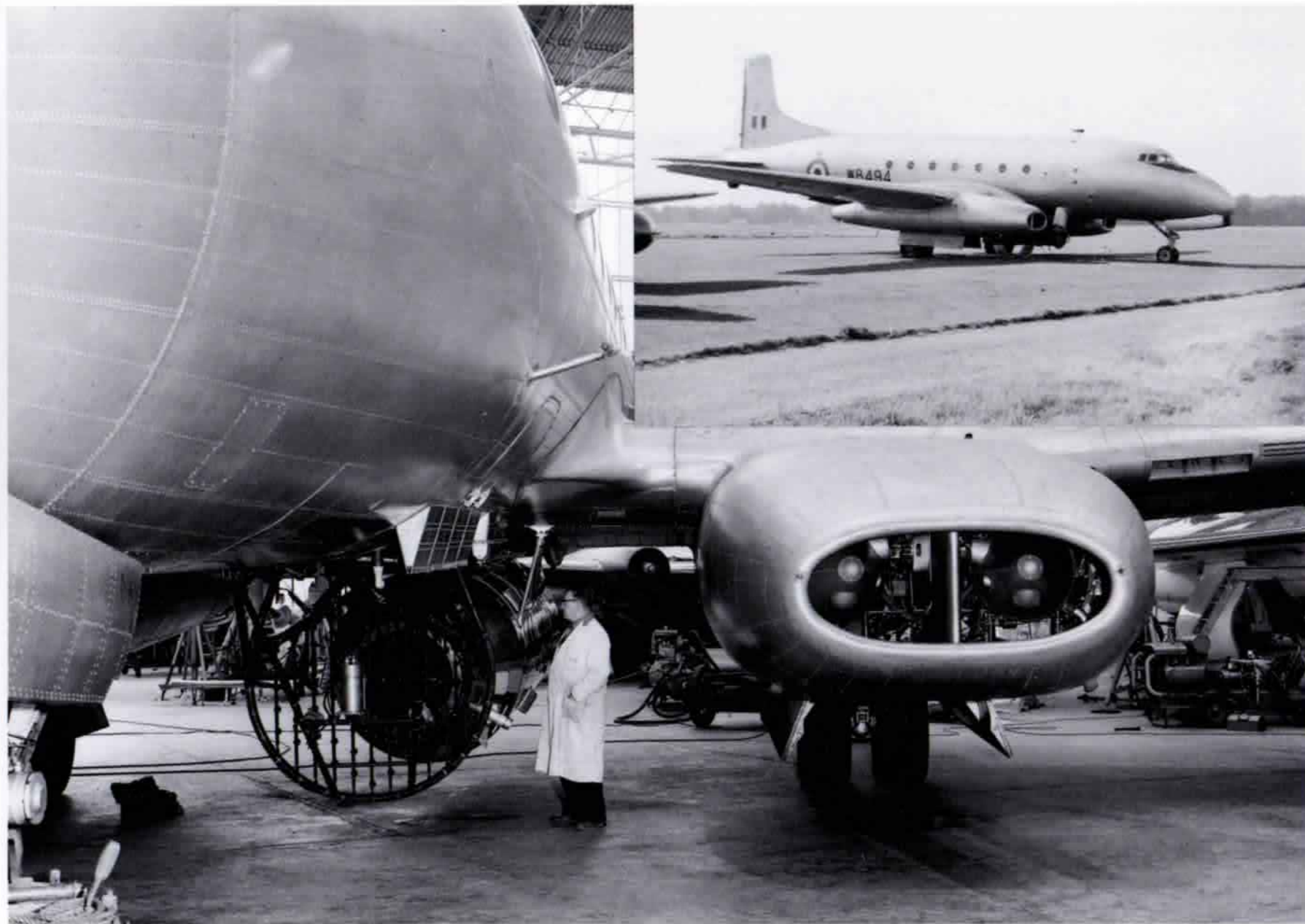


## Engine Company Canberras



## VN 813 with Venom chase





**Gyron Junior icing trials  
– Slung under Avro Ashton WB 494**

Left: Ranji Khera.



