

20th February 2012

Kawasaki Ki-100-1b returns to Cosford

The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford is delighted to see the return of the Kawasaki Ki-100-1b World War Two aircraft. After almost eight years on display at the RAF Museum in London the Japanese fighter aircraft has now returned to Cosford and is on display to visitors. The aircraft is displayed alongside the Mitsubishi Dinah with the Museum's collection of Second World War aircraft.

The Kawasaki Ki-100-1b aircraft was initially conceived as a stop gap design, but became one of the finest Japanese fighters of World War Two despite not being introduced until 1945. One consequence of the American 'island hopping' campaign across the Pacific was to expose Japan to air attack by long range bombers. In response, the Imperial Japanese Army Air Force urgently sought fighters with improved high altitude performance.

The first prototype made its maiden flight on 1st February 1945. Following an accelerated and highly successful flight test programme, the new Army Type 5 fighter entered service shortly after. 390 examples were manufactured before the Japanese surrender.

Al McLean, RAF Museum Cosford Curator says:

"We are very pleased to see the unique Kawasaki Ki-100-1b back at Cosford again. This aircraft was fast, manoeuvrable, rugged and reliable. Allied pilots found the Ki-100 a formidable opponent and this is the only one to survive. It will take up position along side the Mitsubishi Dinah (which is also unique) in our Warplanes display."

The Kawasaki Ki-100-1b was originally on display at Cosford, but was moved to the RAF Museum in London for display in the Milestones gallery. To accommodate the return of this aircraft the Gloster Meteor F9/40 has relocated and is now on display to visitors at the RAF Museum London.

Other aircraft due to arrive at the Museum later this year include British Aerospace Experimental Aircraft Programme - the EAP and the Dornier Do-17. The Panavia Tornado prototype P.02, previously on display in the War Planes hangar is now in the Museum's Conservation Centre and will go on display in the Test Flight hangar shortly. The Museum is open daily from 10am and admission is free of charge. For more information on the Museum, visit www.rafmuseum.org or call 01902 376200.

...ends

Notes to Editors:

- Photos available on request
- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- FREE admission

- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Worthington on 01902 376212 or michelle.worthington@rafmuseum.org
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at: <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/media-enquiries/downloads.cfm>

Aircraft History - Kawasaki Ki-100-1b BAPC.83/8476M

- 1945 Assembled at Kawasaki's Kagamigahara or Ichinomiya factories sometime between May and 10 August when production of the type ceased. Constructors' number 16336. Other than having an all-round vision canopy, the -1b airframe was identical to the Kawasaki Ki-61-11 Hien (Tony) with a Mitsubishi 1,500 h.p. 14 cylinder radial engine replacing the Kawasaki liquid cooled in-line engine, of which there was a shortage. Most of the 118 Ki100-1b aircraft completed were assigned to the defence of the Japanese home islands.
- Aug 45 Probably captured by American forces occupying Japan from 28th August - the origin and early history of the Museum's aircraft is unclear, although the US military authorities did allocate a number of aircraft surrendered in Japan for RAF use in Oct/Nov 45.
- Late 45 Possibly moved to the former Imperial Japanese Navy airstrip at Tebrau, Johore State, Malaya to join the Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit, south-east Asia (ATAIU - SEA) collection of Japanese aircraft which were flown in RAF markings by Japanese pilots. These flights were for the benefit of press or visiting VIPs rather than actual evaluation, possibly to confirm the airworthiness of those initially intended for shipment to Farnborough for evaluation.
- Apr 46 Probably one of the aircraft earlier selected for shipment at Tebrau by S/Ldr Prosho on 25 Mar 46 and crated by Japanese personnel supervised by No.390 MU Seletar. They were selected on behalf of Air Ministry Intelligence in association with the Ministry of Aircraft Production and of 64 aircraft initially selected only four were allowed shipping space by the Ministry of War Transport, whose priority was the repatriation of personnel for demobilisation.
- Jun 46 Probably one of four Japanese aircraft loaded onto a Royal Navy ship at Singapore as uncrated deck cargo for shipment back to the UK as museum items, though referred to as an 'Oscar' in AHB correspondence of the time. (The others were the Zeke now displayed as a cockpit section at the Imperial War Museum, a 'Cyprus' biplane trainer burnt at RAF Wroughton c.1957, and the Mitsubishi 'Dinah' also now at Cosford.)
- 24 Aug 46 Ship arrived at Portsmouth.
- Probably the aircraft transferred to No 47 MU Sealand, near Liverpool for crating and storage and recorded there as an 'Oscar II' in Feb 1947 which type was the similar layout Nakajima Ki-43.
- Feb 48 At the German Air Force Equipment Centre at RAF Stanmore Park, Middx. By 1954 it was listed by the AHB as an 'Oscar' in the list of AHB aircraft published in the Nov 54 edition of Air Pictorial.
- Late 55 To No 15 MU RAF Wroughton, Wilts for storage alongside other Air historical Branch airframes. Still officially listed as an Oscar II at this time.
- Mid 58 AHB collection moved to storage at RAF Fulbeck, Lincs.
- Jun 60 Delivered still crated to RAF Colerne, Wilts where it was rebuilt, correctly identified and repainted dark green overall along with the AHB's Ju88, but was reported as a 'Tojo' in the Aug 1960 Air Britain Digest (p.93).
- Sep 60 Displayed restored at RAF Biggin Hill, Kent

