

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

MESSERSCHMITT Me410A-1/U2 W/NR.420430/AM72/8483M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 85/A/78

- late 1943 Built by Messerschmitt at Augsburg, as evidenced by 'Krl' on the manufacturer's plate on the fuselage. Given manufacturer's radio call sign PD + VO (still painted in the cockpit). This sub-type had provision for a ventral weapons container with an additional pair of 20mm canon. The RAE erroneously records Air Min V1/Air Min 72 as Werk No 410478.
- May 45 Surrendered at Vaerlose, Denmark. Unit at this time not known, although paint stripping at Cosford in the 1960s showed evidence of previous codes 3U + AK and (later) 3U + CC of 2 Staffel, I/ZG26 (Zerstorer Geschwader 26) which had served in the Balkans and Italy. Possibly also coded at one time PD+VO with 2./ZG26. One of the last fighter units to operate the Me410 was IV/ZG26, based in Norway, which was renamed II/JG5 'Eismeer' and re-equipped with the BF110 in February 1945, by which time the only front line Me410 flew as reconnaissance aircraft with Luftflotte 6; the RAFM aircraft may have served as a communications 'hack' in Norway with 11./ZG26 by late 1944, initially at Gerdermoen and later at Oerlandet.
- 09 Jun 45 Selected for evaluation by Gp Capt Hards and initially painted as 'Air Min V-1' (V for Vaerlose) - one of at least six Me410s acquired for evaluation in the UK.
- 20 Aug 45 Flown from Vaerlose to Kastrup by Sqn Ldr Ian Somerville. Force landed at Kastrup at end of ferry flight with one engine on fire after an oil tank burst.
- 25 Aug 45 Flown again following repair.
- 03 Oct 45 Flown Kastrup - Schleswig by Sqn Ldr McCarthy.
- 13 Oct 45 Ferried from Schleswig to RAE Farnborough via Gilze-Rijen by Sqn Ldr McCarthy. Observed at Farnborough as Air Min V1 two days later but not test flown.
- 28 Dec 45 Flown from Farnborough to No.6 MU Brize Norton for storage.
- May 46 Selected for preservation by Air Historical Branch.
- 14 Aug 46 To No.76 MU Wroughton, Wilts for museum storage.

- Presumed to have passed to No.47 MU Sealand upon closure of No.76 MU.
- 1949 In store at German Air Force Equipment Centre, No.3 MU, RAF Stanmore Park, Middlesex by this date.
- Late 1955 To No.15 MU Wroughton with rest of AHB collection.
- c.1958 To RAF Fulbeck, Lincs, still in packing case. See Airfix Magazine March 1961 p.472.
- Early 1960 Moved by No.60 MU to RAF Cosford ex-Fulbeck, with Lysander R9125 and Kawasaki Ki-100 and repainted into German camouflage by that unit at the same time and coded `CC'. Colour photo as at Cosford in 1970s - Aircraft Illustrated Extra No.14 p.24-5. See also Aero Modeller Feb 70 p.90-91.
- Sep 61 In static park at RAF Finningley Battle of Britain weekend open day.
- 17 Sep 66 Displayed at RAF Gaydon, Warwickshire Battle of Britain Open Day display. Photo: Airfix Magazine Nov 1966 p.78 and Air Britain Digest Nov 1966 P.295 still coded `CC'. Also displayed at Gaydons 1967 and 1969 Battle of Britain events.
- 20 Sep 69 Displayed at Gaydon's Battle of Britain Airshow.
- Nov 75-Jun 76 Displayed outside for `Wings of the Eagle' exhibition at RAF Museum Hendon. Then returned to Cosford having been allocated maintenance serial 8483M 16 February 1976. Photo at Hendon -Aeroplane Monthly Aug 85 p.430; Control Column Jan 76 p.6; Aircraft Illustrated Feb 87 p.52.
- 16 Feb 76 Allotted RAF Maintenance serial 8483M.
- Mar 85 Colour photo at Cosford at this time - Aeroplane Monthly Aug 85 p.431. Also War Prizes – The Album p.74.
- 20 Nov 85 By road to RAF St Athan regional collection. Photo there - Aviation News 21 Jul - 3 Aug 89 p.230. DoRIS hold the original St Athan Regional Collection file on this aircraft.
- Nov 86 Following restoration by staff and volunteers, engines ground run. The port engine was restored first, being run in October 1986. Photo: FlyPast April 1987 p.62. Engines then run up regularly including 1988 Battle of Britain display. Photos: FlyPast Dec 88 p.32; Warbirds (3rd Edition) p.217.
- 20 Dec 89 Returned to Aerospace Museum Cosford following wind-down of St Athan regional collection. Displayed at Cosford at present.

Photos: Scale Aircraft Modelling Apr 96 p.84-88; Flypast Airshow Guide 2004 p.25. Also 'In Detail Special No.1 Me 210/410 Me 410A-1/U2 at the RAF Museum, Cosford' Wings & Wheels Publications 2005.

Survivors

Of 1,160 Me140 aircraft built, the only other known example is preserved in the USA.

Me410 A-2/UI W/Nr 10018/FE499. NASM, Paul E Garber facility (stored awaiting restoration).

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