

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

SCOTTISH AVIATION TWIN PIONEER CC.2 XL993/8388M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 69/A/217

- 1958 Built by Scottish Aviation at Prestwick to contract 14074 as a CC. Mk.1, constructor's number 528. Serials batch XL991-997. One of 39 Twin Pioneers delivered to the RAF, which served with six squadrons in the transport, supply dropping, photo survey and casualty evacuation roles, and even as a light bomber.
- 12 Jun 58 First flight
- 30 Jul 58 To No. 22 Maintenance Unit, RAF Silloth, Cumbria.
- 30 Sep 58 Allotted to the first RAF Twin Pioneer unit, No. 78 Squadron, RAF Khormaksar, Aden. Originally flew in standard Transport Command scheme of silver and white with blue cheat line and black serial numbers.
- 28 Nov 58 Arrived in Aden. Coded 'Y'; one of 8 'Twin Pins' on unit strength by November 1958, providing support to the Aden Levies policing the Aden British protectorate.
- 6 Dec 58 First operational sortie, transporting 1,100lb of supplies and passengers to the outpost at Dhala near the Yemen border, then back to Khormaksar. Total flight time 1.20 hours. *A complete flight log, 1958-66 is held in the Aircraft Department.*
- 1959 Flew supplies and passengers to the up country airstrips, mainly Dhala, Lodar, Beihan, Makeiras and Ataq, plus the occasional casevac sortie.
- 2 Apr 59 First of a number of lights recorded in Navigator's logbook of Navigator /Bombing Instructor J.M. Lennard; 1.40hr flight, base (Khormaksar)– Lodar-base. Pilot F/Lt Binedell.
- 6 Apr 59 1.40hr flight Base – Makeiras – base (Lennard LB). Pilot M.P. Ward.
- 9 Jun 59 1.15 hr. flight (Lennard LB), Base – Dhala – Base. Pilot F.Sgt Stone.

10 Aug 59	1.15 hr. flight, Base – Dhala – base, pilot F.Sgt Taylor (Lennard LB).
15 Aug 59	1.35hr flight, Base – Lodar – Base, pilot Flt Lt Cooke, (Lennard LB)
20 Aug 59	2.40hr flight, base – Beihan – Base, pilot FS Taylor (Lennard LB)
17 Sep 59	1.20hr flight, Base – Dhala – Base, pilot Flt Lt Capewell (Lennard LB)
19 Sep 59	20 minute continuation training flight around Khormaksar; Pilot Flt Lt Cooke (Lennard LB)
9 Oct 59	1.10hr flight, base – Dhala – base, pilot Flg. Off. Gregory (Lennard LB)
28 Oct 59	1.5 hr. flight, Base – Makeiras – Base, pilot Flt. Lt Scott (Lennard LB)
25 Nov 59	3.10hr. flight, Base – Djibouti – Base, pilots F.Sgt Taylor and Flt. Lt. Robinson (Lennard LB).
28 Nov 59	1.5 hr. flight, Base – Makeiras – Base, pilot Flt. Lt Scott (Lennard LB).
3 Dec 59	1.35hr flight, Base – Makeiras – Base, pilot F.Sgt Stone (Lennard LB)
9 Dec 59	45 minute continuation training flight, pilot Flt Lt O'Brien (Lennard LB)
16 Jan 60	One of three aircraft detached to Sharjah to provide support for No. 22 Regiment, Special Air Service, making several reconnaissance flights.
4 Mar 60	Returned to Khormaksar.
1 July 60	Believed grounded awaiting spares during second line servicing until 3 January 1961.
19 Jan 61	VIP passenger - The Governor of Aden, Sir Charles Hepburn Johnson, KCGM.

16 Jun 61	To No. 131 MU at Khormaksar; Converted to CC.2 configuration; more powerful 640hp Leonides engines fitted.
24 Nov 61	Returned to No. 78 Squadron strength, making several local flights that day.
12 May 62	VIP passenger - CinC Transport Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmond Hudleston.
18 Jun 62	Station medical officer flown on mercy mission to Berbera, Somaliland. The landing was made with the aid of motorcar headlights, but sadly the patient, a baby, had already died.
23/27 Jun 63	Assisted in the rescue of a 45 strong British services adventure training party who had strayed into hostile Yemen. On 23 rd June XL993 brought back the bodies of four of the group killed by the Yemenis, flying two 1.15hr return trips to Salem Salec.
Late 1964	Radfan area operations against Yemeni supported dissident Qutebi tribesmen north of Aden - XL993 had been modified to carry two Nord SS.11 wire-guided missiles on outboard underwing pylons, and flew two missile firing sorties, on 1 st July and 28 th July in the Khormaksar area. Also based at Khormaksar at this time were RAFM Argosy XP411, Belvedere XG474, and Hunter FGA.9 XG154.
25 Nov 64	Grounded for six months on major inspection with the end of the Radfan offensive following capitulation of the dissidents on 18 th November 1964.
14 May 65	Two local flights.
30 May 65	Last flight with No.78 Squadron.
1 Jun 65	No.78 Squadron re-formed re-equipped with Wessex helicopters.
6 Jun 65	To No. 21 Squadron, Muharraq, Bahrein, this unit being renumbered from No. 78 Squadron and acquiring its aircraft. Duties continued much as before.
29 Jul 65	Leaflet drop.
18 Sep 65	Last flight for 6 months
9 Feb 66	Air Test - Damaged in flying accident.

- 5 Mar 66 Flew again.
- 27 Sep 66 Began flight back to UK for refurbishment; first stage to Jeddah; Cairo - El Adem on 28 Sep and Malta on 29th September.
- 2 Oct 66 Arrived at RAF Lyneham, Wilts.
- 3 Oct 66 Returned to No. 5 MU, RAF Kemble, Glos. For repair.
- It may be around this time that the incident recounted in the August 1977 issue of Air Clues magazine occurred (pp.308-309) when the aircraft force-landed in a steeply sloping, suffering only minor damage. Both engines had cut out due to fuel starvation. The aircraft was flown out of the field five days later.
- 2 Nov 66 To No. 27 MU, RAF Shawbury, Salop.
- 14 May 68 Returned to No. 5 MU, RAF Kemble.
- 14 Jun 68 Displayed statically at the Royal Review at RAF Abingdon. Colour photo - Aeroplane Monthly Supplement April 1994 p.3. Also Aeromilitaria 1983/4 p.90.
- Sep 68 Displayed at RAF St. Athan, Glam.
- 19 Nov 68 Returned to 27 MU RAF Shawbury; presented to RAF Museum.
- 6 Feb 69 Flown to RAF Henlow, Beds. For storage; struck off charge. Photo being fuelled at Shawbury prior to departure; Control Column April 1969 p.14. The last RAF Twin Pioneers were withdrawn in December 1968 when serving with No 209 Squadron at Seletar, Singapore.
- 5 Sep 73 Allotted RAF Instructional Serial 8388M.
- c. Feb 79 By road to Aerospace Museum, RAF Cosford, Salop for display in its final brown/sand/black camouflage scheme. Photo being reassembled at Cosford; Aircraft Illustrated May 1979. Photo assembled and on display; Wrecks and Relics 7th Edition p.10.
- 3 Aug 98 Donated to RAF Museum by MoD.
- 2007 On display in new National Cold War Exhibition building at Cosford.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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