

X-RAY BRAVO ALPHA

The Data

The Boeing 707 heralded a new era for Australian air travellers. With the advent of jet power came a quantum leap in speed, cutting more than 19 hours from the Sydney - London Kangaroo Route time previously taken by the Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation.

At the time of VH-XBA's recovery, almost 50 years since the type's introduction, understandably few other 707s still survived. Some were in military guise, others freighters.

So, what makes this particular Boeing 707 unique?

Rollled out of Boeing's Renton plant in Washington in February 1959, it is:

- The first Boeing 707 sold to a non-US based airline
- The first passenger jet ordered by Qantas Empire Airways
- The first turbojet aircraft on the Australian Civil Register
- The oldest of a few remaining examples of a version of the Boeing 707, the -138B, which was unique to Qantas

AIRCRAFT GENERAL

The principal dimensions of the Boeing 707-138B are:

- Wing span - 130 feet 10 inches
- Total wing area - 2521 square feet
- Vertical fin height - 41 feet 8 inches
- Fuselage length - 128 feet 10 inches.
- Empty Weight - 115,000 pounds
- Maximum Takeoff Weight - 258,000 pounds.
- Four Pratt & Whitney JT3D-1 turbofan engines are installed beneath the wing in individual strut mounted pods.
- The primary electric system is 3 phase, 400 cycles, 115/200 volt AC. Power is generated by four 30 KVA engine driven generators.
- The landing gear is a retractable tricycle type, hydraulically operated. Each main landing gear is a four wheel truck.



- The brake hydraulic system incorporates anti-skid. An emergency pneumatic brake system is provided for use in the event of failure of the brake hydraulic system.
- The primary control surfaces consist of ailerons, elevator and rudder. Only the rudder is power-assisted.
- VH-XBA's avionic suite includes an Inertial Reference System, Flight Management Computer, VHF and HF radio, ADF, VOR-LOC, Marker Beacon and Weather Radar. An autopilot maintains automatic, co-ordinated control of the aircraft altitude, attitude and heading.
- Minimum crew is a pilot, copilot and a flight engineer.
- The main cabin could be configured to carry up to 152 passengers, with as many as seven cabin crew to attend them.
- Freight is accommodated in two cargo compartments located in the lower forward and aft sections of the fuselage.
- Two independent systems provide oxygen for the crew and passengers.
- The passenger supplemental oxygen system is actuated automatically or by the pilot when needed.
- Most major servicing is accomplished on the right side of the fuselage.
- Passenger entry doors are located on the left side of the fuselage.
- Fuel is carried in the wings and in the wing and fuselage junction called the Centre Wing Tank and is loaded from stations on the lower surface of each wing.
- Life rafts, survival beacons, escape ropes, life vests, escape slides and crash axes are installed for use in a ditching or evacuation.

- Southend >>> Dublin >>> Tenerife >>> Bermuda >>> Orlando >>> Los Angeles >>> Honolulu >>> Nadi >>> Sydney >>> Longreach •

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