

Jimmy Jeffs visited the air traffic control evaluation unit at Bournemouth on Monday 12 August, nearly 69 years after taking up his first air traffic control post at Croydon Airport in 1922. He is the holder of air traffic controller's licence number 1.

Jimmy, who is 91, visited the unit to see the latest developments in technology. The event was covered extensively by the local news media including the *Bournemouth Evening Echo*, *Two Counties Radio* and *TVS*.

After leaving the Royal Naval Air Service in October 1919, Jimmy joined the Air Ministry and was posted to Croydon airport as an air traffic controller in 1922. He was subsequently promoted to officer-in-charge at Lympne.

Later he was responsible for installing air traffic control at Glasgow, Manchester, Belfast, Liverpool, Blackpool, Doncaster, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Jersey, Isle of Man, Hull, Orkney, Southampton (Eastleigh and Southampton Water) and Gatwick airports.

In 1934, Jimmy was posted to Heston, where he opened the National Air Traffic Control school in 1937 as chief instructor. He was commissioned in the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of the second world war as a squadron leader, and during his wartime service was responsible for co-ordinating trans-Atlantic and trans-Sahara air routes.

After the war, Jimmy was appointed divisional controller, south east division until being appointed airport com-

mandant at Prestwick in 1950. He succeeded Sir John D'Albiac as airport commandant, Heathrow, in 1957 and held this post until his retirement in 1960.

Jimmy has remained active in aviation since his retirement as an aviation consultant having been, founding vice-president of the

Croydon Airport Society and president of his local Air Training Corps Branch.

Ray Jeffs, Jimmy's son, accompanied his father to the evaluation unit. Ray spent 30 years with the Authority and its predecessors. He was chairman of the safety regulation group's finance advisory com-

mittee, and served as vice-chairman of the Airworthiness Requirements Board from 1972 to 1989.

Above: Peter McKinnon, New En Route Centre project manager demonstrates a monitor to Jimmy Jeffs. Top: How Croydon air-traffic control looked in 1921.



From Croydon to computers