

**INDIVIDUAL HISTORY**

**AVRO ANSON MK.1 W2068/VH-ASM / 9261M  
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1996/0066/A**

- 1939 Ordered from A.V. Roe, Newton Heath to contract B61695/39 for 950 Anson Mk.1 aircraft, serials W1505-W2611, as the 9th production batch for the RAF. Delivered Sep.40-Jun.41.
- Early 1941 W2068 constructed with frame No. 72960.
- 11 Mar 41 Despatched to Australia for Empire Air Training Scheme. Between May 1940 and May 1944 937 Anson Mk.1 aircraft were delivered for use by the scheme, 277 arriving in 1941-the largest annual total.
- 12 May 41 Delivered to Royal Australian Air Force at No.1 Aircraft Depot, Richmond, Victoria.
- 27 May 41 To No. 4 Service Flying Training School, Geraldton, Western Australia, which operated Ansons from 1941 to 1945. Probably flew in camouflage scheme with dark green and dark earth upper surfaces and black serial.
- 12 Jun 41 Engine failure resulting in forced landing at Geraldton-ran through a fence on landing.
- 18 Dec.41 Fitted with gun turret.
- 04 Jun 42 Taxiing accident at Georgina satellite landing ground.
- 23 Mar 43 Engine failure resulting in forced landing 18 miles from Perenjori.
- 18 Oct 43 "ANA"
- 05 Jun 44 Returned to No. 4 SFTS.
- 1944/45 No.87 Operational Base Unit.
- 27 May 45 To Care and Maintenance Unit, Evans Head.
- 29 Mar 46 Care and Maintenance Unit, Narrenderra.

- 19 Nov 46 Sold to civilian ownership. One of over 600 Australian Ansons disposed of by the Commonwealth Disposals Commission, more than 180 of them in 1946 alone. Some 150 Ansons eventually carried Australian civilian registration markings. Many others were sold off wingless to farmers and others as sheds or as a source of useful parts.
- 07 May 47 Registered as VH-ASM to East-West Airlines Pty Ltd, Tamworth New South Wales as their first aircraft and named "Hinkler" after Bert Hinkler, the pioneer Australian flyer.
- Photos-AHSA Journal X1 No.4 Jul. 68 and Anson, Hudson and Sunderland in Australian Service (Wilson) p.56. "East West Airlines" titles over cabin windows; overall silver colour scheme.
- 23 Jun 47 First commercial flight- made East-West Airlines inaugural flight, from Tamworth, New South Wales to Sydney.EWA operated several other ex military Anson Aircraft, including VH-AYI (ex DJ322).
- 16 Aug 50 Withdrawn from use.
- 06 Aug 51 Registration cancelled on sale to Sid Marshall (Marshall Airways)
- 22 Jun 56 Restored to Marshall Airways at Bankstown,NSW. Photo in use with the Airline as a six passenger transport- Scale Aircraft Modelling Dec.1987 p.111.
- 18 Jul 62 Registration cancelled and withdrawn from use by order of the Director General of Civil Aviation; The British and Australian CAA Authorities had withdrawn permits to fly for Anson Mk.1 aircraft at this time due to glue deterioration in the wooden wings and concern over single engined performance. Anson I operations were subject to strict Australian Dept of Civil Aviation restrictions from July 1961 including a ban on over-water flights and a ban on carrying passengers, and civil Ansons in Australia were permitted to fly until midnight on 30 June 1962 after which their Certificates of Airworthiness were cancelled with the exception of VH-BEL/W2121 which had its CoA extended to 4 September 1962 to complete an aerial survey contract. At this time nine Anson 1 aircraft remained on the Australian civil register. (Airfix Magazine August 1962 p.69)
- 1965 Outer wings cut off.
- 66 Fuselage in open storage in Sid Marshal's yard at Bankstown along with a Spitfire, two DC2s and another Anson fuselage. Much of the rear fuselage fabric had become detached by this stage, as had the rudder.

- Mar 72 Acquired for static rebuild for East - West Airlines at Tamworth NSW. Photos part restored - Flypast Feb.84 p.2- fuselage complete; new wings being constructed by John Gallagher of Loftus, NSW who completed the ground - up fuselage restoration in 1985. Photo- Aeroplane Monthly Aug 85 p.395; VintageAircraft No. 36 Spring 1986. Photo as passed to John Gallagher in 1980-VintageAircraft No. 16 p.5.
- 1987 Restoration completed. Photos- 23 Jun 1987- Anson File (023199) p.324 and Anson, Hudson and Sunderland in Australian Service (Wilson) p.55. Restored to overall silver colour scheme with black registration letters.
- 23 Jun 87 Displayed by East-West Airlines at their 40th Anniversary display at Kingsford Smith Airport, Sydney. Photos - Aeroplane Monthly Sep 1987 p.451 and Anson, Hudson and Sunderland in Australian Service (Wilson) p.35. The aircraft was intended to be displayed in a building at Tamworth Airport, EWAs' base.
- C. May 93 Fuselage less wings imported into the UK by the Fighter Collection, Duxford; Offered to the RAF Museum in an exchange deal, in which the RAF Museum acquired the restored Anson fuselage and engines, undercarriage and tail, plus the rebuilding of its P-47 Thunderbolt, in exchange for former gate guard Spitfire Mk.22 PK624. Restored by The Aircraft Restoration Company, Duxford on behalf of TFC. Port side of fuselage left uncovered to permit viewing of structure.  
Given RAF/RAAF camouflage, yellow undersides and fuselage code "68". Photo at Duxford - Aeroplane Monthly Jun 95 p. 4.
- 19 Apr 96 Fuselage delivered by road from Duxford to RAFM Hendon and displayed on Queen Mary trailer in Bomber Hall. Photos - Aircraft Illustrated Feb 98 p.88; Pilot Feb 98 p.30; Wrecks and Relics 16th edition (1998). Original pattern wooden wings not available, Power units, undercarriage units and wing fittings plus tailplane and rudder initially to RAFM RC&RC Cardington, Beds.
- 17 Oct 96 Allocated RAF Instructional Serial 9261M (not carried).
- 3 Aug 98 Transferred to RAF Museum charge - (Donation) - by MoD.
- Other Mk.1 Ansons in the UK are N4877/G-AMDA at the Imperial War Museum Duxford, previously flown by the Skyfame collection, and the fuselage of AX246 at Leeds East Airport (Church Fenton) ex Canada, arrived October 2015.

**TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON**

**RAF MUSEUM 2016**