**PS 50 Ground runs in Javelin**





**PS 50 Javelin**



**Buccaneer  
arrives at  
Hatfield**

**Gyron Junior**





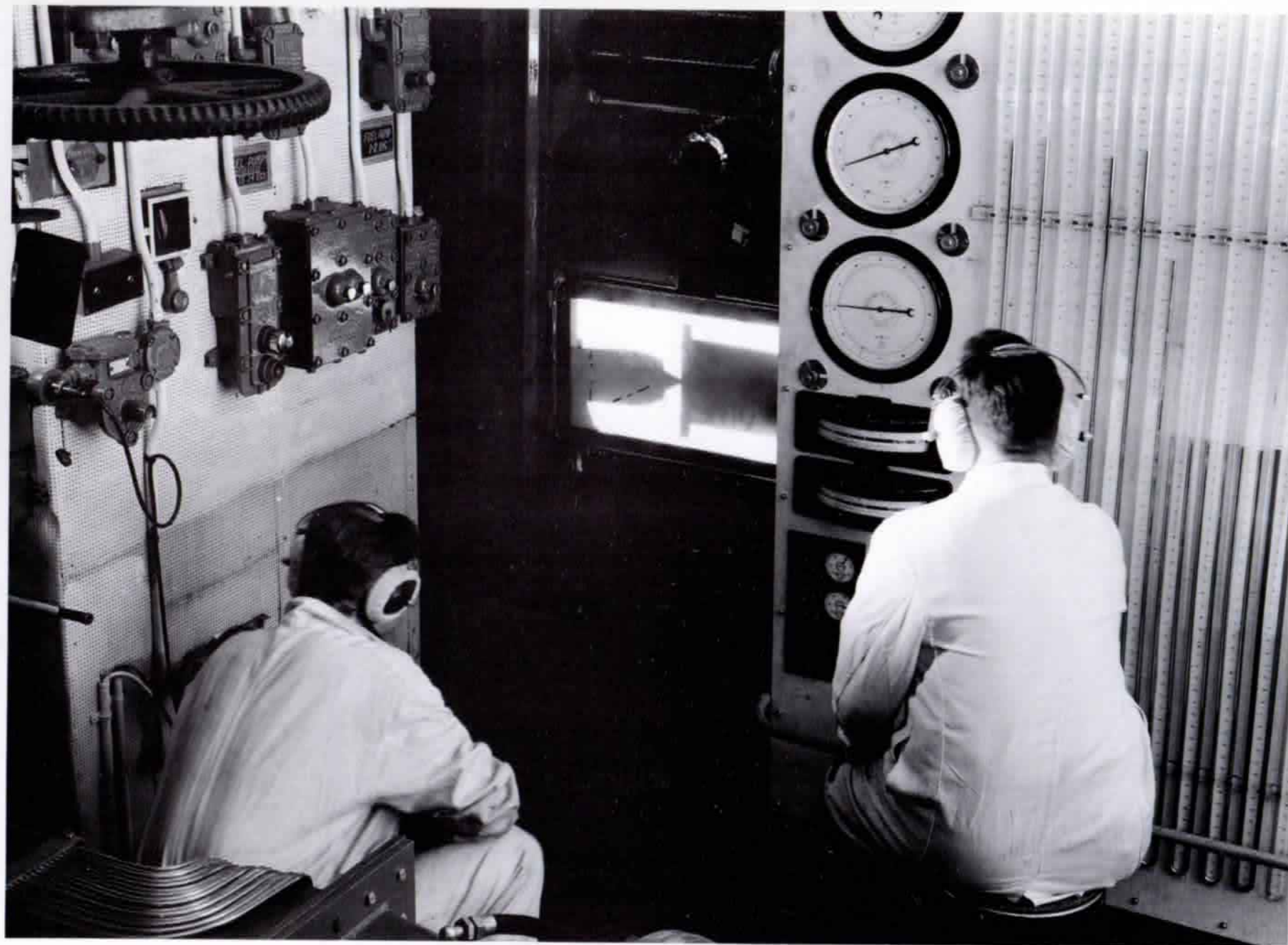
## **John & Tony with the Blackburn Buccaneer**

