

**INDIVIDUAL HISTORY**

**FIESLER FI-156-C-7 STORCH W/NR.475081/AM101/VP546/7362M**  
**MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1989/0315/AF**

- May 45 One of 62 Storches captured intact in the British occupation zone. Apparently one of three Fi 156s surrendered at Flensburg, Germany, coded RR + KE of an unknown unit. It had earlier been coded GM + AK and had been built by Mraz at Chocen, Czechoslovakia, one of 137 Storches built there in 1944. Although previously reported as W/Nr 475061, 475081 is shown on two plates on the aircraft itself. The Fi-156-C-7 was the final wartime production version, introduced 1944.
- 05 Sep 45 Flown via Knokke Le Zoute to RAE Farnborough, Hants by Sqn Ldr McCarthy, in company with Storches AM99 and AM100. (AM 99 is also preserved, at the SAAF Museum).
- 15-17 Sep 45 Flown to RAF Hendon to appear at the Battle of Britain Open Day there, where Lt Cdr E M 'Winkle' Brown demonstrated its slow-flying capabilities. Wings of the Weird & Wonderful (012126) p.102.
- Flown extensively by the RAE Aerodynamics Flight on many tasks including aerodynamic assessment of the Fi156 as a type, towing various types of German sailplane under test at the RAE, communications flying, photography of helicopter rotor blade behaviour and various other tasks.
- Nov 45 One of several aircraft flown during the German Aircraft Exhibition at Farnborough.
- 26 Apr 46 Allocated RAF serial VP546. Flew as AM101 until 12 May, and VP546 used as its identity from 15 May 46 onwards. One of the 8 German aircraft intended to be maintained in Flying Condition at this stage.
- 30 Apr 46 Allotted to RAE; Arrived at Farnborough; used by the resident gliding club as a tug.
- 28 May 46 Flew from RNAS Ford, Hants to the aircraft carrier HMS Triumph for deck landings 28-29 May flown by Lt Cdr Brown. By this stage painted silver with RAF roundels and serial in black on fuselage. Photo: Wings of the Weird & Wonderful (012126) p.105. See also Air International Dec 76 p.285; Aeroplane Monthly Mar 1999 p.71. The only German aircraft to have landed on a Royal Navy aircraft carrier.
- Summer 48 Photographed at White Waltham Airfield. Photo: Profile Fi156 (013026) p.138. Further photos around this time - RAFM Photo Collection P.4333; Air Pictorial Jul 53 p.211; Air International Dec 76 p.283; War Prizes –

The Album p.20.

- 17 Dec 49 To glider towing duties with RAE Technical College Gliding Flight
- 11 Jan 50 To photographic smoke trail and glider towing duties at RAE; used for such duties as flying alongside helicopters to photograph rotor-blade behaviour.
- Jul 51 To Redhill aerodrome to collect a glider. Photo – Aeroplane November 2011 p.97.
- 17 May 52 Flown at Goodyear Trophy Air Race meeting at Pendeford, Wolverhampton. Photos: War Prizes (027726) p.58; Aeroplane 23 May 52 p.617. First gave a slow-flying demonstration then towed a EoN Olympia glider to height for sailplane aerobatics (Flt Lt's Kearley & Marsh from RAE; Flight 23 May 52 p.642).
- 12 Jun 52 Loaned to Auster Aircraft.Co to participate in air display at Rearsby 14 Jun 52.
- 15 Jun 52 Demonstrated at Royal Aeronautical Society Garden Party at White Waltham. Photo: Flight 20 Jun 52 p.73.
- c.1955 Retired due to lack of spares. From Jan 1950, RAE Storch VX154 (W/Nr untraced) was used as a spares source.
- 01 Nov 55 Offered for disposal at RAE Farnborough - trials complete.
- 25 May 56 Accepted for instructional purposes.
- 26 Jul 56 Following allocation to RAF Halton for possible use as a ground instructional airframe allocated ground instructional number 7362M.
- 03 Aug 56 Arrived at RAF Halton.
- 22 Aug 56 Declared unsuitable for use and subsequently transferred to No.49 MU Colerne.
- 10 Oct 56 Allocated to Air Historical Branch collection.
- 18 Oct 56 To No.15 MU RAF Wroughton, Wilts for storage with rest of AHB collection, via No.49 MU to whence it had previously been despatched by road.
- 1958 To RAF Fulbeck, Lincs with rest of AHB collection.
- c.1960 To RAF Finningley, Yorkshire. Photo there Sep 61 in Luftwaffe colour scheme - Airfix Magazine Feb 61 p.424.

- c.1961 To RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk until that base closed Dec 1962. At this location by March 1961.
- c.1963 To RAF Coltishall, Norfolk. Photo there c.1965 - Captive Luftwaffe (009336) p.26 as GM + A K. Also Veteran & Vintage Aircraft (002064) p.11; Control Column Oct 68 p.9 (1963 photo).
- c.1969 Whilst at Coltishall the aircraft was considered for acquisition by the then resident Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) but after evaluation was not adopted due to lack of manpower. The airframe was X-rayed, showing it to be in good condition, the fabric removed and a start made on restoring the aircraft to airworthy condition.
- Jun 73 To RAF St Athan for Historic Aircraft Collection, still as GM + AK. Restoration, potentially to airworthy condition, began c.1976. Photo: Control Column Nov/Dec 77 p.181. Photo as of Sep 75 - Air Extra 13 p.36 (uncoded at this stage). Aeroplane Monthly Apr 85 p.170 notes that this restoration had subjected the aircraft to 'an over enthusiastic strip to the last (unidentified) nut and bolt' which took around four years to re-assemble from c.1983. Photo as of 1983: FlyPast Nov 83 - largely re-assembled and awaiting recovering. Also FlyPast April 1985 p.61.
- 06 April 89 To Aerospace Museum Cosford on run-down of St Athan collection. Colour photo, 10 Jun 89 - Aeroplane Monthly Sep 90 p.519. Also War Prizes – The Album p.105. Remains on display at Cosford.

**TEXT - ANDREW SIMPSON**