

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

HAWKER HART II G-ABMR/J9941
MUSEUM ACCESSION No.74/A/29

- 08 Jan 31 Issued with CofA. Fitted with 525hp Kestrel IB. 13th Hart off the production line. C/N H.H.1. - built as a civilian demonstration aircraft for Hawkers under works order 214/30. Built at Kingston, Surrey. One of 4 Harts built as demonstration aircraft in 1930.
- 28 May 31 Registered as G-ABMR
- 1932 Fitted with Fury-style wheel spats for that years' RAF Hendon Air Display. Overall silver c/s. Spats removed soon afterwards. Photos: Aeroplane Monthly Dec 80 p.654; Aeroplane Monthly November 1988 p.669.
- During the period 1931-1936, MR acted as test bed for most of the RR Kestrel series of engines, including 1S, 11S, 11B, 11MS, V, VDR, VIS, XFP, XDR, XVIFP, XVIDR and XVI (special). Also flew with an Osprey tail (1938), Audax message pick-up hook, Hardy low-pressure tyres and Hind tailwheel, and was used as a photo platform by Hawkers. Flying still in overall silver, the Osprey tail trials added RAF style rudder stripes. (Photo - Flying Review International Apr 64 p.55). The aircraft was flown by Hawker test pilots Bulmar, Hindmarsh, Lucas and Sayers and up to 1936 demonstrated in 15 European countries.
In 1933, the aircraft was photographed at the RAF Reserve Course at Hatfield.
Photo with wheel spats c. 1934; Aeroplane Monthly Nov 88 p.669.
- 1937-39 Served as Hawkers' photographic platform aircraft; fitted with 525hp Kestrel II 1938.
- 31 Aug 39 CoA issued to H G Hawker Engineering Co Ltd, Brooklands, Surrey.
- c.1939 Painted in dark earth/dark green camouflage with trainer yellow undersides and civil registration G-ABMR underlined by broad red, white and blue horizontal bands on the fuselage and RAF style fin flashes. Used as company hack ferrying test pilots between Hawker factories at Langley and Brooklands and RAF maintenance units, and as a photo plane by Cyril Peckham. Photos: Aeroplane Monthly Dec 80 p.654; Flying Review International Apr 64 p.55; The Aeroplane Spotter August 24th 1946 p.196.
- 09 Feb 40 CoA expired but progressively renewed to 04 Apr 41, May 42, and 20 Aug 44.

- 11 Oct 43 Last CoA extension withdrawn and MAP Permit No.6 issued valid to 10 Oct 44, extended to 5 Nov 45 and 14 Nov 46, then lapsed.
- 22 Jul 44 Flown at christening ceremony at Langley for last built Hawker Hurricane PZ865 'Last of the Many'. Photo – The Aviation Historian Issue No 3 page 21.
- 22 Aug 46 Pilot's Flying Log Book of F/O W Humble (Doris ref. X001-2301) records 45-minute local flight from Langley.
- c. Nov 46 Withdrawn from use, when final permit to fly expired.
- 08 May 49 Flown again at Royal Aeronautical Society Garden Party at White Waltham, Berks, in front of a crowd of 5,000. Photo - Flight 9th May 1949 p.596. The 'Aeroplane' for 13 May 49 reported that the aircraft 'Thundered around and was made to cavort in the most polished manner in the hands of Sqn Ldr Wade'. The aircraft was repainted in silver and was fitted with a Kestrel XVI derated to 560hp111S standard. In this, its first outing for some three years, it gave an eight-minute display. Normally based at Dunsfold. Flew in matt silver over all with dark blue letters. Photo: Aeromodeller Oct 54 p.536. In same scheme; Air Enthusiast Nov/Dec 2001 p.26.
- 23 Jun 51 Aircraft entered by Princess Margaret, together with Hawkers Hurricane IIC 'Last of the Many' for the Royal Aero Club-organised Kings' Cup Air Race at Hatfield, Herts both to have been flown by Gp Capt Peter Townsend (The Hurricane in the Jubilee Trophy), but bad weather caused the racing to be abandoned. For this event the Hart gained a royal blue and gold c/s and had the rear cockpit faired over, but with the projecting lip of the gun-ring fairing visible. The large race number '91' was carried on rudder and fuselage. Photos: Aeromodeller Oct 54 p.536; Warbirds Journal 35 p.21; Flying Review International Apr 64 p.55; Aeroplane December 2003 p.87; Scale Models Oct 83 p.529 (minus fairing).
- 19-21 Jul 51 Displayed at Daily Express 50 Years of Flying display at RAF Hendon. Photo – Flypast June 2007 p.63.
- 23 Sep 51 'MR placed 53rd from a field of 55 when flown by Fg Off G F Bullen in the Daily Express South Coast Race, flying from Shoreham.
- 19/20 Jan 52 Flown at the first rally of the Vintage Aeroplane Club, at Denham airfield. Photo - The Aeroplane 1 Feb 52 p.141.
- 25 Jan 52 'Flight' of this date reported recent use of 'MR by John Yoxall to photograph 1 Squadron Meteors in formation, still in its Blue/Gold c/s. Photo starting up for this flight; Aeroplane Monthly Nov 88 p.669.
- 12 Jul 52 Aircraft entered in Kings Cup Race, flown by Flt Lt Bullen, who coaxed the aircraft to an average speed of 169mph, coming 18th from a field of 23, when 'the sprightly old Hart set course in a lively fashion' in the words of 'Flight'.
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- 14 Jun 53 Flown at Royal Aeronautical Society garden Party at Hatfield in formation with Hawker Hurricane and Tomtit. Photo: Flight 19 Jun 53 p.787.
- 20 Jun 53 Flown by Frank Murphy, averaged 163mph in the Kemsley Trophy race, Southend, Essex.
- Sep 56 Engine failure at 600 feet over Wiltshire piloted by D M S (Duncan) Simpson. Forced landing in clover field - supercharger seizure due to bearing failure. Took three years to find replacement parts for the Kestrel, a replacement supercharge casing coming from the owner of a Kestrel powered dragster.
- 2 Feb 59 Civilian registration cancelled.
- 1959 Restored in military markings as first production Hart, J9933 with undersize wing roundels. Ailerons not slotted and non-standard. Usually flown at this period by Hawker test pilot Duncan Simpson. Photos: Aeromodeller Feb 60 p.70; Aeroplane Monthly Nov 88 p.668.
- 1960 Fitted with modification to alleviate carburettor icing - de-icing fluid tank, operated by cockpit kigass primer.
- 06 Jul 60 Flown in its new markings at RAF Duxford, Cambs Air Display. Photo Air Pictorial November 1960 p.378.
- Sep 60 Flown by Duncan Simpson at RAF Chivenor Battle of Britain day; Photo Flight 7 Oct 1960 p.596.
- 18 Jun 61 Flown by Duncan Simpson at the Pilot's Rally at Elstree Aerodrome, Herts. Photo – Elstree Aerodrome The Past in Pictures p.189.
- 16 Jun 62 Flown at Golden Jubilee of U.K. Military Flying Display at RAF Upavon. Photos: Flight International 21 Jun 62 p.968; Aeroplane Monthly Nov 88 p.670; Aeroplane Monthly Sep 98 p.23; Airfix Magazine Aug 62 p.68. Colour photo; Aeromilitaria Summer 2000 rear cover.
- 7 Jul 62 Appeared at RAF Little Rissington for 50th Anniversary of Central Flying School display. Photo – RAF Little Rissington – The CFS Years (Bagshaw et al) p.136.
- 20 Jul 62 Flown by Duncan Simpson to RAF Marham, Norfolk for ceremony of standard presentation by HRH Princess Marina to Nos.55 & 57 (Bomber) Squadrons. Photo: V Bombers (013299) p.75.
- Oct 63 Repainted as former No.57 Squadron Hart J9941, B Flight, 1932-33, from the logbook of Gp. Captain H.N.Hampton. J9941 also being from the first production batch. Photos: Airfix Magazine Jan 64 p.140-141; Warbirds Journal 35 p.20; Flight International 5 Dec 1963 p.944; Flying Review International Apr 64 p.55; Aeroplane Monthly Nov 88 p.669.