Left: John Nicholson. Right: Tony Buxton, Test Engineer and Flight Test Observer. – **2 Gyron Juniors**





**Halford lab workshop**



**Halford lab model  
Intake flow tests**

Bristol T188 intake.



## **Gyron Junior PS50 bench test with T 188 intake**

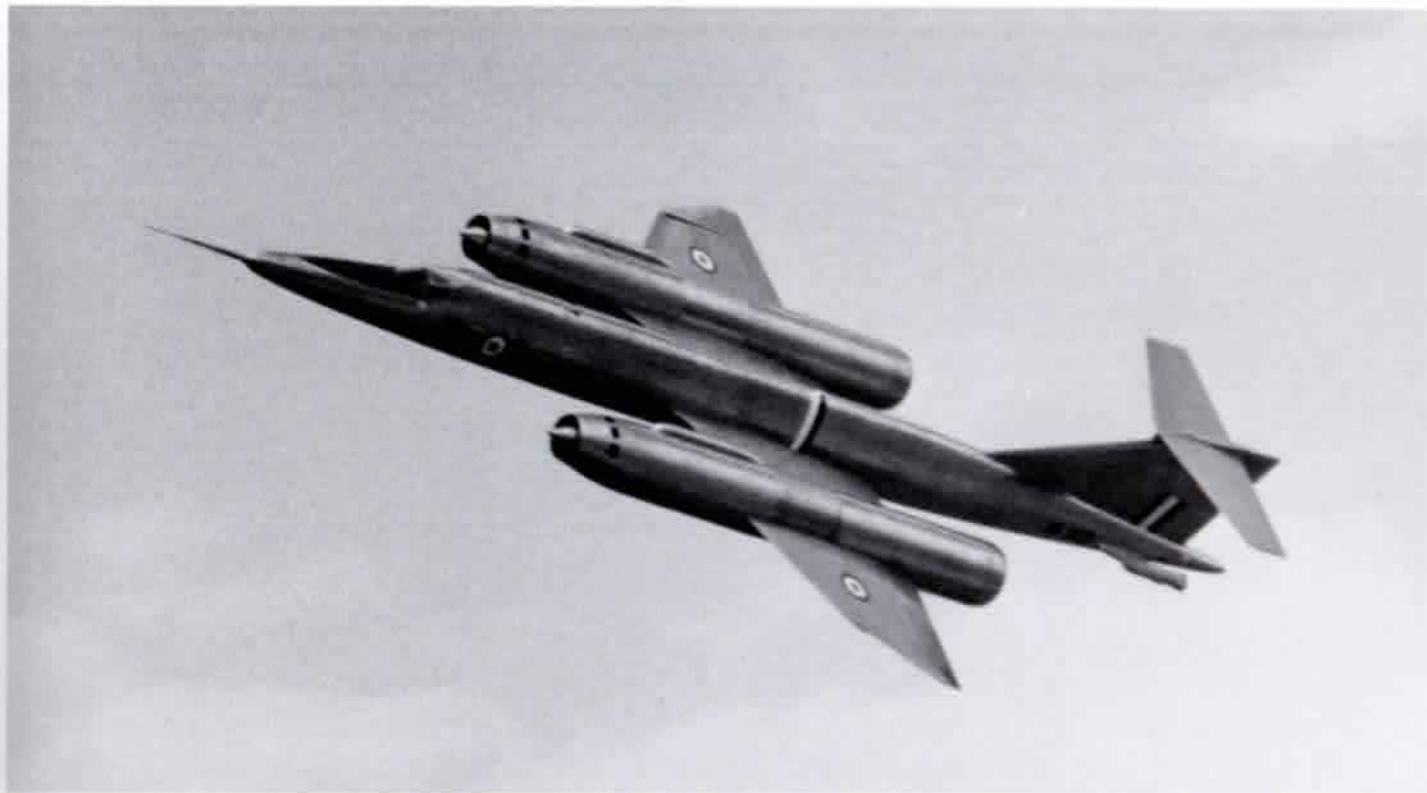
Left: Reg Brown, Instrument Fitter.  
Right: Jack Pegg, Tester.  
The intake is of the Bristol T188.





