



Jan Zurakowski piloted Arrow's maiden flight.

Former Top Test Pilot Zurakowski Jobless

Canada's former top test pilot Jan Zurakowski, 44, joined the ranks of the unemployed yesterday.

The Polish-born flyer—an ace of the Battle of Britain—took the Avro up for its maiden flight March 25, 1958, and made about 30 flights in all, reaching speeds estimated at more than 1,200 miles an hour.

When the Arrow was scrapped yesterday by the Federal Government, Mr. Zurakowski was caught in the wave of Avro layoffs.

Formerly Avro's chief experimental pilot, he recently had been appointed a staff engineer.

It was seven years ago that he and his wife came to Canada.

"I hope to find a job in Canada, but if I can't I will be forced to go to the United States," he said last night.

The Government's decision is a "colossal blow to Canadian prestige. We will always have to rely on U.S. help, which I think is bad," he said.

He said he had thought the Government would find work for the thousands of persons made jobless by the decision before making its announcement.

Last November, Mr. Zurakowski was honored in a ceremony at Toronto City Hall. Mayor Phillips presented him with cuff-links.

During the Second World War, he was decorated with the Polish "Virtuti Militari" for gallantry in action. He joined the RAF after Poland was invaded, and destroyed six enemy aircraft.

He parachuted from out-of-control aircraft twice during the war.

In August, 1954, he parachuted from a CF-100 while on a test flight over the Ajax area. The navigator was killed in the crash.

Before coming to Canada, he was test pilot for the Gloster Aircraft Co. in Britain.

His flying skill thrilled thousands at airshows in Canada and Britain.

The former squadron leader had almost 4,000 flying hours logged in some 60 types of aircraft.

His first flight was in 1935; his last in October, 1958. He is a qualified aeronautical engineer.

The Zurakowskis and their two children, aged 6 and 7, live in Etobicoke.

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