- 61 Photographed at RAF Finningley. Colour Photo - Aeromilitaria Spring 1999 - back page.
- c.1961 Moved to RAF Cosford, Salop , joining a small collection of AHB aircraft there by March of that year. Air Britain Digest August 1962 p.98 records figure 2 visible under the paint on the fin at this stage.
- Sep 62 Displayed at the Battle of Britain open day at RAF Ternhill, Salop. Photo - Flight International 15 Nov 62 p.797. Other photos in early preservation scheme of dark green overall - Sekai No Kesakuki No.36 Apr 73 p.74.
- Photo displayed at Cosford - Flying Review International Nov 63 p.57.
- Sep 68 Displayed at RAF Gaydon, Warwicks' Battle of Britain Day event alongside Cosford's' Me410 and Meteor prototype. Photo - Control Column Nov.68 p.5. Carried newly applied colour scheme of pale green overall with dark green splotches over, with blood red fin and rudder with white lightning flash motif and two yellow stars superimposed upon it, plus 10 victory silhouettes in white beneath the port side cockpit canopy and code '24' on the undercarriage legs. Colour photo - Sekai No Kesakuki No.36, Apr 73 p.34-35.
- Repainted dark green overall in 1972 with markings representing the colours of the 5th Sentai (Fighter Regiment) based at Chofu near Tokyo or Yakkaichi in defence of the Japanese home islands, coded '24' on the rudder. This refurbishment was reported in Control Column Oct 72 p.152; 'The aircraft is said to be in sufficiently good condition to be made airworthy'.
- 13 Feb 76 Allotted RAF Maintenance serial 8476M
- 13 Nov 85 To RAF St Athan for the regional aircraft collection held there. Allocated the RAF Instructional Airframe No. 8476M whilst at St.Athan.
- 86 Engine restored to ground running condition at RAF St Athan. Photos - Flypast Sep 86 p.43; Aeroplane Monthly Apr 88 p.184; Aeroplane Monthly Feb 89 p.69; Flypast Dec 91 p.23; Wrecks and Relics 11th Edition p.186.Wing Commander Paul Brindley, Officer in charge of the Historic Aircraft Collection worked on the aircraft in his spare time with particular attention needed by the fuel injection system. See also Flypast Dec 87 p.65 - the aircraft was visited by its 82-year-old designer, Mr Takeo Doi in August 1987.
- c.Mar 89 Returned to the Aerospace Museum at RAF Cosford following the closure and dispersal of the St Athan regional collection. Photos - War Prizes (027726) p.153; Broken Wings of The Samurai (028008) p.174; Aeroplane Monthly Museums Guide 1992 p.3; Flypast Jun 98 p.28; Supplement to Aeroplane April 2000 p.43.The only known survivor of its type.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

© ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM 2003.