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FROM:  
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BDLS/14

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22 Wright Court  
Penetanguishene  
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L9M 1K3

*Dear George,*

29 September 2011

**DH84 DRAGONFLY G-ACJM "TRAIL OF THE CARIBOU"**

Thank you for your letter regarding the DH84 Dragonfly registration number G-ACJM, which as you will note was named "Trail of the Caribou".

Regrettably the Defence Section is not resourced to undertake such research into enquiries, however, I spent a little time searching on the Internet and came up with the attached documents, which hopefully will provide you a little more background to your quest regarding G-ACJM. It appears that the aircraft flew the first flight between Canada and England and arrived in England on 8 August 1934. Also attached are records that show that she crash-landed some 4 days later on the Heston Aerodrome runway.

Notwithstanding the above, if you are interested in researching further, please consider contacting the following:

De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre  
Salisbury Hall  
London Colney  
Hertfordshire  
AL2 1BU

RAF Museum Cosford  
Shifnal  
Shropshire  
TF11 8UP

I wish you every success in your search for information on the "Trail of the Caribou" and I hope that the limited information I have provided will be of assistance. Whilst not seen as a challenge, your letter certainly was not considered to be an irritant.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Andy*

A S ARNOLD  
Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy  
Assistant Naval Adviser & Staff Officer

Enclosures:

Various Web-page prints.



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*See copy*

Thank you for your letter regarding the DMSA DMSA registration number G-ACJM, which as you will note was named "Trail of the Caribou".

Regarding the Detonac Section is not required to undertake such research into enclosures however I spent a little time searching on the internet and came up with the attached documents which hopefully will provide you a little more background to your quest regarding G-ACJM. It appears that the aircraft flew the first flight between Canada and England and arrived in England on 5 August 1934. Also attached are records that show that the aircraft was some 4 days later on the Heston Aerodrome runway.

Kind regards to you, if you are interested in researching further, please consider contacting the following:

De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre  
Salford Hall  
London Colney  
Hertfordshire  
AL9 7BU

0000057100

## Through The Mist Darkly

My head is in the clouds

## Today in aviation history – August 8, 1934

Posted on Sat, August 8/2009 by Ken



Captain L. Reid and J.R. Ayling fly a de Havilland Dragon (G-ACJM) from Canada to Britain. This is the first aeroplane flight between the two countries. They left from Wasaga Beach north of Toronto and landed 30 hours later in England.

This entry was posted in **general** and tagged **aviation, Canada, Toronto** by **Ken**. Bookmark the **permalink**.

