

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

AVRO 707C WZ744/7932M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 85/A/8

- 31 Jan 52 Following allocation of serial number on 13 Nov 1951, ordered to contract 6/Acft/7470/CB.6 (a). Built by Avro at its Bracebridge Heath repair and overhaul factory, near Lincoln, from parts manufactured at Manchester to undertake research into the problems of Delta-winged aircraft in preparation for the Vulcan programme. WZ744 was a two seat side-by-side trainer version of the basic single seat 707, and the only one of that variant built, although four were originally ordered in 1952, the others being cancelled later.
- 53 Towed to RAF Waddington, Lincs for ground tests.
- 1 Jul 53 First flight, lasting 10 minutes, from RAF Waddington. Pilot Squadron Leader T B Wales.
- Following ferrying from Waddington, completed manufacturer's trials from Avros home base at Woodford. Painted overall silver.
- 14 Aug 53 Flown by Joseph 'Jimmy' Orrell on general handling tests.
- Sep 53 Flown at the SBAC show at Farnborough in formation with other 707 and Vulcan aircraft. Photos - Aeroplane Monthly October 1992 p.38; Flypast September 1999 p.95.
- 23 Sep 53 To A&AEE Boscombe Down for pilot familiarisation and research into handling problems associated with Delta winged aircraft such as the Vulcan.
- 28 Aug 54 To A V Roe for installation of powered controls.
- 30 Dec 55 Reportedly flown in familiarization check by Wg Cdr Roly Falk and Sqn Ldr F. Cousins, RAAF, prior to his flying Avro 707A WD280 in Australia.
- 12 Jan 56 Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough for tests on an electrical signaling system, precursor of later 'fly-by-wire' systems as such it was the world's first 'fly by wire' aircraft.

- 28 Mar 56 Flown by S/Ldr Green on feel assessment – part of handling tests before installation of ‘fly by wire’ control system for later comparison with flight test results after installation. Flight Test Observer John G Walker RAE Farnborough. Flight time 30 minutes. See Walker logbook extract on file.
- 20 April 56 Two Feel Assessment flights, Farnborough – Bedford and return, 25 and 20 minutes respectively. Pilot F/L Pennie.
- 18 Jul 56 To A V Roe at Woodford for fitment of instrumentation for the electrically controlled signaling system.
- 30 Aug 56 Instrument check (longitudinal) 30 minutes. Pilot S/Ldr Green.
- 31 Aug 56 Instrument check (lateral flight). Pilot S/Ldr Green.
- 10 Sep 56 Longitudinal Stability and control tests at 5,000ft. 30 minutes, Pilot S/Ldr Green.
- 11 Sep 56 Two longitudinal stability and control tests, one 45 minutes at 20,000 ft, the second 35 minutes at 5,000ft. Pilot S/Ldr Green.
- 18 Sep 56 Longitudinal stability and control flight at 20,000 feet and 5,000ft. Time 35 minutes; pilot S/Ldr Green.
- 20 Sep 56 Abortive longitudinal stability and control flight to 20,000ft. Time 30 minutes, pilot F/L Pennie. Second 30 minute flight to 20,000ft and 5,000ft; same pilot.
- 26 Sep 57 From RAE to Woodford.
- 25 Mar 59 Returned to Farnborough from Woodford for pilot familiarisation of the electrical signaling system.
- 9/10 Jun 61 Flew at the ‘Farnborough on Show’ display.
- 7 Jun 63 Tail cone and parachute lost in flight.

Latterly kept flying using parts from 707A WZ736.

The Pilot’s Flying log book of Squadron Leader Terry E. Gill (extracts on file) records his flights in the aircraft between 21.10.63 and 26.8.66 whilst serving with the Instrument and Electrical Engineering Flight, Experimental Flying Department, RAE, Farnborough.

- 19 Sep 64 On static display at RAF Coltishall for Battle of Britain day display.
- 7 Jun 66 Nominally withdrawn from use at Farnborough following termination of trials work., though Gill logbook records at least a further seven flights, averaging half an hour each, up to 26.8.66.
- 1 Feb 67 Transferred from MoD (Procurement Executive) to MoD (AIR) charge for use as museum specimen.
- 2 Feb 67 Allocated RAF Instructional serial 7932M.
- 17 Apr 67 Dismantled for transportation by road to the station museum collection at RAF Colerne, Wilts, arriving there the following week. Photo at Farnborough 16 Apr 67; Forever Farnborough (DERA) -Cooper p.139.
- To RAF Finningley, North Yorks. Colour photo, 1968; Lost Aviation Collections of Britain (Ellis)
- 1971 RAF Topcliffe, Yorks
- Apr 73 By road to the Station collection at RAF Cosford, Salop, where it remains, now as part of the RAF Museum Cosford collection (in store 2015)
- Resprayed in aluminium finish in 1974. Photos at Cosford; Air Clues May 1976 p.196; Aeroplane Monthly August 1974 p.820.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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