- 18 May 64 Photographed at RAF North Weald, Essex. Photo; Action Stations Vol.8 p.188.
- Sep 64 Flown at the SBAC Show, Farnborough. Photos - Air Britain Archive No.4 1980 p.99; RAFM PC73/59/146.
- 18 Sep 65 To RAF Colerne for the No 24 Squadron celebration of 50 year's flying, but went u/s for the display, as reported in the local press.
- Sep 66 Flown at RAF Marham, Norfolk for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Nos. 55 and 57 Squadrons. Photo - Royal Air Force News w/e 24th September 1966.
- 14 Jun 68 Performed in fly-past at RAF 50th Anniversary Royal Review at Abingdon.
- 12 Jun 70 Displayed at RAF Cranwell, Lincs. Colour photo: Aircraft Illustrated Dec 70 p.474.
- Sep 71 Appeared as J9941 at Little Rissington Open Day. Colour photos as J9941 - Aeroplane Monthly Dec 80 p.654 and Oct 81 p.553; Aircraft Illustrated Apr 72 p.168-9.
- 26 Sep 71 Appeared at Wycombe Air Park (Booker) display.
- Withdrawn from flying later in 1971.
- 1972 Transferred to RAF Museum Hendon, on loan from Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd, Dunsfold. Displayed in Camm Hall with Hart (T) and Hind. Still airworthy when presented.
- Apr 1982 To Abingdon for minor refurbishment and display at Abingdon's 50th birthday display 18 Sep 82. Photo: Control Column Dec 82 p.173; FlyPast Nov 82 p.44. Photos being moved from Hendon FlyPast Jul 82 p.7; Air Extra 39 p.20; Aircraft Illustrated Aug 82 p.349. Returned to Hendon Oct 82.
- 1983 Briefly displayed in Bomber Command Hall prior to despatch to Cardington. Photo at Cardington, 1984; Aeroplane Supplement, Museums Guide 2002.
- c. Sep 84 To Hendon after restoration at Cardington. The aircraft was damaged when loaned to RAF Abingdon when incorrectly de-rigged resulting in bending of top mainplane. It reappeared at Hendon briefly after the Abingdon loan then went to Cardington for repair.
- 1992 Moved from Camm Hall to opposite Stranraer, with later moves around the main aircraft hall.
- 9 Apr 2003 Moved to new Lottery funded Milestones building at Hendon for suspended display. Photos as displayed; Wingspan International 20 p.65;

Royal Air Force Celebrating 90 Years p.123.

In addition, the RAFM display Hart Trainer K4972 at Hendon, and Aero Vintage have the remains of a Pegasus engined Swedish Hart recovered from a freshwater lake, together with a similar licence-built Hart preserved at the Swedish Air Force Museum.

TEXT - ANDREW SIMPSON