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# de Havilland

## aircraft production

## Production list

List of abbreviations

c/n	Type	History	Fate
6000	DH84 DRAGON	E-9 G-ACAN	Written off 21.5.41
6001	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACAO X9398	Hit hedge forcelanding nr Ollerton 21.10.40
6002	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACAP	Crashed Lyndhurst 26.3.36
6003	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 16	
6004	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 17	
6005	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 18	
6006	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 19	
6007	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 20	
6008	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 21	
6009	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACBW BS816	SOC 22.10.41
6010	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACCE	Crashed Kirkwall 29.8.34
6011	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACCR	Crashed into Channel 21.1.36
6012	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 22	
6013	DH84 DRAGON	Iraqi AF as 23	
6014	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACCV	Crashed USA 23.7.33
6015	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACCC AW154 2820M	
6016	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACDL	Sold abroad 8.36
6017	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACDM ZS-AEI SAAF1570	
6018	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACDN AW170	Air Dispatch
6019	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACEK AX867	Olley AS
6020	DH84 DRAGON	EC-W14 EC-TAT	Written off Aragon
6021	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACET AW171 2779M G-ACET	M.D.Souch
6022	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACEU	Sold abroad 3.37
6023	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACEV	Sold abroad 8.36
6024	DH84 DRAGON	CF-APJ	Reduced to spares Montreal 23.10.42 pts used in CF-AVD
6025	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACGG VH-AAC RAAF as A34-10 VH-AAC	Crashed Slate Creek NG 29.1.51
6026	DH84 DRAGON	ZS-AEP	
6027	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACFG VH-UZG	Crashed nr Cairns Qld 7.5.37
6028	DH84 DRAGON	SU-ABH G-AEKZ AW163	Hit fence landing Castle Bromwich 18.11.40
6029	DH84 DRAGON	VH-URE VH-PDB VH-DMA	Crashed 11.12.57
6030	DH84 DRAGON	ZS-AEG VP-YBY SRAS260	Impressed 9.39 Written off .44
6031	DH84 DRAGON	SU-ABI	
6032	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACIE OK-ATO G-ACIE SU-ABZ	
6033	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACGK	Ditched off Inverness 8.1.35
6034	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACGU	Crashed Heston 16.7.35
6035	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACHV X9379	SOC 7.8.40
6036	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACHX	Crashed Purley 25.4.38
6037	DH84 DRAGON	VH-URD RAAF as A34-7 VH-URD	Crashed Menyama NG 24.12.51
6038	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACIW F-ANGE F-ANGD	
6039	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACIT	Southend Museum
6040	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACJH F-AMTM	
6041	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACIU X9395	Damaged on takeoff 29.4.40 dbf on evacuation 5.40
6042	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACJS	Canc 11.36
6043	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACJT	Crashed Weston super Mare 20.12.39
6044	DH84 DRAGON	YI-AAC G-ACLE X9397	Hit by tanker Odiham 8.4.41
6045	DH84 DRAGON	VH-URF RAAF as A34-9	Written off 3.3.42 Wyndham
6046	DH84 DRAGON	VH-URG	Crashed Wenlock Qld 4.2.42 dbf
6047	DH84 DRAGON	VP-KAW	
6048	DH84 DRAGON	VT-AEL	Indian National AW
6049	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACJM	Crashed landing Hamble 12.8.34
6050	DH84 DRAGON	VT-AEK	Indian National AW
6051	DH84 DRAGON	SU-ABJ	
6052	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACKD Govt of Ethiopia	Crashed on takeoff Akaki 23.03.36
6053	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACMC VH-UXK	Crashed Innisfail Qld 29.8.38
6054	DH84 DRAGON	ZS-AEH SAAF1414	
6055	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACKB AX863	SOC 1.2.41
6056	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACKC	Sold to Ethiopia 8.36
6057	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACLP F-AMTR	
6058	DH84 DRAGON	G-ACMJ X9396	SOC 12.11.41
6059	DH84 DRAGON	VP-KBA	
6060	DH84 DRAGON	Danish AF as S-21	
6061	DH84 DRAGON	Danish AF as S-22	
6062	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACMO VH-ABK RAAF as A34-4 VH-ABK A34-4	
6063	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACMP	Crashed on mudflats nr Cardiff 22.7.35
6064	DH84 DRAGON II	F-AMUZ	
6065	DH84 DRAGON II	VT-AES VH-UZF RAAF as A34-8	Written off 8.6.42
6066	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACKU AW172	Stalled forcelanding nr Wantage 10.2.41
6067	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACNA	Sold abroad 8.36
6068	DH84 DRAGON II	VH-URO	Crashed Black Cat Creek nr Wau NG 30.9.35
6069	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACNG	Crashed Kirkwall 19.4.40
6070	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACNH	Canc 1.37
6071	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACNI Irish AC as DH-18	
6072	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACNJ	Scrapped Dyce .46
6073	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACOR VH-ABE	Damaged NG 11.3.42
6074	DH84 DRAGON II	VH-USA	Destroyed by enemy action Salamaua NG 21.1.42
6075	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACPX X9399	Stalled on takeoff Castle Bromwich 22.4.40
6076	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACPY EI-ABI G-ACPY	Shot down off Scilly Isles 3.6.41
6077	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACRF VH-UXG	Crashed Archerfield Qld 19.4.54 dbf Restored airworthy Muwillumbah NSW
6078	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACRH	Crashed and burnt Dyce 13.7.34
6079	DH84 DRAGON II	G-ACRO VP-KRC	

Equipped with: Airspeed Envoy, Foster Wickner Warferry.

