

RAF Aircraft that operated from RAF Lichfield During WW2

The Avro Anson



The Avro Anson was not named after a town (as most aircraft were), but after Admiral of the Fleet, George Anson.

The plane was originally designed in 1933 as a passenger plane and not as a military aircraft.

The Anson's first test flight took place in 1934.

In 1935 the Air Ministry asked Avro and other manufactures to submit

The Second World War Coastal Reconnaissance Aeroplane was known affectionately as 'Faithful Annie'



Admiral of the Fleet, George Anson,
1st Baron Anson, PC, FRS

23 April 1697 – 6 June 1762

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Anson,_1st_Baron_Anson



The Anson's eventually became The Earls of Lichfield.

They lived in 'Shugborough Hall' in Staffordshire which is now a National Trust Property that you can visit.

Source: parksandgardens.org/places/shugborough

The Engine:



Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armstrong_Siddeley_Cheetah

The Armstrong Sudeley Engine was named 'The Cheetah'. It is a seven-cylinder air-cooled radial engine. 345 hp (257 kW).



Source: animals.fandom.com/wiki/Cheetah

The Cheetah is an African wild cat

The Handley Page Halifax



The Halifax was a Royal Air Force (RAF) four-engine, heavy bomber of the Second World War.

Named after the town of Halifax located in West Riding of Yorkshire.

There are only three examples remaining of Halifax's left in various Museums in the world.



In September 1941, a production Halifax Mk.I participated in an official naming ceremony of the type of aeroplane, officiated by Lord and Lady Halifax.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Wood,_1st_Earl_of_Halifax

Source: lafayette.org.uk/irw8973.html

The Engine(s):



The Rolls-Royce Merlin is a liquid-cooled V-12 piston aero engine of 1,800 hp (1,300 kW). Rolls-Royce Turboprop Aeroplan Engines were named after 'Birds of Prey'

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Merlin



The Merlin is a wild bird of prey.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merlin_%28bird%29

The Short Brothers Stirling



The Engine:

The Short Stirling was a four-engine heavy bomber of the Second World War. It has the distinction of being the first four-engine bomber to be introduced into service with the Royal Air Force (RAF).

The Stirling was designed during the late 1930s by Short Brothers.

On 14 May 1939, the first plane, which had by this point received the service name "Stirling" after the Scottish city.

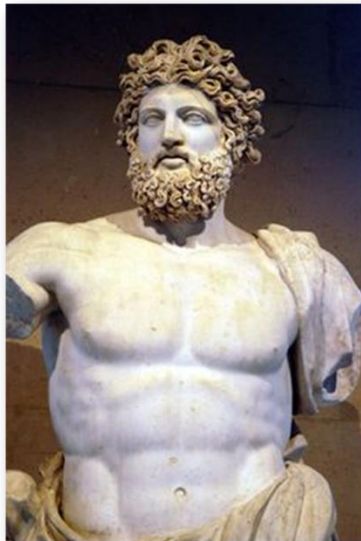
In early 1941 the Stirling entered squadron service.



The Stirling was powered by four Bristol Hercules 14-cylinder two-row radial aircraft engines which were spaced across its mid-mounted wing.

The Hercules XVII produced 1,735 hp (1,294 kW).

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Hercules



Hercules is a hero from Greek Mythology.

Hercules was the greatest of all Greek heroes, “one who surpassed all men in strength.” He is considered as half-god of superhuman strength.

The Vickers Wellington



The Vickers Wellington was a twin-engine, long-range medium bomber. It was designed during 1930s

It was powered by The Bristol Pegasus XXII engine with 1,010 hp (750 kW)

It was also powered by The Armstrong Siddeley Tiger engine 907 hp (677 kW)

It was also powered by The Rolls-Royce Goshawk engine 660 hp (490 kW)

Source: thecollector.com/what-was-vickers-wellington-bomber/

Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, KG, GCB, GCH, PC, FRS

1769–1852



The Wellington was one of two bombers named after Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, the other being the Vickers Wellesley.

The Wellington was named correctly after the town in Shropshire according to Air Ministry tradition.

It also perpetuated the memory of the “Iron Duke” and followed tradition in that its geodetic predecessor bore the Duke’s family name “Wellesley

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wellesley,_1st_Duke_of_Wellington



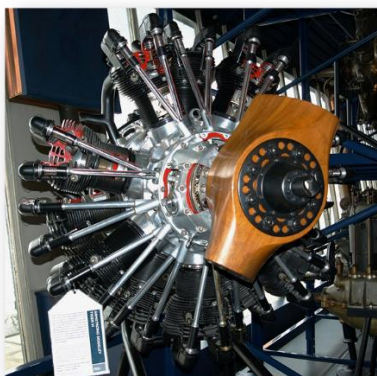
The Wellington was affectionately known as the “**Wimpy**” after the cartoon character ‘J Wellington Wimpy’ in Popeye who was always eating hamburgers and said I’ll gladly pay you on Tuesday’.

