

THE DE HAVILLAND “WALK OF MEMORIES” at Hatfield, Hertfordshire

The “Walk” is from the pavement alongside what we all knew as the Barnet Bypass or A1, now Comet Way A1001, to the Police Station main entrance. It is arrowed on the photograph below, which was taken soon after completion of the new Police Station in July 2008.



Photo by Maurice James.

Six low plinths mount a series of metal plaques each illustrating two DH aircraft types. Each plaque is headed “Some of the significant aircraft designed and built on this, the de Havilland Aircraft Company site, between 1934 and 1992”. Below is the view from the pavement. Views of the Main Gate are at page 5.

All photos by Roger de Mercado except where noted.



The choice of representative types was made by John Martin of the Hatfield Aviation Association and Philip Birtles of the de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre, both former students, later employees, of de Havilland and current members of the de Havilland Aeronautical Technical School Association.

The plinths are just under 12 ins square and about 2 ft above ground level. They are made from black granite, honed below the rebate and polished above to make the top section look as if it is floating above the base. They were designed by Rod Coleman, who worked as a graphic designer for Hawker Siddeley when it was part of the de Havilland Division at Hatfield, producing publicity material for the Trident and HS 125. Later he was part of the heritage team at the de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre. They were made in India through J J Burgess & Sons, the long-established funeral directors in Hatfield. The funding was provided by BAE Systems.

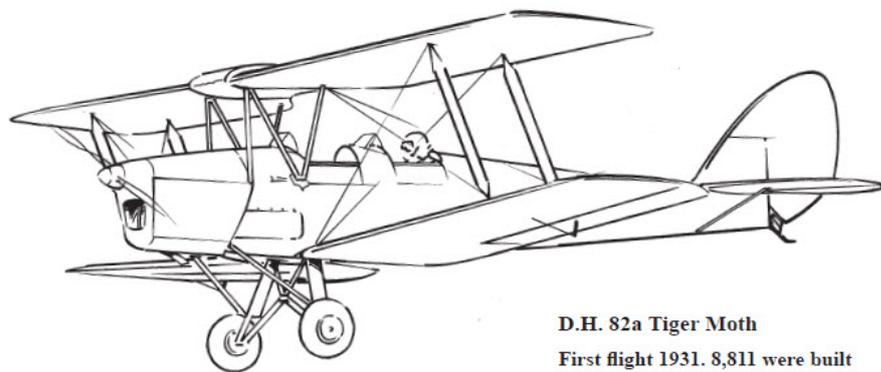
On the right is the plinth illustrating the Tiger Moth and D.H.88 Comet. Below is Rod's artwork for it.

All six plinths are shown on the following pages, using the artwork for all except the first. Photographing the polished plates was not easy!



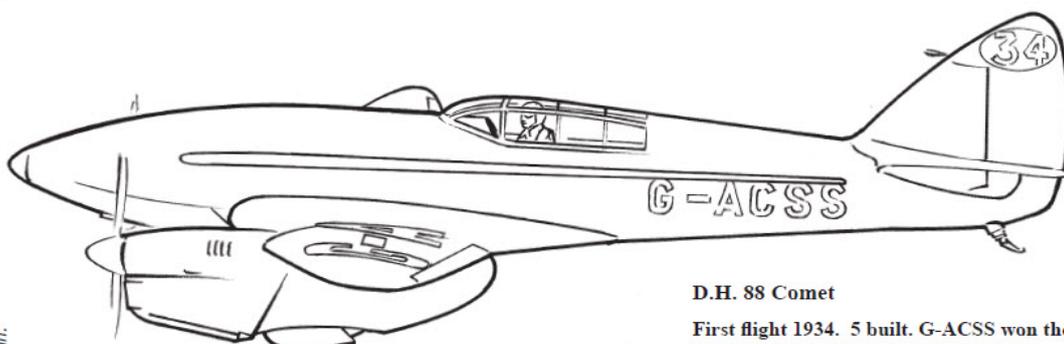
Photo by Rod Coleman

Some of the significant aircraft designed and built on this, the de Havilland Aircraft Company airfield site, between 1934 and 1992



D.H. 82a Tiger Moth

First flight 1931. 8,811 were built worldwide including 3,065 at Hatfield. Standard trainer for RAF and worldwide.



D.H. 88 Comet

First flight 1934. 5 built. G-ACSS won the 1934 MacRobertson England-Australia air race.

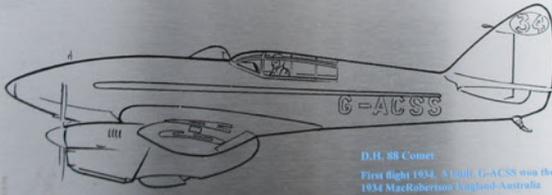
Designed by Rod Coleman.

