

ROBINSON REDWING

- RA.1 Redwing I [85hp ABC Hornet] Regd **G-AAUO** [CofR 2428] 11.2.30 to Robinson Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon. First flight 6.6.30. CofA 2602 issued 26.6.30. Later mod to Redwing II. Company renamed Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd 16.3.31. Loaned Scarborough Aero Club & deltd 2.5.31. Loaned 7.31 to The Eastern Counties Aeroplane Club Ltd, Ipswich (unconfirmed, since flying training at Croydon throughout 7.31). Later operated by Redwing School of Flying, Gatwick. Crashed on landing Shoreham 11.3.33; pilot Henry Trost unhurt. Regn cld 5.33 as wfu.
- RAC.2 Redwing II [80hp AS Genet IIA] Regd **G-ABDO** [CofR 2753] 7.30 to Robinson Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon. First flight 18.10.30. CofA 2838 issued 6.12.30. UK demonstration tours 1/2.31. Company renamed Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd 16.3.31. Possibly loaned .31 to LGOC Flying Club, Broxbourne. Regd [CofR 3528] 12.31 to British Air Transport Ltd, Croydon. Returned early 32 to Redwing at Blue Barns following company failure. Badly damaged when crashed during low aerobatics Stutton, nr Manningtree, Colchester 26.5.32, pilot J Newman; repaired. Later operated by Redwing School of Flying, Gatwick. Operated 3.34 by Ronald D Dixey-Gerrans, Maylands. Regd [CofR 5291] 2.8.34 to Mrs [Miss?] Edith Rebie Gerrans, London N3 (based Maylands, later Abridge). CofA lapsed 19.9.36. Badly damaged in hangar fire at Gravesend during overhaul 3.8.37. Sold [but not regd] .37 to Franklin John Cleare, Blackheath; remains removed to Cleare & Co Garage in Woolwich [possibly bought by Cleare prior to fire?]. Regn cld 27.12.45 at census.
- 3 Redwing II Regd **G-ABLA** [CofR 3112] 2.4.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon [and used as demonstrator]. CofA 3007 issued 4.5.31. Sold 9.31 [but not regd] to Wiltshire Light Aeroplane & Country Club, High Post. Club reformed 30.6.32 as The Wiltshire School of Flying & Country Club Ltd. Struck HT cables and crashed Great Durnford, nr Salisbury 12.10.32. Regn cld 12.32 as wfu.
- 4 Redwing II Regd **G-ABMJ** [CofR 3179] 15.5.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon. CofA 3036 issued 22.5.31. Regd [CofR 3228] 6.31 to The Scarborough Aero Club Co Ltd, Scarborough Racecourse; named "Scarborough First" 25.5.31 (based Ganton Aerodrome wef 5.32). Returned to Redwing when club defaulted on payments 5.32; operated by Surrey Flying Club, Gatwick wef 7.32. Regd [CofR 3999] 10.32 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd; operated by Surrey Flying Club/Redwing School of Flying, Gatwick. Regd [CofR 4243] 3.3.33 to Miss Delphine Rose Reynolds, Gatwick and flown on various European tours following fitment of long-range tank and Fairey-Reed metal propeller (and also continued in use by Surrey Flying Club). Forced-landed Malmo, Sweden mid 11.33; en route Stockholm-London; u/c and prop dgd. Regd [CofR 4885] 1.3.34 to Miss Rosalind Norman, London SW1 (based Heston). Damaged in accident Hayes, Middlesex 11.3.34; pilot BA Davey & passenger unhurt; repaired. Regn cld 12.34 as sold abroad. Regd in Ireland as **EI-ABC** 17.4.35 to WH Culleton, Merlin Park, Co Cork. Crashed and regn cld 12.5.35. Reportedly sold to Charles V Foley, Hazelwood, nr Sligo and rebuilt as [second] "Spirit of Erin" [but not certificated]; however, this may be an "urban myth" since Foley allegedly emigrated to USA in November 1934.
- 5 Redwing II Regd **G-ABMF** [CofR 3175] 5.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon. CofA 3043 issued 6.6.31. Regd [CofR 3256] 6.31 to William Thomson "Will" Hay, London SW16 (based Stag Lane). Sold 11.32 to The Wiltshire School of Flying & Country Club Ltd, High Post [replacement for G-ABLA]. Regd [CofR 5303] 9.8.34 to The Wiltshire School of Flying & Country Club Ltd (renamed 24.8.34 as The Wiltshire School of Flying Ltd), High Post. Regd [CofR 6957] 28.4.36 to Charles Henry Burge, Willesden [based Broxbourne]; also operated by Herts & Essex Aero Club. Regd [CofR 8488] 6.5.38 to William Henry Sparrow, Bournemouth; also operated by Bournemouth Flying Club Ltd, Christchurch. Cld 20.4.39 & regd 8.5.39 to Benjamin Gerald Heron, Boscombe, Hants (based Christchurch). Cld 1.8.39 & regd 8.8.39 to Edward Pennington, Wolverhampton & Clifford Harris, Wolverhampton. CofA lapsed 18.7.40. Impressed as **2114M** 21.7.40 and to 6 SofTT Hednesford. Possibly the aircraft allocated to 395 (Stafford) ATC Squadron but never collected, and which survived stored at a house on the Eccleshall Road, north of Stafford, into the fifties. Regn cld at census 1.12.46.
