

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

WESTLAND WHIRLWIND HAR.10 XP299/8726M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1987/0012/A

- 1961 Built by Westlands at Yeovil, Somerset as the first of the new build Gnome turbine engined Whirlwind HAR.10 aircraft as opposed to conversion of HAR.2/4 airframes. Constructor's number WA342. Serials batch XP299 - 303, with 67 Whirlwind HAR.10s produced for the RAF.
- 28 Mar 61 First flight at Yeovil; allotted to C (A) charge on the Ministry of Aviation fleet at Yeovil the same day.
- 30 Mar 61 With Experimental Flight at Yeovil.
- 5 Jul 61 Transferred to A&AEE, Boscombe Down for service release and handling trials.
- 19 Apr 62 Returned to Westland Helicopters Ltd at Yeovil on Trial Installation Work.
- Sep 64 Exhibited at SBAC Farnborough show
- 65 Shown at the Paris Air show.
- 65 Refurbished to full HAR.10 modification standard at Yeovil
- 9 Sep 66 Delivered to the Helicopter Wing of the Central Flying School at RAF Tern Hill, Salop and coded W-H.
- Several flights recorded in Crewman's Flying Logbook of Sgt Barrie Keith Bloomfield (photocopy on aircraft file) including 1.05 hr flight on 10 April 1967 whilst still with the CFS.
- 4 Sep 67 To RAF Odiham, Hants for allocation to No. 230 Squadron, arriving as W-H but recoded 'P' by No. 230 Squadron.
- Several flights at this time recorded in the pilot's flying logbook of Flt Lt Roger Wain (RAFM X005-0879/002), and also in Bloomfield logbook for 2 October and 26/30/31 October 1967.

- 8 Oct 67 One-hour flight to Geilenkirchen, West Germany, for an exercise.
- 15 Oct 67 45-minute flight to Geilenkirchen, and 3-hour return flight to UK (Odiham) following completion of the exercise.
- 24 Oct 67 4.20 - hour flight.
- 1 Nov 67 2.55 hour flight, Ripon – Finningley – Odiham (Bloomfield LB; plot FO Barnes).
- 8 Jan 68 Further training flight in Bloomfield LB, along with 11 and 18 January and 25 January (practicing landing in fields)
- 9 Jan 68 30-minute flight with F/O Jones as Captain and F/Lt Wain as 2nd pilot.
- 23 Jan 68 40 minute night lights trial flight with co-pilot Flying Officer Keith Ifould, later RAFM Director.
- 24 Jan 68 30-minute Night Lights trial flight with F/O Ifould as Captain and F/Lt Wain as 2nd Pilot
- 25 Jan 68 45-minute flight with F/Lt Wain as Captain and FO Ifould as 2nd pilot.
- 31 Jan 68 To Queen's Flight at RAF Benson, Oxon on temporary loan, in standard fit and in camouflage colours, (though later repainted in Queen's Flight colours - Photo - Flight Royal, Queens Flight and Royal Flying in 5 Reigns - P.G. Cooksley) to replace a crashed Whirlwind from the flight, though it was not cleared for use by the Royal Family.
- 2 Jun 69 To No. 15 Maintenance Unit, RAF Wroughton, Wilts.
- 12 Jun 69 To Near East Air Force at Nicosia, Cyprus
- 15 Jun 69 To No. 1563 Flight, RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus
- 13 Apr 70 To No. 230 Squadron, nominally based at RAF Wittering, whilst part of the Squadron was on detachment to RAF Nicosia in Cyprus on United Nations peacekeeping force support duties, including reconnaissance, communications and emergency rescue. Coded 'S' and in UN colours. The Whirlwinds supplied UN forces in outposts in the Khyrenia Mountains area of northern Cyprus.
- Dec 71 Returned to UK, possibly still with No. 230 Squadron

- 16 Dec 71 To No. 22 Squadron, RAF Finningley, Yorks, for Sea - Air Rescue duties, with detached Flights at RAF Brawdy, Valley, Wales; Coltishall, Norfolk and Manston, Kent.
- 8 Sep 72 To RAF St. Mawgan for respray into standard SAR yellow colour scheme.
- 20 Oct 81 To Fleetlands for respray, completed 17 Nov 81.
- Latterly served with No. 22 Squadrons' A Flight, RAF Chivenor, Devon, operating in the SAR role, covering much of south - west England, the Bristol Channel and SW coast.
- 30 Nov 81 Presented for display at RAF Cosford Aerospace Museum.
- 3 Dec 81 Maintenance serial 8726M allocated.
- 8 Dec 81 As the last Whirlwind operational with No. 22 Squadron, flown from Chivenor to the Aerospace Museum, RAF Cosford, Salop, following the Whirlwind's replacement in the SAR role by Wessex HC2 aircraft from 30 November 1981. Initially displayed in Queen's Flight colours, and later in overall SAR yellow.
- 9 Dec 81 Formal allocation to RAF Cosford as Cat. 5 Ground Instructional airframe.
- 1985 Suspended from main hangar roof at Aerospace Museum.
- Jul 97 Taken down from hangar roof and mounted on purpose built display stand. Photo - Aircraft Illustrated September 1997 p.93.
- 3 Aug 98 One of a number of aircraft donated to the RAFM by the MoD.
- 10 Apr 03 By road to Royal Air Force Museum Hendon for further display.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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