Memorial funding provided by BAE Systems

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D.H. 89 Dragon Rapide

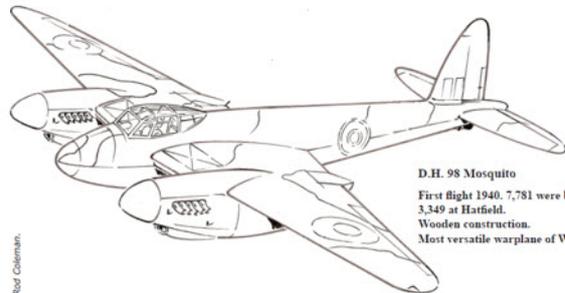
First flight 1934. 728 were built including 392 at Hatfield.
Mainstay of world's small and emerging airlines.

D.H. 98 Mosquito

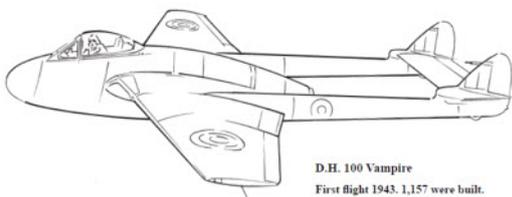
First flight 1940. 7,781 were built including 3,349 at Hatfield.
Wooden construction.
Most versatile warplane of World War 2.



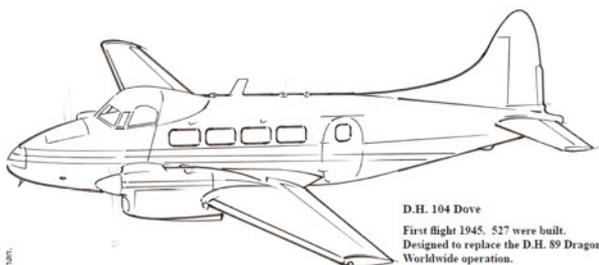
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D.H. 100 Vampire
First flight 1943. 1,157 were built.
First de Havilland jet fighter.



D.H. 104 Dove
First flight 1945. 527 were built.
Designed to replace the D.H. 89 Dragon Rapide.
Worldwide operation.

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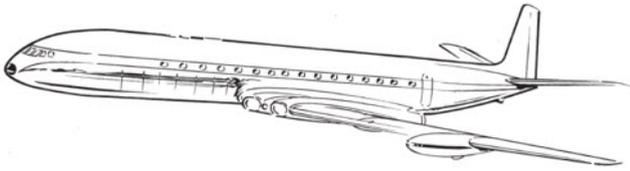
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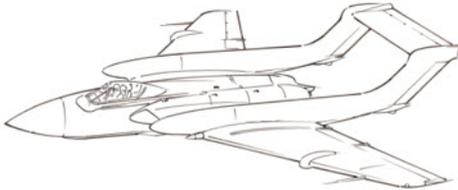
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D.H. 104 Dove

First flight 1945. 527 were built.
Designed to replace the D.H. 89 Dragon Rapide.
Worldwide operation.



D.H. 106 Comet
 First flight 1949. 114 were built.
 First passenger jet aircraft in airline service.
 First non-stop trans-atlantic jet service.



D.H. 110 Sea Vixen
 First flight 1951. 148 were built.
 All-weather fighter for the Royal Navy.

designed by Rod Coleman.

D.H. 106 Comet

First flight 1949. 114 were built.
 First passenger jet aircraft in airline service.
 First non-stop trans-atlantic jet service.

D.H. 110 Sea Vixen

First flight 1951. 148 were built.
 All-weather fighter in the Royal Navy.

D.H. 114 Heron

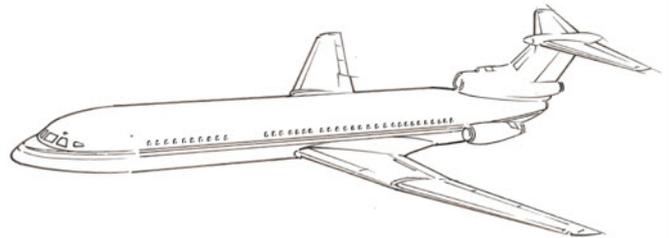
First flight 1950. 173 were built.
 Enlarged four engine development
 of the D.H. 104 Dove.

D.H. 121 Trident

First flight 1961. 117 were built.
 First airliner to be certified for automatic
 landing in bad visibility.

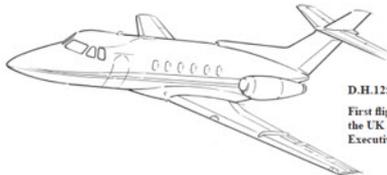


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D.H.125
 First flight 1962. Over 1,000 produced in
 the UK and USA.
 Executive jet operated worldwide.



BAE 146
 First flight 1981. 387 were built.
 The UK's best selling jet airliner.

by Rod Coleman.

D.H. 125

First flight 1962. Over 1,000 produced in
 the UK and USA.
 Executive jet operated worldwide.

BAE 146

First flight 1981. 387 were built.
 The UK's best selling jet airliner.



View from the Main Gate. The works (lower floor) and weekly staff (upper floor) canteens were in the building on the left. The administration building was on the right.



Another view from the Main Gate. The gatehouse is on the right and the personnel building is on the left (yes, it is now a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet...)

*Compiled by Roger de Mercado, October 2010
for*



www.dhaetsa.org.uk