- 6 Redwing II Regd **G-ABMU** [CofR 3221] 5.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon. CofA 3075 issued 1.7.31. Regd [CofR 3292] 7.7.31 to Eastern Counties Aeroplane Club Ltd, Ipswich (also operated by Suffolk Flying Club). Stalled and crashed Ipswich Aerodrome 5.1.33. Regn cld 2.33 as wfu.
- 7 Redwing II Regd **G-ABMV** [CofR 3222] 5.31 to The Eastern Counties Aeroplane Club Ltd [not delivered and replaced by G-ABMU]. Regd [CofR 3293] 7.7.31 to London General Omnibus Co [LGOC] Sports Association Flying Club, Broxbourne. CofA 3076 issued 22.7.31. Returned late .32 [but not regd] to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Blue Barns. Sold to New Zealand, CofA renewed 20.4.33 and delivered to London Docks by road 24.4.33. Regn cld 4.33 as sold abroad. Erected & test flown Wigram 30.6.33, dd 5.8.33. Regd **ZK-ADD** .33 to HT Parry, Wellington [based Hokitika]. Operated 8.35 by West Coast United Aero Club. Regd 17.2.39 to GA Green, Ahaura. CofA lapsed 3.6.40. Regn cld 28.8.41. Impressed into RNZAF 8.41 and to instructional airframe **INST.112** 9.2.42 with ATC at Invercargill. Soc and burnt Invercargill 23.10.45.
- 8 Redwing II Regd **G-ABNP** [CofR 3263] 6.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon. CofA 3109 issued 20.8.31. Delivered 24.8.31 & regd [CofR 3476] 5.11.31 to Eastern Counties Aeroplane Club Ltd, Ipswich; operated by Suffolk Flying Club, Blue Barns, Colchester. Damaged on landing .34 [& prior to CofA expiry 2.8.34] and wfu. Used for spares in rebuild of G-ABRM summer .34. Regn cld 12.35 as wfu.
- 9 Redwing II Regd **G-ABNX** [CofR 3283] 6.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon/Blue Barns. CofA 3312 issued 12.3.32 [reason for delay in assembly/certification assumed to be move to Blue Barns, Colchester 1/32]. Delivered 10.9.32 and regd [CofR4158] 6.2.33 to Claude Pierrepont [Philip] Hunter of aerodrome contractors Hunters of Chester [James Hunter Ltd]; based Rhos Ucha, Wrexham. Regd [CofR 5863] 9.5.35 to Samuel Reid, Edinburgh; also operated by Edinburgh Flying Club, Macmerry. Regd [CofR 8405] 19.3.38 to Charles William Morrison, Haddington (based Tranent); (possibly remained operated by Edinburgh Flying Club, Macmerry). CofA lapsed 24.7.38 and stored Renfrew. Reported as stored Radlett during WWII. Purchased by Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd during WWII and roaded to works at Bensham Lane, Thornton Heath [45]. Regn cld at census 1.12.46. Stored Elstree [46/48]. Donated to College of Aeronautical Engineering, Redhill .47 [but also reported as delivered there 16.4.51 for refurbishment by Redwing]. Restored to static condition and displayed 7.51 at Daily Express/RAeS 50 Years of Flying Display at Hendon. Reported in storage .53 by V Mitchell, Heath End, nr Farnham. To Panshanger [,57] and regd (CofR R3853) 14.1.59 to John Stuart Mitchell, Barnet &: Ernest Arthur Gilbert, Panshanger (based Panshanger). Reportedly with PJ Houston [1.59]. Roaded ex Panshanger 5.7.59 to Renshaw Motor Services, Spring Lane, Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey. Purchased (for £150) by John Pothecery and delivered 18.12.59 by road to Christchurch. Cld 1.1.60 & regd 11.2.60 to John Pothecery, Walkford, Christchurch & Edward Henry [Ted] Gould, Broadway Garage, Winton, Bournemouth. Moved 7.8.60 to Highcliffe, Hants. Cld 4.1.62 & regd 30.1.62 [solely] to John Pothecery; rebuilt at Highcliffe, Hants. AtoF issued 30.3.62; reflown 3.4.62. Later based at Lydd, then Wellcross Grange, Slinfold, then Shoreham. AtoF lapsed 20.10.70; CofA renewed 3.5.72. Sold to Redwing Trust and dd Redhill 15.6.02; overhauled and reflown 18.8.02.

