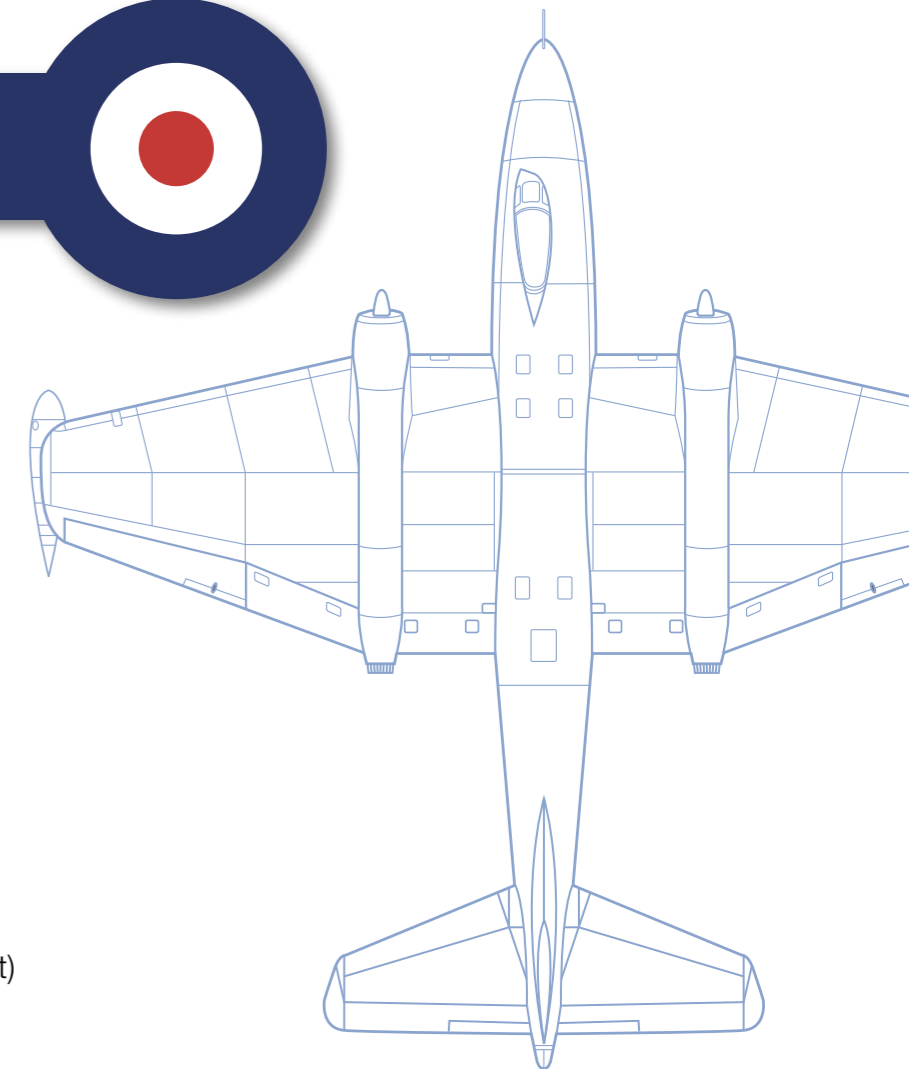


English Electric Canberra B.2/T.17 (WH740)



Specifications

Dimensions:

Length: 20m (65ft 6in)

Wingspan: 19.25m (63ft 11in)

Height: 4.8m (15ft 7in)

Powerplant: Two Rolls Royce Avon 109 turbojets each rated at 7,500lb static thrust

Maximum Speed: 620 mph

Service Ceiling: 13,000-16,000 (45-50,000ft)

Range: 4,800km (3,000m) with tip tanks



Courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo

The Canberra was Britain's first jet bomber. Design work began in the mid-1940s under the English Electric chief engineer W.E.W. Petter.

In 1949, test pilot R.P. (Rollt) Beumont flew the Canberra prototype for the first time and amazed observers with the aircraft's fighter-like agility.

Simple to maintain with docile handling and virtually no vices, the Canberra's introduction into service was fairly trouble free. In early operational exercises the aircraft was almost immune to interception by contemporary RAF fighters.

In 1953, a Canberra won the London-New Zealand Air Race, flying 20,470km (12,720 miles) in 23 hours 51 minutes. This aircraft is on display at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon.

The Aeropark Canberra

Built as a B2, WH740 was delivered to No.18 Squadron at RAF Scampton in August 1953. The aircraft then became part of No.40 Squadron based at RAF Upwood. In 1958, WH740 was one of 15 B2s loaned to the Royal New Zealand Air Force as part of the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve. It joined the newly formed 75 Squadron (RNZAF) based at RAF Tengah, Singapore and saw active service in Malaya.

In 1962 the aircraft was handed back to the RAF and converted to T.17 standard before joining 360 Squadron at RAF Cottesmore. It remained with 360 Squadron for the rest of its service life, moving to RAF Wyton in August 1975.

The T.17 was a rebuilt B2 with a compartment behind the cockpit which accommodated a pupil and ECM (Electronic Counter Measures) instructor.

The aircraft was struck off RAF charge in December 1987 and used as a ground instructional airframe at No.2 School of Technical Training at RAF Cosford. After providing many valuable years to young RAF Trainees it was bought for display at the Aeropark.

