



Harvard number 7699 (T-6G) taking off from CFS Dunnottar.

Harvard

Country of origin: United States of America

Manufactured as: North American Harvard Mk I, Mk IIa (AT-6 C), Mk III (AT-6D or SJN-4) for Commonwealth service, post war AT-6C and T-6G from USA

First flight: 1937 (BC-1A)

Service period with SAAF: 1942 until 1995

Served with: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 24 and 40 squadrons, as well as the Central Flying School.

Role: Advanced trainer and air-to-ground attack.

Power plant: 1 x Pratt and Whitney R-1340-AN-1 radial engine delivering 409kw (550hp)

Max take off mass: (T-6G) 2,550 kg (5,617 lb)

Max speed: (T-6G) 341 km/h (212 mph, 184 kn)

Max range: 1400km (870 mi, 756 nmi)

Armament: Two .303 machine guns with 400 rounds per gun, eight 9kg anti-personnel bombs or 64 teargas grenades, four 3-inch rockets with 18 lb warheads or seventy-two 37mm SNEB rockets or twelve 68mm SNEB rockets.

Accommodation: Pilot and student / gunner / navigator

Operational history

The SAAF acquired a total of 728 Harvard's. The first Mk1's were delivered in 1942 and the last T-6G's in 1954.

Before 1994, most pilots in the SAAF flew a Harvard at some stage of their training or operational career. It was used to train new pilots, tow targets for gunnery practice, meteorological flights, as well as for reconnaissance until the SAAF brought the Bosbok and Cessna 185 into service.

The Harvard was the longest-serving trainer in the history of the South African Air Force and for many years, its distinctive sound could be heard around Dunnottar. This sound is a result of the tips of the propeller exceeding the speed of sound, resulting in a loud "crack."

Numerous Harvards still remain airworthy in South Africa – thanks to the SAAF Museum, the Harvard Club of South Africa and private owners of this historic aircraft. Many of these can be seen in the skies at various air shows all around the country as well as at museum flying days.

Barcode 1: SAAF Museum Harvards in flight



Barcode 2: SAAF Museum Harvard and C47 formation



Barcode3: Harvard's water skiing



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