

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

HM.14 'FLYING FLEA' G-AEEH
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1995/1007/A

- 1935/6 This 'Pou- du -Ciel' was built by Edgar George Davis; Scott Squirrel A2S engine. Constructor's number EGD.1. Davis was serving with No.286 Squadron RAF based at Western Zoyland, Somerset from 1935; the aircraft was built in a garage in Bath from the spring/summer of that year. Davis was assisted with the fabric work by his fiancée.
- Photo undertaking engine runs, possibly at RAF Western Zoyland in 1936; Air Britain Archive No.1 1999. Ground testing revealed the need for various modifications to the airframe.
- 13 Mar 36 Registered as G-AEEH.
- 16 May 36 Authorisation to fly No. 68 issued; 76 UK registered Fleas received Authorisation to fly, July 1935 - May 1939.
- 1936 Moved to Whitchurch airfield, near Bristol late that summer.
- 5 Nov 36 First straight 'hop' from Whitchurch, flown by Davis.
- 20 Nov 36 Favorable weather permitted Davis to make a full circuit at Whitchurch.
- 36/37 Winter loan of the Flea to a cinema at Weston-Super- Mare for exhibition in the foyer to draw attention to a flying film then being shown.
- May 37 Flown again by Davis on four occasions (8th, 10th, 14th and 16th May).
- Reported as 'grounded until 21.6.37' when it next flew, seemingly for the last time.
- 15 May 38 Authorisation to fly expired.
- C.1938 Engine and propeller sold to Bruce Douglas for £25.00; airframe stored.

Airframe stored in the garage at Bath with the wings slung in the rafters.

- Aug 46 Registration cancelled in census.
- 66 Spotted still in store at the Garage by a young RAF Hastings pilot from nearby RAF Colerne who asked if the aircraft could be kept with the station's collection of historic aircraft; it moved to Colerne shortly afterwards.
- Formally donated to station Museum at RAF Colerne; fitted at Colerne with a motorcycle AJS V-twin cylinder engine. Photo with former owner; Royal Air Force News w/e 5 January 1974 p.2.
- Late 75 To Regional Collection at RAF St.Athan, Glamorgan following closure of RAF Colerne and its museum.
- Dec 92 To Aerospace Museum, RAF Cosford, Salop by this date following closure of the St Athan regional collection.
- 93/94 Major restoration undertaken at Cosford by volunteers Don Lapworth (airframe) and Ray Jones (engine). Restoration completed January 1994.

TEXT: ANDREW SIMPSON

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