

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

MESSERSCHMITT Bf110G-4/R6 W/NR.730301
AIR MINISTRY 34; 8479M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 78/AF/954

1944 Probable construction date. Of the 6150 Bf-110 aircraft built, 1525 were delivered in 1944. This particular aircraft is fitted with FuG220b Liechtenstein SN-2 radar - the G-series being specially developed as night fighters.

May 45 Surrendered to the allies at Grove airfield, Denmark (now known as Karup). Coded D5 + RL. The aircraft had latterly served with 1/NJG3 in the night defence of Denmark and Northern Germany. (i.e. 1st Staffel (Squadron) of Nachtjagdgeschwader 3).

Of the 1146 German aircraft found on Danish airfields after the German surrender, 37 were Bf110 variants; of these, five were allocated Air Ministry evaluation numbers (Air Min 15, 30, 34, 38 and 85) 730301 becoming Air Min 34.

01 Aug 45 Ferried from Grove to Schleswig, Northern Germany, by Sqn Ldr Ian Somerville. Schleswig hosted a Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) outpost to co-ordinate the delivery of selected German aircraft to Schleswig for overhaul and delivery to the UK for evaluation.

03 Aug 45 Ferried from Schleswig to RAE Farnborough by Sqn Ldr Joe McCarthy.

05 Sep 45 Ferried from Farnborough to No.6 MU Brize Norton (Aircraft Storage Unit) by Lt Cdr E M 'Winkle' Brown (CO Enemy Aircraft Pool 1945-6).

Brize Norton was selected as the main storage unit for German aircraft received in the UK. Brown stated that the Bf110's controls were light and well harmonised, the aeroplane very manoeuvrable and the rate of climb excellent. (Aviation News 21 Jul - 3 Aug 89).

May 46 Selected for long-term preservation by the Air Ministry Air Historical Branch (AHB).

14 Aug 46 Allocated to No.76 MU Wroughton, Wilts for storage as a museum aircraft.

No.76 MU closed shortly afterwards and it is presumed that the aircraft then passed to No.47 MU Sealand together with other AHB aircraft.

- 1949 By this date the aircraft was at the German Air Force Equipment Centre, RAF Stanmore Park, Middx - parented by No.3 MU, possibly coming here as early as 1947 when pressure on space at Sealand became a problem. Displayed in London during the year – photo Flypast August 2006 p.25.
- c.1949 Passed to the care of RAF Andover, Hants, and displayed there statically for some time in the 1950s. Photo at Andover on Battle of Britain Open Day Sept. 1956 - Flight 30 Nov 1956 p.847.
- Jul 57 At No.15 MU Wroughton with other AHB aircraft by this date.
- c.1958 Moved with other AHB aircraft to storage at RAF Fulbeck, near Cranwell, Lincs.
- 1960 At RAF Church Fenton in overall white (? primer). Photo: Airfix Magazine Apr 61 p.499. Repainted in camouflage scheme by 8 Aug 60 - Photo: Airfix Magazine Apr 61 p.499.
- 17 Sep 60 Had moved to RAF Biggin Hill, Kent by this date together with other AHB aircraft, (Including the Ju88, He111 and Bf109) and displayed at the Battle of Britain open day. Photos: the Captive Luftwaffe (West) (009336) and Profile -Bf110 Night Fighters (013024). Still present Jan 68. See also Scale Models Nov 74 p.585, and Aeromodeller Jul 68 p.364-5 and Jan 66 p.24 (as of Jan 66).
- At this time the aircraft carried two-tone mottled blue-grey top surfaces, light blue undersurfaces, and the black fuselage codes `OL'.
- At some time the aircraft went into storage with other RAF Museum aircraft at RAF Henlow in the late 1960's being present by Nov 69 (Control Column Dec 69 p.5). Photo: Air Extra No.3.
- Aug 73 Moved by No.71 MU to RAF St.Athan, South Wales to join the regional collection of aircraft there. Photos: Aircraft Illustrated Dec 73 p.508 and `Control Column' Jan 74. Still carried the codes `OL' at this time.
- 16 Feb 76 Allocated RAF Maintenance serial 8479M.
- 1976 Restored by volunteers at St.Athan; stripped to bare metal and repainted in blue/grey scheme with original codes D5 + RL.
- 7 Aug 78 Moved by road to Battle of Britain Museum Hendon, which opened 28 Nov 78. Photo - Luftwaffe Eagles (Flypast) p.31 & 63; Flypast August 2006 p.25.
- 3 Aug 98 One of a number of aircraft donated to the RAFM by the MoD.
- Oct 2016 Dismantled prior to move to Bomber Hall. Photo – Aeroplane Monthly Dec 2016 p.72.

1 Feb 2017

Moved across to Bomber Hall for reassembly, being reassembled by GJD Engineering 22-23 January 2018. Photo during reassembly; Aeroplane April 2018 p.6.

Some details of the aircraft are in DoRIS Ref.B2703.

In the Battle of Britain Hall the aircraft was displayed adjacent to Ju88 R-1 D5 + EV, also a former NJG3 aircraft; this moved to RAFM Cosford in February 2017.

Other surviving Bf 110's include Bf 110F-2 w/nr. 5052 at the Deutsches Technik Museum, Berlin and the wings, tail and fuselage parts of another at the Technik Museum, Speyer, Germany, ex Russia. The Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War, Moscow display fuselage and wing parts of Bf 110F-2/trop LN+AR (5020)

At Duxford, the IWM have the rear fuselage and an engine of the Bf110 in which Rudolf Hess defected in 1941 – other smaller parts of the airframe, and the other engine, are held by the RAFM.

TEXT - ANDREW SIMPSON