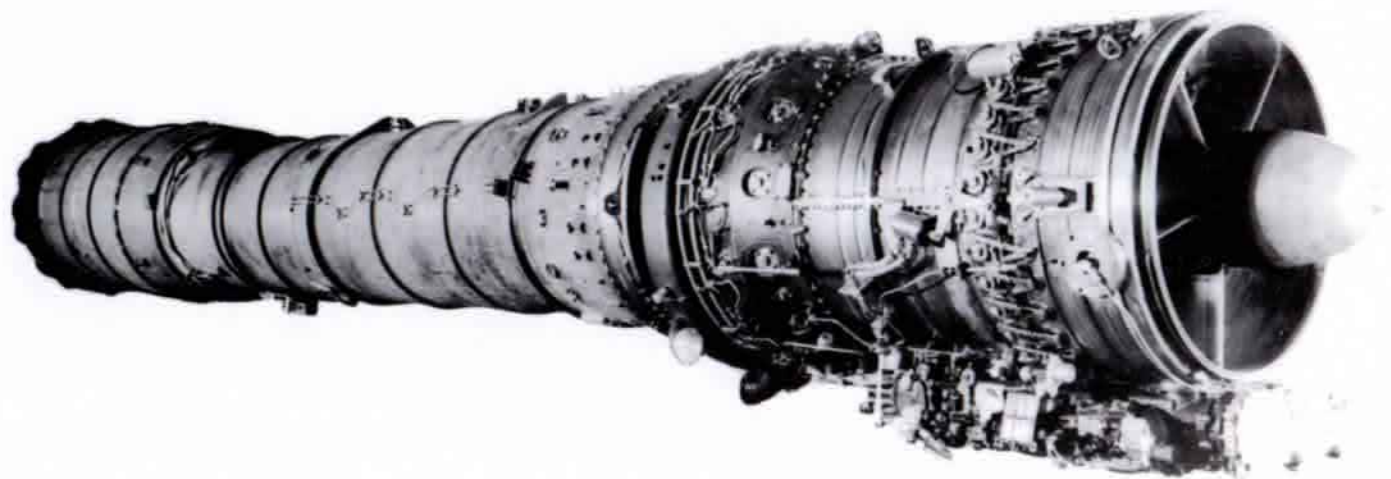


**T 188 research aircraft – Early ground runs at Filton**



**Bristol T 188**  
**research aircraft**

**Gyron Junior**  
**PS 50**





**Whirlwind rotor tower – Single Gnome  
– Before the Netting !**



## **'Gnome' test on Whirlwind rotor tower**

Left: Ron Cabbie, Test Engineer.  
Right: Bill Hurn, Tester.

