

**INDIVIDUAL HISTORY**

**BAC JET PROVOST T 5A XW323 /9166M**  
**MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1994/1344/A**

One of 110 Jet Provost T 5 aircraft delivered to the RAF from September 1969, including the serial batch XW287 - XW336. 107, including XW323, were later upgraded to T5A standard. Constructor's number EEP/JP/987?

11 Dec 70 Awaiting collection from British Aircraft Corporation. Delivered to RAF College Cranwell, Lincs the same day.

When new the aircraft was used for the Pilot training of Flt Lt The Prince of Wales - codename 'Golden Eagle'-at Cranwell as 'Golden Eagle Two'. Two Jet Provosts (the other being XW322/1) were held at readiness for use by the Prince during his four-month course; he flew just over 92 hours in Jet Provosts, 23 ½ of them solo, from 8 March 1971. Both had the Royal (Prince of Wales) Cypher on the engine intakes.

Prince Charles joined the first graduate entry at Cranwell, consisting entirely of post-graduates who had already received preliminary pilot training who would receive advanced instruction on Jet Provosts. Prince Charles received his wings from Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Spotswood, Chief of the Air Staff, on 20 August 1971 at the passing out parade from Cranwell. Photo - Flight International 26 August 1971 p.313; Royal Air Force News w/e September 18<sup>th</sup> 1971.

28 Mar 72 To No.5 MU, RAF Kemble, Glos for major overhaul.

25 Sep 72 Returned to the RAF College at Cranwell. With code '2'.

6 Nov 72 To No.5 MU, RAF Kemble for storage.

24 Jul 75 To BAC for overhaul.

8 Jan 76 Re-flown after overhaul.

28 Jan 76 To No.5 MU for storage.

31 Dec 76 To RAF College, Cranwell coded '2'.

16 Feb 77 To No.5 MU for storage.

1 Nov 79 To RAF College, Cranwell Flying training School. Flown with nose/fin code '44'.

27 Apr 81 Pilot's Flying logbook of the late Flt Lt Graham Budden records 55-minute dual sector recce flight, with a 50-minute formation flight on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1981.

Colour profile as of 1981 with light blue rear fuselage band, outlined in dark blue with RAF College badge superimposed, and fin code '2' - BAC Jet Provost & Strikemaster (Balch) p.33.

19 Dec 84 To RAF St. Athan, Glam. for overhaul.

19 Feb 85 Returned to RAF Cranwell.

Whilst at Cranwell, the aircraft was flown by a resident flying instructor, then Flying Officer (Now Wing Commander) Sean Chiddention, MBE, RAF (Ret'd); he represented the RAF as Jet Provost display pilot in 1987 and 1988. As such, he selected two 'low fatigue' aircraft as his display jets, and they were painted in the colours of the original RAF Cranwell Jet Provost display team from the 1960s, 'The Poachers'; complete with traditional Cranwell blue band swept across the rear fuselage and tail, and on the wing undersides (this is still visible from the right angle beneath the top coat of paint on the aircraft today); the two airframes selected were XW374 and XW323. In the 1987 season, although XW374 was the primary aircraft, XW323 was used more towards the end of the season, and in 1988 it became FO Chiddention's primary aircraft. Over that period he flew it 147 times – 43 public displays, (including Cranfield on 20 September 1987) 13 practices and 68 transit sorties, the balance being normal instructional sorties. Colour profile – BAC Jet Provost & Strikemaster (Balch) p.33.

6 Nov 91 Transferred to No. 1 Flying Training School, RAF Linton-On-Ouse, Yorks with code '86'.

12 Oct 92 Final flight, from Linton-on-Ouse; 5 minute teatime circuit - take off at 16.35 hours. Final flying hours 5113.50 (15,738 landings).

23 Oct 92 Allocated 9166M for ground instructional use.

28 Oct 92 Fitted with life-expired Viper engine from Provost XW416.

17 Dec 92 Delivered to RAF Museum Hendon from RAF Linton -On-Ouse.

Final RAF Jet Provosts retired 20<sup>th</sup> September 1993, other than several retained in taxiable condition at RAF Cosford for ground handling training.

Servicing documents held - DoRIS ref. AC 92/10.

**TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON**

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