- 10 Redwing II Regd **G-ABOK** [CofR 3318] 7.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon (to Blue Barns, Colchester 1.32). CofA 3234 issued 19.10.31. Used as demonstrator, later by Surrey Flying Club/Redwing School of Flying, Gatwick (wef 6.32). Gained notoriety 16.5.33 when student pilot Eric Starling became lost en route Croydon-Lympne and landed in the main street in Calais. Loaned 3.34-6.34 to Aviation Developments Ltd [for joyriding tour under name "Flying Fair", commencing at Southend/Rochford]. Regd [CofR 5161] 18.6.34 to George John Dawson, London SW9 (based Croydon/Gatwick). Damaged on landing Gatwick [after final CofA renewal 16.5.36]. *Reported as sold .36 [but not regd] to Ronald Dixey-Gerrans, Bishops Stortford [but since he was founder of Aviation Developments Ltd, this may erroneous]. Probably not repaired and also reported destroyed by hangar fire Gravesend 7.37 [but see G-ABDO].* CofA lapsed 15.5.37. Regn cld 19.4.39 as wfu.
- 11 Redwing III Regd **G-ABRL** [CofR 3397] 15.10.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon/Blue Barns/Gatwick. First flown 5.33 but not certificated. Rebuilt to mk II status & CofA 4628 issued 21.12.34. Sold or loaned [but not regd] to Mrs Jessie Maude [Keith] Miller and departed Croydon 4.1.35 for solo flight to Cape Town. Damaged beyond repair 2.2.35 when struck trees during forced landing 10 ml from Cotonou, Dahomey. Regn cld 12.35 as wfu.
- 12 Redwing III [but probably not erected as such] Regd **G-ABRM** [CofR 3398] 15.10.31 to Redwing Aircraft Co Ltd, Croydon/Blue Barns/Gatwick. Completed as mk II and CofA 3781 issued 22.2.33. Regd [CofR 4221] 27.2.33 to Eastern Counties Aeroplane Club Ltd, Ipswich [replacement for G-ABMU]. Badly damaged summer .34 and rebuilt using fuselage and other parts from G-ABNP. Crashed on landing Frinton autumn/late 35 [also reported as being a pilotless take-off after forced landing]. Regn cld 12.35 as wfu. Remains burnt early .36.

Robinson/Redwing bases

Originally all built in factory in Stafford Road, off Croydon Airport; factory moved to Blue Barns Aerodrome, Colchester 6/32 (or 1/32); then back to Croydon Airport 3/34 [after completion of production]. The sales office moved from Croydon to Heston 12/31. Both the sales and flying operations were moved from Heston and Blue Barns respectively to Gatwick 6/32.

Unidentified Items:

Sqn Ldr Henry G Malet of Edinburgh was reported as having bought a Redwing 3.32 and based it at Heston.