

## DH.91 ALBATROSS

- 6800 (Gipsy 12 #7505/7507/7508/7513) Prototype Transatlantic mailplane ordered by Air Ministry under Contract No.458574/35 dated 21.1.36 as **K8618**; serial NTU. Ff 20.5.37 as **E.2**. Regd **G-AEUV** [CofR 7748] 3.1.38 to The Secretary of State for Air [regn allotted 3.37]. Damaged in belly landing Hatfield 25.3.38 (not 31.3.38 as commonly reported) after undercarriage failure [still as E.2]; repaired & reflowed 5.38. CofA 6400 issued 29.9.38. Delivered 8.39 to Imperial Airways Ltd for trials; named "Faraday". Transferred 4.40 and cld/regd 17.6.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation; deld Whitchurch 28.5.40. Regn cld by Secretary of State 1.9.40. Returned to Air Ministry and to RAF as **AX903** 1.9.40. Cabin and cockpit damaged in arson attack Whitchurch 12/13.10.40; repaired. To 271 Squadron, Doncaster 28.2.41; operated on Icelandic Mail Service. Swung off runway on landing Reykjavik 11.8.41 after starboard brake seized and collided with Fairey Battle L5547 and damaged beyond repair. Soc 12.2.43.
- 6801 (Gipsy 12 #7509 to 7512) Second Prototype Transatlantic mailplane ordered by Air Ministry under Contract No.458574/35 dated 21.1.36 as **K8619**; serial NTU. Regd **G-AEUV** [CofR 7749] 3.1.38 to The Secretary of State for Air. Ff 7.38 as **E.3**. Badly damaged during overload tests Hatfield 27.8.38 when fuselage snapped aft of wing trailing edge on landing. Repaired with reinforced centre section and reflowed 10.38 as **E.5**. Allocated for trials with Imperial Airways Ltd; named "Franklin" but no CofA issued. Transferred 4.40 and cld/regd 8.7.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation; deld Whitchurch 6.5.40. CofA 6830 issued 3.7.40. Regn cld by Secretary of State 1.9.40. Returned to Air Ministry and to RAF as **AX904** 1.9.40 and deld to 271 Squadron, Doncaster 26.10.40; later coded "BJ-W". Operated on Icelandic Mail Service. Undercarriage collapsed following swing on landing Reykjavik 7.4.42 and soc.
- The batch of six DH.91s for Imperial Airways Limited were allocated the regns G-AFDI-AFDM in December 1937 having been ordered on 29 July 1937.*
- 6802 (Gipsy 12 #7518 to 7521) Regd **G-AFDI** [CofR 8253] 28.6.38 to Imperial Airways Ltd, Croydon; named "Frobisher". Ff 6.38 as **E.2** and deld 22.6.38 to A&AEE Martlesham Heath for trials. CofA 6412 issued 17.10.38 and deld 8.11.38 to IAL. Damaged when u/c collapsed taxiing Croydon 17.1.39; repaired 4.39. Transferred 1.4.40; cld & regd 22.8.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation, Whitchurch. Destroyed Whitchurch 19.10.40 when same disaffected ex BOAC employee (see c/n 6801) set fire to rear fuselage. Regn cld 19.10.40 as wfu.
- 6803 (Gipsy 12 #7514/7516/7517/7528) Regd **G-AFDJ** [CofR 8254] 28.6.38 to Imperial Airways Ltd, Croydon; named "Falcon". Ff as **E.5**. CofA 6426 issued 1.11.38; deld 22.11.38 to IAL. Damaged when u/c collapsed on landing Croydon 17.5.39 (or 16.5.39); repaired by 8/39. Transferred 1.4.40; cld & regd 27.8.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation, Whitchurch. CofA lapsed 24.5.43 and wfu. Ferried Bramcote to Croydon 15.8.43 & scrapped. Regn cld 4.10.43 as reduced to produce.
- 6804 (Gipsy 12 #7522 to 7525) Regd **G-AFDK** [CofR 8255] 28.6.38 to Imperial Airways Ltd, Croydon; named "Fortuna". CofA 6480 issued 6.1.39; deld 10.1.39 to IAL. Transferred 1.4.40; cld & regd 27.8.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation, Whitchurch. Forced landed on mudflats on banks of River Fergus, Rineanna, nr Shannon Airport 16.7.43 after failure of flap support structure and damaged beyond repair. Regn cld 16.7.43 as crashed.
- 6805 (Gipsy 12 #7532 to 7535) Regd **G-AFDL** [CofR 8256] 3.4.39 to Imperial Airways Ltd, Croydon; named "Fingal". CofA 6533 issued 4.4.39; deld 3.4.39 to IAL. Transferred 1.4.40; cld & regd 29.8.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation, Whitchurch. Damaged beyond repair when forced landed & struck cottage nr Pucklechurch, Glos 6.10.40 (or 5.10.40) when engines cut due to fuel line fracture. Regn cld 9.6.41 as wfu. Remains purchased by collector Cecil J Packer, Burton Garage, nr Chippenham and fuselage eventually burned late 46.
- 6806 (Gipsy 12 #7526/7527/7529/7530) Regd **G-AFDM** [CofR 8257] 4.4.39 to Imperial Airways Ltd, Croydon; named "Fiona". CofA 6651 issued 16.6.39; deld 15.6.39 to IAL. Transferred 1.4.40; cld & regd 22.8.40 to British Overseas Airways Corporation, Whitchurch. Wfu Whitchurch 6.7.43 following inspection with current CofA and scrapped 29.9.43. Regn cld 4.10.43 as reduced to produce.