- N° 15 FPP (Ferry Pilots Pool), September 1941 to September 1945. (Disbanded.)

Equipped with: Avro Anson, Foster Wickner Warferry, Fairchild Argus.

- 780 Squadron, detachment from Lee-On-Solent, November 1941 to June 1942.

Equipped with: Percival Proctor, Avro Anson, Blackburn Shark. (No fixed resident aircraft at Hamble.)

- N° 1 NASS (Naval Air Signal School), November 1949 to November 1953. (Disbanded.)

Equipped with: Avro Anson.

- N° 1 BANS (Basic Air Navigation School), January 1951 to June 1953. (Disbanded.)

Equipped with: Avro Anson.

- N° 14 RFS (Reserve Flying School), August 1948 to August 1953. (Disbanded.)

Equipped with: de Havilland Tiger Moth, Airspeed Oxford, North American Harvard, Avro Anson, de Havilland Chipmunk.

- N° 2 AEF (Air Experience Flight), June 1958 to June 1978. (Moved to Hurn.)

Equipped with: de Havilland Chipmunk.

- SUAS (Southampton University Air Squadron), March 1947 to June 1978. (Moved to Hurn.)

Equipped with: de Havilland Tiger Moth, Airspeed Oxford, de Havilland Chipmunk, Scottish Aviation Bulldog.

The above list was extracted from a list written by Tony Sedgwick. The list details the aircraft used by military units at Hamble and includes the serial numbers (registrations), type, unit, and period deployed at Hamble as well as remarks. I had toyed with the idea of reproducing in full the entire list but since it covers some 7 sides of A4 paper... If you would like a copy please let me know.



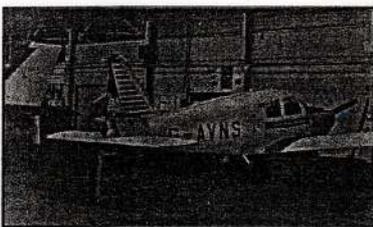
[Map of Hamble area showing aviation sites](#) | [Notes about the map](#) | [The numbered aviation sites](#) | [Chronological history of aviation at Hamble](#) | [Photographs](#) | [Military Units formerly based at Hamble](#) | [The College of Air Training](#) | [College of Air Training aircraft](#) | [Hamble Aerodrome - 20 years on](#) | [Endnotes and Links](#)

## ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HAMBLE AIRCRAFT

As with every kind of vehicle there will be accidents - no method of transport is completely safe! In this respect Hamble has had its fair share of accidents and below is a list of mishaps at Hamble or Hamble's aircraft that have come to my attention. I am indebted to Dave Fagan and Tony Sedgwick who provided me with much of the information for this section.

