

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, supporting NATO's Northern Flank in the low-level reconnaissance role 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 – 39 Squadron having disbanded at Wyton in May 1982.
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.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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