

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

DE HAVILLAND CHIPMUNK T.Mk10 WP912/8467M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 85/A/65

Built by De Havillands at Broughton Chester to contract No.6/Acft/6449 /CB5 (a) as one of a batch of 145 Chipmunk T.10 aircraft delivered between May 1952 and Apr 53 from Hatfield and Chester, serial nos. WP772 - WP988. Constructors Number C1 - 0786; Fuselage number DHB.f.690. A total of 740 Chipmunks entered RAF service.

- 21 Nov 52 Awaiting collection.
- 10 Dec 52 HQ Home Command Communications Squadron, White Waltham, (Near Maidenhead, Berks, chosen for its proximity to the Royal residence at Windsor Castle.) where it was used during pilot training by H.R.H the Duke of Edinburgh until 15 Feb 53.
- 20 Dec 52 Following circuits and landings in WP912, Prince Philip flew 10-minute check –ride with Sqn.Ldr.Lock. See his logbook extracts in Wingspan International 18 pp.18-19.Prince Philip completed his first (15 minute) solo in this aircraft immediately afterwards on this date following instruction from F/L Caryl R. Gordon during which he made 7 other flights in WP912, including his fourth flight of the day in the aircraft after his solo.
- 21 Dec 52 Prince Philip flew to West Raynham in WP912 with FI/Lt. Gordon.
- At this time, WP912 carried the standard overall silver finish with yellow training band on wings and fuselage.
- 4 Jan 53 Prince Philip made two circuit and landings flights in WP912, one with F/Lt Gordon, the other solo.
- 31 Mar 59 Flying Training Command Communication Squadron, (FTCCS) at White Waltham - flew alongside the units' Anson and Balliol aircraft.
- 17 Dec 59 London University Air Squadron, White Waltham.
- 2 Feb 62 No 27 Maintenance Unit RAF Shawbury, Salop
- 20 Aug 64 No 2 Flying Training School at RAF Syerston, Notts. This unit mainly flew Jet Provost aircraft.
- 8 Sep 64 No 27MU RAF Shawbury, Salop.

- 9 Feb 65 Central Flying School at RAF Little Rissington, Gloucs to provide ab initio instruction for all student pilots before they converted to the Jet Provost to continue their training as instructors.
- 9 Apr 65 Cambridge University Air Squadron at Cambridge Airport.
- 15 Jun 65 No.1 Initial Training School (ITS) South Cerney, Gloucs. as one of 21 Chipmunks flown by this unit for the training of direct - entry newly commissioned pilots as a preliminary to initial jet training on Jet Provosts at an FTS.
- 14 Jul 66 Damaged - Cat.3R
- 10 Sep 66 Returned to ITS following repair.
- 16 Sep 66 RAF College Cranwell, Lincs. Carried the wide light blue band outlined in dark blue with the crest of the RAFC on the cowling. By early Oct 69 WP912 was one of the last two Chipmunks in use at Cranwell, providing Cadets with elementary flying instruction before going on to Jet Provosts.
- 1 Dec 69 Manchester University Air Squadron at Woodvale
- Feb 73 Earmarked for RAF Museum due to its Royal Association.
- 24 Jun 74 Temporary transfer to Aberdeen University Air Squadron at RAF Newton, Notts.
- 30 Jun 74 Allocated to No 5 MU Kemble, Gloucs.
- 31 Jul 74 Flown to No 5 MU RAF Kemble for storage as a non-effective aircraft. Last flight - Total flying hours 6450.40. By this time Chipmunks were gradually being withdrawn and replaced by the Bulldog as the RAF's primary trainer, and were stored at Kemble for removal of RAF items and sale by tender.
- 13 Feb 76 Allotted maintenance serial 8467M.
- 12 Dec 76 Struck off Charge following repair and repaint at Kemble during the previous month.
- 14 Dec 76 Delivered to RAFM Hendon by road; photo being re-assembled in Dermot Boyle Wing by team from RAF Abingdon; Royal Air Force News 19 January – 1 February 1977 p.8.
- Feb77 Displayed at RAFM Hendon in a four month exhibition - 'Kings, Queens and Flying Machines' to mark the Queen's silver Jubilee, the theme being the involvement of Royalty in aviation in the United Kingdom.
- 2 - 6 May 77 Moved from Hendon to Aerospace Museum RAF Cosford by RAF Abingdon.

The aircraft remains on display at Cosford. Maintenance Documents on file, ARD 1977/353, boxes 426 - 428.

Photo in RAF hangars at Cosford, 21 April 2005 – Air Britain News May 2005 p.703; DHC-1 Chipmunk (Shields et al) p.289.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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