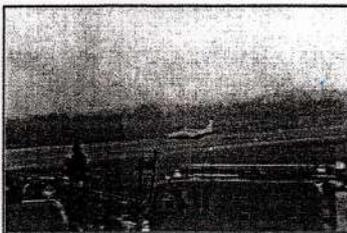
DATE	TYPE	REG.	COMMENT
30/04/19	Avro 534	-	Crashed on 1st flight.
29/08/19	Avro 539a	G-EALG	Damaged in accident.
13/01/20	Avro 534	G-EACQ	Damaged in accident, rebuilt as G-AUCQ.
25/05/21	Bristol Fighter	G-EAWZ	Damaged in accident.
15/07/21	Avro 534b	G-EAXM	Written off after accident.
19/06/26	Cierva C6C	J8068	Crashed.
26/03/30	Spartan	G-AAME	Damaged in accident.
27/03/30	Spartan	G-AAPR	Written off after accident.
08/06/31	A.W. Siskin III	G-ABHT	Crashed, Sarisbury Green, Hampshire.
17/04/32	Avro Cadet I	G-ACCM	Crashed, Purfleet, Essex.
18/07/32	Avro Avian IVM	G-ABKA	Caught fire at Heston.
04/06/34	Avro Cadet I	G-ACRY	Crashed into The Solent.
21/07/34	D.H. 53	G-EBQP	Crashed.
12/08/34	D.H. 84 Dragon	G-ACJM	Crashed landing Hamble.
??/10/34	AIRCO DH9J	G-AARS	Crashed near Hamble.
10/09/34	Avro Cadet I	G-ACUH	Crashed, Southampton.
06/02/36	Avro Cadet II	G-ADTM	Crashed, West End, Southampton.
25/08/37	Hawker Hart	K6532	Collided with Swordfish (L2740) at Gosport.
??/12/37	Short Calcutta	G-ABVH	Damaged beyond repair during a gale.
24/01/38	Miles Magister	L8901	Crashed, Calshot.
25/01/38	Miles Magister	L6895	Crashed, Hamble.
16/03/38	Hawker Hart	K4415	Collided with Avro Cadet G-ACCN (on the ground?).
16/03/38	Miles Magister	L6906	Crashed, Southampton Water.
07/05/38	Miles Magister	L5972	Crashed, Hamble.

13/06/38	Miles Magister	L6894	Crashed, Bursledon.
02/08/38	Hawker Audax	K7413	Crashed, Lymington.
07/12/38	Avro Cadet II	G-ADTZ	Crashed, Ansty.
24/01/39	Hawker Hind	K5526	Crashed, Hamble.
15/06/39	Hawker Audax	K7406	Wrecked during taxiing accident at Hamble.
08/08/39	Avro Cadet II	G-ADTO	Crashed, Leicester.
17/12/39	Avro Cadet	G-ADTU	Damaged in accident.
28/03/40	Avro Cadet	G-ADTG	Damaged in ground accident.
??/04/40	Avro Cadet	G-ADTK	Damaged in accident.
08/06/40	Avro Cadet	G-AEIR	Crashed, Southampton Water.
10/07/40	Avro Cadet	G-ACNE	Written off after ground collision with Blackburn Shark.
10/08/40	Spitfire Mk.I	R6979	Damaged in landing accident.
16/09/40	Spitfire Mk.I	R6922	Damaged in landing accident.
28/12/40	Handley Page Hampden	??	Crashed after take-off.
12/12/42	Fairchild Argus	EV774	Crashed, Hamble.
08/02/44	D.H. 82A Tiger Moth	DE929	Qverturnd on takeoff.
08/09/44	Spitfire Mk.IX	NH491	Damaged in landing accident.
22/12/44	Avro Anson I	N9573	Crashed.
26/11/47	D.H. 82A Tiger Moth	G-AHVZ	Crashed, Hamble.
06/01/49	Avro Anson I	MG564	Crashed, near Hamble.
23/01/49	D.H. 82A Tiger Moth	T7465	Crashed, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.
26/03/50	D.H. 82A Tiger Moth	T6173	Crashed, South End.
19/04/51	Avro Anson T21	VV899	Crashed, into sea near Brixham.
12/03/52	Avro Anson T21	VV910	Crashed, Fawley.
22/03/53	D.H. Chipmunk 21	G-AMUD	Crashed, Porchfield, Isle of Wight.
28/11/54	D.H. Vampire FB5	VZ177	Collided with WE836 and pilot thrown out of aircraft near Hamble.
03/10/55	Hiller U12B	G-AOFK	Crashed, Hamble.
22/10/56	D.H. Chipmunk 21	G-AMUE	Crashed, Middle Wallop.
11/10/58	D.H. Chipmunk T10	WG353	Damaged beyond repair during landing at Hamble.
12/07/60	D.H. Chipmunk T10	WP895	Damaged beyond repair during landing accident.
29/03/66	D.H. Chipmunk 22	G-ARME	Crashed at Sandown, Isle of Wight.
07/12/66	D.H. Chipmunk T10	WZ864	Collided with G-ATEA, crashed near Hamble.
07/12/66	D.H. Chipmunk 22	G-ATEA	(Was WG464) Collided with WZ864, crashed near Hamble.
10/01/67	Piper Apache 160	G-ASDH	Crashed at Netley Hospital.
27/02/70	Piper Cherokee	G-AVBD	Destroyed in mid-air collision, Bursledon. Pilot killed.
27/02/70	Piper Cherokee	G-AVBI	Destroyed in mid-air collision, Bursledon. Pilot killed.
??/??/71	Piper Cherokee	G-AVNS	Damaged during mid-air collision, IoW, Crew unhurt.
??/??/71	Piper Cherokee	?-????	Damaged during mid-air collision, IoW, Crew unhurt.
09/12/71	Beechcraft Baron	G-AWAG	Damaged in landing accident, Hurn, Crew unhurt, rebuilt.
??/??/??	Beechcraft Baron	G-AWAF	Damaged in landing accident, rebuilt.
??/??/??	Beechcraft Baron	G-AWAO	Damaged in landing accident, rebuilt.
30/04/81	Piper Cherokee	G-AVBJ	Destroyed in mid-air collision, Warsash. Pilot killed.
30/04/81	Piper Cherokee	G-AXZC	Destroyed in mid-air collision, Warsash. Pilot killed.
24/02/84	Beechcraft Baron	G-AWAE	Damaged in landing accident, rebuilt.



