

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

AVRO ANSON C.19/1 TX214/7817M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 85/A/07

26 Jan 45	Ordered to Contract No.5037/CB.6 (a) - order for 85 Anson CXIXA aircraft, TX154-197, 201-235, 237-255, built at Yeadon between January and August 1946.
16 Mar 46	To No.48 MU Hawarden (Aircraft Storage Unit).
21 Mar 46	Recorded on home census.
30 Aug 46	Airframe Record (Not Movt Card) records allocation to RAF St Mawgan (DoRIS Ref.B3231/4)
9 Sep 46	Logbook of F/O R.H. Mason D.F.C records flights with No.16 Ferry Unit, RAF St. Mawgan - St.Mawgan- Silloth- Lossiemouth.
10 Sep 46	Return flight - Lossiemouth - Silloth - St. Mawgan.
12 Sep 46	St. Mawgan - Schateaudun - Buc (France). Returned direct from Buc to St. Mawgan the following day.
14 Oct 46	Return flight, St.Mawgan - Halton - St. Mawgan.
18 Nov 46	No.1 FU (Ferry Unit) (Airframe Record says 12 Nov) Pershore, Worcs.
04 Dec 46	`Fly-In for repair Cat B'.
10 Apr 47	To A V Roe for Category B repairs - repaired in works.
11 Sep 47	Awaiting collection following completion of repairs.
09 Sep 47	Prior allocation to RAF Staff College Communications Flight (Airframe Record says 8 Sep - to Comm Flight White Waltham).
01 Apr 48	Cat AC damage - repaired on site by A V Roe.
03 Jun 48	Repairs completed.
07 May 48	Prior allocation to HQ Reserve Command Communications Squadron, White Waltham - codes RCA-A.
17 Jun 48	Repaired on site by A V Roe.

13 Jul 48	Repairs completed.
19 Jul 48	Returned to Reserve Command Communications Flight.
06 Feb 50	No.34 MU Stoke Heath (Repair Salvage Unit).
20 Mar 50	Airframe Record - No.48 MU Hawarden.
14 Apr 50	No.48 MU Hawarden for repairs.
19 Sep 50	To A V Roe, Lincoln.
31 Jan 51	Awaiting collection - work completed.
19 Feb 51	No.23 MU Aldergrove, Northern Ireland (Aircraft Storage Unit).
20 Dec 51	To No.31 Squadron (A Flight) - Transport unit based at RAF Hendon, renamed the Metropolitan Communication Squadron 1 March 1955. Codes CB-T. (Airframe Record says 15 Dec).

By December 1955 TX214 was one of six Ansons on the unit's strength (plus four Devons and four Chipmunks). Flew communications, Air Experience and continuation training duties. By 1957 A Flight had 15 Ansons on strength (Air Clues Sep 57 p.371). The station ORBs for Hendon held by DoRIS detail flights up to Dec 1955 only, but include the following flights by TX214 to/from RAF Hendon:

28 Feb 52	To Buckeburg, Germany
11 Feb 55	To Wahn; 2 passengers
15 Feb 55	Cross-Country to Bovingdon
06 Apr 55	Arrived from Eindhoven, Holland
15 Apr 55	Arrived from Guernsey with 2 passengers
17 Apr 55	To Wildenrath with 3 passengers
27 Apr 55	to RAF Kinloss with 1 passenger
25 May 55	Arrived from Sylt, Germany 4 passengers
31 May 55	To Ballykelly, Northern Ireland with 1 passenger
30 Jun 55	To Istres, France

There are a number of relevant entries in the Pilot's Flying Log Book of F/Sgt William Stagg from his time with the Metropolitan Communications Squadron (photocopies on file);

30 Sep 55 10-minute flight from Bovingdon to Hendon with two passengers (Stagg logbook)

8 Oct 55 1.45-hour ATC cadet air experience flight from Hendon (Stagg LB)

9 Oct 55 Two-hour ATC Cadet air experience flight (Stagg logbook)

24 Oct 55 1.35 hour night check training flight (Stagg LB), followed by further 1.30 hour night flight.

27 Oct 55 To Geneva, Switzerland

7/8 Nov 55 1.30/1.15-hour flights (Stagg LB)

9 Nov 55 Four-day flight through France; Hendon – Melun-Bordeaux-Istres-Dijon-Hendon (Stagg LB)

15 Nov 55 To Villacoublay, France

17 Nov 55 1.15-hour flight (Stagg LB)

18 Nov 55 Hendon – Cosford-Shawbury, 1.15-hour flight (Stagg LB)

21 Nov 55 Shawbury-Cosford-Hendon, 1.15 hour flight (Stagg LB)

23 Nov 55 15-minute flight (Stagg LB)

24 Nov 55 30-minute flight (Stagg LB)

25 Nov 55 One-hour flight, Hendon – Bovingdon, and 30 –minute flight Bovingdon – Hendon. (Stagg LB)

16 Dec 55 1.20 hour training flight (Stagg LB)

17 Apr 56 20-minute flight from Bovingdon (Stagg LB)

5 Jun 56 Flying Training flight, two hours (Stagg LB)

29 Jan 57 Repaired on site/No.71 MU Cat 3R repairs.

05 Feb 57 To No.71 MU.

02 Apr 57 Repairs completed.

10 Apr 57 Returned to the Metropolitan Communications Squadron at Hendon

04 Nov 57 RAF Hendon closed to regular flying. Three representative aircraft of the Metropolitan Communications Squadron - Chipmunk WZ875, a Devon (VP958), and Anson TX214 posed for photographs (Photo: Hendon Aerodrome - A History (Oliver 025428 p.149); Aerodromes of Fighter Command Then and Now (Brooks 2014) p.159.