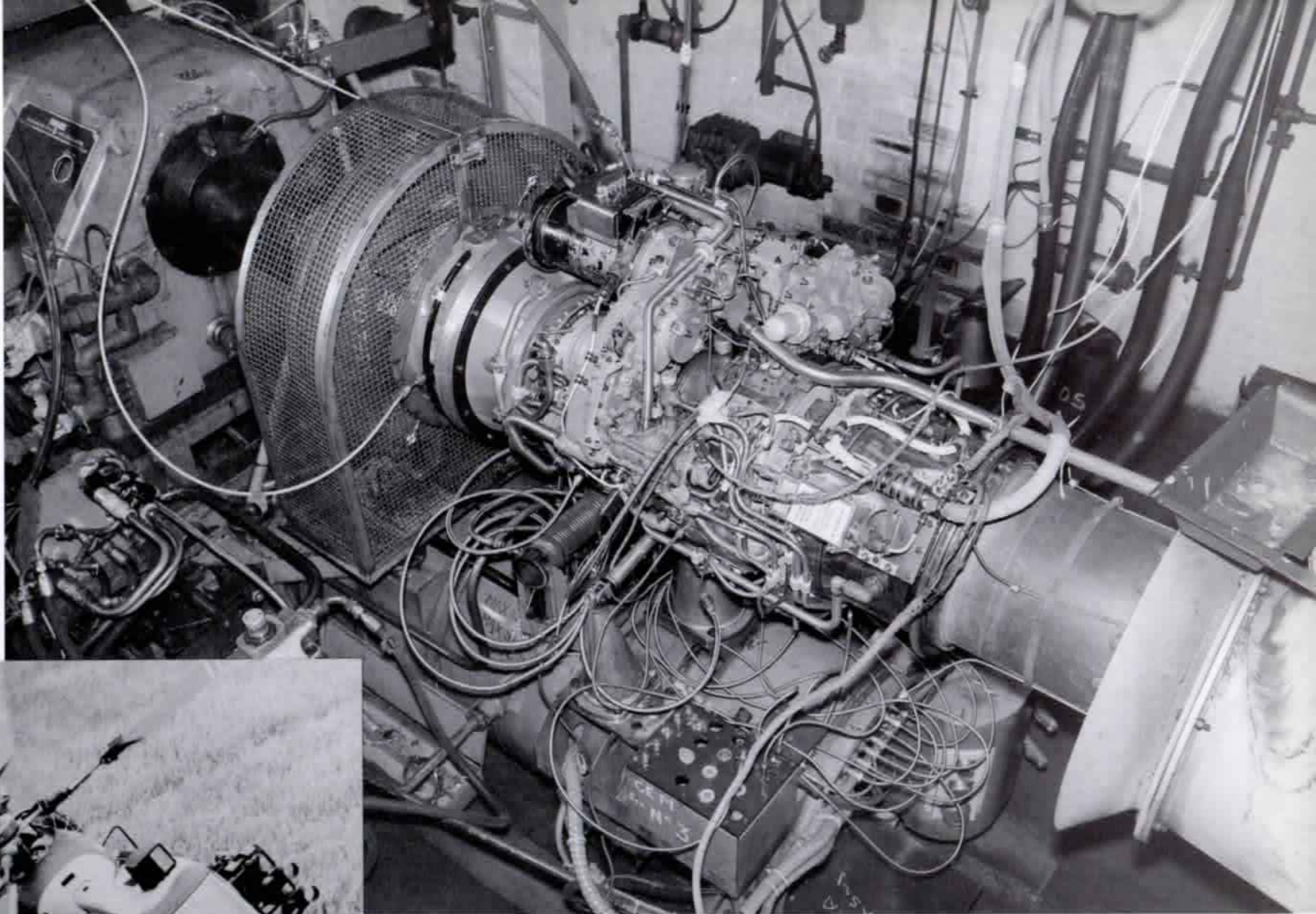




**Gnome Whirlwind gets airborne  
outside the new Engine Company hangar**



**Gem bench  
test**



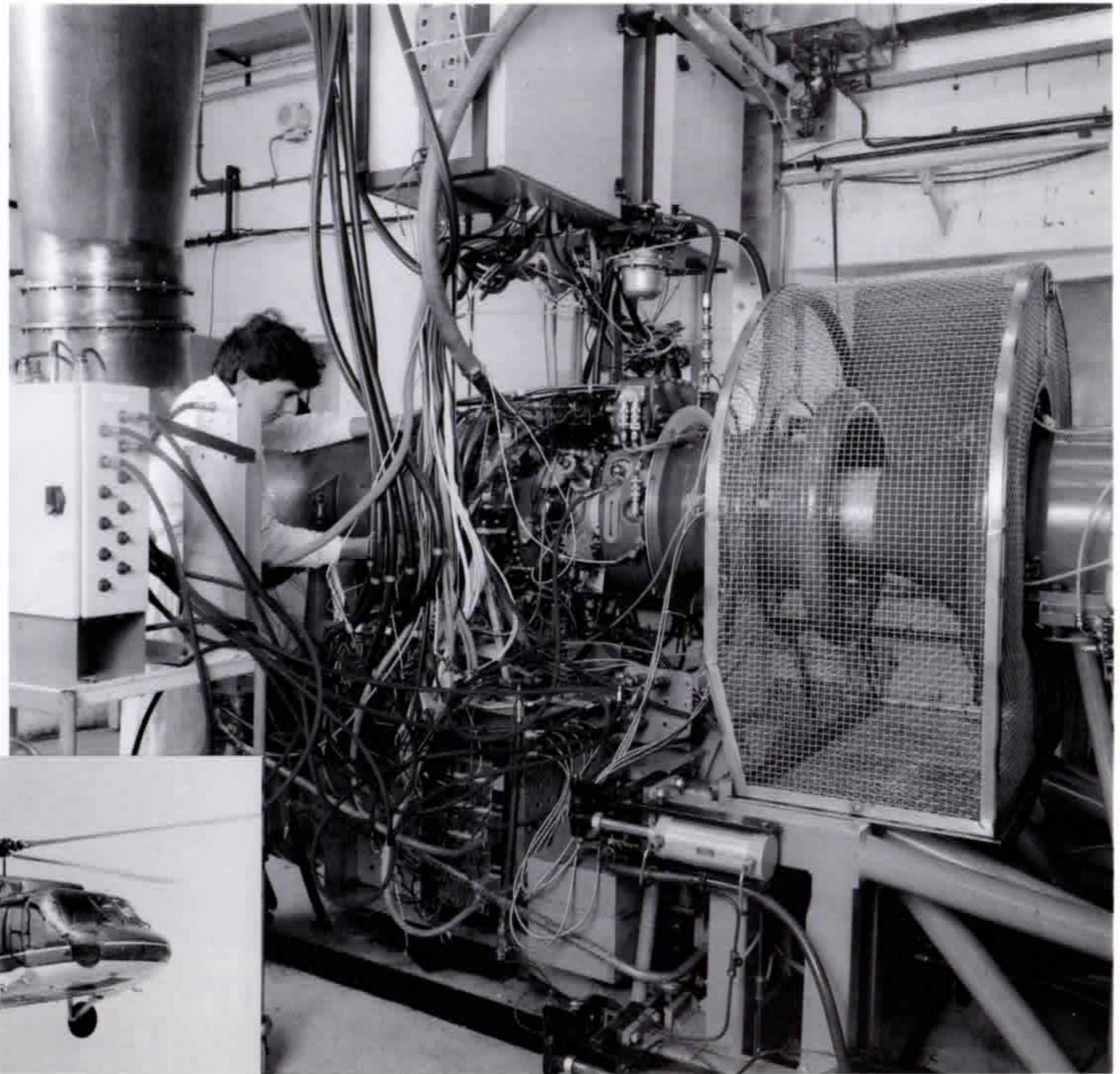