The Engine(s):



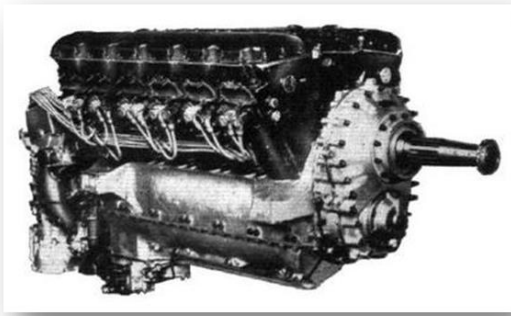
The Bristol Pegasus XXII Engine

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Pegasus



The Armstrong Siddeley Tiger Engine

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armstrong_Siddeley_Tiger



The Rolls-Royce Goshawk Engine

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Goshawk



Pegasus is a creature from ancient Greek mythology often depicted as a majestic, winged horse,



The Tiger is a Wild Cat



The Goshawk is a bird of prey

The Avro Lancaster



Source: Britannica.com

The Avro Lancaster, commonly known as the 'Lancaster Bomber', was a four-engine heavy bomber.

The Lancaster could carry the largest bombs used by the RAF including 12,000 lb (5,400 kg) 'blockbusters'.

Seven crew members were needed for this plane; the pilot, flight engineer, navigator, wireless operator, bomb aimer and 2x gunners

The Engine:



The Rolls-Royce Merlin is a liquid-cooled V-12 piston aero engine of 1,800 hp (1,300 kW).

This is the same engine used in the Hanley Page Halifax bomber.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Merlin



Merlin is a mythical magician featured in the legend of King Arthur.

He is also a character in the Harry Potter series.

Source: harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Merlin

The Bristol Blenheim



Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Blenheim

The Bristol Blenheim was a twin-engine, light bomber, used extensively in the first two years of WW2. It's maiden flight was in 1935 and it soon proved to be much faster than the current RAF fighters, having a top speed of 307mph.

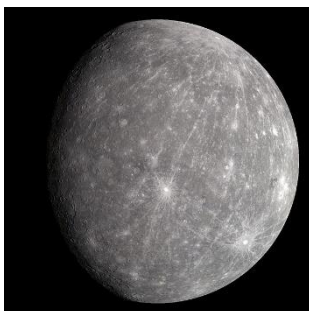
It was powered by a pair of Bristol Mercury VIII radial engines, each capable of 860hp (640kW).

The Engine:



The Bristol Mercury VIII Engine

Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bristol_Mercury_VIIIA_%2846302817211%29.jpg



Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system and the nearest planet to the sun.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_%28planet%29

Mercury Messenger of the Gods



Mercury was also the name of a Roman God. He was known as the 'messenger of the Gods'

Source: [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)

The de Havilland Dove



The de Havilland Dove was a twin-engine, short-haul airliner manufactured between 1946-1967. It was used by the RAF for carrying VIP's, light transports and communications. It had a maximum speed of 230 mph and seated up to 11 passengers.

The Engine:

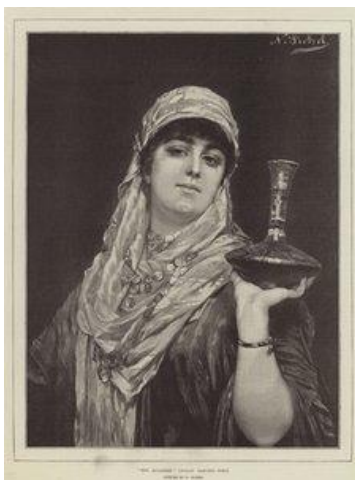


The de Havilland Gipsy Queen 70 Engine

Each engine produced 330hp (250kW)

Later versions of the engine produced 400hp (300 kW) each.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Havilland_Gipsy_Queen



This is a painting by Nathaniel Sichel called 'The Gipsy Queen'.

It is thought that that the name was given to a strong female leader of a group of gypsies. These were groups of travelling people originating in South Asia and speaking a language called Romani.

Source: meisterdrucke.uk/fine-art-prints/Nathaniel-Sichel/262577/The-Gipsy-Queen.html



A dove is a species of bird that is often pictured as a symbol of peace, freedom or love, sometimes carrying an olive branch.

Source: arkwildlife.co.uk/blogs/wildlife-guides/collared-dove-identification-habitat-and-food