It was presumably these three aircraft that formed the official final flypast.

- 07 Nov 57 Formal departure of the last aircraft flown out of Hendon, with the Metropolitan Communications Squadron moving to nearby RAF Northolt, officially as of 8 November. Photos of TX214 on its last flight out of Hendon this day - Flight 15 Nov 57 p.782; The Aeroplane 15 Nov 57 p.750; Anson File (023199) p.101; Aeroplane Monthly June 1987 p.304-5; Aeroplane Monthly Dec 1997 p.58-60 and November 2017 p.111; Avro Anson (Harry Holmes) p.85. Pilot Arthur 'Mac' McNeill.
- 28 May 58 Repaired on site No.71 MU Bicester (Repair & Salvage Unit)
- 09 Jun 58 Repairs completed.
- 19 Jan 60 To No.23 MU Aldergrove (Aircraft Storage Unit)
- 14 Dec 62 To Maintenance Command Communications Squadron, RAF Andover, Hants. No codes carried. Initially on loan from No.23 MU - see unit ORB in DoRIS.
- 21 Mar 63 Form 7005 (DoRIS Ref.B3231-32) records take-off abandoned - tyre burst on take-off.
- 27 Jun 63 Form 700 notes serviceable one flight only - regular flying of the aircraft ceased on this date.
- 04 Jul 63 Form 700 records serviceable to fly to Henlow Historical Museum (i.e. RAF Museum storage facility) - one flight only (due to crack in tubular member of starboard engine bearer).
- 8 Aug 63 Allotted Maintenance Serial 7817M 'For Historical Purposes'
- 12 Aug 63 Formally allotted to RAF Museum.
- 29 Aug 63 Form 700 records 'aircraft serviceable to fly at Pilot's discretion'. Made 15-minute test flight that morning followed by final 40-minute flight from Andover to Henlow, landing at 12.35pm, giving a total of 3001.30 flying hours and 2002 landings. Struck off charge upon arrival. At this time carried Cheetah engines Nos.616609 and 623041.
- 05 Sep 63 Form 700 records categorised instructional usage as 7817M and transferred to Historical Aircraft Museum Henlow, whilst on nominal charge of No.14 SoTT, Henlow.
- 01 Oct 63 Engines inhibited.
- 1970 Photo at Henlow - British Museum Aircraft p.113. Also Control Column April 1978 p.55 (taken May 71) and Lysander Special (010811) p.55, and Wrecks and Relics – The Album p.56 (in1968)

07 Dec 78 Moved by road from Henlow to Aerospace Museum RAF Cosford where it remains on display today. Photo: Wrecks & Relics 7th Edition p.100, Aircraft Illustrated Sep 83 p.426.

Survivors

The last six RAF Ansons were withdrawn 28 June 1968.

Of 263 production Anson 19 aircraft, several survive, in addition to TX214;

TX183/G-BSMF – Al Mahata (Old Sharjah Airport) Museum, Sharjah, U.A.E

Ex Gulf Air Museum, Dubai May 2001

The Anson "G-AKVW" is ex TX183, built at Yeadon in 1946. It was with Bomber Command Communications Flight at Booker, then Abingdon Station Flight, before moving on to No.1 ANS at Hullavington. It went later to Shawbury, and A&AEE Boscombe Down where its service career finished in 1968. It was then sold to the Shuttleworth Trust, who were planning on a restoration programme, but that never came to fruition. It was registered G-BSMF. The flaps are half lowered, so you can see identity plates on both sides. It is quite clearly marked as "Type no 652A" and Mk XXI on one side and Mk 21 on the other. The flaps carry the dates 22/10/48 on one side and 9/1/51 on the other. Maybe the flaps were taken from a Mk 21, and fitted to this C19 airframe.

TX192 Belgian Air Museum Museum storage – Vissenaken, Belgium. Ex Guernsey fire training hulk.

TX213/G-AWRS - NEAM Sunderland

TX201/G-AGWE Titusville – Space Coast Regional Airport' hulk.

TX226 - Formerly with Air Atlantique Classic Flight - spares for airworthy Anson T.21 WD413; stored off-site; to Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre April 2018.

TX235 - Air Atlantique Classic Flight; stored off-site.

VL348/G-AVVO - Newark Air Museum; wings from Anson I G-ALIH.

VL349/G-AWSA - Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum

VM325 - Cheriton CTRG, Carew Cheriton, Pembrokeshire August 2005, ex Gloucestershire Aviation Collection, Staverton. Under restoration.

VM352 - 'D-26' Canadian Allied Forces Museum, Groningen, Netherlands.

VM360/G-APHV – National Museum of Flight, East Fortune. Demobbed September 1957.

VP519/G-AVVR Nose only - The Aeroplane Collection. At Boulton Paul Heritage Project, Pendeford, Wolverhampton until 2012, but since returned to owner.

141 Irish Air Corps Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell. Withdrawn from use 20 Jan 1962; instructional use until 1974.

TEXT - ANDREW SIMPSON