

## **ALBATROS D.Va-1**

**Aircraft Serial Number ZK-TVD/'D.7343/17'**

**MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER X006-0351**

- 2011 Built by Wellington, New Zealand based the Vintage Aviator Ltd (TVAL); constructor's number 0083, as the third airworthy example of this type built by TVAL. Construction well under way by August 2011. Photos under construction – Aeroplane October 2012 pp.58-59.
- TVAL allocates nicknames to its aircraft during their build, pending agreement of the final 'identity'; the Albatros was known as 'Armina'
- 28 Nov 2011 New Zealand CAA Certificate of Registration Issued as ZK-TVD.
- Given the colours of the Albatros D.V flown by Vizefeldwebel Karl Freidrich Kurt Jentsch, Jasta 61, Western Front, June – August 1918; he had seven confirmed victories, transferring to Jagdstaffel 2 on 13 August 1918, and survived the war. This D.V aircraft was from a batch of 400 ordered in May 1917.
- Powered by a restored original 180/200hp Mercedes D.III engine from RAF Museum stocks, serial number 35777, dated 20 April 1918. The origins of this engine are unclear, but it may have originated as a spare for that fitted to the ex-Nash Collection Fokker D.VII, being acquired c.1966 when that aircraft was supposedly being restored to airworthy condition at RAF Henlow, and latterly stored in incomplete and partly dismantled condition by the RAF Museum, missing all six cylinder sleeves. Article on restoration of engine, including manufacture of new pistons – Aeroplane Summer 2013 pp. 34-35.
- 12 Dec 2011 Engine installed and ground run and aircraft assembled at Masterton and aircraft logbook opened.
- 1 Jan 2012 First flight – 50 minutes, pilot Gene DeMarco. Flown on following two days also.
- 9 Jan 2012 New Zealand Airworthiness Certificate issued
- 11 Jan 2012 Flown at Hood Aerodrome, near Masterton – 20 minutes.
- 21 Jan 2012 First public flight – 20 minutes; Flown at the Vintage Aviator 'Joyeux Noel' WW1 evening Air Show, Hood Aerodrome, near Masterton.
- Flown also on 14, 15 and 26 April 2012.
- 28 Apr 2012 Flown at Anzac WW1 airshow at Masterton. Pilot Gene De Marco, TVAL chief pilot. Flight time 30 minutes. Photo – Aeroplane July 2012 p.6.

Statically displayed with 1914-1918 Aviation Heritage Trust aircraft at Masterton when not being flown.

- 2 Jun 2012 Final flight in New Zealand, 1hour 20 minutes; total flying hours to this point 5hrs 10 minutes.
- 10 Aug 2012 Following containerised shipment by sea from NZ to UK, crated aircraft delivered to the Shuttleworth Collections' Old Warden aerodrome, Beds for assembly and flying trials;  
  
Photo unpacked from crate, 13 August 2013 – Flypast October 2012 p.7.
- 29 Aug 2012 Formal unveiling at Old Warden. Photos – Flying M Autumn 2012 p.15; Air Britain Aviation World Winter 2012 p.192.
- 1 Sept 2012 First flight in UK – one hour 20 minutes.
- 2 Sept 2012 Flown at Shuttleworth Pageant Air Show, flight time 30 minutes. Photo – Aeroplane November 2012 p.87.
- 3 Sept 2012 Flown for one hour 40 minutes.
- 6 Sept 2012 Flown at Old Warden – one hour 20 minutes.
- 8 Sep 2012 Flown at Imperial War Museum Duxford airshow – 40 minutes. Photos – Aeroplane November 2012 p.87; Classic Aircraft November 2012 p.76.
- 10 Sept 2012 40 minute flight.
- 22 Sept 2012 Flown at 'Shuttleworth Uncovered' display at Old Warden. Last flight – 40 minutes. Photo – Classic Aircraft December 2012 p.78. Total flying time 11 hours.
- 25 Oct 2012 By road to RAFM Hendon for static display. Photo during prior dismantling at Shuttleworth – Prop-Swing winter 2012 p.8. Reassembled in Grahame White building 22 November 2012. Photo on display – Flypast March 2013 p.11. Also Britain at War Magazine January 2015 p.21.

**TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON**

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