



Canberra T Mk.4

## Canberra T Mk .4 / B (I) Mk 12

**Country of origin:** Great Britain

**Manufactured as:** English Electric Canberra T Mk.4 and B(I) Mk 12

**First flight:** 13 May 1949 (A.1)

**Service period with SAAF:** 1963 until 1990

**Served with:** 12 squadron

**Role:** Trainer, bomber, high altitude photo reconnaissance

**Power plant:** (T Mk.4) 2 x Rolls Royce Avon 101 turbo-jet engines delivering 2,954 kg (6,500 lbf, 29 kN) of thrust each,

(B (I) Mk 12) 2 x Rolls Royce Avon 109 turbo-jet engines delivering 3,357 kg (7,900 lbf, 33kN) of thrust each

**Max take-off mass:** (T Mk.4) 17,236 kg (38,000 lb),

(B (I) Mk 12) 24,945 kg (55,000 lb)

**Max speed:** (B (I) Mk 12) 928km/h (580 mph, 501 kn) at 9,000 m (30,000ft)

**Max range:** (B (I) Mk 12) 6,100km (3,790 mi, 3,294 nmi)

**Armament:** (B (I) Mk 12) 6 x 460kg bombs in the bomb bay, 4 x 460kg bombs under the wings. 4x 20mm cannons in a pack in the bomb bay, two 69mm rocket pods under the wings. Three hundred 6kg anti-personnel fragmentation bombs in the bomb bay.

**Accommodation:** (T Mk.4) Pilot and instructor side-by-side and navigator seated behind the cockpit.

(B (I) Mk 12) Pilot under the canopy with navigator seated in the fuselage, forward of pilot.

## Operational History

The Canberra was designed in 1944, and the prototype made its first flight in May 1949. The SAAF received its first of 6 B(l) Mk12 aircraft in 1963 (tail numbers 451 to 456) and further three T Mk4 trainers, (tail numbers 457 to 459). The Canberra saw extensive action in the Angolan conflict in which the SAAF was involved at the time, mostly being used as a bomber but also excelling in the photo reconnaissance role. Tail number 452 was shot down in Angola in 1979. A second-hand B Mk 2 nose was acquired from Rhodesia, and one of the T Mk 4's (457) was converted into a bomber. This aircraft is now on display at the Swartkop branch of the SAAF museum. The bomber version had a clear nose to enable the navigator/ bomb aimer to drop bombs accurately by means of a sophisticated gyroscopically stabilised gun-sight. Two of the aircraft are still on display in South Africa, with 457 being at Swartkop and 459 being mounted on a plinth close to the main gate of Waterkloof Air Force Base. The remaining six aircraft were sold to Peru in 1991-1992.

Barcode 1: English Electric Canberra video  
(part 1)



Barcode 2: English Electric Canberra  
(part 2)



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