

AVRO/Federal Aircraft Ltd

# *Anson*

Mk II

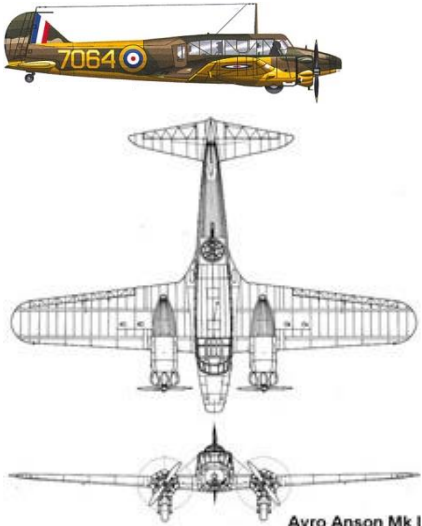


**Greenwood Military Aviation Museum**

**14 Wing Greenwood, Nova Scotia**

The **AVRO Anson** first flew in 1935, a British-designed, twin-engine, multi-role aircraft, developed from the AVRO 652 airliner for maritime reconnaissance, and named after British Admiral George Anson. Found to be obsolete in this role, its future was destined for multi-engine aircrew training, becoming the mainstay of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan because of its docile and forgiving features. The aircraft was dubbed “Faithful Annie” because of its reliability.

By May, 1940 British production could not keep up with the demand for aircraft in Canada, and Federal Aircraft Ltd. was established in Montreal to produce the Mk II version. In August, 1941 the first Canadian-built *Anson* flew. It featured the considerable use of plywood to save stocks of steel and aluminum for other purposes. Much of the surface is made of wood and covered with a doped fabric, while the fuselage is tubular steel, with wooden stringers and doped fabric. A Mark I is shown at left; the Mark II was similar in shape but had fewer windows and the nose was moulded plywood.



The **GMAM Anson** project was finished in 2009 and, being primarily of wooden construction, fabric covered, is displayed inside in the Museum Extension. National recognition for the restoration team included the “EXCELLENCE IN RESTORATION AWARD” from the Canadian Aeronautical Preservation Association (CAPA). This award recognizes the restoration of an aircraft with special significance to the history of aviation in Canada.

**GMAM's  
Anson Mk II**



**Anson 7135** is of special significance to the GMAM, being one of 340 such aircraft manufactured locally in Amherst, Nova Scotia by the Canadian Car and Foundry Company as part of Canada's contribution to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP).



The wreckage that started the project – no wings or tail.



View of the fuselage and tail components.



The immaculate restored interior, with excruciating attention to detail.



The restoration project was led by the late Chief Warrant Officer Colin Ainsworth. The team spent five and a half years on the project, amassing a total of 16,528 volunteer man-hours.

## ***Aircraft Specifications***

**Roles:** Capable of multi-roles, in Greenwood, trained Pilots to fly multi-engine aircraft and, with Navigators, Wireless Operators, Bombardiers, and Air Gunners, did crew training. Also towed targets for gunnery practice.

**Number built:** AVRO U.K. - 8,138; AVRO Canada - 2,882 from 1941-1952

**Crew:** General reconnaissance aircraft with a crew of three; or, a navigational trainer carrying a pilot, two student navigators and a wireless operator; or, an advanced pilot trainer.

**Powerplants:** Two 330HP (246kW) Jacobs L-6MB R-915 engines

**Maximum speed:** 188 mph (163 Kt or 303 kmph) at 7,000 feet (2,134 m)

**Cruise speed:** 155 mph (135 Kt or 250 kmph)

**Service ceiling:** 16,200 feet (4,938 m)    **Range:** 790 miles (1,271 km)

**Empty weight:** 5,850 lbs (2,654 kg)    **Gross weight:** 7,650 lbs (3,470 kg)

**Wingspan:** 56' 6" (17.22 m)    **Length:** 42' 3" (12.88 m)    **Height:** 13' 1" (3.99 m)

**Armament:** None for the general training version, but *Ansons* equipped for bombing & gunnery training had a dorsal turret with 1 × .303 in (7.7 mm) Vickers K machine gun and carried 163 kg (360 lbs) of practice bombs in under-wing bomb bays.

**The Greenwood Military Aviation Museum** is located just outside the main gate at 14 Wing Greenwood in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Its mandate is to capture, preserve and interpret the history and heritage of Station/Base/14 Wing Greenwood and its units (formed overseas in 1941), and from its birth as an RAF Station in 1942 as an Operational Training Base within the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during WW II, until present day operations.

Six distinct ever-changing areas can be seen inside the 10,000 square foot complex and 6,000 square foot extension (featuring WW II aircraft). The outdoor Air Park displays nine different aircraft types flown at Greenwood, from a wartime *Lancaster* to today's *Aurora*. Three other aircraft and various projects are in various restoration phases, with the majority of work being completed by Museum volunteers.

Admission to all venues is FREE, although donations are gratefully accepted, and tax receipts will be presented on request (certain limits apply). Shop the Museum gift shop, do research in the library and enjoy the opportunity to take a step back in time.

**Greenwood Military Aviation Museum**

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