**Piper Cherokee 'G-AVNS'**, as seen in the main hangar at Hamble, Spring 1971. Note the damage to the vertical stabiliser. This was caused by the propeller of another Hamble Cherokee mid-air somewhere over the Isle of Wight! I can only say that the crews of the two aircraft (all landed safely and unhurt) must have used up a life in the process. (Click on the photo to see the full size version. Use the 'Back' button on your browser to return to this page.)

Photo: Dave Summers.



**Beechcraft Baron 'G-AWAG'**. It is often said that a crash is an uncontrolled landing and a landing is a controlled crash. In the case of this incident, it was a controlled landing - but with the wheels up! What had actually happened was that during an approach to Cherbourg the wheels failed to lower, both electrical and manual back-up systems had malfunctioned. The plane was then flown to Hurn (Bournemouth), both engines shut down at 200 feet, starter motors used to 'kick' the propeller blades horizontal and then glide in for a slide down the runway. I expect that this tale would be better told by those who were there, all the same it does strike me as a fine bit of airmanship. (Click on the photo to see the full size version. Use the 'Back' button on your browser to return to this page.)

Photo: Dave Summers.

The above list details some of the incidents that I'm aware of but there are doubtless others that elude this list. During the time that I was actually working at the College there were a few incidents involving Hamble and its aircraft. One of the above listed accidents involving Beechcraft Baron's was where the propeller underspinning collapsed on landing. On at least 2 occasions Baron's landed at

October 7, 2011

Dear George:

Lt. Col. Arnold, R.N.  
was kind enough to respond  
to my enquiry with regard to  
DH84 Dragonfly G-ACJM.

Obviously, therefore, it  
was not the one I saw in  
the British documentary. —  
unless of course the registration  
number has been reactivated

Again, thank you for the  
material you provided and the  
effort made by your colleague.

Just think, had the  
aircraft had a longer history,  
rather than as C.A.V., you might  
have a career as a Senior Admin.  
Officer, Greater Wasaga Beach  
Airport Authority!

cheers,  
George

P.S. as a responsible resident  
and O.P.P. supporter (?)  
read letter to editor this  
week's Mirror + article on  
policing,

My French is too deficient,  
but two French Quotations  
apply.

① "the more things change  
the more they remain  
the same"

② after me, the deluge.

§