

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

DE HAVILLAND VENOM F.B.4/50 J-1704
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 84/A/954

- 5 Feb 54 Ordered as part of a batch of 100 improved Venom FB.4 aircraft.
- 56 Built under licence in Switzerland by EFW, Emmen, Work No. 884. Serial batch J-1701 to J-1800 (100 aircraft) built by a consortium of three companies for the Flugwaffe - Swiss Air Force, and delivered from August 1956. (EFW - The Federal Aircraft Factory; Flug und Fahrzeugwerke at Altenrhein; and Pilatus AG at Stans.) Replaced P-51 Mustang aircraft in service.
- Switzerland was the only country to produce the single seat Venom under licence. At peak strength 14 Swiss Fliegerstaffeln flew the Venom, the last of which served with the Flugwaffe until December 1984.
- 6 Sep 56 Acceptance test flights by KTA pilots.
- 10 Mar 57 Delivered to DMP.
- 13 Jul 57 To Dubendorf for servicing.
- 18 Jul 58 Returned to works for modifications.
- 21 Nov 58 Returned to works for major check and engine change.
- 19 Jan 59 To works at Emmen for modifications.
- 16 Oct 59 Damaged in landing at Bouchs.
- 15 Jan 60 To Dubendorf for servicing.
- 19 Jul 60 To Bouchs for service and engine change.
- 7 Feb 61 To works for modifications.
- 18 Apr 62 To Pilatus for servicing.
- 6 Sep 62 To Fliegerstaffeln 2 for servicing and engine change.

8 May 63 To Dubendorf for minor servicing.

29 Jan 64 To Pilatus for servicing.

31 May 65 To Bouchs for 50 hours servicing and engine change.

10 Sep 65 To Sion for servicing.

13 May 66 To works for major servicing.

30 Jan 67 To works at Emmen for 50 hours servicing and engine change.

23 Aug 67 To Interlaken for minor servicing.

22 Apr 69 To Pilatus for servicing and engine change.

21 Apr 70 To works at Altenrhein for modifications.

29 Jul 70 To works at Altenrhein for 50 hours servicing and engine change.

19 Nov 70 To Dubendorf for servicing.

21 Jun 71 To Altenrhein for servicing.

10 May 72 To Dubendorf for servicing.

7 Feb 73 To Merringen for minor servicing.

7 Sep 73 To Merringen for engine change.

27 Sep 74 To Merringen for minor servicing.

5 May 75 To Interlaken for engine change.

24 Jun 75 To Sion for minor servicing.

6 Nov 75 To Dubendorf for minor servicing.

23 Mar 77 To Fliegerstaffel 7 for engine change.

25 Aug 78 To Altenrhein for servicing.

11 Oct 78 To Sion. Retired from active service. Total flying hours 1361.53; Flights 2,350.

- 8 Jun 79 Date of agreement with the Swiss Confederation whereby J-1704 to be handed over to the RAF Museum for display at the Aerospace Museum, Cosford. The Swiss Confederation was to receive a Bristol Hercules engine in exchange.
- 21 Jun 79 Flown from Dubendorf into RAF Greenham Common, Berks. by Warrant Officer E. Otth of the Swiss Air Force, arriving late morning. On arrival the long nose (a modification containing updated avionics introduced in the late 1960s) peculiar to Swiss Venoms was removed by Swiss Airforce personnel and replaced by the original short nose.
- 23/24 Jun 79 Displayed in static line up at Greenham Common for 'International Air Tattoo '79'. Photo - Control Column Aug/Sep79 p.121.
- 24 Jun 79 Formally presented to Sir Douglas Bader, President of International Air Tattoo 1979 by Brigadier H Mandli of the Swiss Air Force.
- Stored at Greenham Common pending a decision on its future, as some consideration was given to adding the aircraft to the RAF's Vampire and Meteor 'Vintage Pair'.
- 5 Mar 80 Delivered by road to Aerospace Museum, Cosford, Salop. Displayed in Swiss colours.
- 98 On display at Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford and undergoing some refurbishment following a period of outside display.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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