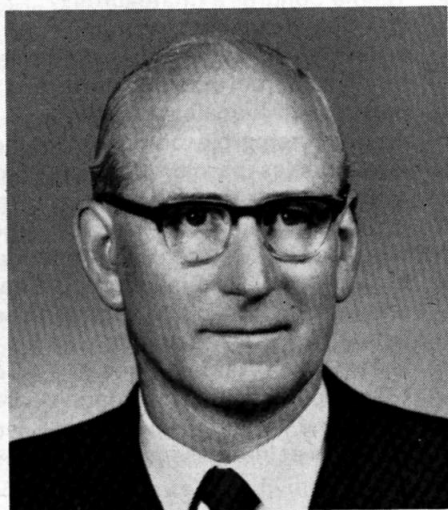


# OSTIV Plaque 1978 with Klemperer Award



The President of OSTIV, Mr. L. A. de Lange, presented at the Opening Ceremony of the XVth OSTIV Congress in Châteauroux, France, on 27 July 1978 the OSTIV Plaque with Klemperer Award to Ing. Walter Stender, in appreciation of his noteworthy contribution to soaring flight.

## Walter Stender: Mentor of the Post-War Generation of Sailplane Designers

Walter Stender was born in Riga, the capital of former Latvia, on 21 July 1905. He studied technical sciences in Mittweida and in Frankenhausen.

As a young engineer he was employed at the German research institute DVL (Deutsche Versuchsanstalt für Luftfahrt) as a member of the strength-testing department. At the same time he began active flying, gaining his private pilot's licence in 1928.

In addition to his DVL-activity, he was at that time the leader in the design and construction of a light single seater FF1 at the Akaflieg Belice.

In 1935 he became head of the Flight

Testing Department at Hamburger Flugzeugbau Blohm & Voss, and worked during World War II with Dr. Alexander Lippisch at Messerschmitt Ltd. and with Dr. Joachim Kuettnner at the Zeppelinwerke.

After the war, when building of aeroplanes was prohibited in Germany, Stender switched to engine building, and was employed in a machine factory, though he remained interested in design and construction of sailplanes. It was then that he met for the first time the young, coming sailplane designer Rudolf Kaiser (in Coburg) whose mentor he became - whereby

he had a great influence upon the pioneering designs of Schleicher's K-sailplanes. And not only on these sailplanes, for his unique and valuable paper that he wrote that time: *"Entwurfsg Grundlagen für Segelflugzeuge"* (Basis for the Design of Sailplanes) was for the whole post-war generation of sailplane designers in Germany, for Akafliegs and specialists, a constantly used handbook.

In 1961 he returned to the aviation industry, and was employed at Dornier Flugzeugbau near München until 1971, when he retired.

Apart from the above mentioned paper, Stender has made an excellent contribution to Georg Brütting's "Handbook for Pilots", titled *"Einführung in die Flugtheorie"* (Introduction into the Theory of Flight), which is in this field one of the best graphical and vital representations ever published, not only accurate but also clear and simplified. He is a master of handy and easy-to-evaluate diagrams. Using such a technique, he wrote in recent years an extensive book (three volumes) dealing with the very difficult, and only partly investigated field of "flutter danger".

In harmony with nature, a great walker, always disposed for philosophy, being well versed in archeology, medicine, and religious sciences, having command of the English, French, Swedish and Russian languages, Walter Stender is a friend with whom any discussion is a pleasure.

A heavy blow for him and his wife was that their son Björn lost his life in soaring flight.

This teacher, author, engineer, flutter specialist, and man with an allround knowledge in aeronautics, is still active at the age of 75.

It has been a great pleasure for OSTIV to honour this deserving personality with the OSTIV Plaque.