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Avro Anson

Developed from the Avro 652 commercial aircraft of 1934, the Anson or Avro 652A first flew in March 1935 following an Air Ministry specification for a coastal reconnaissance aircraft. In March 1936 Ansons entered RAF service with 48 Sqn at Manston; then, re-equipping further squadrons, they maintained a watchful eye around Britain's coast until September 1939, when they began to be replaced by Lockheed Hudsons from America. The Anson continued in RAF service until 1968—after 32 years. An Anson of 500 Sqn gained the distinction of making the first RAF attack on a U-boat. During the remainder of the war Ansons did yeoman work as navigation trainers and liaison aircraft both in Britain and abroad. After the war Avro developed a civil version known as the Avro XIX; it was ordered for the RAF under the military designation C.19. A total of 8,138 Ansons had been built in Great Britain when pro-duction ceased in May 1952. Engines of the Mk I were 350 h.p. Armstrong Siddeley Cheetah IXs. Maximum speed was 188 m.p.h. at 7,000ft and range was 790 miles. The Anson shown is a GR.1 delivered to the RAF in 1938; finished in Coastal Command colours, it is owned by the Skyfame Museum, Staverton, Glos. Flight, London SE1, 1969