

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

ENGLISH ELECTRIC CANBERRA PR9 XH171/8746M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1992/0403/A

- 31 Jul 54 Originally ordered from English Electric Co, Preston to contract 6/Acft/11158/CB6 (a) for 77 aircraft.
- Nov 56 Production transferred to Short Bros. and Harland Ltd, Belfast, on contract 6/Acft/14027/CB6 (a)
- Mar 58 Order reduced to 23 PR.9 aircraft, of which 9 later cancelled; 14 built. Constructor's number SH.1735. Serials between XH129 and XH177.
- 4 Aug 60 Awaiting collection
- 8 Aug 60 No. 15 Maintenance Unit, RAF Wroughton, Wilts - aircraft storage unit.
- 5 Sep 60 No. 58 Squadron, RAF Wyton, Cambs - the first unit to receive the PR9 aircraft.
- 21 Mar 62 To Shorts for modifications
- 27 Jun 62 Ministry of Aviation.
- 27 Feb 63 No. 15 MU, RAF Wroughton - Aircraft Storage Unit.
- 13 Jun 63 No. 5 MU, RAF Kemble, Glos.
- 4 Jul 63 Shorts for modifications, completed 2 October 1963.
- 9 Oct 63 No. 39 Squadron, RAF Luqa, Malta
- 28 Sep 70 No. 13 Squadron, also at RAF Luqa - No.39 Squadron returned to the UK that month, leaving XH171 behind.
- 28 Oct 70 Damaged, cat. 3R. Repaired on site by No. 103 MU; repairs completed 27 Nov 70 and returned to No. 13 Squadron.
- 6 Nov 71 Returned to Shorts for major servicing.
- 20 Apr 72 Returned to No. 13 Squadron.

- 10 Sep 72 Damaged - Cat 3R. Repaired on site by No.103 MU.
- 4 Nov 72 Repairs complete; back on No. 13 Squadron charge.
- 11 Dec 74 Back to Shorts for major servicing, completed 7 Mar 75.
- 10 Mar 76 No. 39 Squadron, RAF Wyton; performing low level tactical reconnaissance role within NATO plus shipping recce commitment and some aerial survey work. Photo at this time, in formation with two Royal Danish Air Force Saab F35 Drakens during Denmark survey; The Winged Bomb: History of 39 Squadron RA (Delve) p.165.
- 4 Feb 77 Flown by Dave Watson from RAF Wyton to RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus; flight time 4.30 hours. Navigator S/Ldr (Later Wg Cdr) Eric Dunn, RAF (Ret'd).
- 7 Feb 77 Flown by Dave Watson from Akrotiri to Luqa, Malta. Flight time 3 hours, and then on back to Wyton, a further three hour flight.
- 5 Oct 79 To Shorts at Belfast for major overhaul.
- 30 Jun 80 Returned to No. 39 Squadron charge.
- 9 Nov 81 Flown by S/Ldr Dave Watson to Bodo, Norway; flight time 2.30 hours, flying a two-hour task sortie the following day.
- 11 Nov 81 Returned to base from Bodo; pilot S/Ldr Dave Watson, flight time 2.30 hours.
- 19 Nov 81 Medium level PR tasks from Wyton. Pilot S/Ldr Dave Watson, flight time 3.10 hours.
- 2 Jun 82 Holding Flight, RAF Wyton.
- 13 Jul 82 Final flight; Flown to No.2 School of Technical Training, RAF Cosford, Salop and allocated as training airframe 8746M. Delivery time from RAF Wyton was 50 minutes; pilot S/Ldr Dave Watson; navigator S/Ldr E. Dunn.
- c. Jan 92 Transferred to Aerospace Museum, RAF Cosford.
- 16 May 2006 Moved into new National Cold War Exhibition building at Cosford for suspended display.