**Westland  
Lynx**

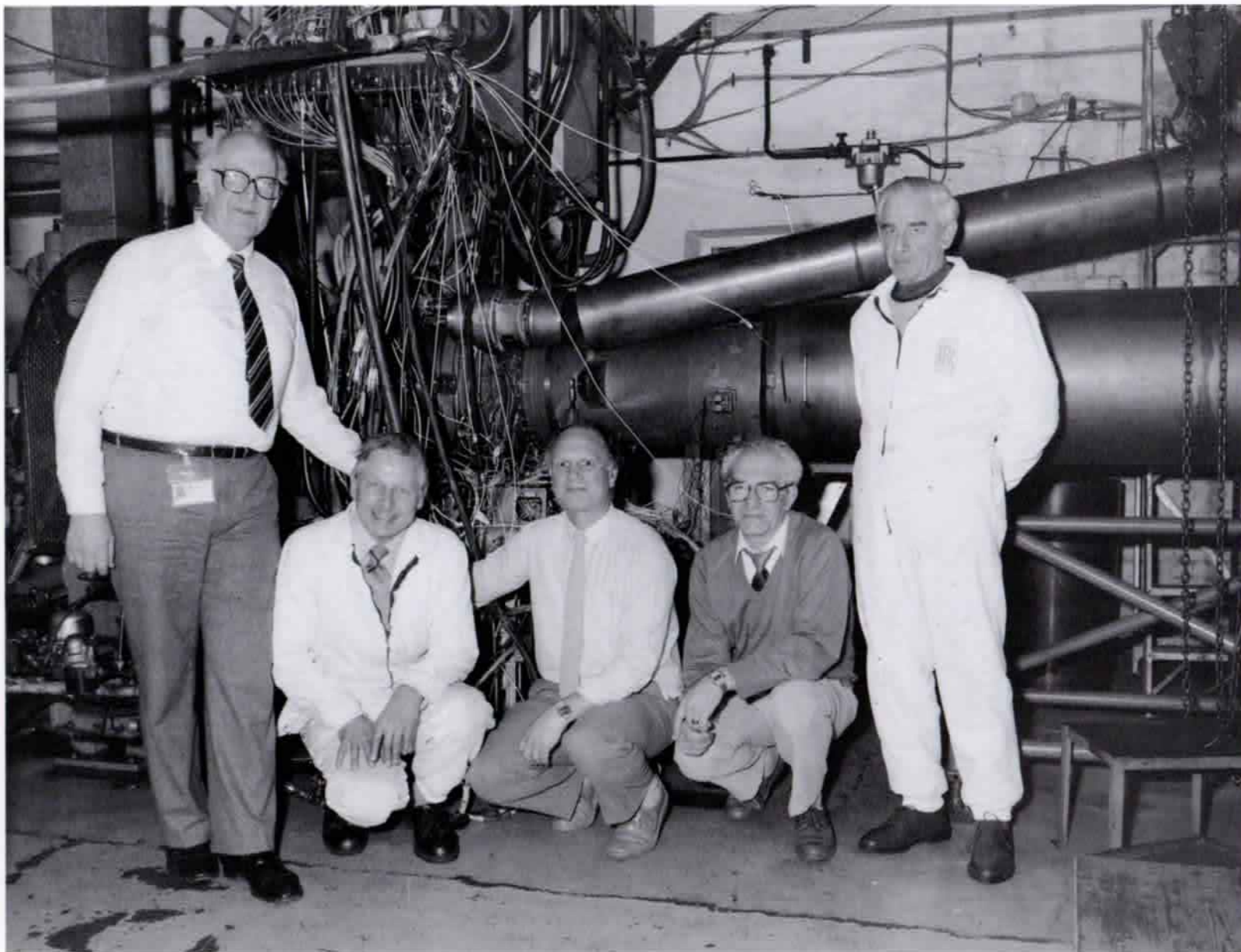


**RTM 322  
No.14  
bed  
Hatfield**

Ian Inward, Tester.

**Sikorsky S-70C  
at Bristol**





**'The Final Run'**  
**RTM 322 completes Type test**

Left to right: Brian Hurt ,Test Engineer; Ken Hodgson, Tester; Vic Blinco, TE; Tony Harri, TE; 'Toshy' Rolt, shop steward. Page 44